



DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

The Occupier

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31 July 2017

Dear Resident

Possible split of Upper Heyford Parish into two new Parishes – results of first consultation and details of recommendations from Cherwell District Council

In January this year we wrote to every household in Upper Heyford, to tell you about a request from Upper Heyford Parish Council to separate the existing parish into two, and giving you the opportunity to tell us what you thought of the idea.

The results from the first consultation have been considered by District Councillors, and they have come up with some recommendations for the next stage of the process.

What were the results from the consultation?

We asked three main questions during the first consultation:

Do you think it is a good idea for Upper Heyford to be split in two

If you agree that it is a good idea, which of the proposed boundaries do you prefer?

If two parishes were to be created, what do you think they should be called

177 responses to the consultation were received. Of these responses:

139 (78.5%) thought it was a good idea to separate the parish, with 38 (21.5%) thinking it was not a good idea.

86 responses (48.6%) preferred the boundary option shown on Map 2, with 43 responses (24.3%) supporting the boundary on Map 3.

92 responses (52%) suggested the name of Upper Heyford for the 'village' area, and Heyford Park for the former airbase area.

The consultation also asked for any further comments that people wished to make. Some of the comments made included:

Asking about the effect on the bus services if the parish were separated into two

The need for a speed camera

Missing road signs along Camp Road

A new community centre being needed for Heyford Park



The impact of the separation on people from Heyford Park who rent allotments in the village

These are things that are not the responsibility of Cherwell District Council, so we are not able to answer the queries raised.

Recommendations

The working group of District Councillors considered all of the information gathered during the consultation, and came up with a set of recommendations. These recommendations were considered by all Councillors of Cherwell District Council at a meeting on 17 July.

At the meeting, Councillors agreed that the Parish of Upper Heyford should be split into two separate parishes, which would take effect in May 2019.

The parishes would be called Upper Heyford (the village) and Heyford Park, as the areas are already known by these names locally and the council can see no reason to change these names.

Upper Heyford Parish Council would continue to have 6 Parish Councillors. Heyford Park Parish Council would have 7 Parish Councillors.

The boundary of the parishes would be as set out on the map included with this letter.

The Council have chosen this position for the boundary as it seems the most logical. Guidance from the Government for this type of review says that boundaries “need to be, and be likely to remain, easily identifiable”.

The western edge of the airfield still has the security fencing in place, providing a clear reference point for the position of the boundary. The northern edge of the airfield carries a well-established tree line, that is clearly visible from the Somerton Road, providing a further strong visible boundary.

What will this separation do to the amount of Council Tax I will pay?

At the moment, we don't know what will happen.

Parish councils can choose the amount of money they want to charge each household, known as the precept, to fund all the responsibilities it has in the parish, such as maintaining public buildings, and areas of public space, and the cost of funding parish elections. The precept amount for each parish is added to the amounts charged by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Cherwell District Council (CDC) to make up the whole Council Tax bill . The amount of Council Tax you will pay to CDC, OCC and the Police and Crime Commissioner will remain unchanged after the separation. However, if the Parish Precept changes, your total Council Tax bill will change to reflect this.

The Council Tax base for the existing parish of Upper Heyford is 738.8. This means that the amount of money the Parish Council want to raise is divided by 738.8, to work out how much each house has to pay.

For the current financial year, the existing Upper Heyford Parish Council is raising £33,541. This equates to a cost of £45.40 from each Band D house for the year, or 87.3 pence per week. Houses in bands A to C will pay less than this, and bands E to H will pay more



As the parish is to be separated in two, the amount of houses each parish has will be lower. The current figures show the council tax base for the village is 147.31 houses, and the park 606.63 houses.

Each parish council will have to decide how much money it wants to raise to fulfil its responsibilities and function. This will be the decision of the parishes themselves, Cherwell District Council has no say over the parish precept part of the Council tax.

The total Council tax charge for a Band D property in the existing Upper Heyford parish for this financial year is £1684.77, or £32.40 a week.

What happens now?

Now that Cherwell District Council has a clear idea of what it wants to do, you have the chance to let us know if you agree.

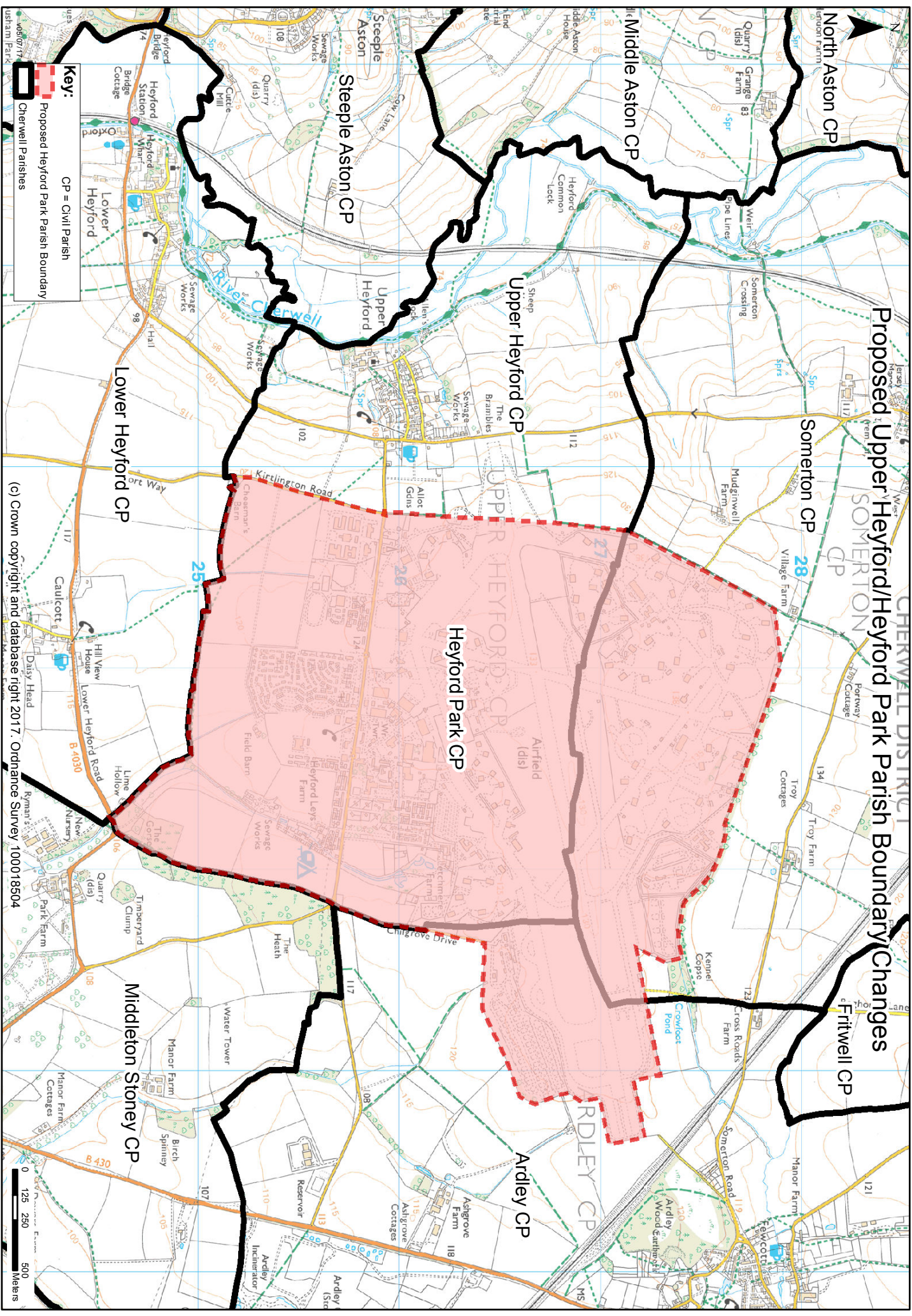
Included with this letter is a reply slip. Please take a few minutes to fill this in and return it using the envelope supplied. You don't need to use a stamp as Cherwell District Council will pay the postage.

Alternatively, you can send an email to democracy@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk or visit our webpage www.cherwell.gov.uk/communitygovernance and click on the survey monkey link to reply electronically.

All written or emailed responses should reach us by **Friday 8 September 2017** to be taken into consideration. The online survey will close at 11:59pm on the same date.

Responses received will be considered by the working group of District Councillors, who will make a final set of recommendations that will be considered at the meeting of Full Council on Monday 16 October 2017.

Proposed Upper Heyford/Heyford Park Parish Boundary Changes



Tell us what you think of these recommendations

Name.....

Address.....

We are only asking for your address details so that we can see how many responses are received from each part of the Parish. If you would prefer, you can simply put 'Village' or 'Park'.

Cherwell District Council has recommended that the existing parish of Upper Heyford be separated into two parishes

Do you agree with this recommendation?

Yes

No

Do you agree with the parishes being named Upper Heyford and Heyford Park respectively?

Yes

No

Do you agree with the number of parish councillors being six for Upper Heyford and seven for Heyford Park?

Yes

No

Do you agree with the position of the proposed boundary, as shown on the map included with the letter?

Yes

No

Do you have any further comments to make? (please continue on the back if necessary)

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