

CGR 24

Parishes Affected

Wantage, Grove and Lockinge

Matter to be considered

Amending the boundary of Wantage parish to include land at Stockham Farm, currently in Grove parish; and at Crab Hill, currently in both Grove and Lockinge parishes

Number of properties moving from one parish to another

None

Impact on district and county council boundaries

Affects Grove North, Wantage and Grove Brook, Wantage Charlton and Hendreds district wards

Affects Grove and Wantage and Harwell and Hendreds county divisions

Summary of parish council responses

Wantage town council submitted this proposal, (albeit for a larger area at Stockham Farm than the working group is recommending). It does not support the proposal that the working group is recommending, arguing that the parish boundary should coincide with the neighbourhood plan boundary. It also states, “no doubt the new dwellings will be marketed as being in Wantage, in the same way as those in Stockham Farm to the south of the canal are currently being marketed (although still in Grove).”

Grove parish council supports the proposal based on the boundary at Stockham Farm that the working group is putting forward. Ardington with Lockinge parish council supports the proposal at Crab Hill but, “would wish to retain the financial interest in development funds for infrastructure”, that it would have without the boundary changing.

Summary of other responses

None

Recommendation

To extend the boundary of Wantage parish at Stockham Farm (to include land currently in Grove parish) and Crab Hill (to include land currently in both Grove and Lockinge parishes), as shown on the attached maps.

Justification

In both cases these are development sites. Crab Hill is a major site to the east of Wantage that currently straddles three parish boundaries. Placing the whole development in Wantage parish will avoid this happening and ensure no electors are in a different parish from their neighbours. It will also lead to effective and convenient representation of local residents at parish level, particularly as it will also reflect the boundary between the new Wantage Charlton and Wantage and Grove Brook district wards. Placing the development wholly in Wantage parish is likely to best reflect the identities and interests of future residents.

The land at Stockham Farm currently sits wholly in Grove parish. It is bisected diagonally by the line of the old Berks and Wiltshire Canal. Planning permission exists for housing to the south-east of the canal and development has recently commenced. Access to this development is from Denchworth Road and will look towards Wantage. The working group considers that the identities and interests of the new residents is best served by moving this land into Wantage parish.

The planning committee has recently resolved to grant planning permission for housing on the land north-west of the canal. Access to this development will be from Downsvie Road, the access road to Grove Technology Park (which the working group recommends moving into Grove parish elsewhere). It would sit opposite the southern edge of the Grove airfield development. The working group considers that the identities and interests of the new residents would be best served by this land remaining in Grove parish. Although the Stockham Farm development is likely to be carried out by a single developer, the old canal line provides a good man-made boundary and for the purposes of this review the development is best treated as two separate entities.