



Old Woughton Parish Council
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The Boundary Commission for England
c/o: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

9th September 2024

Dear Boundary Commissioners

MILTON KEYNES WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

You have called for local input into MK City Council's ward boundary review. This is the response of Old Woughton Parish Council (OWPC) – located in the current 'Campbell Park and Old Woughton Ward'.

The village name of Woughton is Anglo Saxon in origin with other variations describing this settlement across the centuries 'Ulchetone' for example which is the 11C record in the Domesday Book and later Woughton-on-the-Green (16C) as it is known today. Once stretching from the River Ouzel all the way west to Watling Street, previous boundary reviews have defined an area much more tightly around the modern village, as enshrined in the late Development Corporation's pattern of grid squares, which respect the original villages.

There is logic to this, because the existing area reflects the natural boundaries of the river to the east and the Grand Union Canal to the west. The area is characterized by a parkland landscape with wide open spaces even this close to the city centre. Unsurprisingly, therefore, our parish is a visitor destination in its own right, known for its variety of amenity spaces, leisure facilities and its notable contribution to Milton Keynes' heritage.

Our civic parish was created in 2012 following a sustained campaign by our residents and we are very satisfied with how it operates - at their Annual Parish Meeting (not the AGM) this June, for example, nearly a hundred people filled St. Mary's our parish church to hear presentations from a series of key partners and have their questions answered. A full record is available on OWPC's website in the Autumn 2024 quarterly Newsletter and where there is also an interesting summary of our history: oldwoughton.org.uk - our parish has a history of strong participation and civic purpose and we would not wish to see any future arrangements where a ward boundary dissects Old Woughton Parish thereby complicating our representation.

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To inform your work, you also call for notable features, which characterise our community and we hope the below help meet your needs:

1. The residential developments are low density by modern standards, so families move here and stay even when the children have left;
2. Woughton on the Green is one of thirteen villages taken into the designated area of the former new town and the best preserved, as stated in the newest Conservation Area approval from 2023;
3. Milton Keynes Parks Trust - the nationally award-winning manager of the city's parks – records circa 500,000 visits to its parks and community orchard in Woughton on the Green in 2023;
4. our landscapes and those of our immediate neighbours are characterised with conservation areas; ancient monuments; parklands; grazing paddocks; grazing stock; hay-making and wild flowering; village greens; lakes, waterways and marinas;
5. yet this is not an area constrained by its traditions, but one where the dog-walkers, the Redway cyclists, and the runners on the nationally-recognised marathon routes are embraced (again, the OWPC Newsletter 'Old Woughton News' chronicles the life of this community, in a way that you may enjoy); and
6. a quick glance at any map shows the connectivity of the old communities that run south to north along the Newport Road linking Simpson through the Woughtons to the Woolstones. A current collaboration between Simpson & Ashland P.C. and ourselves to purchase jointly Citizens Advice surgeries is running through the term of your review.

Thank you for requesting our input. We would be delighted to host a fact-finding visit for you.

Yours sincerely

The Members of Old Woughton Parish Council