

CGR 8

Parishes Affected

Chilton, East Hendred, Harwell

Matter to be considered

Placing the whole of the Harwell, Oxford campus in a single parish, rather than splitting it between three as at present

Impact on district and county council boundaries

Affects Hendreds and Blewbury and Harwell wards

Summary of parish council responses

Chilton, East Hendred and Harwell parish councils all objected to the idea of putting the campus into a single parish. They could see no obvious benefit, were concerned about the workload if one parish council had to deal with all issues arising on the campus and commented that the current liaison arrangements work well.

Harwell parish council has written further stating, "given the state of flux on the campus, and the possibility of much more building development, the PC suspects that in time new building will cross the proposed new boundaries, and it seriously questions whether all this effort is worthwhile. The PC is not aware of any problems resulting from the existing boundaries, and, other than accepting a laudatory ambition for tidiness, can see little merit in the proposed changes."

Summary of other responses

We wrote to the Science and Technology Funding Council (STFC), which has overall responsibility for the site but received no response

Recommendation

To make minor adjustments to the boundary between Chilton, East Hendred and Harwell parishes, as shown on the attached map

Justification

Given opposition from the affected parish councils to the idea of placing the Harwell Oxford campus in a single parish, and no evidence from the STFC that it would bring any benefits, the working group decided not to pursue this

further and propose it to council. Instead, it recommends some minor adjustments to parish boundaries so that they follow clearly defined man-made boundaries, rather than going through buildings as at present. Given the current proposals coming forward on the site, if council agrees the principle of using man-made features to define parish boundaries, officers will ensure that these are refined during the consultation period, in conjunction with the relevant parish councils, to reflect any emerging developments.