

# Milton Keynes

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mr Kevin Smith  
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**Organisation Name:** (Parish or town councillor)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Stantonbury Parish - Bradville & Oakridge Park

I have some serious concerns about these proposals. It seems bizzare to me that there has been a decision to move Bradville and Oakridge Park into this proposed new ward of Hanslope and New Bradwell. While it may meet the bar of providing equality of electors, it in my opinion fails on 1/Reflecting community interests and identities and 2/ Providing for effective and convenient local government.

On the former there are basically minimal if any existing cultural, educational or social ties between the rural villages of Hanslope, Haversham and Castlethorpe and the city estates of Bradville and Oakridge Park. Though the no doubt good people of the former, wil have some shared priorities with the latter, many will differ. By contrast, Bradville and Oakridge Park share with Stantonbury estate schools, medical facilities, leisure centres, local theatre and community centres. They have a history of sharing in multiple weekly, monthly and seasonal social events promoted by the parish council over many years. Further the basic geography is a problem. It is impossible to walk from say Bradville to Hanslope, without first visiting Wolverton and there is actually no safe route. The bus service takes 40 minutes and a car journey 20 minutes.

As for effective and convenient local government, i also do not think these proposals make muster. If will be quite a challege for a future MKCC team of councillors to represent such a large and diverse ward, where the competing demands for services of rural and city will differ. As for the proposal to combine the parish wards of Bradville and Oakridge Park, while reducing the number of volunteer parish councillors, this also does not seem to be meeting the objective of the review. Bradville is an old established estate about to undergo regeneration after many many years of broken promises. It has its own strong identity with the only Residents Association in the parish that has been very successful (Gold accreditation) in both representing residents (particularly the large number of council tennants) , buidling a strong community through local

social events and community trips away, as well as trying to keep the ward tidy. Oakridge Park is a modern estate of largely private housing without those issues or profile but with a large amount on recreational Parks Trust land with its benefits and negatives. Asking each individual parish councillor to be familiar with and represent such a vast combined estate will be a challenge to say the least.

I am also concerned about the increase in MKCC wards that will cross Stantonbury and the unnecessary movement of other estates long settled to new wards. Three wards will likely cause increased confusion amongst electors at MKCC and parish level and dilute the integrity of our parish.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*