

## **CGR D (24)**

### **Parishes Affected**

Wantage, Grove and Lockinge

### **Proposal**

To amend the boundary of Wantage parish to include land at Crab Hill, currently in both Grove and Lockinge parishes

### **Proposal agreed by the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee on 14 August 2017 for consultation**

Wantage Town Council submitted this proposal. A letter setting out support for the recommendation is **attached**.

Grove Parish Council is supportive of the proposal but request that the current member for Crab Hill is re-allocated to either Grove North or Grove Brook parish ward.

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.

### **Summary of other responses**

No further responses were received at this stage of the process. A summary of the responses received to the earlier consultation were submitted to the committee at its meeting in August and showed a clear majority in support of the inclusion of the Crab Hill development that is currently in both Grove and Lockinge parishes in Wantage. Of the objections a number referred to the urbanisation of the countryside which, whilst a relevant issue at the time of the consideration of the planning application, is not relevant to the review of parish boundaries.

### **Recommendation**

1. To extend the boundary of Wantage parish at Crab Hill (to include land currently in both Grove and Lockinge parishes), as shown on the attached map.
2. To include these areas of land in the Wantage Charlton ward of Wantage Town Council.
3. To remove the Crab Hill ward of Grove Parish Council.

4. That Grove Parish Council should return 16 councillors, as at present, representing Grove Brook (five councillors) and Grove North (11 councillors).

### **Justification**

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 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.

Retaining 16 councillors for Grove Parish Council reflects the position prior to the creation of the Crab Hill parish ward in 2015.