

Annex B

Ampney Crucis Parish Council

Map A

Draft recommendations

Draft recommendations were drawn up to move the current parish boundary between Ampney Crucis and Driffield to “tidy up” an anomaly where the boundary line cuts through a property and its land.

In addition, Ampney Crucis Parish Council made further proposals to change the boundary between itself, Driffield and Ampney St Peter to further tidy up the boundary.

Consultation

Information about the proposals was issued to all the affected parties, the parish councils/meeting and the District and County Councillor. Details of the responses are given below.

Responses

There was no real consensus in the responses received and, in addition, Ampney St Mary has put forward a number of counter proposals which need to be considered before a final recommendation is made.

Ampney St Mary has also asked for three other anomalies to be considered and these will need further consultation and consideration.

Recommendations

In light of the lack of consensus and additional proposals from Ampney St Mary, it is recommended that a further consultation is carried out with the parish councils/meeting and local residents to understand their views more fully.

Final considerations will be brought to Council in July.

Cirencester Town Council

Map B

Draft recommendations

Following a request from Cirencester Town Council, the Community Governance Review looked at the boundary between Cirencester and Baunton which runs along Baunton Lane. The proposal being to move the properties currently in Baunton Parish into the Cirencester Town Council area.

Consultation

Information about the proposal was sent to all the affected properties and to Baunton Parish Council. Responses are included in full below.

Twelve responses were received, of which the majority are against the proposal. Reasons given for keeping the status quo include the feeling of community cohesion with Baunton Parish and being part of the rural area of Baunton. Many respondents felt that making this change would reduce the effectiveness of Baunton Parish Council.

As part of the consultation, Baunton Parish Council undertook a survey of all 31 properties and received 19 responses all of which were in favour of remaining in Baunton.

Considerations

The purpose of the Community Governance Review is to enable strong, clearly defined boundaries, which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.

The boundary change was considered by the District Council in 2014 but was not changed at that time. The reasons given for keeping the status quo were that the residents in the affected properties had a community affinity with Baunton. Overall, this feeling has not changed since 2014.

The CGR must also consider the effective governance of the area and the proposal will reduce the number of properties in Baunton by 31 which equates to 25% of its properties. It can be argued that this will reduce the effectiveness of the Parish Council and will increase the Council Tax burden on the remaining residents.

However, it can also be said that the properties in Baunton Lane are within the urbanised Cirencester Town boundary and therefore sit more logically within Cirencester.

Recommendations

Council to consider the decision and make a decision on the proposal.

Coberley Parish Council - Map C

Draft recommendations

Coberley Parish Council submitted a proposal to move the property known as Needlehole from Withington into Coberley.

This request was originally made a few years ago, and this is the first opportunity to include it for consideration.

Details of the proposal were sent to the householders and to Withington Parish Council. The householder wishes to be part of Coberley Parish.

Withington Parish Council's did not express a view either way and appear to be content with the proposal.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the boundary between Coberley Parish and Withington Parish be amended to bring the property known as Needlehole into the parish of Coberley. Details of the recommendation will be submitted to the Boundary Commission for England for their consideration in amending the Ward boundary between Ermin and Sandywell.

Cowley Parish Council - Map D

Draft recommendations

Following a request from Cowley Parish Council, draft recommendations were drawn up to split the parish into two, to create Birdlip Parish Council and Cowley Parish Meeting.

The Parish of Cowley is a large parish area with two distinct communities; Birdlip and Cowley which are divided by the A417 main road. The Parish feels that there is an increasing disconnect between Birdlip and Cowley driven by the differences in issues for each area. Whilst Cowley is a small hamlet, with limited development, Birdlip has seen a number of planning applications and development over the past few years and this, coupled with the traffic issues means that Birdlip has become the dominant area within the parish.

The Councillors representing Cowley now feel that their community is completely different to Birdlip, with different issues and concerns.

The Parish is currently divided into two Polling Districts for electoral purposes. This enables the two distinct communities to have a polling station - one at Deer Park, Cowley and one at St Mary's Church, Birdlip. The recommendation is that the current polling district boundary is used as the new parish council boundary.

A further recommendation to alter the boundary between Cowley and Brimpsfield was submitted to bring a number of properties from Brimpsfield into the Cowley parish around Birdlip village.

Consultation

Information was sent to all the properties in Cowley Parish and those properties affected by the proposed change with Brimpsfield.

Two drop-in sessions were held in the parish - one in Birdlip and one in Cowley giving residents the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback. Both drop-in sessions were well attended. Both drop-in sessions were well attended by residents of both villages and also by their District Councillor and the CEO of Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils.

Responses

Both communities agree that the parish council should split into two, however there was discussion about the status of Cowley.

The Community Governance Guidance states that a area with fewer than 150 electors should not have a Parish council and therefore, the draft recommendation was that Cowley would be a Parish Meeting. However, advice from Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils states that, where a community is already part of a Parish Council which is being divided, the area may retain its Parish Council status. Cowley residents have indicated that they wish to retain a Parish Council.

Both Brimpsfield and Cowley Parish Councils considered the responses of residents affected by the boundary change around Birdlip village. There was no consensus from the properties in the Blacklains area and objections from residents in Leveretts and Sidelands who feel very much part of the Brimpsfield community. A revised boundary was suggested and agreed by both Parish Councils. This would bring the properties around Parsons Pitch/Hawcote Hill into the current Cowley Parish area.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. the parish of Cowley be split to create two new councils; Birdlip Parish Council and Cowley Parish Council.;
2. the boundary between the new Birdlip Parish Council and Brimpsfield Parish be altered to include the properties at Parsons Pitch/Hawcote Hill into the new Birdlip Parish Council area;
3. Birdlip Parish Council have 7 councillors and Cowley Parish Council have 5 councillors;
4. Legal Services put the necessary procedures in place to effect this change with elections to the two new councils taking place alongside the ordinary elections on 4 May 2023.

Northleach-with-Eastington - Map E

Draft recommendations

Northleach-with-Eastington Town Council asked that consideration be given to moving the boundary between itself and Farmington Parish Meeting.

The proposal does not affect any properties.

Consultation

Northleach-with-Eastington Town and Farmington Parish Meeting were asked for their views, along with the Ward Members and County Councillors.

Responses

The two Parishes responded with differing views. Farmington Parish Meeting objects to the proposal as they feel it is not necessary and Northleach Town have not given any objective reasons for the change. It is noted that the Parish is happy to work with Northleach-with-Eastington Town Council to improve road safety and litter issues at the site.

Northleach-with-Eastington Town Council's proposal would bring the whole length of the Old London Road into its area. The Town Council states that there has been difficulty in dealing with issues such as road safety and litter partly because of the number of authorities involved in the process. The Town Council also states that the current boundary is historical and does not align with any features on the ground. The proposal is to follow the line of the road instead. The Town Council believe that this change would improve community governance and minimise administrative work when addressing issues in the area.

Considerations

The purpose of the Community Governance Review is to enable strong, clearly defined boundaries to be put into place, which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.

Most parish boundaries within the Cotswold District have anomalies and areas where an historical boundary could be seen as "incorrect". However, in most cases, these anomalies do not affect the effective governance of the Councils.

This case is interesting in that there are no properties affected and therefore Council needs to consider the Parish Council/Meeting views only. Local ward and county councillors have not indicated a preference.

On balance, Council needs to consider whether making this change or leaving it as it is will ensure the most effective governance and management of the area.

Recommendation

As there is no clear consensus for this change and no properties are affected it is recommended that no changes are made and the boundary remains as it is.

Westonbirt-with-Lasborough - Map F

Draft recommendations

It was recommended that a number of properties currently in Shipton Moyne and Tetbury Upton were moved into Westonbirt-with-Lasborough. The proposal was requested by Westonbirt-with-Lasborough Parish Council as they felt that these properties were more aligned to Westonbirt-with-Lasborough.

Consultation

All three parish councils along with the properties affected by the proposal were contacted and asked for their views on the proposals. The Ward Members and County Councillors were also consulted.

Shipton Moyne Parish Council held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the issues.

Responses

The majority of the responses from Shipton Moyne were against the change as many residents feel an affinity to the community of Shipton Moyne.

Tetbury Upton Parish Council objected and there were arguments on both sides from residents in the parish.

A number of respondents felt that this proposal was unnecessary, particularly in the current climate of financial restraint. It was also felt that

Considerations

The purpose of the Community Governance Review is to enable strong, clearly defined boundaries to be put into place, which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.

The responses received demonstrate that there is a strong community cohesion within Shipton Moyne.

All three parishes are relatively large geographically with dispersed, small settlements and single dwellings.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the boundary remains the same and the proposal is rejected.