

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

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Dear Steven

16th October 2017

Community Governance Review – CGR_B(21) – Radley, Kennington, Sunningwell, South Hinksey and Cumnor

I refer to your letter of 6th September 2017 regarding the proposed boundary review together with a copy of a submission by South Hinksey Parish Council (SHPC) seeking the transfer of a piece of woodland to themselves and in support of which they write:

The Westwood Hotel functions as the only meeting place for the Hinksey Hill community but walking to it is not currently either particularly safe or pleasant.

Our Council has been interested for some time in improving the paths along Oxford Road and the south side of Foxcombe Road but has been unable to achieve much, given that the area is outside our current boundary and the issue is understandably of no great significance to the residents of Kennington – nor would it be likely to be to the residents of Sunningwell: the hotel is far from either of these two villages.

We have made initial approaches to both Kennington and Sunningwell parish councils and we believe both councils are prepared to consider the suggestion we are making.

In response to this, we would point out that the Westwood Hotel is equally far from the villages of South Hinksey and Kennington! Further, it can also be stated to be the “only meeting place” for at least an equal number of residents living in the north eastern part of Sunningwell parish as live in the southern part of South Hinksey. In any event, the proposed transfer of the hotel from Kennington to Sunningwell will in no way prevent anyone from South Hinksey, or anywhere else, from visiting the hotel.

As a result of the submission from SHPC, however, two of our Sunningwell councillors, who live nearby along Foxcombe Road, walked the paths referred to in the submission to see for themselves. They report that they find no great problem with the footpaths save that they would benefit from some tidying up of grass and weeds which have been allowed to encroach onto the paths. In the event that clearance of the vegetation reveals the need for repair work SPC would be in a position to address this. The main problem with the paths, as alluded to by SHPC, is that they do run along two quite busy roads and there is nothing that can change this. The path on the east side of the old Oxford Road is also perfectly serviceable but is of course to remain in Kennington Parish.

As you may know, SPC is due to receive a sizeable sum of s106 money as a result of the large Abingdon North housing project and some of this has already been earmarked by us for the improvement of pedestrian and cycle paths in our parish.

In view of all the above, we refute the points made by SHPC and request that the proposals put forward to adopt the old Oxford Road as a clear eastern boundary for Sunningwell Parish be implemented as per the map as attached to your letter of 6th September.

We also take the opportunity to attach copies of two letters which we have delivered to residents affected by the proposed boundary changes at Chilswell Cottages and along the north side of Hinksey Hill Top / Foxcombe Road extension. These should be self-explanatory. The actual community boundary is defined in part by reference to the very long standing and active Boars Hill Association (BHA) and the Westwood Hotel is seeking to place adverts in the quarterly BHA Newsletter.

In closing, we would just mention that we have received representations of support for the suggested boundary changes from affected residents both of Chilswell Cottages and the north side of Hinksey Hill Top where it forms an extension of Foxcombe Road.

We look forward to a favourable decision on these matters by the VoWH in due course.

Yours sincerely

Colin Weyer
For and on behalf of Sunningwell Parish Council