

Buckinghamshire Council

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

Our full response is attached but may we start by clarifying the second sentence of your recommendations concerning our area where you say that 'the Penn & Tylers Green Residents Society highlighted the close geographic and community links between Penn and Tylers Green, requesting that they be warded together'. The part of Penn to which we were referring is limited to Penn Village with about 700 electors with whom we share a conservation area and all our local community organisations and activities, including our bi-monthly newsletter. We have no particular connection with Knotty Green, Forty Green, Penn Street or Winchmore Hill, except that the five villages including Penn form part of the same ancient Penn parish and so should not be split up. We note that Buckinghamshire Council have already submitted their response and we do not support splitting Knotty Green between Penn Parish and Beaconsfield, which would no longer respect the Parish boundaries. It would appear that no one from Penn Parish was aware of this recommendation.

Uploaded Documents:

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1670247479_PTGRS+letter+to+boundary+commission+bucks+dec+22.pdf



Penn & Tylers Green Residents Society

President: The Rt Hon. The Earl Howe



Ash Cottage
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5th December 2022

Local Government Boundary Commission recommendations for Buckinghamshire Council wards Penn, Tylers Green and Loudwater

May we start by clarifying the second sentence of your recommendations concerning our area where you say that 'the Penn & Tylers Green Residents Society highlighted the close geographic and community links between Penn and Tylers Green, requesting that they be warded together'. The part of Penn to which we were referring is limited to Penn Village with about 700 electors with whom we share a conservation area and all our local community organisations and activities, including our bi-monthly newsletter. We have no particular connection with Knotty Green, Forty Green, Penn Street or Winchmore Hill, except that the five villages including Penn form part of the same ancient Penn parish and so should not be split up.

We note that Buckinghamshire Council have already submitted their response and we **do not** support splitting Knotty Green between Penn Parish and Beaconsfield, which would no longer respect the Parish boundaries. It would appear that no one from Penn Parish was aware of this recommendation.

We have done our homework on your recommendations and acknowledge that you have tried very hard across the county to arrive at acceptable solutions. The problem for us in Penn & Tylers Green is that with a neatly sorted-out Beaconsfield and Amersham we find ourselves to be in the squeezed middle. Loudwater has been added for no good reason other than to arrive at a supposedly acceptable number. You may have been encouraged to make this recommendation by the fact that Tylers Green and Loudwater share the same Parish Council, but Chepping Wycombe Parish Council looks after three widely separated communities with very different interests and all are very different in nature to the largely rural Penn Parish.

The addition of Loudwater leaves us as one of only two wards in the county with an unacceptable variance of 13% above the desired average and with 2 Councillors having to deal with a forecast population of 10,204. This is in stark contrast with our present situation which gives us a total of 6 councillors, 3 from Penn and 3 from Tylers Green, 4 of whom are regular attenders of our Residents Society meetings. We would be significantly worse off. Indeed, your recommendations will fail to meet almost every single one of your main aims for a good pattern of the new wards:

www.pennandtylersgreen.org.uk

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- Provide good electoral equality - *No, as you acknowledge.*
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links. – *No, as explained above.*
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries – *There is no visible or logical boundary with or around Loudwater which is part of the river valley development of the outskirts of Wycombe.*
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government – *No, as explained above.*
- Transport links: are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport? *Very little. Any journey between Loudwater and Tylers Green or Penn would require a bus journey into High Wycombe, and then a change of buses to continue out of High Wycombe. There is very limited public transport across the villages of Penn Parish with only Penn Street and Winchmore Hill having access to a very limited bus service to Amersham.*
- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents association or another group that represents the area? - *There are two Parish Councils and four residents' associations across the seven villages.*
- Facilities: does your pattern of wards reflect where local people go for shops, medical services, leisure facilities etc? *No. Loudwater is based in Wycombe. Penn & Tylers Green have separate services based mainly in Beaconsfield and Amersham.*
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area? *There are no obviously shared interests between Loudwater and Tylers Green.*

We note that you recognise that your recommendations do not provide a satisfactory solution and you strongly encourage comments. We hope that our very strong views add to your concerns. We conclude that a satisfactory answer requires more flexibility than you have allowed yourselves with an immutable 98 councillors which inevitably locks you into this kind of dilemma. This figure is anyway far below the 120 requested by the Council and without any clear justification. As things stand, we are being asked to accept a very significant deterioration in the quality of our local government.

Yours sincerely

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