

Milton Keynes

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Organisation Name: Bradwell Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Bradwell Ward boundary

Submission from Bradwell Parish Council to the Milton Keynes Boundary Review

This submission is made on behalf of Bradwell Parish Council. The submission was approved at a Full Council meeting on 13 January 2025 (Resolution FC131/25).

The previous submission made by Bradwell Parish Council

Our previous submission stated that we believe that the most appropriate starting point for setting ward boundaries in Milton Keynes is the existing civil parish boundaries on the basis that these are recognised by local residents as reflective of community ties and many have a very long history.

We proposed that a new Bradwell and Abbey Hill ward be created that included the following polling districts:

- Bradwell (DA).
- Heelands (DB).
- Two Mile Ash (DC).
- Bradwell Common (GA).
- Bancroft (OD).
- Bancroft Park and Blue Bridge (RA).

Our primary objective in making this proposal was to unite Bradwell civil parish within a single ward. The parish is currently divided between two separate wards: Central Milton Keynes ward and Bradwell ward.

We also demonstrated how our proposal would support the wider goal of achieving a close match between communities of Milton Keynes – as

represented by civil parishes – while accommodating previous and planned future housing development. We submitted an indicative illustration of city-wide boundaries to provide evidence of this.

The draft recommendations

The draft recommendations published in December 2024 proposes to continue to split the Bradwell civil parish across two separate wards. It also involves substantially more division of the civil parishes in the area between different wards than our proposal:

Bradwell ward: This includes areas of four separate civil parishes: Bradwell (Heelands, Bradwell and Bradwell Abbey), Stantonbury (Bancroft, Bancroft Park, Blue Bridge), Abbey Hill (Two Mile Ash, Kiln Farm, Wymbush), and Loughton & Great Holm (Great Holm).

Central Milton Keynes ward: This includes areas of three separate civil parishes: Bradwell (Bradwell Common and Rooksley), Central Milton Keynes (Central Milton Keynes) and Campbell Park (Oldbrook).

The draft recommendations stated in Paragraph 74 with reference to the recommended Bradwell ward that: “Bradwell Parish Council proposed a ward similar to the one we are recommending as part of our draft recommendations, differing only in the Rooksley area being omitted and Great Holm being included in Bradwell ward. Bradwell Parish Council provided supporting evidence in terms of community identity for the Blue Bridge and Bancroft Park areas to be within the same ward, citing schooling links in particular”.

This inadvertently misrepresents our proposal:

- It does not acknowledge that the Bradwell Common area has also been omitted from Bradwell ward.
- It does not reference the importance in our proposals of minimising the division of civil parishes between different wards in the context of a recommendation that involves significantly more division.

We welcome the aspects of the proposals relating to Hodge Lea and Stacey Bushes being moved into Wolverton ward and of Bancroft, Bancroft Park and Blue Bridge being moved into Bradwell ward. These specific changes will significantly improve the extent to which the boundaries in these areas represent community links as we highlighted in our previous submission.

Suggested improvements to the draft recommendations

We make the following suggestions for improvements to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England’s draft recommendations for Milton Keynes to improve the extent to which the proposals reflect community ties and identities:

- Move Bradwell Common into Bradwell ward in order to unite the Bradwell civil parish within a single ward.
- Move Great Holm into Loughton ward to unite the Loughton & Great Holm civil parish within a single ward and to accommodate moving Bradwell Common into the Bradwell ward.
- Move Campbell Park into Central Milton Keynes ward to unite the Central Milton Keynes Town Council area within a single ward and to replace Bradwell Common in the ward.

Annex 1 presents indicative city-wide boundaries to illustrate the viability of our proposals for the city as a whole. This is a summary of the proposal in the Excel file attached with our previous submission.

Annex 2 compares the current wards to the LGBC’s draft recommendations and our indicative option in terms of the number of wards between which individual parishes are split. This shows that our indicative option involves less splitting of parishes than the LGBC draft recommendation.

Annex 3 compares the current wards to the draft recommendation and our indicative option in terms of the number of parishes within each ward. This shows that most (70%) wards in our indicative option have only one or two parishes within them compared to only half (50%) of wards in the

LGBC draft recommendation.

Attached Documents:

- february-2025---bradwell-parish-council-response-to-the-mk-boundary-review.pdf