

Milton Keynes

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Objection to the Boundary Change Proposal:

We strongly object to the proposal to merge Bradville and Oakridge Park with rural villages like Hanslope and Castlethorpe. This proposed boundary change fails to meet essential criteria:

Reflecting Community Identity: Bradville and Oakridge Park are integral to the Milton Keynes urban system, while the rural villages north of Milton Keynes have very little in common with them. These areas are disconnected geographically, with no pedestrian paths linking them. The proposal disregards community identities, and the rural villages' priorities do not align with those of urban estates like Bradville and Oakridge Park.

Effective Local Government: The changes undermine effective governance. The medical services in these areas are linked to different health authorities (Northampton for Hanslope vs. Milton Keynes for Oakridge Park), which will lead to divided campaigns and messaging. Public transport links are also poor, making travel between these areas difficult and inefficient.

Community Engagement: Bradville and Oakridge Park are well-integrated with surrounding estates like Stantonbury, sharing schools, medical facilities, and other amenities. We have hosted numerous local events without significant participation from the rural communities. The proposed changes will dilute the strong sense of community we've built, especially in Stantonbury Parish, which will be fragmented by the introduction of multiple ward boundaries.

Parish Governance: If this proposal goes ahead, it will weaken the cohesion of Stantonbury Parish, potentially leading to its disbandment. This will confuse residents and disrupt local governance, making it harder for councils to communicate effectively with their communities. It could also affect the future of staff employment within the parish.

Existing Boundaries: Bradville and Oakridge Park are distinct and well-defined areas, with clear geographical boundaries. Bradville, in particular, is undergoing regeneration, with its own long-established Residents Association, while Oakridge Park, a newer estate, has a different set of issues, including its proximity to Parks Trust land.

Council Representation: The proposal reduces councillor representation for Bradville and Oakridge Park while increasing it for other areas, despite the growth in properties within these estates. This change is unnecessary and will make it more difficult for parish councillors to serve the needs of both estates effectively.

Conclusion: The proposal to move Bradville and Oakridge Park into a ward with rural villages, or to merge them into a single parish ward, is impractical and does not serve the best interests of the local communities. We, the Stantonbury Parish Council, strongly oppose this boundary change.

Attached Documents:

None attached