

Buckinghamshire Council

Personal Details:

Name: David Watson
E-mail: david.watson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: Buckinghamshire Council

Comment text:

Dear Commissioners, I write this response to the Boundary Commission's proposal from the perspective an elected County Councillor whose honour it has been serve the former Thames Division from 2005 to 2013 and more recently Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow, Marlow & Marlow South East from 2013 to 2021. During the period from 2005 to 2013 Buckinghamshire had 57 county councillors and, following a Boundary Commission review, from 2013 to 2021 there were 49 county councillors. Since May 2021 I have served the Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow, Marlow & Marlow South East ward as a Member of Buckinghamshire Council. With regards to the Boundary Commission proposals, I would make the following comments: - 1. Impact on the Community - The Boundary Commission appear to have abandoned their own commitment not to put a political boundary through the middle of a parish. There are currently 3 Buckinghamshire Councillors who can be called upon to serve the residents of Little Marlow & Well End - under the Boundary Commission's current proposal there would, from May 2025, be 5 rather than 2 - this would dilute focus and not be effective. Questions as to whether the Parish Council remains as one unit during the longer term will inevitably arise if a ward boundary through its middle were to become a reality. 2. Impact on Governance - The Little Marlow & Well End Parish Council was formed, I am advised, in 1894 and has effectively looked after the interests of local residents of both Little Marlow village and Well End in coordination with other parish wide groups such as St John the Baptist church, the Women's Institute, the Cricket Club and local resident associations. The division of such groups into two would, I suggest, would not serve any local interest. 3. Low number of responses from local residents. The current proposals appear to be a based upon the input of just 3 local residents - one of whom is a recently elected Buckinghamshire Councillor. It is important that the views of many more local residents are now taken on board. It appears that Boundary Commission has accepted that the number of councillors should remain a multiple of 49 but has not accepted the council's ward boundary suggestions - given that there have not been significant changes in population I do wonder why the Boundary Commission in 2022 has such a different view from the Boundary Commission in 2013 and would question whether the proposed change is really necessary? As to whether the new housing planned for Bourne End will actually be built remains to be seen. Based upon my experience as a councillor for Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow, Marlow & Marlow South East over the past 9 years I would say that the current boundaries enable the delivery of effective electoral representation for local residents and , with all due respect, I do not see any pressing reason for change from the status quo. Your sincerely. Councillor David Watson Buckinghamshire Council Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow, Marlow & Marlow South East

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded