# South Hinksey Community Governance Review: we'd like your feedback

*Any personal information supplied to us within the comments that could identify anyone has been redacted and will not be shared or published in the report. Further information on data protection is available in our general consultation's privacy statement on our [South](#) or [Vale](#) website.*

## 1. Are you responding as:

| | Answer Choices | | Response Percent | Response Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | a resident within the parish | | 40.00% | 2 |
| 2 | someone who works within the parish | | 0.00% | 0 |
| 3 | a business / organisation operating within the parish | | 40.00% | 2 |
| 4 | a visitor or interested party | | 0.00% | 0 |
| 5 | a councillor (parish, district, county) | | 20.00% | 1 |
| 6 | an officer (parish, district, county) | | 0.00% | 0 |
| 7 | Other (please specify): | | 0.00% | 0 |
| | | | answered | 5 |
| | | | skipped | 0 |

| Other (please specify): (0) |
|---|
| No answers found. |

## 2. If you are responding as a business / organisation, council or body please provide its name:

| | Answer Choices | | Response Percent | Response Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Open-Ended Question | | 100.00% | 2 |
| | 1 | South Hinksey Parish Council | | |
| | 2 | Kennington Parish Council | | |
| | | | answered | 2 |
| | | | skipped | 3 |

**3. To help us analyse responses, please provide your full postcode (e.g. OX12 1XX)**

| | Answer Choices | Response Percent | Response Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Open-Ended Question | 100.00% | 3 |
| | | answered | 3 |
| | | skipped | 2 |

**4. How far do you support or oppose the proposal to make no change to the boundary between South Hinksey Parish and Kennington Parish?**

| | Answer Choices | | Response Percent | Response Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Strongly support | | 100.00% | 4 |
| 2 | Tend to support | | 0.00% | 0 |
| 3 | Neither support nor oppose | | 0.00% | 0 |
| 4 | Tend to oppose | | 0.00% | 0 |
| 5 | Strongly oppose | | 0.00% | 0 |
| 6 | Not sure | | 0.00% | 0 |
| 7 | I don't have a view | | 0.00% | 0 |
| | | | answered | 4 |
| | | | skipped | 1 |

**5. If you have any alterative suggestions to make that fall within the criteria set out above, please provide them below:**

| | Answer Choices | Response Percent | Response Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Open-Ended Question | 100.00% | 3 |

## 5. If you have any alterative suggestions to make that fall within the criteria set out above, please provide them below:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | South Hinksey should be told to concentrate on their own parish - rather than keep trying to grab land. |
| 2 | Response below received via email.

I am writing on behalf of South Hinksey Parish Council as part of the current Community Governance Review consultation to take further this Council's request for a change to its boundary with the parish of Kennington that would bring the site of the former Westwood Hotel into this parish.
You will recall that this is the third Community Governance Review at which this Council has made such a request and that this time this Council has listened to the criticism that on the two previous occasions the new boundary it proposed was simply a line on a map that corresponded to no particular feature(s) visible on the ground.

This Council's first suggestion
At the Council meeting where this Council formulated its request this time, councillors identified a possible new boundary using features visible on the 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map which resulted in a new boundary that would have transferred a significant slice of Bagley Wood from Kennington back into South Hinksey.
However, this Council had no particular wish to take over responsibility for a large stretch of ancient woodland; it merely had to address the fact that the Westwood Hotel site is surrounded by Bagley Wood in the parish of Kennington on all four sides so this Council had to create a connection between the site and the existing parish of South Hinksey.
This Council was completely unaware this proposal would stir up strong feelings in Kennington because, although this Council had written to Kennington Parish Council several times about changing the boundary, our neighbours had never had the courtesy to send an acknowledgement, let alone a reply.

A modification
There is, however, no need to propose taking any more than a tiny portion of the wood just across the road from the hotel site in order to create the sort of connection needed.
A person has only to walk a few yards into the wood using the gate just after the end of The Copse to encounter a wide track used by vehicles moving timber that turns south to reach a watercourse that runs west to the road.
Using these two features to define the new boundary would affect no more than a few dozen trees while putting the land directly opposite the former hotel site into this parish.
I am sending as an attachment Map 1 which was recently distributed to our Hinksey Hill residents by St John's College. This detailed map of Bagley Wood shows the track perfectly, identifying it as a permissive footpath – the purpose of the College's letter being to ask our residents to keep to the paths marked on the map.
On the map, I have shaded the tiny area that could be moved into this parish as well as the former hotel site on the opposite side of the road.
I am sending separately in view of their size two photographs: Photo 1 which shows the point at which this track turns away from the existing boundary to head south; and Photo 2 which shows the point where the track meets the watercourse which this Council has suggested should be the southern limit of the small addition to this parish.
These both represent features clearly visible on the ground.

Absurdity of present boundary
But this Council asks your authority to recognise that, regardless of this addition, the existing southern boundary of this parish with Kennington is absurd and should not be allowed to remain unchanged.
I have attached Map 2 which shows how the boundary turns north from the property line and wanders across the garden of the property known as The Copse. I attach separately in view of its size a photograph of the garden of The Copse (Photo 3). I would challenge anyone looking at this photograph to spot where the parish boundary meanders across the garden.
This Council has been told before that a boundary should match features visible on the ground and we submit the current boundary fails this test and that a boundary which wiggles across a property makes no sense: what point is there in a boundary which means a person's garden shed might be in one parish or another or even straddle an invisible boundary and fall into both?
At a previous Community Governance Review your authority corrected just such an anomaly affecting houses on Hinksey Hill so that the boundary with Kennington followed the property line instead of running through their front gardens.
This Council asks your authority to make just such a common sense adjustment to the boundary so that, regardless of the Westwood Hotel site issue, the whole of the garden of The Copse will be in South Hinksey, as shown on Map 2.

The case for the Westwood Hotel site |

**5. If you have any alterative suggestions to make that fall within the criteria set out above, please provide them below:**

| | |
|---|---|
| | Some of the comments made at the previous stage of public consultation suggested this Council wished to change the boundary to enable development within the wood.<br>These remarks were as spurious as they were offensive.<br>Hard as it is to imagine St John's College putting forward a proposal to chop down a large area of Bagley Wood and build on it, it is even harder to imagine your authority agreeing to such obviously inappropriate development in the Green Belt.<br>The suggestion that this corner of Bagley Wood is better protected by remaining in Kennington rather than being moved into South Hinksey is curious.<br>One might as easily suggest it is the Hinksey Hill residents of this parish that tend to walk in this part of the wood right behind their homes and would wish it remain unspoilt<br>And anyone can see from the recent history of planning applications for the Westwood Hotel site how much more energy this Council has put into contesting inappropriate development in the Green Belt there than Kennington Parish Council.<br>The truth is surely that there is no appetite in either parish council to chop down part of Bagley Wood and build on it.<br>Rather the issue relates to the very purpose of Community Governance Reviews. The question is to what community do the five new homes on the former hotel site properly belong: the community of Hinksey Hill that starts just a few yards away from their homes or the village of Kennington far away on the other side of the A34?<br>Even some of the objectors at the previous stage recognised the logic of the change this Council has requested but instead argued that keeping the whole of Bagley Wood in one parish was a matter of principle.<br>This Council, on the other hand, would suggest that the overriding purpose of a Community Governance Review is to ensure the cohesion of communities and that it is what is in the best interests of the residents of the five new houses which should guide your authority's decision even it means a few dozen trees have to end up in this parish to make that possible. |
| 3 | Response below received via email.<br><br>Kennington Parish Council strongly supports the views of the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to keep the boundary between Kennington and South Hinksey the same. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | answered | 3 |
| | skipped | 2 |

**6. You can upload any supporting documents using the button below.**

| File Type | Average Size | Files Uploaded |
|---|---|---|
| .jpg | 7666286Kb | 3 |
| .pdf | 791487.5Kb | 2 |
| To view the files uploaded, go into the individual results. | answered | 1 |
| | skipped | 4 |

Please see attachments for the supporting documents uploaded.

**7. Do you have any other comments that you would like to make on the South Hinksey Community Governance Review 2022?**

| | Answer Choices | Response Percent | Response Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Open-Ended Question | 100.00% | 3 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ask South Hinksey Parish Council to stop making this request. | |
| 2 | This proposal has been correctly rejected. | |
| 3 | I presume that the site of the Westwood hotel is to be developed as it is not in use at present. So probably there is some financial advantage to South Hinksey parish to move the boundary to include it in their area? Will it be used for housing? In which case they might benefit from additional council tax precepts is that right? If that's their reasoning I suggest it remains in Kennington! The boundaries make sense as they are. | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | answered | 3 |
| | skipped | 2 |