

Electoral Review of Aylesbury Vale District

Submission by Aylesbury Vale District Council on the draft recommendations

The Council welcomes that the overall warding structure is based on the Council's original submission albeit as might be expected with some refinement in particular areas. The majority of the draft recommendations are therefore supported.

However there are a few instances as detailed below where the Council wishes to comment or ask the LGBCE to reconsider it's recommendations.

North Aylesbury

(a) Elmhurst and Oldhams Meadow

It is accepted that the Oldhams Meadow parish ward of Bierton is part of a continuous urban area connected to Elmhurst by Cleveland Park. However we do not consider that this is a convincing reason in itself to include the parish ward in the Elmhurst district ward as opposed to the Oakfield and Bierton ward as the Council originally proposed.

The Oldhams Meadow development is quite distinctive to that at Cleveland Park. Whilst there is a road link between them equally Oldhams Meadow connects directly to the Aylesbury Road A418 and on to Bierton village. The residents of Oldhams Meadow look to Bierton as a community where the facilities are as close, if not closer to hand, as those in Elmhurst which are mostly along Dunsham Lane.

The boundary as now proposed by the LGBCE breaks the local ties Oldhams Meadow has with Bierton village and the wider parish. It will also result in odd lines of accountability with two district councillors representing this small parish ward with three others representing the rest of Bierton parish which does not secure effective and convenient local government.

There will still be a very good electoral variance in both wards if Oldhams Meadow is included in the Oakfield and Bierton ward.

(b) Gatehouse and Buckingham park

We ask the LGBCE to reconsider the creation of a separate Holmans Bridge ward as outlined in our earlier submission. The primary reason given for it's inclusion in the proposed 3 member Gatehouse ward is that it would have 16% more electors than the District average by 2019. No thought seems to have been given to an adjustment to the boundary to correct the high electoral variance which was clearly a miscalculation on our part as the Holman's Bridge ward was only intended to have a variance of +4%.

The Council considers that a single member ward covering Buckingham Park parish (with 1,602 electors in 2019) and an adjoining area in Aylesbury town is a much better option than incorporating the parish in a larger three member Gatehouse ward. Buckingham Park has no community identity nor anything in common with much of Gatehouse ward which extends a considerable distance to the south down to the Oxford Road A418 and the railway line.

Attached is a map showing changes to the boundary of the proposed Holmans Bridge ward to address the electoral variance. The part of Aylesbury town included in the ward still comprises the Savernake Road development (which is just across the river from Buckingham Park and is relatively modern build), one side of Meadowcroft (between Savernake Road and Weedon Road), part of Weedon Road (between the Meadowcroft

junction on one side and the northern junction with Cromwell Avenue on the other and the Horse and Jockey). However the boundary to the south of Weedon Road has been changed to reduce the electorate and is now largely based on properties in Cromwell Avenue.

The revised Holmans Bridge single member ward would have 2,509 electors in 2019 with a nil electoral variance and the Gatehouse two member ward 4,976 electors in 2019 with an electoral variance of -1%.

South West Aylesbury

None.

South East Aylesbury

None.

Wendover and Aston Clinton

We appreciate the difficulty in devising a warding structure in this area and accept the draft recommendations for these wards which are in line with our option A.

Rural South

The proposed combined 3 member Haddenham and Stone ward is accepted so as to avoid splitting Dinton with Ford and Upton parish.

The proposed separate single member Long Crendon and Oakley wards are accepted.

Rural West

None

Rural East

The proposed combined 2 member Pitstone and Cheddington ward is accepted due to Pitstone and Ivinghoe being contiguous.

The Council asks the LGBCE to review the proposal to create a two member Newton Longville ward due to the Newton Leys development. Newton Leys currently has 25 electors and based on the developers house completions obtained in late February 2014 the total registered should increase to 150 by the end of 2014 with a further 140 electors in 2015. It is felt that with at least 150 electors being registered for the 2015 elections this is sufficient to make a viable parish ward. Whilst it is accepted that there are vagaries about which community residents in the new development will identify with as the LGBCE stated in the draft recommendations this could well be areas outside the District rather than either Newton Longville or Stoke Hammond. It is the Council's usual practice to create new parishes where development results in distinct separate communities and it is anticipated that a new parish will be created for Newton Leys before the subsequent elections in 2019.

If the Commission nevertheless retains a two member ward then the Council requests that this is named Great Brickhill and Newton Longville to reflect that these are the two largest villages. The County division which includes both these parishes and a much wider area is named Great Brickhill.

Buckingham and Rural North

The Council accepts the proposed boundary between the Buckingham North and Luffield Abbey wards so as to include an area of the town to the east rather than to the west of the A413 in the Luffield Abbey ward.

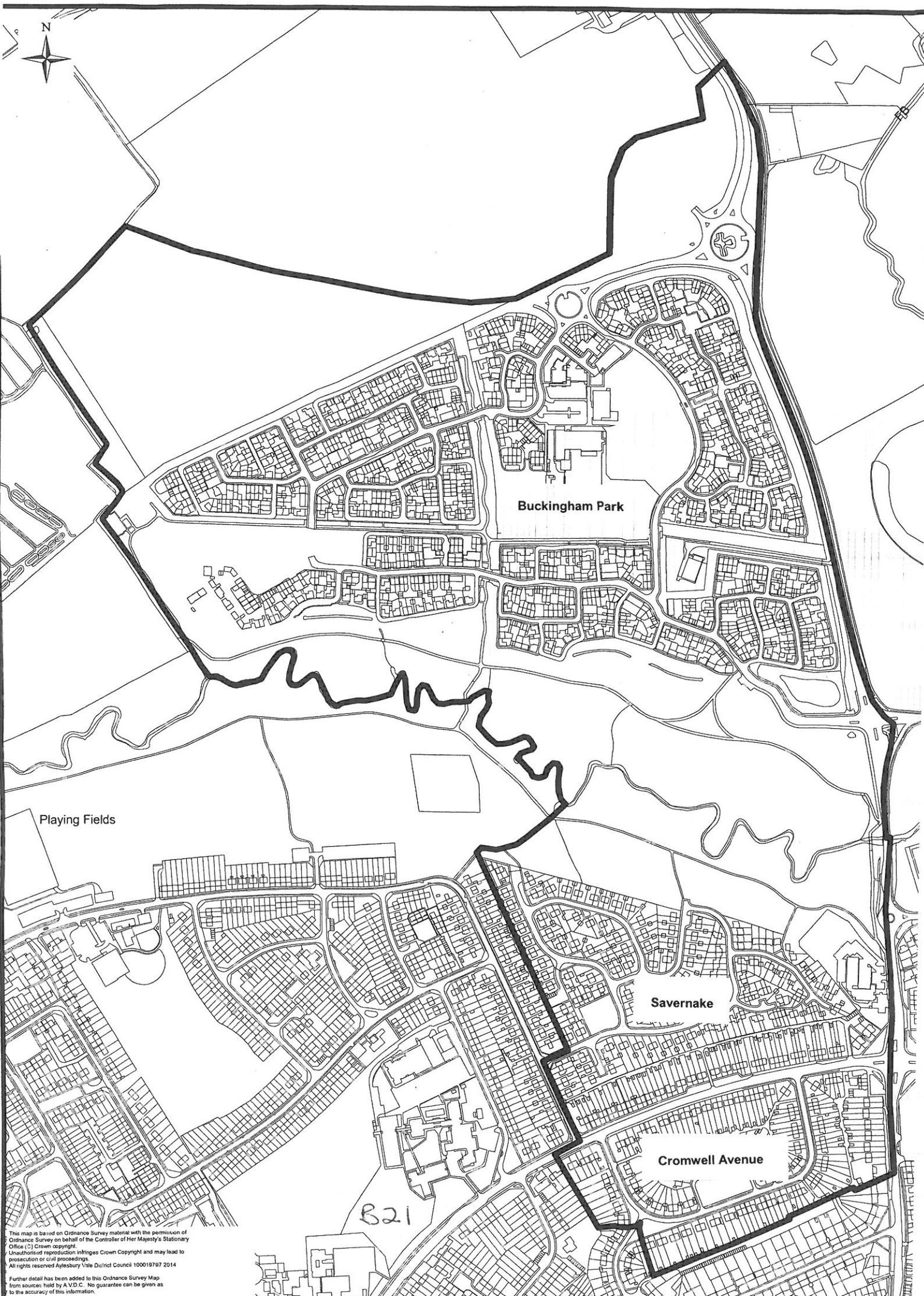
Aylesbury Town Council wards

It is suggested that the names of three wards are changed to better reflect the areas they cover:

Coppice Way - change to The Coppice being the name of this development.

Hawkslade – change to Walton Court South as much of the Hawkslade development is within the Hawkslade ward of Stoke Mandeville Parish.

Walton Court – change to Walton Court North.



Playing Fields

Buckingham Park

Savernake

Cromwell Avenue

B21

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