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The Householder

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2 November 2020

Dear Resident

Possible split of Adderbury Parish Council into two new Parish Councils – results of first consultation and recommendations from Cherwell District Council

In June this year we wrote to every household in Adderbury, to tell you about a petition we had received from West Adderbury Residents Association requesting that Adderbury Parish be separated into two individual parish councils.

The results of the first consultation have been considered by District Councillors, and they have agreed recommendations for the next stage of the process.

What were the results of the first consultation?

We asked three main questions during the first consultation:

- Do you think it is a good idea to split Adderbury Parish in two?
- If you agree that it is a good idea, do you agree with the proposed boundary location?
- If two parishes were to be created, what do you think they should be called?

739 responses were received to the first consultation. Of these responses:

181 (24.7% of responses received) thought **yes**, it was a good idea to separate the parish into two parish councils. Of these, 165 agreed with the proposed location of the parish boundary along the Sor Brook. 8 Disagreed with the proposed boundary, and suggested the A4260/Oxford Road as an alternative.

553 (75.3% of responses received) thought **no**, it was not a good idea to separate the parish into two parish councils.

Five responses (less than 1%) were returned which stated they were 'undecided'.

All of the responses received during the first consultation stage are available to view on the Cherwell District Council website <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/communitygovernance>. Names and addresses have been removed.

The consultation also asked for any further comments that people wished to make.

The responses which supported separation highlighted the need for West Adderbury to be recognised and have its own voice. Some of the responses felt that this isn't the case with the existing parish council, and by separating into two parish councils along what was a natural divide, residents in West Adderbury would be better represented and have more chance to have their views heard.

Responses which did not support the separation of the parish council talked about how well Adderbury had come together as a community during the current coronavirus pandemic, and the importance of remaining together during such difficult times. Community services were shared across the parish and would continue to be used by all Adderbury residents even if the parish council were split. The potential cost of separation was also raised. A number of responses also talked about disappointment and sadness that the separation had been suggested.

The District Councillors have considered all of the responses received during the first consultation. Whilst recognising the points raised regarding West Adderbury being acknowledged and represented on the existing parish council, they felt that separating the existing parish would not be a viable solution and believe that there should be no separation of Adderbury Parish Council into two parish councils.

What do District Councillors think should happen?

The District Councillors want to find out what residents of Adderbury think of the parish council being divided into wards for the purpose of electing councillors. Adderbury would continue to have one parish council but the overall number of parish councillors would be divided between two parish wards. Kidlington Parish Council is an example of an existing warded parish. The village is divided into five different wards with each ward having its own parish councillors. This means that each area of the parish has its own representatives that residents can contact and ask to raise issues on their behalf at parish council meetings, but all councillors act together for the whole parish.

Could there be changes to my Council Tax if the Parish Council is warded?

We cannot say, as Cherwell District Council has no involvement in the decisions around the parish precept element of the council tax bill. However, as a warded parish still acts as one parish council, the amount needed to fund parish responsibilities is still spread across the whole parish. Therefore if your house is a Band D property, you will pay the same parish precept amount as other Band D properties in Adderbury.

Where would the boundary be between the two wards?

This depends on the results of this consultation and if a warded parish is supported.

The CGR petition submitted by the West Adderbury Residents Association talked about the Sor Brook being used as a boundary if the parish were split. The brook could be the position for a ward boundary, or it could be somewhere different, such as the A4260/Oxford Road. The map on page 5 shows the position of the brook (blue line) and the A4260/Oxford Road (red line), and a copy is also available to view electronically on the

CGR page of the Cherwell District Council website. Question 2 asks you to give your suggestions.

What would the names of the wards be?

This is also dependent on the results of this consultation and if a warded parish is supported.

One of the wards could be called 'West Adderbury', with the other one 'East Adderbury' or 'East Adderbury and Twyford'. Question 3 asks you to give your suggestions.

Will the total number of parish councillors for Adderbury parish change?

It might do. As part of their discussions, the District Councillors decided they would like to review the number of parish councillors. The parish currently has 12 councillors. The results of this consultation will help with the final recommendations, and question 4 asks you for your views on the total number of parish councillors.

What will happen if there is no support for a warded parish?

The District Councillors will need to consider the consultation responses received and decide what final recommendations to make.

What happens now?

Cherwell District Council is again consulting every household in Adderbury to ensure that everybody in the parish has an opportunity to give their views.

On pages 7 and 8 you will find a reply slip. Please take a few minutes to fill this in and return it using the pre-paid envelope supplied.

Alternatively, you can reply electronically. You can visit our webpage www.cherwell.gov.uk/communitygovernance and click on the link to answer the questions through an online version of the reply slip, or send an email to democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk.

If your household has people who would each like to submit their own consultation response, that is allowed. The consultation is open to anybody who would like to respond, it is not restricted to one response per household, though each person should only submit one response.

All written or emailed responses should reach us between Monday 2 November 2020 and Monday 4 January 2021 to be taken into consideration. The online survey will close at 11:59pm on the same date. Please do not submit anything before 2 November as we are not able to accept comments outside of the consultation dates.

All responses received will be logged, and at the end of the process the consultation log will be made public so that everyone can see everything that has been submitted, as we have done with the first consultation stage responses. We will remove names and refer to addresses based on how people have completed the responses, e.g. 'Adderbury', 'West Adderbury', 'no address given'.

Before submitting a response, please consider the way in which you plan to make your point. A number of responses were submitted during the first consultation which made

comments of a personal nature towards individuals and the District Councillor working group was extremely disappointed by the tone and language used in this small minority of responses. Cherwell District Council requests that points are made respectfully. Any responses submitted that are considered unacceptable will not be published in the consultation log.

Consultation responses will be considered by a working group of District Councillors, who will come up with a set of final recommendations to be considered by full Council (all District Councillors) in February 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Democratic and Elections Team

Cherwell District Council

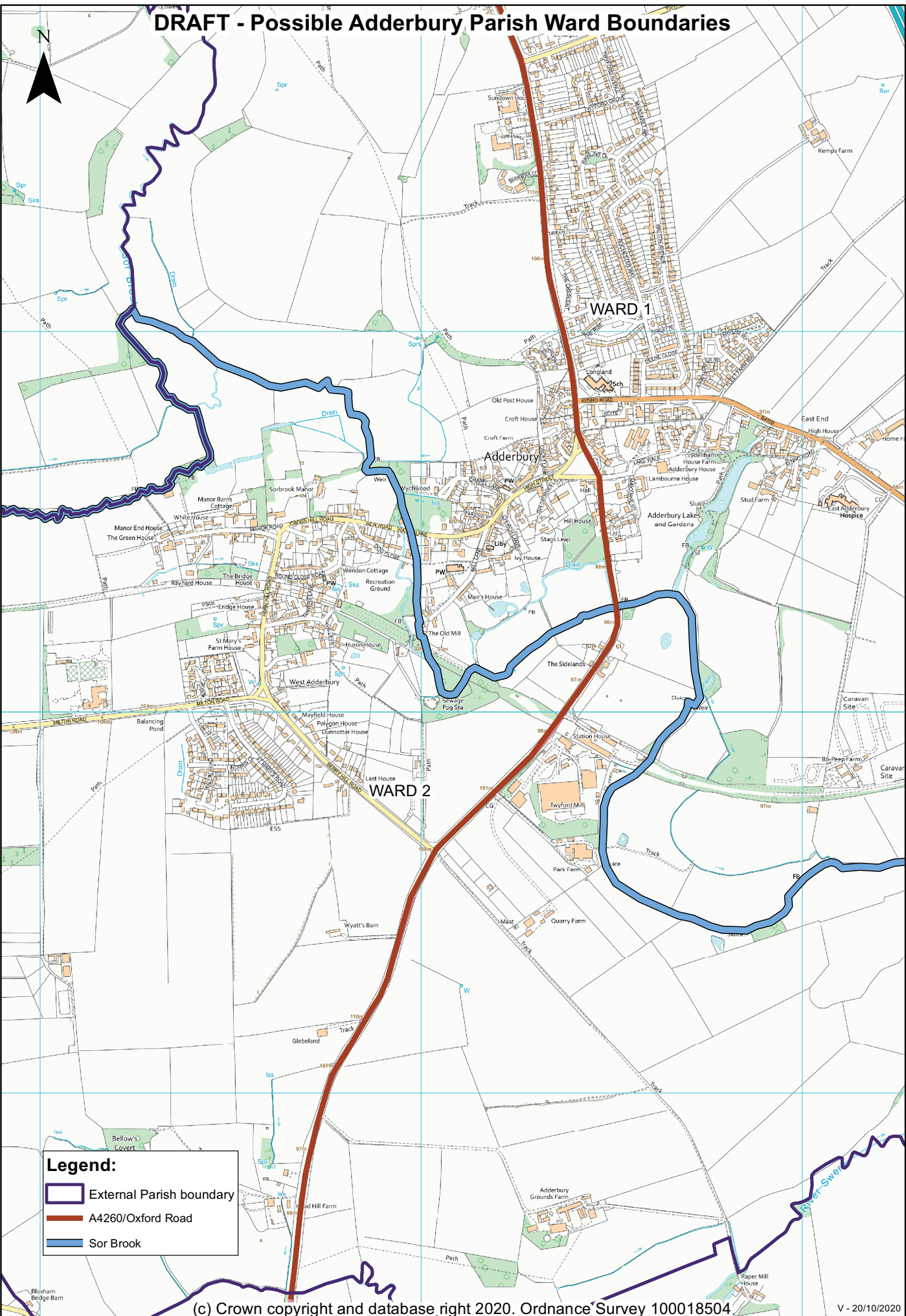
If you require this document in a different format (such as a large print version or special access facilities) please contact the Democratic and Elections Team, democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

All information collected through this consultation will be treated appropriately to conform with data protection legislation. The Council has to publish all comments received in connection with a community governance review. If we receive a comment on behalf of a group, such as a parish council, political party or disability access group, we will name the group, but we will not publish the names of individuals who have commented.




DRAFT - Possible Adderbury Parish Ward Boundaries



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Legend:

-  External Parish boundary
-  A4260/Oxford Road
-  Sor Brook

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Adderbury Community Governance Review – second consultation

Tell us what you think of these suggestions

Name:

Address:

We will not share your name and address with anyone, we have only asked for these details so that we can monitor which areas of the parish have replied. If you would prefer, you can just tell us the street you live on, or just state 'Adderbury'.

Question 1. Do you think it is a good idea to create two wards in Adderbury Parish Council?

Yes

No

Please give brief reasons for your answer

Question 2. If two wards were created, where should the boundary be? The map at page 5 shows the position of the Sor Brook (blue) and A4260/Oxford Road (red)

The boundary should be along the Sor Brook

The boundary should be along the A4260/Oxford Road

The boundary should be somewhere else

I don't think there should be two wards

If you think the boundary should be somewhere else, please describe where you think it should be

Questions 3, 4 and 5 are over the page.



Question 3. What do you think the names of the two wards should be?

West Adderbury/East Adderbury

West Adderbury/East Adderbury and Twyford

I don't think there should be two wards

Something different (Please specify below)

Question 4. Do you think the total number of parish councillors for Adderbury Parish should be reviewed?

Yes, the number should be increased

Yes, the number should be decreased

No, the number should stay the same

Question 5. Do you wish to make any further comments?
