

Buckinghamshire

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Organisation Name: Chalfont St Peter Parish Council (Parish or town councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Chalfont St Peter & Gerrards Cross

Please see uploaded file.

Attached Documents:

- Chalfont St Peter Parish Council Response - Boundary Commission Consultation April 2023.pdf

CHALFONT St. PETER PARISH COUNCIL

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Chalfont St Peter Parish Council Response to the Boundary Commission Consultation

1. The Boundary Commission's initial consultation model took the entire parish of Chalfont St Peter plus a number of adjoining streets in Gerrards Cross to be included in the proposed unitary Bucks Council ward of Chalfont St Peter which would be represented by three Bucks councillors.
2. The latest consultation by the Boundary Commission proposes that the parishes of Denham, Gerrards Cross and a large part of Austenwood (a Chalfont St Peter parish council ward) form a new Gerrards Cross and Denham unitary Bucks Council ward, represented by three unitary Bucks councillors. Chalfont St Peter's number of unitary Bucks Council councillors would reduce from three to two. The overall number of unitary Bucks councillors would reduce from 98 to 97.

The workload for the three Gerrards Cross and Denham unitary ward councillors would be high, having to look after the settlements of Higher Denham, New Denham and Denham Village, the parish of Gerrards Cross as well as part of the parish of Chalfont St Peter.

3. Neither of the Boundary Commission's scenarios is ideal because they both split communities and lead to the perception that those residents not included in the unitary ward bearing the same name as the parish to which they belong may become 'poor relations', not receiving the same attention from their unitary councillors who might look more towards those areas with more electors.

Whilst the reworked boundaries work well for the rest of the area under this latest consultation, aligning unitary ward boundaries with parish boundaries, it does not solve the Chalfont St Peter/Gerrards Cross issue.

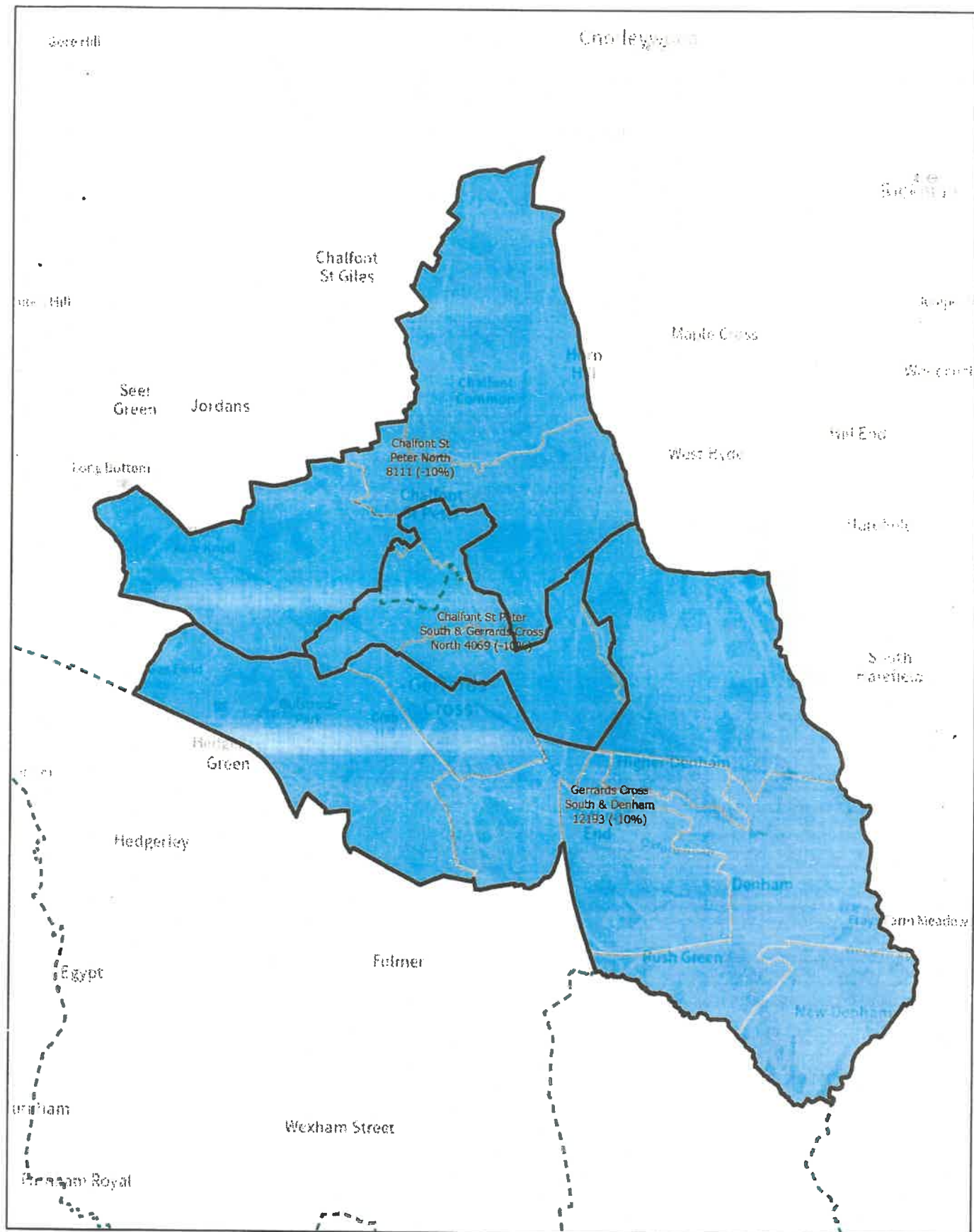
4. Chalfont St Peter Parish Council therefore proposes a third scenario: the creation of a new unitary Bucks Council ward, represented by a single Bucks councillor, covering the north of Gerrards Cross and south of Chalfont St Peter. (please see attached map). This single Bucks councillor would have the time to work closely with Gerrards Cross Town Council and Chalfont St Peter Parish Council issues while working closely with unitary colleagues in the adjacent wards.

This proposal does not affect any ward outside the latest proposed Chalfont St Peter and Gerrards Cross and Denham unitary wards and gives better representation to the electorate. We understand that this could be achieved within the tolerance of plus or minus ten per cent and would result in the following projected ward sizes as modelled by officers from Bucks council:-

Chalfont St Peter North – two member ward, 8111 electors (- 10%)

Gerrards Cross North & Chalfont St Peter South - single member ward with 4069 electors (-10%)

Gerrards Cross South & Denham – three member ward, 12193 electors (-10%)



CSP Ward Member Proposal for CSP/GX/Denham

Legend

- CSP Ward Member Proposed
- Boundaries
- Current LGBC Draft
- Proposal
- Polling District Boundaries