

Sonning Common Parish Boundary Review

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) is reviewing parish boundaries – the civic boundaries for the administration of local council services. This is the first time in 62 years that such a review has been carried out, during which time Sonning Common's population has more than doubled. The review is intended to establish strong parish boundaries, tied to local landscapes, and remove current anomalies.

Review guidance states that natural or man-made boundaries should help to define clearly one community from another. Boundaries "should reflect 'the no-man's land' between communities represented by areas of low population or barriers such as rivers, roads or railways". Guidance also states that parish boundaries should not divide housing developments, resulting in people being in different parishes from their neighbours.

Sonning Common Parish Council believes the current boundary is illogical, based on the criteria above. For example:

- Parts of Shiplake Bottom and Blounts Court Road are in Sonning Common and parts are in the Rotherfield Peppard parish;
- Chiltern Edge School, which is clearly identified with Sonning Common, is within the Kidmore End parish boundary.

Therefore it is recommending to SODC that:

- The northern boundary of the village be redrawn to include Shiplake Bottom; additional parts of Blounts Court Road; and Stoke Row Road to the point where it meets the Gallowstree Road; and where Gallowstree Road meets the Peppard Road (see maps overleaf).
- The SW boundary be redrawn to include Chiltern Edge School.
- The southern boundary be redrawn to include the triangle of land at the Kennylands Road/Peppard Road junction.

Addresses and postcodes will not alter for properties in these areas, if these changes are made. The only differences will be that local services, such as grass cutting, litter picking and play areas, will be administered by Sonning Common Parish Council rather than Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council.

Sonning Common Parish Council is seeking a solution where areas which fall naturally within the settlement of Sonning Common are enclosed within the Sonning Common parish boundary. It is asking for your support to establish a sensible, logical boundary for the village.

Please write to:

CGR, Legal and Democratic Services, South Oxfordshire District Council, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8QS
Email: cgr@southoxon.gov.uk

For further information on the review see: www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy/town-and-parish-councils/local-government-and-public-involvement

Public consultation on the boundary review began on 1 November 2013 and will run until 31 January 2014 with SODC due to agree any changes by April of next year.

Boundary maps

These maps show in red the northern boundary proposal made to the SODC Review panel with the current boundary in blue.

Roads that would be within Sonning Common Parish Council boundary if our proposal is agreed:
Shiplake Bottom
Gravel Hill
Gravel Hill Crescent
Green Trees
Blounts Court Road
(Angel Steps to Gravel Hill)
Priory Copse
Hillcrest Lane
Butlers Yard.
Also:
Blounts Court
(Johnson Matthey)
and
Blounts Farm



This map clearly illustrates that there is a natural boundary where the red line runs whilst the existing blue boundary line does not have that characteristic.

