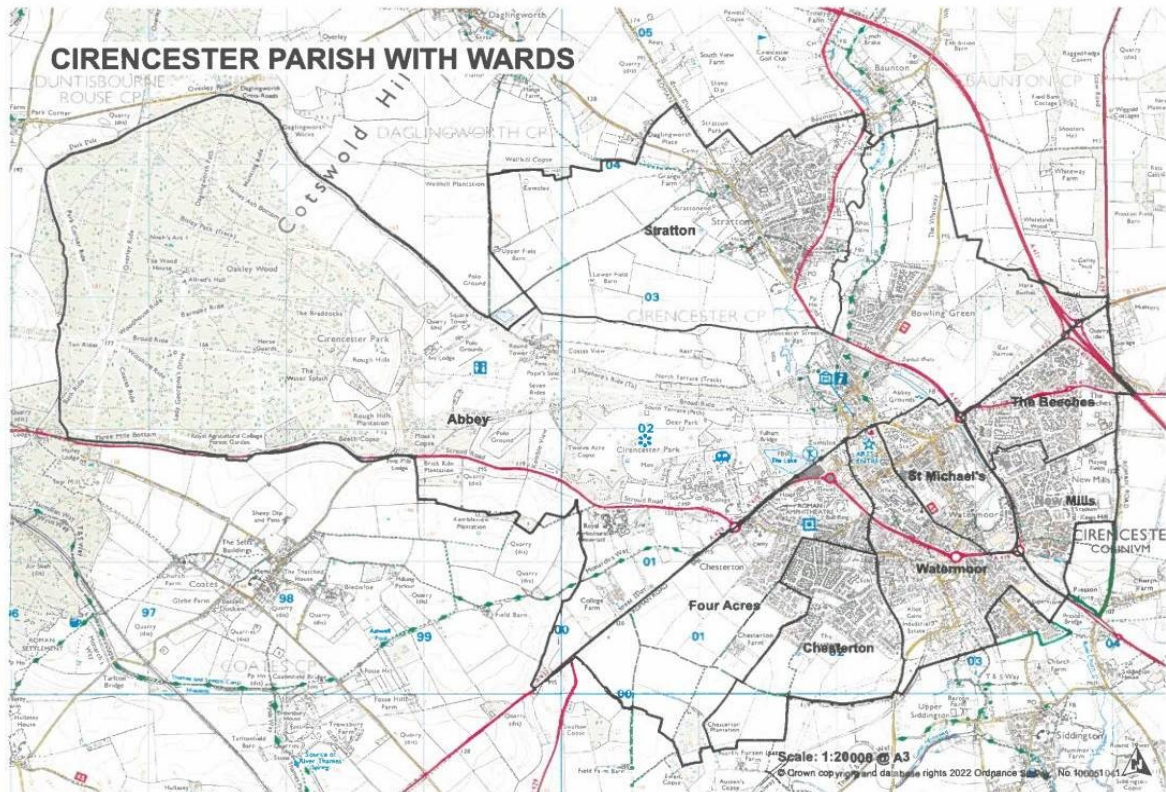


Proposed Changes

Proposed boundary changes are shown in the ward map, as outlined in green; this is in respect to Watermoor Ward (Siddington) and New Mills Ward (Preston).



1. Watermoor Ward

1.1 The above ward map shows a clear anomaly which relates to the ward of Watermoor, where residential properties, which have a direct connection and lineation with Cirencester, fall within the parish of Siddington, clearly seen as being disconnected with the village and lacking connection with that parish.

1.2 It is appropriate and important for the whole of the residential area connected to Cirencester to fall within the respective parish boundary of the town. Local interests can then be met in an holistic, joined up and effective way.

1.3 The interests and identity of those residents who live in this area can only be better represented by a single local council; it is important that access to governance arrangements and democratic representation is made as clear and as easy as possible. The amendment would ensure that residents would be able to access resources and services from the nearby centre of Cirencester and accordingly vice-versa in terms of provision and engagement.

1.4 We are concerned about current arrangements which lacks cohesion and makes governance arrangements more complex than they should be.

1.5 This also affects the effectiveness of respective local Councillors, who are currently restricted from representing the needs of local people living in the same area and street. This also means that issues cannot be democratically represented by a single local council and provides inequality and added bureaucracy, which only creates greater confusion and disengagement.

1.6 We acknowledge the importance that neighbouring parishes retain a sense of identity and clear distinctiveness from the urban/rural core of Cirencester, and we believe that this proposal achieves this without detriment to the current governance arrangements and village identity of Siddington; and seeks to enhance and streamline governance arrangements.

2. New Mills

2.1 With the development of 280 dwellings on land west of Kingshill Lane being approved by Cotswold District Council, a development which falls within the parish boundary but disconnected from the parish of Preston, it is appropriate that a community governance review be undertaken for the Cirencester boundary to be extended and incorporated within the New Mills ward.

2.2 There is a definitive link with the town and as such this area, should fall within the parish boundary of Cirencester so that governance arrangements are aligned more appropriately.

2.3 The Town Council had previously recognised the importance of a green buffer zone being maintained between Cirencester and Preston so it's rural integrity and village identity could be protected; in light of the planning decision, a precedent has been set, and this is now no longer the case.

2.4 An amendment to the boundary would ensure that those living and working in this area are better placed to access local Councillor(s) and would provide greater clarity and transparency in terms of governance arrangements.

3. In Summary

3.1 The recommended proposals will provide governance arrangements which are more equitable and more accurately reflects the identity and interests of respective communities and areas.

3.2 The positive outcomes of the proposed amendments are that resources, services and governance arrangements, will be delivered more effectively and efficiently and

that greater opportunity be created and afforded to access local democracy and local Councillors.

3.3 We would also hope that the resulting benefits of the amendments would seek to foster greater community engagement and cohesion which under current arrangements is disjointed, bureaucratic and confusing.

3.4 Parish boundaries should be clear and relevant to local people and respective community areas which make it much easier for local government, community organisations and key partners such as the police, health service, environment agency and social housing to liaise and engage for the greater and wider benefit of the town.

3.5 We believe that the amendments would be of equal benefit in terms of clarity of service delivery and governance representation for residents.