

CGR 5

Parishes Affected

Wootton, Cumnor, Besselsleigh

Matter to be considered

Placing the whole of Henwood in a single parish, rather than splitting it between three parishes as currently

Impact on district and county council boundaries

Affects Thames, Wootton and Cumnor district wards

Affects Kingston and Cumnor and Kennington and Radley county divisions

Summary of parish council responses

Cumnor parish council objects to any proposal to move Henwood into Wootton parish. It has submitted a lengthy response that, in summary, says that this change does not have local support and that it is not consistent with ecclesiastical boundaries.

Wootton parish council has responded as follows, "Wootton Parish Council is content for this proposal to go ahead and, subject to the views of Henwood residents during the consultation period, prepared to bring Henwood into its parish."

Summary of other responses

A number of residents of Henwood have signed a petition opposing any change to the boundary between Cumnor and Wootton parishes

Recommendation

To move Henwood into Wootton parish, as shown on the attached map.

Justification

Henwood is a hamlet approximately half a mile north of Wootton village centre. It is a continuation of the ribbon development that runs along Cumnor Road at the northern end of Wootton parish. There is a footpath link from Wootton village centre to the northern edge of Henwood, where it stops. By comparison Cumnor village lies about three-quarters of a mile further away and there is no footpath link. The current boundary is very messy with some properties in Cumnor parish but their back gardens in Besselsleigh parish and

some in Besselsleigh parish but with their front gardens in Cumnor parish. Properties in Wootton parish abut Henwood immediately to the south. All of this means that some people find themselves in a different parish from their neighbours.

The working party considers that the case for placing the Henwood into a single parish is a strong one. It proposes this is Wootton, as Henwood forms the end of the pretty much continuous development that stretches north from the village centre and there is a very good pedestrian link connecting Henwood with Wootton. The working party considers that the identities and interests, and effective and convenient representation, of local people are best served by placing Henwood into Wootton parish. It recognises, however, that there are strongly held views that Henwood should be in Cumnor parish and these can be given due consideration through the consultation period.

The working party also considers that if council agrees this change that it also makes sense to transfer two parcels of land to the north and west of Henwood, one from Besselsleigh parish to Cumnor and one the other way, to make a more logical boundary between the two parishes. This change does not directly affect any properties.