

# BOUNDARY COMMISSION SUBMISSION 2024/25 FOR MILTON KEYNES CITY COUNCIL BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS.

## INTRODUCTION

The Liberal Democrats wishes to make the following observations and recommendations. We are keen to link communities together, aiming to better unify estates across the city, whilst reducing confusion for the electorate who often report they do not understand the current boundaries. We are mindful that some communities currently have little to no link to the electoral areas they are based within, and that some City Councillors have to cater for a very wide geographical area, with very differing priorities. Our rural areas, in particular, require considerable time spent supporting a range of small parishes.

## OUR PROPOSED WARD ALIGNMENT

Number linked to maps	Name of new ward	Number of electors.	Deviation
1	Olney	10,606	-3.6%
2	Newport Pagnell	11,421	+3.8%
3	Hanslope and New Bradwell	10,169	-7.6%
4	Wolverton	10,576	-3.8%
5	Stony Stratford	11,305	+2.8%
6	Bradwell	10,202	-7.3%
7	Loughton	11,803	+7.7%
8	Tattenhoe	10,976	-0.2%
9	Furzton	12,059	+9.6%
10	Central Milton Keynes	11,349	+3.2%
11	Woughton	10,602	-3.6%
12	Ouzel Valley	10,551	-4.1%
13	Great Linford	11,236	+2.1%
14	Campbell Park	11,446	+4.1%
15	Broughton and Moulsoe	11,479	+4.4%
16	Walnut Tree	11,328	+3.0%
17	Danesborough	11,310	+2.8%
18	Bletchley South	10,600	-3.6%
19	Bletchley Park	10,950	-0.5%
20	Bletchley West	10,021	-8.9%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>219,993</b>	

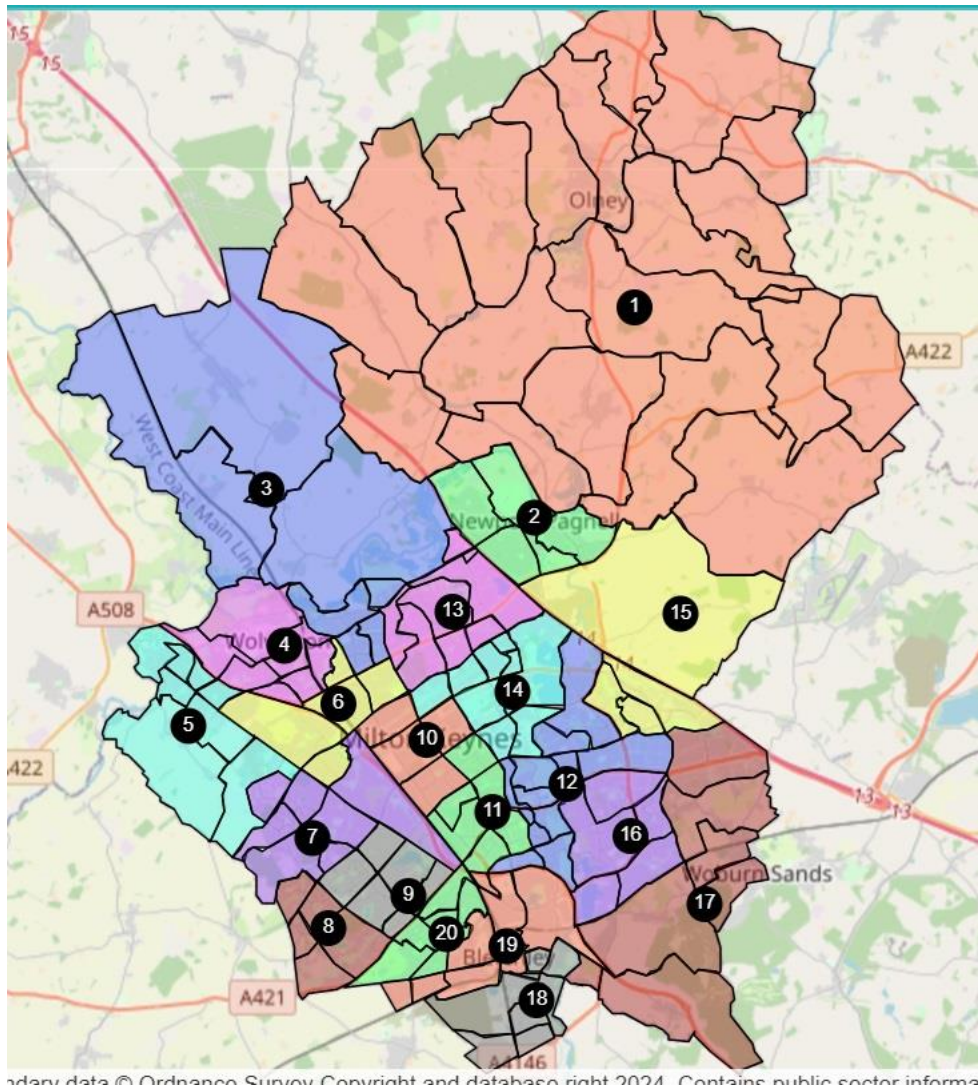
On considering our proposals we suggest the following are significant points that merit our submission as viable.

- All proposed wards are within 10% of electoral parity, with 15 well within target.
- They follow parish boundaries more closely than the current configuration of wards.
- Each ward has clearly identifiable boundaries, such as the M1, A5, grid roads and Parish boundaries.
- We only propose to split two polling districts: one where unrelated communities share a polling district, and the second where one part of the community has not yet been formed but the existing polling district will be too large to be fitted in by 2030.

## **WARD COMPOSITION**

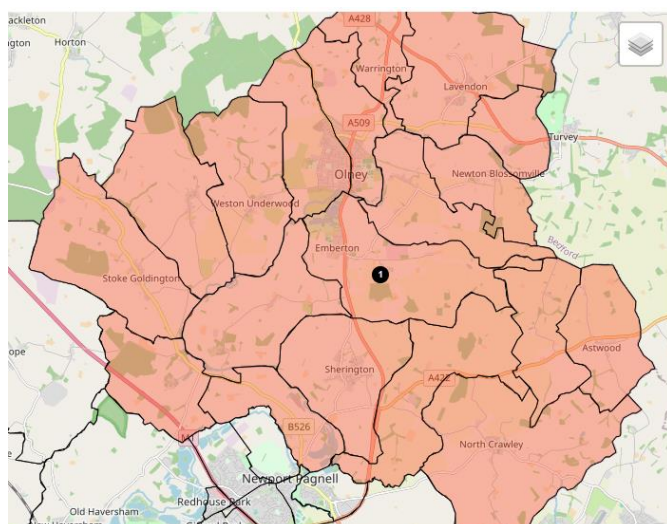
Using the map below and ward alignment above, we refer to each new ward proposal using the relevant number within the grid. We have set out each proposed ward with a detailed map, and a reminder of the electoral total we propose, alongside a list of associated polling districts, with their respective elector estimates for 2030; then summarise why we say this is the best option.

Whilst we have appointed names, we are not suggesting these should be the definitive, but rather a starting point for discussion and an aid for identification. However, many are traditional or historical names previously used within those areas, so well understood by their communities.



# 1: Olney

Polling district	2030 electorate
MA - Olney West	3,662
MB - Olney East	2,036
MC - Weston Underwood	198
MD - Ravenstone	193
ME - Cold Brayfield	55
MF - Lavendon	1,203
MG - Clifton Reynes	94
MH - Newton Blossomville	201
MI - Warrington	25
MK - Chicheley	73
ML - Lathbury	128
MM - North Crawley	560
MN - Sherington	798
MO - Emberton	506
MP - Astwood	148
MQ - Hardmead	57
MR - Tyringham & Filgrave	124
KG - Gayhurst	106
KH - Stoke Goldington	439
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,606 (-3.6% on average)</b>

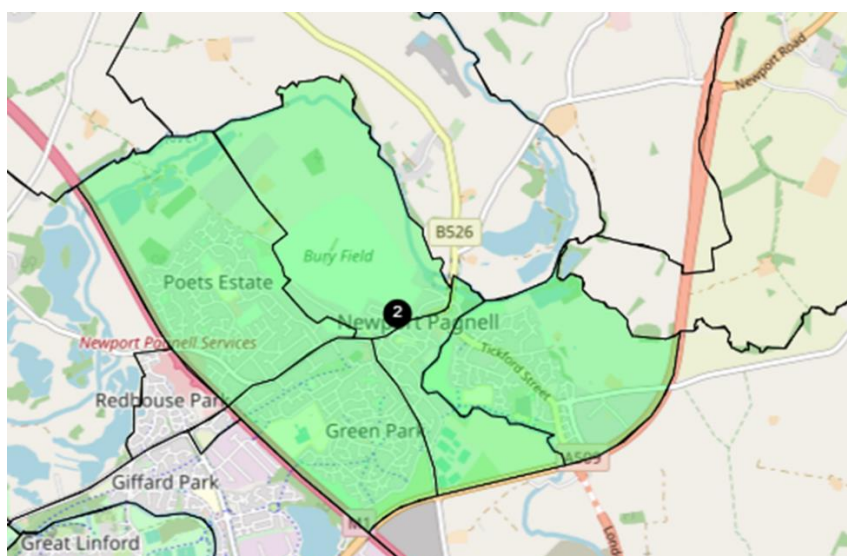


Olney is a significant settlement so continues to anchor its community. Olney has traditional links to the villages around it, with communities associating themselves with the town for social amenities and shopping. It has good transport links and, in some cases redways that allow cyclist access. MK Connect also serves this area as part of a community transport hub.

Joining the current ward with Stoke Goldington, Gayhurst and Lathbury, (who mostly associate with Olney) but removing Moulsoe (due to the proposed expansion), would reach the projected electoral numbers with some potential for infill development, bringing together a greater sense of unity to the area. The Moulsoe polling district will change in character with development and will no longer fit with the characteristics of other settlements shared with Olney. The issues around major development close to the M1 and J14, which will be critical to Moulsoe, but will not affect any of the other villages, so partnering them with a community that will also share this issue has benefit.

## 2: Newport Pagnell

Polling district	2030 electorate
LC - Newport Pagnell Green Park	3,135
LD - Newport Pagnell Tickford	2,898
LE - Newport Pagnell Cedars	850
KA - Newport Pagnell Central	739
KF - Newport Pagnell West	3,799
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,421 (+3.8% on average)</b>



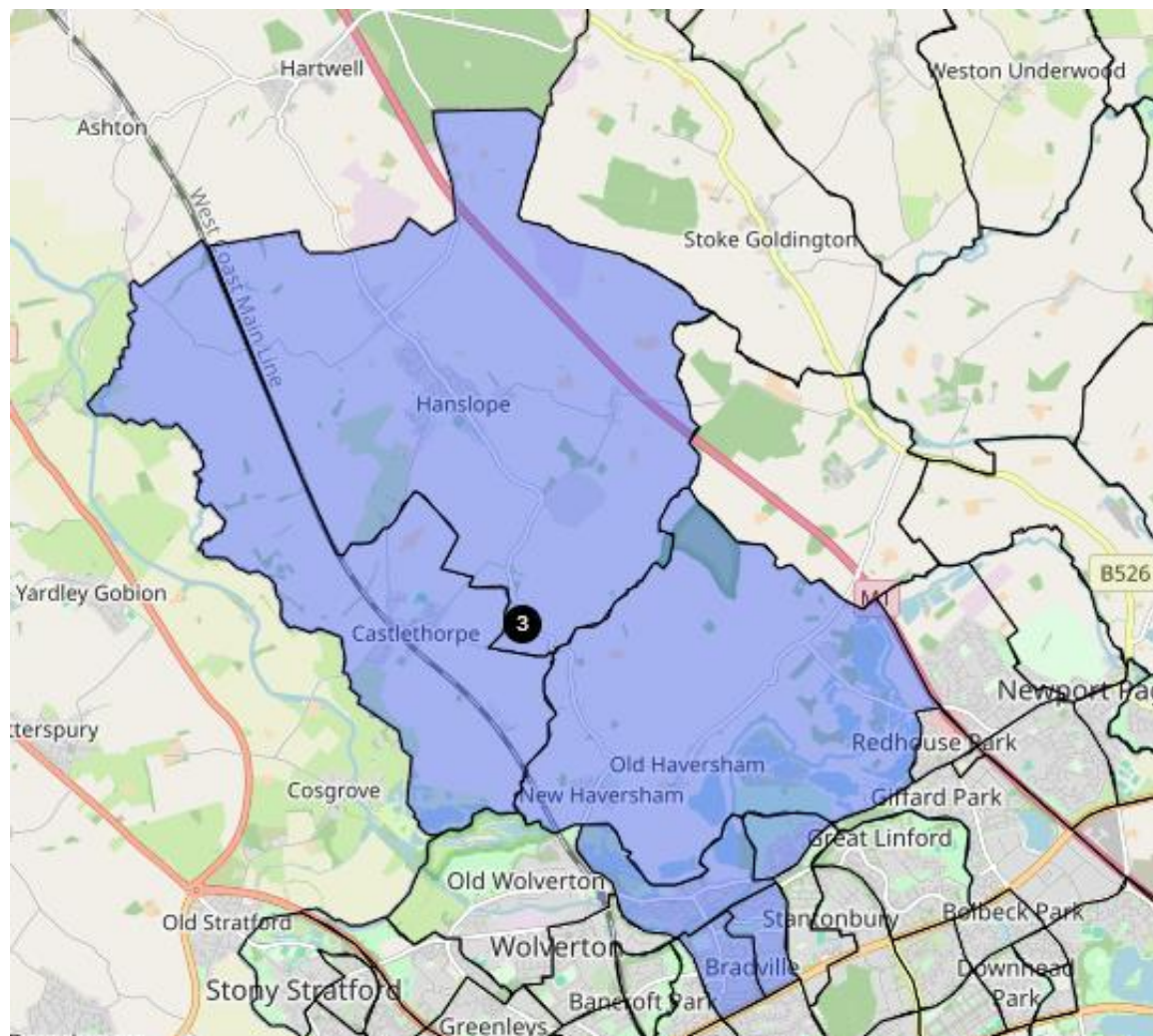
Newport Pagnell has been served by two wards for some years with a boundary running down the middle of the town, which has been very unpopular with the community who do not appreciate being separated. The Town Council, (and a great number of residents), are requesting that representation reflect the town boundary and seek to be united as one ward. The electoral numbers make that an option and we propose a City ward boundary set to the town's curtilage. This will enable the surrounding rural areas to have better representation for the issues specific to them and offers more effective representation to the town.

Hanslope, in particular, has no connection to Newport Pagnell; similarly, Giffard Park and Blakelands link themselves to Great Linford, being within the Great Linford Parish Council area, with the M1 across Wolverton Road acting as a barrier between the communities.

Establishing one ward of Newport Pagnell Town Council's area, would unite the community served by the Town Council, and who share traffic and planning concerns, including the Town's Development Plan. The town also has its own community links, not solely inward looking, but certainly driven to serve its population. There are local sports and social clubs, which all relate to Newport Pagnell, including the local Football Club. The community holds regular events such as the Newport Pagnell Carnival, Vintage Festival and Christmas Lights Switch on, all uniting a town under a single identity. The community share services such as the High Street, Food Larder, monthly Market and Medical Centres, with the school catchment areas all within the town, except for the senior school which has a wider pool.

### 3: Hanslope and New Bradwell

Polling district	2030 electorate
KB - Castlethorpe	866
KC - Hanslope	2,443
KD - Haversham	632
OA - Oakridge Park	993
RF - New Bradwell	2,296
OE - Bradville West	1,519
OH - Bradville East	1,420
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,169 (-7.6% on average)</b>



This ward is likely to see levels of unplanned small rural development and infill, so the population is likely to remain within the +/- 10% band for some time.

We note the strong links the villages have with New Bradwell; it being a traditional older town with retail that serves the villages to the north via a main road connecting Hanslope, Castlethorpe and Haversham to the new city. The area also looks north of the city boundary for amenities.

Hanslope and the surrounding villages have previously been a single ward seat, but more recently attached to Newport Pagnell, where there is little synergy. Being a well-established, and growing community, Hanslope and the surrounding villages connect to the city via a more direct, and

more frequently used route, through New Bradwell than the cross-valley roads to Newport Pagnell, which can double travel time. Additionally, the rural area looks to Wolverton and New Bradwell for services and leisure, rather than Newport Pagnell. Whilst Haversham sailing club is used by people in both the urban and rural areas.

New Bradwell and Hanslope have strong links with the major employer at Hanslope Park, which attracts residents to live locally, so there is a mini community within the area who are well connected by employment, road and other transport links, but who also share similar schools, sports and social areas, so that New Bradwell pairs well with the Hanslope parish.

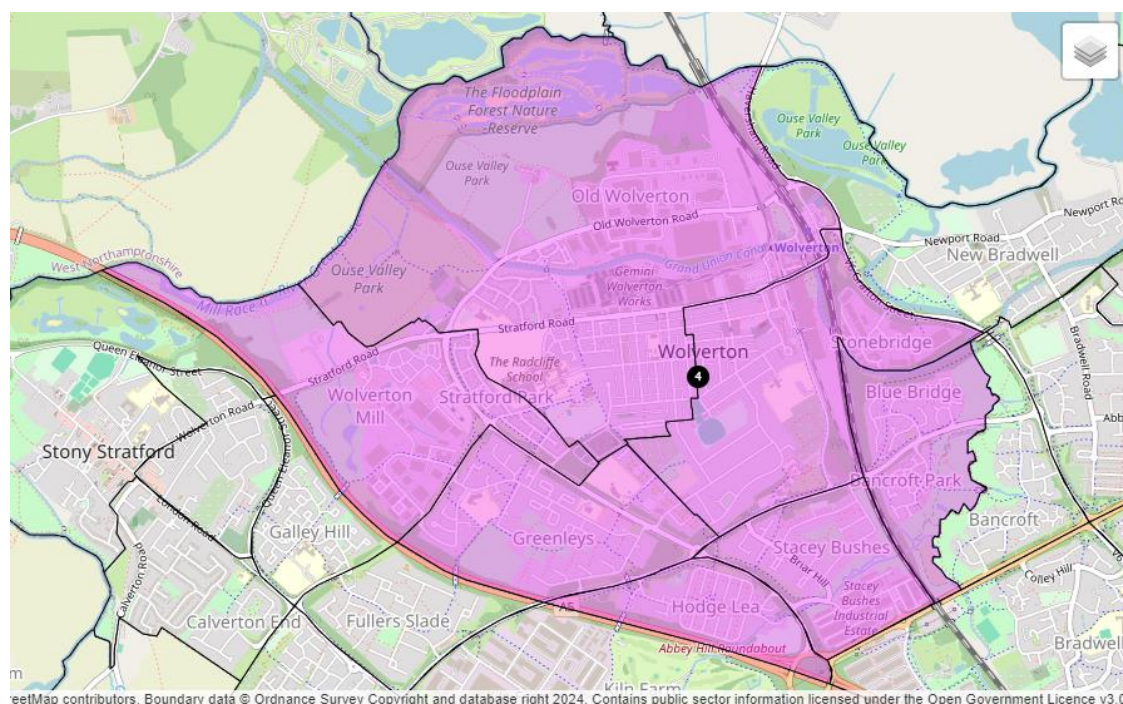
Oakridge Park provides a local supermarket but looks across the valley at Haversham and is rural facing, separated from nearby settlements by Stonepit Fields and linking them only via the junction with New Bradwell. Putting these two areas together would mean a shared interest including the lakes and wetlands that connect them, with the M1 effectively acting as a strong eastern boundary.

By including Bradville we feel this offers a good level of connectivity as Bradville is very interdependent with New Bradwell, as there is no grid road separating them – only the brook, which is crossed by several roads and footpaths. Bradwell Road goes straight through both areas providing a strong connection to New Bradwell shops, pubs and services. New Bradwell Cricket Club and New Bradwell Sports Association are actually in Bradville polling district, showing how closely linked these communities are, and how artificial the boundary between them is.

We note the proximity to Wolverton but as this established town is the right size for a whole ward in itself, and has its own identity and Town Council, this makes it a good option as a separate entity and therefore numerically not bound to New Bradwell.

## 4: Wolverton

Polling district	2030 electorate
RA - Bancroft Park	644
RB - Wolverton West	2,554
RC - Wolverton Mill	1,015
RD - Wolverton East	2,667
RE – Greenleys	1,866
DD - Hodge Lea	867
DE - Stacey Bushes	963
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,576 (-3.8% from average)</b>



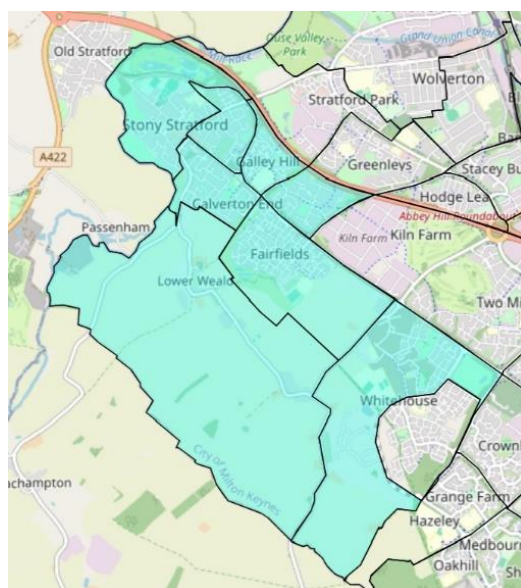
Wolverton is an established community that already links to Bancroft Park. This proposed ward comprises Wolverton Town Council area, plus Bancroft Park and Blue Bridge, both of which are required for electoral parity and are currently in the Wolverton ward, so this sustains continuity.

This proposal unites all of Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council area into a single ward, thus respecting a very coherent parish boundary with a very active Town Council serving the area well. This is further recognised as the new development of Bancroft Park looks to Wolverton for its amenities, retail, open spaces, education and transport links. They work well together at present and make good partners.

Again, the numbers offer some space for infill but are within quota and fit socially and geographically as a community. The A5, the railway, and the H3 all represent very strong boundaries.

## 5: Stony Stratford

Polling district	2030 electorate
PB – Calverton	121
PC - Stony Stratford North	1,326
PD - Stony Stratford South East	1,157
PE - Stony Stratford South West	1,302
PF - Galley Hill	737
PG - Fullers Slade	1,226
PH – Fairfields	2,658
PI – Whitehouse (part)	2,778
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,305 (+2.8% on average)</b>



This is the current Stony Stratford ward, reduced in size for electoral parity. It contains all parts of the Stony Stratford Town Council area, Calverton, Fairfields and part of Whitehouse, and the whole ward shares amenities and retail, while various parts share health and education facilities.

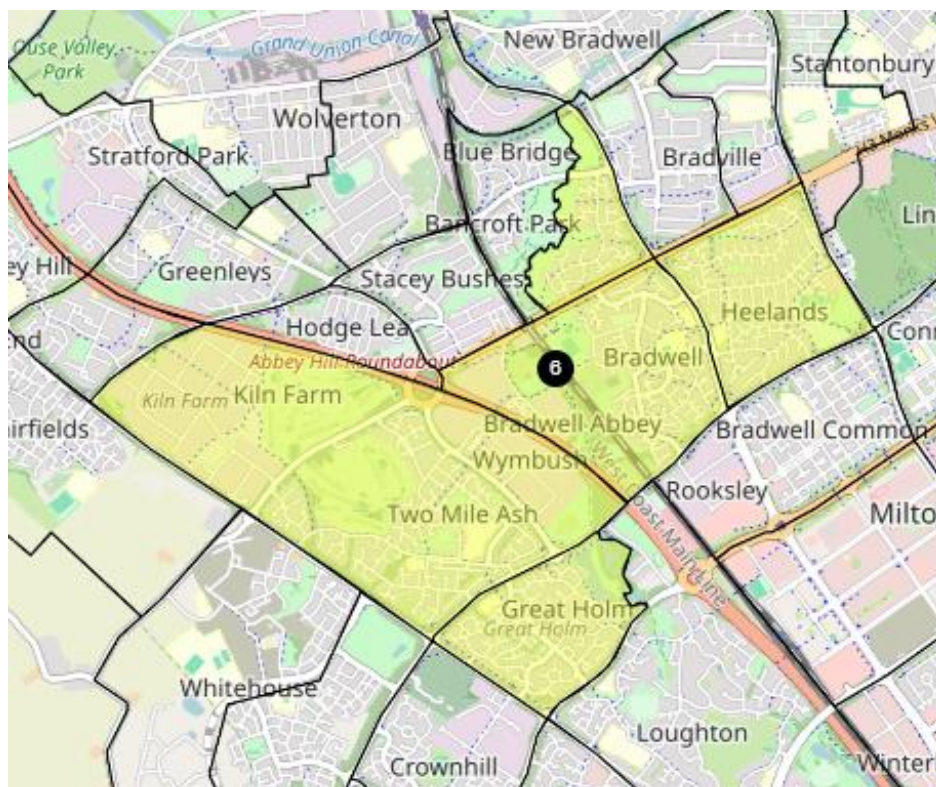
This proposal would envisage splitting the developing Whitehouse estate, but we do not foresee this as an issue, as the existing population in Whitehouse is almost entirely in the southeast and totally isolated from the rest of Stony Stratford ward by a large area of undeveloped land.

Should Whitehouse not be split it will be the largest polling district in MK by 2030 and be unfeasible to have as a single polling district in any event. Local districts will form communities, and we suggest the present developed area forms a logical unit. The exact split of Whitehouse can be determined, but we suggest the currently built area is largely the area that should be split off. It already looks south and east for services and community so we say the south-east will connect better with Grange Farm and Crownhill for its amenities and community, leaving the northern Whitehouse area mostly still to be developed in Stony Stratford ward.

Stony Stratford Town Council covers much of the ward, and provides many events and services, to the whole area, making a coherent community, sharing schools, shops, and many other amenities. Alternatives would mean breaking up coherent Wolverton or Stony Stratford areas or splitting the Two Mile Ash estate. Splitting Whitehouse as we suggest is the least disruptive option locally, and enables strong boundaries of the borough boundary, the A5 and Watling Street.

## 6: Bradwell

Polling district	2030 electorate
DA - Bradwell	1,969
DB - Heelands	2,471
DC - Two Mile Ash	2,893
OD - Bancroft	648
IB - Great Holm	2,221
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,202 (-7.3% on average)</b>



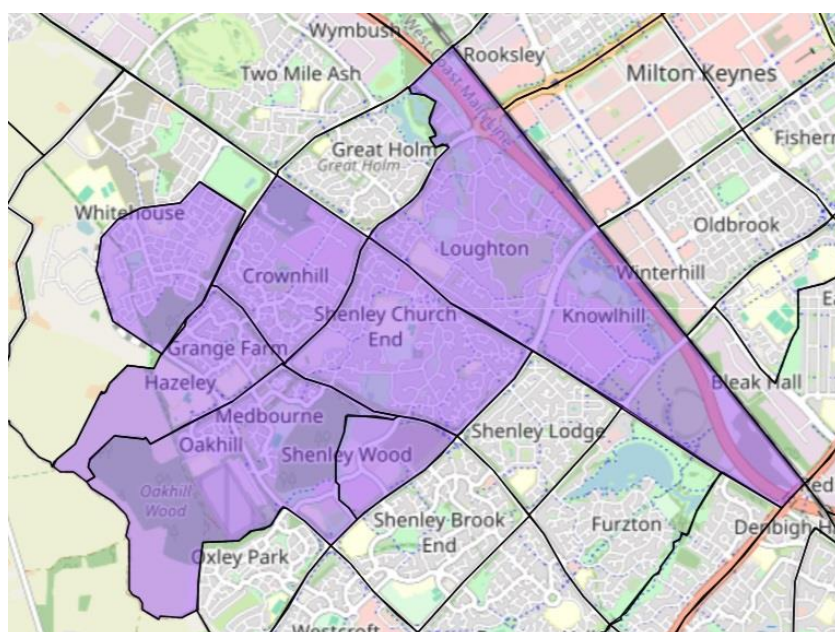
This area is based around the established village of Bradwell, with the neighbouring areas looking towards Bradwell for its community needs. The 3 core estates of Bradwell, Heelands and Two Mile Ash, are well linked by grid roads, with Heelands and Bancroft in particular linking to Bradwell, with the communities sharing many resources, including community halls.

To achieve a uniform pattern of 3-member wards one ward must straddle the A5. The existing Bradwell ward already does this, so we propose that this arrangement be continued as it serves as the most appropriate place to cross the A5.

To enable our proposed Wolverton Town Council area to be restored, Hodge Lea and Stacey Bushes should return to Wolverton and be replaced by Bancroft and Great Holm to keep this ward with good electoral parity. Bancroft is well connected to Bradwell via grid road and underpass. Great Holm and Two Mile Ash are tightly interlinked with grid road and footpath connections, and shared schools, pubs, hairdressers, church, and a community centre. Lodge Lake forms a linear park area for the whole area.

## 7: Loughton

Polling district	2030 electorate
IA – Loughton	2,229
IC - Shenley Church End	2,776
ID - Grange Farm	1,219
IE - Medbourne and Oakhill	1,178
IF - Shenley Wood Village	330
PA – Crownhill	1,871
PI – Whitehouse (part)	2200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,803 (+7.7% from average)</b>



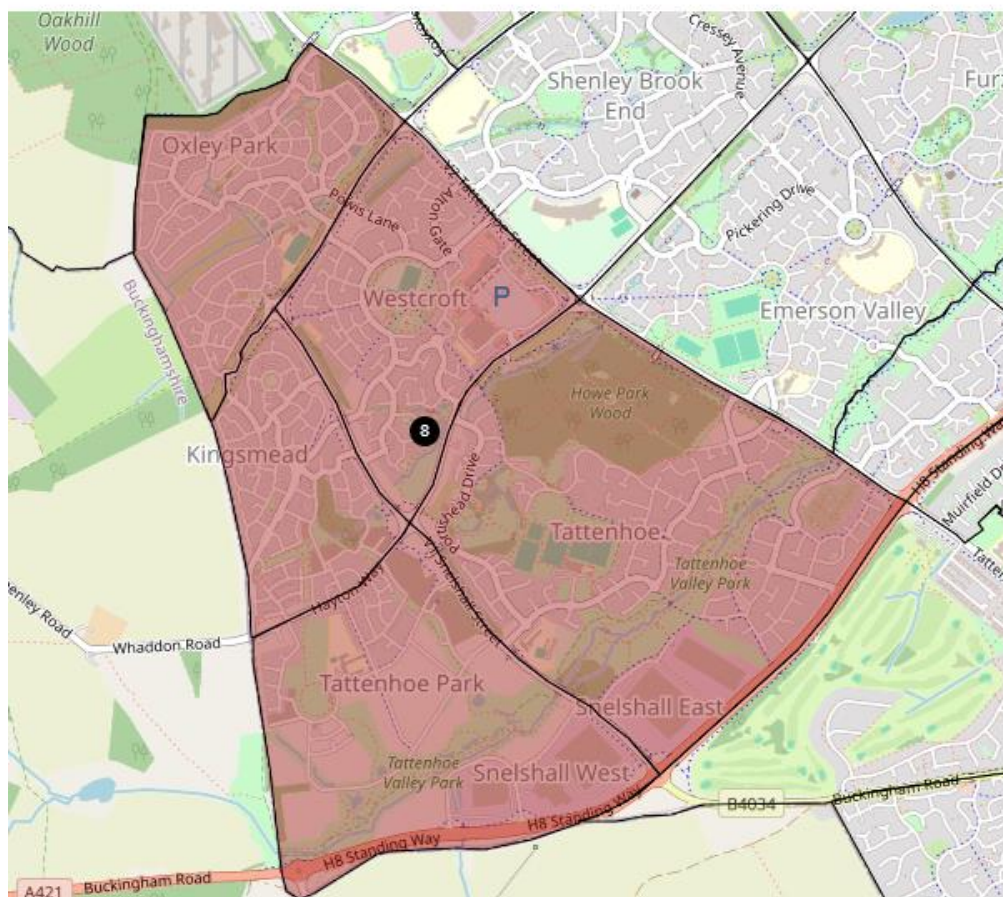
This area whilst numerically at the higher end, is now almost fully developed, so numbers will not rise much further. Currently this area is known as Loughton and Shenley. We suggest that that is confusing since there are a number of ‘Shenleys’ and the parish which bears that name is not in this ward. Loughton and Shenley Church End or simply Loughton is perhaps the best description.

The southern part of Whitehouse fits naturally with this western flank ward. The two areas are linked for shops, social and recreational resources, and health. As mentioned above the residents in Whitehouse south tend to migrate towards Grange Farm and Crownhill, due to the physical separation of the developed area of the Whitehouse estate from Stony Stratford, making this a good fit for the community as it develops. Most of the ward shares a Parish Council, and secondary schools; whilst the shops and amenities at Grange Farm and Shenley Church End are used by the whole area.

Furthermore, in the current arrangement Crownhill is awkwardly excluded from this ward. We suggest that this proposal brings Crownhill together again to unite most of the Shenley Church End parish.

## 8: Tattenhoe

Polling district	2030 electorate
QA - Tattenhoe	2,806
QB - Westcroft	2,172
QC - Kingsmead	1,611
QD - Oxley Park	2,593
QE - Tattenhoe Park	1,794
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,976 (-0.2% from average)</b>

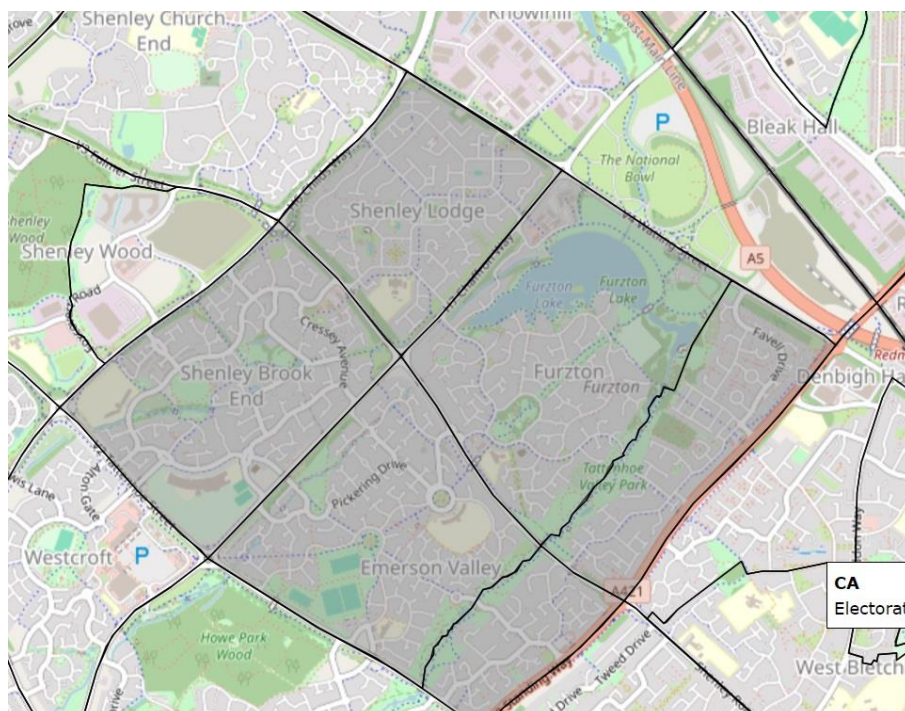


Our proposal is to retain this ward as current. Due to the delay in development and expansion of Tattenhoe this ward will fit as a ward under the new numbers and we see no reason to alter this ward. Any changes here will also cause problems with surrounding wards, so we seek to keep the area intact. Development on Bucks CC land to the west is likely to remain a significant issue, so it is important that the estates are together to retain clear identity and community responses to issues as they arrive.

The ward is separated by parliamentary boundaries from the areas to the north and east, lying within the Buckingham and Bletchley constituency. This area looks to its own local amenities, is well served by its parish council and offers, and forms, a coherent set of new build estates centred on the services provided in Westcroft, mostly served by Shenley Brook End Parish Council.

## 9: Furzton

Polling district	2030 electorate
NA - Emerson Valley North	2,536
NB - Shenley Lodge	2,270
NC - Furzton North	2,066
ND - Shenley Brook End	2,519
CD - Emerson Valley South	963
CE - Furzton South	1,704
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,059 (+9.6% from average)</b>



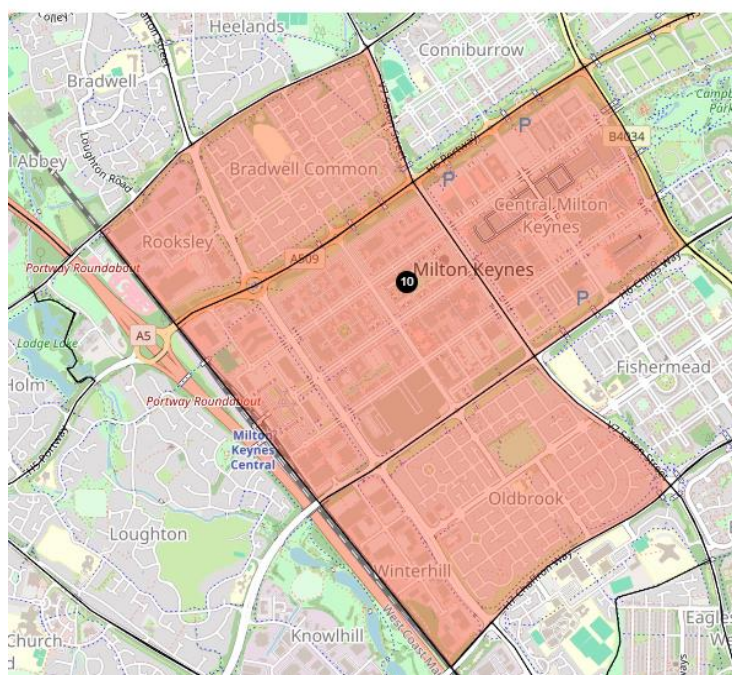
The splitting up of the Furzton and Emerson Valley estates at the last boundary review was extremely controversial; this proposal restores them to one ward. Whilst Shenley Brook End is a very strong Parish Council, providing a real unifying force in the area, Furzton would be the largest estate, with a roundabout at the centre called Furzton, we therefore propose this ward use that name. It was historically the ward name prior to the last review.

The H8 is a stronger boundary, with the shops and services in the south parts of Furzton and Emerson Valley used by people across the area. The Tattenhoe Valley Park with its natural environment, offers local playgrounds and leisure facilities and is seen as a shared facility for residents rather than a boundary. Residents share the secondary school and Parish Council services, including Landscaping, Play Areas, Community Centres, Warm Spaces, Community Fridge/Larder and clubs for all ages. They have the same Neighbourhood Policing Team, and use Westcroft Local Centre, rather than Bletchley.

Including Emerson Valley South does push the numbers to the upper end of the range, but these polling districts have stable populations with no significant land available for building more houses. However, we appreciate that this may not be viewed as sufficient to warrant inclusion.

## 10: Central Milton Keynes (CMK)

Polling district	2030 electorate
GA - Bradwell Common	2,042
GC - Oldbrook	3,602
GD - Central Milton Keynes East	2,211
GE - Central Milton Keynes West	3,494
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,349 (+3.2% from average)</b>

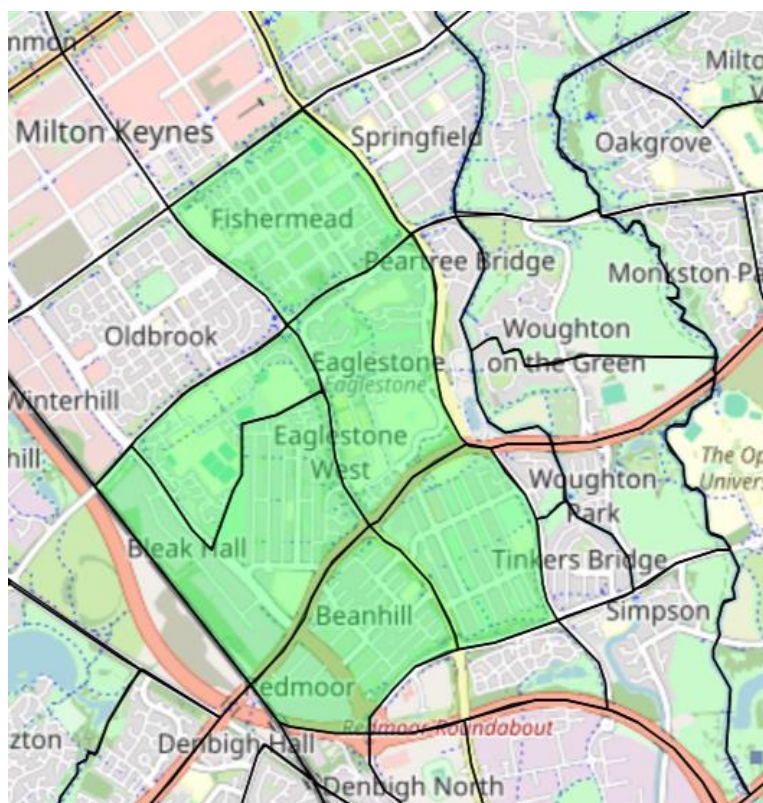


This ward would include Central Milton Keynes, Oldbrook and Bradwell Common polling districts but minus Conniburrow. These estates have synergy as the communities have lived side by side for many years, with parts previously sharing a ward. They share amenities and community resources such as schools, retail and entertainment facilities. The area also makes clear geographical distinction with shared good transport links, redways and paths.

The area is of strategic importance to the city, with high growth rates envisaged, so it is vital to keep Central Milton Keynes in a single ward. Bradwell Common and Oldbrook both have specific casework issues, such as parking and high levels of litter, due to their proximity to the city centre. Many of the local residents work in CMK, as well as Rooksley and Winterhill estates, both of which share similar characteristics, so work well in a single ward together.

## 11: Woughton and Fishermead

Polling district	2030 electorate
SA - Fishermead	3,475
SC - Netherfield	1,930
SD - Beanhill	1,326
SF - Eaglestone	1,637
SG - Coffee Hall	1,550
SH - Leadenhall	684
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,602 (-3.6% from average)</b>

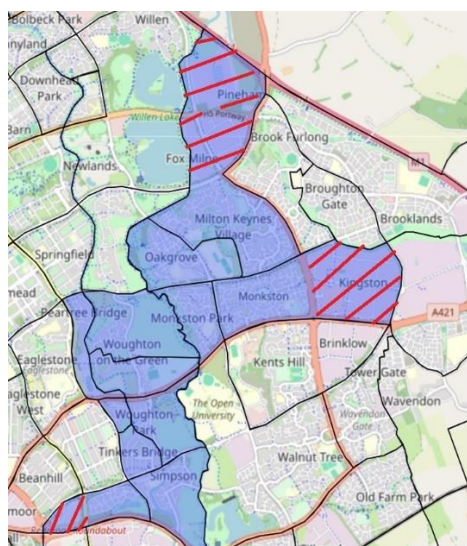


We suggest this remain similar to the current ward, which respects parish boundaries, with all bar Fishermead covered by Woughton Community Council, a strong locally recognised council providing many events and services within a cohesive community. We propose that this community will want to retain its identity.

Whilst this looks like the successor to the ward of the same name, we feel this configuration offers a stronger eastern boundary of the V8, which largely isolates the communities east of it.

## 12: Ouzel Valley

Polling district	2030 electorate
ED - Milton Keynes Village and Middleton	2,190
EE - Oakgrove	1,174
FA - Simpson	502
FB - Ashland	673
FJ - Woughton on the Green North	254
FK - Passmore	117
FL - Woughton Park	125
FM - Woughton on the Green South	180
JA – Monkston	2,810
JB - Monkston Park	1,167
SB - Peartree Bridge	750
SE - Tinkers Bridge	609
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,551 (-4.1% from average)</b>

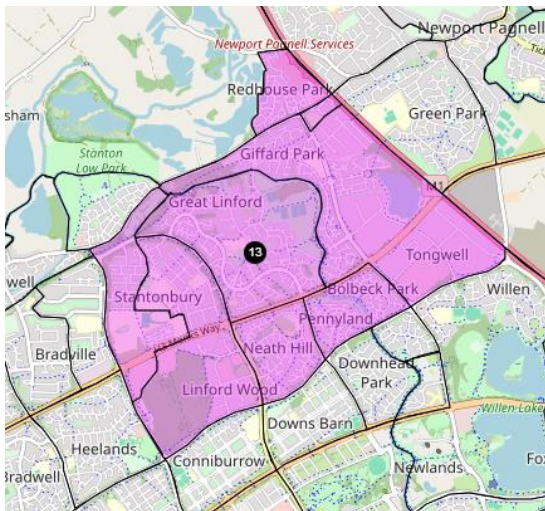


This could be considered the ‘new’ ward moving from 19 wards to 20. It includes areas of industrial and commercial land (marked in red stripes) at the north-east, east and south-west, with no electors, so whilst appearing odd in shape it is in fact a well-connected group of estates facing the Ouzel Valley linear park running down the east flank. Much of it forms the western side of the previous Middleton ward, together with the Ashland and Simpson Parish Council area and Tinkers Bridge, all being linked with services and events. This formation recognises the desire of Old Woughton to remain in a ward with older villages and estates, rather than within the Woughton Community Council area. It brings together the old villages and new estates along the River Ouzel, including the estates of Middleton and Monkston who share strategic drainage running through them, at a time when flooding is becoming a more serious issue. Flood prevention is now holding up planning applications in this area and the area needs a strong voice in city-wide drainage discussions.

Some facilities are well distributed though this area but the shops at Oakgrove and Kingston serve the whole area. Oakgrove secondary school, the Milton Keynes Academy and Kents Hill Park school serve the whole area, with new children offered places depending on availability. In addition Ashfield and Milton Keynes Village GP practices serve the area.

## 13: Great Linford

Polling district	2030 electorate
FE - Bolbeck Park and Pennyland	1,327
LA - Giffard Park and Blakelands	2,219
LB - Blakelands North	41
KE - Redhouse Park	1,025
OB - Great Linford	2,343
OC - Neath Hill	1,438
OF - Stantonbury East	1,907
OG - Stantonbury West	936
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,236 (+2.1% from average)</b>



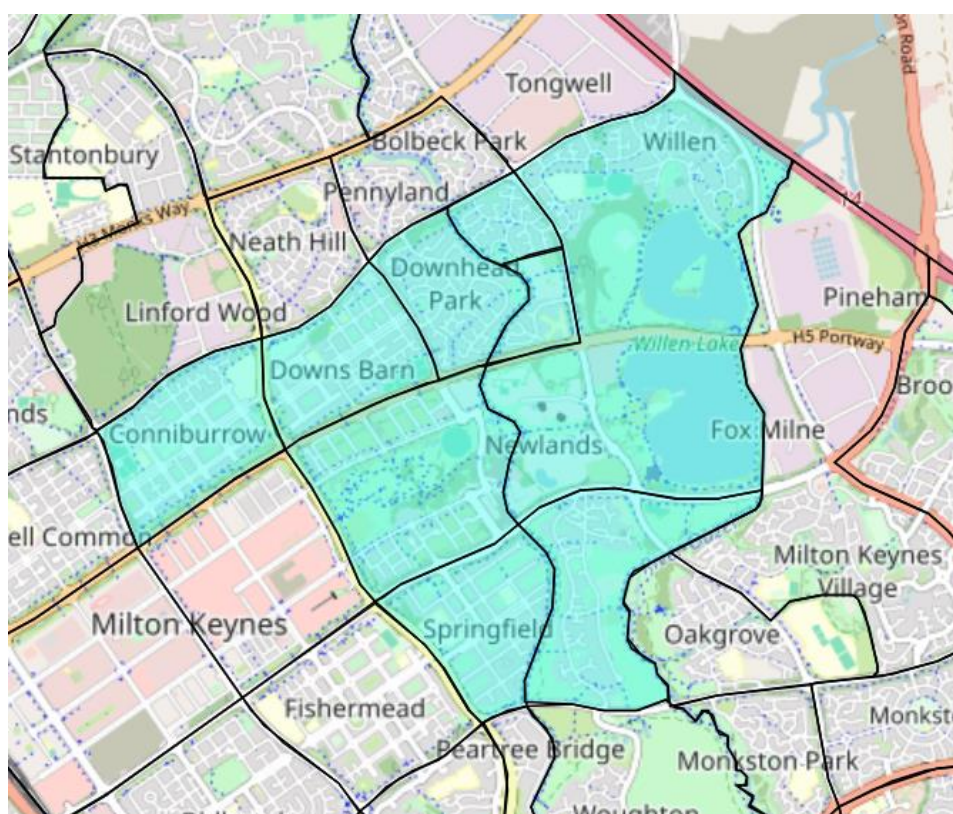
There is a strong desire for wards in this locality of the city to be better aligned with their respective active Parish Councils. At present Great Linford Parish Council has 18 city councillors serving its district. Reducing that number via establishing two wards would greatly improve the working relationships between the parties as at present it is a very onerous, and time consuming, for the Parish Council. Our proposal comprises of polling districts drawn from just two parish councils, (Great Linford and Stantonbury) and splits Great Linford Parish Council between just two wards, reducing the current patchwork of city representation from eighteen to six. Our proposal is similar to the former ward of Linford North, allowing the estates to align with their respective parish councils - both Great Linford Parish and Stantonbury Parish, enabling even stronger associations. Bringing these three areas together would reduce the current feelings of disassociated from the fragmented representation they currently experience.

For example, Redhouse Park, Giffard Park and Blakelands all want identity within a recognised community; we support their desire. The advantages to this proposal are around unity and connectivity. For example, Giffard Park and Blakelands share education facilities, sports and social spaces with Great Linford. Their direct neighbours Redhouse Park may currently use primary schools in Newport Pagnell, but children have to move to the secondary school in catchment which covers this whole area.

The area is well connected by transport links and has the Railway Walk (redway), running through the area linking retail, social and domestic services while the canal links many of the estates and all use Linford Wood.

## 14: Campbell Park and Willen

Polling district	2030 electorate
EA – Willen	1,074
EB - Willen Park South	569
FC – Woolstone	634
FD – Springfield	1,618
FF - Downs Barn	1,641
FG - Downhead Park	1,090
FH - Willen Park North	509
FI - Campbell Park	1,993
GB – Conniburrow	2,318
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,446 (+4.1% from average)</b>



This ward proposal is similar to previous ward boundaries so has historical connections, but we include Conniburrow and Springfield. This proposal combines the southern half of Great Linford Parish with the Eastern half of Campbell Park Parish, which strongly supports the respective parish identities. Further all these estates are united by their relationship to Central Milton Keynes, and the recreational areas of Campbell Park and Willen Lake, two of the most prominent leisure areas in Milton Keynes, which connect to this area through Newlands.

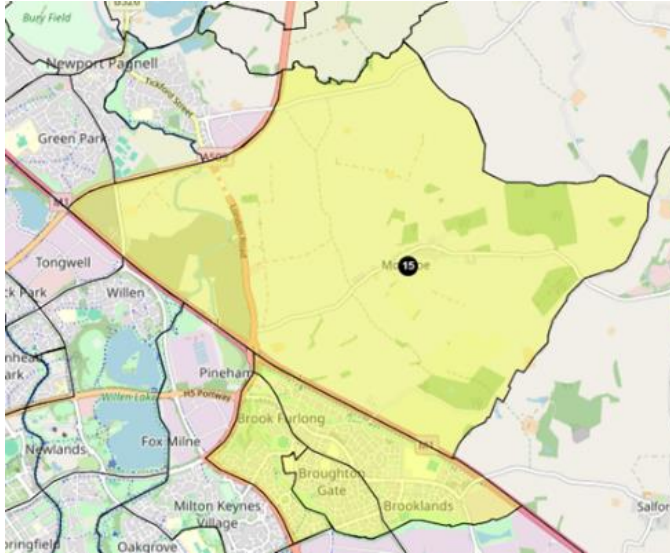
The community across the proposed ward already share resources, with a new community hub for Campbell Park Community Council under construction. When completed it will provide considerable community space, a not-for-profit café, and a large play area. This will be for people living in Springfield, Woolstone, Willen and Willen Park North & South, demonstrating the already clear community synergy. It will also support the Willen Park South large retirement village and

the Camphill Community, which offers housing and employment, via their community café, for people with learning disabilities. Further the Conniburrow Community Centre operated by Great Linford Parish Council, is a large community and sports facility which hosts parish events for the whole of that parish which includes Downhead Park and Downs Barn.

Conniburrow is the closest settlement in the proposed ward to the City Centre which can be accessed by a footbridge. As one of the first of the inner city “donut estates” it has an established identity, but links to Willen and Woolstone. Campbell Park has residential homes with most being apartments, with some retail located on Campbell Wharf, a growing area that associates with Willen and Woolstone. Residents in Campbell Park can shop in Willen and share services, as does Downhead Park who also access shops on Downs Barn. Woolstone has no retail but is within walking distance of shops in Springfield and a large Waitrose store. The area is further serviced by a number of public houses and restaurants via the walking routes and links to the canal. The Warbler on the Wharf is located over a canal footbridge on the edge of Willen and used by many across the area including Willen Park South and North, plus Woolstone. To further highlight the association through these settlements Woolstone is home to the original “Book Stop”, a free book exchange. This is extremely popular with people both walking and driving to it from around the area, but especially popular with people living on Springfield who can access it via a canal footbridge from their side of the canal. Many families take this walk on their way to and from the localised primary schools and link the communities.

## 15: Broughton and Moulsoe

Polling district	2030 electorate
EC - Broughton	2,319
EF - Broughton Gate	3,003
EG - Brooklands	4,471
MJ - Moulsoe	1,685
TOTAL	11,479 (+4.4% from average)



This ward contains, and will continue to contain, almost entirely new housing and some industrial offering local employment to the community. This growth includes the village of Moulsoe, which sits within the East of the M1 expansion area, projected to deliver 1,685 electorate (including roughly 250 in the current village) by 2030. Therefore, this proposal starts small but allows space and time for the integration of the additional new housing straddling the motorway on both sides. We understand that the population growth here is what has triggered this review.

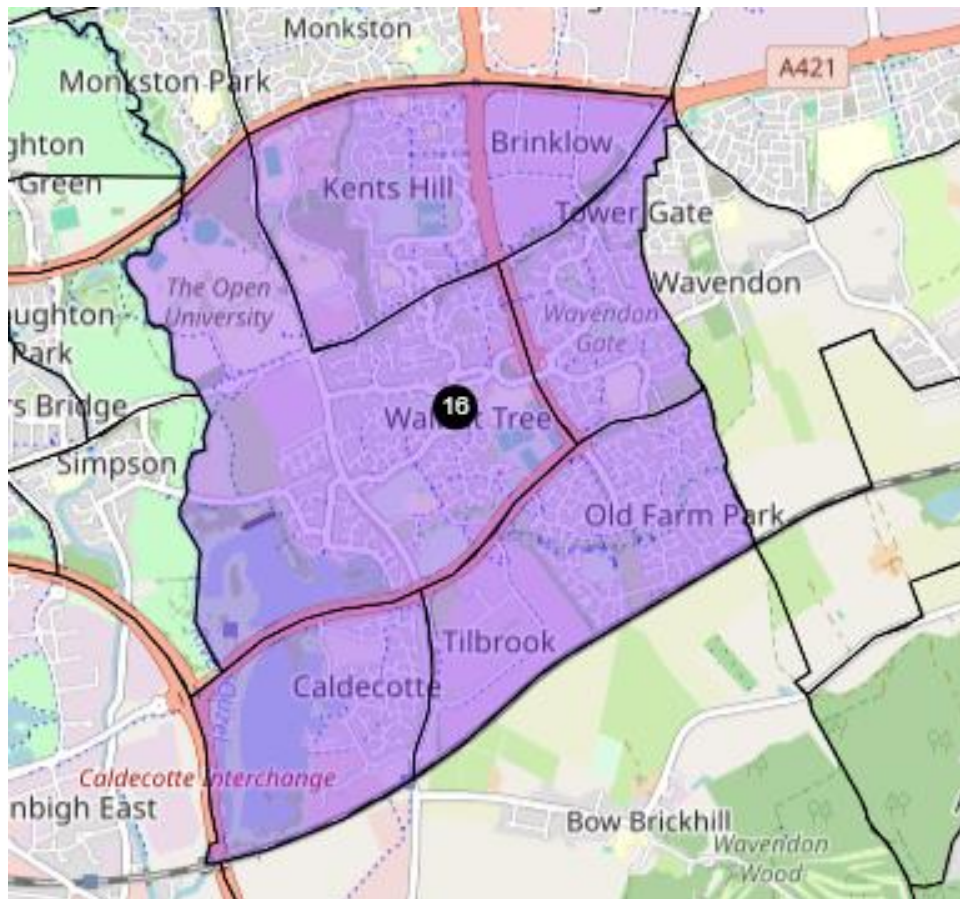
The old village of Broughton has experienced similar growth and links directly to the M1 East development via a road that takes residents into Broughton for education, retail and resources. Putting them in the same ward means the ward councillors here will have a coherent ward of brand new housing, with similar issues and needs, issues such as estate adoption and maintenance of the developer-owned “public” areas. Since the proposed new infrastructure will be some time off, this link is essential for the community to build its sense of being.

Further by combining these polling districts into one ward it greatly reduces the size of the current Broughton ward, allowing other polling districts to move into the proposed Walton (16) and Ouzel Valley (12) wards. It also assists with continuity as existing and new residents will share common experiences and have opportunities to build their community as one, alongside their shared representation.

This proposal is also strategically placed across J14 of the M1 which is likely to experience new traffic loads due to the development, and where road closures and access have been significant political issues. Having a single ward covering the area around J14 will allow the relevant councillors to speak with one voice, rather than the conflict that has been seen from different sides.

## 16: Walnut Tree

Polling district	2030 electorate
HF - Wavendon Gate	1,895
HG - Browns Wood and Old Farm Park	2,463
HH - Caldecotte	1,027
JC - Walnut Tree	3,985
JD - Kents Hill	1,958
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,328 (+3% from average)</b>

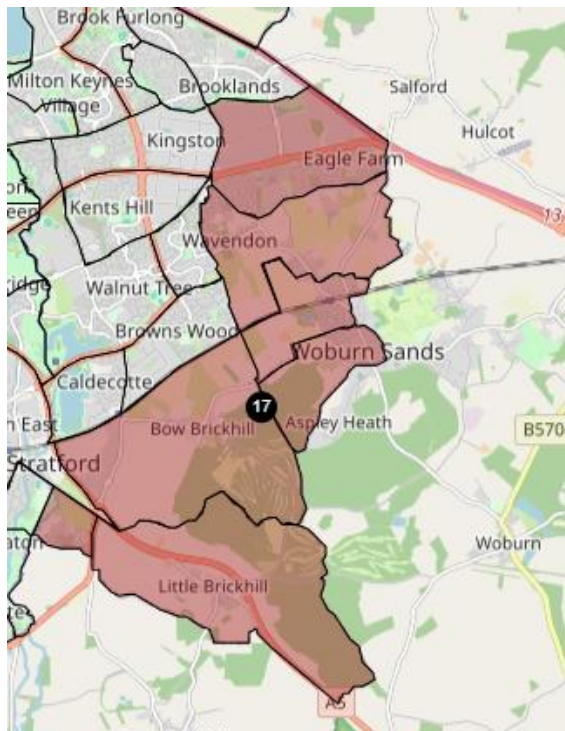


This proposal returns to the boundaries of the historical Walton Park ward from the previous set of boundaries and brings back together the entire Walton Community Council area. The Community Council serves the area south of the A421 and provides many services and events which are also used by Kents Hill residents since Kents Hill and Walnut Tree developed together. This is an improvement on the current Danesborough ward which pairs city estates and rural villages divided by a railway line and open countryside, and subsequently divides the Community Council area.

This area brings together six estates of similar age, each with small recent build areas or new builds coming and strong connections between them. The estates, designed at much the same time, share issues about maintenance of the public realm, and share primary and secondary schools, local shops, GPs and green spaces and corridors, as well as Caldecotte Lake. This boundary will support a community who self-identify very strongly with this area forming a very coherent ward.

## 17: Danesborough

Polling district	2030 electorate
HA - Bow Brickhill	1,035
HB - Little Brickhill	358
HC - Wavendon	1,958
HD - Woburn Sands South	1,303
HE - Woburn Sands North	2,286
HI - Wavendon Farm	3,620
AD1 Eaton Leys	750
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,310 (+2.8% from average)</b>



This proposal maintains most of the old Danesborough Ward from the previous ward pattern, albeit with the new housing that has grown since via the southeast fringe but does propose splitting the Eaton Leys polling district AD\*.

This development faces the rural area, and the emerging City Plan proposes further housing east and north of, (and complimenting), Eaton Leys in Little Brickhill Parish, thus further binding that area and increasing its independence from Bletchley. As the Eaton Leys development was not planned at the time of the previous boundary review, and does not link well to Bletchley, (connecting only via a footpath over the River Ouzel), that it fits better here.

East West rail travels through this area and is thus a key issue for all affected areas east of the city all of which lie in this ward. The whole ward has large new builds near existing villages, and we feel that keeping them in one ward is important in order to manage any tensions.

\*Note that this split is not required for this proposal to have good electoral parity, so can stand without the ward split, but we propose that community coherence in the longer term will be better with this split.

## Bletchley

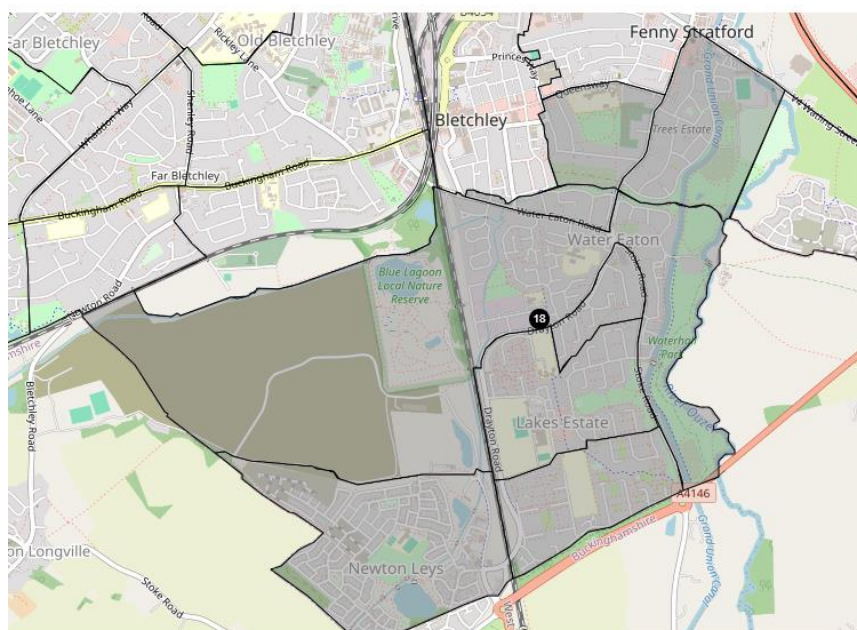
In order to discuss the configuration of the three proposed Bletchley wards we need to highlight the historical connection the town has across all three current wards. Bletchley has its own identity and ideally would want to be seen as one, but the current population has meant this has not been possible for some time. With the expansion of Bletchley and areas to the southwest, numerically it can continue to work as three wards.

Bletchley has a clear, defined identity, with its own sports and recreation facilities, events such as the annual carnival and other attractions that mean it is recognised as a self-contained community that stands alongside Milton Keynes. The emerging history of Bletchley Park means the town of Bletchley has significant national recognition, bringing visitors to the area with an increased usage of the railway links. With the redevelopment of the town centre and the increased number of new apartments this area is likely to grow as one community.

We therefore respect the uniqueness of Bletchley, as with our other older towns, and offer proposed boundaries below.

### 18: Bletchley South:

Polling district	2030 electorate
AA - Leon	452
AB - Water Eaton	310
AD Manor North	692
AE - Eaton North	1,949
AF - Eaton South	1,690
AG - Manor South	1,996
AH - Eaton North East	539
AI - Newton Leys	2,972
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,600 (-3.6% from average)</b>

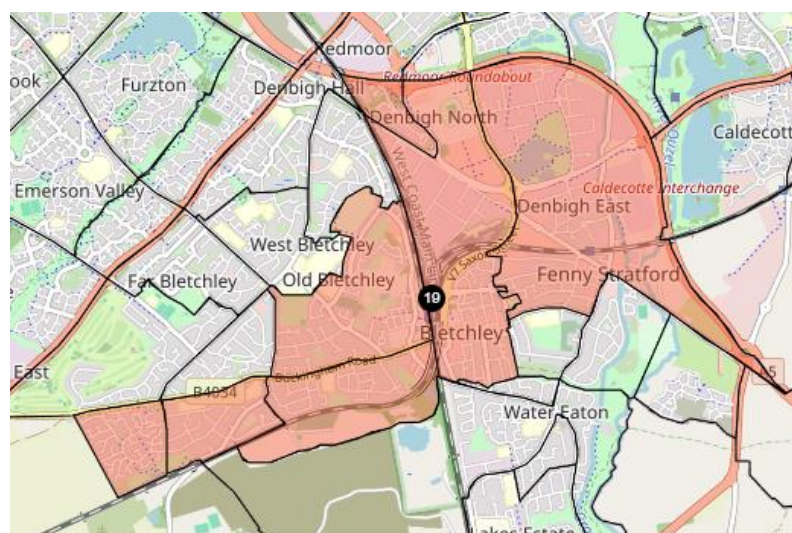


This ward comprises most of the existing Bletchley East ward, minus Fenny Stratford and Eaton Leys in the far east, but retains Newton Leys and the Lakes estate, plus the remaining half of polling district AD. This ward has a very strong northwestern boundary aligning with parish boundaries and the railway, but also the south and east edges are the city boundary and include the small brook.

These two communities, whilst very different from a social economy perspective offer substantial links. The natural link between Newton Leys and the Lakes Estate via the road over the railway line is far stronger than those to West Bletchley. Plus, the communities share a retail park in Newton Leys and the primary and secondary schools in the Lakes estate. With the proposed development of the Lakes Estate the areas will grow together, changing the feel of the area. Having shared representation with a shared understanding of the challenges will help ease any local tensions.

## 19: Bletchley Park

Polling district	2030 electorate
AC - Fenny Stratford	2,586
BA - Church Green	2,066
BB - Denbigh Saints	1,317
BC - Denbigh Poets	1,403
BD - Central Bletchley	2,058
BE - Granby	203
BH - Racecourses	1,317
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,950 (-0.5% from average)</b>

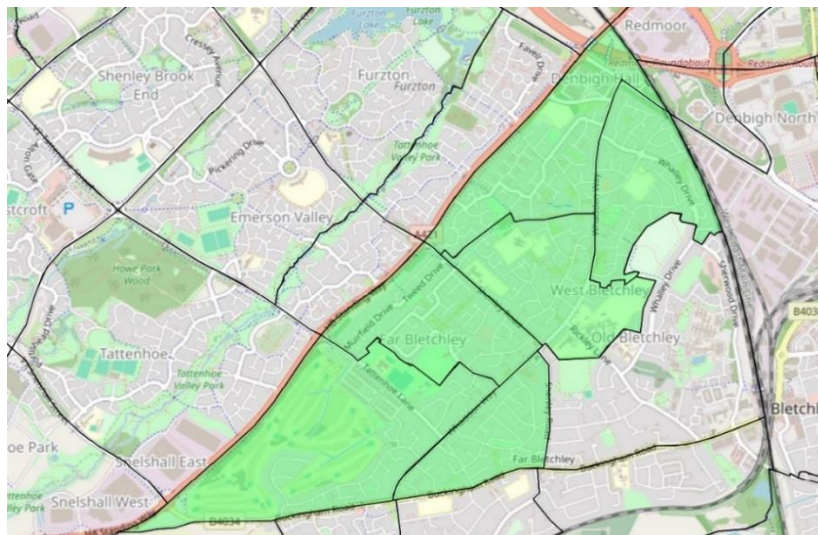


This is a coherent ward based on Bletchley Town Centre and the communities immediately surrounding it, and comprises of most of the old Bletchley Park ward, together with the closely linked Fenny Stratford area. Fenny Stratford and central Bletchley share the Bletchley and Fenny Town Council, and the shared shopping areas of Central Bletchley and Fenny Stratford and look to the area along the A5 for their services, having historically shared the facilities. Further the railway link is a key means of local transport into the City Centre and beyond.

These are older areas with a linked heritage and therefore relate to each other well. This is an area where generations have lived alongside each other linked via housing, education and employment. The recent revival of Bletchley Park has brought a sense of local pride for residents, as well as national interest, and the regeneration of the town centre currently under way is likely to pull the community in further towards itself and away from the city.

## 20: Bletchley West

Polling district	2030 electorate
BF - Castles	1,522
BG - Fairways	1,435
CA - Scots	1,777
CB - Counties	1,621
CC - Abbeys	1,862
CF - Rivers	1804
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,021 (-8.9% from average)</b>



The ward comprises the existing Bletchley West ward, minus south Furzton and south Emerson Valley, which were added for electoral parity at the last review. We suggest it should include the Castles and Fairways areas which are also part of West Bletchley Parish Council. The ward would then ensure the whole area is represented by West Bletchley Parish Council, which provides many services throughout the area.

Local primary schools feed into Lord Grey secondary school, retaining local community links, with residents looking to Buckingham Road and either Westcroft or Central Bletchley for shopping.

The Buckingham Road forms a strong southern boundary to this ward, stronger than the current boundary, and the A421 a strong northwest boundary. To the east is Bletchley Park and also Rickley Park and School, forming a large, natural boundary.

If the electoral disparity was felt to be too strong, Emerson Valley south could be retained in this ward.