

Boundary Commission – Working Group considerations.

1. Overall objective

A new pattern of wards is being developed for MKCC. MKCC Ward Cllrs will increase from 57 to 60 and therefore there will be twenty MKCC Wards an increase of one, on the current number. The Boundary Commission invites comments and observations from residents and local organisation about what connects the estates and communities in their area. The thoughts of the working group are found below.

Comments are required by 9th September 2024.

2. Current MKCC Wards

In 2014 the wards were redefined and GLPC estates were divided over six MKCC Wards, giving 18 Ward Cllrs. Prior to that we were represented by seven MKCC Ward Cllrs

Thus far this arrangement has not provided GLPC and its community with an opportunity to build relationships with all these MKCC Cllrs. Relationships and communications are time consuming on both sides and if your Ward is split over more than one parish your time available to engage is reduced.

The working group considered this a weakness and requests that to enhance and improve the working relationship between Parish and Ward Cllrs the result of the review should aim to reduce the number of Ward Cllrs with whom GLPC must engage.

Our ideal would be that the parish area is mapped over two MKCC Wards, thus allowing our community to bond with just six Ward Cllrs. The benefit of cross mapping the Ward Cllr coverage with the parish council estates footprint is that it will be more time efficient enabling interactions with the communities giving a closer understanding and even better representation for the residents.

Our suggestion is summarised below in section 5 and is supported by our review of our community's connections and identity.

Current estates and their MKCC wards

Redhouse Park is in the **Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope Ward**– it is a growing estate; it has no direct transport connections to this MKCC ward area. It sits opposite the Giffard Park and Blakelands parish estates. It is bordered by the M1, and residents use Giffard Park's schools, local centre and Marsh Drive leisure area. Therefore, we feel that Redhouse Park should be in the same ward as Giffard Park & Blakelands.

Giffard Park, Blakelands and Tongwell are in the **Newport Pagnell South Ward** area but have a natural connection to Great Linford, the sports and leisure area (Marsh Drive) and the canal that runs through the middle provide an attractive connection for people in all these areas. The M1 acts as a clear boundary between Giffard Park, Blakelands and Tongwell.

Conniburrow is in **Central Milton Keynes Ward**, but it is not a city estate, it has closer connections to estates that flank the H5 Portway going east and west, such as Bradwell common, Downs Barn and Downhead Park.

Willen Park South is in **Broughton Ward** but is within the same grid square as Willen North.

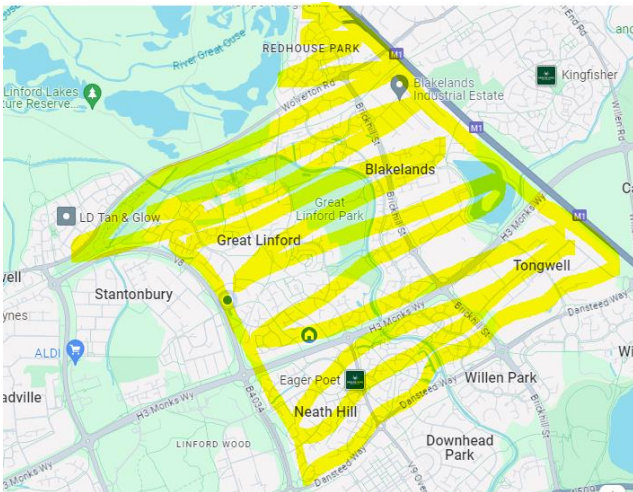
Great Linford and Neath Hill fall within **Stantonbury Ward**,

Downhead Park, Downs Barn, Pennyland, Bolbeck Park and Willen Park North map onto **Campbell Park and Old Woughton Ward**

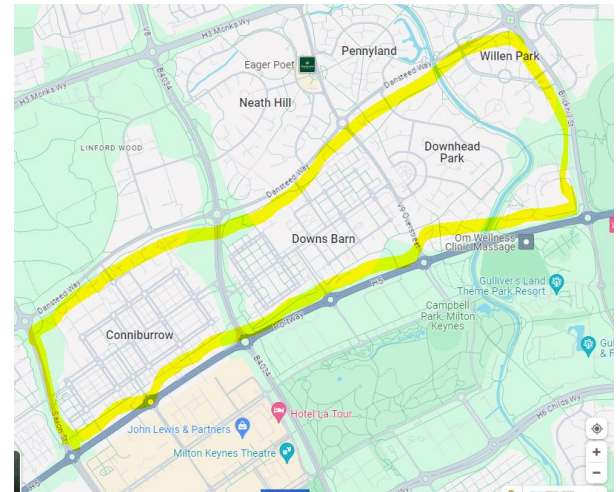
3. North and South MKCC Wards

The parish has natural geographical boundaries. The horizontal grid roads such as H3 Monks Way and H5 Portway, the Wolverton Road and Dansteed Way provide sections within our estates. Similarly vertical grid roads such as the V8 Marlborough Road and the M1 create natural boundaries and connecting transport links.

In our view, these boundaries help to provide distinct areas, north and south. Dansteed Way would separate a north and south area and the estates within it have strong connections not least via transport links, schools and green ways that make a persuasive case for the areas in the north to be kept together and likewise for the areas in the south to be kept together.



NORTH



SOUTH

4. Community Connections

North Estates

Redhouse park is connected through roadways and redways to Giffard Park and Great Linford. Giffard Park Primary school, Giffard Park community centre and the Giffard Park Local centre are used by residents of these areas. The railway walk connects people to leisure pursuits and access to the large open sports field in Great Linford. The estate itself has nothing in common with the other areas it finds itself associated with in its current MKCC Ward especially as it is new, young and growing.

Redhouse Park's art trail is complementary to the original Gyosei art trail that spans the canal from Willen Park to Great Linford. The new trim trails through Redhouse Park encourage users to follow their activity through this area and into the Great Linford sports field and the connected Railway Walk.

Great Linford is one of the largest estates in the parish area. It has a vibrant local centre which houses shops, take away establishments, a church and a community fridge. The latter also support people in this estate and residents in the connecting Stantonbury estate. The parish councils of Stantonbury and Great Linford work as partners to deliver services for their residents such as Citizen Advice Bureau. The area is a destination point for people and so should be included in a MKCC ward.

Primary schools at Giffard Park and Great Linford, three in total support the local estates of Giffard Park, Blakelands, Great Linford, Redhouse Park and Stantonbury.

Pennyland and Neath Hill are connected by the local centre, two Drs surgeries, two primary schools and two dental surgeries. The two areas also have play areas that are shared by families. There is also a redway that connects the two estates and then goes further east to Bolbeck Park. Whilst the houses in the latter are different and the demographics are different (older, bungalows) this connecting transport link does allow people on foot to travel around these estates and share the amenities and services.

Bolbeck and Pennyland share a linear park, the Grand Union Canal, facilitated by three bridges spanning the canal making it easy to cross from one area to the next.

These three estates also share a geometric pattern within their design which has a familiar feel when you move between the estates and creates open spaces from people to enjoy.

Recent closures of Post Offices, Neath Hill in particular, has also prompted further connectivity as people have to walk or travel to their nearest PO which is either Great Linford or Giffard Park.

South Estates

The H5 Portway provides a natural boundary for the parish's south estates; Conniburrow, Downs Barn, Downhead Park and Willen Park. The H5 provides a grid road that separates these communities from the city centre.

Conniburrow has links to Downs Barn via redways (pathways). Both estates also have a main vehicle transport running west to east: the Boulevards. There are three primary schools that support these estates, and they are run by the same school federation, creating a link between the communities. Local shops are found in both estates and the Children's/Family Centre supports both communities. There is an established Youth Cafe in Conniburrow which is currently utilised by children from other estates in the parish. A project to expand the youth provision on other parts of the parish are underway which will bring the communities within the parish together with shared events.

Within these two estates the Community Fridge and Community Larder provide support to those experiencing food poverty and those focused on waste reduction. Social spaces such as the community hub, Salvation Army and the Cross and Stable multi denominational church also provide support and assistance.

Conniburrow Boulevard links straight into the Bradwell estate, to the west, whilst it is not in the GLPC area, children and families utilise the Community Centre and sports field, the largest green open space in this area.

Local shops support the communities in both estates.

Both estates have a higher proportion of families on pupil premium and have a low socio-economic demographic.

Downhead Park is connected to Downs Barn by the same linear pathway (the redway) that connects Conniburrow to Downs Barn. This path, also traverses the canal and links to Willen Park. Downhead Park has no local centre, so it connects to Neath Hill, Downs Barn and Willen local centre for some services. Its connection to Neath Hill provides primary schools and a doctor's surgery.

Willen Park is separated from Downhead Park by the canal however, two bridges provide easy access over the canal into Willen. Willen North shares the local centre and school at Willen. Willen Park South sites a large retirement village and the Chrysalis Theatre within the Camphill Hill centre.

Connecting the whole parish

Social spaces and sports areas are available in the north (Great Linford) and the south (Conniburrow). The residents within the parish area have access to both for sporting leisure and community activities.

Community fridges, larders and community hubs within the parish area support and connect all our estates, and those next to them, to the parish.

The estates of the parish also have a variety of religious centres i.e., Hindu, the Jewish Synagogue, Jehovah Witness (both Giffard Park), Catholic Church and Church of England most acting as multi denomination (Great Linford and Downhead Park), Grace Church (Willen Park), Evangelical Church (Neath Hill) and Christian Fellowship (Great Linford). This further provides a connection for all our residents in the area.

The parish area also has an abundance of open green and play areas that are connected via redways and the canal tow path – factors that make great days out for residents looking for destinations close to home. The pedestrian and cycle connectivity around the parish make this fantastic for all residents.

Camphill is a community centre based in Willen Park South and Pennyland. It offers support and opportunities for people with learning difficulties, who in return provide a café a theatre, and support for many of the community events that are run by the parish and other community groups. This gives a huge working connection to lots of people in our extended area.

There are several residential and sheltered accommodation facilities through the estates mentioned in this document – Lovatt fields in Willen Park South is one of the largest and is also a place where many retirees provide support and volunteering. The residents of Lovat Fields regularly use the Camphill Cafe facilities and attend events there. The residents of Lovat Fields have built friendships with the people that live and work there. The residents of Lovat Fields run clubs at Fulwell Court in Great Linford Parish Estate and vice versa.

5. CONNECTIONS AND NUMBERS

The parish council strongly believes that the current ward boundary is confusing, the divide over six wards provides no connectivity or opportunity for its MKCC Ward Cllrs to work with and understand their community and develop a relationship with Parish Cllrs.

Our proposal is.

1. To ensure our communities that are connected are kept together within the MKCC ward structure.
2. To reduce the number of MKCC Wards and Cllrs with whom GLPC interacts with the opportunity to have just two MKCC Wards covering our parish estates.
3. There is a north ward that would include Neath Hill Great Linford, Redhouse Park, Bolbeck Park, Pennyland, Tongwell, Giffard Park and Blakelands. These could be linked in with Bradville and Stantonbury to form one MKCC Ward – which we suggest could be Great Linford Ward as Great Linford has the largest population.

Bradville West	OE	1554	1519
Bradville East	OH	1369	1420
Stantonbury East	OF	1595	1907
Stantonbury West	OG	967	936
Neath Hill	OC	1423	1438
Great Linford	OB	2509	2343
Bolbeck Park and Pennyland	FE	1389	1327
Tongwell	?	0	0
Giffard Park and Blakelands	FA	497	502
Blakelands North	LB	44	41
Total		11347	11433

4. There is a south ward consisting of Conniburrow, Downs Barn, Downhead Park, Willen Park South and North. This could be linked to Campbell Park, Woolstone, Middleton and Willen to form another MKCC Ward called Willen Ward reflecting the natural feature within this area – the lake.

Conniburrow	GB	2325	2318
Downs Barn	FF	1695	1641
Campbell Park	FI	913	1993
Woolstone	FC	659	634
Downhead Park	FG	1148	1090
Willen Park South	EB	562	569
Willen Park North	FH	538	509
Middleton MK Village	Ed	2154	2190
Willen	EA	1077	1074
Total		11071	12018