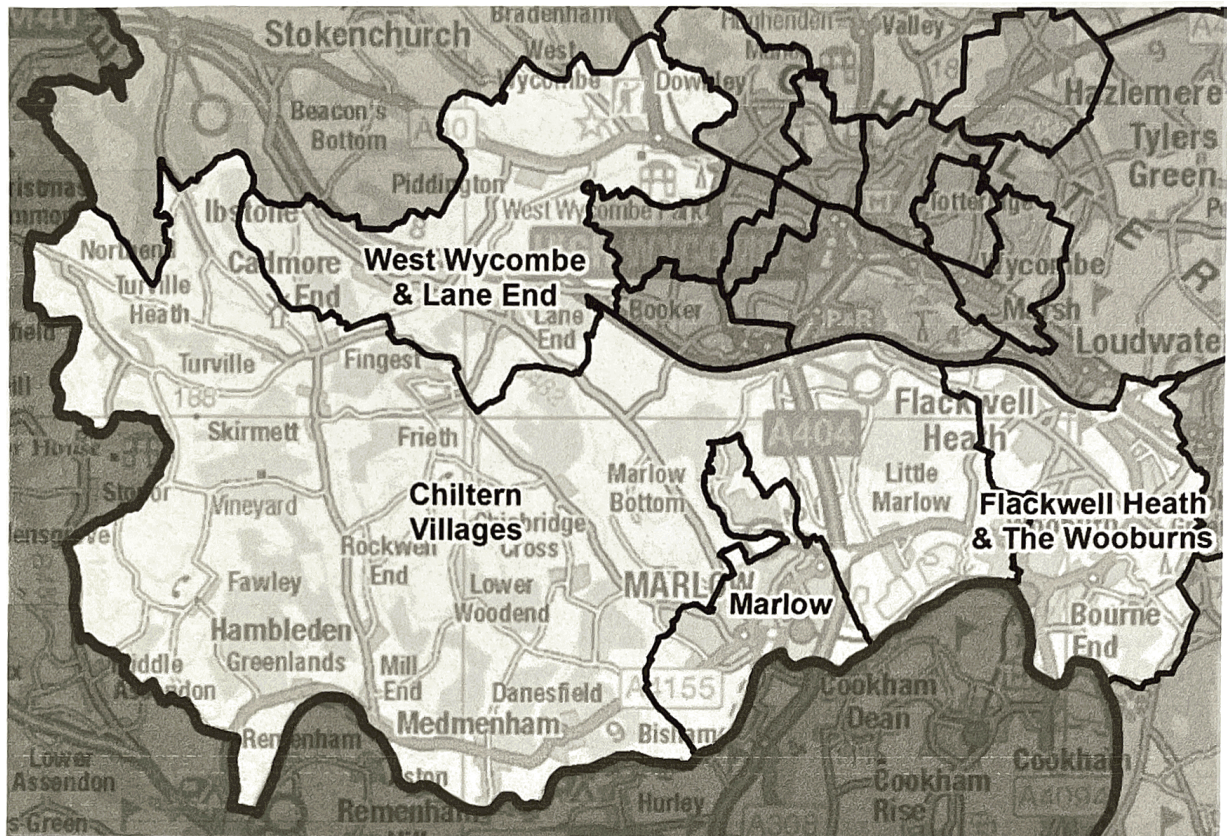


Marlow



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2028 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Chiltern Villages | 1 | 7% |
| Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns | 3 | 3% |
| Marlow | 3 | 3% |
| West Wycombe & Lane End | 1 | -2% |

Chiltern Villages, Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns and West Wycombe & Lane End
 138 We received over 80 submissions in relation to our proposed two-councillor Chiltern Villages ward. Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council, West Wycombe Parish Council, Councillor D. Hayday, Councillor O. Hayday and over 30 local residents opposed the abolition of the current West Wycombe ward and the creation of a new Chiltern Villages ward. It was argued that this ward is composed of disparate communities with little in common. It was proposed by several of these respondents that this ward be divided into two, with West Wycombe, Piddington & Wheeler End and Lane End parishes forming a single-councillor ward, and the remaining parishes forming a single-councillor Chiltern Villages ward. Lane End Parish Council opposed such an arrangement and supported our two-councillor Chiltern Villages ward, along the Wycombe Conservatives, Steve Baker MP and Great Marlow Parish Council.

139 We have carefully considered the evidence received and have concluded that community identities will be best reflected by dividing this ward into two. We are therefore recommending a single-councillor Chiltern Villages ward and a single-councillor West Wycombe & Lane End ward as part of our final recommendations. Councillor D. Hayday and Councillor O. Hayday had suggested the latter ward be named 'West of Wycombe Villages' but we consider the name West Wycombe & Lane End to be more descriptive of the main communities that will comprise this ward.

140 We also received 43 submissions which opposed our division of Little Marlow parish between wards, with one local resident in support. As part of our draft recommendations, we had placed Little Marlow village in our Chiltern Villages ward and the Well End part of the parish in Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns ward. This was based on evidence received during the last consultation which suggested the close links between the Well End community and the communities in Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns ward. However, it was argued that dividing the parish in this manner would not contribute to effective and convenient local government for Little Marlow parish and would be harmful to community identities and interests.

141 Wooburn & Bourne End Parish Council, Little Marlow Parish Council, The Marlow Society, Little Marlow Residents' Association, Councillor Johncock, Councillor Kershaw, Councillors Drayton, Kayani and Wilson and 21 local residents expressed a preference for the entirety of Little Marlow parish being placed in our Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns ward. It was argued that the parish shares closer links with communities in this ward than with the parishes in our Chiltern Villages ward. However, including the entirety of the parish in our Flackwell Heath and The Wooburns ward would result in an anticipated electoral variance of -20% for Chiltern Villages ward and 12% for Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns ward. We consider these electoral variances too high if we are to ensure that local electors have a vote of broadly equal weight. We therefore consider it appropriate to adopt the proposal made by the Council and a local resident which places the entirety of the parish in a Chiltern Villages ward. While this means we are not placing the parish in the ward that many respondents expressed a preference for, we are ensuring that the entirety of the parish is in a single ward which is preferable to our draft recommendations.

142 A local resident suggested a Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow & Well End ward and a Wooburns, Bourne End & Hedsor ward. They suggested that if this did not achieve good electoral equality, the whole of Little Marlow parish should become part of the Wooburns, Bourne End & Hedsor ward. However, neither of these configurations ensured good electoral equality, so we are not adopting them as part of our final recommendations.

143 We also received suggestions for renaming Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns ward. Councillor Johncock suggested that Bourne End be included in the ward