

From: Angela Macpherson (Cllr) <Angela.Macpherson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 September 2022 13:09
To: reviews
Cc: Frank Mahon (Cllr); Michael Rand (Cllr)
Subject: Buckinghamshire boundary commission review

Categories: Submissions

Dear Review Officer
Please find below my response to the review as local ward councillor for the Grendon Underwood ward in Buckinghamshire.
All three Grendon Underwood ward councillors have discussed and agree to this response.

Councillors names

Angela Macpherson, Frank Mahon, Michael Rand

Do you think this ward reflects community identities

The proposed one member Steeple Claydon and Grendon Underwood wards would divide small villages which have shared identities and community priorities.

Notably in these proposals, the village of Steeple Claydon is separated from Middle Claydon, East and Botolph Claydon which would move into the new Grendon Underwood ward alongside Calvert Green.

Elected members have spoken with the aforementioned affected parishes, who all agree that there is a shared identity in this rural community. Residents of the Claydon Parishes and Calvert Green are linked by the ability to shop in Steeple Claydon, to have their children educated at the local East Claydon School, access the library and other community facilities and participate in many local activities. The local major agricultural landowner and rural industry have close links in each parish, plus the parochial links of the three Churches with a single vicar. There are significant unique issues that cover this area, such as the major infrastructure projects of HS2 and East West Rail, and the proposed 'mega prison'. Parishes and local councillors work closely together as a team and have formed important working groups that come together to strengthen the local voice to represent combined community views.

Proposed amendment

Our preferred solution would be to merge the proposed Grendon Underwood and Steeple Claydon wards and for that single ward to be represented by two councillors. The combined ward would comprise a large number of parishes but would enable the two ward councillors to flexibly manage and represent the significant shared priorities of these connected communities.

The proposal to merge both wards, represented by two members, would preserve all parish boundaries and not result in a knock-on effect to any adjacent wards. Indeed the merging of the wards would deliver better electoral equality (balancing up the -10% variance in Grendon with the 0% in Steeple Claydon) thus delivering a more balanced ward.

Kind regards
Angela

Angela Macpherson
Deputy Leader Buckinghamshire Council
Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
Representing Grendon Underwood ward



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