



Review Officer (Milton Keynes)

LGBCE, PO Box 133

Blyth

NE24 9FE

9th September 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

In May 2024 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England launched their initial consultation on the new ward boundaries for Milton Keynes Council. Town Councils, amongst others, were invited to comment on the proposals with an original closing date of the 15th July which has been extended to the 9th September 2024.

Woburn Sands is currently located within the Danesborough/Walton ward and is represented by three Milton Keynes Council members. The ward which also includes the parishes of Bow Brickhill, Wavendon and Walton reflects the strong historical and contemporary links between these communities where common interests remain evident and relevant. The only exception may be Walton which has been subject to considerable and recent development and the links to the older parishes are less obvious. Any change that does not reflect the commonality of the older parishes is considered by the Town Council to be flawed.

Future development within the ward boundary will impact significantly on the population size and density and will, perhaps, reinforce the need to keep any boundary changes to a minimum if representation is dictated by population size. Community services such as health, education, communication and leisure are likely to be focussed on the current communities identified and will probably be of greater interest to the local population and to those neighbouring communities that are not part of the developing areas in south east Milton Keynes. Many residents within Woburn Sands identify with those areas rather than Milton Keynes. Families who view Woburn Sands to be 'their town' actually live in properties located in Central Bedfordshire because of the peculiarities of the parish boundaries.

The Town Council consider it essential that representation on Milton Keynes Council retains the focus already reported and this should not be diluted by considerations pertinent to communities not currently included within the ward. The communities linked by the Greensand ridge share a history and culture that any reorganisation of boundary should not

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ignore. The Council recognise the inevitability of change and will, with partners, embrace that challenge. We will not ,however, support a mechanistic approach that fails to recognise community and commonality. It wholeheartedly supports the Commission's ambition that wards "reflect community ties and identity". A Danesborough ward retaining the older communities goes a long way to achieving that ambition.

Yours Faithfully,

Alison Jordan

Town Clerk