

AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor Mrs Carole Paternoster
Aston Clinton Ward



26th September 2013

Review Officer (Aylesbury Vale)
Local Govt Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76 - 96 Turnmill Street
LONDON EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir

Re Electoral Review of Aylesbury Vale

I refer to the current consultation on the electoral review of Aylesbury Vale. I am one of the Local Members for the Aston Clinton ward, representing the parishes of Aston Clinton, Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp, Weston Turville and Stoke Mandeville (village only). The neighbouring Aston Clinton and Wendover (Wendover and Halton parishes) wards are situated in the south of the Vale, constrained on three sides by the District and County boundaries, and on the fourth side by the urban edge of Aylesbury. Some equalisation of the numbers of electors in these two three-Member wards will be necessary.

There are two possible options for the redistributions of electors in this area:

Option 1:

Halton Parish moves from its current Wendover ward to the Aston Clinton ward, and Stoke Mandeville Village moves from its current Aston Clinton ward to join the Wendover ward. This will give new wards as follows:

Aston Clinton ward: Aston Clinton, Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp, Halton and Weston Turville ($2991 + 619 + 132 + 643 + 2,773 = 7,158$, giving an electoral variance of -5%, using AVDC projected electorate data).

Wendover ward: Wendover and Stoke Mandeville village ($6,009 + 1,604 = 7,613$, giving an electoral variance of +1%).

Option 2:

Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp, and Chivery (part of Aston Clinton Parish) move from the Aston Clinton ward to the Wendover ward; the remainder of Aston Clinton parish stays with the Aston Clinton ward.

This gives new wards as follows:

Aston Clinton ward: Aston Clinton (except Chivery), Weston Turville and Stoke Mandeville village ($2,932 + 2,773 + 1,604 = 7,309$, giving an electoral variance of -3%).

Wendover ward: Wendover, Halton, Chivery (from Aston Clinton parish), Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp ($6,009 + 643 + 59 + 619 + 132 = 7,462$, giving an electoral variance of -1%).



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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I support Option 1 because this is the simplest option, and does not involve warding any of the parishes. The changes will be that Halton moves from the current Wendover ward to the Aston Clinton ward, and Stoke Mandeville village moves from the current Aston Clinton ward to join the Wendover ward. The parishes which I currently represent all support this move, including Stoke Mandeville village. However, Halton does not wish to leave the Wendover ward, to which it claims community links. In reality Halton parish has as many links with Aston Clinton as it does with Wendover, one example being the following. Until the last two years, due to lack of personnel, RAF Halton has always held a big Remembrance Sunday parade through Aston Clinton, including airmen from the USAAF, since there is a USAAF memorial in Aston Clinton church.

I reject Option 2 for the following reasons. This option would require the warding of Aston Clinton parish, by taking the area of Chivery, in the Chilterns, away from the Aston Clinton ward, in order to form a geographical link between Halton and Buckland. On the current electoral roll there are only 59 electors for Chivery. If the parish of Aston Clinton is warded in this way, this will give one Aston Clinton parish ward of only 59 electors whereas the current average number of electors per Parish Councillor is 270. Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp form part of a united benefice with Aston Clinton and rely on Aston Clinton for community facilities.

Other options which have been proposed have included the warding of Stoke Mandeville village along its main route, Station Road, with part of the village joining the Wendover ward with Wendover and Halton, and the other half of the village remaining with the current Aston Clinton ward. This would mean that Stoke Mandeville Parish as a whole would be represented by 11 District Councillors, which is unacceptable.

I would be grateful if you would please bear these comments in mind when deciding the new wards for the Wendover – Aston Clinton area of Aylesbury Vale.

Yours sincerely,

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Carole Paternoster