

From: Buckingham Constituency Liberal Democrats
To: Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Re: Warding arrangements for the Buckinghamshire Unitary Authority
Date : 3 April 2022

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing to you on behalf of the Buckingham Constituency Liberal Democrats with our views on the new council size and ward pattern for Buckinghamshire Council, with particular reference to the area covered by Buckingham Constituency, specifically the current Buckinghamshire Council wards of Bernwood, Buckingham East, Buckingham West, Great Brickhill, Grendon Underwood, Ivinghoe, Stone and Waddesdon, Wing, and Winslow.

Last year the commission announced it was minded to recommend a 98-seat size of council. Buckingham Constituency Liberal Democrats strongly support this as it aligns with our manifesto proposal. We believe this is an effective and efficient size of council.

Buckingham Constituency Liberal Democrats fully support the concept of single member wards. These ensure the best possible link between electors and those who represent them. We further strongly believe that community cohesion often works best with smaller wards and parish relevant ward boundaries. In a largely rural area, a move to smaller, single member wards reduces the geographic spread of a ward and thus generates better identification. A smaller, single member ward would also be easier to define by communities and manage as a Councillor, for example in terms of attending parish council meetings (some of our current wards comprise 12 or more parishes). We also generally believe that, under a first-past-the-post system, single member wards are preferable as they lead to a clearer identification of members of the community with 'their' councillor.

In some special cases there may be good reason for two-member wards, for example in some urban areas of Buckinghamshire where larger wards may reflect community cohesion better. However, we believe that these should be the exception.

We recognise, and understand, the LGBC's desire to have equalisation of the electorate between wards. However, we are strongly opposed to any proposals which would create arbitrary splits in communities, or separation of villages with common identities, simply for the sake of equalisation of elector numbers. This may well cause additional workload in some slightly larger wards, but we believe that, in general, the benefits of electors having a single point of contact for their council representative outweigh those disadvantages of extra workload. A case in point would be the Berryfields Ward, which is a new development on the West side of Aylesbury. Currently this is a single polling district, Ref AAU, with an electorate of 5347, forecast to rise to 5755 by 2027. This area does not naturally link to any other, and if it were split into two wards, they would be much too small.

We hope that our considerations and preliminary ward proposals will be helpful in your work to determine a new ward structure for Buckinghamshire Unitary Council.

With best regards,



Dr Anja Schaefer

Chair, Buckingham Constituency Liberal Democrats

PROPOSALS

We have provided, attached, a summary of proposed single member wards for the Buckingham Parliamentary constituency, except for the following current wards:

Buckingham – East and West

These current wards are each dominated by very large single polling districts (WEST - *BBQ, Buckingham Town South, electorate 5382 / forecast 6381* and EAST- *Buckingham Town North 4762 / 5120*). The balance of each of these wards (East & West) is made of a number of small villages. At this stage we have not been able to produce a street-by-street breakdown of the two Buckingham Town polling districts in order to facilitate the creation of new single member wards. In our proposal, some villages on the outskirts of Buckingham have been allocated to new wards and these are clearly shown on the attached schedule. We believe that the balance of the current Buckingham East and West wards would create three new single member wards. It may be advantageous to consider the boundaries of the current Buckingham polling districts at the same time as considering the ward boundaries for Buckinghamshire Council.

The Risboroughs and Ridgeway East

No proposals are offered for these current wards at this stage.

Polling station Reference Code (Suggested new ward name in red)	Polling Station Name	Current BC Unitary Ward	Electorate now	Boundary Commission estimate for 2027	Comments
WINSLOW					Winslow has a strong identity and its own town council. It should return to being an independent, single member ward.
BFF	Winslow	Winslow & Villages	4095	4592	
			4095	4592	

HORWOOD					Historically the villages between Winslow and Buckingham made up a single ward and should return to this status. Thornborough is removed from Buckingham East and returned to the Horwood Ward. In this example Little Horwood has been linked to Stewkley ward details of which will appear later.
BBA	Addington	Winslow & Villages	119	125	
BBB	Adstock	Winslow & Villages	297	313	
BBH	Beachampton	Winslow & Villages	132	133	
BCQ	Gt Horwood	Winslow & Villages	894	1022	
BDQ	Nash	Winslow & Villages	373	387	
BDX	Padbury	Winslow & Villages	703	728	
BEQ	Thornborough	Buckingham East	521	535	Removed from Buckingham East as makes more sense and was always in Horwood ward.
BER	Thornton	Winslow & Villages	93	94	
BFB	Whaddon	Winslow & Villages	384	893	NOTE THIS INCREASE. DEVELOPMENT AT WHADDON CHASE.
			3516	4230	

STEWKLEY					All of these villages have strong natural links.
BDP	Mursley	Great Brickhill	575	579	
BEP	Swanbourne	Great Brickhill	325	344	
BCF	Drayton Parslow	Great Brickhill	522	560	
BEJ	Soulbury	Great Brickhill	660	699	
BEL	Stewkley	Great Brickhill	1448	1576	

BCG	Dunton	Great Brickhill	77	78	
BCV	Hoggeston	Great Brickhill	75	77	
BDH	Little Horwood	Winslow & Villages	402	412	Little Horwood has strong links with Mursley so has been added to the Stewkley Ward , which includes Mursley. This helps to balance numbers.
			4084	4325	

LONGVILLE					
BDS	Newton Longville	Great Brickhill	1517	2844	The 2027 forecast assumes major growth from the Salden Chase development. This will happen but probably not at the rate proposed by Bucks Council.
TBA (new)	Newton Leys South	Great Brickhill	TBA	TBA	Newton Leys South is within Stoke Hammond parish area. Ideally it should have its own polling station. Elector numbers are our calculation - 588 current 634 by 2027
BEM	Stoke Hammond	Great Brickhill	1406	1591	Stoke Hammond parish council covers Newton Leys South and the electroate of this is included in the Stoke Hammond Figure. Newton Leys South should have it's own polling district.
BCP	Great Brickhill	Great Brickhill	695	737	
			3618	5172	

QUAINTON					New ward created from parts of three different wards. Quainton has strong links with Waddesdon but linking the two creates multiple issues with combinations of other communities.
BCD	Granborough	Winslow	487	494	Granborough has always had a link with North Marston
BDU	North Marston	Great Brickhill	574	588	
BDW	Oving	Great Brickhill	378	391	

BDY	Pitchcott	Great Brickhill	41	45	
BFC	Whitchurch	WING	793	866	
BCT	Hardwick	WING	241	253	
BEY	Weedon 1	WING	309	316	
ABF	Weedon 2	WING	8	8	
BED	Quainton	Great Brickhill	1043	1283	
BCW	Hogshaw	Great Brickhill	55	58	
BBZ	Creslow	Wing	13	13	
			3942	4315	

WING					These villages have good social and geographic links
BBE	Aston Abbots	WING	334	339	
BCA	Cublington	WING	280	303	
BFD	Wing	WING	2270	2339	
BFE	Wingrave with Rowsham	WING	1273	1396	
			4157	4377	

NEW NORTH WEST AYLESBURY					These two areas are within Aylesbury Town Council area. Not quite up to size but may be acceptable. They do not link well to villages to the north.
ABE	Watermead	Wing	1742	1802	
BBP	Buckingham Park	Wing	1850	1888	
				3690	

PITSTONE					This seems to be the most logical combination
BDZ	Pitstone	Ivinghoe	2709	2824	
BDM	Marsworth	Ivinghoe	585	641	
BCZ	Ivinghoe	Ivinghoe	532	560	
			3826	4025	

CHEDDINGTON					A bit too big but hard to come up with a more logical split.
BBW	Cheddington	Ivinghoe	1496	1503	

BCC	Dagnall	Ivinghoe	407	415	
BCJ	Edlesborough	Ivinghoe	1530	1560	
BDA	Ivinghoe Aston	Ivinghoe	226	244	
BDN	Mentmore	Ivinghoe	334	333	
BDT	Northall	Ivinghoe	376	387	
BEI	Slapton	Ivinghoe	468	479	
			4837	4921	

HADDENHAM					Clearly Haddenham should be a single ward and there is nowhere else to put Kingsey & Aston Sandford except perhaps Risborough
BCS	Haddenham	Bernwood	4531	5348	
BDC	Kingsey	Bernwood	120	127	
BCF	Aston Sandford	Bernwood	41	43	
			4692	5518	

LONG CRENDON					Seems to be a straightforward split of existing Bernwood Ward.
BBV	Chearsley	Bernwood	452	459	
BCY	Ickford	Bernwood	548	717	NB Higher figure on Boundary Commission list
BDI	Long Crendon	Bernwood	2038	2054	
BEG	Shabbington	Bernwood	430	453	
BFH	Worminghall	Bernwood	453	478	
			3921	4161	

STONE					Stone is now the dominant village in the area by some margin
BBD	Ashenden	Stone & Waddesdon	198	204	
BBK	Bishopstone	Stone & Waddesdon	241	253	
BCB	Cuddington	Stone & Waddesdon	482	527	
BCD	Dinton	Stone & Waddesdon	519	548	
BCK	Fleet Marston	Stone & Waddesdon	38	41	

BCL	Ford	Stone & Waddesdon	172	179	
BDR	Nether Winchendon	Stone & Waddesdon	115	127	
BEN	Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell	Stone & Waddesdon	1862	1909	
BEV	Upper Winchendon	Stone & Waddesdon	77	79	
BFA	Westcott	Stone & Waddesdon	362	374	
			4066	4241	

BERRYFIELDS					Berryfields is a new development to the west of Aylesbury. Too small to become two wards and not logically connected to villages to the west.
AAU	Berryfields	Stone & Waddesdon	5379	5755	
				5755	

WADDESDON					Waddesdon is linked with villages to the west of the A41. There is an argument for linking with Quainton but the two would not make a ward and doesn't work with other options.
BEW	Waddesdon	Stone & Waddesdon	1490	1562	
BBL	Boarstall	Grendon Underwood	109	107	
BBR	Brill	Grendon Underwood	918	965	
BBY	Chilton	Grendon Underwood	242	242	
BCE	Dorton	Grendon Underwood	117	119	
BDD	Kingswood	Grendon Underwood	84	82	
BDJ	Ludgershall	Grendon Underwood	327	336	
BDV	Oakley	Grendon Underwood	875	904	

BFG	Woodham	Grendon Underwood	36	38	
BFI	Wotton Underwood	Grendon Underwood	116	115	
			4314	4470	

GRENDON UNDERWOOD					Grendon Underwood linked with villages to the north of A41.
BCR	Grendon Underwood	Grendon Underwood	904	935	
BDL	Marsh Gibbon	Grendon Underwood	782	859	
BBT	Calvert Green	Grendon Underwood	798	814	
BBU	Charndon	Grendon Underwood	238	250	
BCI	Edgcott	Grendon Underwood	201	207	
BEA	Poundon	Grendon Underwood	96	102	
BEU	Twyford	Grendon Underwood	436	466	
BCH	East Claydon	Grendon Underwood	312	323	
BDO	Middle Claydon	Grendon Underwood	115	118	
			3882	4074	

STEEPLE CLAYDON					Steeple Claydon is a large and growing village with substantial HS2 connections. It should be the principle focus of a ward. Some villages taken from part of current Buckingham West .
BBG	Barton Hartshorn		71	70	
BBX	Chetwode	Buckingham West	60	60	
BCN	Gawcott	Buckingham West	664	685	
BCU	Hillesden	Buckingham West	171	176	
BRB	Preston Bissett	Buckingham West	256	263	

BES	Tingewick	Buckingham West	1044	1051	
BEK	Steeple Claydon	Grendon Underwood	1949	2207	
			4215	4512	

BALANCE OF CURRENT BUCKINGHAM WARDS AFTER RELOCATING SOME VILLAGES.

BBO	Buckingham North	Buckingham East	4763	5120	
BBM	Buckingham Fishers Field	Buckingham West	132	137	
BEF	Radclive	Buckingham West	197	207	
BEH	Shalstone	Buckingham West	99	98	
BET	Turweston	Buckingham West	154	168	
BEX	Water Stratford	Buckingham West	113	116	
BEZ	Westbury	Buckingham West	395	393	
BBQ	Buckingham South	Buckingham West	5398	6381	Note significant increase of c.1000 from current
BBL	Akeley	Buckingham East	398	408	
BBN	Buckingham Highlands & Watchcroft	Buckingham East	350	362	
BCM	Foscott	Buckingham East	31	32	
BDE	Leckhampstead	Buckingham East	164	173	
BDF	Lillingstone Dayrell	Buckingham East	82	77	
BDG	Lillingstone Lovell	Buckingham East	115	114	
BDK	Maids Moreton	Buckingham East	703	955	Note increase. Looks like there is an assumption that the disputed development will eventually go ahead.

BEO Stowe

Buckingham East

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