



NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN COUNCIL  
80 High Street, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, MK16 8AQ

The Boundary Commission (England)  
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11<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### MILTON KEYNES BOUNDARY REVIEW

Newport Pagnell is an old historical town, mentioned in the Domesday book. Geographically, it is cradled between the A422/509, and the M1, with the River Ouse creating a boundary to the northwest of the town. The Town Council's response to the Milton Keynes City Council ward boundary review is that there is a very strong preference in Newport Pagnell for the town to revert back to having just one MKCC ward coterminous with the parish boundary.

This would allow the 3 ward councillors within that ward to focus all their efforts on the community of Newport Pagnell. According to your figures, the five polling districts within the parish (KA, KE, LC, LD and LE) are projected to collectively total 11,421 voters by 2029, 104% of the target size for new 3 member wards. We would also like this review to remove the current parish warding, so that for the next parish election in 2028, all 16 seats within the parish cover the whole of the town.

The arguments to support the one ward option are as follows:

- The M1 Motorway is far more than a road with a limited number of crossings. It also evidences the boundary between the designated area of the New City of Milton Keynes, as developed in turn by Milton Keynes Development Corporation, the Commission for New Towns and English Partnerships and the "other" parts of the district, then borough, now city of Milton Keynes, which include Newport Pagnell. Whereas that designated area celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017, for those same decades, generations of Newport Pagnell residents have understood that they were not part of the "new town".
- Even today, many town residents would argue that they are not part of Milton Keynes and refuse to include "Milton Keynes" in their postal address. That the current MK City Council ward boundaries have split the town in half and combined them with places like Giffard Park and Hanslope, with whom there is no sense of shared community/identity, has been unwelcome.



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- In a practical sense at present the attention of MKCC ward councillors representing either “Newport Pagnell South” or Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope” wards have understandably been distracted by places such as Giffard Park, Hanslope, etc. Their obligations are to those communities whereas townsfolk would like their attention wholly focussed on the town of Newport Pagnell.
- Newport Pagnell is a local market town offering a range of services to its residents, and local villages. The nearest comparable market towns are Olney and Stony Stratford, which also pre-date the new city.
- This is widely accepted. For example, when England football captain Leah Williamson OBE was awarded the freedom of Milton Keynes, several of the MKCC ward councillors mentioned in their contributions at the meeting that she was of course really from Newport Pagnell. Which is accurate and why the town has a giant mural of her.
- Newport Pagnell is a sustainable community where there is economic, social, and ecological balance. Unlike many of the Milton Keynes ‘grid square’ estates, if Newport Pagnell were somehow magically moved further into the countryside, rather than being just a motorway’s width from Milton Keynes, it would still function as a town.
- Residents are afforded, and take up, the opportunity to shop locally and to undertake recreation in the main sports clubs of the town including football, cricket, tennis, bowls, and table tennis. These are established clubs, that have been run for many years by local residents. The football club for example has been in the FA Vase final at Wembley twice in the last five years, and their victory parade in the year that they won was in Newport Pagnell, not in Milton Keynes. There are similarly numerous community groups, such as the Newport Pagnell Rotary Club, the Newport Pagnell Women’s Institute, longstanding Scout and Girlguiding groups, etc. that have been enjoyed by generations of townsfolk.
- There is much affinity for the local swimming pool, which the Town Council took ownership of in 2014, adding a well-used leisure centre. The children in the town learn to swim at this centre.
- The town’s roots include an industrial past with lacemaking, coach, and automobile manufacture (Aston Martin) and velum production all featuring in the town’s history. Velum production and Aston Martin services are still undertaken today within the town. Many local residents have worked at or have family who worked at Aston Martin, and they recall it in its heyday of mass manufacturing production very fondly. Even today, Aston Martin has recently employed apprentices from the local community and the Aston Martin Heritage Trust charity is currently fundraising to build a heritage centre in Newport Pagnell, their spiritual home.



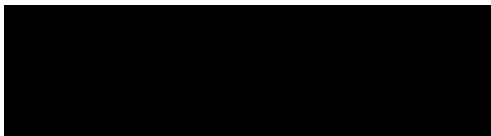
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- The town has of course grown over the years, two new estates were built in the 1980s and absorbed into the town. More recently, in 2016, residents of Newport Pagnell voted in a referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan to add a new, sustainable development, known as the Tickford Fields development to the town. This is what has enabled the town community to be the perfect size for a single ward under this review.
- Residents form a strong community with an exceptional community spirit. The Carnival and Christmas light volunteer groups have each been operating for over 60 years. There is a town fireworks display, soapbox rally, strawberry fayre and major remembrance Sunday event all put on by volunteer groups. These have been part of the town's identity for generations. There is also a strong volunteer component to the town with many people working in the local charity shops or volunteering for activities such as litter picking events to better their town. .
- Newport Pagnell has a large amount of green space, maintained by the Town Council, including a 74ha common and meadow, and 16 large parks. These afford residents ideal opportunities to exercise, but also create wildlife corridors, and the chance for residents to walk between facilities, and into town rather than using vehicles. There are wildlife trails, nature activities for children, and a historical trail, all of which are enjoyed by local residents.

Finally, I would like to highlight that Newport Pagnell has a long and important history in the government of this region that needs to be maintained. For centuries the Newport Hundreds and then the Newport Pagnell Rural District Council governed an area which is almost coterminous with what is now the entire city of Milton Keynes. More recently, the initial proposals of the most recent Parliamentary Boundary review proposed this constituency be called "Newport Pagnell" to reflect that importance. We sincerely hope that this review will likewise recognise that not only do the numbers add up and that community cohesion justifies a singular ward called Newport Pagnell, but also that this is an important step in maintaining the heritage of this place.

Should our above proposal not be taken forward we would request that the commission engage with us to discuss alternative suggestions.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Paul Day

Mayor: Newport Pagnell Town Council



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