

Buckinghamshire Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Penn PC

Comment text:

PENN, TYLERS GREEN and LOUDWATER Firstly, let me acknowledge the difficulty the Commission has in meeting all its criteria in every ward.....an unenviable challenge. Even more so in a ward stretching from the urban area of Loudwater on the outskirts of High Wycombe in the west to the very rural Chiltern Hills village of Winchmore Hill in the east. Penn Parish Council have produced a comprehensive report on your first draft, addressing electoral equality, character and identity and whole parish inclusion. I will not go into your proposal in the same depth here, but merely give my unequivocal support to their proposals. Of all the comments I have read concerning parliamentary constituency and local government ward boundaries, very few address electoral equality. Whilst the Penn Parish proposal falls within your desired parameters it would require further work in the Loudwater, Wycombe Marsh, Flackwell Heath areas. However these communities have far more in common than Penn and Loudwater. Even the adjacent area of Tylers Green, with several shared amenities with Penn village, in no way shares an affinity with Loudwater. Any perceived problems arising from Penn and Tylers Green being in separate wards have however disappeared with the creation of a unitary authority and thereby the duplication of services in adjacent areas is a thing of the past. Your first draft does however keep the parish of Penn in one ward. A decision I applaud on practical grounds. Links and lines of communication between unitary and parish councils are kept simple and efficient. The proposal of Penn Parish Council to include the parish of Coleshill in a single member ward with the Parish of Penn is a very logical one. It is adjacent to Winchmore Hill, shares many of its characteristics and amenities. Many of the younger children in Winchmore Hill attend their first school in Coleshill. The whole of this ward is of a rural nature, much within the Chilterns AONB and Green Belt, and sharing similar problems and outlook. It is this criteria your first proposal cannot possibly achieve. I have lived in Winchmore Hill and Penn Street for over forty years. I have been surprised at times by the deep sense of community felt by the residents in these villages. Their willingness to become involved in local projects and initiatives, the most striking example of which has been the response of over 30% to their Local Plan. They readily become involved knowing they have a local voice which will be heard. The inclusion of the Parish of Penn with its larger, more urban neighbours of Tylers Green and Loudwater is seen as a real threat to their future local democracy and not a provider of electoral equality. Thanking you for the opportunity to comment, Mike West.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded