

## **CGR 29**

### **Parishes Affected**

Woodcote, Goring Heath

### **Matter to be considered**

Amending the boundary of Goring Heath parish to include the properties in Potkiln Lane lying south of a point approximately 110 metres from the junction of Potkiln Lane and Long Toll, currently in Woodcote parish

Amending the southern boundary of Woodcote parish to include land north of Shirvells Hill, currently in Goring Heath parish

Amending the boundary of Woodcote parish to include land north of Beech Lane, currently in Goring Heath parish.

### **Impact on district and county council boundaries**

Affects Woodcote and Rotherfield and Kidmore End and Whitchurch district wards

### **Summary of parish council responses**

Goring Heath parish council proposed moving the land at Beech Lane into Woodcote parish on the basis that the land is remote from Goring Heath and can only be accessed via Woodcote. It also requested that the properties in Potkiln Lane be moved into its parish, citing that estate agents refer to these as being in Goring Heath and that, “the characteristics of these properties have more in common with the existing range of properties within Shirvells Hill and Goring Heath than with Woodcote”.

Woodcote parish council proposed moving the properties north of Shirvells Hill into Woodcote parish on the basis that the existing boundary, “seems to make no sense”.

Woodcote parish council has responded to the working group’s draft proposals by indicating support for them but requesting that further consideration be given to extending the parish boundary to include properties south of Potkiln Lane.

## **Summary of other responses**

Most of the residents of Shirvells Hill have written expresses their preference to remain in Goring Heath parish. The general reasons provided are that it sits in a rural area more in keeping with Goring Heath than Woodcote parish.

Some residents of Pot Kiln Lane have written supporting the proposal to move their properties into Goring Heath parish, but without providing reasons why.

## **Recommendation**

To move land north of Beech Lane from Goring Heath into Woodcote parish, as shown on the attached map

To make no change to the existing boundary in the vicinity of Shirvells Hill and Potkiln Lane

## **Justification**

The land north of Beech Lane can only be accessed via Woodcote parish and is distant from any settlement in Goring Heath. The working group considers that this change makes eminent sense.

There are seven properties on the north side of Shirvells Hill, all of which lie in Goring Heath parish. They are just over half a mile from the centre of Woodcote. Travelling out of the village there is a fairly continuous line of housing along the east side of Goring Road as far as Shirvells Hill. From Shirvells Hill it is also possible to access Woodcote via Potkiln Lane. Once south of Shirvells Hill, Goring Road travels through fairly open countryside to Crays Pond, about half a mile to the south, which is the nearest settlement in Goring Heath parish.

The working group considers that it could argue for these properties to be in either parish. On balance, given the clear views of those directly affected, it proposes maintaining the status quo.

The working group can see little merit in moving properties in Potkiln Lane from Woodcote into Goring Heath parish. These properties are only about 400 metres from the more heavily developed parts of Woodcote village but almost one mile from Crays Pond, the nearest settlement in Goring Heath. The working group considers that the residents' identities and interests are best served by them remaining in Woodcote parish. Equally, it does not support extending the boundary of Woodcote parish south of Potkiln Lane. Although a case can be made for moving these properties into Woodcote parish, they have a more rural feel about them and the working group considers that they are best remaining in Goring Heath parish.

All in all, the working group concludes that the southern boundary of Woodcote parish with Goring Heath parish is not good in community identity terms, but it cannot identify any obvious improvements that are likely to command widespread support.

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