



ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

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5th July 2018

Mr Steven Corrigan
Democratic Services Manager
Vale of White Horse District Council

Letter sent by e-mail

Dear Mr Corrigan

Community Governance Review – Abingdon-on-Thames, Radley, St Helen Without and Sunningwell parishes

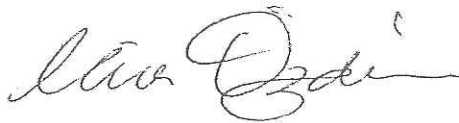
Thank you for your letter dated 4th June 2018 relating to the above. In your letter you outlined the process for the Community Governance Review which has been launched in relation to parish boundaries following the grant of planning permission for development on the land at Lodge Hill. The Review is also in response to this Council's request of February 2017 to move land in accordance with the resolution of the District Council at its meeting in July 2014 "that a significant development proposal that sits adjacent to or straddles a parish boundary should automatically trigger a community governance review, such a review to take place on the inclusion of a site in a document that forms part of the approved local plan or when planning permission has been granted for the development of the site."

Your letter and the terms of reference of the review were considered by the Town Council at its meeting of 27th June 2018. The Town Council supports the transfer of the land from the parishes of Radley, St Helen Without and Sunningwell to Abingdon-on-Thames as detailed in your letter of 4th June 2018. These new developments would naturally form part of Abingdon as they are adjacent to existing housing developments in the town. The Council believes that the residents of these new housing developments will look south towards Abingdon for their services and infrastructure. There is also a logic to the A34 forming the boundary between Abingdon and St Helen Without and Sunningwell. However the Town Council proposes one amendment to the proposals and that is to transfer the land shaded red on the attached map from Radley to Abingdon-on-Thames. This land is not part of the new housing development but we believe that it would be logical to include this land at Lodge Hill, bounded to the north by the A34 and to the east by the Oxford Road within the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames.

Within the terms of reference you state that further consultation will commence in July 2018. I would be grateful if you could indicate as soon as you are able the scope of this further consultation, in particular if the parish boundaries are amended, in accordance with the proposals, we would assume that proposals would then need to come forward in relation to

warding arrangements and possibly the number of parish councillors. It is also noted that within the timetable shown in the terms of reference it is not indicated when any new parish boundaries would take effect. It is my understanding that any parish boundary changes would take effect from the next local elections, ie 2nd May 2019 but I would be grateful if you could confirm in this regard.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Warner', written in a cursive style.

PP

Nigel Warner
Town Clerk

Enc