

From: iris morgan [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2021 12:53
To: reviews
Cc: USRA Secretary
Subject: Rushcliffe Borough Boundary Review - Upper Saxondale Submission
Attachments: RUSHCLIFFE REVIEW - UPPER SAXONDALE SUBMISSION.pdf; Annex 1 - Upper Saxondale Satellite View.pdf; Annex 2 Upper Saxondale - MAP 1 Existing Ward & Parish Boundaries.pdf; Annex 3 - Upper Saxondale Map 2 Proposed Ward & Parish Boundaries.pdf; Annex 5 - Upper Saxondale Consultation Document .pdf; Annex 6 - Upper Saxondale Residents Feedback Boundary & Parish Review Consultation May - June 2021.pdf

Categories: Matt Subs

Dear Review Team,

Please find attached the submission documents from Upper Saxondale Residents Association regarding the Rushcliffe boundary review.

At Upper Saxondale we are currently divided between two wards and two parishes.

Our proposal is for our whole community to be situated in one ward.

Please find six attachments below..

Document 1 - Upper Saxondale submission document

Annex 1 - Satellite view of Upper Saxondale

Annex 2 - Map showing current ward and parish boundaries

Annex 3 - Map showing proposed boundaries

Annex 4 - Conservation area document

Annex 5 - Residents consultation document

Annex 6 - Residents feedback document



I would be grateful if you would confirm receipt of these documents and that you are happy to receive them in this format.

I have worked with the online submission form however, it only appears to allow one attachment to be submitted hence my contact via email.

Please contact me directly if you need me to submit the documents in a different format.

Kind Regards,

Iris Morgan

On behalf of Upper Saxondale Residents Association



USRAcic Consultation

Upper Saxondale Electoral Ward & Parish Council Proposals

Time for Change? Have Your Say

Dear Resident,

Depending where you live in Upper Saxondale you are represented in either the Radcliffe on Trent ward or the Cropwell ward and therefore either by Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council or Cropwell Butler Parish Council. Wards and parishes are electoral divisions of Rushcliffe Borough Council, for the purpose of electing borough and parish councillors. In Upper Saxondale 259 properties are located in the Radcliffe on Trent ward and 67 in the Cropwell ward.

Upper Saxondale Residents Association Community Interest Company (USRAcic) is the organisational vehicle which maintains our land and amenities. USRAcic is a voluntary organisation and funds are raised from monthly household subscriptions, rental income from the Village Hall and events such as the village coffee morning.

USRAcic's proposal is that Upper Saxondale becomes a separate parish with its own parish council. This would remove the need for residents to pay an USRAcic subscription as well as a parish precept and would therefore create a more equitable and sustainable funding platform for residents. Every household pays an element of council tax to their local parish council via the parish precept. The creation of an Upper Saxondale parish council would mean those monies would become a regular source of income to be used specifically for the maintenance and improvement of our environment here at Upper Saxondale.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is currently reviewing Rushcliffe Borough Council's ward boundaries, this gives us the perfect opportunity to propose that Upper Saxondale should be moved wholly into one electoral ward, as a precursor to then proposing that we should also be our own separate parish. This will fundamentally change how we are represented at local government level.

Step One - Move Upper Saxondale wholly into one electoral ward - The Cropwell Electoral Ward

Upper Saxondale is a small, cohesive community with fewer amenities to maintain than Radcliffe on Trent. We are a more rural community and face similar challenges to villages like Cropwell Butler and Cropwell Bishop, which are already represented within this ward.

Within the Cropwell ward we would be represented as the village of Upper Saxondale as opposed to Upper Saxondale being part of the larger Radcliffe on Trent ward.

The Radcliffe on Trent ward electorate is estimated to increase from 6,524 in 2020 to 8,031 by 2027, it is therefore our belief that our share of community voice would diminish over time. By comparison the Cropwell ward electorate is estimated to increase from 2,063 to 2,312 during this timespan.

Step Two - Create an Upper Saxondale Parish and Parish Council

If Upper Saxondale were to move fully into the Cropwell ward, it would further highlight the inconsistency of being divided between two parish councils. If we were to lobby Rushcliffe Borough Council to change parish boundaries and create a new Upper Saxondale parish, USRAcic could be wound up and the Upper Saxondale parish council would take over its responsibilities. The land and amenities would be managed as follows:

Amenities and land in Upper Saxondale currently sit under three areas of stewardship.

- General parkland - currently David Wilson Homes. Proposal - an Upper Saxondale parish council would approach David Wilson Homes and Rushcliffe Borough Council to try to facilitate the transfer of the general parkland to the management of Upper Saxondale Parish Council, accompanied by appropriate funding.
- Community hall, tennis courts, fruit farm & orchard, woodland walk - currently USRAcic. Proposal - would move to Upper Saxondale Parish Council.
- The play area - currently Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council. Proposal - would move to Upper Saxondale Parish Council.

As a parish council we would have more robust finances and procedures, we would also have a defined path of communication within the structure of local government, this would mean easier access to grants and funding.

Volunteering would remain an important aspect of village life as parish councillors are unpaid. There is one paid role which is the clerk to the council. The clerk is responsible for governance and financial oversight and would also administer the Village Hall for example. Resident's precept monies would fund this cost.

Have Your Say

In order to comply with the timescales of Rushcliffe Borough Council's ward boundary review we need to receive your feedback from this consultation by **Sunday 13th June**. We will then collate all the information we receive and if appropriate submit written proposals for the ward boundary changes.

We will continue to communicate with residents as this process progresses through step one, changing the ward boundary and subsequently on to step two, lobbying for the creation of an Upper Saxondale parish council.

Rushcliffe Borough Council's electoral ward boundary changes will take place in 2023 and any parish council changes would happen around the same time.

There is more information about local government structure and the role of a parish council on the USRAcic website and on the village notice boards, as well as graphics of the revised boundary proposals.

Please contact us at secretary@uppersaxondale.com.

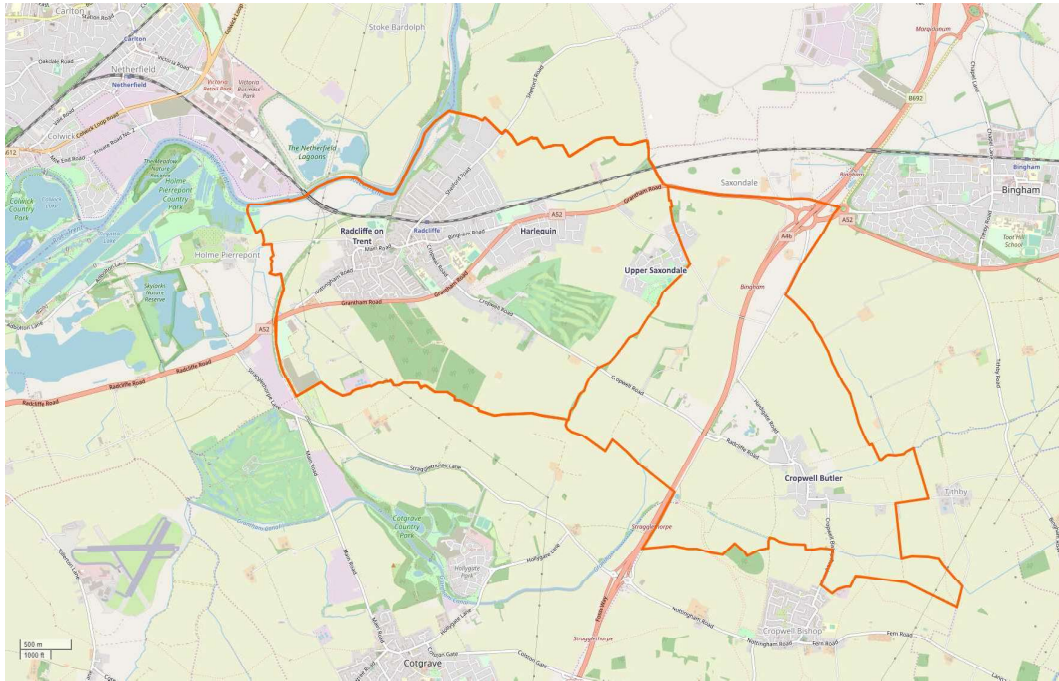
We need your feedback.

Thank You

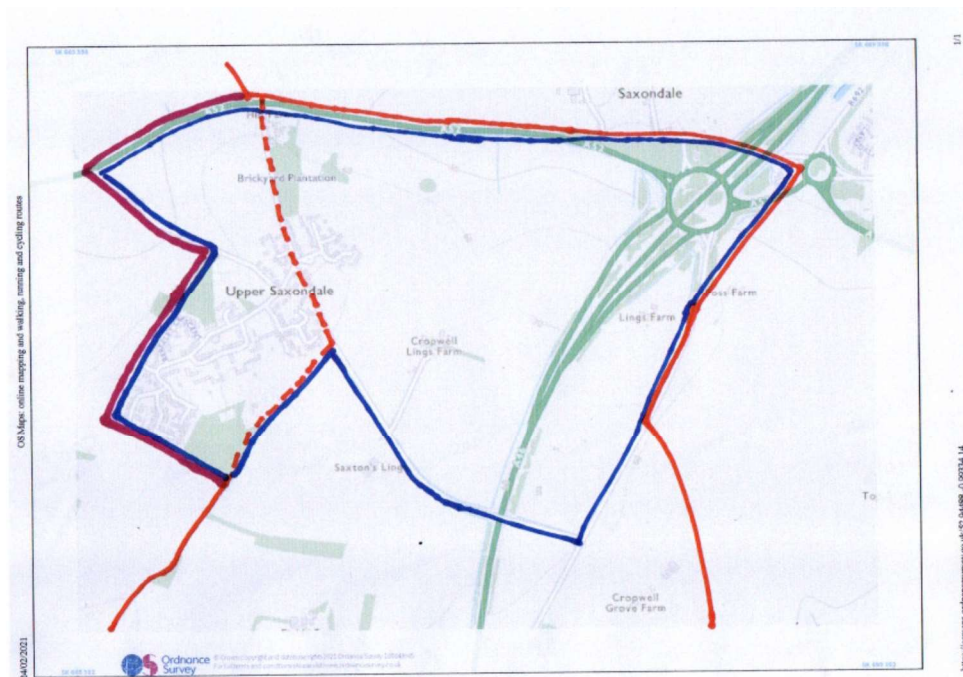
USRAcic

(Upper Saxondale Residents Association Community Interest Company)

www.uppersaxondale.com

MAP 1 - Existing Ward and Parish Boundaries

Map 1 shows, in orange, the existing boundaries of the Radcliffe on Trent and Cropwell Butler parishes. The boundary where the two parishes adjoin (which passes through Upper Saxondale) is also the boundary between the Radcliffe on Trent ward and the Cropwell ward.

MAP 2 - Existing and Proposed Ward and Parish Boundaries

Map 2 shows the area around Upper Saxondale to a larger scale. The existing parish/ward boundaries are in orange. The proposed new boundary between the Radcliffe on Trent ward and the Cropwell ward is in purple - this will replace the existing boundary shown as a broken orange line, and puts the whole of Upper Saxondale in the Cropwell ward. The boundary of the proposed new parish of Upper Saxondale is shown in blue.

Description of proposed ward boundary change

At present the boundary between the Radcliffe on Trent ward and the Cropwell ward runs through Upper Saxondale. The boundary runs from the A52 along old Henson Lane, then turns south-west along the boundary of our orchard and nature reserve. This means that the houses to the east of Henson Lane (including Pimlico Close and Henson Close) are in the Cropwell ward, whilst the remainder of Upper Saxondale is in the Radcliffe on Trent ward. It would make more sense if the whole of Upper Saxondale was in one ward (and given that we aim to create a separate parish of Upper Saxondale, this new parish would then be wholly within one ward). Our strong preference is for Upper Saxondale to be in the Cropwell ward, for the reasons stated above.

Essentially we are proposing to move the existing boundary to the west in order that the whole of Upper Saxondale falls within the area of the Cropwell ward. The new boundary will run from the A52 along the south side of Saxondale Drive (so that the houses on Saxondale Drive, as part of Upper Saxondale, will be within the Cropwell ward). Just over half-way along Saxondale Drive the boundary will turn south-west, and run between the fields on the one side, and the wooded area and houses on the other side. Opposite the end of Hammersmith Close, the boundary will turn and run south-east along the boundaries of the houses on Hammersmith Close and Queen Mary's Close and the nature reserve, then turn south-west to re-join the existing boundary at the corner of the nature reserve.

Description of proposed parish boundary change

The present boundary between the Cropwell Butler and Radcliffe on Trent parishes is coincident with the ward boundary, with part of Upper Saxondale being in the Cropwell Butler parish and the remainder in the Radcliffe on Trent parish. We are proposing that Upper Saxondale should become a separate parish. The western boundary of the proposed new parish will be coincident with the proposed new ward boundary, described above. Starting from the junction of the A52 and Saxondale Drive, the proposed northern and eastern parish boundary will initially follow the present boundary of the Cropwell Butler parish eastwards along the old A52 to the Shell roundabout, then south along the old A46. The boundary will then continue along the old A46 to the junction with Henson Lane, and run north-west along Henson Lane. It will then run south-west along the boundary between the fields on one side and the orchard and nature reserve on the other side, meeting the western boundary at the corner of the nature reserve.

Feedback from Upper Saxondale Consultation May - June 2021

Number	Comments	Action
1	We are in complete agreement with the Electoral Ward and Parish Council proposal document. The proposed changes to the management of the land and amenities should have beneficial effects in areas such as safety and speed limits on our roads, control of animals generally and in the play area, and generally promoting pride and respect in our community for our beautiful village.	General reply
2	I am emailing to give my support for the proposal that Upper Saxondale becomes a separate parish with its own parish council , following moving Upper Saxondale into the Cropwell Electoral Ward .	General reply
3	Dear Secretary I am contacting you to give my support for the proposal that Upper Saxondale becomes a separate Parish with it's own council and that Upper Saxondale be made into one electoral ward i.e. The Cropwell Electoral Ward	General reply
4	<p>Thanks very much for looking into this. I like the idea of being our own parish. We will endeavour to email our formal response / input soon.</p> <p>In the meantime I have a silly question - If we became our own parish, with the boundaries illustrated in the proposals you sent out, would we be partly or wholly responsible for the road and bridge, lighting and water issues that extend beyond our village? I'm thinking roads are covered by Highways England?</p> <p>Have checked website. What are the benefits and drawbacks of being our own parish?</p>	Specific reply IM
5	Many thanks for the information, could you advise what the implication will be for new housing at Upper Saxondale and the perimeter of Upper Saxondale should we move to Cropwell rather than Radcliffe on Trent. New housing has been permitted at areas on the edges of Radcliffe on Trent at the Shelford end. So no housing has been extended from Radcliffe along the A52 towards Upper Saxondale so if we stay Radcliffe then surely we will be safer from further development?What quota / number of houses has Cropwell got to build? Where are they building? When will this come up again for expansion?Your comments would be appreciated.	Specific reply IM
6	We agree that U/S as a whole should be incorporated into The Cropwell Electoral Ward & that it would be in our interest to have a new U/S parish created, Thank you for your ongoing work	General reply
7	<p>The present situation whereby part of the community is in Radcliffe parish and part in Cromwell Butler makes no sense at all and we are strongly in favour of Upper Saxondale having it's own parish council.</p> <p>Upper Saxondale is a cohesive community with a well established tradition of volunteering and self-funding, and local control of the parish precept would give residents much more of a say as to how that money is spent. And that must be a good thing.</p>	General reply

8	<p>read the proposals and fully support the proposed move Upper Saxondale into the Cropwell Electoral Ward and then considering the merits of setting up our own Parish. Accepting that with the growth of Radcliffe, our interests may be better served aligning with the smaller communities of the Cropwells.</p> <p>However, rather than making the establishment of an Upper Saxondale Parish with its own legal and electoral entity a foregone conclusion and wrapping it into the proposed move to Cropwell Ward, we would urge a review of this new relationship after a reasonable period to assess the merits of pressing ahead with our own Parish.</p> <p>There may be a balance needed between this proposal and any potential benefits of remaining part of the Cropwell Ward if this, in practice, gives us more influence on the local government stage at regional level.</p> <p>Being in sole charge of our own destiny clearly has its merits and appeal, but if we are generally aligned with the interests of those representing the Cropwell Ward, then there may be a case for remaining and enjoying what might be a more influential and established body - strength in numbers. Having seen the Radcliffe van up here a couple of times recently, we seem to be well supported in terms of day to day stuff.</p> <p>If we were move to the smaller (and less resourced??) Cropwell Ward would we have the same day to day support for things that need to be done? And would this be more of a challenge if we were to branch out in our own? I was chatting to some friends recently and a view was 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it'. I do see their point.</p> <p>We'll stick with our original response as something perhaps we should aspire to - but only if there is a tangible benefit in doing so.</p> <p>I guess it's a balance between taking a 'nice to have' strategic view of our independence versus the practical operational benefits of being part of larger, established and resourced Ward.</p> <p>You know better than most that coercing people to get involved can be challenging! Mea culpa!!</p> <p>Our community is perhaps culturally different from the Cropwells as is the demographic and we might be closer to Radcliffe in this respect.</p> <p>Sorry to throw all this stuff out there! In summary I see the attraction of the proposed strategy but only if there is a tangible benefit that does not compromise what we currently enjoy as being part of Radcliffe Ward.</p>	Specific reply IS
9	<p>We are in favour of your recommendations regarding changing to Parish council.</p> <p>It would be good to spend money on the dilapidated Dovecotes in the park and make them safe.</p> <p>Another question raised by my wife. We hope that whatever option is chosen that there will be no risk of future building in the park playground and the open grounds behind our house.</p>	Specific reply IM
10	<p>We are contacting you to give our feedback on the above proposals. We are wholly in favour of both the moving of Upper Saxondale into the Cropwell ward and the creation of an Upper Saxondale Parish. We are wholly in favour of both the moving of Upper Saxondale into the Cropwell ward and the creation of an Upper Saxondale Parish. In addition if the creation of a parish council would facilitate the transfer of the parkland from David Wilson to the council this is would be a long awaited bonus. Thank you for all the work that has gone into this proposal</p>	General reply
11	<p>Thanks for updating residents on the proposed changes. It seems to make perfect sense to be doing this - not least as it seems that the area will receive extra funding. I am fully behind the proposals - do you want us to vote somewhere?</p>	General reply - verbal reply already given
12	<p>It all sounds very sensible. As soon as we are no longer an inconvenience to David Wilson the better. The contractors have just performed their regular shallow ploughing, taking out daffodils and some meadow seeds I'd sown on a bare patch of the park land behind the house. Keep up the good work</p>	General reply
13	<p>Just wanted to feedback. We think this is an excellent idea. Will get us on the grid after all these years aligned with the local villages. Great plan and you fully have our support.</p>	General reply

14	<p>wholeheartedly support the proposal that Upper Saxondale should have its own Parish Council independent of Radcliffe and Cropwell. We are outliers to both those communities, Radcliffe already being of significant size and expanding towards Shelford and Holme Pierrepont, and we are marginal to Cropwell. If we are denied self-determination then the least bad scenario would be incorporation into Cropwell as to have Upper Saxondale split between two councils is pointless and leaves us the responsibility of both and, we suspect, considered by neither.</p>	General reply
15	<p>Dear Secretary - I am writing to support the proposals set out in your consultation document Upper Saxondale Electoral Ward & Parish Council Proposals dated 14 May 2021.</p>	General reply
16	<p>Just to say thank you for all the hard work which has gone into mailing households today with such clear information about ward boundary changes & the proposal for an Upper Saxondale Parish Council. I remember attending a village meeting 2/3 years ago when this proposal was suggested. As a resident here now for 16 years, I think this is a brilliant idea, makes such sense and I fully support it! Good Luck!</p>	General reply
17	<p>Thank you for the information regarding the Upper Saxondale Electoral Ward & Parish Council Proposals. It makes perfect sense to move Upper Saxondale wholly into one electoral ward - The Cropwell Ward as mentioned in Step One.</p> <p>It also makes sense to lobby Rushcliffe Borough Council to change parish boundaries to create a new Upper Saxondale parish as in step 2. My only query is that the management & maintenance of the "4 small garden pavilions" has not been mentioned. Previously I was informed that David Wilson Homes were responsible & I presume as they have left them to their current sad state they would repair them to their former glory before being handed over? Last week a relative of mine mentioned to me that they saw someone who looked like he may have been conducting a survey of them as it appeared he had a camera on a long pole? I would have thought they were of historical & architectural interest. PS. It is a shame that a pedestrian right of way across the fields to Cropwell Road is not allowed to link Upper Saxondale to Radcliffe-on-Trent village amenities as the A52 is not a good route & it would encourage more people to walk rather than drive & I suppose trying to get this would be more difficult if we separate?</p> <p>Finally talking of the pedestrian rights of way the other day I popped my head out to look at the view from the woods to the farmland & 2 motor bikes sped down the same side of the field edge to the woods. I thought the farmer surely isn't having young men on motor bikes patrolling the edges of the field? I turned a "blind ear" to the noise of the bikes & made a hasty exit onto the path where the community hall is on one side & the children's play area on the other side & then one of the motor bikes was behind me I moved onto the grass out of his way & then thought i am not sure about the field (I have walked that for 50 years) but I had right of pedestrian access on the path beside the children's play area?</p> <p>Upper Saxondale is a lovely place to live.</p>	Specific reply IM
18	<p>Hi, having reviewed the electoral ward and parish council proposals, I am fully supportive of the proposed changes to move in to one electoral ward with Cropwell and then to look to create an Upper Saxondale Parish and Parish council. Good luck with the plans.</p>	General reply
19	<p>We would like to lodge with you that we are in favour of the proposed new Upper level Saxondale parish and Parish council.</p>	General reply
20	<p>You have my support for both the interim merger with The Cropwell Ward and then leading onto our own Electoral Ward of Upper Saxondale.</p>	General reply
21	<p>Thanks for putting this carefully thought-out and accessible document through our door. We would strongly support the actions suggested in your proposals. Good luck</p>	General reply

22	<p>I support your proposal to move to setting up a new parish council. Would the bowling club move to the new Parish Council?</p> <p>By way of ensuring I fully understand the impact of moving out of RoT parish council, could you give me any idea of how much RoT council has invested in Upper Saxondale? Did RoT council pay for the playground? I thought the funds were raised by a group in Upper Saxondale?</p> <p>Many thanks for doing all this great work.</p> <p>I understand that once all of the proposed parish council is in a ward we cannot be stopped from becoming a parish council if we get 250 of those who live here to sign a petition. Full support read the proposal too.</p>	Specific reply IS
23	<p>With regard to the above proposals, I feel that they are a very sensible and practical re organisation of the boundaries. I support both of the proposals listed below.</p> <p>one electoral ward of Cropwell Ward and a new Upper Saxondale Parish & Parish Council to replace USRAcic Thank you for your efforts in this matter.</p>	General reply
24	<p>Re electoral ward and parish proposals, I support both proposals as laid out by the attached document. Thank you for the hard work put in to this proposal.</p>	General reply
25	<p>We have a few questions to suggest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If Radcliffe's new housing developments expand closer to our village, such as the proposal for more homes at the bottom of Saxondale Drive on the railway line side of the A52, could that blur the lines of separation between us and Radcliffe and weaken our argument? 2. Is Saxondale village outside of the proposed new boundary for Upper Saxondale, leaving it aligned to Bingham as it is now? If so could this be confusing with Saxondale and Upper Saxondale being in different wards and parishes? 3. Have any discussions been held with residents from Saxondale village and the local farms to find out their views about the proposals? 4. How would we be governed if we were eventually to become a parish with its own council and not enough villagers stepped forward to become councillors? At the moment USRA and USRAcic activities seem to involve the same small group of volunteers, so would there be enough interest to form a parish council? How many councillors would be needed as a minimum? 5. As a parish, would we need to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan separate from the plan prepared for Radcliffe On Trent covering 2014-2028 of which we are a part? 6. Would the Post Office at long last correctly identify us as Upper Saxondale for postal purposes instead of Radcliffe On Trent as it does now, grrrr! Perhaps a bit of lobbying is needed once we have a new parish council identity? <p>Thank you for all your hard work in getting us to this point and hopefully beyond too.</p>	Verbal reply already given
26	<p>We are writing to confirm that we fully support the proposal set out in the sent to us to achieve the aim of Upper Saxondale having it's own Parish Council.</p>	
27	<p>We just wanted to pass on our full support for the proposed boundary changes and to thank you all for your hard work in putting this together.</p>	General reply

28	<p>Thanks for your information regarding Upper Saxondale Electoral Ward and Parish Council Proposals.</p> <p>As we are a fairly small community I think it makes sense to unite and to move Upper Saxondale wholly into one ward, that being the Cropwell electoral ward and create our own parish.</p> <p>My only concern and this is not something I would be against, you mentioned all households would contribute to the maintenance of the land and amenities, having lived in a communal area before and having to pay for upkeep of gardens and general maintenance etc we always had problems with some households not wanting to pay these charges and the company who managed this increased the fees regularly.</p> <p>I think if we could be more transparent what these charges may be as for the last twenty years or so we haven't had a separate maintenance charge it has been done on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>Look forward to hearing from you again as to the outcome of all the feedback you have received and thanks again for all the hard work you do and the free time you give.</p>	Specific reply IS
29	<p>This is exactly what I said some twenty years ago! Thank goodness we now have a committee that is capable of getting this done. It always was silly to have a village that falls in two parishes.</p>	General reply
30	<p>Just to let you know we have read the proposal and agree that Upper Saxondale should take the first step of being incorporated into the Cropwell parish ward. Especially given the growth in Radcliffe's housing numbers and imminent pressures on its parish council. Also, as pointed out, the locality of Upper Saxondale is more aligned with that of Cropwell Bishop. Many thanks for overseeing this proposal</p>	General reply
31	<p>Just to say I am in agreement to join the Cropwell Ward.</p>	General reply
32	<p>We refer to the above document and your request for comment. We do not have much experience of local politics in this area but felt compelled to state our view as requested. The question we posed to ourselves in evaluating your proposal is what are the threats and opportunities to the current Saxondale Community?</p> <p>For whatever reason the Radcliffe on Trent (R-O-T) Ward is viewed as an area for housing expansion and over time further developments are likely to encroach on our own boundaries. This we see as a major threat. By moving our community into the mainly rural Cropwell ward we would banish any possible influence or voice we would have within the R-O-T Ward. We would suggest that a well organised vocal campaign can have a major influence in a debate on controversial issues such as land development even where the voter numbers appear daunting. Hence our view is that we should remain within the R-O-T Ward.</p> <p>We would accept it would be a good opportunity to have our Community joined as an Upper Saxondale Parish and Parish Council within the R-O-T Ward. This could lead to the advantages you describe.</p> <p>We would be happy to discuss the above viewpoint with your committee at any time and feel that a meeting of the interested Saxondale residents should be held to discuss the various comments before any formal proposal is made to the Boundary Commission.</p>	Specific reply IM
33	<p>I support the creation of an Upper Saxondale Parish and Council</p>	General reply

34	<p>Thank you for the consultation document. My intention is to respond to the contents of the document in the order in which statements or proposals are made within the document.</p> <p>1. Opening address, para. 3.</p> <p>"This would remove the need for residents to pay an USRAcic subscription". My understanding from information presented at USRAcic open meetings is that the income from subscriptions is a small proportion of the maintenance and improvement of the environment costs, (it is difficult to more specific here because I don't have access to the minutes of the meetings). Therefore, the impact of removing that income is unlikely to be significant.</p> <p>2. Step One - Move Upper Saxondale wholly into one electoral ward - The Cropwell Electoral Ward</p> <p>Upper Saxondale is a relatively small housing estate, on the site of a decommissioned hospital. There are, understandably, few amenities as the site was designed and built to provide housing. We are entirely dependent upon surrounding communities to provide basic amenities.</p> <p>I guess that there may be advantages to becoming one electoral ward. If this were to be possible, I think that it would be more prudent to be part of the Radcliffe on Trent Ward. Cropwell Ward is a small a population providing very few if any amenities in addition to those we already have, significant funding bids may be given less consideration than those affecting larger and more diverse populations.</p> <p>3. Step Two - Create an Upper Saxondale Parish and Parish Council</p> <p>I appreciate that the management of the amenities and land in Upper Saxondale , or could in the future present a problem to USRAcic. However, I have concerns that annexing Upper Saxondale from the larger community upon which we are dependent is not beneficial to the residents of Upper Saxondale.</p> <p>I apologise if my comments appear to be negative and probably demonstrate ignorance of this tier of local government. I know that these ideas have been under consideration but I don't think that the consultation document fully outlines all of the options and the consequences and potential impact of the proposals being made. I would like to be made aware of any alternatives and how they may compare to the proposals made in this document. I hope that more information will be made available to residents of Upper Saxondale in the near future.</p>	Specific reply IM
35	<p>Thank you for this.I support a boundary change to establish Upper Saxondale Parish Council.</p>	General reply

RUSHCLIFFE WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

SUBMISSION FROM UPPER SAXONDALE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION CIC

Introduction

This submission relates to the Rushcliffe ward boundary review and in particular to the boundary between the current Radcliffe-on-Trent ward and the Cropwell ward as it affects the village of Upper Saxondale. The current boundary passes through the village. The submission focuses on the integrity of Upper Saxondale as one community and the consequent need to re-draw the boundary in order that the village is entirely within one ward rather than being split between two wards as at present.

The submission is made by the Upper Saxondale Residents Association CIC ('USRA'), which is a community interest company of which any Upper Saxondale resident may be a member.

Context

Six miles east of Nottingham, Upper Saxondale is a conservation village situated on a site of thirty hectares. It sits between two main trunk roads, the A52 and the A46, which intersect at a nearby roundabout.

In the late 19th century Nottinghamshire County Council built a psychiatric hospital on the site, which opened in 1899 and eventually closed in 1988. After some years a developer, David Wilson Homes, bought the site for redevelopment as residential accommodation. The housing development commenced in 1996 and was completed in 2002.

Unique within the borough of Rushcliffe, the village is a mix of conversions of Victorian hospital buildings which are set around the established parkland, and new-build houses. It is surrounded by open space including a nature reserve, orchard and fields. Within the village there are 326 homes, a church and a large converted building which includes a restaurant, a wellbeing studio and office space. There is also a play park, a modern brick-built village hall with three adjacent tennis courts and an independent bowling club with green and clubhouse.

The current boundary between the Radcliffe-on-Trent and the Cropwell wards runs through Upper Saxondale, as shown on the satellite view in Annex 1 and the two maps in Annex 2 and Annex 3. It appears that this boundary was fixed before the residential development that created Upper Saxondale village, with houses being built on both side of the boundary. So depending where they live in Upper Saxondale, residents are currently represented in either the Radcliffe-on-Trent ward or the Cropwell ward (and at the parish level either by Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council or Cropwell Butler Parish Council). Of the 326 houses, 259 are located in the Radcliffe-on-Trent ward and 67 in the Cropwell ward.

Because Upper Saxondale is one community, we believe that it is not appropriate for it to be divided between two wards.

One community

As will be seen from the satellite view and maps mentioned above, Upper Saxondale village is geographically separate from its neighbouring communities of Radcliffe-on-Trent, Cropwell Butler and Bingham. Upper Saxondale is one integral community with no physical barriers such as rivers or major roads dividing one part of it from another. It was designated as a conservation area by Rushcliffe Borough Council in 1993 (see Annex 4).

In addition to the physical and geographical aspect, there are also other indicators of Upper Saxondale being one community. The very existence of USRA is one such indicator. Membership of USRA is open to anyone in Upper Saxondale, and of the five current directors of USRA, three happen to live in the Radcliffe-on-Trent ward and two in the Cropwell ward. The facilities that USRA owns or provides are enjoyed by all residents. These facilities include a village hall, tennis courts, fruit orchard and nature reserve. USRA has also organised events such as children's parties, a one day 'Saxonbury' festival and carols round our Christmas tree, all attended by local residents from across the village. USRA also manages the Upper Saxondale website www.uppersaxondale.com and our Facebook page.

At the logistical level, the whole of Upper Saxondale is on the same Royal Mail postal round and the same cycle of refuse collection.

Being a small village, our residents access most day-to-day amenities externally to the village. We do not have facilities such as shops, doctor's surgeries, vets, schools, libraries, post offices and coffee shops. These are typically found in either the village of Radcliffe-on-Trent to the west or the market town of Bingham to the east. To reach both, a car journey is generally necessary. Upper Saxondale residents will visit whichever they deem appropriate without regard to the particular part of Upper Saxondale in which they live.

Which ward?

Having established that Upper Saxondale is one community and so should be entirely within either the Radcliffe-on-Trent ward or the Cropwell ward, we need to consider which of two wards is more appropriate.

The Radcliffe-on-Trent ward mainly comprises the larger, more 'built-up', village of Radcliffe-on-Trent itself, whereas the Cropwell ward comprises a number of villages of broadly comparable size to Upper Saxondale. Upper Saxondale is separated from Radcliffe-on-Trent by green belt fields and does not face the same challenges as Radcliffe-on-Trent which is a larger, and more urban, community. Upper Saxondale has a small village feel and faces similar challenges to our local village neighbours in the Cropwell ward - such as dog walking issues, land conservation and management, and fundraising for the village hall.

Consequently USRA's strong preference is that Upper Saxondale should move wholly into a less urban ward with similar sized communities, within current boundaries this would be the Cropwell ward.

Proposal

For the reasons set out above, in summary our proposal is that the ward boundary should be moved so that Upper Saxondale, as one indivisible community, is entirely within the Cropwell ward.

As we have noted, the boundary between the Radcliffe-on-Trent ward and the Cropwell ward currently runs through Upper Saxondale. The boundary runs from the A52 along 'old' Henson Lane, then turns south-west along the boundary of our orchard and nature reserve.

We proposing that the existing boundary should be moved to the west in order that the whole of Upper Saxondale falls within the area of the Cropwell ward. The new boundary would run from the A52 along the south side of Saxondale Drive (so that the houses on Saxondale Drive, as part of Upper Saxondale, would be within the Cropwell ward). Just over half-way along Saxondale Drive the boundary would turn south-west, and run between the fields on the one side, and the wooded area and houses on the other side. Opposite the end of Hammersmith Close, the boundary would turn and run south-east along the boundaries of the houses on Hammersmith Close and Queen Mary's Close and the nature reserve, then turn south-west to re-join the existing boundary at the corner of the nature reserve. The existing and proposed boundaries are shown on the maps in Annex 2 and Annex 3.

We acknowledge that, if our proposal for Upper Saxondale to be wholly within the Cropwell ward is accepted, there are alternative options for the position of the western boundary. For example it could be drawn further west than we have suggested, to incorporate more of the green belt fields. This would be entirely acceptable to us.

Upper Saxondale Parish


Although this review focuses solely on ward boundaries, it is nevertheless pertinent to mention that USRA is also proposing to petition that Upper Saxondale should become a separate parish, and we have commenced discussions with Rushcliffe Borough Council in this regard. Currently Upper Saxondale is split between the Radcliffe-on-Trent and the Cropwell Butler parishes. This is untenable, for the same reasons that the current split between two wards is untenable. The proposed extent of the new parish is shown on the map in Annex 3.

Consultation

USRA has contacted all Upper Saxondale residents to share our proposals for the ward and parish boundary changes and to request their views. We have posted a consultation document through the letter box of every house, and detailed information has been provided on our local notice boards, on our website www.uppersaxondale.com, and via our Facebook page. A copy of the consultation document is included in Annex 5.

Of the 35 residents/households who responded by email, 33 were in favour of the proposed changes 2 wished to remain in the Radcliffe ward and one was seeking information. All households have been replied to directly with further information, links to the LGBCE website or an update on timings. A copy of residents comments is attached in Annex 6.

Contact

If any further information is required, either arising out of this submission or otherwise, please email USRA on secretary@uppersaxondale.com or contact the Chair by phone on 

Submitted by USRA on behalf of Upper Saxondale residents on 13th July 2021.

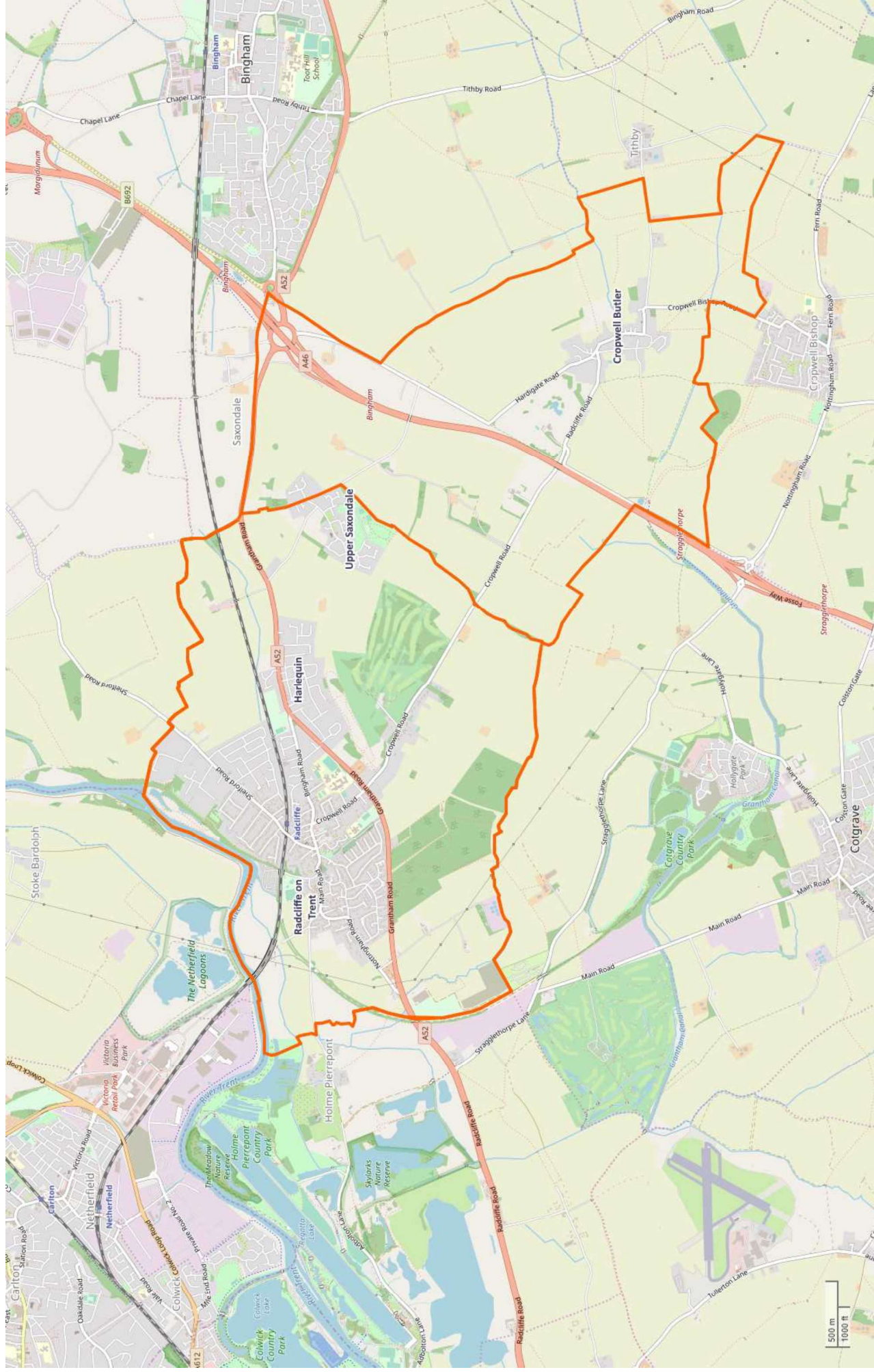
The directors of USRA are:

Ian Storey	Chair
Tim Buxton	Treasurer
Georgia Moore	Secretary
Gordon Moore	
Iris Morgan	



MAP 1 EXISTING WARD & PARISH BOUNDARIES

This map shows, in orange, the existing boundaries of the Radcliffe on Trent and Cropwell Butler parishes. The boundary where the two parishes adjoin (which passes through Upper Saxondale) is also the boundary between the Radcliffe on Trent ward and the Cropwell ward.



LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

There are now 27 Conservation Areas in the Borough. The line shown on the map overlaid shows the extent of Saxondale's Conservation Area and the Listed Buildings within it. They are statutory designations and there are legal implications for property and extensions. Other planning requirements are set out in the booklet "A Guide to Planning Permission for Householders". You are also advised that if you are the owner of a Listed Building, other restrictions apply to the property. All structures including walls, gates and runways of such a building are included in the listing and require Listed Building Consent before any proposed works. The "Listed Buildings in Rushcliffe" booklet provides more detailed information on this subject.

PURPOSE OF A CONSERVATION AREA DESIGNATION

In a Conservation Area, special attention is given to good design and the effect of developments on other buildings and open spaces in a village. Problems are encouraged to consider carefully any extensions or new building plans and to construct any building in local traditional materials. The planning help for design matters, and particular attention will be paid to all aspects of any proposed or a detailed level. There are requests to those proposals to design here and there their plans prior to making any formal application. Please remember that in a Conservation Area, changes to make a completed house and instantly support from making plans.

The Borough Council looks forward to the cooperation of individuals and groups on conservation matters. There may be steps to carry out enhancement works in your village and if you have any suggestions please make them either to the Parish Council or the Borough Council direct.

The map on the side of the booklet shows how the area was planned by Edward Russett in 1900 and was planned by Edward Russett in 1900 and was planned by Edward Russett in 1900.

SAXONDALE CONSERVATION AREA

The Conservation Area of 20 hectares was designated in January 1993. The boundary covers the entire former Saxondale Rhyolite's impact site and includes the extensive, unenclosed grounds.

After becoming redundant, the site was extensively redeveloped for housing and in order to preserve the original landscape and many fine trees, the Conservation Area was created.

The Chapel was built in 1950 to the design of J. H. Roberts, the then County Architect, for use by former hospital staff and patients. The small, vernacular style building, with Gothic Revival, has been retained as a church.

Today the site is a blend of old and new. High quality conservation of the Victorian buildings, the historic parkland, the ruins of community buildings and the public open spaces have resulted in an unusual combination of special character and quality.

For further information 0115 954-8221 and ask for a planning officer or write to the address below.


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Borough Development
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Web: www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

One of several gardens within the grounds of the former hospital complex is located

CONSERVING

Rushcliffe's built
Heritage

Saxondale Conservation Area

