

CGR A (13)

Parishes Affected

Grove, East Challow

Matter to be considered

Amending the boundary of Grove parish to include Grove Technology Park, currently in East Challow parish (subject to LGBC consent).

Properties moving from one parish to another

No.

Impact on district and county council boundaries

Affects Grove North and Ridgeway district wards

Affects Grove and Wantage and Shrivenham county divisions

Summary of parish council responses

East Challow parish council objects to the proposal. The reasons are set out in the consultation summary document.

Summary of other responses

These are set out in the consultation summary document. 22 respondents agreed with the proposal whilst seven disagreed.

Recommendation

The committee is invited to consider:

- whether to include Grove Technology Park within Grove parish, as shown on the attached map
- whether not to include Grove Technology Park within Grove parish, as shown on the attached map

Justification/arguments for each proposal

To include Grove Technology Park within Grove parish

At its meeting in July 2014 Council considered a recommendation from the Community Governance Working Group to include Grove Technology Park within Grove parish with the following justifications which remain relevant:

Once the Grove Airfield development is complete, Grove Technology Park will form the western edge of a continuous built up area covering the whole of Grove village. The technology park is accessed along Downsview Road, the start of which is in Grove parish. Someone unaware of parish boundaries would probably think that the technology park already lies in Grove parish.

The technology park sits on the eastern boundary of East Challow parish. As the crow flies it is three-quarters of a mile from the centre of the village. By road it is nearly two and a half miles away and can only be accessed via Wantage and Grove parishes. Whilst Downsview Road represents a good man-made boundary the perimeter fence of the technology park is equally effective.

The working group considers that the identities and interests of Grove are best served by placing the technology park within the parish. The western edge of the park is a good man-made boundary that will clearly define the edge of the built up area of Grove once the Grove Airfield development takes place.

Not to include Grove Technology Park within Grove parish

At its meeting in July 2014 Council agreed with the views of East Challow Parish Council, set out below, but requested a further review.

“in accordance with the assessment criterion that boundaries be aligned with defining natural or structural features, alignment of the parish boundary with Downsview Road should be retained. Further, that it would be logical to straighten the parish boundary to align with the section of Downsview Road from the northeastern corner of the Crown Packaging site east to the Denchworth Road/Mably Way roundabout, thus incorporating Stockham Farm (‘Letcombe Fields’) within this parish.”

The proposal to include the technology park within Grove parish does not impact on any properties and therefore does not impact community identity. Downsview Road provides a good man-made boundary. A boundary fence, whilst effective in its current position, is not a permanent structure. The technology park is currently accessed from Grove or Wantage – is this a justifiable reason to alter the boundary? Likewise is the name of the technology park relevant to its location?