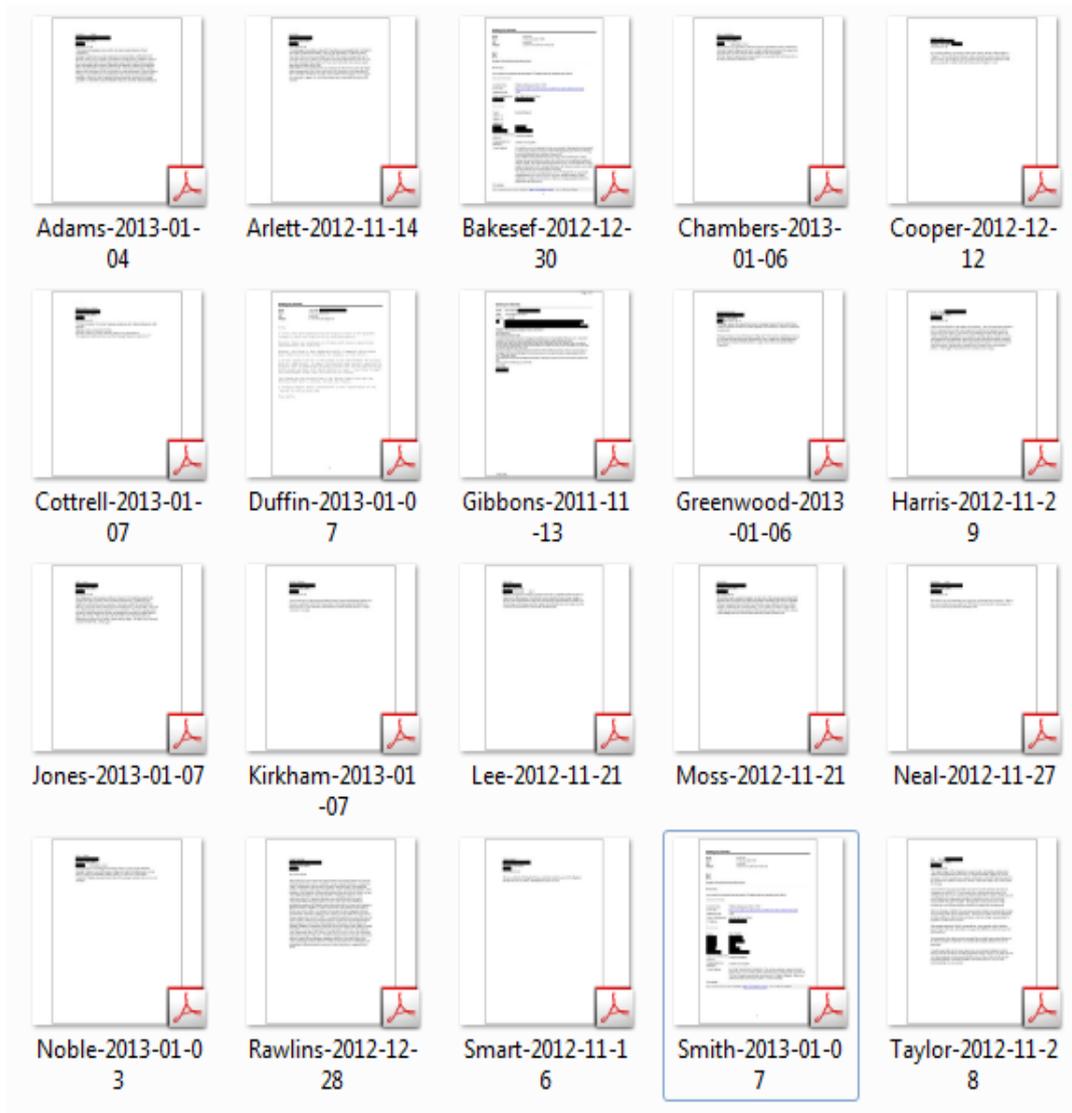


Local residents' submissions to the South Oxfordshire District Council electoral review

This PDF document contains 20 submissions from local residents.

Some versions of Adobe allow the viewer to move quickly between bookmarks.

Click on the submission you would like to view. If you are not taken to that page, please scroll through the document.



Geoffrey Adams



Member of the public



04/01/2013 17:50

"The proposed boundaries do not reflect the interests and identities of local communities.

Sonning Common has no social,commercial or electoral links with Binfield and Shiplake. It does have good links with Kidmore End. Residents of Kidmore End use the services and facilities at Sonning Common (post office, health centre, garages, bank, shops)unlike the residents of Binfield and Shiplake. Kidmore End Memorial Hall is situated within Sonning Common parish . The proposed boundary changes appear to be done purely for the convenience of balancing numbers of electors and by looking at a map without any consideration for the social structure and links of the population. Therefore either Sonning Common should be represented by a single councillor or it should be joined by Kidmore End and, possibly, Rotherfield Peppard.

"

ken arlett

[REDACTED]

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

14/11/2012 15:50

"I would suggest you reduce to about 20 Councillors, as an example there will only be one County Councillor for Henley, why are you suggesting 3, it makes no sense? Since the Cabinet system was adopted by SODC the council is being run by just 8 councillors, the rest are almost wasting their time and residents money, there are very few other committees that make their 4 year term worthwhile, other than to support their political leaders, thats a fact.

Both SODC/Vale of the White Horse are political and officer led councils like plenty others throughout the UK, if they wish to have 36 councillors in the future then all these councillors should have an input, at present this will not happen, so as I suggest cut even more, I suggest 24, if you do not agree then I would look forward to your reasons?

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: Reviews@
Sent: 30 December 2012 18:55
To: Reviews@
Subject: Custom Form Submission Received



Custom Form Submission Received

Review Editor,

A new custom form submission has been received. The details of the form submission are as follows:

Submission Information

Custom Form: Online submissions form (#183)
Form URL: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-consultations/online-submissions-form>
Submission ID: 1622
Time of Submission: Dec 30th 2012 at 6:55pm

Form Answers

Name: Richard Bakesef
Address 1:
Address 2:
Address 3:

Area your submission refers to: South Oxfordshire

Organisation you belong to: member of the public

Your feedback: I would like to see the boundary for the two-member Wallingford ward extended to include all properties inside the A4130 Wallingford bypass between Wantage Road and Reading Road, including Winterbrook. Since SODC's initial submission the new edge-of-town housing in its Core Strategy has moved from the south to the west (part of your proposed enlarged Cholsey ward). This ward is already projected to have 1% more than the average number of electors by 2018 and any increase to the electorate in this ward would present problems for the representing councillor. The debate about the most appropriate site for Wallingford's new greenfield neighbourhood was very divisive for our town, and this would be a great opportunity to make everyone feel as if they are working together in the best interests of our whole town.

File upload:

This communication is from **LGBCE** (<http://www.lgbce.org.uk>) - Sent to **Review Editor**

Paul Chambers

[REDACTED]

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

06/01/2013 17:41

"How will the new boundaries reflect the interests and identities of the communities, when the 2 small villages in the ward, will have different priorities to the main town, but will always get out voted on sheer numbers by the towns people. Will the villages requirements be represented by a councillor who will always favor the larger settlement within their ward."

penny cooper

Member of the public

12/12/2012 15:34

As a resident of Roke, my family is much more closely "allied" to Benson than to Chalgrove. We use the Benson Surgery, shops, clubs and societies, and in the past, school, scouts, sports clubs etc. We are not alone in this, and it is surprising to find that it is proposed to include Roke (& Berrick) in the Chalgrove ward.

Phil & Hilary Cottrell

[REDACTED]

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

07/01/2013 16:37

"We have lived here 50 years & Sonning common has never had anything to do with Shiplake.

Shiplake is more connected to Henley.

Sonning Common is a large village & needs its own representatives.

Your proposal could result in no one from Sonning Common to represent us!"

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: The Duffins [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2013 20:21
To: Reviews@
Subject: A view from East Hagbourne

Sirs,

I concur with East Hagbourne Parish Council's views on the proposed changes to wards and councillors in South Oxfordshire.

Broadly, there are advantages in villages with issues common being represented by one councillor.

However, splitting of East Hagbourne splits a community which shares many common facilities including, for example, a local school.

I am also highly critical of the timing of the announcement and closing date for submissions. On paper this may have been around 6 weeks but in practice this straddled the Christmas and new year holiday period during which people are busy with family matters or away. I was lucky to spot the announcement today with only 24 hours to respond.

The timing was particularly bad as the Parish Council had only one meeting (13th Dec) to consult, discuss and respond.

I strongly suggest future consultations of this significance are not 'buried' at such a busy time.

Tony Duffin

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: Peter Gibbons [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 November 2012 20:51
To: Re views@

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re Boundary Changes in South Oxfordshire

Dear Madam/Sir

Re Proposed Chinnor Ward

I would comment that Chinnor is the largest conurbation but on the outskirts of the new ward. Sydenham is plumb in the centre of the Ward and the new Ward should be called Sydenham Ward.

Chinnor is an urban community and doesn't reflect the character of the vast majority of the rural area of the new Ward, just because it has the most people is no reason to name a rural ward after it as it has little in common with the rest of the ward.

The same mistake was made calling the South Oxon MP constituency Henley when it is tucked away on the edge of the county, Watlington is the centre point, let's not make the same mistake please with the new "Sydenham Ward".

The name of the ward should reflect the character of the area it covers and the name Chinnor doesn't do this.

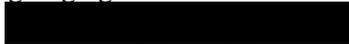
Thank you for considering my comments.

Yours truly

Peter Gibbons

[REDACTED]

george greenwood



Member of the public

 06/01/2013 19:12

"I strongly oppose the proposal that the new Sonning Common Ward on the District Council should be extended to include Shiplake and would have 2 District Councillors to represent it.

Sonning Common is one of the largest villages in S Oxon and is a significant centre in its own right and needs focused representation. Thus I support the original proposal that Sonning Common Parish should be a single ward with one dedicated District Councillor."

David Harris [REDACTED]
Member of the public

[REDACTED]
29/11/2012 21:26

I object to the reduction in the number of councillors. This will mean that councillors have to represent more people, increasing their workload and making it harder to represent everyone fairly. It also means that established wards will be broken up, which will damage the link between councillors and their electors, Finally, at a time when democratic accountability seems to be in crisis with MPs distrusted, reducing the number of councillors means fewer opportunities for people to become involved with local politics, and therefore a smaller pool of people to go on into national politics. A thoroughly bad, undemocratic and unnecessary change.

john jones

[REDACTED]

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

07/01/2013 16:30

East Hagbourne's representation at District Council level should be grouped with villages who share a similar rural environment and interests. Combining East Hagbourne with Didcot seems a nonsense. Our needs couldn't be more different: Didcot is a growing (almost urban) town; East Hagbourne is a small village. We need very different things in representation by our councillors. The need to group entities in order to reduce expenses is obvious, but mixing two such diverse entities doesn't make a lot of sense. Why not take a clue from the C-of-E which includes East Hagbourne in a Benefice of similar, closely spaced villages. In other words, a big NO to Didcot South Ward. Think again!

David Kirkham

[REDACTED]

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

07/01/2013 18:42

I have heard that it is being proposed that Sonning Common and Shiplake Wards will become a combined Ward with 2 Councillors. I don't understand what link there is between these 2 wards and believe that Sonning Common should remain as a single ward in its own right.

Anne Lee

[REDACTED]

Member of the public

[REDACTED] 21/11/2012 20:17

Whilst I can appreciate in these economic times that it would be beneficial to have a larger area in the proposal, I feel that the current Sandford ward is large enough at present. I am concerned that if the area is increased as suggested that we will be at a disadvantage in obtaining councillor support and will end up as such a large area that it cannot be sustained both economically and financially.

Kate Moss

[REDACTED]

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

21/11/2012 20:02

The rail line makes a natural boundary for the wards. The caravan park on Basil Hill should be moved to Didcot NE with the boundary extending to the A4130 to Hadden Hill and renamed to Didcot North, Fleet Meadow estate should be moved to Didcot South to compliment the natural boundary. Voter numbers would be similar and it would also give a better representation of the social/economic views of the residents. I am assuming the new Great Western Park will be part of Didcot West.

Stephanie Neal

[REDACTED]

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

27/11/2012 17:39

Will those living in Crowmarsh get as much say in what decisions are taken? Will we pay more local tax in our council tax? Will there be any benefits to this change or is it just to give local government something to do?

Gail Noble

[REDACTED]

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

03/01/2013 11:04

I strongly object to extending the Sonning Common ward to include Shiplake. Sonning Common is one of the largest villages in South Oxfordshire and is a local hub in its right to surrounding smaller villages. It deserves its own District Councillor. Shiplake has no practical links with Sonning Common; their services are in Henley.

Leigh Rawlins

Member of the public

28/12/2012 02:06

The proposal not to provide proper representation for Sonning Common as a discrete and important district centre is completely wrong. Sonning Common is an important centre, as illustrated by the fact that its Health Centre has nearly 8,500 registered patients. It also has a wide range of retail shops, schools and other key facilities. (The population of Wallingford, including Winterbrook from the parish of Cholsey, is only some 8,000 and Henley is only some 10,000 - so Sonning Common is a very significant centre. It is important that this centre and this locality is properly represented. Whilst Sonning Common services a wide area it does NOT have anything in common with Shiplake and residents from the two centres use completely different facilities. Shiplake is a flood-zone directly on the Thames which looks to Henley as a service centre - in common with a range of other communities directly around Henley. Sonning Common is a key centre in its own right and is very close to being recognised as a town by SODC. Local parish boundaries are some 100 years out of date and the settlement of Sonning Common extends far into Rotherfield Peppard and encompasses some 2/3rds of the population of that parish. The settlement of Sonning common is recognised as being one of the very largest large villages in South Oxfordshire. It is also distinguished by having populous settlements from Kidmore End, Peppard and others very close to it that cause its service centre to be abnormally important for a larger village. It is vital that Sonning Common is properly represented and only linked with surrounding communities that have clear direct links to the centre of Sonning Common. We have no links or shared interests with Shiplake and being linked with them would be a travesty of what this process is supposed to be about.

Alison Smart

[REDACTED]

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

16/11/2012 17:41

The area within the Wallingford bypass should be included as part of Wallingford.
Residents in this area look to Wallingford for their services.

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: Reviews@
Sent: 07 January 2013 18:52
To: Reviews@
Subject: Custom Form Submission Received



Custom Form Submission Received

Review Editor,

A new custom form submission has been received. The details of the form submission are as follows:

Submission Information

Custom Form: Online submissions form (#183)
Form URL: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-consultations/online-submissions-form>
Submission ID: 1665
Time of Submission: Jan 7th 2013 at 6:52pm
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Form Answers

Name: Mrs J SMith
[REDACTED]

Area your submission refers to: South Oxfordshire

Organisation you belong to: member of the public

Your feedback: Re SODC WARD BOUNDARIES - The obvious and best solution is for the Hagbournes to join with the AStons and Moretons and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. We are of similar interests and concerns with a "village" mentality. Didcot has different needs and concerns and has a "town" mentality.

File upload:

This communication is from LGBCE (<http://www.lgbce.org.uk>) - Sent to **Review Editor**

Phil Taylor [REDACTED]
Member of the public

[REDACTED]
28/11/2012 10:27

"The small village of West Hagbourne was previously in Berkshire, and has been subject to marginalisation and erosion as a result of boundary changes on several occasions. Its very existence as a separate settlement is currently being threatened by the rapid growth of Didcot, which has already swallowed up huge tracts of the parish for housing.

I do not believe your proposals reflect the interests nor the identities of the local community in which I live. Your changes have swallowed up more than seven working farms into a new ward that is predominantly urban in nature, and the interests of both small rural communities and those living in the town, will not be well represented by the same Councillor. The demands, needs and concerns of the residents are very different and these should be recognised in your proposals.

The Core Strategy of SODC relies on more growth at Didcot, but specifically restricts any growth of small village communities. Therefore it is likely yet more adjustment of wards in Didcot is likely in the near future, whilst the village 'representation' by population would remain constant.

The original proposal by SODC recognised this, your proposals seek to redraw a logical 'map to the ward, and it fails to recognise the differences between those who live in the area.

A recognition of the rural areas that surround Didcot which form a natural feature of the district would be a far better way to define the boundary than the one you are proposing?

I would respectfully ask that you ensure you receive detailed feedback from the Parish Councils of both East and West Hagbourne before coming to any final decision over these proposals as it is essential that the views of those of us who live in this marginalised ribbon of South Oxfordshire do not find ourselves any less well represented than we are at present.