

WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMENTS

I think the best place to start looking for where the ward boundaries should be for the Buckinghamshire Council is the polling wards of the former District Council areas. These were drawn up to link local communities, however, I do not agree with the linking of civil parishes areas with unparished areas, as this can cause confusion within the local populace.

I was born and have lived in Downley for many years, and for over 30 years I was a member of the old West Wycombe Rural detached Parish Council, of which one of the wards was Downley, and then on Downley Parish when it became a parish in its own right, in the former Wycombe District area. Under the current warding for Buckinghamshire Council Downley Parish is linked to the adjacent unparished area of High Wycombe Town.

First a little bit of history, which will help you understand where I am coming from with my suggestions, although I know you need to look to the future in determining the warding for Buckinghamshire Council.

The area of the Downley Parish before its extension in recent years was part of the original West Wycombe Parish created in 1894, and as such Downley has always had better links with the West Wycombe area. It was only when the Borough of High Wycombe in the 1930's persuaded the village of West Wycombe to join them by installing mains drainage that this original West Wycombe Parish was split into two wards and became known as West Wycombe Rural detached Parish Council the wards being Downley and Piddington & Wheeler End and so it was for many years.

In the 1930's the fields in the unparished area running down the hill from the original Downley Parish boundary to north of the London to Bicester railway line were developed and although outside of the Downley Parish area the Plomer Hill community developed links with the Downley Parish, due to there still being fields separating this developed area from the town of High Wycombe. It was this Plomer Hill area that was taken into the extended Downley Parish area in recent years.

In the 1960's the unparished area of opened fields that separated the Parish of Downley from the town of High Wycombe were developed and although it abuts with the Downley Parish boundary, this area developed its own identity with its own primary school and place of worship and the ward was named Disraeli, which is what a lot of people still refer to it as. So although Downley Parish abuts the unparished area they each have their own individual identity it is only the bus service running through both areas that links them.

My Suggestion

1. Downley Parish, West Wycombe Parish and Piddington & Wheeler End Parish create one ward and be named Wycombe West
2. The unparished area of High Wycombe be split into wards and not be linked to any parished area.
3. The unparished area of that was known as Disraeli be given its own ward and named Disraeli

Alternative Option

If you decide that Downley Parish area needs to be combined with the unparished area that was known as Disraeli to create a ward it should be named Downley & Disraeli.

██████████