



DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

*Bodicote House
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www.cherwell.gov.uk

25 May 2018

Consideration of change to Bicester Town Council/Ambrosden Parish Council Boundary – please tell us what you think.

Cherwell District Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review to consider:

- if the area known as Graven Hill should move from Ambrosden Parish Council to Bicester Town Council
- if the strip of land adjacent to Graven Hill which would be separated from Ambrosden Parish Council should the Graven Hill site be moved into Bicester Town Council, also be moved from Ambrosden Parish Council to Bicester Town Council
- if the boundary were to be changed and the Graven Hill site and strip of land be moved into Bicester Town Council, should the number of Bicester Town councillors increase from 15 to 16

We are therefore writing to interested parties, to explain what we are considering and to get their view.

What is a Community Governance Review?

The process a District Council follows to make changes to parish boundaries and numbers of parish councillors.

Why is this review taking place?

The Graven Hill development currently falls within the parish boundary of Ambrosden. Recently there has been significant progress on the development of Graven Hill, and proposals are being considered regarding the future management of facilities and public open space. Outline Planning permission is also in place for the self-build homes on the site.

Due to the location of Graven Hill, it is likely that residents will consider themselves part of the Bicester community rather than Ambrosden. As a result, a request has been received from the Leader of the Council that a Community Governance Review be undertaken.

It is important for us to review boundaries in areas where development is taking place, in case changes need to be made. We have recently changed boundaries in Banbury and Bodicote around the the Longford Park development , and in Upper Heyford which will see a new parish created in 2019 following development by the Dorchester Group at Heyford Park.

What would this move mean?

Graven Hill would become part of Bicester and residents would vote for a Bicester Town Councillor and have a say in the running of Bicester Town Council (see below) as opposed to Ambrosden Parish Council.

The area of land between Chesterton and Ambrosden, marked with an X on the attached map, would be isolated from Ambrosden if it stayed part of Ambrosden Parish. We therefore propose to move this area of land into Bicester, alongside Graven Hill.

There would be an increase in Council Tax for properties moved from Ambrosden to Bicester. A band D property in Ambrosden Parish Council will pay £1762.50 in total for the 2018/2019 period. A band D property in Bicester Town will pay £1856.33 to total for the same period.

If this change took place, it would take effect from 1 April 2019.

What are Parish Councils?

Parish councils make local decisions and introduce policy that is relevant to the public interest of the parish. This is done at meetings of the Parish council, by parish councillors who are elected to serve for a four year term. Parish councillors are unpaid. Ambrosden currently has 6 parish councillors. Following a separate boundary review, Bicester Town Council will have 15 from the scheduled elections in May 2019.

Parish councils represent the local community, for example, by providing responses to planning or licensing consultations, they also deliver services to meet local needs and improve the quality of life and community well-being. Parish councils have powers to provide and maintain a variety of important local services, such as allotments, burial grounds, bus shelters, open spaces and village halls.

Where would the new parish boundary be?

The attached map shows the area that could potentially move from Ambrosden Parish Council to Bicester Town Council and the positioning of the new boundary.

What happens now?

Cherwell District Council is consulting all interested parties within the Graven Hill area, Bicester Town Council and Ambrosden Parish Council. All interested parties will have an opportunity to give their views on the suggestion put forward by Cherwell District Council.

You can reply by email to democracy@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk , visit our online consultation survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CGBicester>, write to us at or complete the attached reply slip and send to:

Graven Hill Boundary Review
Democratic and Elections Team
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
Bodicote
Banbury
OX15 4AA

All written or emailed responses should reach us by **Friday 22 June 2018** to be taken into consideration. The online consultation will close at 11:59pm on the same date.

Tell us what you think of these suggestions

I am:

A Plot holder at Graven Hill ()
Town/Parish Council Councillor ()
Other (please state) ()

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Do you agree that Graven Hill should be incorporated into the Bicester Town Council?

YES/NO

Comments.....
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Do you agree that Bicester Town Council have an additional councillor if Graven Hill is incorporated within?

YES/NO

Comments.....
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Do you have any further comments to make?

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