

CGR 24

Parishes Affected

Wantage, Grove and Lockinge

Matter to be considered

Amending the boundary of Wantage parish to include land at Stockham Farm, currently in Grove parish; and at Crab Hill, currently in both Grove and Lockinge parishes

Council's draft proposal

Working Group's final proposal

To extend the boundary of Wantage parish at Stockham Farm (to include land currently in Grove parish) and Crab Hill (to include land currently in both Grove and Lockinge parishes)

Summary of responses to the formal consultation

Wantage town council has written as follows:

“The Town Council notes the draft proposals for parish boundary changes. The Town Council supports the proposals with the exception of the change to the north of the canal by Stockham Farm. The Town Council requests that the boundary should follow the line that coincides with the Neighbourhood Plan Designated Area that was approved by the District Council in December 2013. The future residents of the development between the canal and Downsview Road will undoubtedly feel they are part of the Wantage community, rather than Grove (or East Challow). Downsview Road provides a more appropriate physical boundary to distinguish between the parishes.”

In a later email Wantage town council adds that the line of the Wilts and Berks canal may change.

County councillor Zoe Patrick supports the proposed revision stating, “I agree that the natural boundary of the old Wilts and Berks Canal line seems to be the sensible way of dividing Wantage from Grove as separate communities”.

Summary of responses received prior to the formal consultation

Grove parish council supported the proposal put forward by the council for consultation. Ardington with Lockinge parish council supports the proposal at

Crab Hill but, “would wish to retain the financial interest in development funds for infrastructure”, that it would have without the boundary changing.

Justification for the final proposal

The text below is an updated version of what the working group put forward to justify its draft proposal. It is content that its original recommendation should stand.

In both cases these are development sites. Crab Hill is a major site to the east of Wantage that currently straddles three parish boundaries. Placing the whole development in Wantage parish will avoid this happening and ensure no electors are in a different parish from their neighbours. It will also lead to effective and convenient representation of local residents at parish level, particularly as it will also reflect the boundary between the new Wantage Charlton and Wantage and Grove Brook district wards. Placing the development wholly in Wantage parish is likely to best reflect the identities and interests of future residents.

The land at Stockham Farm currently sits wholly in Grove parish. It is bisected diagonally by the line of the old Berks and Wiltshire Canal. Planning permission exists for housing to the south-east of the canal and development has recently commenced. Access to this development is from Denchworth Road and will look towards Wantage. The working group considers that the identities and interests of the new residents is best served by moving this land into Wantage parish.

The planning committee has recently resolved to grant planning permission for housing on the land north-west of the canal. Access to this development will be from Downsview Road, the access road to Grove Technology Park. It would sit opposite the southern edge of the Grove airfield development. The working group considers that the identities and interests of the new residents would be best served by this land remaining in Grove parish. Although the Stockham Farm development is likely to be carried out by a single developer, the old canal line provides a good man-made boundary and for the purposes of this review the development is best treated as two separate entities.