

# Local Government electoral boundary review for Oxfordshire

8 December 2023

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Thame Town Council (TTC) has considered the above consultation via email and makes the following two objections:

## **1. Proposals for part of Thame/Moreton to be included in the Chalgrove & Thame West Ward:**

TTC objects to this proposal. It would be difficult for a Councillor representing the proposed Thame West and Chalgrove Ward (+ area between) to represent the disparate interests of the communities concerned. Thame West and Chalgrove are geographically far apart and there is very little synergy between them.

TTC would support the County Ward for Thame having either 1 or 2 Councillors and its boundary including all of Thame as one ward, plus immediate surrounding villages including Moreton, Towersey, Tetsworth etc. This reflects the natural Thame community and population, and this should be reflected in OCC governance.

## **2. Proposals to divide the Thame Parish ward into Thame North / Thame South East / Thame South West:**

TTC notes that any changes promoted under this boundary review would be subject to a Community Governance review, as SODC may want to tidy up parish ward boundaries.

Nonetheless, TTC objects to the proposed Thame Parish wards. The proposals for three wards do not appear to be justified, logical or beneficial. In 2022 the parish wards were amended in consultation with the Town Council which saw the two wards (North and South) being balanced out by adjusting the ward division line but retaining 8 Councillors in each ward. This was felt to be sensible and easy for electors to understand.

Therefore, TTC objects to the latest proposals, as dividing Thame South into Thame South West and Thame South East will make no difference to the working of the council and may cause confusion and expense. Related to this, the Town Council would like to know the impact (if any) of having an additional parish ward will have on the cost of TTC elections?