

Oxfordshire

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Comment text:

Related subject: Vale of White Horse

Overall, I generally agree with the initial recommendations for the Vale of White Horse area, with most wards respectful of community cohesion and geography. That said, in my opinion, there is the possibility for improved boundaries between “Kingston & Stanford” and “Marcham & Cumnor”. The parish of Longworth would be better served in “Kingston & Stanford”, with most of its connections to the villages to its west and south. Longworth, for instance, is served by the benefice of Cherbury and Gainfield, with a local newsletter corresponding to these boundaries/villages. Whereas Longworth has been placed in “Marcham & Cumnor”, the rest of these villages – Buckland, Charney Bassett, Hinton Waldrist, Littleworth, Lyford, and Pusey – all fall within the new “Kingston & Stanford” ward. Longworth, too, has very strong connections to its neighbouring village of Hinton Waldrist; an education charity (HALF), for instance, serves residents of both villages, with other clubs shared between the two villages as well, such as the Longworth and District History Society.

If Longworth were to be moved to the “Kingston & Stanford”, the corresponding increased electoral inequality could be set off by adding the parishes of Frilford and Garford into the “Marcham & Cumnor” ward. Not only will this improve electoral equality, but both Frilford and Garford look more towards Marcham and Abingdon as their primary centres, rather than the parts of the western Vale they have been included within the “Kingston & Stanford” ward. Both Frilford and Garford, for instance, fall under the ecclesiastical parish of Marcham, and would thus be better served in the “Marcham & Cumnor” ward, matching community connections to ward boundaries. These changes will have a positive effect on community cohesion and local governance, with minimal change to the 2029 electoral equality forecast for both wards. The net effect would be an additional 158 electors in the “Kingston & Stanford”; whereby, this increase in electoral numbers, will be beneficial to the projected 2029 variance for this ward, decreasing electoral inequality in the future.

Attached Documents:

None attached