

CGR 19

Parishes Affected

Shiplake, Harpsden

Matter to be considered

Amending the boundary of Shiplake parish to include land south of Bolney Lane and land north of Woodland Road, both areas currently in Harpsden parish

Impact on district and county council boundaries

None

Summary of parish council responses

Shiplake parish council put this proposal forward stating that, “the current boundary cuts through the village of Lower Shiplake with the result that residents of Manor Gate and Bolney Road who live in Lower Shiplake are actually in the parish of Harpsden. It would be logical for the boundary to move to Bolney Lane and then to move northwards following that lane across the A4155 and up to meet Woodlands Road at the top. This would create a natural boundary/proper village curtilage which would be very clearly defined for the local residents of both parishes”.

Harpsden parish council has written saying that it, “sees the sense in moving the built-up area immediately adjacent to Lower Shiplake into Shiplake parish”

Summary of other responses

None

Recommendation

To move all land bounded by the A4155, Bolney Lane and Bolney Road currently lying in Harpsden parish, together with a small area of land north of Bolney Lane, into Shiplake parish, as shown on the attached map.

Justification

The current boundary between Shiplake and Harpsden parishes makes little sense in the vicinity of Lower Shiplake. Properties in Manor Wood Gate and at the north end of Northfield Avenue lie in Harpsden parish but can only be accessed from Station Road and the southern end of Northfield Avenue, which lie in Shiplake parish. The parish boundary actually cuts through one

property on Northfield Avenue. People find themselves in a different parish from their neighbours and the working group considers that their identities and interests, as well as effective and convenient representation, are best served by moving all these properties into Shiplake parish.

The same principle applies to Bolney Road where the parish boundary divides properties, all of which are accessed from Basmore Lane in Shiplake parish. Once again the existing parish boundary passes directly through a property. Bolney Lane and the Thames Path provide a suitable boundary, apart from where Bolney Lane meets the A4135 where there is a sound case to include a property on the north side of Bolney Lane that has a direct footpath link into Lower Shiplake.

The case for moving properties west of the A4155 from Harpsden into Shiplake parish is less strong and the working group makes no recommendation regarding this. The existing boundary along Woodlands Lane is somewhat arbitrary, dividing people from their neighbours, but there is no obviously better one.