

CGR 14

Parishes Affected

Harwell and Sutton Courtenay

Matter to be considered

Creating a new parish of Harwell East comprising the land within Harwell parish that lies east of the A34

Impact on district and county council boundaries

Affects Blewbury and Harwell and Sutton Courtenay district wards

Affects Hendreds and Harwell and Sutton Courtenay and Marcham county divisions

Summary of parish council responses

Harwell parish council proposed the creation of the new parish, arguing that the residents of that part of Great Western Park that lies within the Vale (and subsequently the residents of Valley Park) would be better served by having a separate parish council. It has made various proposals regarding the timing of the creation of the new parish. It has also indicated support for moving land north of the London-Bristol railway line into Sutton Courtenay parish

Summary of other responses

None

Recommendation

To create a new parish of Harwell East comprising that part of Harwell parish that lies to the east of the A34, with the exception of land lying to the north of the London-Bristol railway line.

To move land north of the London-Bristol railway line into Sutton Courtenay parish.

Justification

The working group considers that there is a sound argument for the creation of a new parish. The area east of the A34 will gradually be developed over the next 20 years and will, to all intents and purposes, form a western extension of Didcot. The community in this area is likely to have a quite different identity and interests from that of Harwell village, which forms the

main community of the existing parish. The A34 provides a very strong and definable man-made boundary.

The timing of the creation of the new parish will require further consideration. It is debatable whether it will be a viable proposition (with a sufficient electorate) to come into being in time for the 2015 elections. This is something that officers will keep under review.

In creating the new parish it makes sense to move that part of the existing parish of Harwell that lies north of the London-Bristol railway line into Sutton Courtenay parish. The land includes part of the Didcot power station site and would mean that the whole of this site sits within Sutton Courtenay parish.