

## Local resident submissions to the Oxfordshire County Council electoral review (surnames N-Z)

This PDF document contains submissions from local residents with surnames starting with the letters N to Z.

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

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Pearce-Gervis  
2011-10-03



Pennington 2011-10-07



Pepys 2011-10-07



Perkins 2011-10-07



Posnett 2011-10-04



Pottle 2011-09-08



Robinson 2011-10-10



Rodgers 2011-10-03



Rogers 2011-10-07



Round 2011-10-11



Scott 2011-10-04



Scruby 2011-10-04



Smith 2011-10-04



Smith 2011-10-10



Smithson 2011-10-10



Stevenson 2011-09-08



Stops 2011-10-10



Stratford 2011-10-10



Styring 2011-10-07



Surman 2011-09-28



Thakker 2011-09-12



Thompson 2011-10-10



Topliffe 2011-09-29



Turner 2011-10-10



Wickery 2011-09-28



RECEIVED  
03 OCT 2011

28 September 2011

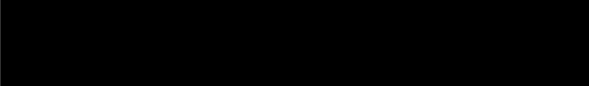
Review Officer (Oxfordshire)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
78-86 Turnmill Street  
LONDON  
EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir/Madam

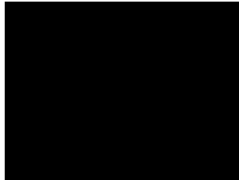

**ELECTORAL REVIEW OF OXFORDSHIRE: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

We are writing to support the views expressed by Dr Philip Hawtin in his letter to you dated 26 September 2011 (copy enclosed).

Yours faithfully



Anita and Jacqueline Pearce-Gervis



Review Officer (Oxfordshire)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
78-86 Turnmill Street  
London  
EC1M 5LG

26 September 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

**Electoral Review of Oxfordshire: Draft Recommendations**

I am writing to comment on the Commission's draft recommendations as they apply to the proposed North Hinksey and Kingston & Cumnor Divisions and to Cumnor Parish in particular. I can readily understand the requirement on the Commission to make recommendations that meet the concept of 'electoral fairness'. I fail to understand why in so doing the Commission has selected a course of action that completely negates this concept at the Parish Council level in Cumnor.

I oppose the Commission's recommendations as they stand and fully support Cumnor Parish Council's counter proposal that there should be a single two member Division embracing the Commission's proposed Kingston & Cumnor Division and the proposed North Hinksey Division.

In passing, it is worthy of note that the naming of the former Division is disingenuous. It implies that, at the very least, Cumnor Village is being included in the Division. In fact, under your proposal, over 60% of the population, who would currently regard themselves as being a part of Cumnor Village, are being moved into the Dean Court Ward.

I have lived in Cumnor Parish for nearly 50 years and, prior to that, 18 in North Hinksey. I can claim to know the area well. Given this knowledge, you will, I am sure, understand that I find it difficult to accept recommendations made by a person who has "toured the area" and who believes that Cumnor Hill is called Botley Row and that North Hinksey is a town. Such errors illustrate, at best, careless drafting and, at worst, show a complete lack of understanding of the area.

I affirm from personal knowledge that the opinions expressed in the draft recommendations are simply wrong insofar as they are applied to Cumnor Parish. If adopted, they will undoubtedly seriously damage local government in the parish.

Fortunately Cumnor Parish Council has explained why the draft recommendations are both wrong-headed and in violation of the Commission's own guidelines.

The Parish Council has clearly demonstrated that:

1. The proposed changes fail to meet the criterion of electoral fairness.

2. Whilst the A420 is a line on a map, it does not otherwise influence any facet of parish life. As a consequence, its adoption as a boundary is arbitrary and would not add benefit to the life of residents.
3. The adoption of the A420 as a boundary would sever important local linkages and, as such, it fails to meet the criterion that fixing boundaries should not break any established linkages. It could also be detrimental to local businesses.
4. The Commission's recommendations fail to meet the reasoned requests of Appleton, Cumnor and North Hinksey Parishes.

I fully support Cumnor Parish Council's conclusions.

By way of example, I invite you to note the effect of the Commission's reliance on lines on a map rather than people. Persons living in Tudor Court live in Dean Court: but on the wrong side of the A420. They are to be moved to Farmoor Ward. Mainly elderly, some 40% do not own cars. At present, they live within easy walking distance of their polling station. Under the proposed arrangements they will face a 2 mile journey through open countryside, presumably by car, to their new polling station. There are other similar examples.

In no case do the proposed ward changes bring persons closer to the polling station at which they must vote. In my own case, I expect to have to travel an extra 3-4 miles on the round trip.

Cumnor Parish Council argues persuasively that an equitable solution based on single member Divisions is not practicable. It therefore proposes that there should be a single two member Division embracing the Commission's proposed Kingston & Cumnor Division and the proposed North Hinksey Division. Such a solution would have the following advantages:

1. It meets the Commission's target that the electorate deviation should not exceed 10%.
2. It meets the wishes of Appleton and Cumnor Parishes that the two parishes are in the same electoral Division.
3. It meets North Hinksey's suggestion that Cumnor and North Hinksey should be in the same electoral Division.
4. It removes the need to change the ward boundaries in Cumnor Parish and meets Cumnor's view that its present ward arrangements meet the requirements of the parish.
5. The retention of the existing ward boundaries in Cumnor removes much of the local electoral unfairness explicit in the Commission's proposals.
6. Finally it overcomes the problem that the Commission's proposed revision would lead to arrangements that fail to meet the Commission's desired criterion that fixing boundaries should not break any established linkages.

I can find no flaws with Cumnor Parish Council's arguments and urge the Commission to adopt their proposal.

Yours faithfully



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**From:** sue pennington [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 October 2011 07:24  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** oxford boundaries

I am writing in support of the Oxfordshire County boundary review submission titled "Oxford City Liberal Democrat Group" which was drawn up in partnership with the Oxford City Green Party Group and has the support of the two Conservative Constituency Parties covering Oxford. Unlike the City Council proposals, which only represent the views of one political party, this submission has the support of three.

I am concerned that the Commission draft recommendations are in danger of repeating problems that resulted from the last boundary review 7 years ago, with residents in some areas of Oxford finding that County Councillors covering unconnected areas are less able to represent the views of all residents.

Max Caller, Chair of the LGBCE, in his announcement of this boundary review, has stated that the rules set out in law for such reviews "*should – as far as possible – reflect the natural communities of Oxfordshire.*" and "*...help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.*".

Oxford has a high turnover in population due mainly to the two Universities and the high cost of living. Along with much pressure to development land in Oxford, single homes, offices and other small buildings are being redeveloped or converted to flats or high density student accommodation. The high cost of living has created a pressure to turn houses into HMO's (House in Multiple Occupation) and changes in the benefits system will only increase this pressure with many single people unable to afford their own home into their mid 30's. It is also becoming apparent that some houses that are listed as single occupancy are being used by several people (mainly students) further distorting the population figures in some areas.

Finally, there are ongoing concerns about the shortfall in census figures, which again makes it difficult to accurately predict numbers.

The high cost of housing, together with the number of people on the Council housing list led to a Government Inspector allowing Oxford a policy that requires 50% of any development of homes to be social housing – a direct acceptance of Oxford's housing problems.

As Max Caller says "*Having fair electoral boundaries for your council is important.*" and I understand the requirement for County Councillors to represent "*...around the same number of electors.*" but given the circumstances set out above I believe that the only way to really achieve fairness in Oxford is to give greater weight to your your second criteria of "*natural communities*".

As Max Caller quite rightly says "*...local people know Oxfordshire best.*" which is why I am asking you to accept the above submission, which clearly sets out why it is the most sensible and cohesive option for Oxford.

Yours  
Sue Pennington

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Sarah Pepys [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 October 2011 07:17  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** Changes to Cutteslowe ward boundaries

I am writing as a trustee of Cutteslowe Community Asspciation to log my concerns at the proposed changes to the boundaries walls which will cut 3 roads off from the rest of the Cutteslowe Community. The Roads are Wentworth, Aldrich and Salisbury Crescent.

Cutteslowe has been found to be an area of deep deprivation and the needs of the community are much better served when seen together rather than splitting them into two different sections. The southern roads would be attached to Summertown, which is not an area of deprivation and which will then miss out on the essential input that comes from being part of a similar community.

Sarah Pepys

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**From:** Nicholas Perkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 October 2011 21:33  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** FAO review officer (Oxfordshire)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the boundary proposals regarding Cumnor Parish, just west of Oxford. I have looked at the proposals, and believe it is unacceptable to divide Cumnor Hill and Cumnor in the way proposed. I live on Cumnor Hill and we are very much part of the village community. The fact that the A420 runs between our house and the centre of the village makes no difference, because there is a road straight across the dual carriageway. The proposals unnaturally break up the community and will not lead to better political representation.

I urge you to accept the alternative proposals put forward by Cumnor Parish Council, which seem fair, proportionate and have been done with extensive local consultation and knowledge. We have an excellent Parish Council who know the area and care about our community. Please take their proposals very seriously.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Nicholas Perkins  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Susan Posnett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 October 2011 20:05  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** Proposed Boundary Changes

For the attention of The Review Officer ( Oxfordshire )

We feel that Cumnor Parish should be treated as a single entity and an acceptable way of achieving this could be to have one large two-councillor division combining Appleton, Cumnor, Kingstonbagpuize and North Hinksey Parishes. This would avoid dividing loyalties and breaking natural links.

Trusting that this will receive your closest attention,  
Susan and Malcolm Posnett,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** The Pottles [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 September 2011 22:58  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** Proposed County Council Electoral Divisions - Cumnor, Oxfordshire.

Dear LGBCE

I object to the proposals to change the County Council Electoral Divisions in my area (Cumnor, OX2) on the basis that they are electorally unfair. I would prefer to see a combined two-member division for a North Hinksey, Cumnor, Appleton and Kingston Bagpuize.

Please keep Cumnor together.

Yours faithfully

Tim Pottle

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jennifer Robinson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 October 2011 09:55  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** Cumnor electoral wards

Review Officer (Oxfordshire)

I write to state my opposition to the Boundary Commission's proposal for Cumnor. I have lived at the hamlet of Oaken Holt, near Farmoor, for over 30 years. My links are with the parish of Cumnor, rather than Dean Court and North Hinksey. Those areas, with the luxuries of cycle lanes and pavements, are in a different world from here. I sometimes walk across the fields to Cumnor but never along the verges to Dean Court because the road is so fast and the verges are cut across every few metres by drainage gulleys hidden under tall stinging nettles.

Instead I support the proposal for a single two-member Division of the Boundary Commission's proposed Kingston and Cumnor Division combined with the proposed North Hinksey Division. I wish the elected County Councillors to be able to represent the views of Cumnor Parish as a whole.

Yours truly  
Jennifer Robinson

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Penny Rodgers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 October 2011 11:53  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** Boundary Commission's proposal for Cumnor , Nor5th Hinksey etc

I consider that the Boundary Commission's proposal will result in electoral inequalities in the area. I support the proposal for a combined two member Division for North Hinksey, Cumnor, Appleton and Kingston Bagpuize.

Dr Kathleen Rodgers

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 07 October 2011 14:15  
To: Reviews@  
Subject: Oxon boundary review

Dear Sir

I am writing in support of the Oxfordshire County boundary review submission titled "Oxford City Liberal Democrat Group" which was drawn up in partnership with the Oxford City Green Party Group and has the support of the two Conservative Constituency Parties covering Oxford. Unlike the City Council proposals, which only represent the views of one political party, this submission has the support of three.

I am concerned that the Commission draft recommendations are in danger of repeating problems that resulted from the last boundary review 7 years ago, with residents in some areas of Oxford finding that County Councillors covering unconnected areas are less able to represent the views of all residents.

Max Caller, Chair of the LGBCE, in his announcement of this boundary review, has stated that the rules set out in law for such reviews "should – as far as possible – reflect the natural communities of Oxfordshire." and "...help the council deliver effective and convenient local government."

Oxford has a high turnover in population due mainly to the two Universities and the high cost of living. Along with much pressure to development land in Oxford, single homes, offices and other small buildings are being redeveloped or converted to flats or high density student accommodation. The high cost of living has created a pressure to turn houses into HMO's (House in Multiple Occupation) and changes in the benefits system will only increase this pressure with many single people unable to afford their own home into their mid 30's. It is also becoming apparent that some houses that are listed as single occupancy are being used by several people (mainly students) further distorting the population figures in some areas. Finally, there are ongoing concerns about the shortfall in census figures, which again makes it difficult to accurately predict numbers.

The high cost of housing, together with the number of people on the Council housing list led to a Government Inspector allowing Oxford a policy that requires 50% of any development of homes to be social housing – a direct acceptance of Oxford's housing problems.

As Max Caller says "Having fair electoral boundaries for your council is important." and I understand the requirement for County Councillors to represent "...around the same number of electors." but given the circumstances set out

above I believe that the only way to really achieve fairness in Oxford is to give greater weight to your your second criteria of "natural communities".

As Max Caller quite rightly says "...local people know Oxfordshire best." which is why I am asking you to accept the above submission, which clearly sets out why it is the most sensible and cohesive option for Oxford.

Yours sincerely

Tim Rogers



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**From:** alan round [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 October 2011 17:47  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** Proposed boundary changes Bloxham

Dear Sir,

I have been a resident of Bloxham for 45 and see no practical logic in merging with Easington which is a part of Banbury and embraced by the town infrastructure. Conversely Bloxham, although it has expanded, remains a rural village and has an environment distinctly different from Banbury and has many issues peculiar to a village to be resolved on an ongoing basis, e.g Schools, Bus Services, Transport. It would sit more comfortably with Adderbury which shares similar issues.

Yours faithfully  
Alan Round



1<sup>st</sup> October 2011

Review Officer (Oxfordshire)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
London EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir

**Boundary Commission Review - Cumnor Parish, Oxfordshire**

We consider that the proposal to divorce areas of Cumnor Hill from its existing Parish (Cumnor) and to transfer it to North Hinksey flies in the face of all common sense.

Cumnor Hill has a common affinity with the village of Cumnor and relies on it for social and economic services. The proposed extension to North Hinksey would create a Parish of size completely disproportionate to those in the area and would not give an effective democratic voice to the remaining Cumnor Parish.

We suggest that the current proposal should be reconsidered and ask you to record our support for the views expressed to you by the Cumnor Parish Council.

Yours faithfully



D A and A Scott

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**From:** Chris Scruby [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 October 2011 09:58  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Cc:** philip.hawtin@pjtc.demon.co.uk  
**Subject:** Oxfordshre Review - Parish of Cumnor

To The Review Officer (Oxfordshire)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
London EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir

I wish to disagree with your proposals to split Cumnor Parish as part of the Oxfordshire Review. At a parish level, the Commission's recommendations are unfair since they will lead to wards of very unequal size. Furthermore I regret the consequential division of the historic parish of Cumnor, which has always functioned well as a entity.

I urge you therefore to consider the alternative proposal for a two-member Division for North Hinksey, Cumnor, Appleton and Kingston Bagpuize. This has the great merit of maintaining the integrity of Cumnor, while also strengthening links with our adjacent parishes.

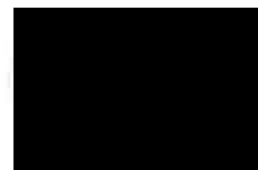
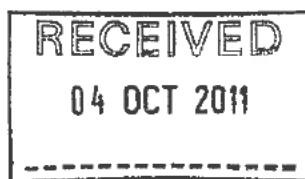
Yours faithfully

Chris Scruby

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Professor and Mrs C B Scruby  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

cc Cumnor Parish Council



Review Officer (Oxfordshire)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
78-86 Turnmill Street  
London  
EC1M 5LG

29th September 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

**Electoral Review of Oxfordshire: Draft Recommendations**

I am writing to comment on the Commission's draft recommendations as they apply to the proposed North Hinksey and Kingston & Cumnor Divisions and to Cumnor Parish in particular. Although I can understand the requirement on the Commission to make recommendations that meet the concept of 'electoral fairness', I fail to understand why in so doing the Commission has selected a course of action that completely negates this concept at the Parish Council level in Cumnor.

I oppose the Commission's recommendations as they stand and fully support Cumnor Parish Council's counter proposal that there should be a single two member Division embracing the Commission's proposed Kingston & Cumnor Division and the proposed North Hinksey Division.

In passing, it is worthy of note that the naming of the former Division is misleading as it implies that, at the very least, Cumnor Village is being included in the Division. In fact, under your proposal, over 60% of the population, who would currently regard themselves as being a part of Cumnor Village, are being moved into the Dean Court Ward.

I have lived in Cumnor Parish for 25 years and have got to know the area fairly well. Given this knowledge, you will, I am sure, understand why I find it difficult to accept recommendations made by a person who has supposedly only "toured the area" and who believes that Cumnor Hill is called Botley Row and that North Hinksey is a town. Both these are incorrect and such errors seem to illustrate not only careless drafting but also show an inadequate understanding of the area.

I am concerned that the opinions expressed in the draft recommendations are wrong insofar as they are applied to Cumnor Parish. If adopted, they will undoubtedly seriously damage local government in the parish.

Fortunately Cumnor Parish Council has explained why the draft recommendations are both wrong-headed and in violation of the Commission's own guidelines.

The Parish Council has clearly demonstrated that:

1. The proposed changes fail to meet the criterion of electoral fairness.

2. Whilst the A420 is a line on a map, it does not otherwise influence any facet of parish life. As a consequence, its adoption as a boundary is arbitrary and would not add benefit to the life of residents.
3. The adoption of the A420 as a boundary would sever important local linkages and, as such, **it fails to meet the criterion that fixing boundaries should not break any established linkages.** It could also be detrimental to local businesses.
4. The Commission's recommendations fail to meet the reasoned requests of Appleton, Cumnor and North Hinksey Parishes.

I fully support Cumnor Parish Council's conclusions.

As an example, I invite you to note the effect of the Commission's reliance on lines on a map rather than people. Persons living in Tudor Court live in Dean Court, but on the other side of the A420 which would mean that they are to be moved to Farmoor Ward. Mainly elderly, some 40% do not own cars. At present, they live within easy walking distance of their polling station. Under the proposed arrangements they will face a 2 mile journey through open countryside, presumably by car, to their new polling station.

This would mean that the proposed ward changes **do not** bring persons closer to the polling station at which they must vote.

Cumnor Parish Council argues persuasively that an equitable solution based on single member Divisions is not practicable. It therefore proposes that there should be a combined two member Division embracing the Commission's proposed Kingston & Cumnor Division and the proposed North Hinksey Division. Such a solution would have the following advantages:

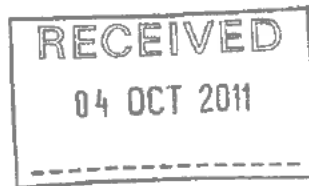
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6. Finally it overcomes the problem that the Commission's proposed revision would lead to arrangements that fail to meet the Commission's desired criterion that fixing boundaries should not break any established linkages.

I support Cumnor Parish Council's arguments and urge the Commission to adopt their proposal.

Yours faithfully



Edda Smith



*Cutts End House  
Appleton Road  
Cumnor  
Oxford OX2 9QH*

Review Officer (Oxfordshire)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
78-86 Turnmill Street  
London  
EC1M 5LG

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In passing, it is worthy of note that the naming of the former Division is misleading. It implies that, at the very least, Cumnor Village is being included in the Division. In fact, under your proposal, over 60% of the population, who would currently regard themselves as being a part of Cumnor Village, are being moved into the Dean Court Ward.

I have lived in Cumnor Parish for 25 years and can claim to know the area well, having only recently stepped down as a Cumnor Parish councillor after 16 years on the Council. Given this knowledge, you will, I am sure, understand why I find it difficult to accept recommendations made by a person who, I understand, has "toured the area" and who believes that Cumnor Hill is called Botley Row and that North Hinksey is a town. Such errors illustrate, at best, careless drafting and, at worst, show an inadequate understanding of the area.

I am concerned that the opinions expressed in the draft recommendations are wrong insofar as they are applied to Cumnor Parish. If adopted, they will undoubtedly seriously damage local government in the parish.

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6. Finally it overcomes the problem that the Commission's proposed revision would lead to arrangements that fail to meet the Commission's desired criterion that fixing boundaries should not break any established linkages.

I support Cumnor Parish Council's arguments and urge the Commission to adopt their proposal.

Yours faithfully

  
G Edward Smith

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**From:** Smith Bloxham [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 October 2011 10:38  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** Electoral Boundries

Dear Sirs

I would like to state that I and a great many others in the village of bloxham are opposed to the joining of bloxham with Banbury as featured in the article in the Banbury guardian.

Bloxham is a unique village with many defining traits and it does not have anything in common which could lead it to be joined with "banbury".

The population of a village and their needs and wants are very different to that of a towns population, and I should hope this is taken into account with any decision making by the council.

As some one who is in regular contact with a great many people from the local villages I must reiterate that the villagers of bloxham, milcombe, adderbury and Milton are fully against any suggestion of joining with Banbury.

Regards

Mr T. Smith

Milton Road

Bloxham

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**From:** Phill Smithson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 October 2011 10:11  
**To:** Reviews@; bowell@lgbce.org.uk  
**Subject:** Boundry Changes

I am opposed to the boundary changes linking Bloxham Easington as Bloxham then would become part of Banbury and our identity would disappear into the ethos of a town. It would be better to link Bloxham with Adderbury Bodicote as they are like minded villages.

All the best

Phil Smithson

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**From:** Thomas Stevenson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 September 2011 16:49  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** Oxfordshire

I am sure it doesn't just apply to Oxfordshire but I find the presentation of the proposals virtually incomprehensible. In this day and age it is not impossible to provide an OS map as an overlay to a boundary map in fact many commercial organisations do it as a matter of course.

I am somewhat guessing but it appears to me that RAF Benson is divided between two areas in direct contravention to the phrase in your notes

"Second, the new divisions should – as far as possible – reflect the natural communities of Oxfordshire".

Tom Stevenson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



5 October 2011

Review Officer  
Oxfordshire Review  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
London EC1M 5LG

Dear Review Officer

**Analysis and draft recommendations for Oxfordshire County Council  
County Council Divisions within the Vale of White Horse**

I submit this letter in support of a proposal for a combined two-member County Council Division for North Hinksey, Cumnor, Appleton and Kingston Bagpuize.

I do so having regard to the initial criterion on page 37 whereby arrangements should ensure 'the best prospect of improving the proposals concerned'. To this end I submit that the amendment being proposed would indeed constitute a significant improvement to the social and local government arrangements.

The draft recommendations include in Table C1 on page 43 the following two entries (omitting the 2011 data) '47 Kingston and Cumnor' and '49 North Hinksey':

Division Name	Number of Councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per Councillor	Variance from average %
47 Kingston & Cumnor	1	9,026	9,026	8%
49 North Hinksey	1	8,749	8,749	5%
Kingston & Cumnor and North Hinksey	2	17,775	8,888	7%

Combining these two entries would give the following weighted average:

The resulting total electorate (2016) at 17,775 is well compatible with both of the other two-member Divisions: Thame and Chinnor at 16,411 and Grove and Wantage at 17,533. In paras 98 and 106 these are accepted in the draft. There do not appear to be any statistical or quantitative reasons for not adopting a two-member division in the above case.

1. I appreciate that in some cases when trying to create a mirror image of a macro structure at a local micro level the pyramid of representation gets distorted and becomes indirect. When part of an electoral area shares representation with a

neighbouring area, the risk of misunderstanding and confusion becomes palpable. The development of localism under the aegis of the Big Society will be made more difficult in respect of services administered or initiated and organised at a tertiary level.

2 The combination of these two parishes within one County Division covering 'the northern peninsula' of the Vale of White Horse District Council is meaningful and homogeneous. There are significant proportions of complementary local shopping and the wider range of the Westway Centre at Botley. With the three main access road routes into Oxford City readily available, communications by car and bus are good and improving. Within the two parishes local there is an adequate road network in all directions.

3 The two parishes of North Hinksey and Cumnor provide a variety of residential housing in many autonomous groupings. Appleton and Kingston are rural settlements. There is a gradation from urban and suburban surroundings to rural.

4 A number of the social and community activities in both Cumnor and North Hinksey cover both parishes and beyond and this also applies to the churches across the denominations. Recreational facilities are shared in use and provision and football and cricket clubs. Farmoor Reservoir is now a major sailing centre.

5 Appleton links up with Cumnor for a number of social activities using some of the many halls for meetings and events that there are in Cumnor.

6 All the settlements across these two Divisions are generally made up of clusters of dwellings which have fostered communities, particularly over the decades since the 1939-45 war.

7 The Thames is the natural north-south boundary to the west of this combined County Division and the A34 and the A420 south of Rockley to the east.

8 The needs of this 'northern peninsula' are in general similar and with investment funds likely to be scarce in the future, infrastructure benefits could be accrued from joint or unified developments.

This is a personal submission. I am a retired Minister and serve on the Parish Council – which is a non-party political council.

Yours sincerely

Brian J Stops (Revd)

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**From:** Andy Stratford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 October 2011 15:29  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** Easington / Bloxham

I feel with your proposal for Bloxham joining Easington, is totally wrong. I have moved from Easington to move to Bloxham a few years ago. They're so far apart in differences like Enland is to Iran. The culture is that everyone Bloxham has a community responsibility and there was none of this in Easington i.e. Policing. The way of life are again so different, so how can someone speak up in a council meeting about both areas when the issue your trying to resolve then becomes a conflicting issue to the other area i.e. We want to remove speed cameras. As we feel they make no difference, this may the case in Easington and be true but this doesn't work in Bloxham.

Also the types of services are so different like the buses, postal services.

Building Regs also differ we have to go to the local parish 1st then the council keeping the village as a village should look, this could allow more back door planning cases to go through.

Bloxham would be far better being part of Adderbury or Hook Norton as these are villages and understand each others ways of life.

Regards Andy Stratford

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**From:** James Styring [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 October 2011 00:06  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** Oxfordshire County boundary review submission

Dear Sir

I am writing in support of the Oxfordshire County boundary review submission titled "Oxford City Liberal Democrat Group" which was drawn up in partnership with the Oxford City Green Party Group and has the support of the two Conservative Constituency Parties covering Oxford. Unlike the City Council proposals, which only represent the views of one political party, this submission has the support of three.

I am concerned that the Commission draft recommendations are in danger of repeating problems that resulted from the last boundary review 7 years ago, with residents in some areas of Oxford finding that County Councillors covering unconnected areas are less able to represent the views of all residents.

Max Caller, Chair of the LGBCE, in his announcement of this boundary review, has stated that the rules set out in law for such reviews "*should – as far as possible – reflect the natural communities of Oxfordshire.*" and "*...help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.*".

Oxford has a high turnover in population due mainly to the two Universities and the high cost of living. Along with much pressure to develop land in Oxford, single homes, offices and other small buildings are being redeveloped or converted to flats or high density student accommodation. The high cost of living has created a pressure to turn houses into HMO's (House in Multiple Occupation) and changes in the benefits system will only increase this pressure with many single people unable to afford their own home into their mid 30's. It is also becoming apparent that some houses that are listed as single occupancy are being used by several people (mainly students) further distorting the population figures in some areas. Finally, there are ongoing concerns about the shortfall in census figures, which again makes it difficult to accurately predict numbers.

The high cost of housing, together with the number of people on the Council housing list led to a Government Inspector allowing Oxford a policy that requires 50% of any development of homes to be social housing – a direct acceptance of Oxford's housing problems.

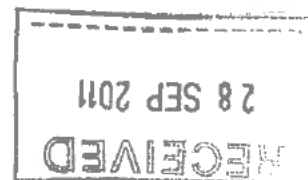
As Max Caller says "*Having fair electoral boundaries for your council is important.*" and I understand the requirement for County Councillors to represent "*...around the same number of electors.*" but given the circumstances set out above I believe that the only way to really achieve fairness in Oxford is to give greater weight to your second criteria of "*natural communities*".

As Max Caller quite rightly says "*...local people know Oxfordshire best.*" which is why I am asking you to accept the above submission, which clearly sets out why it is the most sensible and cohesive option for Oxford.

Best wishes

**James Styring**  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Review Officer (Oxfordshire)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
78-86 Turnmill Street  
London  
EC1M 5LG



26 September 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

**Electoral Review of Oxfordshire: Draft Recommendations**

I am writing to comment on the Commission's draft recommendations as they apply to the proposed North Hinksey and Kingston & Cumnor Divisions and to Cumnor Parish in particular. I can readily understand the requirement on the Commission to make recommendations that meet the concept of 'electoral fairness'. I fail to understand why in so doing the Commission has selected a course of action that completely negates this concept at the Parish Council level in Cumnor.

I oppose the Commission's recommendations as they stand and fully support Cumnor Parish Council's counter proposal that there should be a single two member Division embracing the Commission's proposed Kingston & Cumnor Division and the proposed North Hinksey Division.

In passing, it is worthy of note that the naming of the former Division is disingenuous. It implies that, at the very least, Cumnor Village is being included in the Division. In fact, under your proposal, over 60% of the population, who would currently regard themselves as being a part of Cumnor Village, are being moved into the Dean Court Ward.

I have lived in Cumnor Parish for nearly 32 years. I can claim to know the area well. Given this knowledge, you will, I am sure, understand that I find it difficult to accept recommendations made by a person who has "toured the area" and who believes that Cumnor Hill is called Botley Row and that North Hinksey is a town. Such errors illustrate, at best, careless drafting and, at worst, show a complete lack of understanding of the area.

I affirm from personal knowledge that the opinions expressed in the draft recommendations are simply wrong insofar as they are applied to Cumnor Parish. If adopted, they will undoubtedly seriously damage local government in the parish.

Fortunately Cumnor Parish Council has explained why the draft recommendations are both wrong-headed and in violation of the Commission's own guidelines.

The Parish Council has clearly demonstrated that:

1. The proposed changes fail to meet the criterion of electoral fairness.

2. Whilst the A420 is a line on a map, it does not otherwise influence any facet of parish life. As a consequence, its adoption as a boundary is arbitrary and would not add benefit to the life of residents.
3. The adoption of the A420 as a boundary would sever important local linkages and, as such, it fails to meet the criterion that fixing boundaries should not break any established linkages. It could also be detrimental to local businesses.
4. The Commission's recommendations fail to meet the reasoned requests of Appleton, Cumnor and North Hinksey Parishes.

I fully support Cumnor Parish Council's conclusions.

By way of example, I invite you to note the effect of the Commission's reliance on lines on a map rather than people. Persons living in Tudor Court live in Dean Court: but on the wrong side of the A420. They are to be moved to Farmoor Ward. Mainly elderly, some 40% do not own cars. At present, they live within easy walking distance of their polling station. Under the proposed arrangements they will face a 2 mile journey through open countryside, presumably by car, to their new polling station. There are other similar examples.

In no case do the proposed ward changes bring persons closer to the polling station at which they must vote. In my own case, I expect to have to travel an extra 3-4 miles on the round trip.

Cumnor Parish Council argues persuasively that an equitable solution based on single member Divisions is not practicable. It therefore proposes that there should be a single two member Division embracing the Commission's proposed Kingston & Cumnor Division and the proposed North Hinksey Division. Such a solution would have the following advantages:

1. It meets the Commission's target that the electorate deviation should not exceed 10%.
2. It meets the wishes of Appleton and Cumnor Parishes that the two parishes are in the same electoral Division.
3. It meets North Hinksey's suggestion that Cumnor and North Hinksey should be in the same electoral Division.
4. It removes the need to change the ward boundaries in Cumnor Parish and meets Cumnor's view that its present ward arrangements meet the requirements of the parish.
5. The retention of the existing ward boundaries in Cumnor removes much of the local electoral unfairness explicit in the Commission's proposals.
6. Finally it overcomes the problem that the Commission's proposed revision would lead to arrangements that fail to meet the Commission's desired criterion that fixing boundaries should not break any established linkages.

I can find no flaws with Cumnor Parish Council's arguments and urge the Commission to adopt their proposal.

Yours faithfully



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**From:** reviews@lgbce.org.uk [mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk]

**Sent:** 10 September 2011 09:41

**To:** Reviews@

**Subject:** Custom Form Submission Received



## Custom Form Submission Received

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Contact us Email,

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

### Submission Information

Custom Form: Contact us (#212)  
Form URL: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/about-us/contact-us>  
Submission ID: 638  
Time of Submission: Sep 10th 2011 at 8:40am  
IP Address: ::ffff:217.43.108.162

### Form Answers

Your name: Prof. and Mrs R V Thakker  
Your email: [REDACTED]  
I am: a member of the public  
Comment/enquiry type: relating to a current review  
Comments: For the attention of the Review Officer (Oxfordshire)

We have read with concern the sweeping changes in the grouping of Cumnor parish wards that the Boundary Commission is proposing. Living in Chawley Lane at the top of Cumnor Hill for almost 12 years, we have always felt a natural affiliation with the village of Cumnor and consider ourselves to be part of it. Historically we believe Chawley was embraced by Cumnor village (we understand Chawley was a tithing of the parish) and certainly today Cumnor is our focal point. We do not identify with Botley and geographically its centre is further away from us than the village. Our inclusion into the new Dean Court Ward will feel very artificial as a result. The argument that the A420 forms a natural boundary is spurious because the flyover provides us with direct access to the village as if the road was not there. Housing continues up to each bank of the A420 so in

practice there is no significant, "gap" between us and the village. The road plays no part in the life of the village and, other than a source of noise, has minimal effect on it. In addition, making an enormous new ward at the expense of the village ward is electorally unfair and unbalanced and we can see no justification for it. Consequently we support the proposal for a combined two-member Division for North Hinksey, Cumnor, Appleton and Kingston Bagpuize, leaving the Cumnor ward boundaries as they are.

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

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**From:** vaughan thompson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 October 2011 17:53  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** subject : for the attention of the Review Officer (Oxfordshire)

Dear Sirs

Boundary Commission Changes 2011

I object to the proposal to split Cumnor Parish over two Divisions for the purposes of County Council representation. It satisfies neither of the Boundary Commission's stated conditions or (1) Electoral fairness or (2) Respecting natural boundaries and not breaking established linkages.

Yours faithfully

Vaughan Thompson  
[REDACTED]

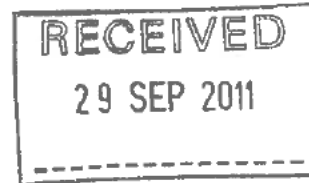
**Review Officer (Oxfordshire)**

Local Government Boundary Commission for England

**Layden House**

**78-86 Turnmill Street**

**London EC1M 5LG**



27 September 2011

Dear Sir,

**Draft Recommendations, Electoral Review of Oxfordshire**

I am writing to comment on the Commission's draft recommendations as they apply to the proposed North Hinksey and Kingston and Cumnor Divisions and to Cumnor Parish. Given the requirement for 'electoral fairness' I do not understand why the Commission is adopting a course which negates this concept at the Parish Council level in Cumnor.

I oppose the Commission's recommendations as they stand and support Cumnor Parish Council's counter proposal that there should be a single two member Division embracing the Commission's proposed Kingston & Cumnor Division and the proposed North Hinksey Division. N.B. Under your proposals our address would be moved to the Dean Court Ward, whereas we regard ourselves as part of Cumnor, using all the facilities of the village and rarely visiting Dean Court.

The A420 is not a natural boundary. It was built in the 1970s as a by-pass to Cumnor Hill and is a completely new road (not as some people seem to think an upgrade of a pre-existing one). That the builders did not regard it as dividing line is clearly illustrated by the fact that they provided two vehicle overpasses and no less than four public footpath crossings!

The Parish Council's proposal of a single two member Division for Kingston, Cumnor and North Hinksey would have the following advantages:

1. It meets the Commission's target that the electorate deviation should not exceed 10%.
2. It meets the wishes of Appleton and Cumnor Parishes that the two parishes are in the same electoral Division.
3. It meets North Hinksey's suggestion that Cumnor and North Hinksey should be in the same electoral Division.
4. It removes the need to change the ward boundaries in Cumnor Parish and meets Cumnor's view that its present ward arrangements meet the current needs of the Parish.
5. The retention of the existing ward boundaries in Cumnor removes much of the local electoral unfairness explicit in the Commission's proposals.
6. Finally it overcomes the problem that the Commission's proposed revision would lead to arrangements that fail to meet the Commission's desired criterion that fixing boundaries should not break any established linkages.

We therefore support the Cumnor Parish Council's proposal and oppose the random reassignment of the electoral Divisions proposed by the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Mr. &amp; Mrs. Topliffe.

Mr. & Mrs. Topliffe.

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**From:** Peter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 October 2011 12:41  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** Proposal to merge the Bloxham division with Banbury/Easington

I am a resident of Bloxham and value the village life. I read with great concern in the Banbury Guardian this week that there is a proposal to merge Bloxham with the Easington ward of Banbury.

Whilst I can understand the desire to reduce the number of councillors and increase electoral equality, I must state that merging a rural village with an urban area does not appear on the surface to provide any advantage for Bloxham. Indeed, I fear that Bloxham would lose a great deal of its identity and frankly, would not be treated fairly, purely because it is isolated from Banbury and has quite different needs to an urban area.

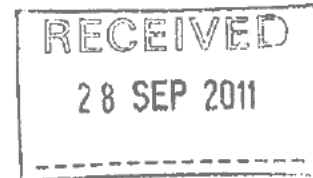
If the proposal is to proceed, then I believe it should be done on basis of merging wards covering like minded rural villages of which there are several in the immediate vicinity of Bloxham. We have Bodicote, Adderbury, Milcombe and a little farther afield, Deddington not to mention Hempton, the Barfords etc.

Wards comprising rural villages are far more likely to have the understanding of village life and its needs, rather than merging us with a town ward.

I trust my opinion will be considered when making the final decision.

Yours faithfully  
Peter Turner  
Bloxham.

Review Officer (Oxfordshire)  
Local Government Boundary  
Commission for England  
Layden House  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
LONDON  
EC1M 5LG



24 September 2011

Dear Sir,

**RE: Proposed Boundary changes to Council Electoral Divisions**

We object in the most severe terms to the proposed boundary changes, as an assault on the geographic identity and family habitation of Cumnor Village.

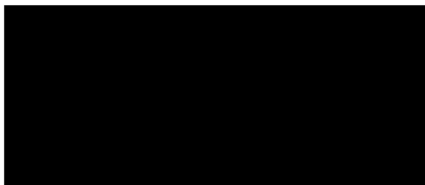
1: The top of Cumnor Hill – where we live – has always been part of Cumnor Village, the adjacent properties and land historically owned by Lord Abingdon. The area has its own history and origins and is not co-extensive with suburban Oxford City. This is an attempt to erase this history and identity for the sake of political expediency.

2. Our local friends and family send their children to Cumnor Village school: to prevent our younger children from attending this school, and thus maintaining crucial community ties, is outrageous.

3. Housing value is directly related to available schools. To impact house prices as a way of a fairer electoral system is perverse.

A solution must be found that is something more than yet another political assault on historical norms.

Yours faithfully,



Jonathan Vickery (Dr)