

Town Clerk/Treasurer
W.P. Falkenau



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Wantage Town Council

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4 October 2017

Steven Corrigan
Democratic Services Manager
Vale of White Horse District Council
Legal and Democratic Services
135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton OX14 4SB

Dear Mr Corrigan

Community Governance Review – CGR_C(24) – Stockham Farm

Thank you for your letter of 4 September 2017. The Town Council fully supports the draft proposal to amend the boundary of Wantage parish to include all the land at Stockham Farm, currently in Grove parish. It agrees that Downsview Road provides a suitable defined physical northern boundary that helps to clearly distinguish the community of Wantage from that of Grove. It naturally extends to the west the existing parish boundary along Mably Way. The open grassed areas to be introduced on the northern side of Downsview Road, as detailed in the approved outline plans for the Grove Airfield development, should provide a distinctive gap between the Wantage and Grove built areas.

It is recognised that for District Council election purposes the Stockham Farm area forms part of the Grove North ward. The developments on Stockham Farm had not proceeded when the boundaries were last reviewed. The Wantage and Grove Brook ward already straddles the two parishes, and it may be that the Stockham Farm development should be moved into this ward. The ward boundaries in Wantage and Grove are likely to require review in due course as the various housing developments within the parishes proceed.

For County Council elections Wantage and Grove are already combined together as a whole for election purposes. The proposed parish boundary change would not affect this. The proposed boundary coincides with the designated area for the Wantage Neighbourhood Plan.

It is for the residents of the Stockham Farm development to advise which parish they feel more connected with, but from observation it is apparent that the new dwellings at Stockham Farm have been and are being marketed by developers as being in Wantage. The dwellings in Stockham Farm abut the built up area of Wantage. The nearest other dwellings in Grove to Stockham Farm are the Grovelands Park and Elm Farm developments which are almost three quarters of a mile away by road. They are closer to Wantage town centre than they are to the Grove village centre. There are currently no adequate pedestrian or cycle routes through to the Grove village centre. There are already clear pedestrian routes connecting to footpaths that lead to Wantage town centre.

I trust the above comments will be given regard by the committee in making its final decision.

Yours sincerely



Bill Falkenau
Clerk