

# Agenda Item 8



**COTSWOLD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	FULL COUNCIL – 25th May 2022
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 8
Subject	Community Governance Review
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Joe Harris Email: <a href="mailto:joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk">joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Rob Weaver, Chief Executive Officer and Sarah Dalby, Electoral Services Manager Email: <a href="mailto:robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk">robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk</a> ; <a href="mailto:sarah.dalby@cotswold.gov.uk">sarah.dalby@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	At its meeting in February, Council approved a Community Governance Review for six areas within the District and consultations have now taken place. The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the responses and approve the final recommendations for each area. In addition, Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council has asked the Council to consider a change in their governance arrangements.
Annexes	Annex A – Details of proposals and responses Annex B - Considerations and recommendations Annexe C - Maps
Recommendation(s)	<i>That Council:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>approve the final recommendations in relation to the Parish boundary changes for the six areas under consideration</i></li> <li><i>authorise the Electoral Services Manager to request the Local Government Boundary Commission to change District Wards and County Divisions to reflect the changes made to Parish boundaries</i></li> <li><i>authorise the Interim Head of Legal Services to make a Reorganisation of Community Governance order to implement the changes agreed by Council</i></li> <li><i>considers the recommendation to increase the number of Parish Councillors on Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council from 11 to 13.</i></li> </ol>
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering our services to the highest standards</li> </ul>
Key Decision	YES



Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Following Council's approval of the Community Governance Review in February, consultation has taken place with Parish and Town Councils, Ward Councillors, County Councillors and residents in each of the affected areas.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 1.1** A Community Governance Review ("CGR") of existing Parish/Town Council arrangements within the District was commenced in February 2022.
- 1.2** A CGR enables strong, clearly defined boundaries to be put into place, which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.
- 1.3** Following the approval of the Review in February, consultation has now taken place with the areas identified and the responses collated.

## **2. Community Governance Review Criteria**

- 2.1** A CGR can take place for the whole or part of the District and can consider the following:
  - a. Creating, merging, altering or abolishing Parishes;
  - b. The naming of Parishes and the style of new Parishes;
  - c. The electoral arrangements for Parishes including:
    - i. the ordinary year of election;
    - ii. the number of Councillors to be elected; and
    - iii. the warding (if any) of the Parish
  - d. Grouping Parishes under a common Parish Council or de-grouping Parishes
- 2.2** The Council is required to ensure that the community governance within the area under review will be:
  - a. reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
  - b. is effective and convenient
- 2.3** In doing so, the CGR is required to take into account:
  - a. The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
  - b. The size, population and boundaries of a local community or Parish



- 2.4** The District Council is responsible for conducting CGRs within its area. The Council will oversee the review and produce draft and final recommendations. Once approved, an Order will be made to implement the changes.
- 2.5** Where approved changes result in a change to a District Ward or County Division boundary, this will be reported to the Boundary Commission for England (“the Commission”). The Commission will consider the proposals and make any necessary changes to the District Ward or County Division boundaries.
- 3. Draft recommendations**
- 3.1** Following adoption of the draft recommendations in February, consultation has now taken place with the Parish and Town Councils, Parish Meetings, Ward and County Councillor members and properties affected by the proposals.
- 3.2** Details of the consultation responses are included in the attached Annex A.
- 4 Final recommendations**
- 4.1** The proposals and responses have been considered against the CGR criteria and Annex B sets out the recommendation for each of the six areas.
- 4.2** Council is asked to consider and agree a way forward for each of the six areas.
- 5 Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council**
- 5.1** Since the CGR was started in February, Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council has asked if the number of councillors for the Council can be increased from 11 to 13.
- 5.2** The District Council adopted a scale for the number of Parish Councillors which is used as guidance in these matters.
- 5.3** Bourton-on-the-Water has seen significant development in the past few years and there are still more houses to be built. There are currently 3,102 electors on the register of electors and against the scale, this is 13 councillors.
- 5.4** Looking at the elections in the past few years, Bourton-on-the-Water has not had contested elections. However, since 2019 it has maintained a full complement of 11 councillors with only 4 casual vacancies in that time.



- 5.5.** It is therefore recommended that the number of councillors for Bourton-on-the-Water be increased from 11 to 13 with effect from the 2023 Ordinary Elections.

**6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1** The CGR must be conducted in accordance with relevant legislation, namely the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 7.2** Following approval of the final recommendations, Legal Services will draw up the appropriate Community Governance Orders to implement the changes. In respect of Cowley Parish Council this will include the abolition of the current Cowley Parish Council and the creation of two new Parish Councils; Cowley and Birdlip.

(END)



## Ampney Crucis - Driffield - Ampney St Mary - Consultation responses

<p><b>Resident</b></p>	<p>Thank you for the letter and enclosed details regarding the Community Governance Review covering Ampney Crucis, Driffield and Ampney St Mary.</p> <p>If this review is simply a regular “tidying up” of boundaries then I can see the sense in that. However it would appear from the covering letter that this review has been sought by one of the parish councils involved and I have to wonder if there is any sense in going through this exercise when these parishes seem to me to act together cohesively on a community basis and this has been the case for many years.</p> <p>Such is the fact these days that not all churches in these villages offer services on a weekly basis so villagers from any of these parishes will often go to the parish that is offering a service that week. Also community resources such as a village hall only exists in Ampney Crucis so villagers from the other two parishes are able to use this venue which, in the twenty first century cannot be considered to be a long distance away. None of the three parishes mentioned has a village shop so that is absent to all the villagers and the Crown at Ampney Brook pub is within striking distance for all.</p> <p>From the point of view of my wife and myself, although part of our land is in Ampney St Peter and the property in Ampney Crucis we do not find this burdensome and, contrary to some reports we have heard we have not requested our land be moved into the parish of Ampney Crucis. We were approached regarding our feeling on the matter and we are very relaxed about the issue. We have lived here for forty years and do not find the current situation a problem in any way.</p> <p>I feel that surely one of the major considerations must be that should these proposals be accepted and enacted then the smaller parishes of Ampney St Mary and Driffield will lose out quite considerably by reason of the fact that the parish precept element of the council tax on the properties mentioned will go to the biggest village of Ampney Crucis which already has reasonable reserves which will be further bolstered by the 22% increase in parish precept for the financial year 2022-23. This may mean Driffield and Ampney St Mary finding it difficult to provide the resources needed in terms of facilities such as cutting the grass verges, road signs etc.</p> <p>Moving the properties listed in the papers into the parish of Ampney Crucis really shows no benefit apart from the emotional ties that some may feel from carrying out this exercise.</p>
<p><b>Resident</b></p>	<p>Following a chance omission of a footpath through the garden of Harnhill Cottage, when searching the Ampney Crucis website. There was no reference at all to that footpath that is part of a route towards the Ivy church (St Mary's) on the Poulton to Ampney Crucis road.</p>

	<p>Contact in the Parish Councillor who was at that time, responsible for AC footpaths. We discovered, to our total surprise, that the footpath was in Driffield.</p> <p>Further research discovered further surprises that the house and land was in fact in two parishes.</p> <p>We contacted the CDC to clarify the situation. Following the consequences we were asked which parish we would prefer to ensure the whole if the property and land should be in.</p> <p>Denise was very keen to be in the parish of Driffield as it certainly felt a friendly sociable community in the way the village we had previously lived in Wales. But also previously in The Cotswolds.</p> <p>The proximity of Ampney Crucis however and the impact of the various situations which could potentially affect the quality of our lives, it was felt perhaps we needed to retain the right to comment on any decisions that may impact our lives.</p> <p>However, now it appears that this situation, discovered by a totally naive research for a footpath, has become a very unpleasant situation.</p> <p>We understand that the idea of just one property in what we thought was AC is now multiplying to other households being asked if they would prefer to redefine the location of their home, from Driffield to AC.</p> <p>This is definitely not a situation we envisaged. Nor is it a situation we wish to be part of.</p> <p>The resulting impact on Driffield and the potential for any other residential area being combined into AC is totally unacceptable.</p> <p>Presumably the loss of precept will have a devastating impact on any area that loses a property/land to AC. The very concept and historical differences, let alone much treasured community identity will be damaged and potentially lost.</p> <p>It was never a situation we foresaw and are totally against this awful situation.</p> <p>We very strongly wish to ensure that Harnhill Cottage is within the Driffield parish boundary.</p> <p>The decision to be in Ampney Crucis parish is not now an option.</p>
<b>Driffield Parish</b>	<p>Driffield and Harnhill Parish Council agreed that its response was to be that the parish boundary should remain as it is. <b>The</b></p>

<b>Council</b>	<b>Parish Council felt very strongly that any electorate reduction would make the PC unviable as a Parish.</b> No residents have approached this PC or the District Council to request changes to the boundary. The PC suggest that Harnhill Cottage and Harnhill Mill and associated buildings remain in Harnhill Parish.
<b>Resident</b>	<p>I'm writing in relation to the letter we received today regarding the proposed changes to the parish boundaries of Ampney Crucis/Driffield/Ampney St Mary as part of a community governance review.</p> <p>We live at Mill View Cottage, London Road, Ampney Crucis, GL7 5RS, and are affected by the proposal.</p> <p>We are very supportive of the proposal in moving from Driffield to Ampney Crucis Parish. We feel truly part of Ampney Crucis village; the road-sign for the village boundary is actually at the edge of our property on the A417 and we are a stone's throw from the pub. All the social events we participate in are in Ampney Crucis (e.g. village quiz, village fetes and Christmas events), our children attended the school here, my wife is part of the Ampney Crucis Women's Institute, so it has always felt an anomaly that we were not actually in the parish even though we are geographically in the village. Since we have lived here, I don't ever recall going to Driffield and we only go to Harnhill to vote (the Ampney Crucis village hall would be a much more convenient polling station).</p> <p>Therefore while we have nothing against the lovely people of Driffield parish, we would prefer to be part of Ampney Crucis parish.</p> <p>If you require any more information then please get in touch.</p>
<b>Ampney Crucis Parish Council</b>	<i>Ampney Crucis Parish Council supports the boundary change and would like to request that the boundary along A417 is situated on the southern edge of the carriageway including the verge in order that the Parish council can take on responsibility for maintaining the verges in that area.</i>
<b>Ampney St Mary Parish Meeting</b>	<p><i>Ampney St. Mary cannot support Ampney Crucis' Parish Council proposals for moving significant lengths of the boundaries between the three parishes. We consider that the changes they suggest would far exceed what is required to solve the Harnhill Cottage problem.</i></p> <p><i>Attached is our response to the proposals (AStM comments on proposed boundary changes 220303.pdf, which Driffield &amp; Harnhill Parish Council has seen and discussed). This includes, on page 9, the suggestion of a much simpler solution — that</i></p>

<p>of moving the Ampney Crucis/Driffild &amp; Hamhill boundary to the western side of Hamhill Cottage such that the whole property lies within the parish of Driffild &amp; Hamhill.</p> <p>If a County Governance Review is imminent, can it please also address a number of other anomalies which are evident in the path of the boundary of the parish of Ampney St. Mary? If so, we would submit that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gilhayes straddles the parishes of Ampney Crucis and Ampney St. Mary. We would be very happy to talk to Mr. &amp; Mrs. Stiles and go with whichever direction they wish to move -- their garden into Ampney Crucis or their house into Ampney St. Mary. (See options 2a and 2b on page 8 of ASiM comments on proposed boundary changes 220303.pdf)</li> <li>• If Hilary Lady Apsley wants to 'move' into the parish of Ampney Crucis then we would not resist that boundary change. We would be happy to ask her. (See option 3 on page 8 of ASiM comments on proposed boundary changes 220303.pdf)</li> <li>• If Little Furlong, Mulberry and Frogmoor (the three houses at Betty's Grave around which the boundary currently dog-legs instead of turning the corner at the cross-roads) are content to be in Poulton, then we will, of course, respect that. But if they wish to be (or can see the logic of being) brought into the parish of Ampney St. Mary then it would 'tidy up' that corner of the parish. (See green annotations on the attached ASiM parish anomalies.pdf)</li> <li>• There are many instances along the boundary where it suddenly kinks around a field and then returns to the 'logical' line. These could all be straightened out unless there are strange reasons why they should remain as they are. The road from Moorhill Corner to Ready Token is a classic example -- it starts in Ampney Crucis, then follows the border with Ampney St. Mary, then for a few yards returns to Ampney Crucis, then borders again with Ampney St. Mary, then is in Ampney Crucis alone once more before following the border again for some distance until it passes through Ampney St. Mary alone on its way to Ready Token -- all in a distance of two miles. (See the attached ASiM parish boundary dog-legs.pdf)</li> <li>• The residents of three properties which are unquestionably within the parish of Ampney St. Mary (Hester's Barn, Betty's Grave Old Cottage and Quarry Farm/Quarry House -- see the blue annotations on ASiM parish anomalies.pdf) all appear on the Electoral Roll (see 23UC211210141917.ZIP) as being in the parish of Poulton.</li> </ul> <p>We would appreciate your views on the much-reduced boundary change we propose as a solution to Hamhill Cottage's request and to the other adjustments which we hope can be made while the Review is in progress.</p>	
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## Community Governance Review - Cirencester - Baunton responses to consultation

<p><b>Baunton Parish Council</b></p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation.</p> <p>Baunton Parish Council helps to bind together our community, providing communication on matters of interest to residents, co-ordinating village events and responses to emergencies (whether providing assistance to those in need during the Covid crisis or co-ordinating snow clearance in the winter), producing a Parish Plan and ensuring residents views are taken into account in matters of local interest. This includes the residents of both Baunton village and the north side of Baunton Lane, with whom we share our rural outlook.</p> <p>It is true that Baunton Lane, like Baunton village looks to Cirencester for many of its shopping, employment and leisure needs and that we have very few facilities within the village. However, we are a community which is distinct from Cirencester, having predominantly rural concerns. This is evidenced by the recent conversion of the Parish church to become a facility for the Baunton community. This was fully supported by the Parish Council following residents' wishes expressed when putting together the Parish Plan and would almost certainly not have happened without the Parish Council.</p> <p>As the consultation document sets out, the suggestion to move the north side of Baunton Lane from Baunton Parish to Cirencester would result in the number of electors in Baunton Parish falling from 236 to 165. As a Parish Council we are extremely concerned that this would jeopardise the viability of Baunton as a Parish as it brings us close to the minimum number of electors required to elect a Parish Council. The loss of the Parish Council would simply, we believe, be bad for our community across the whole of the Parish.</p> <p>But of course, while Baunton village could be significantly impacted by any change, the interests of electors in the village are not the only concern and it is important that the views of those in Baunton Lane should be also taken into account.</p> <p>So, Baunton Parish Council has conducted its own consultation with the residents of the north side of Baunton Lane. In late March we sent out the attached letter to the 31 properties that would be affected, asking whether they feel more associated with Baunton and its rural surroundings and wish to stay in Baunton Parish or whether they would rather be part of Cirencester Town and its urban environment and be represented by Cirencester Town Council.</p>
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	<p>We have received 19 responses from those 31 properties, all of which express a preference to remain within Baunton Parish – none favoured becoming part of Cirencester.</p> <p>For the reasons set-out above we believe strongly that the northern side of Baunton Lane should remain within Baunton Parish.</p>
<b>Resident</b>	<p>Thank you for your letter regarding the consideration of the Town Council boundaries and electoral arrangements as part of the CGR.</p> <p>We find it disappointing that this is being reconsidered so soon after the previous review of the Baunton boundary.</p> <p>As we emphasised previously, we identify and relate to the village of Baunton and are pleased to be part of Baunton parish.</p> <p>There is a clear rural break between Cirencester and Stratton. The council have not offered a good enough reason to change it and the benefits of doing so for the residents of Baunton Parish.</p> <p>Another aspect of this is the size of the council and we consider it important for Baunton to have a reasonable number of residents in order to be a viable parish.</p> <p>We as residents of the north side of Baunton Lane in the Parish of Baunton( address below) want to strongly advise that we do not want the boundary to be repositioned</p>
<b>Resident</b>	<p>We have received your letter of 10 March 2022 advising us of the request by Cirencester Town Council to transfer the properties within the Parish of Baunton into the zone of the town.</p> <p>We completely reject this proposal for the following reasons.</p> <p>A/ Having lived at our home for some 46 years we are having to oppose this request for the 3rd time. Along with our neighbours, we are weary of this long established attempt by the Town Council to urbanise our semi</p>

	<p>rural environment within Baunton Parish. The pleasant AONB landscape has remained unspoiled, and we see no reason to change to urban control which could result in the demise of this environment.</p> <p>B/ 30% of the Baunton Parish population reside to the north of Baunton Lane and the Parish Council have firmly stated that they wish to retain us.</p> <p>C/ Our residents have many friendly contacts with Baunton village and our relationship is strong with the Church, Parish Council, and other activities. Along with several other Parishes surrounding Cirencester we do, of course, have to use the shops and other facilities. However, we also sometimes travel to Cheltenham to make use of the wider choice of facilities--hospital, cinema, sport etc. The bus service is good and the journey time is only 30 minutes.</p> <p>D/ Baunton Parish Council fully understands our environment and requirements, and continues to be supportive in many ways. For example: Opposition to the recently proposed Truck Park, help with difficult planning applications, and in past periods, bus shelter, rural street lighting etc.</p> <p>Having firmly stated our Baunton Parish credentials, we do not see any benefits or reasons whatsoever to change this. To the south of the lane, we do, of course, have well established co operation with our friendly Stratton neighbours, and this will remain.</p> <p>Once again we ask Cotswold District Council to reject this proposal.</p>
<b>Resident</b>	<p>Thank you for your letter dated 10th March advising us of the possible change to the line of the boundary between Baunton Parish Council and Cirencester Town Council.</p> <p>We understand the proposal is to re-align the parish boundary such that properties on the north side of Baunton Lane become part of Cirencester Town Council instead of the Parish of Baunton.</p> <p>We reject this proposal for the reasons outlined below.</p> <p>We have lived at Brackenrigg, Baunton Lane for over thirty years and during that time little has changed to spoil the rural environment around us. Along with other residents we made a conscious decision to live on the</p>

	<p>north side of Baunton Lane to look out over the open countryside that forms Baunton Parish.</p> <p>We and other residents on the north side of Baunton Lane have been and continue to be, well represented by Baunton Parish Council. We see no reason why any changes should be made which inevitably would hasten the demise of our attractive rural environment.</p> <p>Baunton Parish Council takes an active role in local issues and has recently been instrumental in rejecting the proposal to build a truck stop to the north of Baunton Lane. In the past the Parish Council has taken the lead over the Town Council in taking an active interest in areas such as difficult planning applications, safety signage in Baunton Lane and rural street lighting etc.</p> <p>Baunton Lane has been the Parish boundary for all the years we have lived here, despite a number of attempts to change it during that time. No attempt appears to have been made to justify the new proposal and no benefits are identified in the briefing note.</p> <p>We feel any move away from Baunton parish will inevitably have an impact on our AONB status. There is currently a well-defined boundary along Baunton Lane. This would be replaced by a ragged boundary bordering the gardens of the properties in Baunton Lane.</p> <p>Geographically we are on the fringe of Cirencester and, although we of course do make use of facilities in Cirencester (as we do similar facilities in Cheltenham and elsewhere) these services (shopping, restaurants etc) are not directly connected to, or the responsibility of, the Town Council.</p> <p>Understandably the priority for Cirencester Town Council is managing urban related operations in the town itself. Our environment in Baunton Lane is rural and better understood and served by a rural parish council.</p> <p>In conclusion, no benefits have been identified for such a change and we reject the proposals for the change.</p>
<b>Resident</b>	<p>We have lived in Baunton for thirty years, even though we live on the outskirts we have always felt part of it. Over the years we have taken part in many of the village's social activities - Summer barbecues and village lunches at the Golf Club.</p> <p>We have also made contributions to the revamping of the church, so that it can be used more widely by the</p>



	<p>villagers. We have also joined the monthly draw to help maintain the church fabric. During lockdown we went on Zoom to attend Council meetings that covered issues we were interested in.</p> <p>We cannot see the point of changing the boundary which follows a clear unchallengeable demarcation line i.e. the road.</p> <p>To remove, 31 properties 95 will make the Parish Council weaker financially to carry out its local responsibilities and improvements to the village. Monitoring the environmental change in this rural parish.</p>
<b>Resident</b>	<p>So points that I would like to make</p> <p>I really do feel part of the Baunton Parish for oh so many reasons</p> <p>Local councillor always keeps us up to date with planning issues and local concerns probably on a weekly basis</p> <p>Getting involved in local events on the green, church etc</p> <p>Not really feeling that we were ever seen as part of Cirencester as our house isn't on the main sewer, yet the other side of the road is</p> <p>Help and support from all of the council during COVID was amazing. Ensuring all were looked after. I really felt part of a real community and would hate to lose that</p> <p>Moved here as wanted to be part of a small community not a large growing town</p>
<b>Resident</b>	<p>We own Longridge ( and the two annexes built to support two elderly people). Mrs Webb originally built and owned the property but didn't want to go into care - she is now 96.</p> <p>Our strong views are that we should remain in the Baunton Parish. We are rural and living in an AONB. We don't have any normal town facilities:</p>

	<p>-No gas only electric hence we invested in an airsource heat pump</p> <p>- No sewage connection - septic tank</p> <p>- No street lighting on our side of the lane</p> <p>We have often attended the Baunton Parish Council planning meetings and have confidence that they really consider the rural impact in making their decisions.</p> <p>With the pandemic the household has been shielding as Mr Tipper had a heart transplant in 2002 so we can't really say that we have used any facilities from either Cirencester or Baunton. We did feel very isolated but at least we had our rural views and garden to keep us going.</p>
<b>Resident</b>	<p>We are in receipt of your letter dated 10 March 2022 and wish to express our view on the proposal to change the boundary of the Town to include properties in Baunton Lane.</p> <p>We have lived in Baunton Lane for two and a half years and have always considered that we were part of Cirencester not Baunton, whilst also being aware this area is generally known as 'Stratton'.</p> <p>We generally use the commercial and social services provided by Cirencester Town or Stratton Village (Spar/Post Office), we only ever drive through Baunton; there are no main services there albeit we have always voted via the Cirencester Golf Club at Bagendon.</p>
<b>Resident</b>	<p>Thank you for your letter seeking my views on the proposal to change the boundary of the Town so that all the properties in Baunton Lane are included.</p> <p>I have lived on the north side of Baunton Lane for nearly 35 years, first of all in Elmbrook House and now in Lime Tree House. I have always considered where I live as part of a rural community with almost continuous country side between this side of Baunton Lane and Gloucester.</p> <p>Over the years and up until Covid struck, I have enjoyed the annual Baunton hog roast and fete. I have taken</p>

	<p>our grandchildren to this event on a number of occasions, enjoyed boules on the village green in the summer and sang Christmas carols by lantern.</p> <p>I feel very strongly, therefore, that the boundaries maintained as they are so that I can continue enjoy the benefits of the Baunton Parish.</p>
<b>Resident</b>	<p>Thank you for your letter asking for my views on your proposals to move the north side of Baunton Lane into Stratton and to Cirencester Town.</p> <p>This is the third occasion this issue has been raised during the time I have lived here and I do not wish to be incorporated into the town council area. I feel I relate very well to Baunton Parish and am very happy with the support of the Parish Council over the years on various matters.</p> <p>The other major consideration is that if the Parliamentary Boundary Commission proposals are adopted Cirencester will be North Wiltshire and no longer Cotswolds. I see where I live as definitely Cotswold and do not want to be considered as North Wiltshire.</p> <p>It is a shame that public resources are being used to pursue this matter again when on both previous occasions there was overwhelming agreement to stay within the parish of Baunton.</p>
<b>Resident</b>	<p>We were asked this question some four or five years ago and the proposal was rejected. Nothing has changed in the interim and the reasons stated then equally apply now. We remain opposed to the proposed review.</p> <p>We do hope that this is not a case of Cirencester Town Council repeatedly asking the same question until they get the answer they want. Not very democratic if that is the case.</p>
<b>Resident</b>	<p>Regarding the boundary change from Baunton Parish to Cirencester Town.</p> <p>I would like to submit my view that i prefer to stay within the Baunton Parish boundary as we have more of a</p>

	community as a Parish and the rural location is how i prefer to stay
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## **Community Governance Review - Coberley - responses to consultation**

### **Draft recommendations**

Coberley Parish Council submitted a proposal to move the property known as Needlehole from Withington into Coberley. This request was originally made a few years ago, and this is the first opportunity to include it for consideration.

Details of the proposal were sent to the householders and to Withington Parish Council. The householder wishes to be part of Coberley Parish.

### **Coberley Parish Council responded:**

Although being just across the boundary from Coberley Parish, the residents of Needlehole have for many years had a close engagement with Coberley, not Withington, - so much so, that one has been a Coberley Parish Councillor for a number of years and is currently Vice Chair.

Although a somewhat remote location, Needlehole is geographically closer to Upper Coberley than any other hamlet, and I believe, features Upper Coberley as part of its address.

**Withington Parish Council** clerk responded to say that Withington Parish Council have no issues with the change.

## Community Governance Review - Northleach-with-Eastington and Farmington responses to consultation

<p><b>Farmington Parish Meeting</b></p>	<p>In December 2021 a consultation was held in Farmington about the proposal from Northleach Town Council to transfer part of Farmington parish to Northleach parish. Many in Farmington were puzzled by the proposal. The ostensible reason for the proposal was to give better alignment of the parish boundary with the local roads. Given that the boundary between the two parishes is very wiggly over much of its length this seemed a surprising and not very convincing argument.</p> <p>After seeking clarification we were advised that issues of litter and road safety were the principal reasons.</p> <p>The Northleach proposal was discussed at the Farmington Parish AGM on 1 April 2022. The minute of that item is set out below:</p> <p><b>10. Proposed Parish Boundary Change</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported on background to the proposal from Northleach Town Council for the transfer of part of Farmington parish to Northleach, and referred to the correspondence with Northleach about this (FPM/22/3 and map appendix). The principal justification put forward by Northleach related to litter (CDC matter) and road safety (GCC matter). Northleach Town Council has never contacted Farmington parish to ask us to take any action or to propose any joint action. There is in fact nothing to prevent Northleach Town Council or any individual from raising concerns with the relevant body. Farmington parish regularly clears litter, reports drainage issues and fly tipping on the roads between Farmington and Northleach and between Farmington and the Fosse, both of which are entirely within Northleach Parish.</p> <p>The Chairman asked for a vote on the proposal from Northleach:</p> <p>Those in favour of the transfer 0, those against 18.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> <i>The Clerk will communicate the outcome of this discussion and vote to CDC and to Northleach</i></p> <p>The five other proposals for boundary changes included in the current CDC review all demonstrate clear, objective reasoning behind them - mostly to rectify a situation where a group of properties are currently located in the 'wrong' parish. The Northleach proposal by contrast lacks such objective reasons. The points about litter</p>
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	<p>and road safety are general ones which are of relevance to all parishes. If particular local issues have been identified then these could easily be discussed between Northleach and Farmington councils and appropriate action agreed. It doesn't need a boundary change to achieve this!</p> <p>For these reasons and in view of the overwhelming opposition in Farmington, as shown by the vote at the Parish AGM, Cotswold District Council is asked to reject the proposal for a boundary change put forward by Northleach Town Council</p>
<b>Northleach with Eastington Town Council</b>	<p>This letter is the Town Council's formal response to the Community Governance Review to amend the boundaries of the parish of Northleach with Eastington. This proposal was originally put forward by the Town Council and naturally they are supportive of it.</p> <p>The proposal is to bring land south of the Old London Road, currently in the parish of Farmington within the parish of Northleach with Eastington. The town of Northleach is linear with a single main road running through it; the boundary change would bring this main road entirely within the parish. Currently the main gateway to the town from the east lies outside the parish.</p> <p>The Town Council has in the past found it difficult to engage with the other tiers of local authority about such issues such as litter and road safety in this area because the land is outside the parish. The hope is that, by changing the parish boundary to include this area, we could influence such issues more effectively when the need arises and better promote the interests of the community.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that the present parish boundary in this area does not align with any features on the ground or land ownership parcels. We assume it reflects historical landmarks that have since disappeared. Thus, the amendment would address anomalies in the boundary position.</p> <p>The Town Council consulted with Farmington Parish Meeting in December 2021. It would appear they view the change as unnecessary and it is disappointing to hear they have formally objected. We would like to thank Farmington Parish Meeting for their offer to co-operate with us on any issues arising with this land which are affecting the townspeople of Northleach while also noting that the purpose of this review is to improve community governance and minimise administrative overhead by making such consultation with neighbouring parishes unnecessary.</p>

<b>Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, County Councillor</b>	It's up to the two parishes to work it out between them. It doesn't involve any residents/properties so it is best if the 2 parishes can work out between them what they need and want.
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#### **Westonbirt-with-Lasborough - Shipton Moyne - Tetbury Upton Responses to consultation**

<b>Shipton Moyne Parish Council</b>	<p>Please find below the objections of Shipton Moyne Parish council to the proposed boundary change with Westonbirt with Lasborough Parish council -</p> <p>"Shipton Moyne Parish Council object to proposal to alter to the parish boundary feeling it will be of no benefit to Shipton Moyne and will be a costly and unnecessary change, it will also mean the Parish and Ecclesiastical boundaries will differ with no advantage to either parish. There have been objections from some of the affected residents who objected strongly to the proposed change because of their close ties to Shipton Moyne".</p>
<b>Resident (Shipton Moyne)</b>	<p>I am John Shepherd. My wife Geraldine and I purchased Woodlands House, Westonbirt in 1976 and from that moment we were made to feel very much part of the Westonbirt community.</p> <p>As soon as we moved in, we were visited by Alan Wadge, the then Vicar of St Catherine's Church Westonbirt, who welcomed us to his parish. Shortly after, Leslie Cooper, then Bursar of Westonbirt School, also arrived and welcomed us to the area.</p> <p>At that time, as far as we were aware, Shipton Moyne was just one of the neighbouring villages, a couple of miles away.</p> <p>We quickly became involved with the local community in Westonbirt and, over the years, supported local events in and around the grounds of Westonbirt School, such as the street party in the Westonbirt Estate Yard in 1977 for Queen's Silver Jubilee (having been excluded from the Shipton Moyne street party "as we were not part of the village"), the then annual "Westonbirt Show", the Harvest Service and the Christmas Services then at St</p>



	<p>Catherine's church and now at St Mary's Lasborough.</p> <p>This reinforced our ties with Westonbirt and Lasborough and so it has remained. It was only later we discovered that, although we were geographically in Westonbirt, administratively we were in the Parish of Shipton Moyne.</p> <p>A few years ago, I was appointed Clerk to Westonbirt with Lasborough Parish Council. Throughout this period, the major concerns that residents living adjacent to Easton Grey and Bowldown Roads raise, relate to traffic and road safety, particularly at the Hare &amp; Hounds crossroads and at the East Lodge Entrance to the school.</p> <p>Those residents raise these issues with Westonbirt with Lasborough Parish Council, even if they live in the parishes of Shipton Moyne or Tetbury Upton. It would make sense if all these properties were in the same parish so that these common issues can be dealt with cohesively.</p> <p>For these reasons, both personal and professional, I do hope that you will resolve the anomalies in the boundary along the Easton Grey and Bowldown Roads, so that Woodlands House and these other properties may become part of Westonbirt with Lasborough parish, where my wife and I feel that they best belong.</p>
<p><b>Resident</b> <b>(Shipton Moyne)</b></p>	<p>I am the Chair of Westonbirt with Lasborough Parish Council.</p> <p>I am also an owner of Woodlands House, one of the five houses on the Easton Grey Road affected by the proposed boundary change.</p> <p>I asked to speak at the Shipton Moyne Parish Council meeting on 23rd March 2022.</p> <p>After my 3-minute speech, there was considerable discussion, after which the parish council agreed to support our application to change the boundary.</p> <p>However, one householder whose residence was among the five affected properties was furious when she learned of the decision and persuaded the chair of Shipton Moyne Parish Council to hold a second, extraordinary meeting on the 29th of March to, quote "re-visit their decision".</p> <p>The meeting was packed with the householder's friends who, apart from one parishioner who supported us, were aggressively opposed to the change. I doubt if, prior to the meeting, any of those parishioners from Shipton Moyne</p>

	<p>had any idea that these five houses, 2 miles from the village, were actually in their parish. The parish council reversed their decision. It seems a shame that the original decision was overturned by one disgruntled householder.</p> <p>Over the years, I and the other councillors have endeavoured to bring together this extremely dispersed and elongated parish which stretches from New Road, behind the school to the far side of Lasborough Manor, a distance of some 4 miles, yet at one point it is only about 300 metres wide. This is further exacerbated by a purely arbitrary boundary line down the middle of the Easton Grey/ Bowldown roads, cutting off houses, woodland and fields that were historically part of the Westonbirt estate.</p> <p>Whilst I am sure that the Community Governance Review 2022 is being done with the best of intentions and will, of course, take into account all communications received, it is difficult to see how any changes can be made, if subject to the agreement of all parish councils involved. I cannot see how any parish council will voluntarily cede some of its parish to another. Common remarks were, "What is in it for us?" and "We will lose income."</p> <p>Therefore, I would ask the Community Governance Review to decide what boundaries would be best for the households involved and be consistent with a more integrated parish of Westonbirt with Lasborough, and not be too swayed by the self-interest of those parish councils who would be losing a very few parishioners.</p>
<p><b>Resident</b> <b>(Shipton</b> <b>Moyne)</b></p>	<p>I am writing to you following my attendance at the extraordinary Council Meeting of Shipton Moyne Parish Council on Tuesday, 29th March. At this well-attended meeting they discussed the proposed boundary changes with Westonbirt and Lasborough Parish Council.</p> <p>The Village Hall was packed with people in our village who feel very strongly about this proposal. I attended this meeting as I am somewhat concerned that our Parish Council took this long to bring this matter to our attention and I am opposed to this proposal.</p> <p>There are two issues at hand.</p> <p>First of all, boundaries must be one of the more important and sensitive responsibilities of a Parish Council. I would like to understand the process and how this particular proposal made it to this stage without consultation from the affected households, far less the village. It is not appropriate for the affected households to learn of this type of review by post. Surely they deserve a phone call or a visit. Their letter asking them for their views on the</p>

	<p>boundary review was addressed to 'The Occupant'. I'm not sure you are the right person to provide this explanation but I would like one from the relevant authorities. There was a full Village Hall tonight at the Extraordinary General Meeting and no one seemed to understand why this proposal had received any traction at all and why it had been approved for consideration in the first place.</p> <p>Once the Westonbirt Chairman was allowed to speak, I listened to her justification for the boundary change. I completely understand their desire to increase the numbers in their community, but the idea of simply extending their boundary without consulting the seven affected households personally seems completely inappropriate. She mentioned that in 1930 Shipton Moyne was transferred from Wiltshire to Gloucestershire. I hardly feel that is a relevant precedent.</p> <p>As a resident of Shipton Moyne, I do not see how this proposal benefits Shipton Moyne. It doesn't adversely affect me but I just don't see the merit of it. At the end of the day shouldn't the seven affected households be asked what they want? The more important issue is that providing a precedent for the Parish Council to change boundaries without consultation seems like a dangerous entitlement.</p> <p>I can't think of anything nicer than including Westonbirt in our Village festivities. I would welcome them with open arms. If this is an issue of community then we should discuss this in a meaningful way. Another Westonbirt household mentioned that they were excluded from the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations. Please can we let bygones go and move forward to discuss how these feelings might be rectified. I am 100% supportive of being inclusive and welcoming neighbouring communities to our events.</p> <p>If creating a larger active community is truly Westonbirt and Lasborough Parish Council's intention this seems a very strange way to achieve its goals.</p>
<b>Resident (Shipton Moyne)</b>	<p>I am writing to OBJECT to Westonbirt's proposal to move the Shipton Moyne Parish Boundary. The change will NOT reflect the identities and interest of those currently living in Shipton Moyne Parish. Shipton Moyne has always been a separate village with its own social life, pub and church.</p>

	<p>I have lived in Shipton Moyne for 25 years, and I have grown up using the Rec and playground, visiting the old Post Office and ship and cycling down to the pub. Shipton Moyne is a great Village and a very friendly cohesive community. Westonbirt is none of these.</p> <p>The proposed boundary change will be neither effective nor convenient. I am proud to be a Shipton Moyner: I was proud to be married last year in the Village Church, everyone making it such a lovely community feel to the event. Everyone knows everyone else in the Village, even our dogs come to Church in Shipton Moyne, and Christmas Day would not be the same in any other Church. There is nothing for me or my family in Westonbirt.</p> <p>Please leave the Parish Boundary alone, it works perfectly well for Shipton Moyne where it is.</p>
<p><b>Resident (Shipton Moyne)</b></p>	<p><b><u>Disenfranchisement of Shipton Moyne Parishioners</u></b></p> <p>Thank you for your letter of 10 March. I am writing to OBJECT in the strongest possible terms to the proposed annexation of a substantial part of the parish of Shipton Moyne as proposed by the neighbouring parish of Westonbirt with Lasborough.</p> <p>Before addressing the specific questions that CDC has asked me to consider I would like to make an overriding very important point. At a time of austerity and competing demands on limited Council resources, to be spending money on this proposal appears to me to be a clear and unacceptable waste of the Council and Councillors time. Whilst no justification was given for the land grab by Westonbirt in the CDC letter of 10th March, I presume that the motivation for the proposal has been to regularise the position of the chair of the Westonbirt PC who currently lives in the parish of Shipton Moyne? Frankly, if this is the problem that the proposal is seeking to address then rather than have the Westonbirt boundary move to encompass that person's property at public expense, that person should herself move to Westonbirt at her personal expense.</p> <p>If I am correct in my assumption, I consider this exercise to be a gross abuse of privilege and I strongly recommend that the CDC cease to spend time and resources on this most inappropriate proposal.</p> <p>To address the specific points:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I and my family very much feel part of and indeed are part of the Shipton Moyne community.</li> <li>2. We have accessed over many years the facilities, events and services of Shipton Moyne and none of Westonbirt-with-Lasborough. The list is very extensive and by way of "tip-of-the-iceberg" includes church attendance (we have never been in the Lasborough church), use of the playground (non existent in Westonbirt I think?), frequent events at the village hall (my wife won the silver cup for best vegetables in 2021), regular use of the village pub etc etc. We have had no involvement of this nature with Westonbirt.</li> <li>3. Services. Numerous as above including use of: (a) the church for my mother-in-law's funeral, for a daughter's wedding last year, for another daughter's wedding this year, for my wife to help with Sunday School lessons; (b) the village hall for numerous events (e.g. we organised a salsa dance lesson for friends using the village hall); (c) the playground and the "Rec" will be particularly important if we have grandchildren.</li> <li>4. We only go to Shipton Moyne for commercial, social and religious purposes, never to Westonbirt.</li> </ol> <p>It is instructive that prior to this proposal being circulated we were not approached by the Westonbirt PC to ascertain our views.</p> <p>It should be noted that from our house we can both see and easily walk to Shipton Moyne church. We can neither see nor walk to the Westonbirt-with-Lasborough church which is over 4 miles distance from our house. We can also see several houses that are located in Shipton Moyne and none in Westonbirt. The change of parish would cut us off from our community and deprive us of the numerous facilities noted above that would be less available to us as outsiders.</p> <p><b>Most importantly we would cease to have a vote in Shipton Moyne PC elections and would not be eligible to serve on the committee.</b></p> <p>As noted above, consideration of this inappropriate proposal does not merit the use of public money and the CDC should, if legally possible, cease to expend scarce resources on the matter.</p>
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	<p>The above issues may not apply to the parishioners of Tetbury Upton, I am sure that they will be commenting separately.</p>
<p><b>Resident (Shipton Moyne)</b></p>	<p>We are writing to you in response to the proposed boundary change between Shipton Moyne and Westonbirt-with-Lasborough parishes. Reference: Community Governance Review dated 10th March 2022.</p> <p>Having recently moved to the area we feel we are placed well between the two parishes, and have been welcomed warmly by both. As a young family with a young daughter and another baby on the way we have enjoyed the facilities that Shipton Moyne and Westonbirt have to offer, alongside both welcoming community events.</p> <p>At this current point in time there seems to be no clear reason stated or provided to make this change, or any key drivers behind this proposal. We feel this change would only cause friction and further divide among both communities.</p> <p>With no clear guidance as to why this change has been put forward, we would at the point in time look to object to the change in Parish.</p>
<p><b>Resident (Shipton Moyne)</b></p>	<p>I am a resident in Shipton Moyne and have lived there for 17 years. Shipton Moyne works hard to ensure that we can offer everyone who lives in the village a very inclusive village life and Fionna and David Cardale have been very central in this objective for a good 25 years now and an invaluable members of our community. It was very important to them to remain within Shipton Moyne when they moved from Lower Cranmore and they continue to remain very active within every aspect of the village especially helping the older residents and are very behind a number of our annual events.</p> <p>I fail to see the logic for this boundary change in any way as the facilities offered by Shipton Moyne to the residents within the proposed boundary changes will be far fewer and further away. While Shipton Moyne has the facilities to support these residents and we want them - why on earth would you take them away for no good reason that I can see?</p> <p>I have used the Cardale's as my example as they are the family that I know well who live within the proposed boundary change but my comments in terms of the facilities and proximity of them obviously apply to all the</p>

	<p>residents who would be affected.</p> <p>In my opinion, while the whole country is living under reduced means it would also appear to be a very bad use of your time and financial resources to be considering this needless move now. I understand no real justification or reasons have been given for this proposal, but if there are some please give them to us all so that we can see the other side?</p>
<p><b>Resident</b> <b>(Shipton Moyne)</b></p>	<p>I am writing with reference to your letter of 10th March concerning the proposed change to Shipton Moyne Parish boundary. My family and I have lived happily in Shipton Moyne Parish for over 25 year, and are appalled to learn this may change.</p> <p>Our objections are as follows:</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> there appears to be no reason for this amendment. Westonbirt Parish Council has not seen fit to contact us or our neighbours, nor taken the time to explain why this proposal has arisen nor indeed why it is necessary.</p> <p><b>Cost:</b> In these recessionary times, the proposal represents the most monstrous waste of public money, the Council should be seeking to limit unnecessary expenditure not spend money redrawing maps, re-signposting etc for no good purpose. The historic boundary of the main road is a simple clear definition of a Parish boundary, and should be respected as such. The proposed boundary is totally arbitrary.</p> <p><b>Prejudice:</b> The proposal seriously prejudices Shipton Moyne PC by removing seven homes and families from their parish (NB: one property The Old Forge, Easton Grey Road does not actually exist).</p> <p><b>Benefit:</b> There will be no benefit to those currently residing in Shipton Moyne Parish in moving to Westonbirt. Westonbirt has no services or benefits to offer its new residents, there is no local Church (we can walk to service in Shipton Moyne), no pub, no Village Hall, no recreation ground, no children's playground, no Post Office/Village shop services: Shipton Moyne has all of these.</p> <p><b>Voting rights:</b> The proposal disenfranchises occupants of houses currently using facilities in Shipton Moyne from having a say in the future development or improvement of those important facilities.</p>

	<p><b>Information:</b> Shipton Moyne Parish, PCC and Village have regular informative newsletters, and emails keeping residents abreast of events and news. There are regular social events organised by the SMPC jointly with village charities for the benefit of all residents.</p> <p>I am not aware of any attempt on Westonbirt Parish Council's part to reflect the interests and identities of the community of this part of Shipton Moyne. I note that the chair of Westonbirt Parish Council actually lives in Shipton Moyne (at Woodlands House) so perhaps this is all for the Chairman and Clerk's benefit, rather than for the residents concerned?</p> <p>My response to the Cotswold District Council's question is as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. My family and I have strong, long standing and enduring connections with Shipton Moyne and have closely identified with it for over 25 years.</li> <li>2. We regularly use the Church, Village Hall, Pub and Post Office (now a mobile service)</li> <li>3. We receive a huge amount of invaluable Community spirit and social support from Shipton Moyne built up over many years that could not be replicated by Westonbirt.</li> <li>4. For Commercial, Social and Religious purposes, Shipton Moyne is my family's primary destination. (Westonbirt has no village Church in Shipton Moyne, my mother's funeral service was held there, one daughter was married in the Church last year and another will be married there this summer.</li> <li>5. Our ties to Shipton Moyne are very broad: in addition to being Treasurer (twice) of SMPCC, and helping run Sunday School for village children, I served for many years on the old Shipton Moyne Recreation Ground Committee until its disbandment and absorption into the Parish Council. I have been closely involved in organising Village social events and street parties for the various jubilees and Royal Wedding parties held in Shipton Moyne, and in Village based fundraising activities. Shipton Moyne is a vibrant, tight knit and energetic community of which we are proud to be part: it is difficult to see the benefit of leaving SM Parish to join Westonbirt - a spring of widely spread former Estate houses with no central focus or services. We cannot see any houses in Westonbirt Parish from our home - we can see plenty in Shipton Moyne, including the Church spire.</li> </ol> <p>Please reject this ill-conceived proposal and leave the Parish boundaries as they are. Westonbirt's land grab from its neighbouring Parishes is exactly akin to Putin annexing Ukraine - undemocratic, despicable and wholly unjustifiable. English Village life is under threat in current times: Shipton Moyne needs every member household to continue to support its Village life. The proposed arbitrary removal of seven family properties from a vibrant</p>
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	Village is shameful.
<b>Tetbury Upton Parish Council</b>	<p>Please find below the view of Tetbury Upton Parish council with regard to the proposal to change the parish boundary with Westonbirt with Lasborough -</p> <p>After some discussion Councillors agreed they are not in favour of the alteration considering it to be an unnecessary and expensive change to a parish boundary which has been in place for probably hundreds of years without question and feel it will not have any benefit to either parish.</p>
<b>Resident (Tetbury Upton)</b>	<p>We received a letter from CDC and the Chair of WwL PC asking us to respond to you regarding the Parish Boundary change proposed by WwL PC.</p> <p>We want to remain in Tetbury Upton Parish and see no reason to amend this historic boundary.</p>
<b>Resident (Tetbury Upton)</b>	<p>I would like to submit my views in response to the CGR for the change of my residence from Tetbury Upton to Westonbirt-with-Lasborough.</p> <p>I support this move given our sense of community is only with Westonbirt-with-Lasborough. We were welcomed by the residents of Westonbirt village, we receive the parish newsletter which has relevant and helpful for information for us about local residents and events, we are warmly invited by the parish to local religious events. The facilities we use are all in Westonbirt – the school, swimming pool, arboretum. We have no links to Tetbury Upton.</p>
<b>Resident (Tetbury Upton)</b>	<p>I was delighted to read the proposal that parts of Westonbirt should at last be recognised as a part of Westonbirt rather than as in our case ( Field House, Bowdown Road ) Tetbury Upton.</p> <p>It has been a source of puzzlement and on occasions inconvenience not being aware of what is happening here at</p>

	<p>Westonbirt : we never heard anything from Tetbury Upton</p> <p>We are a part of the Westonbirt WhatsApp</p> <p>We go to the Lasborough church</p> <p>We attend events at Westonbirt School</p> <p>I have never understood why we were a part of Tetbury Upton and have little idea of where it actually is</p> <p>I never thought bureaucracy would contemplate such a logical step and strongly encourage you to make the proposal a reality</p>
<p><b>Cllr Nikki Ind</b> <b>(ward member)</b></p>	<p>Many thanks for your email regarding the proposals from Westonbirt with Lasborough and please find my comments below:</p> <p>I attended both the original Shipton Moyne Parish Council meeting on 15th March, where the Chair of Westonbirt with Lasborough Parish Council spoke to this proposal and the subsequent EGM which took place on 29th March. I observed the comments made at both meetings, it should be noted that the EGM was very well attended by local residents, including those who would be affected by any changes. I also received a number of emails from residents objecting to this proposal.</p> <p>I have noted your comments regarding the road making a clear boundary and in addition to this, another concern raised was that these changes would mean that the Parish and Ecclesiastical boundaries would differ. As you have noted Shipton Moyne has a strong community cohesion, residents have made their feelings clear on this matter to me directly and I support Shipton Moyne Parish Council's position objecting to the proposal.</p>

<b>Cllr Richard Norris</b>	<p>I note your comment regarding the main road being a clearer boundary line, however this is not or cannot be the case as we reach Doughton. I understand this is not proposed and any boundary move would need to link back up with the existing boundary as I have indicated dotted red.</p> <p>I note Tetbury with Upton parish council's objection to the boundary change, and also note a resident's comment (within the green circle) in support. I can find no comments from residents circled in purple.</p> <p>The only comment I would like to make is Tetbury Upton parish council is made up of a number of single dwellings, small settlements circling around three quarters of Tetbury Town. This is the geography of Tetbury Upton. Are these effective and cohesive communities, I am not sure Tetbury Upton and its expanse can be measured this way. The clear boundary line is Bowldown Road and believe in Tetbury Upton's case as advised by the parish council a pointless exercise and the boundaries should remain the same. There may be a small argument for the area circled green, however, an effective cohesive community could be used to measure a number of other settlements within the parish.</p>



## **Annex B**

### **Ampney Crucis Parish Council**

#### **Map A**

##### **Draft recommendations**

Draft recommendations were drawn up to move the current parish boundary between Ampney Crucis and Drifffield to “tidy up” an anomaly where the boundary line cuts through a property and its land.

In addition, Ampney Crucis Parish Council made further proposals to change the boundary between itself, Drifffield and Ampney St Peter to further tidy up the boundary.

##### **Consultation**

Information about the proposals was issued to all the affected parties, the parish councils/meeting and the District and County Councillor. Details of the responses are given below.

##### **Responses**

There was no real consensus in the responses received and, in addition, Ampney St Mary has put forward a number of counter proposals which need to be considered before a final recommendation is made.

Ampney St Mary has also asked for three other anomalies to be considered and these will need further consultation and consideration.

##### **Recommendations**

In light of the lack of consensus and additional proposals from Ampney St Mary, it is recommended that a further consultation is carried out with the parish councils/meeting and local residents to understand their views more fully.

Final considerations will be brought to Council in July.

## **Cirencester Town Council**

### **Map B**

#### **Draft recommendations**

Following a request from Cirencester Town Council, the Community Governance Review looked at the boundary between Cirencester and Baunton which runs along Baunton Lane. The proposal being to move the properties currently in Baunton Parish into the Cirencester Town Council area.

#### **Consultation**

Information about the proposal was sent to all the affected properties and to Baunton Parish Council. Responses are included in full below.

Twelve responses were received, of which the majority are against the proposal. Reasons given for keeping the status quo include the feeling of community cohesion with Baunton Parish and being part of the rural area of Baunton. Many respondents felt that making this change would reduce the effectiveness of Baunton Parish Council.

As part of the consultation, Baunton Parish Council undertook a survey of all 31 properties and received 19 responses all of which were in favour of remaining in Baunton.

#### **Considerations**

The purpose of the Community Governance Review is to enable strong, clearly defined boundaries, which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.

The boundary change was considered by the District Council in 2014 but was not changed at that time. The reasons given for keeping the status quo were that the residents in the affected properties had a community affinity with Baunton. Overall, this feeling has not changed since 2014.

The CGR must also consider the effective governance of the area and the proposal will reduce the number of properties in Baunton by 31 which equates to 25% of its properties. It can be argued that this will reduce the effectiveness of the Parish Council and will increase the Council Tax burden on the remaining residents.

However, it can also be said that the properties in Baunton Lane are within the urbanised Cirencester Town boundary and therefore sit more logically within Cirencester.

#### **Recommendations**

Council to consider the decision and make a decision on the proposal.

## **Coberley Parish Council - Map C**

### **Draft recommendations**

Coberley Parish Council submitted a proposal to move the property known as Needlehole from Withington into Coberley.

This request was originally made a few years ago, and this is the first opportunity to include it for consideration.

Details of the proposal were sent to the householders and to Withington Parish Council. The householder wishes to be part of Coberley Parish.

Withington Parish Council's did not express a view either way and appear to be content with the proposal.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the boundary between Coberley Parish and Withington Parish be amended to bring the property known as Needlehole into the parish of Coberley. Details of the recommendation will be submitted to the Boundary Commission for England for their consideration in amending the Ward boundary between Ermin and Sandywell.

## **Cowley Parish Council - Map D**

### **Draft recommendations**

Following a request from Cowley Parish Council, draft recommendations were drawn up to split the parish into two, to create Birdlip Parish Council and Cowley Parish Meeting.

The Parish of Cowley is a large parish area with two distinct communities; Birdlip and Cowley which are divided by the A417 main road. The Parish feels that there is an increasing disconnect between Birdlip and Cowley driven by the differences in issues for each area. Whilst Cowley is a small hamlet, with limited development, Birdlip has seen a number of planning applications and development over the past few years and this, coupled with the traffic issues means that Birdlip has become the dominant area within the parish.

The Councillors representing Cowley now feel that their community is completely different to Birdlip, with different issues and concerns.

The Parish is currently divided into two Polling Districts for electoral purposes. This enables the two distinct communities to have a polling station - one at Deer Park, Cowley and one at St Mary's Church, Birdlip. The recommendation is that the current polling district boundary is used as the new parish council boundary.

A further recommendation to alter the boundary between Cowley and Brimpsfield was submitted to bring a number of properties from Brimpsfield into the Cowley parish around Birdlip village.

### **Consultation**

Information was sent to all the properties in Cowley Parish and those properties affected by the proposed change with Brimpsfield.

Two drop-in sessions were held in the parish - one in Birdlip and one in Cowley giving residents the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback. Both drop-in sessions were well attended. Both drop-in sessions were well attended by residents of both villages and also by their District Councillor and the CEO of Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils.

### **Responses**

Both communities agree that the parish council should split into two, however there was discussion about the status of Cowley.

The Community Governance Guidance states that a area with fewer than 150 electors should not have a Parish council and therefore, the draft recommendation was that Cowley would be a Parish Meeting. However, advice from Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils states that, where a community is already part of a Parish Council which is being divided, the area may retain its Parish Council status. Cowley residents have indicated that they wish to retain a Parish Council.



Both Brimpsfield and Cowley Parish Councils considered the responses of residents affected by the boundary change around Birdlip village. There was no consensus from the properties in the Blacklains area and objections from residents in Leveretts and Sidelands who feel very much part of the Brimpsfield community. A revised boundary was suggested and agreed by both Parish Councils. This would bring the properties around Parsons Pitch/Hawcote Hill into the current Cowley Parish area.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

1. the parish of Cowley be split to create two new councils; Birdlip Parish Council and Cowley Parish Council.;
2. the boundary between the new Birdlip Parish Council and Brimpsfield Parish be altered to include the properties at Parsons Pitch/Hawcote Hill into the new Birdlip Parish Council area;
3. Birdlip Parish Council have 7 councillors and Cowley Parish Council have 5 councillors;
4. Legal Services put the necessary procedures in place to effect this change with elections to the two new councils taking place alongside the ordinary elections on 4 May 2023.

## **Northleach-with-Eastington - Map E**

### **Draft recommendations**

Northleach-with-Eastington Town Council asked that consideration be given to moving the boundary between itself and Farmington Parish Meeting.

The proposal does not affect any properties.

### **Consultation**

Northleach-with-Eastington Town and Farmington Parish Meeting were asked for their views, along with the Ward Members and County Councillors.

### **Responses**

The two Parishes responded with differing views. Farmington Parish Meeting objects to the proposal as they feel it is not necessary and Northleach Town have not given any objective reasons for the change. It is noted that the Parish is happy to work with Northleach-with-Eastington Town Council to improve road safety and litter issues at the site.

Northleach-with-Eastington Town Council's proposal would bring the whole length of the Old London Road into its area. The Town Council states that there has been difficulty in dealing with issues such as road safety and litter partly because of the number of authorities involved in the process. The Town Council also states that the current boundary is historical and does not align with any features on the ground. The proposal is to follow the line of the road instead. The Town Council believe that this change would improve community governance and minimise administrative work when addressing issues in the area.

### **Considerations**

The purpose of the Community Governance Review is to enable strong, clearly defined boundaries to be put into place, which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.

Most parish boundaries within the Cotswold District have anomalies and areas where an historical boundary could be seen as "incorrect". However, in most cases, these anomalies do not affect the effective governance of the Councils.

This case is interesting in that there are no properties affected and therefore Council needs to consider the Parish Council/Meeting views only. Local ward and county councillors have not indicated a preference.

On balance, Council needs to consider whether making this change or leaving it as it is will ensure the most effective governance and management of the area.

### **Recommendation**

As there is no clear consensus for this change and no properties are affected it is recommended that no changes are made and the boundary remains as it is.

## **Westonbirt-with-Lasborough - Map F**

### **Draft recommendations**

It was recommended that a number of properties currently in Shipton Moyne and Tetbury Upton were moved into Westonbirt-with-Lasborough. The proposal was requested by Westonbirt-with-Lasborough Parish Council as they felt that these properties were more aligned to Westonbirt-with-Lasborough.

### **Consultation**

All three parish councils along with the properties affected by the proposal were contacted and asked for their views on the proposals. The Ward Members and County Councillors were also consulted.

Shipton Moyne Parish Council held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the issues.

### **Responses**

The majority of the responses from Shipton Moyne were against the change as many residents feel an affinity to the community of Shipton Moyne.

Tetbury Upton Parish Council objected and there were arguments on both sides from residents in the parish.

A number of respondents felt that this proposal was unnecessary, particularly in the current climate of financial restraint. It was also felt that

### **Considerations**

The purpose of the Community Governance Review is to enable strong, clearly defined boundaries to be put into place, which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.

The responses received demonstrate that there is a strong community cohesion within Shipton Moyne.

All three parishes are relatively large geographically with dispersed, small settlements and single dwellings.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the boundary remains the same and the proposal is rejected.

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# Community Governance Review 2022

Ampney Crucis - Driffield

Map A

Ampney Crucis  
Parish

Ampney St Mary  
Parish

Driffield  
Parish

## KEY

Proposed Boundary Change

Parish Boundary

Polling District Boundary

Scale: NTS @ A4

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# Community Governance Review 2022

Stratton - Baunton

Map B

Baunton  
Parish

Cirencester  
Parish

## KEY

Proposed Boundary Change

Parish Boundary

Polling District Boundary

Scale: NTS @ A4

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Map C

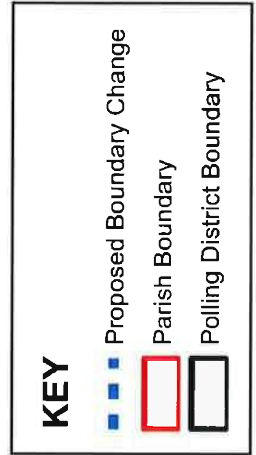
# Community Governance Review 2022

Coberley - Withington

Dowdeswell  
Parish

Withington  
Parish

Coberley  
Parish



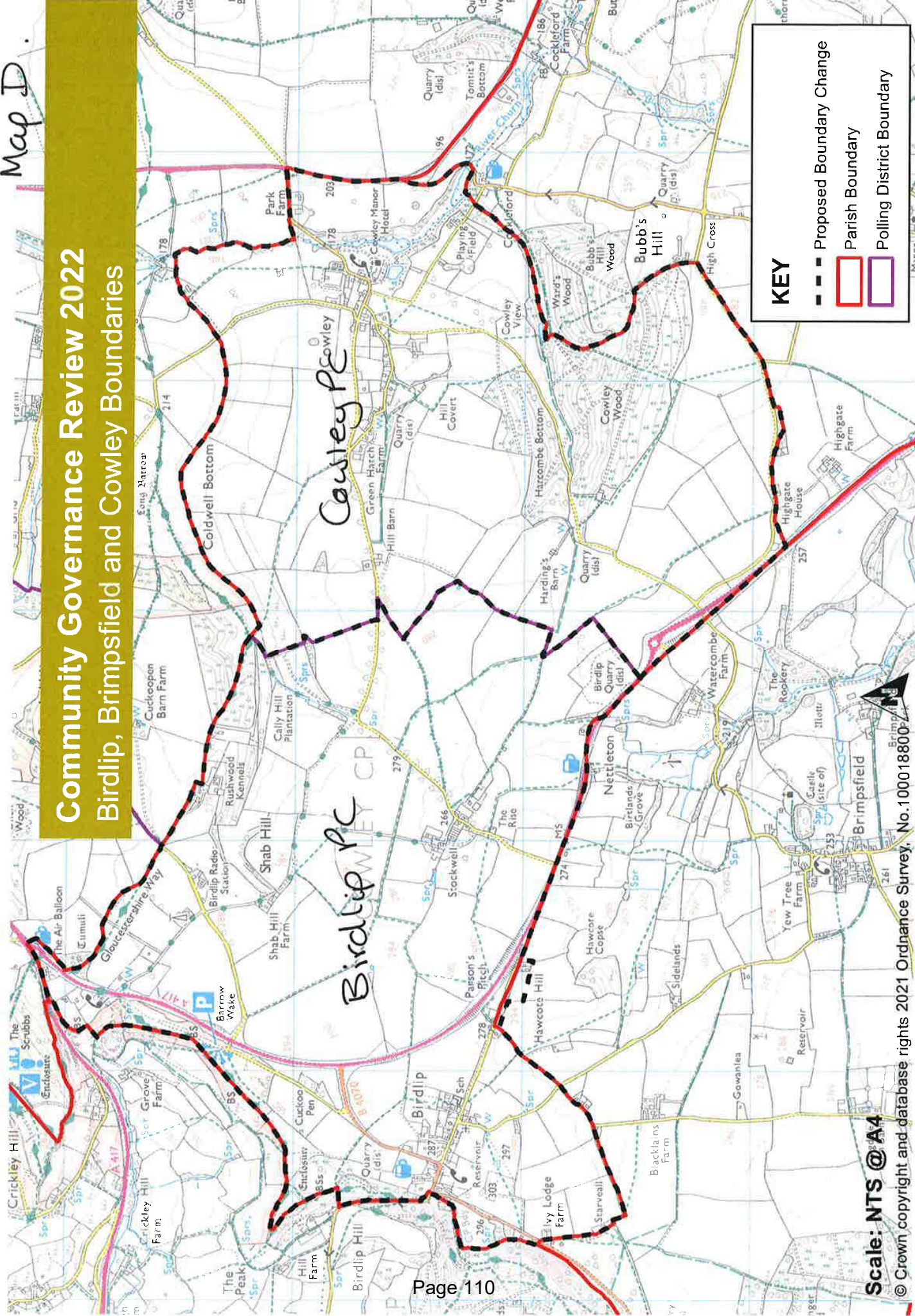
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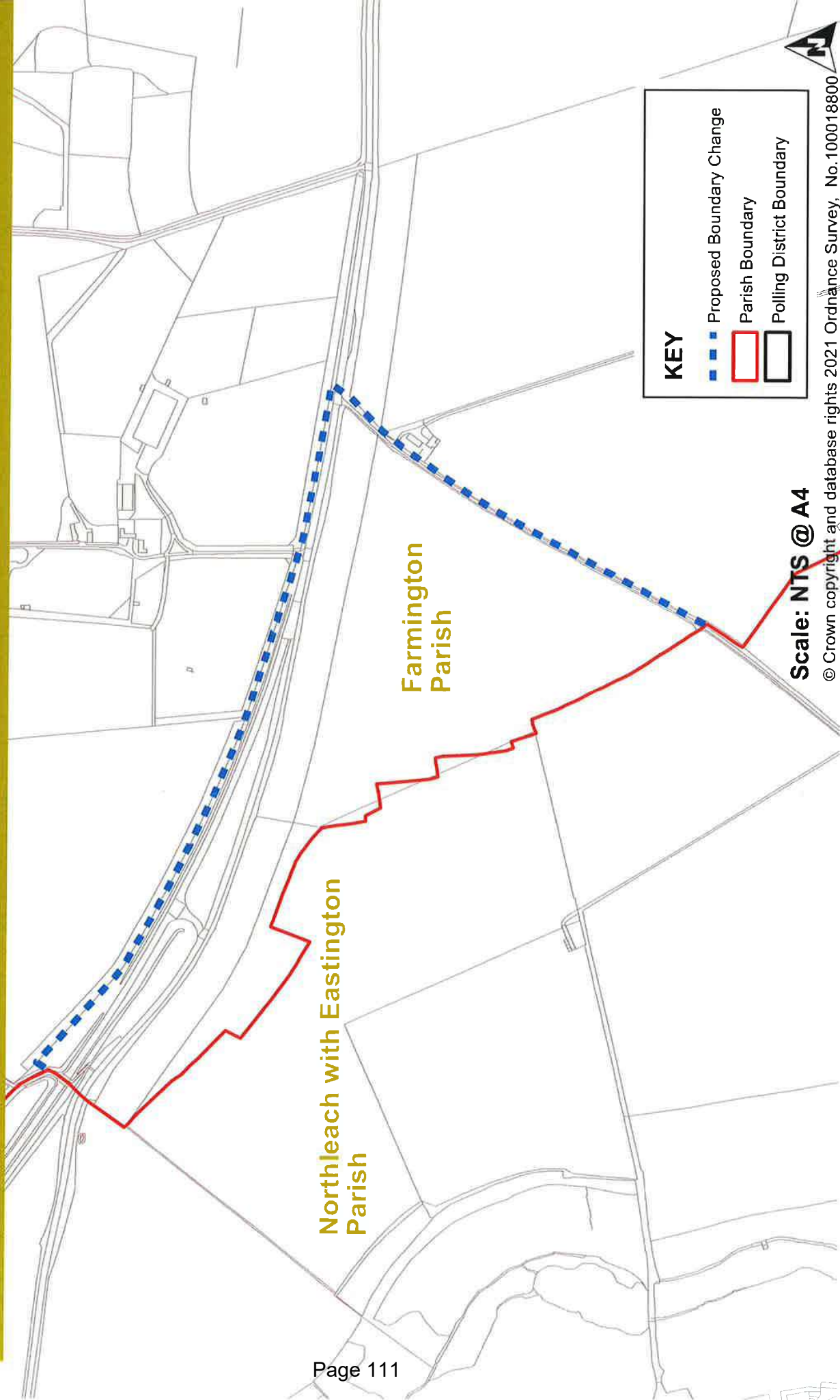
# Community Governance Review 2022 Birdlip, Brimpsfield and Cowley Boundaries





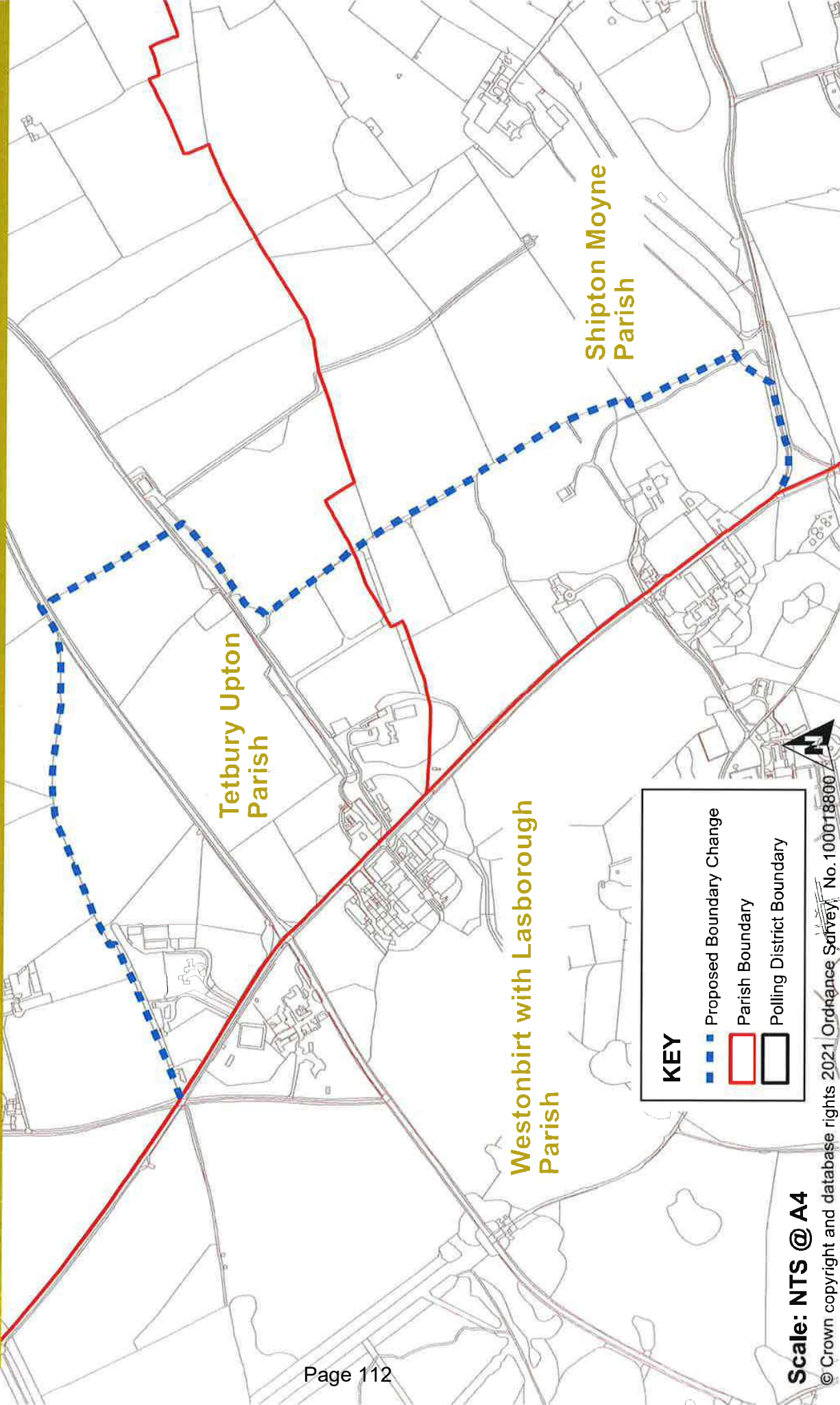
# Community Governance Review 2022

Northleach



# Community Governance Review 2022

## Westonbirt-with-Lasborough



# Agenda Item 9



**COTSWOLD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	FULL COUNCIL – [25 MAY 22]
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 9
Subject	CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION – UPDATE TO THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES.
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Joe Harris – Leader of the Council Email: <a href="mailto:joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk">joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Angela Claridge, Director of Governance & Development Email: <a href="mailto:angela.claridge@cotswold.gov.uk">angela.claridge@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To seek agreement to make two changes to the Council Procedure Rules, Part D, of the Constitution - removing the requirement that no member of the Council holds the office of Chair of the Council, or Chair of a Committee, for a continuous period of more than three years. Additionally, introducing a new requirement that the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee must always be a member from an opposition party.
Annexes	NIL
Recommendation(s)	<i>The Council Procedure Rules, Part D of the Constitution are amended with immediate effect to:</i>  i) <i>remove the requirement that no member of the Council holds the office of Chair of the Council, or Chair of a Committee, for a continuous period of more than three years;</i>  ii) <i>introduce a requirement that the Chair of Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee must always be a member from an opposition party.</i>
Corporate priorities	Ensure that all services provided by the Council are delivered to the highest standard
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Elected Members of the Constitution Working Group (Cllrs Andrews, Coleman, Every, J Harris (Chair), Ind, Neill and Theodoulou)