

Buckinghamshire Council

Personal Details:

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

Please note my comments, as a Downley Parish resident, on the Downley Ward as follows: Since the formation of the Buckinghamshire Unitary Council, Downley Ward was split into two areas: the Parish of Downley and the unparished area known as Disraeli which is in the town of High Wycombe. Before the Unitary Council of Buckinghamshire was formed, Downley Parish was a Ward which included Plomer Hill and was served by two Councillors. Disraeli was a Ward in itself and was served by two Councillors. We now find ourselves in a position whereby the Downley Ward has doubled in size, yet this larger Ward is now served by just three Buckinghamshire Councillors, two of whom concentrate their efforts predominantly within the unparished area of the Ward. The Ward name, Downley, is extremely confusing to many people, especially those living within the unparished area, some of whom believe they are Downley village residents, as the Ward name suggests and not residents of High Wycombe, which they always have been. This causes much controversy on local social media pages to the extent that some residents of the Ward have been at loggerheads over who lives where and who doesn't, a completely ridiculous scenario. People should be proud of where they live, whether it be Downley village or High Wycombe, otherwise, why live there? Downley village is a Parish, a village set within the Chilterns AONB, with surrounding Green Belt land and is also within a Conservation area. There is a very strong sense of community and numerous groups, clubs and societies run solely by volunteers, eg, two football clubs, a cricket club, Scouts and Guides groups as well as schools, nurseries and, of course, a Parish Council. There are community events held during the year, eg, the lighting of the Downley Beacon, Downley Day, the Up! Downley Festival and Concert on the Common, all organised by hard working volunteers from within the village. The unparished area and the parished area are two very different entities, ie, the unparished area is urban and the parished area is rural, surrounded by Common land and National Trust land. To this end, both areas of the Ward have extremely different needs and requirements. Each area is served by a different Community Board, the parished area by North West Chilterns Community Board and the unparished area by High Wycombe Community Board. The unparished area is also served by High Wycombe Town Committee whereas the parished area is served by Downley Parish Council. Our three Buckinghamshire Councillors are therefore having to juggle between two Community Boards which must be a scheduling nightmare when it comes to the various meetings. In my opinion therefore, I feel that the Downley Ward should revert to how it was before the Buckinghamshire Unitary Council came into effect, ie, two Wards: Downley Ward and Disraeli Ward, with one Buckinghamshire Councillor serving each Ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded