

Buckinghamshire Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

This is the first time I have become aware of these proposed Ward changes. I live in Firs End in Chalfont St Peter, just off Southside next to Austenwood Common, part of the Austenwood Ward. I VERY STRONGLY OBJECT to Chalfont St Peter being split in two resulting in those living in Austenwood being removed from the village and becoming part of Gerrards Cross ward, with which I feel I have no particular connection. Some points which I think are very relevant are as follows: - Much of the population of Gerrards Cross live on the far side of A40, a natural community boundary. The residents of Chalfont and Gerrards Cross go to different schools, scout groups, leisure centres (many in Gerrards Cross go to Cannon's as opposed to Chalfont Leisure Centre) and are part of South Bucks rather than Chiltern. This means friendships and personal connections are very different too. Due to connections and friendships, I would naturally join activities at the Chalfont Community Centre not the Memorial Centre. - Austenwood Ward is a distinctive, long established part of Chalfont St Peter, centred around Austenwood common. It is one of the oldest and original parts of Chalfont St Peter which was established prior to Gerrards Cross coming into existence with the railway. The leafy environment of Austenwood fits much more with the semi-rural feel of Chalfont St Peter rather than that of the more urban feel of Gerrards Cross. Many residents of Austenwood are long established residents of Chalfont St Peter with local connections. - Austenwood Common (literally 50 paces from our home) is mainly used by the residents of Chalfont St Peter. Those in Gerrards Cross tend to use Gerrards Cross Common (especially the high proportion living the far side of the A40 in Duke's Wood). - Residents of Austenwood also use Gold Hill Common, including the children's play area (for most a five minute walk away) and would not usually make a journey to Gerrards Cross common (a car journey with young children). - Gold Hill common is the centre of Feast celebrations each June which is attended by people from the WHOLE of Chalfont St Peter. It is not really a celebration attended by those from Gerrards Cross. Likewise, we always attend the annual Chalfont St Peter Scout Fireworks and Christmas celebrations, never those of Gerrards Cross. We used to attend the Remembrance parade in Chalfont, not in Gerrards Cross (St James' is the other side of the A40 - those in Austenwood have no connection so far away) - All Saints church, in Austenwood, comes under St Peter's in Chalfont St Peter not St James' in Gerrards Cross. - The main public facilities including GP surgeries and the Leisure Centre are all based in Chalfont St Peter, which those in Austenwood obviously use. In doing this, they become even more likely to use the other town centre facilities including shops so further firming up local connections and friendships. - Although, Chalfont Common is distant to Austenwood, everyone meets in the central shops, drs surgeries etc. Children attend the same senior and junior schools, hence strong friendships and connections exist. In comparison, connections with those in Gerrards do not really exist to the same extent, particularly south of the A40. The two towns, although, merged do have very separate facilities and connections. These are some of many reasons why I disagree with the most recent proposal to cut the Austenwood part of Chalfont St Peter out of the ward. I think complaints to changes originally proposed perhaps suit some with vested interests but see no logical reason why Chalfont St Peter should be split; indeed it seems very inappropriate for so many reasons. I would respectfully request that you take into account my above points and reject the removal of Austenwood and any other parts of Chalfont St Peter from the ward. Thank you ██████████

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2023 15:45
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LGBCE: 87476 | Further Draft Recommendation Submission
Attachments: Boundary

[REDACTED],

Thank you very much for your email regarding the above.

I am afraid that I am not an IT expert and thought that the contents of my initial submission failed to reach you as the receipt stated 'no content'; it was in any case written rather hastily.

I am now attaching a fuller and more considered submission which I would ask you to consider in addition to that which you have already received and which contains further comment for consideration.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:44 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: LGBCE: 87476 | Further Draft Recommendation Submission

Local Government Boundary Commission electoral review

Thank you for your comments. We will consider them carefully.

We add your comments to our website when we publish our recommendations. If you are a member of the public, we remove details which would identify you. If you are writing in an official capacity, we may publish your name, email and postal address unless you tell us not to. Examples of people writing in an official capacity are MPs, councillors and officers of councils and community groups.

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Help us improve our services by filling in our satisfaction survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JCSH8VL>.

Review Team / reviews@lgbce.org.uk / 0330 500 1250 / LGBCE, PO Box 133, Blyth, NE24 9FE

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2023 15:29
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Boundary

I am writing to VERY STRONGLY OBJECT to the recent amendment to the Chalfont St Peter/Gerrards Cross Ward boundary proposal which would result in part of Chalfont St Peter Ward being reassigned to Gerrards Cross Ward. The changes seem to have been suggested following appeals from residents of Gerrards Cross but there would appear to be no particular reason or logic behind this.

There are two main reasons for my objection, one relating to the positioning of the boundary line along Southside and the second, concerning the relationship/connections of the Austenwood area of Chalfont St Peter under consideration belonging to the rest of the village as opposed to that of Gerrards cross.

1. Placement of boundary along Southside

I only have a very small-scale map but it looks as if the latest proposal is to have a boundary along Southside in Chalfont St Peter, which would separate residents to the south in Austenwood from the rest of Chalfont St Peter and Austenwood common itself. This being the case, it looks like my property is in the area under consideration.

I live approximately 100 metres from Austenwood Common, off Southside, in Firs End.

The Common actually forms part of the official address on my house deeds, which is given as:

'1 Firs End, Southside AUSTENWOOD COMMON, Chalfont St Peter'; Southside relating to the southern side of the common.

Southside is a narrow private road (with no pavement on either side) forming part of the Firs Estate Conservation Area within the parish of Chalfont St Peter. The houses in Southside directly face the Common less than six metres away and the road is even occasionally 'closed off' to traffic to allow for Firs Estate resident/community celebrations to extend onto the Common for events such as the annual summer party as well as Jubilee celebrations and again with the forthcoming Coronation.

To place Southside and its residents in a separate Ward to the Common makes no sense at all!!

The Common is an integral part of the local area and an amenity used by residents of Austenwood and Southside on a daily basis.

2. The relationship/community connections belonging to Chalfont St Peter rather than Gerrards Cross.

- Gerrards Cross residents, even in the closest central area between the two villages, are assigned completely different primary and middle schools as well as, in some cases, senior schools.
- Residents of the two villages also have their own scout & guide groups as well as football clubs (Chalfont has its own, Gerrards Cross combines with Fulmer).
- Chalfont St Peter residents tend to use the Chalfont St Peter Leisure Centre (just over 10 minutes walk from our house). Those living in Gerrards Cross, not so much – most, particularly south of the A40, frequently use facilities in Wexham.

- All Saints Church, in Austenwood, belongs under the direction of St Peter's in Chalfont St Peter - not St James's of Gerrards Cross on the far side of the A40. The children of Austenwood will be christened/married in St Peter's or All Saints in their parish of Chalfont St Peter; it would be very uncommon to use St James' in Gerrards Cross on the far side of the A40.
- Chalfont St Peter is part of Chiltern district; Gerrards cross is part of South Bucks. Parliamentary constituencies also divide along this boundary as do councils and council run facilities e.g. bin collections.
- A great many shared public facilities including GP surgeries and the only local public leisure centre are sited in Chalfont St Peter village, meaning residents of Gerrards Cross need to travel to Chalfont St Peter, not the reverse. For those living in Austenwood, this further promotes their connection to Chalfont St Peter rather than Gerrards Cross and at the same time use of neighbouring shops etc.
- Gold Hill Common (5-10 minutes walk from my house) acts as the central 'leisure/meeting area' for residents of Chalfont St Peter on both sides of the village as well as holding the annual Feast of St Peter celebrations in June each year. It does not tend to be attended by residents of Gerrards Cross who have their own events on Gerrards Cross Common.
- Austenwood common (less than one minute walk from my house!) is typically used by residents of Chalfont St Peter. Those in Gerrards Cross would not travel up from Gerrards Cross to walk there (especially those on far side of A40 in Dukes Wood).
- Due to separate Chalfont & Gerrards Cross village groups, residents of Austenwood tend to attend the Chalfont St Peter scout fireworks and Village late night/Gold Hill Christmas celebrations as well as the annual remembrance Parade to St Peter's Church, with representatives from local schools and scout groups.
- A very large proportion of the population of Gerrards Cross are resident south of the A40, which in itself acts as a natural boundary, and as such has very little connection either socially or distance wise to those in Austenwood.

The above are points are those which come immediately to mind and which, I think, show the close connections the residents of Austenwood have with Chalfont St Peter and others living in the village. In practice, the vast majority of our family friends and social connections are with those living in Chalfont St Peter and this is why I am unhappy with the latest proposals to attach us to Gerrards Cross Ward, which I hope you will now reconsider

Yours sincerely,

