

Aylesbury Constituency Conservative Association Submission Buckinghamshire Council Local Government Boundaries

Due to multiple changes, especially within the Aylesbury Vale area, which saw the boundaries redrawn for the 2013 County Elections, the 2017 AVDC elections and then 2021 Unitary elections we believe it is important to try to keep an element of continuity with the ward boundaries as much as possible. For our submission we have included both the wards that currently fall within the Aylesbury constituency and those that the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) are currently proposing to move into the Aylesbury constituency. Although little can be done about the timing the fact that we have both a parliamentary and local boundary review simultaneously when one is used as the building blocks for the other, has been raised by our Association Chairman at one of the recent BCE public hearings.

The Association has been guided by the three principles of the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) namely:

- Electoral Equality: Optimum Councillor ration of 4521 + or – up to 10%
- Achieving effective and local government with coherent wards which are logical to represent and with clear identifiable boundaries
- Community identities and interests, accepting that different communities may be joined together.

Buckinghamshire currently has 49 wards, each with three Councillors. The model of multi-member wards has worked well because with such a big authority it means local members can divide responsibility between themselves so as to better keep each other informed. We have also chosen to retain the current ward boundaries wherever possible provided they conform with the three guiding principles. This is because most are tried and tested, and it is important that the new authority has as much stability as possible in its early years. Where change is needed due to numbers, we have tried to minimise it. By reducing the overall number to 98 it therefore would make most sense to reduce all current wards into 2 member wards. However, the substantial growth of Aylesbury means more substantial change is necessary, such as the creation of a new ward. Furthermore, the increase in numbers in 2027 will mean further redistribution in due course and we have produced some proposals with that in mind. Therefore it is important to move some of the representation north of the County which is why we believe having 50 wards overall with 48 two member wards and 2 one member wards results in the least amount of change but delivers equality across the whole of Buckinghamshire. HS2 will bring with it major change, but it passes just to the west of Aylesbury and therefore has relatively little effect on the current boundaries.

Aston Clinton

The existing ward of Aston Clinton & Bierton is clearly too big. New housing developments are currently being built and the substantial Kingsbrook estate is not yet fully built. Judicial Review of the massive Hampden Fields estate planning permission has just been refused and the Woodlands Estate planning application is expected before the Strategic Sites Planning Committee of Buckinghamshire Council this April (2022). If the latter is granted permission both will be contributing to the Aston Clinton ward before 2027, but the bulk will be in the period thereafter.

Due to the projected house building within this ward, both Aston Clinton and Weston Turville are both predicted to grow considerably. Given the position of Aston Clinton and the historic ties of the two neighbouring parishes of Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp we do not believe there is a way to separate these three parishes which then makes it too big to be a single member ward. Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp not only share local amenities such as the is no shop, park and public

transport within either of these two smaller parishes. The Aston Clinton parish is configured so that the two smaller parishes would be an island by themselves if not connected with Aston Clinton and the residents of these hamlets very much view Aston Clinton as an extension to their villages.

Weston Turville is projected to grow to over 5000 residents which, again, means that it would be too big to be a single member ward. However, given the position of some of the new building work and its proximity to the border with Aylesbury Town it makes sense for a few of the small newly built/currently under construction estates to be moved into the Aylesbury East ward.

The roads to move would be:

Seed Piece - 7

Darlish Road - 57

Botany Mews – 25

Buckthorn Mews - 16

Medlar Street - 137

Spindle Green - 20

Field Rose - 30

Sweet Briar - 42

New Road (would need to be split) – roughly 6

Aston Reach – not fully built or occupied approx. currently 99 residents the roads include Lockheed Street, Axtell Way, Broad Lane, Saro Mews, Kempster Way – should be roughly 400 people

Aston Clinton Road – 1 (the house next to the turning)

Aston Reach is 2 miles from the centre of Weston Turville village, if residents would like to visit the local shop it is less than a mile to get to Jansel Square or Parton Road the two main shopping areas that fall within Aylesbury East. The traffic and issues along the Tring Road are going to be of much more concern to these residents of Weston Turville than the issues of Main Road, Weston Turville.

This would then change the ward figures for the new Aston Clinton ward to roughly:

Polling District		2021	2027
AAT	Aston Clinton	3760	4712
AAV	Buckland	625	647
AAX	Drayton Beauchamp	131	126
ABH	Weston Turville	3046	4216
		7562	9900
Variance		-10%	9.5%

Bierton & Wing

As mentioned above the new development of Kingsbrook continues to grow so there is no way that the parish of Bierton could continue to be joined with Aston Clinton and Weston Turville to ensure that there is electoral equality. Kingsbrook started as a ward within Bierton Parish, but in 2021 became its own Parish. Although a new estate, this is a community tie as the new Parish is finding it's feet and it is looking to Bierton residents and its Parish to help establish itself. The current Wing ward is somewhat illogical in that it unites the suburbs of Aylesbury with villages and the A413 with those along the A418. There isn't really any connection between Bierton/Kingsbrook and Watermead/Buckingham Park so what seems like the most logical step would, to us, be to move Watermead, Buckingham Park, Hardwick, Aston Abbots and the Weedon's out of Wing and add in Bierton/Kingsbrook along with Coppice Way which borders Bierton village therefore creating a two-member ward. These are cohesive villages as there is a central travel corridor from Coppice way,

through Bierton to Wing. Although parishes Broughton and Hulcott have historic ties and also not in Bierton parish they do share community links. Both Bierton and Wing are developments which have built up over time and must balance new builds with established/historic buildings. As the main travel corridor, they experience similar issues and have a similar outlook on a number of concerns. Kingsbrook will continue to have close ties to Bierton especially with the building of both a primary and secondary school on the development, one of which has just recently been completed. Coppice Way ward is a distinct development which is why it is its own ward on the Town Council and very much looks towards Bierton. The development is known as Bierton Park, with the local Church of England school only a short walk from the development where it would be a much longer walk/car ride to the closest school in Aylesbury town.

We are therefore proposing the ward becomes:

Polling District		2021	2027
BBZ	Creslow	13	13
BCA	Cublington	280	303
BFC	Whitchurch	793	866
BFD	Wing	2270	2339
BFE	Wingrave	1273	1396
BBJ	Bierton	1230	1254
BBS	Broughton	46	48
BCX	Hulcott	106	104
BDB	Kingsbrook	1570	2684
AAE	Coppice Way	946	976
		8861	9983
Variance		6%	10%

Watermead & Buckingham Park

Due to the size of Wing, which is 1000 over, both Watermead and Buckingham Park are too big to just take one out and aren't big enough without some smaller villages being added to them to make the seat big enough for a one-member ward. Keeping in mind the three principles we believe that a new single member ward should be created. This ward will accommodate the increase in housing around the north of Aylesbury, ensuring electoral equality whilst ensuring community ties continue. The 2027 figures and the calculation of wards 4521 (+/-10%) clearly show that in a northern arc around Aylesbury there will be an additional 5000 residents that would need to be placed into neighbouring seats or into a newly created seat and the remainder redistributed.

Watermead, Oldham Meadows and Buckingham Park are a unique mix of town and rural, standing on the entrance to the town but very much remaining their own parishes and separate from the town it makes sense to place them with neighbouring smaller parishes. Each of the bigger parishes have their own shopping areas, which serve not just the residents of Buckingham Park and Watermead but also the neighbouring villages. Weedon and Watermead have historically been linked together. The town line would create a natural boundary, allowing areas that are likeminded, share a village/ outlook on life to be represented by one person who then wouldn't have to deal

with a town/country divide. We understand that by adding Aston Abbotts it makes the ward an odd shape but the community ties as well as the resident figures dictate this slightly unusual ward shape.

Polling District		2021	2027
ABE	Watermead	1742	1802
BBP	Buckingham Park	1850	1888
AAZ	Oldham Meadows	351	353
BCT	Hardwick	241	253
ABF	Weedon	8	8
BEY	Weedon	309	316
BBE	Aston Abbotts		339
		4501	4959
Variance		7%	9.7%

Aylesbury East

Following the changes that we have proposed for the Aston Clinton seat, the Aylesbury East seat would have roughly 700 houses from the Weston Turville parish moved into the ward. Aston Reach (the housing development that is currently being built) is 2 miles from the centre of Weston Turville village, however if residents would like to visit a local shop rather than travelling to the centre of the Parish for a newsagents, they could go less than a mile to get to Jansel Square or Parton Road the two main shopping areas that fall within Aylesbury East. The traffic and issues along the Tring Road are going to be of much more concern to these residents as this is the road that leads to their developments rather than the issues of Main Road, Weston Turville which are of much more concern to those that live within the village of Weston Turville itself.

Aylesbury East Polling District	2021	2027
AAA – Bedgrove	2544	2644
AAB – Bedgrove	2356	2422
AAL – Oakfield	3351	3422
BEC – Provis Wharf	140	144
ABH – additional housing from Weston Turville		741
	8391	9373
Variance	0%	4%

We believe that the below seats don't need any changes as they fall within the figures for 2027, they already have long established community links and ties so it wouldn't make a lot of sense to move them and create more change just for the sake of change. This way the residents have minimal disruption to their democratic representation.

Ridgeway East

Ridgeway East Polling District		2021	2027
KA	Ellesborough	662	676
AI	Hampdens	265	262
KB	Kimble	859	1044
AE	Naphill	2303	2437
AF	Hughenden Valley	1477	1542
AG	Great Kingshill	1284	1315
AH	Widmer End	1571	1634
		8421	8910
Variance		0%	-1%

Ridgeway West

Polling District		2021	2027
AA	Bledlow	720	713
AB	Bledlow Ridge	794	831
AC	Bradenham	558	632
AD	Saunderton	272	307
AJ	Lacey Green	1342	1385
AK	Speen	525	542
AN	Radnage	557	568
AL	Stokenchurch	3303	3593
		8071	8571
Variance		-4%	-5%

Ivinghoe

Polling District		2021	2027
BBW	Cheddington	1496	1503
BCC	Edlesborough	408	415
BCJ	Edlesborough	1530	1560
BDT	Edlesborough	376	387
BCZ	Ivinghoe	532	560
BDA	Ivinghoe	226	244
BDM	Marsworth	585	641
BDN	Mentmore	333	333
BDZ	Pitstone	2709	2824
BEI	Slapton	468	479
		8663	8947
Variance		3%	-1%

Aylesbury South East

Although on the 2027 figures the ward could stay as it is, we believe that it will be in the interest of residents as well as help with electoral equality and community ties to make some slight changes at the border of this seat with Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville. The changes we suggest are to increase the size of polling district ABC to include the two new smaller housing estates that have been built in Stoke Mandeville parish that border the current ward but are recorded within Stoke Mandeville Village ward.

The following streets would move from polling district ABD to ABC

Athens, Atlanta, Rome, Syndey, Beethoven, Elgar Mews, Brubeck Road, Britton Close, Lennon Way, Gershwin Road, Ravel Lane, Brahms Lane and Mozart End

This is approx. 469 people

These new houses have been built just past the Stoke Mandeville hospital which falls within the Aylesbury South East ward. These developments look to the town and to Aylesbury South East rather than Stoke Mandeville as they are two smaller developments of roughly 250 houses each side of the same stretch of road. They are built on the very outskirts of Stoke Mandeville village and currently fall within the village parish ward but are actually closer to the houses in the Stoke Leys ward of Stoke Mandeville parish. Aylesbury South East already has wards from Stoke Mandeville parish within it, in reality these houses would be moving from one Stoke Mandeville parish to another rather than into a town parish. This would be strengthening community ties rather than breaking them. These homes are situated before the Stoke Mandeville village signs and are not regarded as falling within. They share local amenities including travel and local supermarket with the houses in Aylesbury South East rather than the Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville villages.

Commencing in 2022 with completion planned for 2024 the South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) will be built between Wendover Road and Lower Road, (with a more south-westerly extension planned for later in association with HS2). This by-pass will be built on an embankment to enable it to pass over the Aylesbury-Amersham-Marylebone railway line. Consequently, it will provide a strong boarder between Aylesbury South East and Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville wards.

Polling District		2021	2027
AAJ	M & EF	2264	2352
AAK	M & EF	2911	2990
AAR	Walton	1883	1887
ABB	Stoke Grange	1020	1034
ABC	Stoke Leys	479	502
additions to ABC		469	469
		9026	9234
Variance		8%	2%

Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville

The same thinking applies to the Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville seat which would have the streets moved out of them but otherwise would have no further changes.

Wendover and Halton have long historic ties, not only with the provision of local amenities including travel, doctors' surgeries, schools, library and shops but the RAF site which is based at Halton often parades through Wendover. These areas must be included together. Stoke Mandeville is united with Wendover in its campaign against HS2 as both villages will be deeply impacted by the construction and eventually the train itself. Ultimately the RAF base in Halton is scheduled for closure and there will be substantial new housing. This will not occur until after 2027 but it does reinforce the sustainability of the ward in the long run as electors per councillor are likely to increase again.

Polling District		2021	2027
AAY	Halton	512	913
ABD	Stoke Mandeville Village	2169	2991
ABG	Wendover	5948	6212
remove residents to Aylesbury SE		-469	-469
		8160	9647
Variance		-3%	7%

Aylesbury North

Due to the size, it would make sense to move out some of the ward and create a ward similar to what used to be the Elmhurst and Central wards on Aylesbury Vale District Council. Given the centre of Aylesbury is continuing to build up with office blocks being converted into flats central Aylesbury is becoming its own community as well as the central hub for the town. As permitted development is being used to convert the flats it can make it difficult to predict the exact number of new conversions, but it may well be that figures will be an underestimate in the post-Covid era. The historic Old Town joins neatly to Elmhurst and the nearest primary school is just a short walk from both the Old Town and the new builds across the town centre. Along with public transport ties, Whitehill Doctors Surgery will serve a large amount of the ward. Coppice Way however, is seen by being its own ward on the Town Council and is seen as a separate estate, not part of Oakfield or Elmhurst both of which it abuts. It makes more sense for this distinct area (Bierton Park) to be moved to the Bierton & Wing seat as previously mentioned. By moving Oldham Meadows out of the ward (into Watermead & Buckingham Park) it removes the slight quirk of including a small number of houses from Bierton Parish with Aylesbury Town Council wards.

Loses two polling districts AAZ (Oldham Meadows) and AAE (Coppice Way)

Polling District		2021	2027
AAC	Central	1983	1978
AAD	Central	1323	1629
AAF	Elmhurst	2550	2683
AAG	Elmhurst	2116	2203
		7972	8493
Variance		-5%	-6%

Aylesbury South West

We would suggest that either a new polling district is created or the boundary to AAP is moved to down the middle of Ellen Road which is a main road and a sensible place for a boundary to be drawn and is in fact where a boundary is for the neighbouring ward (further down Ellen Road). It would result in the change of 364 houses to be moved over to Southcourt from AAM (Oxford Road).

The streets that would be moved are:

Briskman Way, Jakeman Way, Dixon Close, Hinds Way, Drake Close, Bond Close, Burrell Close & Chapman Close

These houses are a distinct area, they are right on the border with Aylesbury South West currently with the A418 cutting them off from the rest of Coldharbour and Oxford Road. Briskman Way goes out directly onto Ellen Road, so it would make sense for Ellen Road to become a natural break for the ward.

Polling District		2021	2027
AAI	Hawkslade	1867	2304
AAP	Southcourt	2236	2299
AAQ	Southcourt	2570	2639
ABA	Hawkslade (SM Parish)	1491	1536
	Moved from AAM Oxford Rd	364	364
		8528	9142
Variance		2%	1%

Aylesbury West

By moving 364 people from Briskman Way development into Aylesbury South West, this makes Aylesbury West too small, but moving in the polling district of AAO, the Haydon Hill development, this would make Aylesbury West an acceptable size, whilst also helping to reduce Aylesbury North West which is too big.

AAO is the neighbouring polling district, over the last few years there has been an increase in the housing that has been moving closer to the development of Fairford Leys. In fact, it is easier to access Coldharbour Parish from AAO than Oxford Road ward due to the traffic restrictions (a bollard being in place so only buses can access directly from Fairford Leys to Fowler Road). The Bicester Road would then become a natural boundary between Aylesbury West and Aylesbury North West. The residents of AAO think of themselves as a distinct area as opposed to the areas of Quarrendon and Gatehouse that make up the Aylesbury North West ward. The Rabans Lane/A418 is a regular travel corridor for residents of both the current Aylesbury West residents as well as AAO residents.

Polling District		2021	2027
AAO	Haydon Hill	1377	1675
AAM	Oxford Road	3328	3539
AAS	Walton Court	1322	1335
AAW	Coldharbour	3493	3593
	Removed from AAM	-364	-364
		9156	9778
Variance		9%	8%

Aylesbury North West

Given the size of Aylesbury North West, the ward needs to be made smaller. Due to a historic quirk one of the polling districts in the ward has over 5000 residents and surprisingly hasn't been broken down further (perhaps due to the community ties that the whole of the ward has and no natural breaks). With this in mind, the movement of the polling district of AAO into Aylesbury West seems like the most sensible way to create a natural break between the two wards, as well as ensuring the existing community ties including local bus services, as well as parish churches continue between Quarrendon and Gatehouse.

In recent years the A41 has become very heavily trafficked and congested both with cars going to the Broadfields Retail Park and to the new development of Berryfields, west of Aylesbury and the growing town of Bicester also to the west. As a result, a new route between the recent development of Fairford Leys and the industrial area of Rabans Lane has become more popular and has changed perceptions. This route along Rabans Lane and Brunel Road has also seen new dwellings constructed (with more proposed) thereby changing the balance of land use in what was once an entirely industrial area. Hence the proposal to move the ward boundary to the A41 which is now a dividing not a unifying feature.

Polling District		2021	2027
AAH	Gatehouse	5940	6391
AAN	Quarrendon	1915	1967
AAO Removed from ward			
		7855	8358
Variance		-6%	-8%