

Submission from South Hinksey Parish Council

I write as parish clerk of South Hinksey.

South Hinksey Parish Council considered this proposal at its January 2017 meeting and agreed to propose to the other two parishes and to the district council that a small piece of land at the top of Hinksey Hill that is currently in the parish of Kennington should in fact be transferred into the parish of South Hinksey rather than the parish of Sunningwell

The effects of the proposal would be that the boundary of the parish of South Hinksey would be extended to include:

- The Westwood Hotel, on the west side of Oxford Road
- Both sides of Oxford Road as far as the hotel
- Both sides of Foxcombe Road up to the point where the South Hinksey parish boundary currently ends on the north side at the junction with Chilswell Lane
- Land between the hotel and Chilswell Lane in the V formed by Foxcombe Road and Oxford Road.

This small enlargement of the parish boundary affects, we believe, no residential dwellings and therefore makes little, if any, difference to the numbers of residents or electors in the current wards.

The importance of the small change is, however, that it finally brings together in our parish the small part of the Hinksey Hill community that is presently outside our boundary.

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.

We attach a map which shows very approximately the piece of land in question but are open to further discussion about the exact boundary to be drawn, taking into account the factors usually involved in drawing a parish boundary.