

CGR 22

Parishes Affected

St Helen Without and Wootton

Matter to be considered

Amending the boundary between St Helen Without and Wootton parishes in the Dry Sandford area

Impact on district and county council boundaries

Affects Sutton Courtenay and Marcham and Kennington and Radley county divisions

Summary of parish council responses

Both St Helen Without and Wootton parish councils have written opposing this change. St Helen Without parish council says in summary that it, “considers that the proposal would impact adversely on the identity and cohesion of the community in Dry Sandford and would lead to weaker governance without bringing any benefits to the residents of either parish.” It provides detailed comments on the history of the settlement and that it is a single cohesive community that would be split in two by this proposal.

Wootton parish council has replied more succinctly that it, “is strongly of the view that the present boundary should be maintained. The proposed change would seriously undermine the identity, cohesion and governance of the village of Dry Sandford and would bring no benefits to the residents. Wootton PC has met with St Helen Without PC and is aware of and endorses its position on the boundary change.”

Summary of other responses

None

Recommendation

To move the northern part of Dry Sandford from St Helen Without parish into Wootton parish as shown on the attached map

Justification

The settlements of Dry Sandford and Wootton have coalesced over many years such that there is no obvious boundary between the two. Some properties at the northern end of Dry Sandford are within a matter of a few

hundred metres of the shops in Wootton village. The local community centre is called Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre, yet the two settlements sit in different parishes. Dry Sandford forms part of the large St Helen Without parish that also includes Shippon and the eastern half of Cothill, whilst Wootton village forms the main part of Wootton parish.

The working group carefully considered its options, noting that the Local Government Boundary Commission had brought these two settlements together (plus additional areas of St Helen Without parish) into a single district council ward.

It concluded that it is possible to distinguish between the more modern part of Dry Sandford, which abuts Wootton, and the original village to the south, which has more affinity with Cothill and Shippon. It therefore proposes moving the northern part of Dry Sandford into Wootton parish. The working group considers that this will aid effective and convenient representation of people at parish level, will better reflect local identities and interests and avoid people being in a different parish to their neighbours.