

Moulsoe Parish Council would make a strong argument for Moulsoe to remain in a rural ward rather than being swallowed up by, in effect, a largely urban ward

We strongly object to adopting the Labour and Liberal Democrat proposals for this ward since the reasons for this appear entirely political and completely ignore the current community identity.

The commission identified circa-700 new houses in the MKE development area, but Moulsoe will still be predominantly rural by virtue of its physical location. The M1 creates a natural boundary which has been the case since MK was emerging as a new town. The motorway is a significant barrier to crossing between Broughton and Moulsoe and this is only going to get worse going forward.

The review recommends moving Moulsoe parish into a Ward with Broughton and Milton Keynes parishes and that will also include Fox Milne industrial area

Whilst closer links between the two parishes has been proposed, there is much to support the values of “cross-boundary” integration, for historic reasons it is more likely that Moulsoe will maintain its close ties to North Crawley, Chicheley, Olney and Newport Pagnell. Our catchment area for schools is Newport Pagnell and Olney. Churchgoers attend local churches at Moulsoe and Newport Pagnell. Moulsoe Parish residents will continue to shop in Newport Pagnell and Olney but also in Milton Keynes and Broughton. Additionally, the Commission did note that Moulsoe village would share more of a community identity with other rural villages in the Olney ward, as is the current division

If the MKE planning proposals remain as they are there will be a significant green buffer around the village of Moulsoe and to the south, east and west of the village.

The Eastern Perimeter Road in the Plan will present a (un)natural split between the MKE development and the largest part of Moulsoe Parish to the south of it. This should satisfy the boundary commission's electoral equality criteria since this part of Moulsoe Parish is, and will remain, sparsely populated until at least 2030. Significantly it also provides direct access from the suggested “island” parish to the current Olney ward.

The report does state that if there was evidence of where a boundary could be drawn, then separating the village and placing it in the Olney ward with other rural villages would reflect the community identity of Moulsoe better. The Eastern Perimeter Road satisfies this point.

We worry that the nature of the urban ward with councillors used to dealing with urban issues and characteristics will generate a tension between rural and urban demands so leaving Moulsoe as rural with ward councillors used to the needs of rural parishes clearly makes more sense

SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE

This Parish Council and some residents feedback indicates that there is lack of support for a boundary change joining on to a geographically separate urban ward.

REFLECTING COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Any boundary change or merger needs to reflect the identities and interests of local communities. Moulsoe already has with its existing ward.

EFFECTIVE AND CONVENIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The existing rural ward arrangement has worked satisfactorily to present day and satisfying the ward access question using the Easter Perimeter Road along with the more than acceptable and working relationship with the current rural-focused ward councillors we believe means the above criteria is satisfied. Moulsoe Parish Council have nothing but praise for the effort that Olney Ward councillors make in this regard. We see no reason to change it arbitrarily.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (FOR TYPE 3 AND 4 REVIEWS)

In the case that this is considered a Type 4 merger we do not believe there is a financial case or value for money to pursue this boundary change.