

## Metheringham, Jessica

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**From:** James Greenman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 January 2013 13:32  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** Submission for VOWH boundary change  
**Attachments:** Sunningwell PC Boundary Response.docx

*Kind Regards*  
[REDACTED]

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The Review Officer (Vale of White Horse)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
London EC1M 5LG

January 6<sup>th</sup> 2013

Dear Sir,

### **Electoral Review of the Vale of White Horse**

This submission is made on behalf of Sunningwell Parish Council.

The Parish council acknowledges the parameters under which the electoral boundary review is being undertaken.

- Reduction from 52 to 38 councillors in order to reduce the financial burden of council operations.
- The use of existing parish boundaries to support coterminous boundaries.
- Population equality within ward size to support electoral fairness on council matters.

We acknowledge that we are a relatively small parish and as such will need to be joined with other Parishes in order to form a local council ward.

The Parish of Sunningwell consists of four small village communities: Sunningwell, Bayworth, part of Boars Hill and part of Whitecross. The current ward arrangements allows for the communities of Boars Hill and Whitecross, which are split across the Parishes of Sunningwell and Wootton, to be represented within a single district ward. Neither of the two options presented to date retain this very important consideration and the primary concern of the Parish is that a solution that preserves his arrangement is achieved.

It is the Parish council's view that joining Sunningwell with Kennington or North Hinksey in order to achieve electoral equality would represent a wholly artificial construct that the local electorate would not recognise. The A34 and A4183 to the west and north of our Parish create a near permanent boundary that separates the interests and identities of the communities it divides. Transport, Education, and Commerce are all localised within the existing district ward that includes Wootton.

On matters of planning and infrastructure provision the existing district has similar interests with Radley and South Hinksey. Kennington, Botley and North Hinksey have more in common with the neighbouring urban areas of Oxford and Abingdon than they do with the rural adjoining village communities.

The communities within the Parish of Sunningwell have much in common with the communities within the Parish of Wotton. From the population data available we believe that the following proposal of two, 2 member wards is the most acceptable compromise.

Kennington and Radley, (est. pop in 2018, 5,380)

Wootton, Sunningwell, Boar's Hill and the Hinkseys (est. pop in 2018, 5,130)

Whilst based primarily on commonality of interests, the variance is minimised by the retention of 2 member wards and reflects the original VWHDC proposal for a 2 member Kennington and Radley ward

This proposal is also supported by the submissions to the VWHDC proposals by both Radley and Kennington Parish Councils as they identified each other as logical partners, avoiding the potential for the splitting of Kennington into 2 separate wards or the absorption of Radley into the greater Abingdon area.

We would also like to reference the representation challenges that have arisen through the resignation of both Wootton ward councillors in 2012. This situation was rectified with the by-election held on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Yours Faithfully

James Greenman

Sunningwell Parish Councillor.