



WHITEHOUSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



The Hive, Barrosa Way, Whitehouse, Milton Keynes, MK8 1JS

Tel: 01908 875482

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RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION – BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Whitehouse Community Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on your Ward Boundary proposals for Milton Keynes.

There are two matters in the consultation that Whitehouse Community Council strongly objects to:

1. The proposal to split Whitehouse into two Milton Keynes City Council Wards, with a boundary down Barrosa Way .
2. The proposal to split Whitehouse PARISH into 2 parish wards (Whitehouse West and Whitehouse East)

1. Proposal to Place a Ward Boundary through Whitehouse

Whitehouse Community Council strongly and unequivocally objects to the Boundary Commission's proposals to split our community by placing a Ward Boundary along Barrosa Way, essentially dividing Whitehouse into two.

To split our emerging community in half, represented by different Ward Councillors, would undermine the significant efforts made by us (Whitehouse Community Council) and our existing Ward Councillors, over recent years to build a strong, unified, cohesive community. The justification that some residents in Whitehouse South/East use the Grange Farm area for schools and shops is weak. As Whitehouse continues to develop, these 'connections' will diminish, making the proposals even less relevant in the future. This reasoning is deeply flawed, unfair and fails to serve the best interests of our community.

The proposals fail to account for, or have any regard for the planned/committed growth of Whitehouse over the coming years. As development progresses, the size of the Ward will again, become disproportionate and will need to be redrawn. It would make sense to plan for this eventuality now. The proposed 'Whitehouse South' extension in the MK Plan 2050 would see further growth in Whitehouse, making it an even larger Ward. The planned size and population of Whitehouse alone, would eventually warrant Whitehouse becoming a Ward in its own right.



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This proposed re-shaping of the Wards will create areas that do not reflect the social and cultural connections that binds the Whitehouse area together.

The needs of emerging communities, like Whitehouse differ significantly from established areas such as Grange Farm and Crownhill. If Whitehouse is to be grouped with another area for population balance, then the new development of Fairfields, with its distinctive needs, would be a much more sensible choice than grouping the area with the surrounding, dis-similar, older areas.

We strongly urge the Boundary Commission to reconsider its proposals regarding the Ward Boundary through Whitehouse. We ask the Commission to take our concerns seriously and to re-evaluation its proposals to reflect the practicalities and interests of our community . Our community must not be split down the middle.”

2. Proposed Warding of the Existing Parish

Whitehouse Community Council most strongly opposes the proposed warding of the existing Whitehouse Parish. We believe that sub-dividing the existing parish would undermine our efforts to build a cohesive and unified community.

Unlike other parishes that have had discrete areas or estates that could be naturally subdivided, Whitehouse lacks such delineations. The needs of our community are consistent across the entire estate, and dividing it into two parishes would create unnecessary divisions.

As the directly affected body, Whitehouse Community Council stands firmly against the proposed warding and we urge you to recognize that the strength of our community is found in its shared values. Future progress and success of our developing community is dependent on maintaining that unity.

We see absolutely no benefit to this proposal and we firmly reject it