

## **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**Wards affected:** Greater Hughenden  
Lacey Green Speen & the Hampdens

### **RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

- (i) To amend the parish boundary as depicted in the annotated map (Appendix A) to move the two properties Cherry Dell and Trundles into the Parish of Lacey Green; and
- (ii) To make a formal request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a consequential amendment to the Ward Boundaries between Greater Hughenden and Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens District Wards based on the defined Parish amendment.

#### **Corporate Implications**

1. The decision to amend the Parish boundary to incorporate the two properties into Lacey Green Parish has already been made by Full Council. This report seeks to definitively identify where the boundary should lie based on the suggestion attached at Appendix A to the report.

#### **Executive Summary**

2. On the 16 September 2013, following a community governance review in the Parishes of Hughenden and Lacey Green, it was recommended through the Regulatory and Appeals Committee, that two properties named Cherry Dell and Trundles be transferred from Hughenden Parish to Lacey Green Parish and the parish boundaries amended accordingly.
3. The proposal was agreed by Full Council in October 2013, but following a review of the decision it was discovered that at the time a definitive annotated map was not produced as part of the report so the boundary amendment was not readily identifiable. This was important when taking into consideration that the change was to have taken place prior to the 2015 local elections and that it was agreed that a formal request would be made to the Boundary Commission for England for a consequential change to the Ward boundary between the Greater Hughenden and Lacey Green Speen & the Hampdens district wards reflecting the parish amendment.

#### **Background and Issues**

4. A principal council may not carry out a review of its ward boundaries, as this is the responsibility of the Boundary Commission for England. However the electoral arrangements of a parish council may be altered by a principal council as the result of a Community Governance Review (CGR) either as a result of a petition, or at the request of the parish council itself or a local member.

5. The decision to amend parish electoral arrangements cannot be taken by a principal council without undertaking a CGR. A principal council does have the authority to refuse to undertake a CGR if it feels there would be absolutely no benefit to the community by such a review, but in the majority of cases, a review will be undertaken, even if the outcome of the review is to make no changes.
6. The owner of Cherry Dell, the owner of one of the properties on the boundary between Lacey Green and Hughenden Parish Councils has provided a map of what he considers to be a sensible interpretation of the proposed changes (Appendix A) and a site visit was undertaken by the Electoral Services and Land Charges Manager to see the precise boundaries which have been proposed and annotated by the owner of Cherry Dell.
7. The existing Parish boundary is attached at Appendix B.
8. The existing District Ward boundary is attached at Appendix C.

### **Consultation**

9. Following the site visit and receipt of the annotated proposal the two Parish Council Clerks were contacted for their observations. (Appendix D).
10. An acknowledgement was received from the Clerk for Princes Risborough Parish in her dual role as Clerk for Hughenden. (Appendix E).
11. No other responses were received.

### **Options**

1. To accept the annotated proposal or
2. To reject the proposal and for a different definitive boundary to be considered.

### **Conclusions**

11. The decision to amend the Parish boundary to incorporate the two properties into Lacey Green Parish has already been made. The decision is to definitively identify where the boundary should lie based on the suggestion attached at Appendix A or whether any alternative should be considered.

### **Next Steps**

12. If agreed the precise re-organisation of the Parish Boundary would need to be approved by Council and implemented based on the annotated proposal and a formal request made to the Boundary Commission for England for a consequential change to the Ward boundary between the Greater Hughenden and Lacey Green Speen & the Hampdens district wards reflecting the parish amendment.

### **Background Papers**

13. Regulatory & Appeals Committee report dated the 16 September 2013