

Vale of White Horse

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: St Helen Without Parish Council (Parish or town councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Marcham AND Wootton wards

The Parish of St Helen Without is served by two wards, The southern part of the Parish; Shippon, Gozzards Ford, Cothill by Marcham and the northern part; Dry Sandford by Wootton. This is historic and that arrangement has served us well but with an eye on the future and the planned development of Dalton Barracks/Abingdon Airfield (this site sits wholly within our Parish) we believe consideration needs to be given as to the Ward structure for the future.

We would stress at this stage our remarks are based on future needs and in no way reflect on the current service levels we receive from the sitting district councillors who are both fully supportive and helpful.

When looking at the boundary review we have taken into account the following:

- a) SHWPC have little to do with Marcham Parish but has a much closer working relationship with Wootton PC.
- b) The current Wootton and SHW joint Neighbourhood Plan was made by a strong collaboration and years of work between the two Parish Councils.
- c) The Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre, is in Wootton Village but used by many of SHW residents living in the northern part of the parish.
- d) shared infrastructure and local road network, a prime example of this is Besselsleigh Road where for part of its length the houses on the northern side are in Wootton Parish whilst those on the southern side are in SHW Parish.

The Dalton Barracks development under the current Local Plan allows for 1200 homes to be built by 2031 and the joint South and Vale proposed local plan to 2041 looks to develop 2750 homes to Garden Village principles. This will lead to a steady rise in the population within the Parish and the necessary infrastructure to support it, medical centre, community centre, primary school etc. A new vibrant community which will sit adjacent to Shippon.

It is the belief of the Parish Council that SHWPC needs to sit in one Ward so all the residents are served by district councillors who can represent both the old established settlements and the new Garden Village as one.

We would ask that our views are taken into consideration when looking at how best the growing population of our Parish can be represented in the future. We accept that there may be a need to change a number of boundaries within the VWH district to accommodate the growing and shifting population as new housing developments come on stream.

Under this review our preference is for all our Parish to sit within one ward.

David Churchouse
Vice Chair SHWPC
13/03/2024.

Attached Documents:

None attached