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22 November 2021

Please give us your views – Cherwell District Council are reviewing the parish boundaries around Bicester

We (Cherwell District Council) are reviewing the parish boundary between Bicester and all neighbouring parishes. This is called a Community Governance Review.

District Councillor Dan Sames has requested that we review the parish boundary in light of a planning application currently under consideration at Wretchwick Way.

Officers from our Street Naming and Numbering team have also brought to our attention two planning application sites that are outside of the Bicester boundary, but which people think are in Bicester.

Wretchwick Way planning application, 16/01268/OUT – Area L

We are currently considering an outline planning application for up to 1500 new homes at Wretchwick Way, marked by the letter L on the map on page 4. As shown by the blue lines on the map, if it was approved the homes would mainly be in Ambrosden, with some crossing the boundary into Blackthorn and Launton.

It is sensible to consider whether to amend the parish boundary now, so that if the planning application is approved, all the houses will be in the same parish when they are built.

There are four existing residential properties in the area marked L, which are currently in Ambrosden Parish. If this area became part of Bicester parish, a few things would change, and residents of these properties would:

- Go to a polling station in Bicester rather than Ambrosden.
- Vote for people on Bicester Town Council, rather than Ambrosden Parish Council.
- Pay the Bicester rate of Council Tax, rather than the Ambrosden rate. Parish Councils are funded by a 'precept'. We collect the precept on behalf of the parish councils. At the

moment, a Band D property in Bicester pays £2074.83 for the year, with £131.94 of this going to Bicester Town Council. A Band D property in Ambrosden pays £1979.66 for the year, with £36.77 going to Ambrosden Parish Council. These amounts may change in the future, as each parish council reviews the precept amount each year.

If the parish boundary moved, there may need to be minor changes to addresses in the affected area. If an address change were needed, we would give affected residents more information about how and when this would happen.

The changes listed above would only affect properties in the relevant area, they would not affect the rest of Bicester or Ambrosden.

Commercial development around Skimmingdish Lane – Area J

In 2019, outline planning permission was granted under planning application reference 19/02708/OUT, for employment units at Bicester Heritage. As shown on the map by the area marked J, this site is outside the Bicester parish boundary and actually sits within Launton.

The Street Naming and Numbering team have brought this to our attention so that we can consider moving the parish boundary, so that this site is within Bicester rather than Launton.

If the boundary was moved, depending on where it was moved to, one residential property could be affected. If this area became part of Bicester parish a few things would change, and residents of this property would:

- Go to a polling station in Bicester rather than Launton.
- Vote for people on Bicester Town Council, rather than Launton Parish Council.
- Pay the Bicester rate of Council Tax, rather than the Launton rate. Parish Councils are funded by a 'precept'. We collect the precept on behalf of the parish councils. At the moment, a Band D property in Bicester pays £2074.83 for the year, with £131.94 of this going to Bicester Town Council. A Band D property in Launton pays £1985.77 for the year, with £42.88 going to Launton Parish Council. These amounts may change in the future, as each parish council reviews the precept amount each year.

Commercial development at Wendlebury Way – Area K

In 2020, planning permission was granted under planning application reference 19/01740/HYBRID, for industrial offices and sports facilities on Wendlebury Way. As shown on the map by the area marked K, this site is outside the Bicester parish boundary and actually sits within Chesterton.

The Street Naming and Numbering team have brought this to our attention so that we can consider moving the parish boundary, so that this site is within Bicester rather than Launton. No residential properties would be affected.

Where would the boundary be moved to?

Parish boundaries have to be easy to identify, so that everyone knows where they are. They usually follow a feature such as a road, rivers or railways, or areas that provide a natural break between communities, like a park or recreation ground.

The pink dotted lines on the map show where the parish boundaries could be moved to.

The boundary between Bicester, Chesterton and Bucknell is also being reviewed, and Chesterton Parish Council have also requested a review of their number of Parish Councillors. These issues are covered by separate documents which can be found via our website

www.cherwell.gov.uk/communitygovernance or requested from the Democratic and Elections Team democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk.

What happens now?

A consultation is running from Monday 22 November 2021 to Monday 31 January 2022, to find out what people think of the possibility of the boundary moving. It is important to point out that just because a boundary review has been requested, there is no guarantee that any changes will be made. Public consultation is a very important part of a community governance review, and all views received will be taken into consideration.

Anyone who wants to can take part in the consultation. All residential properties potentially affected by this review have been sent a copy of this letter. A copy is also available from our website www.cherwell.gov.uk/communitygovernance.

How do I have my say on these suggestions?

On pages 5 to 7 you will find a short reply slip. Please take a few minutes to fill this in and return it using the envelope supplied. You don't need to use a stamp as we will pay the postage.

If more than one person in your household would like to reply, that's not a problem as you're not limited to one reply per household. You can:

- photocopy the reply slip
- download extra copies from our website www.cherwell.gov.uk/communitygovernance
- send us an email democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
- reply online via the Let's Talk Cherwell pages. You will need to create an account if you want to use Let's Talk, this will only take a few minutes.

All written or emailed responses should reach us by Monday 31 January 2022 to be taken into consideration. The online survey will close at 11:59pm on the same date.

All responses will be considered by a group of Cherwell District Councillors, who will make recommendations about what should happen next. Those recommendations will be discussed by all District Councillors at a Full Council meeting in May 2022. A second consultation on the agreed recommendations will start in July 2022.

If you have any questions about this letter, or the review in general, please contact us by email: democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or telephone: 01295 221534

Yours sincerely,

Democratic and Elections Team
Cherwell District Council

If you require this document in a different format (such as a large print version or special access facilities) please contact the Democratic and Elections Team, democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

All information collected through this consultation will be treated appropriately to conform with data protection legislation. The Council has to publish all comments received in connection with a community governance review. If we receive a comment on behalf of a group, such as a parish council, political party or disability access group, we will name the group, but we will not publish the names of individuals who have commented.

BIC Bicester and surrounding areas Community Governance Review
Tell us what you think

Name:

Address:

We will not share your name and address with anyone, we have only asked for these details so that we can see which areas have replied. If you would prefer, you can just tell us the street or village you live in.

Question 1.

Do you think the parish boundary between Bicester and Ambrosden should be moved, so that the site of the planning application 16/01268/OUT at Wretchwick Way, area L on the map, is all in one parish?

Yes ☐

No ☐

I have no view on this ☐

Please give brief reasons for your answer

Question 2.

If you answered yes to question 1, should area L be in Bicester or Ambrosden?

Bicester ☐

Ambrosden ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

Question 3.

Do you think the parish boundary between Bicester and Launton should be moved, so that the site of outline planning permission 19/02708/OUT at Bicester Heritage, area J on the map, is in Bicester?

Yes ☐

No ☐

I have no view on this ☐

Please give brief reasons for your answer

Question 4.

If you think that it is a good idea to move the parish boundary, where do you think the boundary should be moved to?

The boundary as shown on the map ☐

Somewhere else ☐

(If you said somewhere else, please provide a description of where you think the boundary should be; feel free to draw on the map and send it back to us with this reply if that would be easier).

Question 5.

Do you think the parish boundary between Bicester and Chesterton should be moved, so that the site of planning permission 19/01740/HYBRID at Wendlebury Way, area K on the map, is in Bicester?

Yes ☐

No ☐

I have no view on this ☐

Please give brief reasons for your answer

Question 6.

If you think that it is a good idea to move the parish boundary, where do you think the boundary should be moved to?

The boundary as shown on the map ☐

Somewhere else ☐

(If you said somewhere else, please provide a description of where you think the boundary should be; feel free to draw on the map and send it back to us with this reply if that would be easier).

Question 7.

Do you have any further comments to make? (feel free to use additional pages for more space).
