

Buckinghamshire Council

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Comment text:

Firstly, we would like to thank the electoral commission for taking the time to take our concerns and alternative proposals into consideration when they were putting together the new ward patterns. Given the size of the County and the need to balance electoral equality, community identity and effective local government as well as the number of submissions we are sure that this was no easy feat. Although not all of our suggestions were taken into account, a large number were and the LG Boundary Commission has decided to go a different way, we can understand the reasoning behind it. We thought it would be easiest to break down our response for each ward to make it clear.

Aston Clinton & Weston Turville We thank the Commission for agreeing with our submission that there needs to be changes as the Aston Clinton & Bierton ward was so big. Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp have historic ties as well as being joined geographically. Both Weston Turville and Aston Clinton are represented by Parish Council's and have community action groups (focused on development) something that binds the two parishes together. The proposed ward will result in electoral equality and an appropriate name.

Aylesbury East Again, we think the proposals put forward by the Boundary Commission, which follow what we had initially proposed, are a sensible future for the ward. Although each area has their own distinct Residents Associations, they are under the same neighbourhood policing team. The new houses being built in the Aston Reach, being represented by their own ward on the Parish also makes sense as in other areas across Aylesbury we have a mixture of Town Council and Parish wards so it is a continuation of this. An identifiable boundary will be created for the ward by these changes and residents already look to Aylesbury town rather than the village, especially given there are no public transport links, and they are actually closer to shops within the Aylesbury boundary.

Aylesbury North Although our proposals were not followed, we understand the reasoning behind this decision. The ward will be on the larger size but given the view to keeping urban areas together it would follow that this ward would not be changed from the old Buckinghamshire County Council boundary.

Aylesbury North West We agree with the proposals for this ward, although it is slightly smaller there are infill developments already going up in the ward. At a recent planning meeting permission was granted for 200 houses on the old Cinram site, on Rabans Lane. As mentioned in our previous submission, the area between Haydon Hill and Fairford Leys is becoming increasingly residential rather than commercial so the inclusion of polling district AAO in the Aylesbury West ward allows for both Aylesbury North West and West to follow the three criteria laid down by the LGBCE. Using the A41 as a natural dividing line also makes a very clear, natural boundary.

Aylesbury West We had not proposed the changes of Alwin Close, Blackwater Drive and Ember Path, but can see the logic behind this decision to move them to Aylesbury South West and agree with the other proposals for the ward. Coldharbour have their own Parish Council while Prebendal Farm and Haydon Hill have their own residents/community groups. HS2 is a big issue for the area with the line running along the border of the ward, with the construction work now under way issues will continue to come up and having these represented by one ward would make sense. Even areas that aren't directly next to the route are still impacted by the knock on impact from the construction traffic causing traffic jams for people from the Fowler Road area taking their children to school in Coldharbour. There are good traffic links across the whole of the ward with Coldharbour Way creating a spine that leads to Rabans Lane, Ellen Road and the A418 leading to the separate estates within the ward.

Aylesbury South East We agree with the proposals entirely, although wanted to point out that in the report it was mentioned that a new ward would result in splitting Stoke Mandeville parish. The parish is already warded with the Stoke Leys and Stoke Grange wards of Stoke Mandeville already within the Aylesbury South East ward. There are easy travel links across the ward and the additional houses that will be added to the ward are quite literally a stone's throw away from the Stoke Leys ward. Also as we mentioned in our previous submission the planned South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) will be built between Wendover Road and Lower Road providing a strong border between

the Aylesbury South East and Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville wards. Aylesbury South West Although our proposals were not accepted by the Boundary Commission we accept the proposed boundaries for the area. This proposal will create a variance of 0% so in those terms fits into the electoral equality category perfectly. The streets of Alwin Close, Blackwater Drive and Ember Path have close ties to the Hawkslade area and were out on a limb compared to the compact nature of the Aylesbury West ward as it was. This will reflect both community identities and interests, including HS2 which impacts the residents of Hawkslade directly. There are clear travel links both for pedestrians, cars and public transport across the ward. The local amenities of the area are within walking distance with the whole of the ward sharing the medical facilities of the local GP at Mandeville surgery. For these reasons we agree with the proposals put forward. Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville We agree entirely with the proposals which follow what we submitted. 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. In previous boundary changes it has been proposed to separate them and this was met with such local upset that it was reversed so we agree it makes sense to keep these two villages together, along with Stoke Mandeville to create the figure needed for electoral equality. Ridgeway East No change was proposed and we agree that this is the correct ward for the area as it is close to the ideal electoral equality the Boundary Commission are striving for as well as linking like communities together. The area itself has been moved numerous times in parliamentary boundary changes with the only real constant being the local government representatives. Ridgeway West The proposals follow largely what we submitted with the addition of Beacon's Bottom and Studley Green. The AM polling district was previously in the Stokenchurch & Radnage Wycome District Council ward so we believe that it makes perfect sense for the polling district which falls within Stokenchurch Parish be reunited with the village. Ivinghoe There are no changes proposed for the ward, and we agree that this is the best way forward for residents within the area and also achieves the Boundary Commissions key criteria. Berryfields, Watermead and Buckingham Park This ward proposal was quite different to what most people had put forward as a suggestion, and although it isn't something we had considered we can see the reasoning behind how this came about. This proposal puts together three separate but similar communities together under one ward. Although they do not necessarily share other attributes, they are all separate parishes, right on the border with Aylesbury town with their own sense of community as well as local amenities. It is true that although they are parishes, they are much more urban as opposed to some of the smaller rural parishes which are hamlets of a few hundred these wards are in the thousands. All of them have good public transport links into Aylesbury town and are connected via Martin Dalby Way so it is possible to travel across this ward easily so it makes sense for the River Thames to form the southernmost boundary for this ward and that they shouldn't be linked with Aylesbury town itself. Therefore, we accept the proposal put forward. Bierton and Kingsbrook We always understood that the Aston Clinton & Bierton ward would need to be split due to sheer size and with the continued building that is due across the ward it would be impossible to keep it together. The fact that this new ward would be at the very limit of the variance is not ideal, however it shows that there is room for further growth in the area and that there is little else that can be done in the area that can keep like communities together whilst ensuring electoral equality. Kingsbrook now has its own Parish it was covered by the Bierton parish until this was established so they have a shared history, with transport links across both Bierton and Kingsbrook. Although we would suggest that if the Boundary Commission are looking to make any changes then the possibility of joining this ward with the Wing ward could be considered. We understand the reasons behind our previous submission being rejected but the spine of the A418 which was used as the basis for the newly proposed Wing ward also provides the same for the Bierton & Kingsbrook ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded