

Oxfordshire

Personal Details:

Name: Mr David Hingley

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Organisation Name: Councillor for Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote on Cherwell District Council (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote division

My comments are in relation to the proposed Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote county council division, specifically concerning its proposed boundaries as they relate to the parish of Bodicote.

I should first say that I personally have no objection to the boundaries currently being proposed by the Commission that locate the new division exactly aligned with the district ward of the same name.

However, I understand that Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) may propose, following its meeting of 12 November 2023, that the boundaries of the Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote (ABB) division be slightly amended to reflect the outcome of Cherwell DC's Community Governance Review (CGR) concluded in October 2022.

If the Commission is minded to agree with this, it would then seem correct that the division boundary should precisely follow the outcome of that CGR as it relates to the parish of Bodicote, and that the whole of Bodicote parish should be placed within the ABB division (as well as the entirety of Adderbury parish, Bloxham parish, and Milton parish) and I hope the Commission would concur with me in this.

However I note that the map being considered by OCC shows suggested division boundaries that do not follow the established Bodicote parish border. Rather than respecting the agreed boundaries, their map instead takes some land that is to remain within Bodicote parish and places that land outside the ABB county division. This would have the effect of placing certain Bodicote residents and businesses who are to remain in

Bodicote parish – and in the ABB Cherwell district ward – outside of the ABB county division, which cannot be the intention of this review.

The following maps will illustrate the point more clearly:

<https://modgov.cherwell.gov.uk/documents/g3646/Public%20minutes%20Monday%2017-Oct-2022%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=11>

Maps 2 and 3 on pages 24 & 25 of these CDC council minutes show the amended Bodicote boundaries following the Cherwell CGR, with the dotted black lines showing the new boundaries (not the blue areas, some of which is to be retained within Bodicote).

<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s68803/CC231212R13%20Annex%20A.pdf>

Whereas the map produced by OCC has slightly different, simplified boundaries around Bodicote which do not follow the outcome of the CGR.

It is my view that the new ABB county division should incorporate the entirety of Bodicote parish at the point it is created. Should the county council in fact recommend that you adopt the CGR-amended boundaries, and should you agree with this, then it is those boundaries that should be adopted and not the boundaries that are shown on the OCC map above.

This matter is of high importance to Bodicote parish as well as to the residents, who strongly identified as being part of Bodicote parish during the CGR. It therefore seems sensible that all addresses that are to remain within Bodicote parish should be kept within the Bodicote county division also.

(As an aside, the Commission may like to know that residents of the estates that are being moved out of Bodicote by the CGR expressed a clear wish to remain also, but are nonetheless being moved.)

I have communicated with OCC in advance of their 12 November 2023 council meeting, but should they fail to amend their response to take account of the above, which relates to one part of one division, I am asking the Commission to avoid making an inadvertent and upsetting error by ensuring that the whole of Bodicote parish is kept within the ABB county division.

I am more than happy to discuss this further and indeed this may be sensible to avoid potential confusion.

Attached Documents:

None attached