
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, orchard and 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.

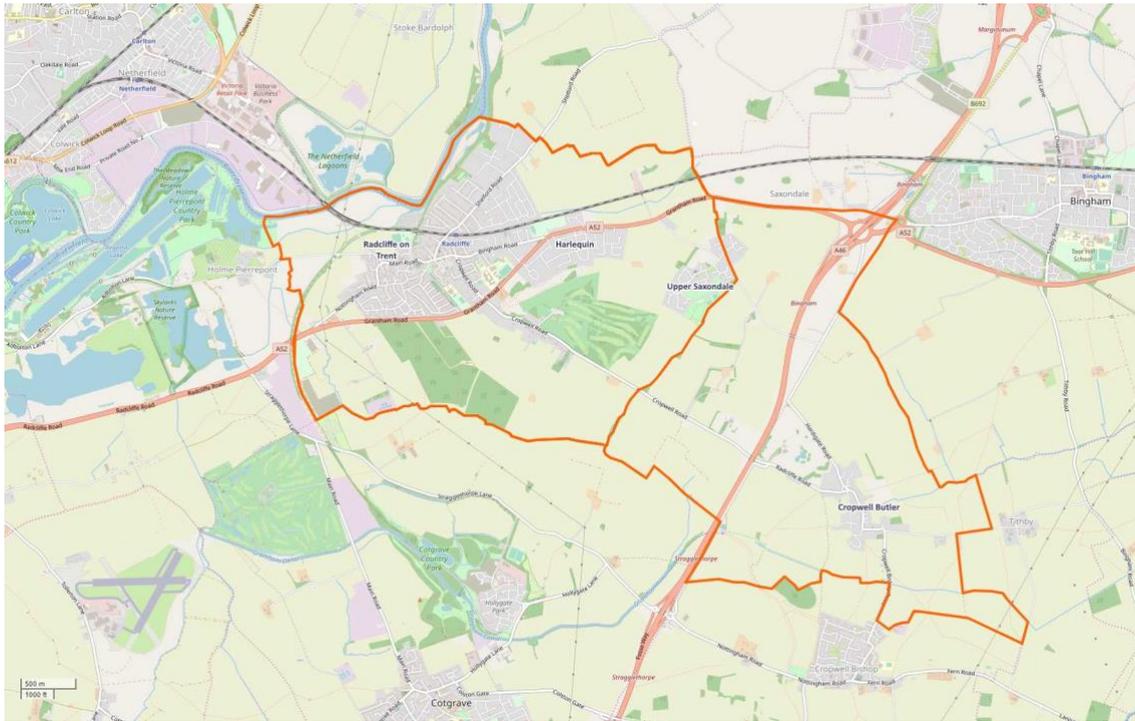
Thank You

USRAcic

(Upper Saxondale Residents Association Community Interest Company)

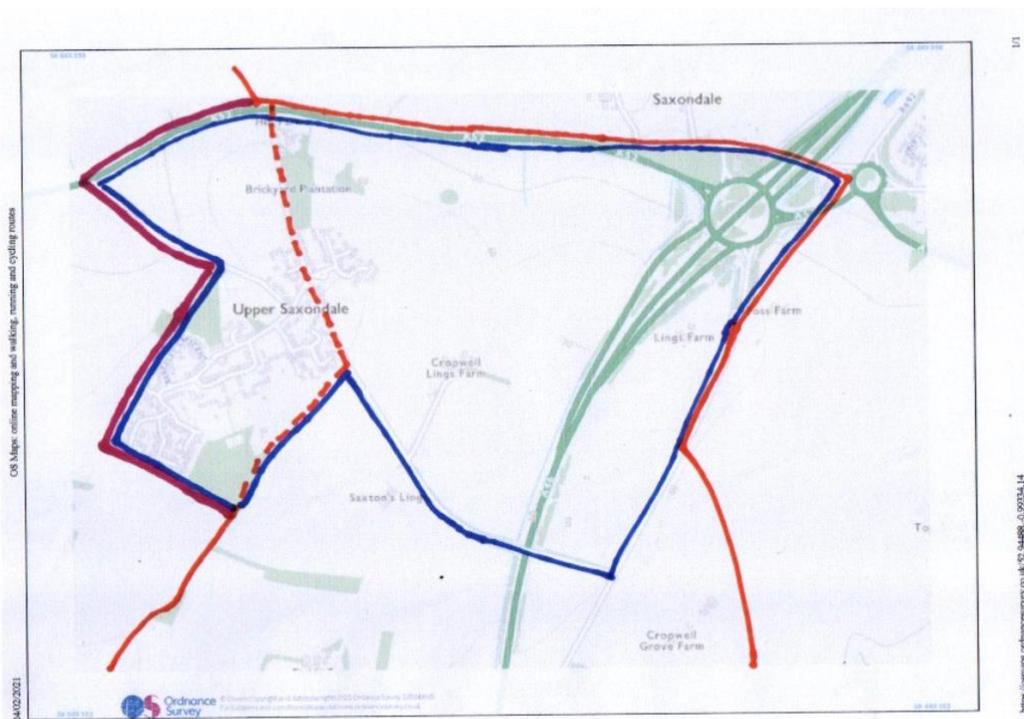
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MAP 1 - Existing Ward and Parish Boundaries



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.