

Iffley Village has been a distinct entity for at least a thousand years, with its own architecturally distinguished Church and economically important Thames management schemes since before 1200. Its long-established eastern boundaries are the junction of Iffley Turn & Church Cowley Road, marked by a 17<sup>th</sup> century milestone (image below), and the adjoining ancient path (still much used) between it and Tree Lane, which is part of the mediaeval route between Iffley and Cowley St James. Iffley was incorporated into Oxford city in 1928 and for many years was represented by its own Councillors. Friends of Iffley Village started in the 1950s to conserve the essential character of Iffley village for the benefit of its residents, businesses and visitors; to monitor and guide plans proposed for the future of the Village, and to foster community spirit. It continues to flourish with more than 400 annual subscriptions and excellent attendance at locally organised communal events.



Since 2001, Iffley has shared a Council ward with Rose Hill. The parish of St Mary's, centred on the Church at the far S end of Iffley near to Rose Hill, is bounded by the River, the Ring Road, the main road (Iffley Rd/Henley Ave) and Boundary Brook. These administrative associations between Iffley and Rose Hill have fostered several productive community and charity projects, to the mutual benefit of both areas. Many are actively supported by local schools and Councillors, and separation into different Wards would hinder their future development, to the detriment of all. The Boundary Commission's proposed changes to wards would split c. 90% of Iffley from Rose Hill to join Donnington and, even worse, divide Iffley though an arbitrary line along the N-S arm of Iffley Turn, through the E-W arm of Iffley Turn and E end of Tree Lane, i.e. about 100 m west of its long-established and universally accepted boundaries. The Iffley Turn 'triangle', the houses opposite it on Henley Avenue, Anne Greenwood Close including the historic Denton House, Iffley Nursing Home, West View, Stone Quarry Lane, the E. end of Tree Lane would be divorced from the rest of Iffley Village. Residents of these areas regard themselves as part of Iffley so placing them in a separate ward is irrational and potentially very damaging to the sense of local cohesion in which Iffley people take much pride. The proposed borders of Iffley (and those of other areas, particularly the Cowley and Temple Cowley Wards) are not 'based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries' and do not 'reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links', thus violating two key aims of your own Guidelines dated June 2018. The statement in paragraph 4 of the Summary that Rose Hill will be among three wards that will stay the same is evidently false and the adjacent map names the ward 'Donnington' when it should at least show 'Donnington & Iffley'. While Friends of Iffley Village is generally in favour of 'electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters', it believes that this objective should not take precedence over the immense damage to Iffley's social cohesion and strong sense of its own history and identity that dividing the Village between two wards would promote. For these reasons, we are strongly opposed to the scheme.

Caroline Pond  
Chairman

Friends of Iffley Village