

Response to Boundary Commission's Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Oxford City Council (June 2018)

Report prepared by Oxford East Green Party with the support of local residents

12th August 2018

FINAL VERSION

1. Introduction

The Boundary Commission's Draft Recommendations (June 2018) are, in almost all respects, the same as those presented to them by Oxford City Council's Labour Group. There are only minor revisions reflecting some errors in the City's initial calculations and some small changes suggested by the Boundary Commission.

Oxford City Council has, very recently (7th August 2018 – going to the City's Executive Board on 14th August 2018), suggested some minor refinements in response to these Draft Recommendations¹ but has, perhaps not surprisingly given their provenance, largely accepted them.

Unfortunately, the original proposals are – in the East of the City at least (St. Clement's, Bartlemas and Donnington Wards) – not driven by the need to more accurately reflect community interests and identities or promote more effective and convenient local government. They were, as one Labour Councillor said to a Green Councillor in a cross-party review group; *"designed to make sure you lot can't get re-elected"*.

In this alternative arrangement of wards in East Oxford, we use evidence and examples to present our alternative to the Draft Recommendations for new wards we have provisionally named St. Clements, Bannister and Cricket Wards. This alternative arrangement maintains electoral equality whilst better:

- Reflecting community boundaries and identities
- Promoting more effective and convenient local government

These proposals were accepted by Oxford City Council's Electoral Services Manager, Martin John, as being a viable alternative arrangement of the three wards referred to in the Draft Recommendations as St. Clement's, Bartlemas and Donnington. However, these Green Proposals were rejected by Labour members at the cross-party review group without any real discussion.

2. What we support in the draft recommendations

Apart from the gerrymandering that is taking place in the three East Oxford wards closest to the City Centre (St. Clement's, Donnington and Bartlemas) – the focus of this submission - we largely agree with the Draft Recommendations.

However, we believe that they **can be further improved** by changes elsewhere in the eastern part of the City. These are dealt with later in this submission.

This includes alternative boundaries of our Cricket Ward which could meet the requirements of the Donnington Residents and Tenants Association and the Florence Park Community

¹ <http://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/documents/s43042/r-CEB%20-%20Aug%2018%20-%20comments%20on%20LGBCE%20draft%20ward%20scheme.pdf>

3. Comparison of Green Proposals with Draft Recommendations

Fig. 1 shows our proposed wards, Bannister, Cricket and St. Clement's outlined in green, over the Draft Recommendations (in red).

3.1. Same external boundaries

We propose a different arrangement of St. Clement's, Donnington & Bartlemas Wards than in the Draft Recommendations. We call these re-aligned wards St. Clement's, Bannister and Cricket. As can be seen in Fig. 1, the outer boundaries are EXACTLY THE SAME except for some minor changes to the boundary with Temple Cowley Ward (which we detail later). For this reason, we have included figures for Temple Cowley Ward in our electoral numbers.

3.2. Summary of improvements

The Green Proposals maintain equality of numbers whilst better meeting Boundary Commission criteria.

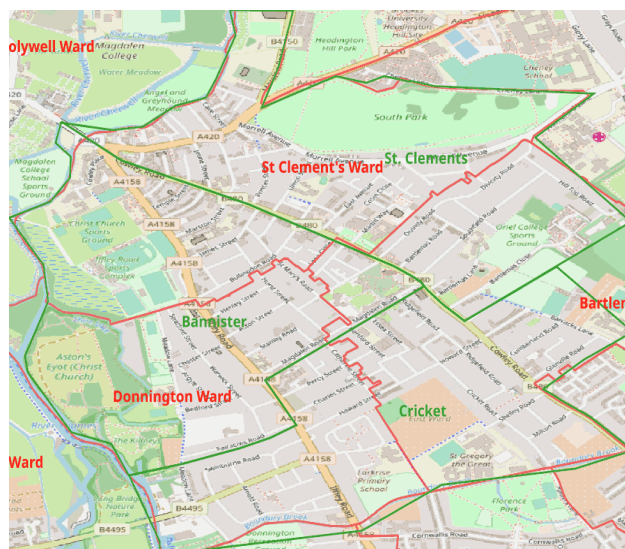


Fig. 1. Map of Green wards overlaid on draft recommendations

Improvement over Draft Recommendations	Better reflects community boundaries and identities	Promotes more effective and convenient local government
A less drastic change from the current ward boundaries	✓	
Leaves the current polling districts largely intact	✓	
Better alignment with residents' associations & neighbourhood watch	✓	✓
Better alignment with the corresponding County Divisions	✓	✓
Splits fewer residential streets across ward boundaries	✓	✓
Better alignment with controlled parking zones	✓	✓
Better alignment with Conservation Areas	✓	✓
Better reflection of travel patterns		✓

3.3. Incorrect projections

We also believe that the City Council, in estimating future projected electors, has made several incorrect assumptions and omitted one large development. Although we detail these later in this report, elsewhere we have remained with the elector estimates provided to us by Oxford City Council to avoid confusion.

3.4. Electoral equality maintained

Though electoral numbers have clearly changed since the last boundary review in 2000 (a balance of densification and drop-off due to changes in individual voter registration), the structure of the communities in this older, densely populated part of East Oxford (bounded to the North by South Park, to the East by Boundary Brook and to the South and West by the Isis River and its tributaries) has remained the same. We therefore question the logic behind the drastic re-alignment of boundaries as proposed in the Draft Recommendations. It is perfectly possible, as we will show, to maintain electoral equality with relative minor boundary changes. We are working off the Council-provided target figure of 4834 electors per ward.

Table 1: Estimated elector numbers: Green Proposals (see Note 1)

Green Proposals	Electors (estimated 2023)	Variation +/-%
St. Clement's	4486	-7.20%
Bannister	5028	+4.01%
Cricket	4507	-6.76% (Note 2)
Temple Cowley	4825	-0.19%

Note 1: We are working off a Street Analysis provided by the City Council² which does not quite align with the figures in the Draft Recommendations. However, we believe the difference to be immaterial. If anything, they will REDUCE the variations stated above (as electoral numbers are understated across the four wards by 175 electors).

Note 2: With the addition of the omitted Dorothy Wadham building (see Section 11) this variation reduces to -4%.

3.5. Detailed Evidence

In the pages which follow we provide detailed evidence covering each of the points in Table 1 above.

3.6. Acknowledgements

Oxford East Green Party are grateful to the support of local residents in putting together this submission. Without the generous contribution of time and their expertise in transport planning, GIS mapping and knowledge of local groups and associations, we would not have been able to gather evidence of such quality within the time available.

4. Proposed Ward Boundary Differences

The Green Proposal boundaries more closely match the existing ward boundaries – chosen in 2000 by the Boundary Commission for their alignment with community boundaries. As has been stated previously, there have been no structural changes in the area (e.g. no new roads or urban extensions) since 2000. Current ward boundaries therefore provide strong evidence of current and historical community boundaries.

4.1. St Clement's - Changes under the Green Proposal

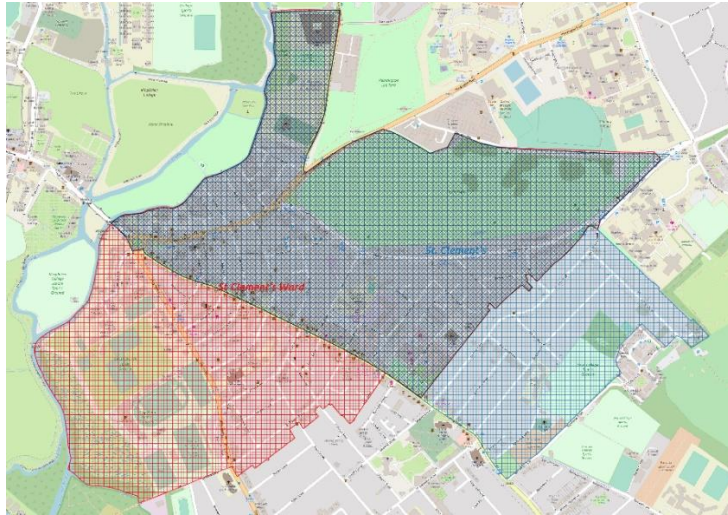
The Green Proposal is consistent with the current St. Clement's ward boundaries except for one minor difference: moving Bartlemas Close and Southfield Park flats into the new St Clement's Ward (highlighted with horizontal lines in the below map) to maintain voter equality. Bartlemas Close forms a natural boundary with open space to the east. There is pedestrian and cycle access from Hilltop Road connecting to South Park flats and Bartlemas Close.



4.2. St. Clement's - Changes under the Draft Recommendations

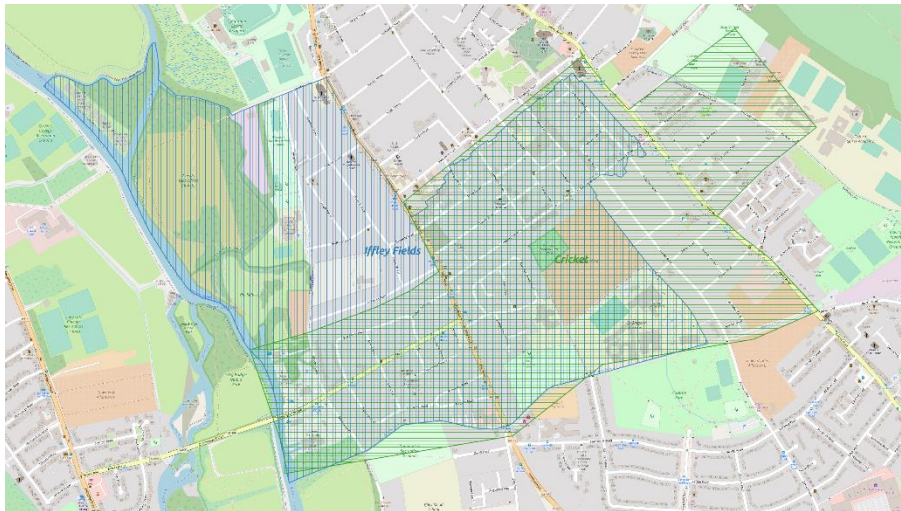
The Draft Recommendations represent a complete change from current St. Clement's Ward boundaries. In the below map, areas added (in red) and removed (in blue) are highlighted. Not only is this confusing, but unnecessary.

² Oxford City Boundary Review 2018 FINAL figures (street analysis).xls (provided 6th August 2018)



4.3. Cricket Ward – Changes under the Green Proposals (compared to Iffley Fields)

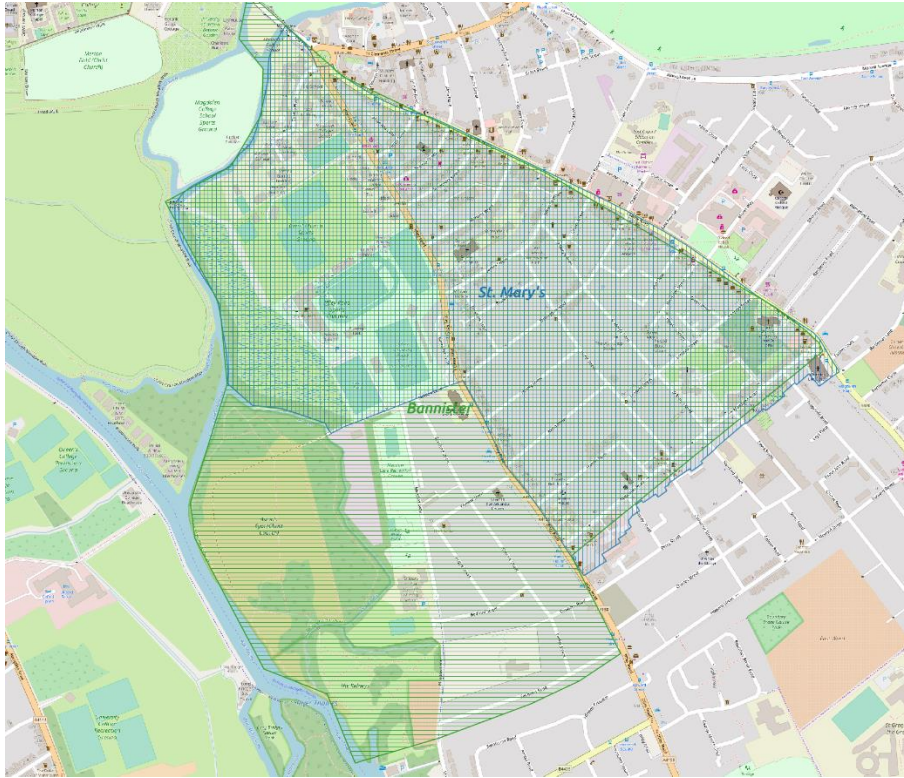
The existing Iffley Fields Ward is mostly contained within the proposed new Cricket Ward. The grid of streets from Jackdaw Lane to Fairacres (highlighted with vertical lines in below map) – a distinct community – is moved to the new adjoining Bannister Ward. The Cumberland Road area (highlighted with horizontal lines in the below map) is added to maintain voter equality.



4.4. Donnington Ward – Changes under Draft Recommendations. (compared to Iffley Fields)

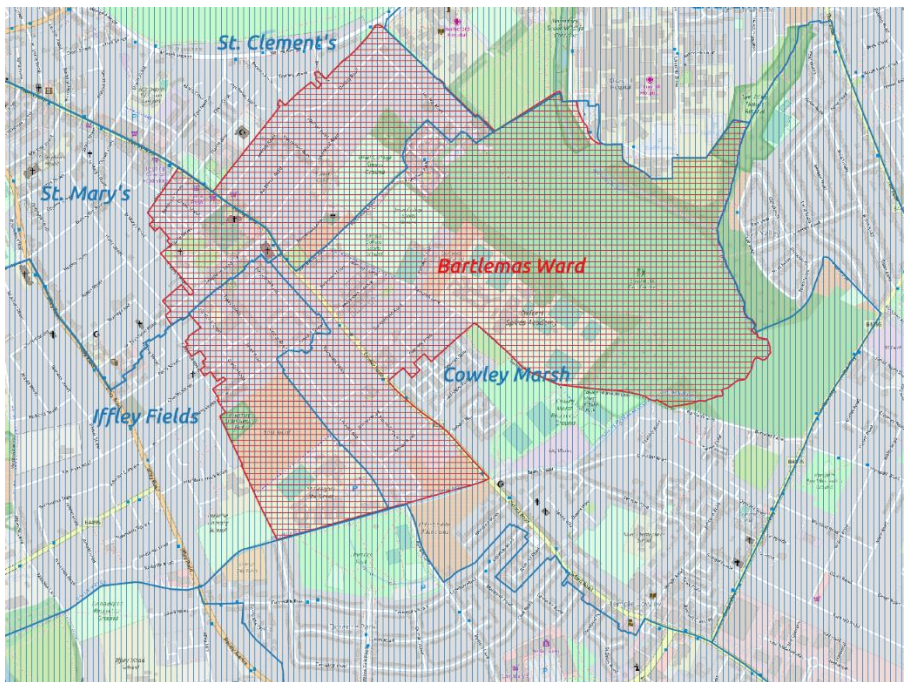
The proposal for a new Donnington Ward corresponds the most closely to Iffley Fields, though it loses the east end of Howard Street (highlighted in vertical lines) to the new Bartlemas Ward and gains the streets highlighted in red from the current St. Mary's Ward.

The north-east boundaries of the proposed Donnington Ward are irregular and feel contrived. They follow no clear boundary and cut through communities.



4.6. The fate of St. Mary's Ward - Draft Recommendations

The Draft Recommendations fragment the coherent wedge of streets that make up the current St Mary's Ward (it is split between the proposed Bartlemas, St Clements and Donnington Wards). St. Mary's is a well-defined community bounded by Iffley, Cowley and Magdalen Roads. **There is absolutely no logical reason to carve up these streets.**



5. Leaving the current polling districts largely intact

The Green Proposal wards of St. Clement's, Bannister and Cricket were 'pieced' together from existing polling districts – with as few changes as possible – to maintain elector equality. This approach was taken to respect both existing community boundaries and ensure as close alignment as possible with County Division boundaries.

The Draft Recommendations appear to make no attempt to align with existing polling districts, community boundaries or County Division boundaries (See evidence elsewhere in this document). Whilst being one solution to

maintaining electoral equality, we believe that basing a proposal on existing polling districts is MUCH more likely – other things being equal - to better reflect community boundaries and identities and make for more effective and convenient local government. Table 2 below shows how the current polling districts fit into the proposed new wards.

Table 2: Alignment of new Green Proposal Wards with existing polling districts

Bannister	St. Clements	Cricket
KA	JA	LA
KB	JB	LC
LB	RA (part)	LD
		RA (part)

6. Better alignment with residents' associations and neighbourhood watch

Contributed by Co-Chair of Iffley Road Area Residents Association (which includes Magdalen Rd), former Lord Mayor and Local Resident (Magdalen Road): Elise Benjamin

The table lists those residents' associations that will be split by the Draft Recommendations. Conversely, NO resident's associations will be split by the Green Proposals. Note we have included those that have been active in recent years.

Residents Association	Green Proposal	Draft Recommendations
Iffley Road Residents' Association	Bannister	Split between Donnington and Bartlemas
Inner East Area Neighbourhood Association	Cricket	Split between Donnington and Bartlemas
Friends of Iffley Road	Cricket	Split between Donnington and Bartlemas
Divinity Road Area Resident's Association	St. Clement's	Split between St. Clement's and Bartlemas
St. Mary's Road RA	Bannister	Split between St. Clements, Donnington and Bartlemas Wards

Additionally, six Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are official listed in the area³. Two are potentially impacted by the Draft Recommendations. None are impacted by the Green Proposals.

Neighbourhood Watch	Green Proposal	Draft Recommendations
Howard Street	Cricket	Split between Donnington and Bartlemas
Bullingdon Road	Bannister	Unknown – new proposals for Bullingdon Road (7/8/18) are unclear.

³ https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/neighbourhood-watch-areas-list/?areas_in_postcode=OX4

7. Better alignment with County Divisions

Contributed by David Williams, former County Councillor (Iffley Fields & St Mary's Division) and City Cllr (Iffley Fields)

By better aligning with the existing County Division boundaries (which it was recently announced will not be changed in the foreseeable future⁴), the Green Proposal promotes more effective and convenient local government.

The alignment is far from perfect now (a County Division equates to roughly 1½ City Wards) – which is problematic. The aim is at least not to make the situation worse through further fragmentation and the confusion that this creates when residents want to bring about changes in their local community and/or communicate with the local authority.

In the Draft Recommendations, all three proposed new wards span County Division boundaries. In the Green Proposals, only one ward (Cricket) spans County Division boundaries. Note that with the present City Wards it is also the case that one ward (Iffley Fields Ward) spans County Division boundaries.

The Green party proposal aligns better with existing county divisions compared to the Draft Recommendations.

7.1. St Clements and Cowley Marsh

The proposed St Clements ward (Green Proposals) is entirely contained within the existing St Clements and Cowley Marsh County Division. Electors in the new Green proposed St. Clement's City Ward will see no change in their elected County Councillor.

The St Clements Ward proposed in the Draft Recommendations cuts across the St Clements and Cowley Marsh boundary into the Iffley Fields & St. Mary's County Division.

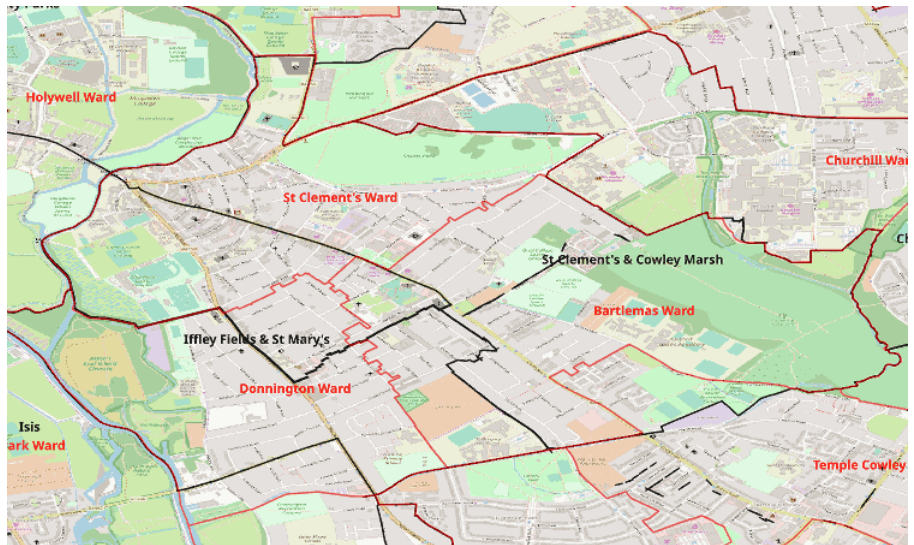


Fig. 2. Draft wards vs. County divisions

7.2. Iffley Fields and St Marys

Bannister Ward, as defined in the Green Proposal, sits entirely within the existing Iffley Fields and St Mary's County Division.

As is the case with the current City Wards, there is no clean mapping on to County Divisions and the proposed new Cricket Ward will span County Division boundaries.

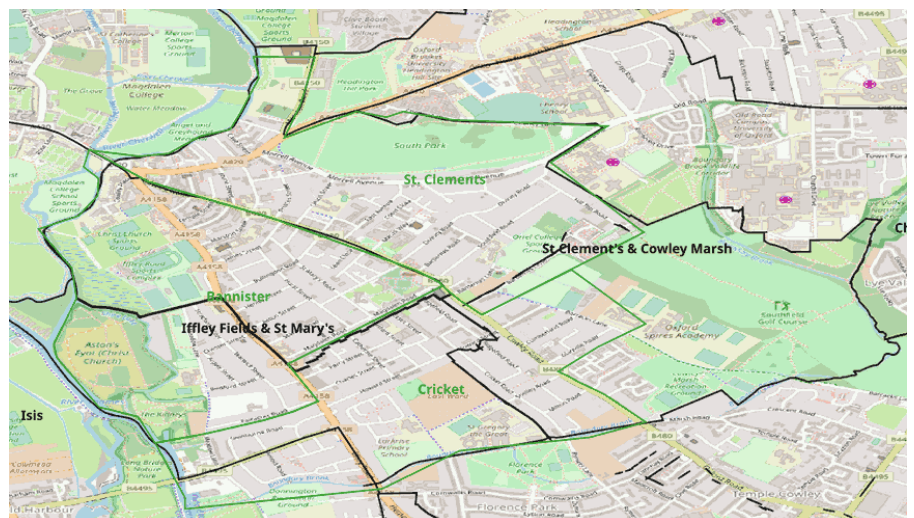


Fig. 3. Green wards vs. County divisions

8. Fewer residential streets split across ward boundaries

Contributed by Co-Chair of Iffley Road Area Residents Association (incl Magdalen Rd), former Lord Mayor and Local Resident (Magdalen Road): Elise Benjamin

Communities are primarily street-based. The Green Proposal splits NO residential streets between Ward Boundaries. The only streets that are split between Wards are the major through routes – which are split longitudinally to retain links with the neighbouring residential streets.

For example, the largest, most active residents' association in the area, the Divinity Road Area Residents Association includes the adjacent side of Cowley Road in its community area along with the 8 neighbouring residential streets⁵.

The Draft Recommendations split:

- Magdalen Road (Donnington & Bartlemas) – Fig. 4
- Percy Street (Donnington & Bartlemas) – Fig. 4
- Howard Street (Donnington & Bartlemas) – Fig. 4
- Charles Street (Donnington & Bartlemas) – Fig. 4
- Hurst Street (divided at Bullingdon Rd) (St. Clements & Donnington) – Fig. 5
- St Mary's Roads (divided at Bullingdon Rd) (St. Clements & Donnington) – Fig. 5
- Leopold Street (split at St Mary's Road jct) (Bartlemas & Donnington) – Fig. 5
- Catherine Street (boundaries alternate between Donnington and Bartlemas) – Fig. 4
- Stone Street (St. Clements & Bartlemas) – Fig. 6

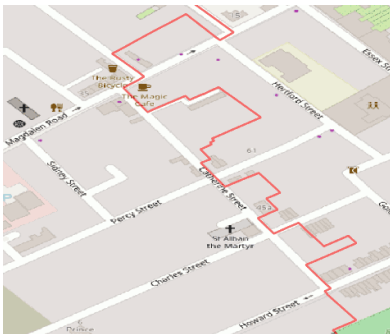


Fig. 4. Magdalen Rd., Percy, Charles, Catherine and Howard Streets cut

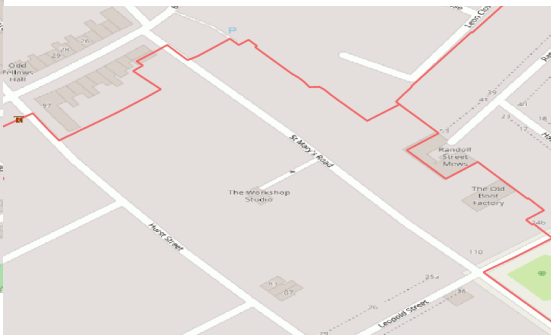


Fig. 5. Leopold St., Hurst St. and St. Mary's Rd. cut

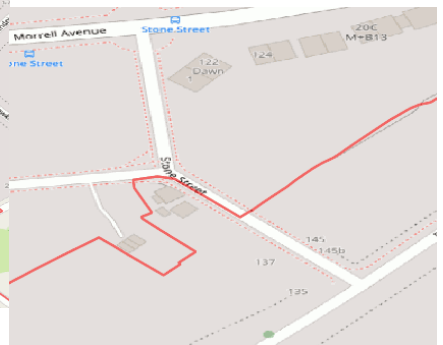


Fig. 6. Stone St. cut

During the last boundary review in 2000, a strong case was successfully made to reunite sections of St. Mary's Road, Hurst Street and Leopold Street that were then split across ward boundaries. The Draft Recommendations risk 'turning back the clock' and unnecessarily fragmenting these streets once again.

9. Better alignment with controlled parking zones (CPZs)

Contributed by Transport Expert and Local Resident (James Street): Matthew Ledbury

Note that CPZs, as implemented in Oxford, are permitted parking zones. Permits are issued for your local zone and you are only able to legally park within your allocated zone. CPZs are subject to extensive consultation with residents and are therefore a reflection of community boundaries. Additionally, splitting CPZs across ward boundaries creates additional inefficiencies and inconvenience in terms of their management.

The CPZs in this part of Oxford fit within the Green Proposal far better than the Draft Recommendation. There are three existing CPZs and two more due to be introduced by the end of 2018. The Draft Recommendations divides one

⁵ <https://drara.org.uk/environment/map-of-drara-area/>

of them between three wards, three of them between two wards, and only one sits entirely within a ward. In the GP proposal, one is divided between two wards, while the other four sit entirely (or almost entirely) within one ward⁶.

East Oxford CPZ:

Draft Recommendation: split between St. Clement's, Donnington and Bartlemas Wards

Green Proposal: divided roughly equally between Bannister and St Clement's wards with a clear dividing line of the Cowley Road. Note, although this is currently a large single zone – it is rare to find people parking on the other side of Cowley Road to where they live. It is therefore two 'virtual zones'.

Divinity Road CPZ:

Draft Recommendation: divided between St Clement's and Bartlemas wards

Green Proposal: sits wholly within St Clement's ward

Magdalen North CPZ:

Draft Recommendation: divided between Donnington and Bartlemas wards

Green Proposal: sits wholly within Bannister ward

Magdalen South CPZ*:

Draft Recommendation: divided between Donnington and Bartlemas wards

Green Proposal: sits mainly or wholly within Cricket Ward (depending on decision around Magdalen Road).

Iffley Road (west) CPZ*:

This sits wholly within one ward (Donnington or Bannister) in both the Draft Recommendations and Green Proposals

*these two new CPZs have been agreed – but not yet implemented. Currently, Magdalen Road is not within a CPZ and there is a debate as to whether it will continue to remain outside of a CPZ or be included in Magdalen South CPZ.

10. Better reflection of travel patterns

Contributed by Transport Expert and Local Resident (James Street): Matthew Ledbury

The Green Proposal fits the main travel routes and aligns with the east-west travel patterns of local residents (in and out of the City Centre), far better than the Draft Recommendations. The boundary between Bannister and St Clement's wards follows Cowley Road, which is the main inbound arterial route in to Oxford from the south-east.

Twin cycle routes parallel to the Cowley Road run – almost continuously – east-west through the current St. Clement's Ward AND continuously east-west through the current St. Mary's ward reflecting, again, distinct local travel patterns in an area with a very low level of car use and high cycle ownership. There is little appetite to encourage more north-south traffic that would 'rat run' residential streets (e.g. see this campaign by residents⁷) and the communities are therefore not well connected along a north-south axis.

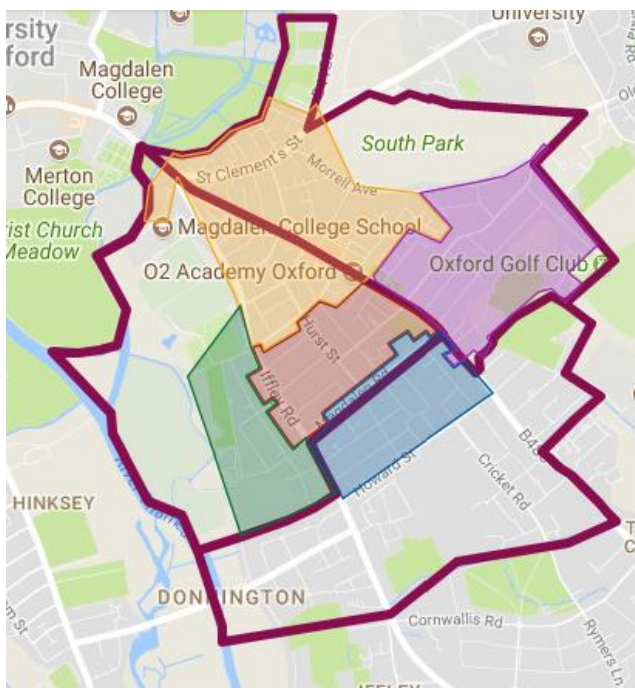


Fig. 7. Controlled parking zones

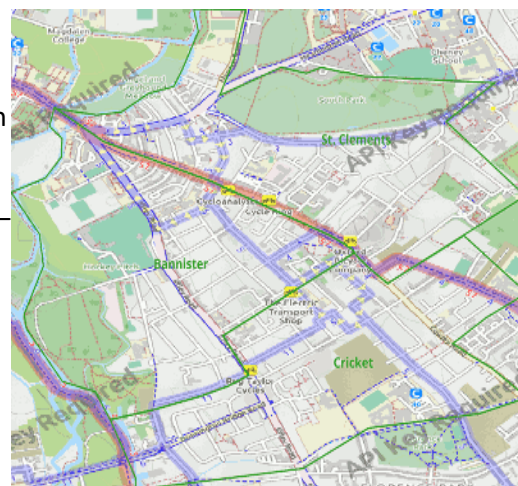


Fig. 8. Green wards on Open Cycle Map

⁶ <https://oxfordshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Styler/index.html?appid=6055cb5fa36f4ababdcadbe35a99a5e6>

⁷ <https://drara.org.uk/traffic/traffic-survey-2014-15/>

Draft recommendation	Electors				Excess			
	2016	2018	2023 from 2016	2023 from 2018	2016	2018	2023 from 2016	2023 from 2018
Bartlemas	5029	4716	5153	4840	11.3%	10.9%	7.3%	6.7%
Barton	4109	4049	5018	4958	-9.1%	-4.8%	4.5%	9.3%
Blackbird Leys	4314	4177	4552	4415	-4.5%	-1.8%	-5.2%	-2.6%
Churchill	4760	4504	4990	4734	5.3%	5.9%	3.9%	4.4%
Cowley	4804	4618	5074	4888	6.3%	8.6%	5.7%	7.8%
Cotteslowe	4947	4796	4947	4796	9.5%	12.8%	3.0%	5.8%
Donnington	4531	4353	4531	4353	0.3%	2.4%	-5.6%	-4.0%
Headington	4945	4690	5230	4975	9.4%	10.3%	8.9%	9.7%
Headington Hill and Northway	4257	3957	4646	4346	-5.8%	-6.9%	-3.3%	-4.2%
Hinksey Park	4441	4186	4441	4186	-1.7%	-1.6%	-7.5%	-7.7%
Holywell	3962	2980	4228	3246	-12.3%	-29.9%	-12.0%	-28.4%
Jericho	4949	4021	5062	4134	9.5%	-5.4%	5.4%	-8.8%
Littlemore	4229	4126	4967	4864	-6.4%	-3.0%	3.4%	7.3%
Lye Valley	4055	3842	4718	4505	-10.3%	-9.7%	-1.8%	-0.7%
Marston	4728	4592	4728	4592	4.6%	8.0%	-1.5%	1.3%
Northfield Brook	4513	4496	4729	4712	-0.1%	5.7%	-1.5%	3.9%
Osney and St Thomas	4980	4302	5078	4400	10.2%	1.2%	5.7%	-3.0%
Quarry and Risinghurst	5088	4914	5255	5081	12.6%	15.6%	9.4%	12.0%
Rose Hill	4259	4668	4432	4841	-5.8%	9.8%	-7.7%	6.7%
St Clements	4642	4318	4642	4318	2.7%	1.5%	-3.3%	-4.8%
Summertown	4925	4429	4925	4429	9.0%	4.2%	2.6%	-2.3%
Temple Cowley	4436	4252	4522	4338	-1.8%	0.0%	-5.8%	-4.3%
Walton Manor	3686	3344	4621	4279	-18.4%	-21.4%	-3.8%	-5.6%
Wolvercote	3880	3729	4762	4611	-14.2%	-12.3%	-0.8%	1.7%
Mean	4520	4252	4802	4535				

Table 3. Elector numbers: draft recommendation

Note that the number of registered voters in 2018 was less than in December 2016, and that the proportionate reduction was not the same in every ward. There are two main factors influencing the number of registered voters in each ward.

1. People are moving to the outskirts of Oxford to reduce their high rent payments.
2. Individual voter registration has substantially reduced the number of electors in student wards and in wards with a high turnover of population.

As settled families move to the outskirts, they are replaced by temporary renters in central and east Oxford, many of whom do not register to vote.

Table 3 shows how these updated voter numbers affect the Draft Recommendation. Given the lower number of voters, even with new student housing in central Oxford, the registered Holywell electorate will still be very low, and the councillors in Quarry and Risinghurst will be representing more voters than any other councillors.

12.2. Green proposal: elector numbers

The Green Party has proposed 3 new wards that better reflect community boundaries, Bannister, Cricket and a modified St. Clement's. It eliminates Bartlemas, extending Temple Cowley to include the remaining RA polling district voters. Table 4 shows our calculation of current and future voter numbers.

The Green proposal only affects Bannister, Cricket, St. Clement's and Temple Cowley (shown in green). By 2023, Bannister and Temple Cowley wards will be less than 3% larger than the average, while Cricket and St. Clement's will be 5% under the average.

	Electors				Excess			
	2016	2018	2023 from 2016	2023 from 2018	2016	2018	2023 from 2016	2023 from 2018
Green								
Bannister	5029	4651	5029	4651	11.3%	9.4%	4.7%	2.6%
Barton	4109	4049	5018	4958	-9.1%	-4.8%	4.5%	9.3%
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Cotteslowe	4947	4796	4947	4796	9.5%	12.8%	3.0%	5.8%
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Hinksey Park	4441	4186	4441	4186	-1.7%	-1.6%	-7.5%	-7.7%
Holywell	3962	2980	4228	3246	-12.3%	-29.9%	-12.0%	-28.4%
Jericho	4949	4021	5062	4134	9.5%	-5.4%	5.4%	-8.8%
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Quarry and Risinghurst	5088	4914	5255	5081	12.6%	15.6%	9.4%	12.0%
Rose Hill	4259	4668	4432	4841	-5.8%	9.8%	-7.7%	6.7%
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Summertown	4925	4429	4925	4429	9.0%	4.2%	2.6%	-2.3%
Temple Cowley	4739	4570	4825	4656	4.9%	7.5%	0.5%	2.7%
Walton Manor	3686	3344	4621	4279	-18.4%	-21.4%	-3.8%	-5.6%
Wolvercote	3880	3729	4762	4611	-14.2%	-12.3%	-0.8%	1.7%
Mean	4520	4252	4802	4535				

Table 4. Elector numbers: Green proposal

12.3. Major development omitted

The Dorothy Wadham Building, a significant new development on Iffley Road (which would fall in Donnington Ward (Draft Recommendations) and Cricket Ward (Green Proposals)) will provide residential accommodation for 135 students on a former garage site. Approved earlier this year, the building is already under construction. This new development is not included in the Council's future projections.

Including it would make both the Draft Recommendations and the Green Proposal more equitable.

13. Minor changes to boundary with Temple Cowley Ward

To bring about electoral equality we have made some changes to the proposed boundary with Temple Cowley Ward in the Draft Recommendations. Temple Cowley Ward remains within the equality parameters (see Table 1).

These changes are detailed in our supporting spreadsheet.

13.1. The Golf Course and Nature Conservation Area

We have avoided allocating the open space south east of Southfield Flats and north of Oxford Spires school (marked – rather misleadingly - as Southfield Golf Course on the Boundary Commission map) to either of our three proposed new wards.

There are no electors in this area – and the area is not scheduled for development; being a popular golf course and, in the main, an area of nature conservation. The amenity value of this open space is enjoyed by all surrounding wards – so there are no strong reasons for linking this space with any ward in particular.

14.1. Cowley and Florence Park communities

The Cowley ward is made up of two closely linked communities: Florence Park around the park and the Florence Park Community Centre, and Cowley centred on the Cowley shopping centre and nearby community facilities like Ark-T.

The Florence Park Community Centre has a defined area of benefit. It includes the roads to the south of Florence Park, right up to Oxford Road. The Draft Recommendations puts some of them into the new Temple Cowley ward, so splitting the Florence Park community between two wards. This active community needs to stay in one ward.

The current boundary between Cowley and Littlemore wards reflects the travel patterns of local residents. In the southern half of Barns Road, it is quicker to cycle to the Tesco superstore than to Templars Square. That area should remain in Littlemore ward.

In short, the current Cowley ward boundaries accurately reflect local communities and should be preserved.

14.2. Donnington and Iffley Village communities

In the July meeting of the Donnington Tenants and Residents Association (DTRA), residents pointed out that the proposed Donnington ward is not what local people would recognise as Donnington. Unless you go back in history to the time of Lord Donnington, the Donnington estate is quite tightly defined. The DTRA area of benefit includes Boundary Brook Road estate to the east of Iffley Road and the streets around Donnington Bridge Road from Swinburne Road in the north to Freeland Road and Cavell Road in the south, going as far west as Meadow Lane. In the 2018 AGM the DTRA voted to also include the rest of Meadow Lane as far as Church Way and Iffley Turn and the roads off it in the area of benefit.

There is little cross-community work between this Donnington area and the streets to the north from Fairacres and beyond. Instead, the closest links are with Iffley Village. Donnington and Iffley Village are in the same parish, share the same Iffley Church, with many residents worshipping there. The Iffley Church newsletter is read widely in both Iffley Village and Donnington.

Given the close links, we propose including Iffley Village and Donnington in one ward, with the southern boundary defined by the county council boundary between Isis and Rose Hill and Littlemore divisions. On the other side of Iffley Village, its only links to Rose Hill are via a cycleway from the church to Lenthall Road or a long way around via Tree Lane.

So, this adds polling district MA to the earlier proposed Cricket Ward, which we rename Donnington and Iffley. To keep the ward from growing too big, we then move the streets NE of Cowley Road from Cricket to Temple Cowley, using the busy Cowley Road as a natural ward boundary. This ward includes the Donnington and Iffley Village communities, plus the residents in the Howard Street area who also are registered at the Donnington Medical Centre.

14.3. Elector numbers per ward

To maintain roughly equal numbers of electors per ward, there are knock on effects of the extended proposal.

- Temple Cowley is balanced by a gain in electors from Cricket and a loss to Cowley.
- Cowley is balanced by a gain in electors from Temple Cowley and a loss to Littlemore.
- Rose Hill lose voters to Donnington and Iffley whereas Littlemore gains voters from Cowley. So, we propose moving voters from Littlemore to Rose Hill, by including streets to the east of Rose Hill and north of the Eastern bypass, as far as the Littlemore and Cowley Roads in Rose Hill ward.

Finally, if you look at the 2023 electors based on the 2018 register, Quarry and Risinghurst will be too big. That can be solved by moving the Churchill boundary north to include all of polling district UD, York Avenue and Douglas Downes Close.

Table 5 shows the elector numbers per ward under this proposal. Wards affected are shown in green. Thanks to the changes, all the wards except Holywell will have voter numbers within 10% of the average in 2023 (based on the both the 2016 and 2018 electoral registers).

	Electors				Excess			
	2016	2018	2023 from 2016	2023 from 2018	2016	2018	2023 from 2016	2023 from 2018
Green extended								
Bannister	5029	4651	5029	4651	11.3%	9.4%	4.7%	2.6%
Barton	4109	4049	5018	4958	-9.1%	-4.8%	4.5%	9.3%
Blackbird Leys	4314	4177	4552	4415	-4.5%	-1.8%	-5.2%	-2.6%
Churchill	4889	4630	5119	4860	8.2%	8.9%	6.6%	7.2%
Cowley	4669	4506	4939	4776	3.3%	6.0%	2.9%	5.3%
Cotteslowe	4947	4796	4947	4796	9.5%	12.8%	3.0%	5.8%
Donnington and Iffley	4811	4662	4811	4662	6.4%	9.6%	0.2%	2.8%
Headington	4945	4690	5230	4975	9.4%	10.3%	8.9%	9.7%
Headington Hill and Northway	4257	3957	4646	4346	-5.8%	-6.9%	-3.3%	-4.2%
Hinksey Park	4441	4186	4441	4186	-1.7%	-1.6%	-7.5%	-7.7%
Holywell	3962	2980	4228	3246	-12.3%	-29.9%	-12.0%	-28.4%
Jericho	4949	4021	5062	4134	9.5%	-5.4%	5.4%	-8.8%
Littlemore	3969	3858	4707	4596	-12.2%	-9.3%	-2.0%	1.3%
Lye Valley	4055	3842	4718	4505	-10.3%	-9.7%	-1.8%	-0.7%
Marston	4728	4592	4728	4592	4.6%	8.0%	-1.5%	1.3%
Northfield Brook	4513	4496	4729	4712	-0.1%	5.7%	-1.5%	3.9%
Osney and St Thomas	4980	4302	5078	4400	10.2%	1.2%	5.7%	-3.0%
Quarry and Risinghurst	4959	4788	5126	4955	9.7%	12.6%	6.7%	9.3%
Rose Hill	4188	4596	4361	4769	-7.3%	8.1%	-9.2%	5.2%
St. Clement's	4486	4203	4486	4203	-0.7%	-1.2%	-6.6%	-7.3%
Summertown	4925	4429	4925	4429	9.0%	4.2%	2.6%	-2.3%
Temple Cowley	4778	4575	4988	4785	5.7%	7.6%	3.9%	5.5%
Walton Manor	3686	3344	4621	4279	-18.4%	-21.4%	-3.8%	-5.6%
Wolvercote	3880	3729	4762	4611	-14.2%	-12.3%	-0.8%	1.7%
Mean	4520	4252	4802	4535				

Table 5. Elector numbers: extended Green proposal

15. Conclusions

The Green Proposals, with or without the extended option presented, offers a significant improvement on the Draft Recommendations. We have shown, with substantial evidence, how the Green Proposals:

- Better align with the current ward boundaries
- Leaves the current polling districts largely intact
- Better align with residents' associations & neighbourhood watch
- Better align with the corresponding County Divisions
- Split fewer residential streets across ward boundaries
- Better align with controlled parking zones
- Better align with Conservation Areas
- Better reflect travel patterns

We trust the Boundary Commission will recognise that the effort put into this submission reflects the strength of community feeling AGAINST the Draft Recommendations.