

CGR 22

Parishes Affected

Sonning Common, Kidmore End

Matter to be considered

Amending the boundary of Sonning Common parish to include Chiltern Edge school, currently in Kidmore End parish

Impact on district and county council boundaries

Affects Sonning Common and Kidmore End and Whitchurch district wards

Affects Sonning Common and Goring county divisions

Summary of parish council responses

Sonning Common parish council put this proposal forward arguing that most people think that the school is in Sonning Common parish already and that all traffic to and from the school passes through the parish. It also notes that the governors of the school would like to see some of the site developed for housing and, if this is the case, those houses should be in Sonning Common parish as the residents will use the facilities within the village.

Kidmore End parish council has written as follows:

“My Council recognises the validity of the view that Chiltern Edge School forms part of the community of Sonning Common... Therefore, subject, of course, to any views expressed by residents, the Council will probably not object to a proposal to adjust the boundary with the parish of Sonning Common to accord with the neighbourhood plan boundary. However, the Council will object to the transfer of that part of the school site west of the former fence line, in other words the playing fields adjacent to Reades Lane, as, apart from any other consideration, this forms part of the open land “buffer” between the built-up areas of Sonning Common and Gallowstree Common”

Summary of other responses

None

Recommendation

To move Chiltern Edge School from Kidmore End parish into Sonning Common parish

Justification

The school sits immediately east of Sonning Common village and south of the parish boundary. It is separated from Kidmore End village by open fields. Access is from Reade's Lane, which feeds directly into Sonning Common village. The working group considers that moving the school into Sonning Common parish best reflects local community identity and interests. It sees no benefit in placing only part of the school site into Sonning Common parish, as requested by Kidmore End parish council. This would not follow a current man-made boundary and is unlikely to aid effective and convenient representation of local residents at parish level.