

Comments on the proposed boundary changes to south-east Oxford

As the Chair of Rose Hill and Iffley Low Carbon Community Group, I would argue that the proposed changes make little sense and that the existing ward boundaries should be retained, with the leeway for change mentioned below.

Councillors should represent communities, not raw numbers. The natural boundaries of our ward (Rose Hill and Iffley) are the river, ring-road, Rose Hill/Henley Avenue and Donnington Recreation Ground - or Donnington Bridge Road if a greater number of residents is needed. If a lower number of residents is needed, the area around Westbury Crescent could be moved into Cowley ward as most people regard it as Cowley. We should keep all the houses on both sides of Rose Hill (the road) as it wouldn't make sense to live on Rose Hill and not in it!

Our group would be badly affected by the proposed boundary change as we based our choice of name on the fact that they constitute one ward. We have active members in both Rose Hill and Iffley and this helps to bring the two communities together. It has always been helpful to ask known Councillors to represent us on key issues and to build a working relationship with them. It would be very complicated if we had to refer to multiple Councillors in a number of different communities.

Rose Hill and Iffley share common resources - the river, the church, Iffley Meadows, the No 3 bus into the town centre, the allotments, the recreation ground and now Rose Hill Community Centre, which provides facilities such as the gym to the whole community.

While demographically Rose Hill and Iffley are clearly different, the two communities can and do help each other. For example, residents of Iffley with existing solar PV benefitted from the batteries provided by Rose Hill's ERIC Project. Rose Hill residents have also benefitted from our cooperation in that many Iffley residents bought Low Carbon Hub shares, which funded PV panels for Rose Hill Primary School. They also contributed to the crowd-funder for the zero carbon classroom there and to the Youth Club.

While Iffley and Rose Hill have built a history of collaboration, they have distinct identities. The new plan seems to fragment these identities further for no good reason. One anomaly is the inclusion in Rose Hill of the area to the east of Rose Hill (road) around the cemetery and up to the ring road. This is regarded as Cowley by the community there.

A key indicator of a community is its primary school. As a former teacher at Church Cowley St James, I know that residents to the east of Rose Hill (road) usually send their children to Church Cowley School. Residents to the west of Rose Hill (road) usually send their children to Rose Hill School.

By the same token, it seems odd to include Howard Street and surrounding streets in Donnington and Iffley. Residents there would regard themselves as in East Oxford and are most likely to send their children to SS Mary and John.

Florence Park residents tend to send their children to Lark Rise Primary School. Florence Park has clear boundaries - the Iffley Road, the park itself, the Cowley Road and Between Towns Road. It has its own Community Centre and needs to be a single ward with its own councillors (which would be a useful change from the current situation).

South-east Oxford's wards should be decided by its natural geographical boundaries and communities. Please retain the ward of Rose Hill and Iffley as it is. If you need to increase or decrease the numbers, please do so in the way suggested above.

Oxford District

Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Local Environmental Action Florence park (LEAF)

Comment text:

LEAF (Local Environmental Action Florence park) supports the revised proposals in as far as they related to the Florence Park area remaining as one community within the Cowley ward, and not being split so that part of it goes into the Temple Cowley Road as suggested in the original proposals. Thank-you.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

The Review Officer (Oxford)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

2nd December 2018

Dear Sir,

Re: Local Government Boundary Commission for England's review of Oxford City Council's ward boundaries November 2018

Friends of Iffley Village, an all-volunteer organization supported by more than 400 annual subscriptions, was set up in the 1950s to conserve the essential character of Iffley for the benefit of its residents, businesses and visitors and to monitor and guide plans proposed for the future of the Village, and to foster community spirit. Its Committee and many members are strongly opposed to the Boundary Commission's proposed changes to Council wards.

About 90% of Iffley would be split from Rose Hill to join Donnington dividing Iffley along the N-S arm of Iffley Turn, through the E-W arm of Iffley Turn and E end of Tree Lane. This arbitrary line, about 100-200 m west of the long-established and universally accepted civic boundaries, also cuts across the Conservation Area and St Mary's Parish. The Iffley Turn 'triangle', the houses opposite it on Henley Avenue, Anne Greenwood Close including the historic Denton House, Iffley Nursing Home, West View, Stone Quarry Lane, the E. end of Tree Lane would be divorced from the rest of Iffley Village. Residents of these areas regard themselves as part of Iffley so placing them in a separate ward is irrational and potentially very damaging to the sense of local cohesion in which Iffley people take much pride and derive much benefit.

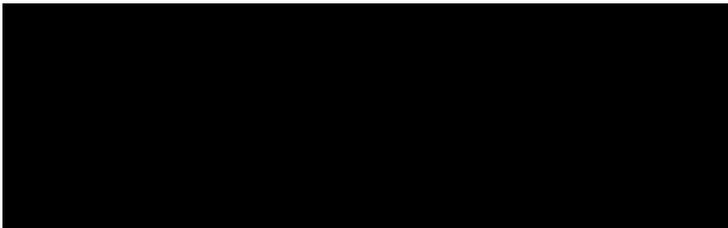
Iffley has been a distinct entity for at least a thousand years, with its architecturally distinguished Church of St Mary and economically important Thames management schemes since before 1200. Its long-established eastern boundaries are the junction of Iffley Turn and Church Cowley Road, marked by a 17th century milestone (image below), and the adjoining ancient path (still much used) between it and Tree Lane, which is part of the mediaeval route between Iffley and Cowley St. James. Following extensive development of the surrounding land from the mid-19th Century, Iffley was incorporated into Oxford City in 1928. Much of Iffley Village was declared a Conservation Area in 1969, extended to include areas to the north-east in 1985.



Iffley was represented by its own Councillors for many years until Rose Hill & Iffley Ward was created in 2001. The parish of St Mary's, centred on the Church at the far S end of Iffley near to Rose Hill, is bounded by the River, the Ring Road, the main road (Iffley Road/Henley Avenue) and Boundary Brook. These administrative associations between Iffley and Rose Hill have fostered several productive community and charity projects, to the mutual benefit of both areas. Many are actively supported by local schools and Councillors, and separation into different Wards would hinder their future development, to the detriment of all.

The proposed borders of Iffley (and those of other areas, particularly the Cowley and Temple Cowley Wards) are not 'based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries' and do not 'reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links', thus violating two key aims of your own Guidelines dated June 2018. The statement in paragraph 4 of the Summary that Rose Hill will be among three wards that will stay the same is evidently false and the adjacent map names the ward 'Donnington' when it should at least show 'Donnington & Iffley'. While Friends of Iffley Village is generally in favour of 'electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters', it believes that this objective should not take precedence over the immense damage to Iffley's social cohesion and strong sense of its own history and identity that dividing the Village between two wards would promote. For these reasons, we are strongly opposed to the scheme.

Yours sincerely,




Chairman, Friends of Iffley Village


Carlsson-Hyslop, Dan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 December 2018 12:31
To: reviews
Cc: CHURCHILL Val
Subject: Oxford ward changes
Attachments: Oxford - further draft recs map.pdf; Oxford further draft recs CE letter2018.11.6.pdf

Dear Colleague

The Littlemore Partnership would like to object to the latest boundary proposals as they affect the Littlemore Ward of Oxford City Council. The Partnership at their meeting on Monday 3rd December discussed the proposals and asked me to make these comments.

- 1) The ring road has never been a boundary for Littlemore. The ring road flies over Littlemore but the community sits underneath and on both sides of the ring road.
- 2) Putting the Littlemore Parish Green in Rose Hill ward is not acceptable. The green contains many Littlemore memorial seats and trees. It is managed by Littlemore Parish Council and is a central feature of Littlemore.
- 3) We suggest a ward boundary between Fairlie Road and Eastern Avenue would be more appropriate.
- 4) We are unhappy about the narrow strip along Littlemore Road which sticks out in the latest Littlemore ward proposals. The protuberance could perhaps sit within the proposed Cowley ward.
- 5) By 2023 Littlemore is expected to have a minus 3% variance from the average ward size. Rose Hill by contrast is expected to have a plus 8% variance. Making the above adjustments would make the new wards more equal in size of electorate.

The Littlemore Partnership brings together schools, churches, voluntary groups and others in Littlemore. It also includes local City and County councillors and representatives from the Parish Council.

We hope the Boundary Commission will modify its proposals in the light of our comments.

Thanks for your help

Best wishes

Cllr John Tanner (Labour)
Chair of Littlemore Partnership
Littlemore ward, Oxford City Council

[REDACTED]

Carlsson-Hyslop, Dan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2018 20:11
To: reviews
Subject: Oxford Boundary Commission Consultation

Importance: High

Dear Sir or madam,

Due to PC issues I have been unable to submit the following comment from Littlemore Parish Council on the The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England - public consultation in its review of Oxford City Council's ward boundaries, can this please be accepted.

Comment start

'Littlemore Parish Council is deeply concerned about the latest proposal to take the Newman Road area out of Littlemore ward and put it into a new Rose Hill ward.

'We understand that Littlemore ward has to become smaller because of the planned new house building in Littlemore. The Parish Council does not have a view about whether the ward should lose the Herschel Crescent to the north-east area or the Mayfair Road area to north-west.

However the Parish is very much opposed to Littlemore ward losing the Newman Road area, as this includes Littlemore Village Green and is a key part of the Littlemore community. It is quite wrong to draw a boundary along the Eastern by-pass which flies over Littlemore but does not divide it.

The Parish Council believes that Eastern Avenue, Newman Road, Cardinal Close, Cardinal House and all of Cowley Road, Littlemore (on both sides of the ring road) should remain in Littlemore ward. This would make sure that Littlemore Village Green (to the north of the ring road) remains in Littlemore ward.

Because the numbers of electors in the latest proposal for Littlemore ward is 4% under the average this should be achievable without affecting the balance of voters.'

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Clerk to Parish
Littlemore Parish Council

[REDACTED]

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