

General Purposes Committee

Schedule	Thursday 23 October 2025, 6:30 PM — 9:30 PM BST
Venue	Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ
Description	To the Chair and Members of the Committee: Cllr S Watkins (Chair) Cllr J Baker (Vice-Chair) Cllrs M Brennan, S Clark, K Collins, S Ford, R Goodchild, P How, C Leaman, D Shelvey, N Young, and A Zerny. Substitutes: Cllrs C Alderman, E Ghent, S Roberts, M Smith, B Stephenson, K Woodfine, and T Wye.

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To receive an overview of complaints considered by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman between 2019/20 and 2024/25, specifically in relation to themes and financial settlements.

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391

To consider and support the implementation of the updated Member Development Programme and recommend to Full Council the updates to the Constitution.

10. Work Programme

416

To consider the General Purposes Committee work programme.

Notes for Participants

Notes for participants

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committeemeetings@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence and notification of substitute Members.

2. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 28 August 2025.

At a meeting of the **General Purposes Committee**
held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ.
on Thursday 28 August 2025 from 9.00am

Present: Cllr J Baker (Chair)

Members: Cllrs M Brennan
S Clark
R Goodchild
S Ford
C Leaman

Cllrs M Smith (sub for Cllr Watkins)
K Woodfine (sub for Cllr How)
N Young
A Zerny

Apologies: Cllrs K Collins
P How
D Shelvey
S Watkins

Officers in Attendance: Ms V Chapman
Mr L Manning
Mr C Martin
Ms N Taylor

Service Director (HR)
Webcaster
Snr Committee Services Officer
Monitoring Officer

Members in Attendance: Cllrs S Clinch

Virtual Attendance: Cllr M Walsh

1. Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2025 be approved as a correct record.

2. Members' Interests

None were received.

3. Chair's Announcements and Communications

There were no announcements.

4. Petitions

None were received.

5. Questions, Statements or Deputations

None were received.

6. Pay Protection Pilot Policy Review

The HR Service Director introduced the report. The Committee was reminded that a proposal came to the Committee last year to amend the Council's Pay Protection Policy. The Council previously offered one year's protection at one pay grade difference, and last year's proposal was for two pay grades difference and 18 months protection, which the Committee agreed as a pilot for one year and the outcome to be brought back to review.

During this period 25 members of staff were redeployed, 12 of those received 18 months' pay protection and four of those received the two pay grade difference. It was too early to know whether 18 months' pay protection has had any impact on retention as the 18 months had not ended yet.

The Committee asked what impact this had on reducing redundancy through redeployment and cost saving. However, it was difficult to say what the redeployment level would have been without the pilot in place. Although it was likely that the four people who had the two pay grade protection would not have been retained without the pilot in place. There would be cost saving as it would have saved money on redundancies and on recruitment, as well as on induction costs. However, in some instances these may be outweighed or matched by the redundancy costs.

The Committee debated two pay grades compared to one pay grade and 12 months compared to 18 months and the pros of retention of experienced staff and cons such as increased pension costs at a higher rate for a longer period, especially if staff then chose to leave following the 18 month period and that there could be a substantial pay difference between two employees doing the same role if someone who is redeployed has protected pay two grades higher. They were also concerned that the report had inconclusive evidence of the impact of the pilot. The Committee was advised that there had been anecdotal evidence from those that had been redeployed on the new pilot scheme, but it had been mixed and would be more reliable after a 12-month period. It was confirmed by the HR Service Director that there were more redundancies than redeployments.

The Committee proposed the Pay Protection Policy be for two pay grades and 12 months.

RESOLVED that the Pay Protection Policy should revert to a 12-month period but continue with pay protection for up to two pay grades lower.

NOTED the initial impact assessment of the Pay Protection Pilot Policy.

7. Gender pay Gap and Equalities Monitoring

The report was introduced by the HR Service Director, who explained that when the data comes to the Committee it is already more than one year old due to a reference date of 31st March allowing a year after this date in which to publish the data. Therefore, the gender pay gap reporting is for 2024.

The Committee was advised that the Council is predominantly a female organisation and there had always been a gender pay gap since reporting, but significant progress had been made, and the gap was decreasing. There will also soon be wider data reporting on ethnicity and disability pay gaps.

The Committee questioned what the Council is doing to encourage women back to work following maternity leave or a career break. They were advised that the Council offers similar opportunities to men who wish to take time off to look after children and encourage people back to the roles that they had. The majority of people who come back following maternity ask to come back to the same job but at reduced hours. The same pattern occurs within other local authorities. The Council offers support and training for when people may be ready to progress or increase their hours, and gradual improvements have been made, but there was not a simple answer in responding to this. It was confirmed that working from home does help support those caring for children to work more flexibly.

The Committee asked why other neighbouring local authorities had a smaller, or even negative, gender pay gap compared to Central Bedfordshire. It was highlighted that the differences can be due to the services provided by the Councils. For example, some Councils do not run their own care services in the same way Central Bedfordshire does, and they may have waste services. These are typical male, or female dominated service areas. Central Bedfordshire also offers more part time roles than some other Councils, and part time roles tend to attract more women to the posts. However, these part time roles do tend to be roles in the lower pay brackets. Other local authorities are reviewed to see if there are any learnings from them.

The Committee asked for analysis of the gender pay gap within directorates and whether it was possible to do the same within the pay scales for the next report. The HR Service Director confirmed that they would look into including the suggestions and that the report would also have a detailed action plan and the data would include race and disability.

NOTED the update on the Council's Gender Pay Gap and Equalities Monitoring.

8. Interim Report on Standards Complaints

The Committee was reminded by the Monitoring Officer that they had requested the arrangements to be reviewed at the General Purposes meeting on 27 March 2025. The arrangements had been in place for approximately one year at that point. Improving clarity and aiding understanding of the scope of the process had been the focus of amending the arrangements. The report and appendices showed the

changes and proposals. Group Leaders and Members of the Committee had been consulted in the lead up to the report and feedback had been incorporated where appropriate.

There had been an increase in complaints since March 2025 and an interim report on these complaints had been included. There had been 24 complaints up until 10 August 2025, fifty percent of those had been submitted by Councillors and fifty percent had been submitted by members of the public. Last year's complaints total was 26.

The Committee asked whether there was a trend in the complaints coming from the same complainants. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that a new trend appeared to be that one incident or behaviour would cause there to be multiple complaints from different complainants. However, these complaints would be filtered to ensure that very similar complaints for the same incident or behaviour would not be accepted.

The Committee wanted to know if the revised arrangements would have had an impact on the 24 complaints that had been received. It was confirmed that the proposed revised arrangements gave greater emphasis on referrals to the group or group leader in the first instance, which from experience had proved helpful and resulted in resolutions of complaints quite quickly. This would filter out some complaints that went forward. The revised arrangements also strengthens the criteria for a valid complaint, which would also help filter out complaints that did not meet the requirements or criteria.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the new “Arrangements for dealing with Member complaints” be adopted.

NOTED the interim update in relation to complaints managed between 1 March to 10 August 2025.

9. Work Programme

The Committee considered the Work Programme.

RESOLVED that the General Purposes Committee work programme be approved.

The meeting concluded at 10.20am.

Chair

Dated

3. Members' Interests

To receive from Members any declarations of interest.

4. Chair's Announcements and Communications

To receive any announcements from the Chair and any matters of communication.

5. Petitions

To receive petitions from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Part 4G of the Constitution.

6. Questions, Statements or Deputations

To receive any questions, statements or deputations from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Part 4G of the Constitution.

Reports

7. 7.1 Community Governance Review

To consider the outcomes of the Stage 1 consultation and approved the draft recommendations for the second stage consultation.

Central Bedfordshire Council

23 October 2025

General Purposes Committee

Community Governance Review

Report of:

Natasha Taylor, Monitoring Officer. Natasha.taylor@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Purpose of this report

This report invites the Committee to consider the outcome of the Stage 1 consultation and consider Draft Recommendations in relation to Community Governance Review for the whole of the Council's area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the report of the Community Governance Working Group (CGRWG) and the Appendices and approve the Draft Recommendations for the second stage consultation.

Background

1. At a meeting of General Purposes Committee on 26 June 25 it was agreed that a Community Governance Review be undertaken across the whole of the Council's area in 2025/26 and approved the Terms of Reference for the Review and the establishment of a CGRWG to assist with the analysis.
2. The Stage One consultation ran from 7 July 2025 to 1 September 2025. Local residents, town and parish councils and stakeholders were encouraged to comment on the review. Paper response forms were also provided on request. The consultation ran for a period of 8 weeks. The Stage One Consultation Results can be found at Appendix B.
3. The CGRWG met on 2 occasions and considered the feedback received from the Stage One consultation and discussed draft recommendations. The report of the CRWGWG is attached at Appendix A. The report makes draft recommendations for all the parishes and the parish meeting of Tingrith.
4. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (LG&PIHA) devolved the power to take decisions relating to creating, merging or abolishing parishes, the naming of parishes, the electoral arrangements for parishes and

grouping arrangements for parishes from the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission to principal councils. With effect from February 2008, principal councils have had the responsibility for undertaking community governance reviews (formerly known as a parish reviews) and have been able to decide whether to give effect to recommendations made in those reviews. The principal council must consult the review and any other person or body (including a local authority) who appears to have an interest in the review.

5. Councils are required to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. Guidance suggests that it is good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years. It is now over eight years since the Council carried out the last review and given the extensive development that has been carried since that date it is considered timely to conduct a review of the whole of the Council's area and that any decisions to make changes to parish arrangements would be implemented at the next full parish elections in 2027.
6. A CGR is a review of one or more parish areas to look at one or more of the following: -
 - i. the creation, merger, alteration or abolition of parishes.
 - ii. the naming of parishes and the style of any new or revised parish.
 - iii. electoral arrangements for existing parishes including council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council, parish warding, and
 - iv. grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas.
7. The Council has written to all parishes in Central Bedfordshire prior to publication of the Terms of Reference to give the opportunity to provide initial feedback on issues that may impact on effective and convenient community governance which reflects the identities and interests of the community.

Criteria for undertaking a review

8. Section 93 of the Act requires principal councils to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:
 - reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
 - effective and convenient
9. When considering the criteria identified in the Act, principal councils should take into account a number of influential factors, including:
 - the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
 - the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

10. In considering the criteria, the impact on community cohesion is linked specifically to the identities and interests of local communities. Size, population and boundaries are linked to both but perhaps more specifically to community governance being effective and convenient.

Review Requirements

11. There are several requirements relating to the conduct of the review which must be observed. These are
 - Consultation must take place with local people, representative groups active in the area and any other people/groups that could be reasonably expected to have an interest in the review.
 - The Council must take account of the representations received.
 - The review must be completed within 12 months of the Council publishing the Terms of Reference.
12. The second consultation can only be on the approved Draft Recommendations and will be carried out from 3 November until 26 January 2026.

Council priorities

13. The effectiveness of the Council's ethical governance arrangements contributes to the priorities set out in the Strategic Plan, endorsed by Council in April 2024.

Legal Implications

14. Community Governance Reviews operate under the following legislative framework:
 - Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Section 81 of the Act requires the Council to publish its Terms of Reference);
 - Guidance on community governance reviews, issued in accordance with Section 100 of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 jointly by Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010;
 - Local Government Act 1972 (as amended);
 - Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008; and
 - Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008.

Financial and Risk Implications

15. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, a Community Governance Review involves a significant amount of resources in relation to planning and administration of the Consultation and any other engagement exercises, review of responses and drafting of recommendations and legal advice and guidance. It is anticipated that these costs will be met within existing budgets.

Equalities and Fairness Implications

16. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics: age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
17. There are currently no identified equality implications arising from this report
18. Any appropriate and relevant Equality Impact Assessments will be completed as required and will include any equality findings from the public consultation as necessary

Biodiversity and Sustainability Implications

19. There are no direct biodiversity and sustainability implications arising from this report

Other Corporate Implications

20. None

Conclusion and next steps

21. The Council is under a duty to carry out a Community Governance Review. There is an opportunity to carry out the review before the scheduled parish elections in May 2027

Appendices

Appendix A: CGRWG Draft Recommendations

Appendix B: Stage 1 Consultation Results

Appendix C: Dunstable TC submission

Background Papers

[Guidance on community governance reviews](#)

Report author: Brian Dunleavy, Democratic Services Manager,
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Appendix A – Version 2

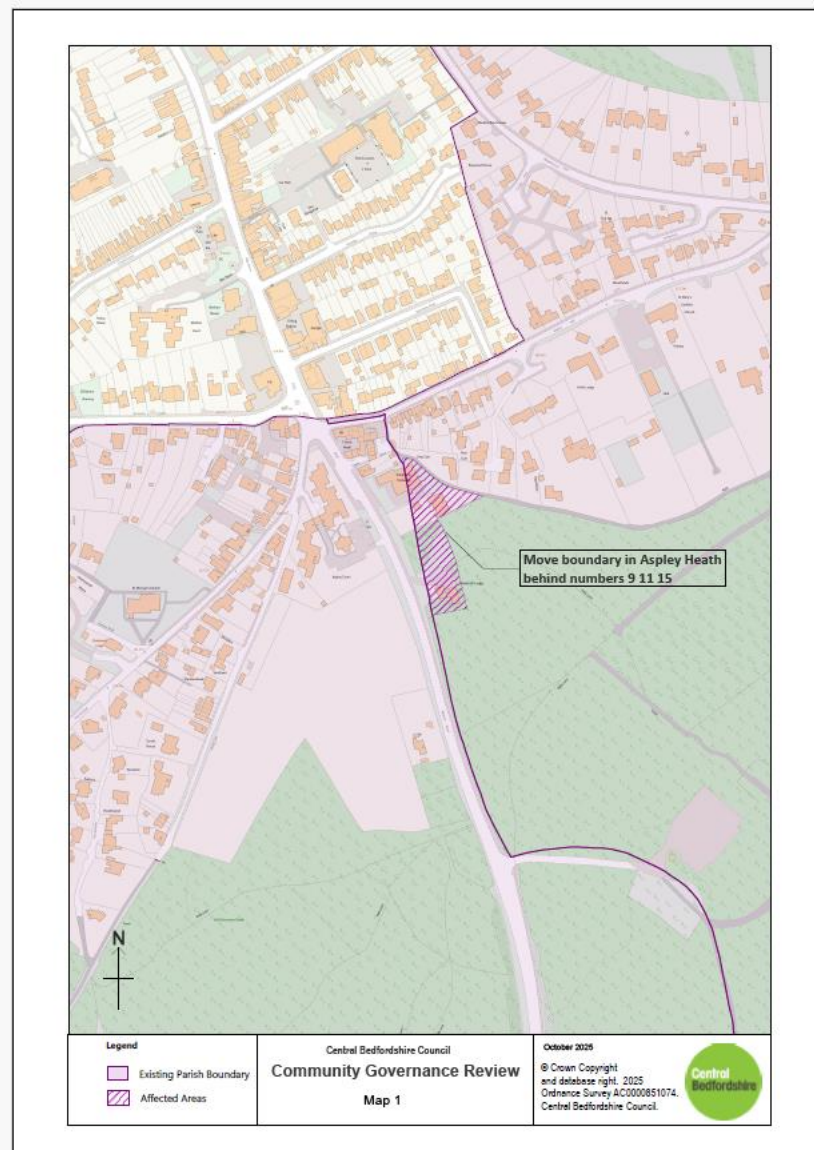
Please note this appendix was updated on 22 October to reflect a few errors in the draft recommendations, which did not reflect what had been recommended by the Working Group. These errors have been corrected as follows (and are highlighted in the relevant section of the document):-

Ward	Comments
Caddington	Recommended that the number of parish councillors be reduced from 10 to 9 (not 7 as previously stated).
Flitwick	Recommended that the number of parish councillors be reduced from 17 to 13 (not 15 as previously stated).
Harlington	Recommended that the number of parish councillors be reduced from 12 to 9 (not 7 as previously stated).
Houghton Conquest	Recommended that the number of parish councillors be increased from 10 to 11 (not reduced to 9 as previously stated).
Marston Moreteyne	Recommended that the number of parish councillors be reduced from 12 to 11 (not 9 as previously stated).

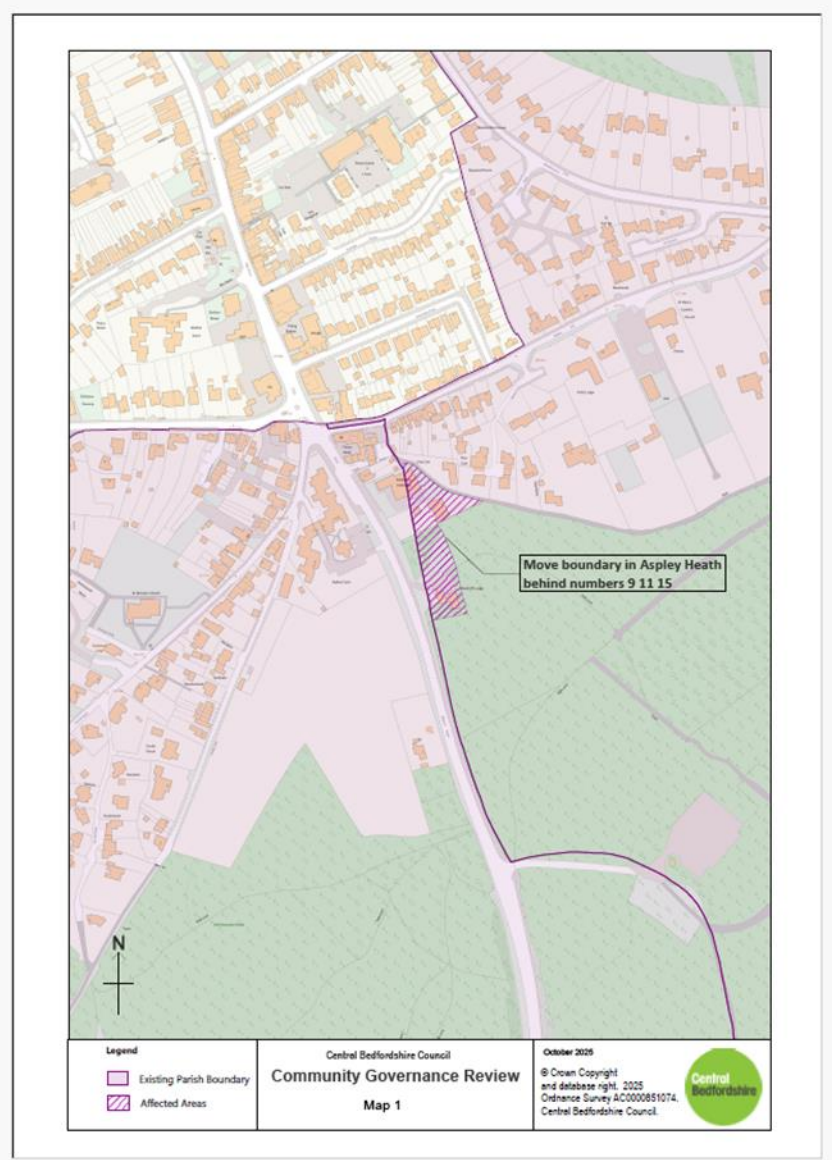
Ampthill	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	12	9	6886	574	7051	784	9	11	13	11
Responses from Consultation: Town Council: no proposal received 3 responses Comments: None relevant to the Terms of Reference Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Ampthill should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Ampthill Town Council is reduced from 12 to 9										
Reason for Recommendation: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Arlesey	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	9	4705	672	5076	564	9	11	13	11
Responses from Consultation: Town Council: to increase number to 9 5 responses Comments: “10” “9. The Council needs more councillors to help share the admin load and provide a more diverse representation of the community. If we dont get candidates, at least we haven’t precluded possible interest.” “The council does very little for the community, beyond statutory obligations. More councillors may help them take on more projects, even one project would be a start” “25” Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to increase the number of Councillors. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Arlesey should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Arlesey Town Council is increased from 7 to 9										
Reason for Recommendation: The recommendation to increase the number of councillors is made in accordance with the response of the Town Council to ensure effective and convenient local government and to improve representation and enhance community engagement and cohesion.										

Aspley Guise	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	12	7	1846	154	1853	265	5	8	4	12
Responses from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 3 responses Comments: <i>"Number states 12, at best we have had 5, keep it at 5"</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, was unclear in relation to whether the number of councillors should be changed and generally reflected that the existing boundary was suitable. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Aspley Guise should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Aspley Guise Parish Council is reduced from 12 to 7 3. That the parish boundary is moved to accommodate the newly built No 15 Woburn Road together with the property Henry V11 Lodge to be within the neighbouring parish of Aspley Heath (See Map).										
Reasons for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. The boundary changes also provide the opportunity to re-draw parish boundaries that have become anomalous to ensure effective and convenient local government.										

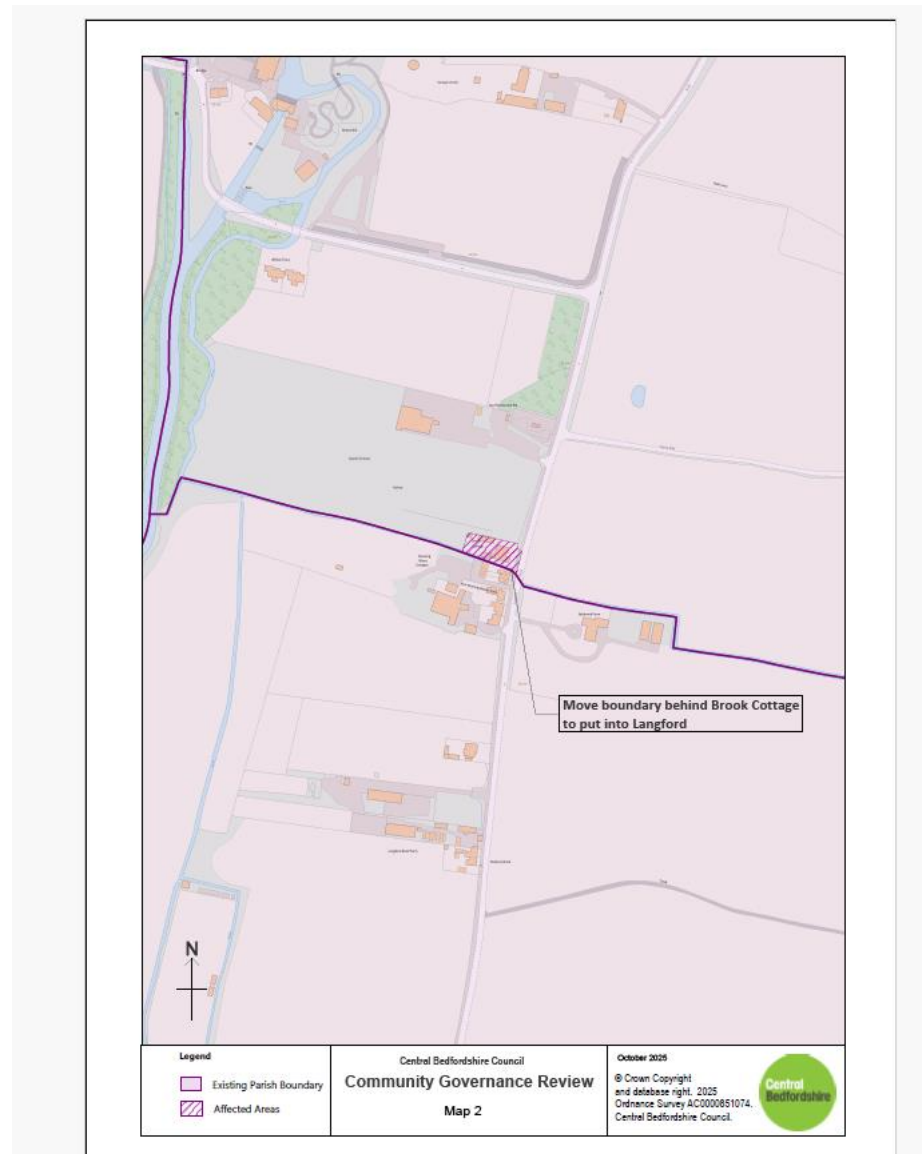


Aspley Heath	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	9	7	512	57	512	73	8	6	9	6
Responses from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 2 responses Comments: None relevant to Terms of Reference Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.										
Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Aspley Heath should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Aspley Heath Parish Council is reduced from 9 to 7 3. That the parish boundary is moved to incorporate the newly built No 15 Woburn Road together with the property Henry V11 Lodge from Aspley Guise parish to the parish of Aspley Heath (See Map).										
Reasons for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. The boundary changes also provide the opportunity to re-draw parish boundaries that have become anomalous to ensure effective and convenient local government.										



Barton-le-Clay	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	13	9	3908	301	4501	500	10	9	10	10
Responses from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 8 responses Comments: <i>“There has been no recent development in the Parish or neighbouring area and so the current arrangements are fit for purpose.”</i> <i>“I want the Barton-le-Clay parish to remain as is.”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Barton-Le-Clay should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Barton-Le-Clay Parish Council is reduced from 13 to 9										
Reasons for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Biggleswade		Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
								2023	2019	2015	2011
	Holme	5	5	5266	1053	5319	1064	5	5	3	6
	Ivel	4	4	5135	1284	5376	1344	6	5	8	10
	Stratton	6	6	6590	1098	6609	1102	4	5	5	7
Responses from Consultation: Town Council: See Appendix B (Pages 222 to 230) 9 responses Comments: <i>"To many cooks spoil broth. You all fight against each other and nothing gets resolved"</i> Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Biggleswade should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Biggleswade Town Council remain unchanged with Holme Ward 5; Ivel Ward 4 and Stratton Ward 6 3. That the boundary is changed to move the property Brook Cottage from the Biggleswade Ward (Holme) into the parish of Langford (See Map) 4. Rejected the proposals to extend the Biggleswade parish boundary into the parishes of Dunton, Edworth, Sutton and Northill. (See Appendix B). Reasons for recommendations: 1 and 2. No request received for change 3. Geographical anomaly correction 4. Large scale changes of boundaries would not be appropriate at this time.											



Billington	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	326	47	331	47	6	6	5	3
Responses from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 3 responses Comments: None relevant to the Terms of Reference Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Billington should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Billington Parish Council remain unchanged at 7 Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being representative of the area and there were no representations received that encouraged changes to be made.										

Blunham	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	10	7	1122	112	1125	161	7	6	9	4
Responses from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 1 response Comments: None relevant to Terms of Reference Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Blunham should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Blunham Parish Council is reduced from 10 to 7										
Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Brogborough	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	255	36	255	36	0	5	3	5
Responses from Consultation: There were no responses received during the consultation period.										
Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Brogborough should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Brogborough Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being representative of the area and there were no representations received that encouraged changes to be made.										

Caddington	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	10	9	3546	355	3852	550	8	8	7	15

Responses from Consultation:

Parish Council:

“Here is the resolution taken at the full meeting of the Caddington Parish Council on Monday 12th May. As part of the ongoing Community Governance Review, Dunstable Town Council informally approached Caddington Parish Council to seek support for two proposed boundary changes: 1. That the field adjacent to the entrance of Manshead C of E High School and St Mary’s Primary School be transferred into Dunstable, with the intention that it would be used as a cemetery. 2. That the boundary be amended to include the land on which Manshead C of E High School and St Mary’s Primary School are situated, thereby moving both schools into Dunstable. It was RESOLVED to STRONGLY REJECT both proposals on the grounds that the parish boundary had already been moved in the past, resulting in the loss to Caddington of a hotel, care home, and a number of residential properties. The Council considers Manshead and St Mary’s to be Caddington schools, and any further boundary adjustment would leave Caddington without a secondary school, which would be unacceptable to the community. The Clerk then informed the Dunstable Town Clerk/CEO of this decision. Caddington Parish Council subsequently noted with concern that, despite its strong objections to the Dunstable proposals—and the fact that the land in question is not included in the Dunstable Neighbourhood Plan—Dunstable Town Council voted to accept the proposals put forward by a working group and agreed to incorporate them into Dunstable’s plan review. At the same time, a similar informal request from Totternhoe to adjust the boundary in its favour was rejected on the grounds that the land concerned was not included in the Totternhoe Neighbourhood Plan.”

8 responses

Comments:

“Caddington boundaries should remain unaltered. it’s unacceptable that Dunstable is making a land grab for Manshead and nearby fields from Caddington. The land is Coddington’s and has been for over a thousand years, it’s a hostile takeover and should not be enabled without Caddington agreement.”

“Please do not move Manshead into Dunstable. The school is a part of our identity and history and is the local secondary school for us all. Moving this would mean risking our children having to go to school in Luton which is not preferred.”

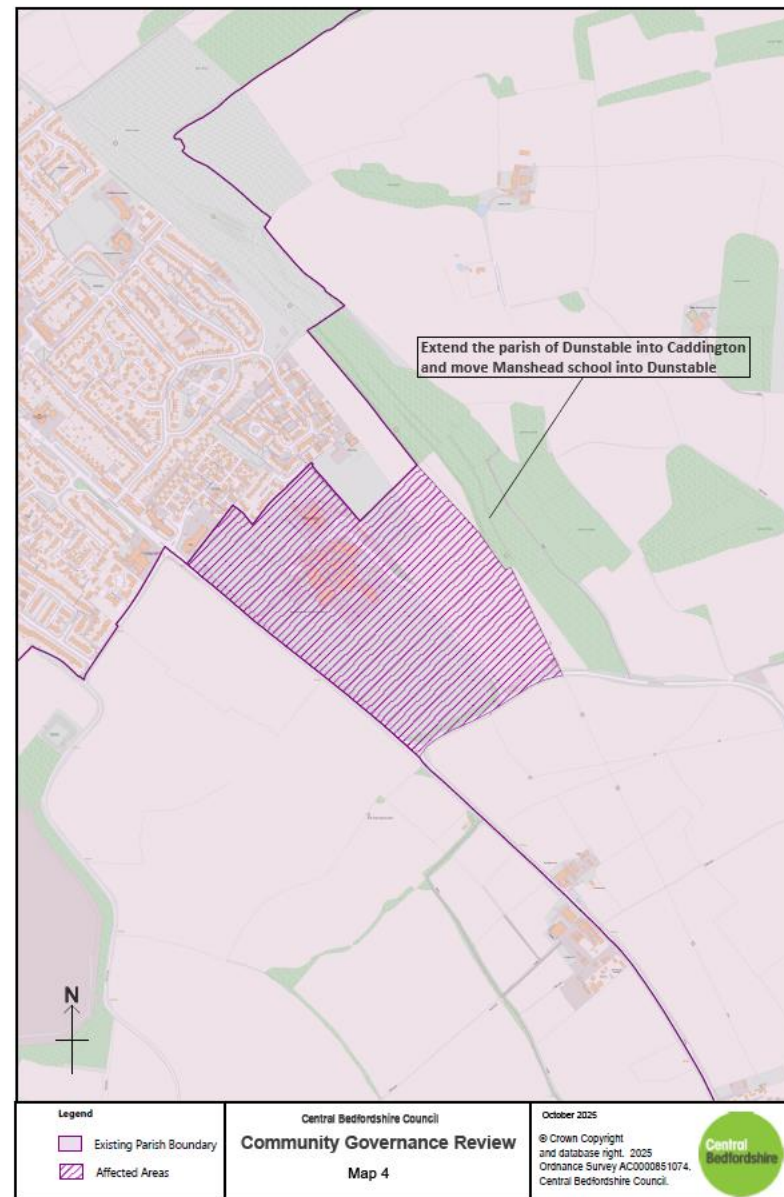
Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.

Draft Recommendations:

1. That the parish name of Caddington should remain unchanged
2. That the number of parish councillors on Caddington Parish Council is reduced from 10 to 9
3. Move the parish boundary incorporating the land forming part of adjacent to the Downside Recreation Ground together with the land occupied by St Mary’s and Manshead Schools into the parish of Dunstable (See Appendix D) and Map 3

Reason for recommendations:

The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. Dunstable Town Council intends to purchase Cotton Bottom Field and develop a new cemetery on the site. Moreover, the schools are geographically adjacent to Dunstable and some distance from the village of Caddington



Campton & Chicksands	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	1106	158	1218	174	7	6	3	4
Responses from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 3 responses Comments: None relevant to Terms of Reference Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Campton & Chicksands should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Campton & Chicksands Parish Council remain unchanged at 7 Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being representative of the area and there were no representations received that encouraged changes to be made.										

Chalgrave	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	418	60	418	60	5	10	6	6
Responses from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 1 response Comments: None Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendation: 1. That the parish name of Chalgrave should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Chalgrave Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being representative of the area and there were no representations received that encouraged changes to be made.										

Chalton	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	438	63	1090	156	6	4	6	3

Response from Consultation:

Parish Council:

At our parish meeting held on 23rd May 2025, Chalton Parish Council discussed the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Community Governance Review. In response to the proposal from Houghton Regis Town Council (HRTC), which suggests that part of Chalton Parish Council's (CPC) area—bounded by the Houghton Regis parish boundary, the Luton Borough Council boundary, the M1 Motorway, and the A5-M1 Link Road (Dunstable Northern Bypass)—be transferred to HRTC, Chalton Parish Council wishes to record its strong objection to this proposal.

We outline below our reasons for this objection:

- 1. **No compelling need** – There is no justifiable requirement for a boundary alteration at this time, particularly with multiple significant housing developments planned in neighbouring areas.*
- 2. **Loss of parish integrity** – The proposed realignment would leave CPC with a very small parish with an illogical boundary.*
- 3. **Misguided justification** – The lack of a shop in Chalton (like many villages) is immaterial. County-wide facilities and infrastructure provided by Central Bedfordshire Council are accessible to all residents, irrespective of parish.*
- 4. **Future community strength** – The occupants of the houses currently under construction will contribute to Chalton Parish Council's population, diversity, and long-term sustainability—strengthening both the viability and vitality of the Parish. This opportunity to grow as a community would be lost if the proposed boundary change were implemented.*
- 5. **Support for local democracy** – CPC would support a democratic referendum in future, allowing new residents to determine whether they wish to remain within CPC or move to HRTC.*
- 6. **Active planning involvement** – CPC has a fine and published record of representations on planning applications in the proposed land take area, as well as adjacent parishes, that negatively impact its residents. In particular it has dealt with a range of major warehousing and other 'big shed' applications affecting the parish and HRTC, many of which the latter has been notably inactive.*
- 7. **Commitment to Public Rights of Way (PRoWs)** – CPC has an excellent record, supported by a dedicated councillor, of actively protecting and promoting its Public Rights of Way (PRoWs). In contrast, HRTC appears to have no equivalent committee or focused approach in this area. This became evident when CPC formally opposed proposed changes to PRoW routes north of the A5 bypass—*

proposals that HRTC did not address. Moreover, the same rural area (whose residents share little in common with Houghton Regis) has not been included in HRTC's rationalisation proposals, despite being a more logical southern extension of Toddington Parish

Furthermore, Chalton would be no more divided by the A5-M1 link road than the A5 divides HRTC from the small village of Sewell which lies within HRTC boundary. It is equally probable that the residents of Sewell will use the facilities in Dunstable rather than Houghton Regis. Relevantly the 2018 Community Governance Report recorded "It was accepted that it was felt that the existing parish boundaries were historic and suitable and as such should remain as existing. In particular it was felt that the village of Sewell should remain in the parish of Houghton Regis as it is part of the parish's and village's heritage."; given the ongoing rigidity of that HRTC review it is hard to reconcile its desire to split off a fragment of an equally historic parish fragment.

CPC would also like to highlight that, from a broader governance perspective, HRTC should be considered for a merger with Dunstable Town Council (DTC). Such a merger could deliver significant monetary and administrative efficiencies.

Conclusion *Chalton Parish Council is an active, effective, and principled representative body. We are committed to safeguarding our rural character, protecting the rights of our residents, and supporting sustainable, thoughtful development. We engage constructively with Central Bedfordshire Council, neighbouring parishes, and other local organisations to ensure fair and balanced outcomes. We take pride in our strong local knowledge, proactive engagement, and community focus. Importantly, we look forward to welcoming the new residents of the Linnere development as valued members of our community. It is our clear intention to represent and serve them with the same dedication and integrity we extend to all parishioners. We therefore respectfully urge that the proposed boundary change be rejected*

0 responses

Comments: None

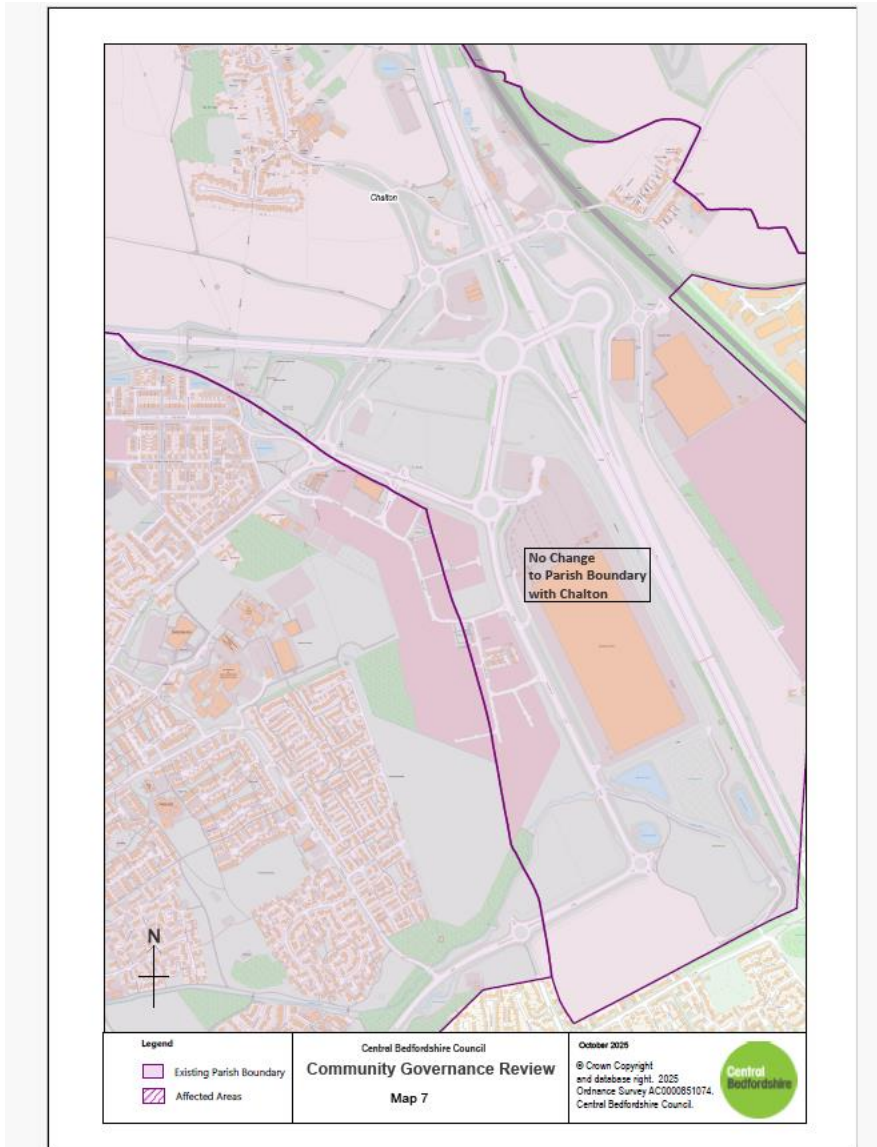
Feedback received through the public consultation from the Parish Council, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.

Draft Recommendations:

1. That the parish name of Chalton should remain unchanged
2. That the number of parish councillors on Chalton Parish Council remain unchanged 7
3. That the parish boundary that abuts the Parkside/Tithe Farm wards of Houghton Regis remains unchanged

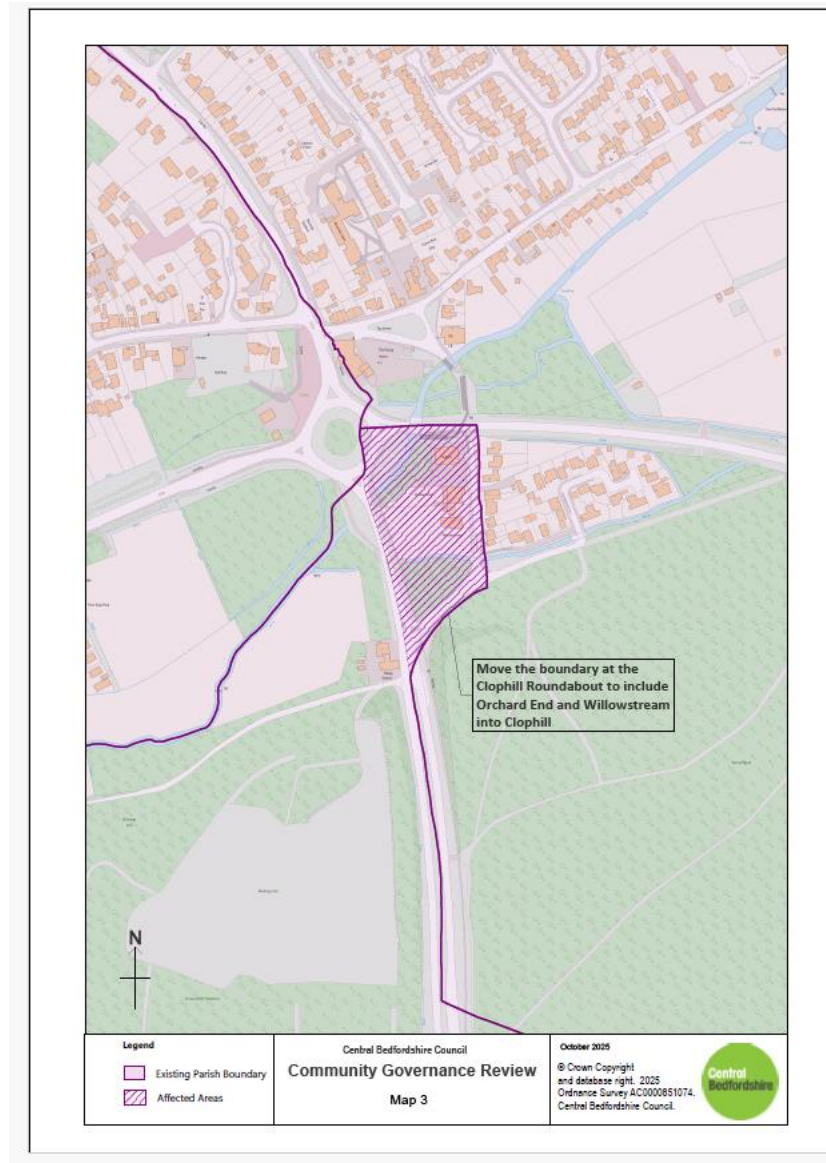
Reason for recommendations:

The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area and acknowledgement of the objection to the proposal to amend the Parish boundary



Clifton	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	12	9	3015	251	3090	343	11	12	6	11
Responses from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 8 responses Comments: None relevant to the Terms of Reference Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: That the parish name of Clifton should remain unchanged That the number of parish councillors on Clifton Parish Council is reduced from 12 to 9 Reasons for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Clophill	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	10	7	1566	157	1671	239	9	7	13	10
Responses from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 2 responses Comments: None relevant to Terms of Reference Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to reduce the current level of representation and to make changes to the parish boundary. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Clophill should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Clophill Parish Council is reduced from 10 to 7 3. Move the properties Orchard End and Willowstream from the parish of Silsoe to the parish of Clophill (See Map) Reasons for recommendations. The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors and move the ward boundary is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. It is also in line with the responses received during the consultation. The proposal to amend the ward boundary would correct a geographical anomaly in respect of the properties Orchard End and Willowstream.										



Cranfield	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	15	11	4875	325	5237	476	12	12	10	12
Responses from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 4 responses Comments: None relevant to the Terms of Reference Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Cranfield should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Cranfield Parish Council is reduced from 15 to 11										
Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Dunstable		Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
								2023	2019	2015	2011
	Central	2	2	3773	1886	3826	1913	6	6	7	7
	East	5	4	7767	1553	8058	2014	12	11	13	11
	North	4	4	7334	1883	7594	1898	10	10	16	16
	South	2	2	3641	1820	3641	1820	6	6	9	9
	West	5	5	7324	1465	7331	1466	13	8	13	13

Responses from Consultation:

Town Council: See Appendix 3

19 responses

Comments:

“Increase by 1 given the density of population especially compared to Dunstable West and Dunstable East which both have 4 town councillors whereas Dunstable South only has 2 town councillors with a similar density of population and area.”

“Too many for each ward”

“Seem to be too many and they can't agree with each other.”

“Increase should reflect the increase in residents”

“Increase by 1 given the density of population especially compared to Dunstable West and Dunstable East which both have 4 town councillors whereas Dunstable South only has 2 town councillors with a similar density of population and area.”

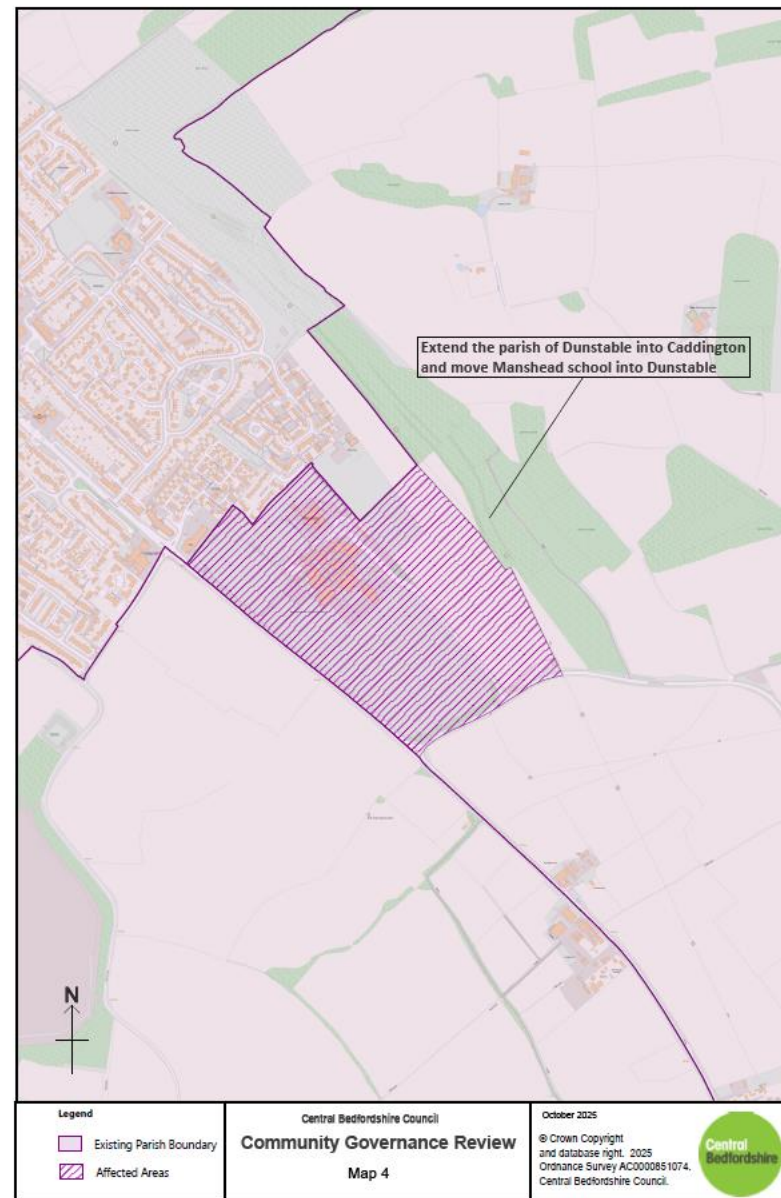
Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.

Draft Recommendations:

1. That the parish name of Dunstable should remain unchanged
2. That the number of parish councillors on Dunstable Town Council is reduced from 18 to 17
3. Move the parish boundary incorporating the land forming part of and also adjacent to the Downside Recreation Ground together with the land occupied by St Mary's and Manshead Schools from the parish of Caddington into the parish of Dunstable (See Appendix C)

Reason for recommendations:

The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. Additionally, the schools are geographically adjacent to Dunstable and some distance from the village of Caddington



Dunton	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	553	79	650	93	6	3	7	4
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: no response 4 responses Comments: None relevant to Terms of Reference Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Dunton should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Dunton Parish Council remains at 7										
Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Eaton Bray	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	9	7	2085	232	2218	317	5	7	7	4
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: no change - see appendices 1 response Comments: None relevant to TOR The one response received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Eaton Bray should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Eaton Bray Parish Council are reduced from 9 to 7										
Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Eggington		Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
								2023	2019	2015	2011
Currently											
	Clipstone	5		1559	312	1982	396	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Village	2		185	93	187	27	2	4	7	2
Proposed			2	1559	312	1982	396				
	Clipstone to add to Planets										
	Village	0	7	185	93	187	27	2	4	7	2

Response from Consultation:

Parish Council: [LLTC Exceptional Meeting Regarding Eggington Boundary – Eggington Parish Council](#) – see below

Joint Cllrs Leighton - Linslade TC (See pages 208 to 218 of Appendix B)

14 responses

Comments:

“As a member of Eggington Parish, we were surveyed a couple of years ago over we wanted the boundary to change. 97% voted to remain in Eggington. A number of councillors from Leighton Linslade are now trying to force a boundary change against the will of residents. They are stirring up bad feelings over social media and accusing Eggington residents of not paying our way. They do not respect democracy and should be instructed to pipe down”

“Eggington Village should be separate to the new housing estate. The new houses should be a part of Leighton Linslade Town Council.”

“many new homes are within the built environment of Leighton-Linslade.”

“Eggington is over 1 mile away from the area in which I live (Clipstone park) and not representative of the local area. The only effort at engagement made by Eggington Parish Council is a single notice board in the Clipstone Park area. This notice board is not kept up-to-date with some items shown over 1 year past their date of reference.”

“Parts using Leighton-Linslade parish Services should be included/moved to within Leighton-Linslade boundary and pay accordingly”

“There was a local vote on whether the Clipstone Park development should be part of Eggington Parish or Leighton Buzzard Town. As an engineer, I voted for the sensible, geographical division making Clipstone Park part of Leighton Buzzard town. Part of the information distributed at the time of the vote mentioned Council tax in Eggington Parish being significantly lower than for Leighton Buzzard Town. I suspect this is the reason many folk chose Eggington.”

“The Eggington Parish is doing very well after the addition of the Clipstone Park developments. The Parish Council are doing a lot of noticeable things across the parish and are spending the budget well and wisely. There is no need to make any changes.”

“Those in Clipstone Park do not wish to be drawn into LLTC as the Leighton councillors clearly just see the new housing development as cash cows. Frankly I am offended by their comments of Clipstone Park residents not contributing.”

“Very happy with being in Eggington Parish.”

“Clipstone park should remain in Eggington. - and no changes should be made.”

Draft Recommendations:

1. That the parish name of Eggington should remain unchanged
2. That the number of parish councillors on Eggington Parish Council are Increased from 2 to 7 in the Village ward and move the development of Clipstone Park, Stearn Land, Leedon and the Pastures to the parish of Leighton-Linslade

Reason for recommendations:

The recommendation to move the boundary is made in accordance with the request of a number of Councillors from Leighton-Linslade Town Council to ensure effective and convenient local government and to improve representation and enhance community engagement and cohesion.

Eggington Parish Council response to LLTC:

Chair, Councillor's, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I'm here on behalf of Eggington Parish Council to respectfully challenge the motion proposing a boundary change to incorporate the Clipstone Park development into Leighton-Linslade Parish.

*We must first highlight that this matter has already been subject to a full and democratic review in recent years. That process involved wide consultation, thorough assessment, and ultimately, a clear and legitimate outcome: **to retain Clipstone Park within the boundary of Eggington Parish.***

*Crucially, the residents of Clipstone Park themselves voted overwhelmingly to remain within Eggington Parish. There is no compelling evidence that their views have changed. In fact, our ongoing engagement with residents suggests that **they continue to identify more closely with their existing parish governance than with the proposed alternative.** Their wishes deserve to be respected.*

*At the time of the last review, Eggington Village expressed concern about the potential scale of the Clipstone development — and rightly so. The full impact wasn't yet visible. However, since then, we've seen the beginnings of **genuine cohesion** between the long-standing village community and newer residents in Clipstone. Relationships are forming, shared concerns are emerging, and our Parish Council works hard to serve **all** our residents equally. One of our next significant milestones will be taking on the lease of the historic village hall from a separate resident association to keep it available for the community.*

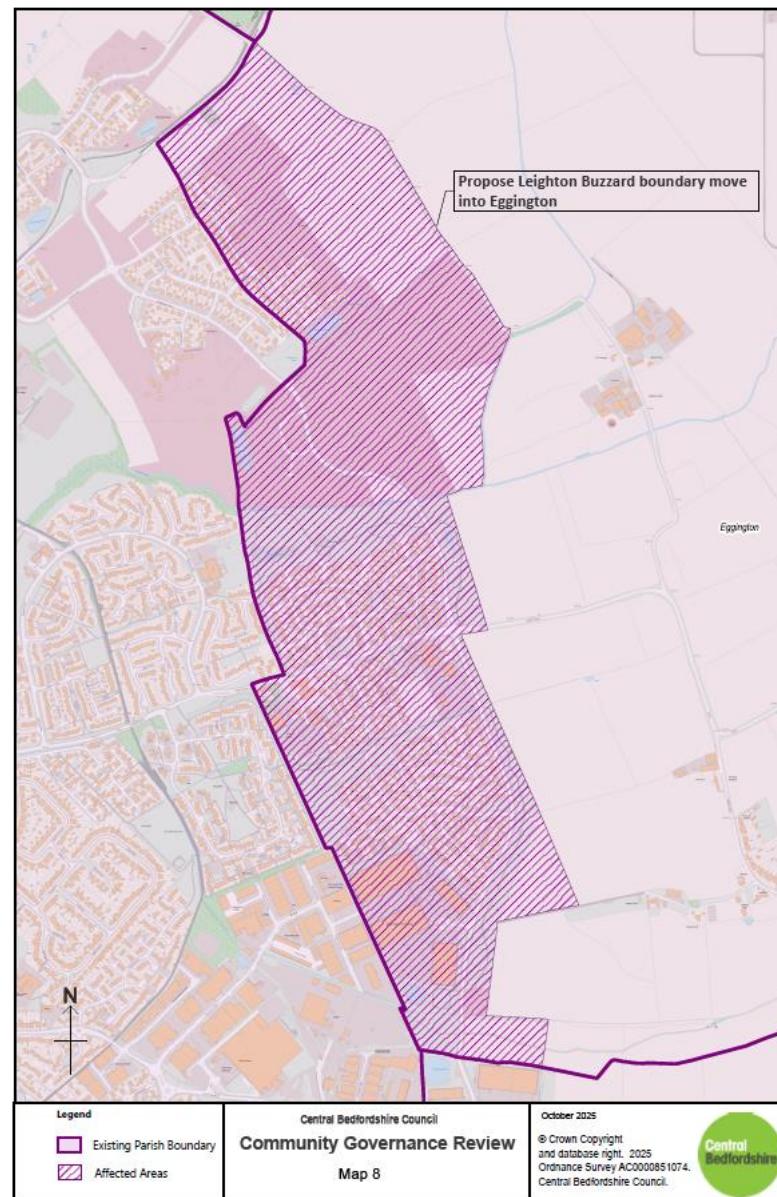
*The assertion in this motion that our Parish Council is ill-equipped to handle the demands of a growing community is simply inaccurate. We are a group of committed volunteers who have **consistently delivered results** for residents across the parish — from infrastructure improvements to community engagement and environmental stewardship. We may be small, but we are effective, responsive, and deeply rooted in the needs of our local population.*

We are not naive to the future demands we will face, in fact the opposite. For example, we are proactively planning for management of allotments and we look forward to providing these for our residents. Additionally, although CBC has made a commitment to us that they will arrange maintenance of the development grounds after adoption, we have always been prepared to take on that responsibility.

*While the motion cites community cohesion and governance efficiency, we would argue that **forcing a boundary change against the will of local people risks undermining both.** Governance should not be dictated solely by geographic proximity or assumptions about service access, but by **community identity, resident preference, and local effectiveness** — all of which are currently being met within Eggington Parish.*

*In conclusion, this motion disregards the outcome of a recent democratic process, the expressed will of residents, the emerging unity between communities, and the demonstrated capability of Eggington Parish Council. We urge the Council to respect the status quo — not out of resistance to change, but in support of **local democracy, identity, and fairness**.*

Thank you.

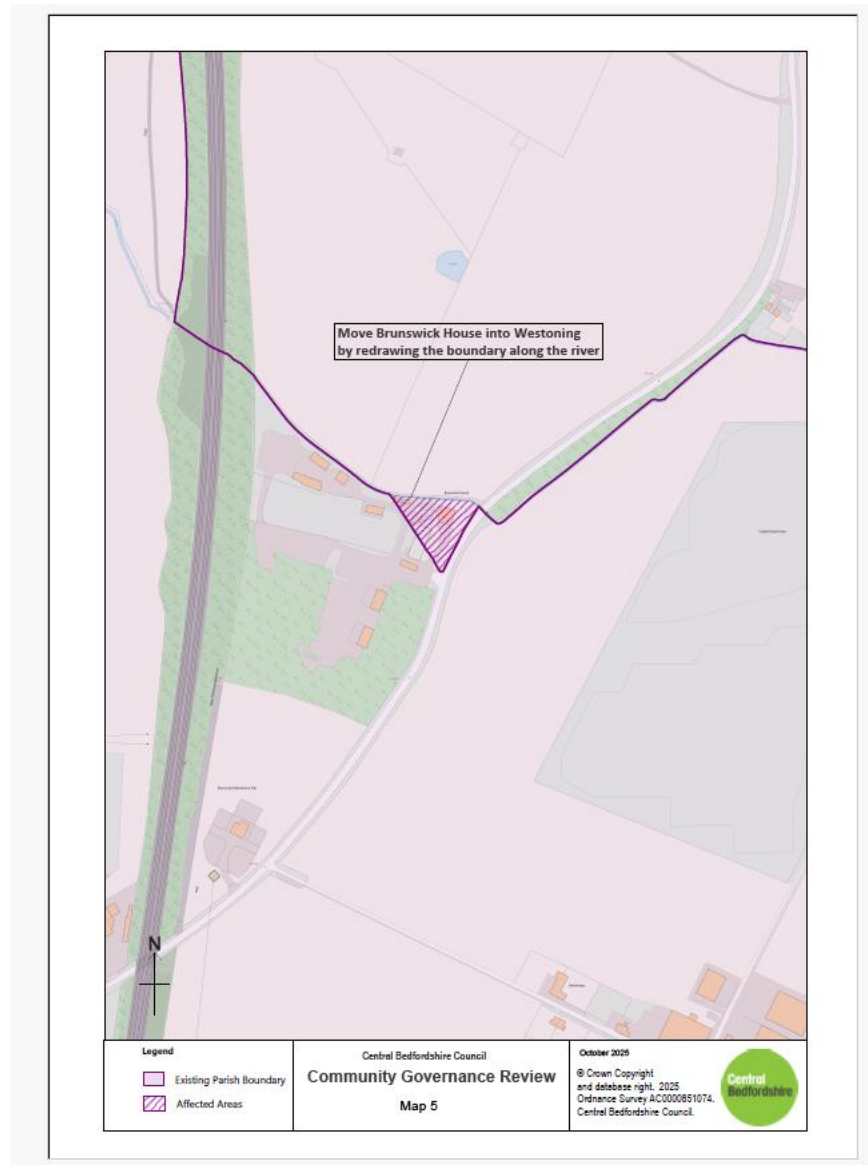


Eversholt	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	354	51	371	53	6	7	7	5
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: no proposal received 5 responses Comments: <i>“10. The current parish councillors have been sitting for numerous years. Uncontested. There is a great need for fresh faces and ideas”</i>										
Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.										
Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Eversholt should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Eversholt Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Everton	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	420	60	459	66	6	4	9	8
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposals received 2 responses Comments: <i>“Our Parish Council does an excellent job in looking after parishioners’ interests. Communicating to parishioners with regular news updates. Making sure everyone has a voice.”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation was mixed but generally indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Eversholt should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Eversholt Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Fairfield	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	2391	342	2570	367	7	8	8	10
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: submission received after deadline 2 responses Comments: <i>“9 - we are getting bigger”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation was mixed but generally indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Fairfield should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Fairfield Parish Council remain unchanged at 7 Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Flitton & Greenfield		Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
								2023	2019	2015	2011
	Flitton	5	7	638	128	647	174	5	4	5	7
	Greenfield	5		571	114	571		3	5	4	5
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: no change 4 responses Comments: <i>“status quo should be maintained”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.											
Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Fairfield & Greenfield should remain unchanged 2. That the parish is unwarded 3. That number of parish councillors on Flitton & Greenfield Parish Council is reduced from 10 to 7 4. That the parish boundary is moved to accommodate the property Brunswick House to the parish of Westoning											
Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. The unwarding also provides the opportunity to ensure effective and convenient local government.											



Flitwick		Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
								2023	2019	2015	2011
	East	7	13	4434	633	4451	723	6	6	11	7
	West	10		6080	609	6396		8	11	10	12

Response from Consultation:

Town Council: to abolish the East and West Wards and to reduce the numbers to 15 councillors

10 responses

Comments:

“Flitwick has 17 councillors, and it has been exceptionally difficult to maintain this number throughout the current and the previous term. We have co-opted but still have three vacancies. I would like to see an election in 2027 to give the Council a mandate for further change and to have the burden of constantly recruiting and inducting new councillors removed. 13 would be ideal, although the council would only resolve to request a reduction to 15.”

“To prevent co-opting.”

“Flitwick Part (East) and Flitwick Part (West) align with the Mid Bedfordshire District Council wards and have no relevance to our community. The splitting of the town into two parish wards is divisive, with the East side of the railway incorporating the second most deprived area in Central Bedfordshire. We do not work this way as a group of councillors, preferring to see Flitwick as a complete community.”

“Flitwick should be 1 not 2 areas”

Feedback received through the public consultation was mixed in relation to the warding arrangements and the numbers of Councillors. These views have been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.

Draft Recommendations:

1. That the parish name of Flitwick should remain unchanged
2. That the parish is unwarded
3. That number of parish councillors on Flitwick Twin Council is reduced from 17 to 13

Reasons for recommendations:

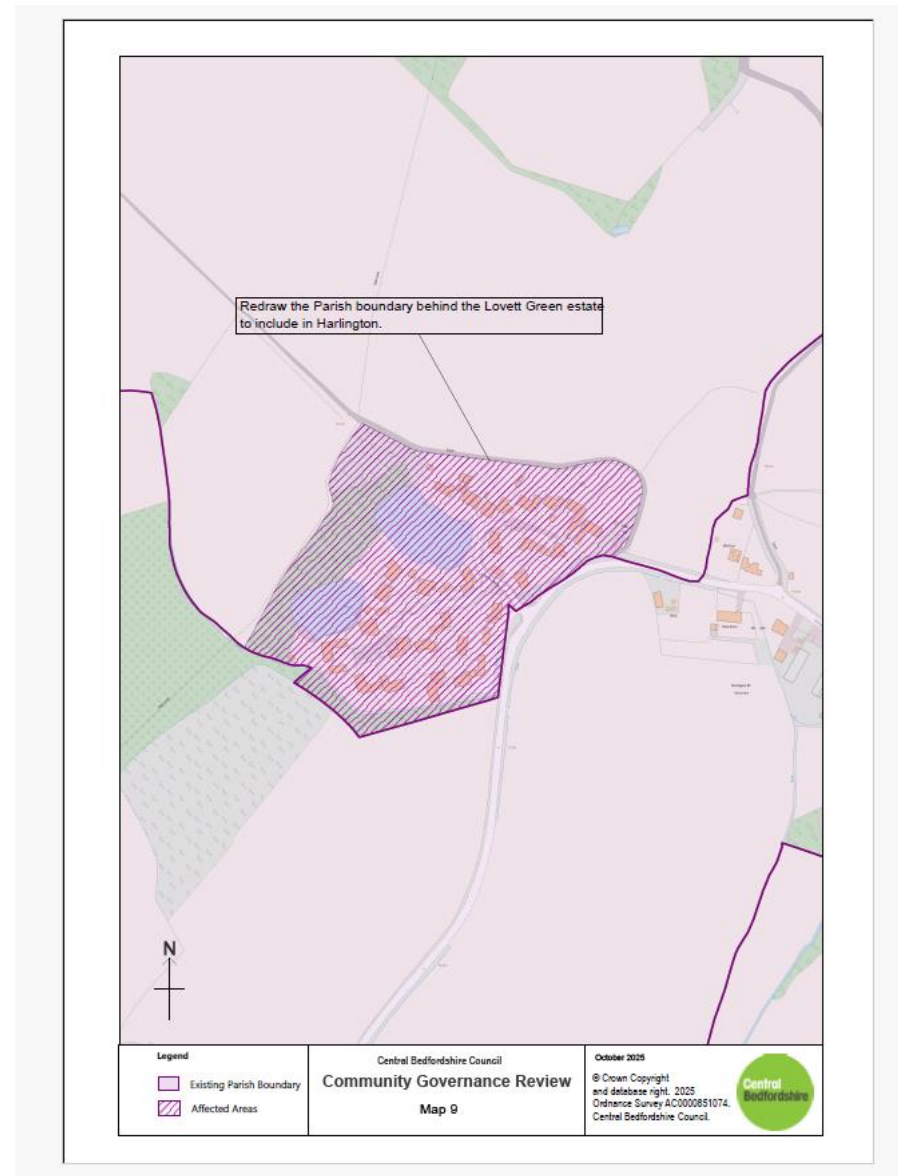
The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. The warding changes also provide the opportunity to ensure effective and convenient local government.

Gravenhurst	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	503	72	505	72	67	6	6	6
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: no change 1 response Comments: None relevant to Terms of Reference The response to the public consultation was mixed in relation to the arrangements and the number of Councillors. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.										
Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Gravenhurst should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Gravenhurst Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Harlington	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	12	9	2085	232	2218	317	5	7	7	4
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 3 responses Comments: <i>"In general, the boundary is suitable. However, there is a curious 'panhandle' at the north-eastern end of the parish. It is appropriate that Mill End is included in Harlington, but why the extension to the north-east? And the Lovett Green development off the Barton Road surely belongs in Harlington with the rest of Mill End, It's currently in Westoning Parish, but you have to drive through Harlington and on for another 3 miles to get from Lovett Green to Westoning village."</i> <i>"There are always unfilled seats, so by reducing the number it will create more competition for those seats."</i> <i>"Our parish council is continually short of councillors. This is not good for local democracy, as elections are not contested and some councillors are co-opted. What can be done to encourage more people to put themselves forward?"</i> Feedback received through the public consultation was mixed in relation to the number of councillors and the boundaries. These views have been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference and the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Harlington should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Harlington Parish Council is reduced from 12 to 9 3. Redrawn boundary to include Lovett Green										

Reason for recommendations:

The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. The boundary changes also provide the opportunity to re-draw parish boundaries that have become anomalous to ensure effective and convenient local government.



Haynes	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	10	7	990	99	1070	153	7	8	9	12
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 1 response Comments: None relevant to Terms of Reference There was one response received through the public consultation, which indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Haynes should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Haynes Parish Council is reduced from 10 to 7										
Reason for recommendations The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Heath & Reach	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	9	7	1159	129	1161	166	6	7	5	3
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 5 responses Comments: <i>“too many passengers and too few doers. Not sure what they are all doing.”</i> <i>“Reasons include improved efficiency, cost savings and better representation with fewer deadweight’s.”</i> <i>“Efficiency requires more concentration, fewer councillors, a more effective service and reduced number of boundaries.”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference and the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Heath & Reach should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Heath & Reach Parish Council is reduced from 9 to 7										
Reason for recommendations The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Henlow	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	12	9	3026	252	3035	337	13	11	10	11
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 3 responses Comments: <i>“I see no point whatsoever in having Henlow Camp joined with Henlow village. There are absolutely no synergies. Henlow Camp should have its own Parish Council, especially since the number of new homes have been built along the A600- Bedford Road-past the A659 and there are proposals to build by Derwent School and are there still plans to build/convert into living accommodation on Henlow Camp airfield?”</i> <i>“Henlow Camp is closed to Stondon than Henlow. Would make sense merge or move boundary”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference and the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Henlow should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Henlow Parish Council is reduced to 9 or 7 if the former Henlow Camp area is moved to the parish of Stondon 3. Move the former Henlow Camp area to the parish of Stondon										

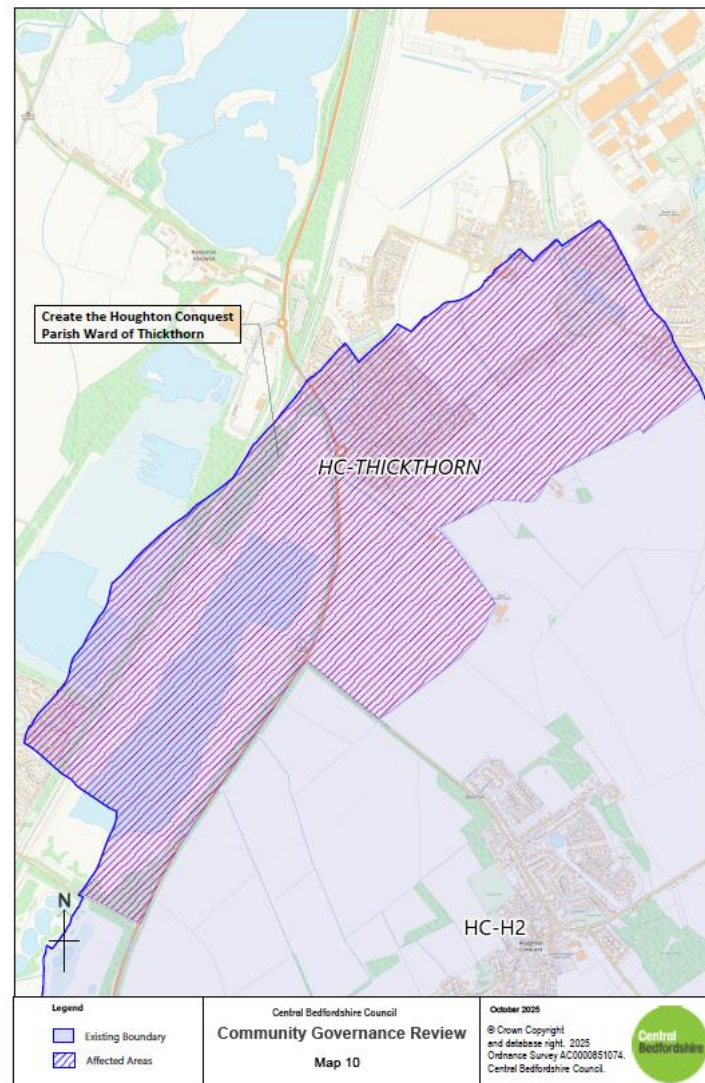
Henlow (without camp ward)		7	1978	283	1978	283				
Stondon (with camp ward)		7 (9)	2802	302	4066	452				
Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Hockliffe	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	789	113	791	113	4	4	4	8
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 5 responses Comments: <i>“Hockliffe has always struggled to achieve its seven parish councillor positions; there are currently only four and they are always asking people to apply for co-option but rarely with any success. Councillors rarely have time outside of meetings to get things done, and issues tend to remain on the agenda for months on end. A larger, merged area may achieve a higher number of quality applicants. I think there is a good case for Hockliffe, Battlesden, Heath & Reach and Tilsworth parish councils to be merged . They each have overlapping issues.”</i> <i>“Merge Hockliffe, Heath & Reach, Battlesden and Tilsworth.”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: No Change 1. That the parish name of Hockliffe should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Hockliffe Parish Council remain at 7 Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Houghton Conquest		Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
								2023	2019	2015	2011
Without wards		10	11	2920	292	5739	552	5	10	9	6
Warded	Village	10	6	2920	292	2920	584	5	4	5	7
	Thickthorn		5			2819	705	N/a	N/A	N/A	N/A
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 6 responses Comments: <i>"To not include Wixams, which was never agreed to be part of Houghton Conquest. And our village would also be kept separate, this also refers to the inclusion of the new development around Great Thickthorn Farm where, again, we were promised the village boundary would be maintained by inserting a large area of woodland down & across from Bedford Road across to Great Thickthorn Farm."</i> <i>"It doesn't need a new name. It does not need to include Harrowden Green from the Wixams. Harrowden Green should remain part of the Wixams community and Houghton Conquest should retain its historic and community identity."</i> <i>"The population is expected to double, so I would suggest an uplift of at least 50%"</i> Feedback received through the public consultation was mixed in relation to the boundary arrangements and the number of Councillors. These views have been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference and the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Houghton Conquest should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish Councillors for the parish of Houghton Conquest is increased from 10 to 11 3. Create a ward of Thickthorn with 5 councillors and a ward of Village with 6 councillors											

Reason for recommendations:

The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. The warding changes also provide the opportunity to ensure effective and convenient local government.



Houghton Regis	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
Houghton Hall	5	4	7484	1497	7968	N/A	8	13	12	10
Parkside	4	4	4072	1018	5218	1304	11	5	7	8
Tithe Farm	5	5	4885	977	6218	1244	15	6	11	8

Response from Consultation:

Town Council:

At the HRTC Town Council meeting held on 14th May 2025 its formal response to CBC on this initial CGR consultation, reflecting on the deliberations of the nominated Cllrs and the discussion held with Chalton Parish Council. The following Resolution was agreed:

- Alteration – Houghton Regis Town Council (HRTC) wishes to suggest that that part of Chalton Parish Council’s land bounded by the Houghton Regis parish boundary, the Luton Borough Council boundary, the Motorway M1 and the A5 - M1 Link Road (Dunstable Northern Bypass) be transferred into the parish of Houghton Regis.*
- no. of Cllrs – to ensure adequate demographic representation given the population growth of Houghton Regis it is requested that the number of Houghton Regis parish councillors be increased to 16 (from 14)*
- parish warding – given the recent growth of Houghton Regis, a 4th ward to cover the growth area of Bidwell would support suitable demographic representation. This new ward should be named Thorn ward as it is reflective of historic name for this area. The suggested ward boundary would be from Bedford Road following the line of the public right of way to Blue Waters.*

At this time HRTC are unable to comment on how 16 councillors should be split across the 4 wards (as proposed) as CBC have not released population / electorate data in support of the CGR process.

HRTC request that HRTC councillors be split across the proposed 4 wards as evenly as possible such that each councillor represents the same number of electorate.

10 responses

Comments:

"Houghton Hall Ward is currently too big for the number of councillors due to growth in Thorn/ Bidwell West. We either need a new ward for Thorn/Bidwell West or a split of Houghton Hall Ward. More Town Councillors needed to cover growth in population."

"Have more councillors per ward including the new estates"

"To a number that caters for the substantial population growth"

"20, areas need more councillors as if area is too big, they won't be able to help everyone. More councillors means more help to community members"

"3+ swollen population"

"The need to be working towards the same end and not be at each others necks. If the boundaries were removed everyone would have to work together to achieve a goal for the whole community instead of the selected areas"

"5 swollen population"

"8 Councillors for HHall Ward 2 or 3 for Bidwell West Possible incorporate Chalton"

"increase from 14 to 20."

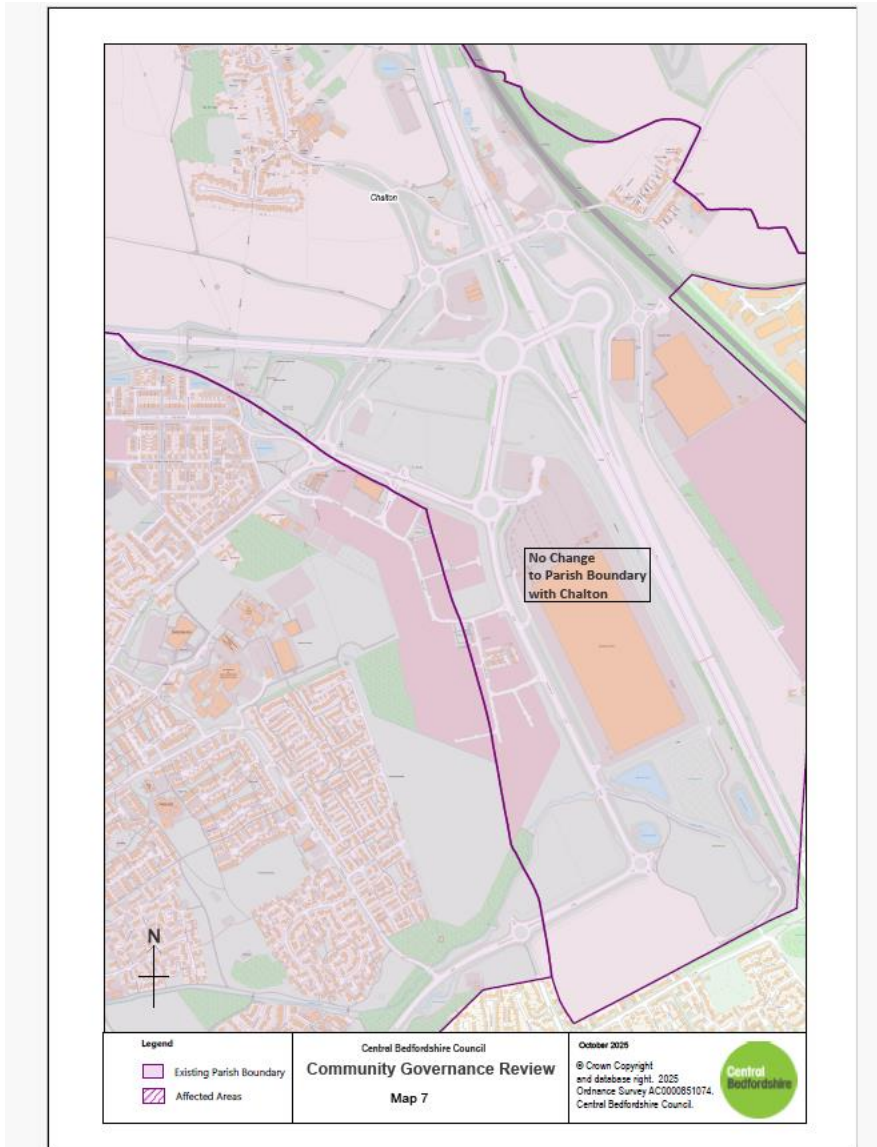
Draft Recommendations:

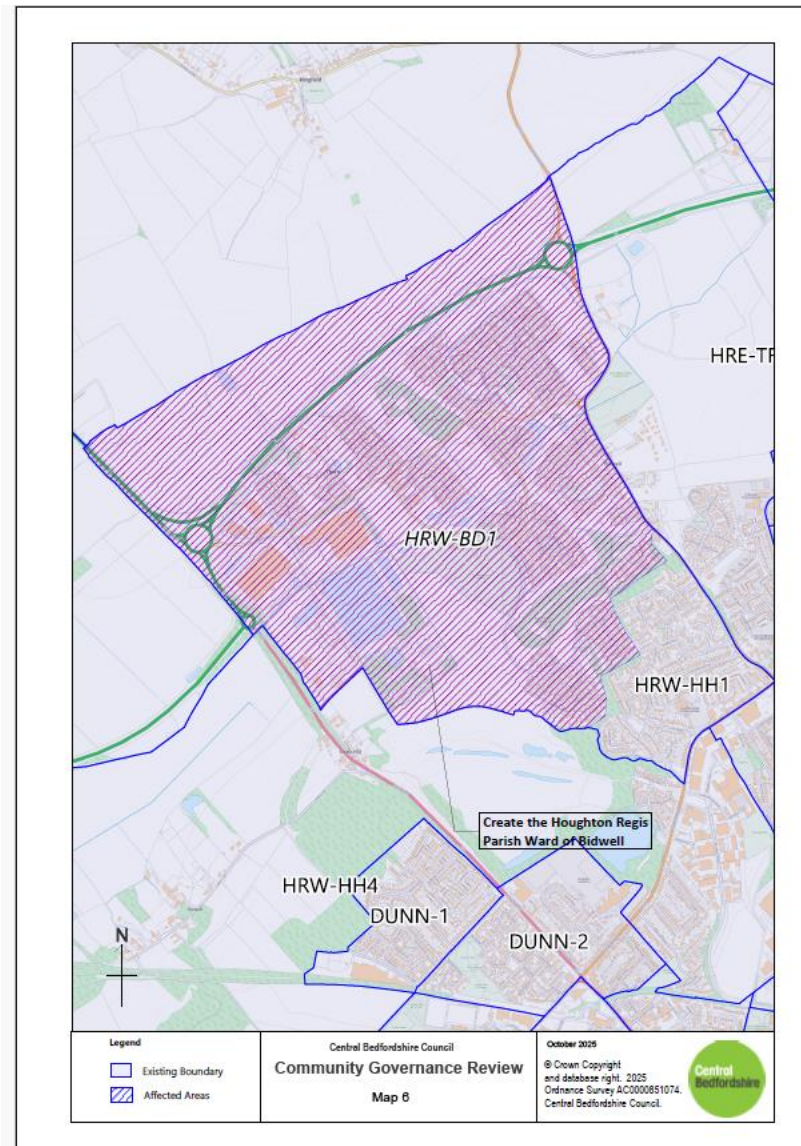
1. That the parish name of Houghton Regis should remain unchanged
2. Increase the number of parish councillors on Houghton Regis Town from 14 to 17 or 14 to 19
3. Create a further 2 parish wards of Bidwell and Linmere
4. Reject the proposal to extend the parish boundary into the parish of Chalton

							2023	2019	2015	2011
	Houghton Hall	5	4			4010	N/A			
	Parkside	4	4	4072	1018	5218	1304			
	Tithe Farm	5	5	4885	977	6218	1244			
	Bidwell	0	3			3958	1319			
	Linmere	0	1							

Reason for recommendations

The recommendation to increase the number of councillors is made in accordance with the response of the Town Council to ensure effective and convenient local government and to improve representation and enhance community engagement and cohesion. The request to extend the eastern boundary into the parish of Chalton was not agreed due to the negative response from Chalton Parish Council





Hulcote & Salford	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	174	25	183	26	5	6	11	7
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 0 responses Comments: There were no responses received during the public consultation in relation to Hulcote and Salford. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Hulcote & Salford should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Hulcote & Salford Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Husborne Crawley	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	189	27	189	27	4	7	7	5
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 3 responses Comments: <i>“Poor communications the villagers have no idea when the P.C hold meetings there is one notice board. the village is decided it two parts it needs another notice board near Horsepool lane, so residents are informed poor web site no idea who the councillors are”</i>										
Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.										
Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Husborne Crawley should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Husborne Crawley Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

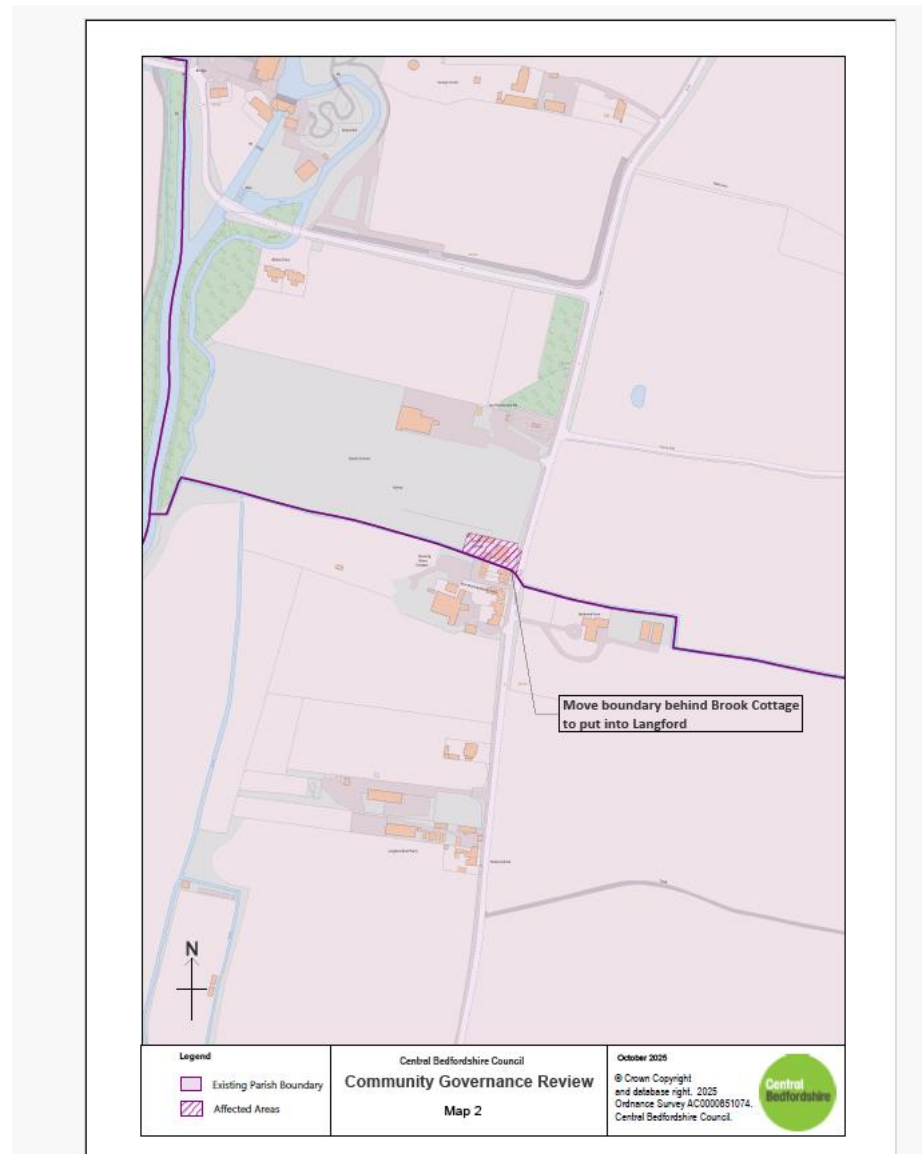
Hyde	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	308	44	310	44	5	5	6	4
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 12 responses Comments: All related to moving the parish to Hertfordshire which is not within the remit of this Council Feedback received through the public consultation was mixed in relation to the parish boundary but generally indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Hyde should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Hyde Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Kensworth	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	8	7	1179	168	1208	173	8	8	9	9
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No changes 1 response Comments: None Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Kensworth should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Kensworth Parish Council is reduced to 7										
Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Langford	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	13	9	3128	241	3560	396	7	10	7	9
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 10 responses Comments: <i>“As Brook Cottage is linked neighbouring properties in Langford Parish and not near any properties in Holme (?), it would be logical to keep it in Langford Parish, even if it means the boundary going round the property to include it. It is disappointing that the Langford Village Plan isn't given weight when considering planning application approval. I am also surprised but pleased that the number of residents is only likely to increase by 400 by 2030. It hopefully means that village can get the infrastructure to catch up with the new building areas eg school, GPs etc.”</i> <i>“I think Langford Parish Council does a very good job for the village. However, it needs more volunteer Councillors and fresh blood. Where is the incentive for these people to come forward, when the unelected officers of CBC have a track record of either ignoring the clear views of the villagers or misrepresenting them to Government Planning Inspectors?? If you want to really talk about Community Governance, then you should start by reviewing the performance of unelected officers and their attention to residents clear and stated views.”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Langford should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Langford Parish Council are reduced from 13 to 9 3. Include Brook Cottage into Langford Parish										

Reason for recommendations:

The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. The boundary changes also provide the opportunity to ensure effective and convenient local government.



Leighton-Linslade		Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
								2023	2019	2015	2011
	Bassett	1		1526	1530	1543	1543	2			
	Barnabas	3		4729	1576	4833	1611	3	7	11	7
	Brooklands	2		2621	1310	2621	1311	5	6	4	4
	Grovebury	4		7227	1807	7227	1807	11	7	10	7
	Leston	1		1401	1401	1421	1421	2	3	3	2
	Planets	3		3550	1183	3831	1277	8	6	5	4
	Plantation	2		3184	1592	3623	1812	5	6	8	5
	Southcott	3		4412	1471	4412	1471	4	11	15	7
	St George's	2		3602	1801	3638	1819	4	4	6	6

Response from Consultation:

Town Council: No proposal received

Joint Cllrs Leighton - Linslade TC (See pages 208 to 218 of Appendix B)

32 responses

Comments:

"The disparity in the ratio of councillors to residents is 5x the Ctrl Beds average - that's not exactly how democracy should work."

"The number of councillors per resident is much above average and only going to increase with more residents. Young people 16-25 particularly are not well represented or catered for in Leighton-Linslade. Immigrants as well are not represented, I think due to fear of racism, islamophobia, etc. in Bedfordshire which is a well founded fear. With a larger council, we could have more diversity of representation."

"I think all wards in Leighton-Linslade should go up by 3-5 councillors each to get them to average of 300 residents per councillor - that is closer to the number of people that one person can get to know. Some of those wards should be split up - I can't speak for other wards as I don't know them as well but for St Barnabas - we should have a split so that the roads all adjoining Stoke Road inc Bossington Lane, St Martins etc. are in one ward. I think the Rivers - Ouzel and Clipstone Brook - should be represented as a Ward

which all residents of Leighton-Linslade get to vote on but only contains non-human residents. Or you could put it together with the canal and the humans are those who live on the water eg common canal boats - seems fair."

"Need to protect parish councils from getting too cliquey by co-opting people and publicising elections better."

Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.

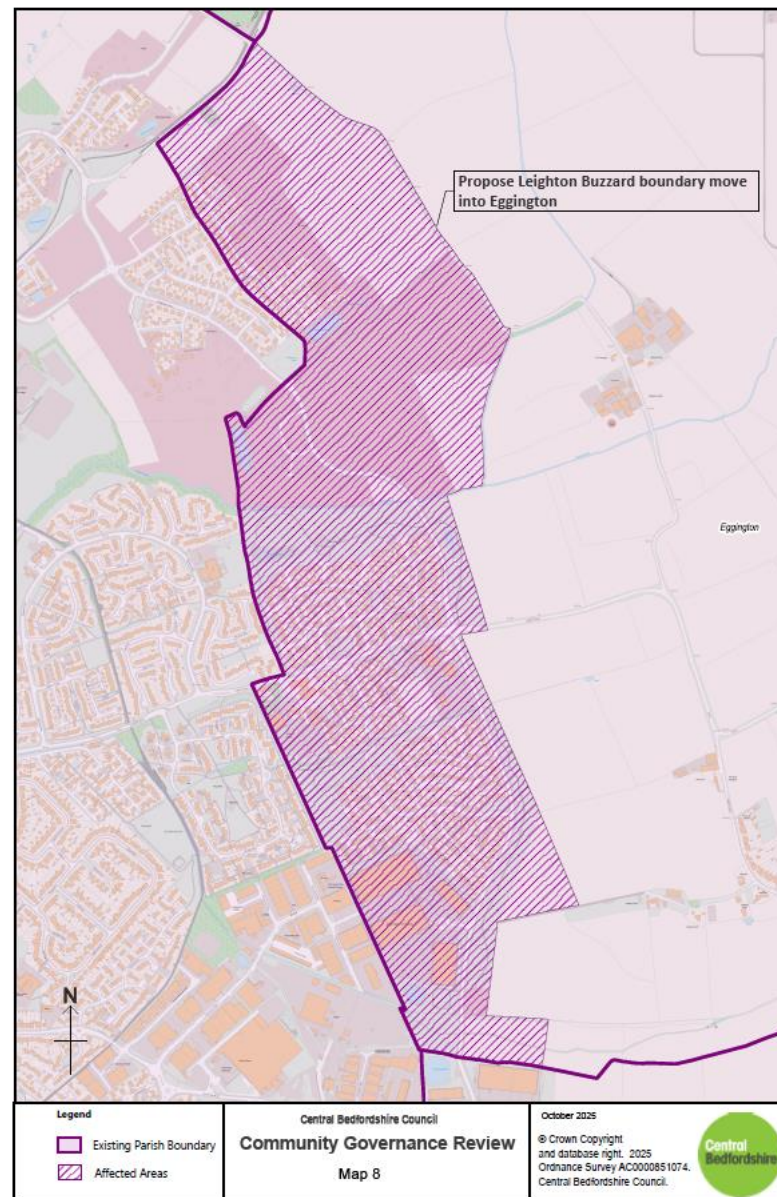
Draft Recommendations:

1. That the parish name of Leighton-Linslade should remain unchanged
2. Subject to recommendation 3 being agreed retain the number of parish councillors on Leighton-Linslade Town Council at 21 otherwise reduce to 19
3. Incorporate the residential development of Clipstone Park, Stearn Land, Leedon and the Pastures into the pariah of Leighton-Linslade
4. Replace existing parish wards with 3 parish wards coterminous with the CBC wards of Leighton-Linslade North: Leighton-Linslade South and Leighton-Linslade West each with 7 or
5. Replace existing parish wards with 6 parish wards coterminous with the CBC wards of Leighton-Linslade North (Plantation + St George's - 5 members and Planets – 2 members: Leighton-Linslade South (Grovebury- 5 members+ Brooklands and Leston- 2 Members): Leighton-Linslade West (Barnabas + Bassett - 4 members and Southcott – members)

							2023	2019	2015	2011
Leighton-Linslade North (including Clipstone Park)	7				13074	1868	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Leighton-Linslade South	7				11269	1610	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Leighton-Linslade West	7				10788	1541	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Reason for recommendations:

The recommendation to review the parish wards and the number of councillors is made in response to the submission from Joint Cllrs Leighton - Linslade Town Council and to ensure effective and convenient local government and to improve representation and enhance community engagement and cohesion.



Lidlington	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	9	7	1112	159	1182	169	7	6	8	7
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 1 response Comments: None relevant to Terms of Reference There was one response to the consultation that indicated a preference to increase the level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Lidlington should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Lidlington Parish Council are reduced from 9 to 7										
Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Marston Moreteyne	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
							6	11	9	14
	12	11	5308	442	5332	592				
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 6 responses Comments: “It's 12. It should be 15.” “They are terrible. They do not listen at all to the community.” Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Marston Moreteyne should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Marston Moreteyne Parish Council are reduced from 12 to 11 Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Maulden	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	12	9	2689	224	2781	309	8	6	13	12
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 5 responses Comments: <i>"The age profile of the PC does not fully reflect the Village community"</i> <i>"We never see a Councillor and the PC never responds to correspondence"</i> <i>"More Councillors might just improve communication"</i> <i>"Maulden PC is uncommunicative and inward looking"</i> <i>"Too many. Less would save money and those remaining should do more than they do already."</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Maulden should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Maulden Parish Council are reduced from 12 to 9										
Reason for recommendations The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Meppershall	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	10	7	1629	163	1944	278	8	7	9	8
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 5 responses Comments: None relevant to Terms of Reference Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Meppershall should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Meppershall Parish Council are reduced from 10 to 7										
Reason for recommendations The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Moggerhanger	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	585	84	588	84	5	5	6	4
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 5 responses Comments: <i>“Moggerhanger struggles to get councillors. But the village is expanding so no need to expect fewer councillor posts.”</i> <i>“The parish of Moggerhanger and local matters are important to parish residents, with good attendance at meetings”</i> <i>“Yes, it is hard to get parish councillors to serve in the Parish but the ones we have are dedicated and work for our village. We are also supported by some local volunteer help We are particularly blessed to have our ward councillor Mr Paul Daniels on our council. He is incredibly helpful”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Moggerhanger should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Moggerhanger Parish Council remain unchanged at 7 Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Northill	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	12	7	2096	175	2171	310	9	11	17	15
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: Members agreed that we are firmly in favour of maintaining our current parish boundary with the River Ivel remaining the defining border – rather than any realignment to the A1. We would also like to highlight that Northill Parish Council is an active and fully functioning council, comprising 12 proactive councillors, with no difficulty in filling vacancies when they arise. In summary, the council is operating effectively, collaboratively, and in the best interest of the parish community. We are content with current arrangements and do not support any changes to our existing governance or boundaries. 6 responses Comments: <i>“Our Parish Council are very good and communicate well with residents.”</i> <i>“If it is not broken don't fix it.”</i> <i>“It is fine as is!”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Northill should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Northill Parish Council are reduced from 12 to 7										
Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Old Warden	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	223	32	223	32	6	7	8	6
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 0 responses Comments: There were no responses to the consultation in relation to Old Warden. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Old Warden should remain unchanged 2. That number of parish councillors on Old Warden Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Potton	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	15	11	4642	309	4771	434	12	17	18	11
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 5 responses Comments: <i>"Maybe 12. A better size for full participation in meetings."</i> <i>"Plus, one or two, to reflect the growth of the town"</i> <i>"I think Potton council do good work serving their town, providing services, facilities, and events"</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Potton should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Potton Town Council are reduced from 15 to 11 Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Pulloxhill	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	809	114	812	116	7	7	3	7
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 2 responses Comments: None relevant to Terms of Reference Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes although there was one suggesting about warding the parish. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Pulloxhill should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Pulloxhill Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Ridgmont	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	333	48	333	48	7	5	5	10
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 7 responses Comments: <i>“Parish councils who are unpaid volunteers do an excellent job representing their communities. Without them residents would not have a voice on local issues.”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Ridgmont should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Ridgmont Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations: The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Sandy		Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
								2023	2019	2015	2011
	Beeston	1	1	660	660	677	677	1	1	1	1
	Fallowfield	3	3	1481	494	1483	494	2	2	3	4
	Ivel	5	5	2823	565	2889	578	3	6	4	8
	Pinnacle	6	6	4078	680	4110	685	5	4	3	5
Response from Consultation: Town Council: No proposal received 9 responses Comments: <i>“Twice the existing number, to enable better representation of the population. Ward boundary should be proportionate to number of people living there.” “Already divided into wards and seems to work”</i> <i>“Nothing wrong with Sandy Town Council. Far more effective than Central Bedfordshire Council. Its officers and administrators are effective, honest and great communicators, which is more than can be said for staff at Central Bedfordshire Council. I’d be more than happy to give more powers to Sandy Town Council if some of the underperforming administrators in CBC were made redundant and the money saved was handed to Sandy Town Council.”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Sandy should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Sandy Town Council remain unchanged with Beeston Ward 1; Fallowfield Ward 3; Ivel Ward 5 and Pinnacle Ward 6 Reason for recommendations: In light of the representations received the working group felt that the current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government.											

Shefford	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	15	11	5797	386	5804	528	12	13	12	13
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 5 responses Comments: “17 - because of the growth in the town” Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a mix of views on the current level of representation with some suggesting the number of councillors should be increased. There were no other suggested changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1.That the parish name of Shefford should remain unchanged 2.That the number of parish councillors on Shefford Town Council are reduced from 15 to 11										
Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Shillington	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	10	7	1619	162	1629	233	10	11	11	10
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 3 responses Comments: <i>"Please see comment on Gravenhurst boundary, to include the technically Shillington homes, with the Gravenhurst postcode MK, not Shillington SG, along Old Mill Lane backing onto the parishes' river boundary, to be considered and included within Gravenhurst parish, the natural and habitual focus of the residents. Thank you! Again, asking for friend who lives there."</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Shillington should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Shillington Parish Council are reduced from 10 to 7 Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Silsoe	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	10	7	2864	286	2780	397	6	9	8	9
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 5 responses Comments: <i>"I feel Silsoe parish council has embraced the new developments of recent years. They do not need to be joined with another parish."</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Silsoe should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Silsoe Parish Council are reduced from 10 to 7 3. Move the properties Orchard End and Willowstream from the parish of Silsoe to the parish of Clophill (See Map)										
Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. The boundary changes also provide the opportunity to ensure effective and convenient local government.										



Slip End	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	1480	211	1754	251	5	9	7	8
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 6 responses Comments: Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Slip End should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Slip End Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Southill		Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
								2023	2019	2015	2011
	Broom	6	7	480	80	932	133	5	4	3	5
	Southill	3		241	80			3	1	2	3
	Stanford	3		204	69			3	3	3	2
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: “ <i>Southill Parish Council requests the ward system to be removed for this council removal of ward system and retain 12 Councillors for this Parish</i> ” 1 response Comments: “ <i>no ward system for this parish and retain 12 Councillors, as it currently works with all Councillors dealing with the whole parish</i> ” Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to reflect on the warding arrangements. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Southill should remain unchanged 2. That the parish is unwarded 3. That the number of parish councillors on Southill Parish Council is reduced from 12 to 7 Reason for recommendations The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. The warding changes also provide the opportunity to ensure effective and convenient local government and reflect the views of the parish council.											

Stanbridge	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	592	85	592	85	5	6	5	2
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 3 responses Comments: <i>"It would make sense to merge with Tilsworth. Stanbridge and Tilsworth are very similar and share a village hall. Around 50% of Stanbridge PCs precept is spent on the Clerk (i.e. running itself) which is ludicrous."</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation although there were some comments that the boundary was not suitable. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Stanbridge should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Stanbridge Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Steppingley	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	152	22	152	22	6	6	6	8
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 2 responses Comments: <i>"This parish council offers poor value for money. The electorate at 152 electors is almost below the threshold for there even being a council. My personal view is that Steppingley should be grouped with Flitwick."</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes although there was a comment regards the numbers of councillors. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Steppingley should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Steppingley Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Stondon	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	10	7	2802	280	3018	431	9	9	9	12
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 3 responses Comments: <i>“Henlow Camp is approx two miles from Henlow yet for the majority of the populated area it is on the opposite side of the road to Lower Stondon. Stondon should incorporate Henlow Camp.”</i> <i>“It makes no sense that Henlow Camp residents and businesses to the east of the Hitchin road are in Henlow parish. This is detrimental to our village as it cuts it in half. They should be moved into Stondon parish so that we can take decisions on the future of our village together.”</i> <i>“It makes no sense that Henlow Camp residents and businesses to the east of the Hitchin road are in Henlow parish. This is detrimental to Lower Stondon village as it cuts it in half. They should be moved into Stondon parish so that we can take decisions on the future of our village together.”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation although there were mixed responses in relation to the parish boundaries. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Stondon should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Stondon Parish Council are reduced from 10 to 7 3. Move the former Henlow Camp ward into the parish of Stondon										

Henlow (without camp ward)		7	1978	283	1978	283				
Stondon (with camp ward)		7 (9)	2802	302	4066	452				
Reason for recommendations The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. The boundary changes also provide the opportunity to ensure effective and convenient local government.										

Stotfold	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	15	11	7574	505	7747	704	6	9	8	9

Response from Consultation:

Town Council: See appendix B pages 233 and 234)

12 responses

Comments:

Stotfold Town Council has liaised with neighbouring parish and town councils to consider how best the boundaries can reflect the needs of the residents of Stotfold. This includes amalgamating the parish meeting of Astwick as a ward of Stotfold Town Council with its own representative and redrafting the boundary between Arlesey and Stotfold to include Etonbury School and Woods into Stotfold, incorporating the man-made boundary of the A507."

"Our local councillors are very insular and don't reflect the changing nature of the town. The new estates would benefit from being encouraged to sit on their council by additional seats being made available for them."

"Far fewer, more useful council members"

"As a resident I think this question is beyond my ability, but it would help to ensure the council reflected the town if councillors came from specific wards. At the moment the council's make up is very traditional and blinkered. It needs younger people looking to the future, not like it is now with some people sitting on their council because their family always had a seat. As a result they just look after themselves and their friends and don't care about the rest of us."

"All I can say is that this parish needs wards to ensure all areas are represented."

"3 wards, the green end, Arlesey Road end and hitchin road end"

"Our council needs modernising. At the moment several of the councillors are only on the council because a member of their family has always had a seat. They get on unopposed because none of the make any effort to engage with the community, thereby ensuring that no one is interested in replacing them. They then only look after their own interests, which include substantial property ownership. They survive on apathy, and it needs to stop."

Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation although there were various responses in relation to warding arrangements. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.

Draft Recommendations:

1. That the parish name of Stotfold should remain unchanged
2. That the number of parish councillors on Stotfold Town Council is reduced from 15 to either 13 or 11

Reason for recommendations

The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. The boundary changes also provide the opportunity to ensure effective and convenient local government.

Streatley	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	1359	194	1362	195	4	8	5	6
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 1 response Comments: none The one response received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Streatley should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Streatley Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Studham	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	991	142	1013	145	7	6	7	5

Response from Consultation:

Parish Council: *"Studham Parish Council has found there is no beneficial reason to change, alter or amend existing governance arrangements for Studham at this time, this includes no boundary change across neighbouring parishes and no change in the number of member seats for Studham Parish Council."*

6 responses

Comments:

"Studham PC should include Oldhill Wood. The residents have a Studham postal address but are in Whipsnade parish."

"Potential to merge with neighbouring Parishes."

"Reduce the number and ensure they reduced number represent the whole parish not just small pockets of it where they live."

"The Parish Council has a chair who is not representing the views of the whole parish and has a personal agenda. There is no agreed personnel panel authorised by the council to deal with appointments just a chosen few who are invited to join the chair at events other members have no idea about. Issues where the chair should recuse herself from discussion are dealt with as part of the comms the chair deals with."

Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation although there were mixed responses in relation to the boundary arrangements. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.

Draft Recommendations:

1. That the parish name of Studham should remain unchanged
2. That the number of parish councillors on Studham Parish Council remain unchanged at 7

Reason for recommendations

The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.

Sundon	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	342	49	342	49	4	3	4	6
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: Preference in April 2025 for no change 0 responses Comments: None Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.										
Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Sundon should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Sundon Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Sutton	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	244	35	268	38	6	7	7	8
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: <i>“Sutton Parish Council believes that the current boundaries of the parish, the make-up of the Council and the number of councillors is correct for the parish at this particular time and would not want to see any changes. If however, the recent 'Call for Sites' exercise was to include development that effects the parish of Sutton then the Council would want to be consulted further at that time.”</i> 3 responses Comments: Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Sutton should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Sutton Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason for recommendations The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Tempsford	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	465	66	468	67	8	6	8	6
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 1 response Comments: None The one response to the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Tempsford should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Tempsford Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Tilsworth	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	309	44	318	45	6	4	3	6
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 0 responses Comments: There were no responses to the consultation in relation to Tilsworth.										
Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Tilsworth should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Tilsworth Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Tingrith	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	N/A		129	N/A	129	N/A				

Response from Consultation:

Parish Meeting:

Parish/Town Council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

The Parish Meeting would like to formally request a review of the current boundary between Tingrith and Westoning – adjusting the boundary to include Chestnuts Caravan Park and Wood End (see attached map – proposed new boundary in red). The boundary follows the River Flit, wood, road and field boundaries.

We feel this adjustment would more accurately reflect the geographical, historical and community ties. It is also in response to representations from residents. The adjustment would have several benefits, including:

- 1. Improved Representation** – Residents in The Chestnuts and Wood End are more aligned to a small village community. Some already contribute to the parish and participate in the parish meetings. A revised boundary would allow for more accurate representation and participation in local governance.
- 2. Community Cohesion** – The current boundary divides areas with strong historical and social connections. The postal addresses reflect this as they include Tingrith.
- 3. Local Development Plans** – With the expansion plans for Westoning, the hamlet of Wood End better aligns with a small village such as Tingrith.

31 responses

Comments:

The parish meetings proposal was endorsed by other comments from the consultation. However, the general received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.

Draft Recommendations:

To not consult on the proposals to move the boundary to include Wood End and Chestnuts as there was no formal agreement from Westoning Parish Council. If both parishes agree then a request could be considered at a later stage.

Reason for Decisions

In light of the representations received the working group felt that the current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government but that this should be reviewed via a future review.

Taddington	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	11	7	3561	324	3706	529	8	7	11	9
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 8 responses Comments: <i>“The parish extends beyond the M1 to the east which seems to form a barrier. There is a small area beyond the M1 which might be better joined to the Harlington Parish”</i> <i>“I think our Parish Council serves and represents the local community of Taddington well.”</i> <i>“This parish works well and should not be interfered with”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Taddington should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Taddington Parish Council is reduced from 11 to 7										
Reason for Decisions The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Totternhoe	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	9	7	983	109	990	141	8	5	7	6

Response from Consultation:

Parish Council:

Totternhoe Parish Council has undertaken a Government Review as proposed under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The Parish Council examined its boundaries and reviewed their relevance in reflecting local identities and considered that in one area the boundary between the Parish and Dunstable had become anomalous.

The existing boundary between the Parish and the Badgers Gate development on the western edge of Dunstable follows the byway open to all traffic which leads from Dunstable Road, Totternhoe to the byway known as Green Lane. The boundary is our view should follow the field boundary adjacent to Badgers Gate houses instead. The field is within the Green Belt that washes over Totternhoe and is in the ownership of a Totternhoe farmer.

5 responses

Comments:

“Reduced to 7 as ratio is high and have uncontested elections”

“Totternhoe parish is fine as is however the council need’s younger representation as current councillors are stuck in their ways and nothing of significance ever gets done. The key issue is speeding through the village which needs speeds bumps. Other villages get them why not Totternhoe?”

“The shame is most of our parish councillors have been on the PC for years and are now elderly, it really now does desperately need new people elected. The challenge is to get people to step up”

Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.

Draft Recommendations:

1. That the parish name of Totternhoe should remain unchanged
2. That the number of parish councillors on Totternhoe Parish Council is reduced from 9 to 7

Reason for Decisions

The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.

Westoning	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	10	7	1627	163	2008	287	8	7	9	8

Response from Consultation:

Parish Council: No proposal received

7 responses

Comments:

"It makes no sense that Lovett Green/Close is part of Westoning Parish - it should be part of Harlington or Gravenhurst Parish."

"8 - the council can't fill the current number of 10."

"Westoning Council is completely undemocratic, never having had an election. It is perceived as a clique and they ask those that they favour and are like minded to join. There is no sense of community fostered by the parish Council, there is no village newsletter for example, each organisation is preparing its own flyers for the new houses as there is no newsletter or website of activities withing the village"

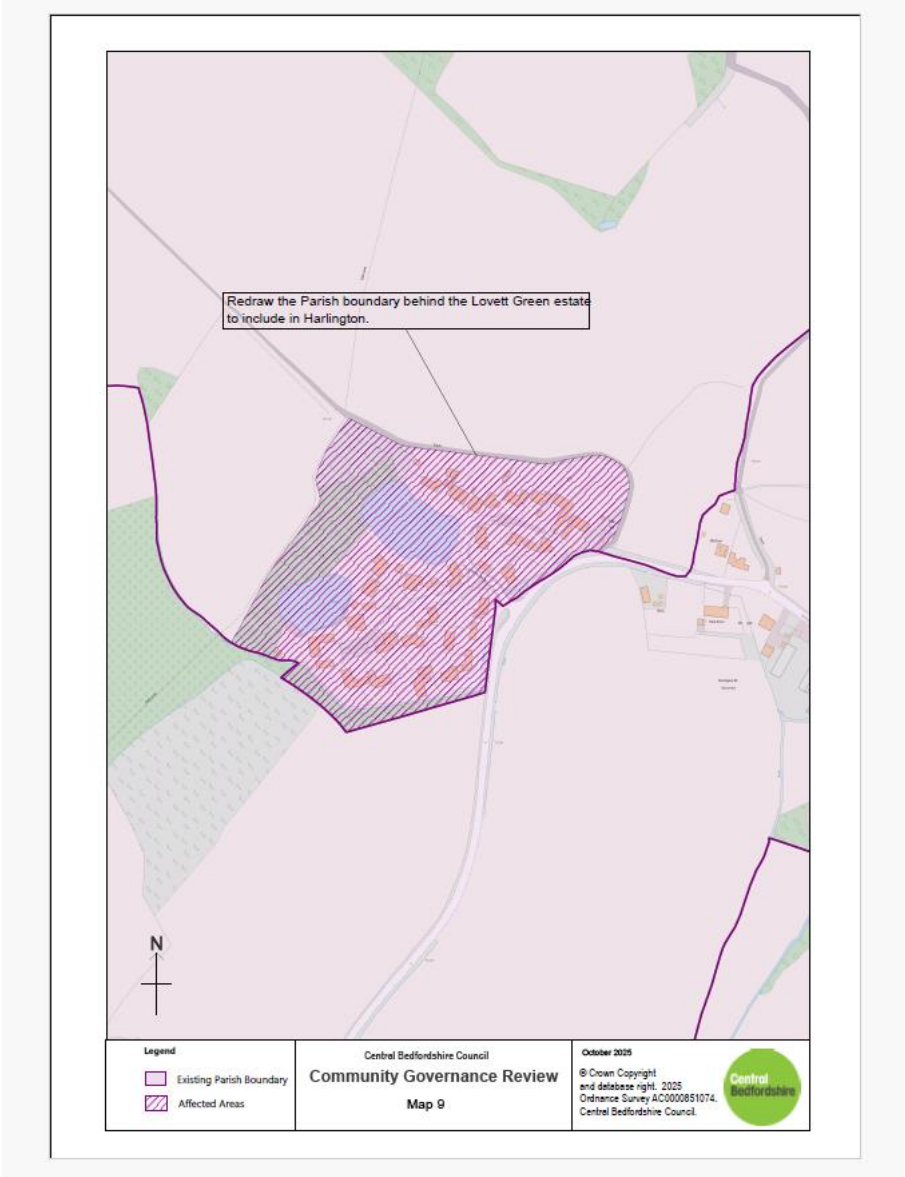
Feedback received through the public consultation was mixed in relation to the current level of representation and to the parish boundaries. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community.

Draft Recommendations:

1. That the parish name of Westoning should remain unchanged
2. That the number of parish councillors on Westoning Parish Council are reduced from 10 to 7
3. To move the area of Lovett Green into Harlington Parish
4. That the parish boundary is moved to accommodate the property Brunswick House to the parish of Westoning

Reason for Decisions

The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies. The boundary changes also provide the opportunity to ensure effective and convenient local government.





Whipsnade	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	394	56	397	57	5	7	6	6
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: <i>“The current boundary is one that is steeped in heritage and history, it is also the Ecclesiastical boundary. All historical records refer to and are defined by this boundary, and it would be very confusing to have it changed. Cllrs can see no benefit in changes being made to the current boundary.”</i> 1 response Comments: as above There was one response to the public consultation, which indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Whipsnade should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Whipsnade Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Woburn	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	9	7	735	82	735	110	8	7	9	8
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 1 response Comments: <i>"I think there should be better oversight of the parish council and parish secretary ethics and spending by an independent body."</i> There was one response to the public consultation, which indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group's rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Woburn should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Woburn Parish Council is reduced from 9 to 7										
Reason The recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is made in accordance with the terms of reference due to the number of councillors being disproportionate to the electorate or to avoid uncontested elections and the subsequent need to co-opt members to fill the outstanding vacancies.										

Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley	Parish Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to seats	Candidates			
							2023	2019	2015	2011
	7	7	633	90	647	92	5	6	7	6
Response from Consultation: Parish Council: No proposal received 2 responses Comments: <i>“Local governance is hard to find support for and hard to please”</i> Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes. This view has been considered alongside the Working Group’s rationale to ensure that any final draft recommendation reflects the aims of the terms of reference as well as the views of the community. Draft Recommendations: 1. That the parish name of Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley should remain unchanged 2. That the number of parish councillors on Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council remain unchanged at 7										
Reason The current arrangements reflect effective and convenient local government in addition to the current number of councillors being proportionate to the size of the area.										

Appendix B

**Central
Bedfordshire**

**“Your
voice
matters”**

Community Governance Review

7 July 2025 – 1 September 2025

Stage 1 Consultation Results



Find out more at
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

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Purpose of consultation

Local authorities are required, by Central Government, to undertake a review of local governance arrangements every 10 - 15 years; we are now reviewing Town and Parish Council arrangements within Central Bedfordshire. This involves looking at how the community is represented by town or parish councils, through consideration of; existing parish boundaries, the number of councillors a parish has, names of parishes and other factors.

During Stage One of the review we are seeking feedback on what works well and what could be improved in order to shape recommendations for possible changes.

The consultation process

The Stage One consultation ran from 7 July 2025 to 1 September 2025. Local residents, town and parish councils and stakeholders were encouraged to comment on the review. Paper response forms were also provided on request. The consultation ran for a period of 8 weeks.

Stage Two, which will consider the findings and responses from this consultation, will follow later this year.

Activities included:

- E-bulletin
 - E-mail 1 – sent to 32,841 with a 52.41% open rate
 - E-mail 2 – sent to 22,782 with an 53.56% open rate
- Social media
- 24 posts with 131,147 impressions and 2.42% engagement rate
 - Facebook – 6 posts with 13 reactions, 16 comments and 19 shares
 - Twitter/X - 6 posts with 42 engagements
 - Instagram 6 posts with 8 engagements
 - LinkedIn 6 posts with 28 reactions, 2 comments and 10 shares

*engagement is the number of interactions your content received from users - likes, comments, shares, saves, etc.

We received letters from Biggleswade Town Council, Eaton Bray Parish Council, Kensworth Parish Council, Joint Cllrs for Leighton-Linslade Town Council, and from Northill Parish Council, these have been included in full in the Appendix to this report.

Feedback on the proposals

In total, 357 responses were received for this survey.

How they accessed the questionnaire:

- 182 (51%) respondents accessed the questionnaire through a pc/laptop

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

- 148 (41%) respondents accessed the questionnaire through the mobile version
- 27 (8%) respondents accessed the questionnaire through the tablet version

To make sense of the feedback received, we have employed two types of analysis. We have looked at the headline quantitative measures, followed by coding of the free text comments to help understand the sentiment behind respondents' agreement or disagreement with the order. The codes we generated identified frequently mentioned comments and concerns. The findings of the survey are set out in the next section of this report.

When summarising these survey findings in other reports please ensure that the findings of this report are quoted accurately, and that a link to this report is provided.

Please note, all quotes are shown as received, so may contain spelling mistakes, and percentages shown in the charts may not total 100% due to rounding.

Summary of findings

Responses were received for 66 parishes

We also received separate letters from the following:

- **1.Northill Parish Council**
- **2.Kensworth Parish Council**
- **3.Joint Cllrs Leighton Linlade**
- **4.Biggleswade Town Council**
- **5.Eaton Bray Parish Council**
- **6.Stotfold Town Council**

No responses were received for the following:

Astwick, Battlesden, Brogborough, Chalton, Edworth, Eyeworth, Hulcote and Salford, Millbrook, Milton Bryan, Old Warden, Potsgrove, Southill (Broom), Southill (Stanford), Sundon, Tilsworth.

Parish reflecting the local community with a shared identity: 221 respondents said that they believed the parish reflected the local community to either a great extent or very great extent. 85 respondents to a moderate extent and 45 to either a low extent or very low extent. 11 respondents said they didn't know.

Current boundary: 281 respondents said that they were happy with their parishes current boundary. 64 respondents were not happy, 24 respondents replied that they were unsure.

Current name of the parish: 340 respondents said that they were happy with the current name of their parish. 28 respondents were not happy with the current name of their parish.

Number of councillors in parish council: 238 respondents said that they were happy with the current number of councillors in their parish council, 32 believing that the numbers should

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increase, 23 believing that the number should be reduced. 76 respondents said they were not sure.

Division of local parish into parish wards: 224 respondents said that the local parish shouldn't be divided into parish wards. 26 respondents said that the local parish should be divided into parish wards and 112 said that this was not applicable to their local parish.

Ward change to local parish (if warded): 187 respondents said no they shouldn't be changed. 30 saying yes.

Ward boundary removal to local parish (if warded): 194 respondents said no, with 22 saying yes.

Number of councillors change for local parish (if warded): 178 respondents said no, with 36 saying yes.

The biggest number of respondents were those aged 65-74. This group accounted for 30% of respondents, compared to 12% of all Central Bedfordshire residents (aged 16+). 75+ and 55-64 were overrepresented with 23% versus 11% and 21% versus 16% respectively compared to the population of Central Bedfordshire. 45-54 (11% versus 16%), 35-44 (11% versus 16%), and 25-34 (3% versus 16%) were all underrepresented versus the Central Bedfordshire population figure, 39 respondents chose not to answer this question.

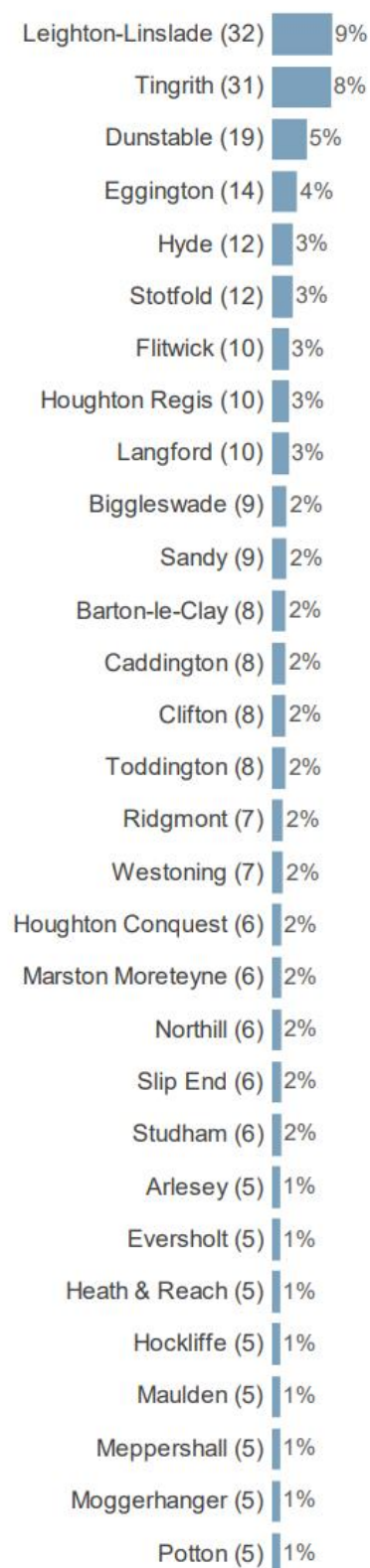
No responses were received from 18-24 year olds age group or under 16 age groups. 16-17 year olds were underrepresented with 0% (1) versus 3%.

Respondents who said they have a disability were underrepresented with 10% versus the Central Bedfordshire population percentage of 15%.

Full consultation responses

Numbers of responses for each parish were as follows:

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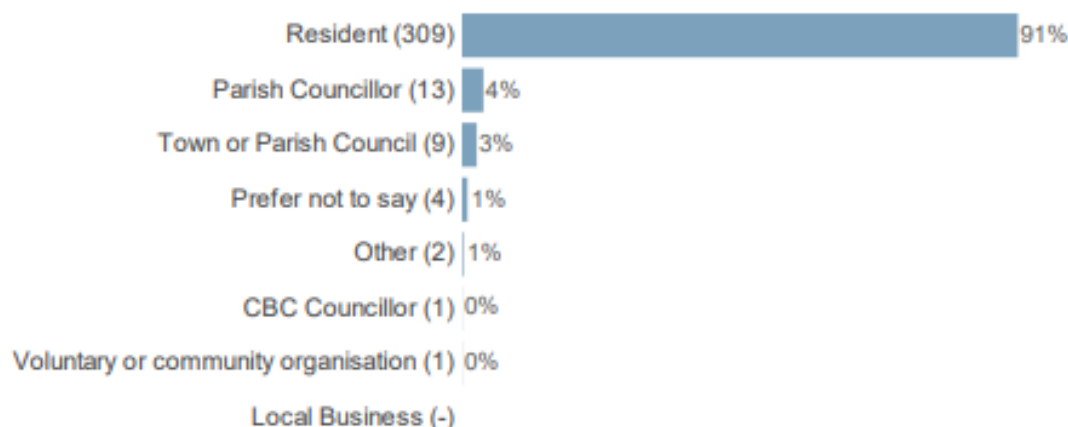


Silsoe (5), Totternhoe (5), Dunton (4), Flitton & Greenfield (4), Ampthill (3), Aspley Guise (3), Billington (3), Campton & Chicksands (3), Harlington (3), Henlow (3), Husborne Crawley (3),

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Shillington (3), Stanbridge (3), Stondon (3), Sutton (3), Aspley Heath (2), Clophill (2), Everton (2), Fairfield (2), Pulloxhill (2), Steppingley (2), Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley (2)

Blunham (1), Chalgrave (1), Eaton Bray (1), Gravenhurst (1), Haynes (1), Kensworth (1), Lidlington (1), Southill (South Ward) (1), Streatley (1), Tempsford (1), Whipsnade (1), Woburn (1),

Are you responding as: (please select one)**If Parish Councillor, which parish is this for?**

Moggerhanger (2), Totternhoe (2), Dunstable South Ward (1), Flitwick (1), Marston Moreteyne (1), Heath and Reach (1), Stondon (1), Shillington (1), Barton-le-Clay (1), Northill (1), Ridgmont (1)

If Town or Parish Council, please specify:

Flitwick (1), Barton-le-Clay Parish Council (1), Sutton Parish Council (1), Caddington Parish Council (1), Studham Parish Council (1), Whipsnade PC (1), Silsoe PC (1), Stotfold Town Council (1), Ridgmont (1)

If voluntary or community organisation, please specify:

St Andrews church

If other, please specify:

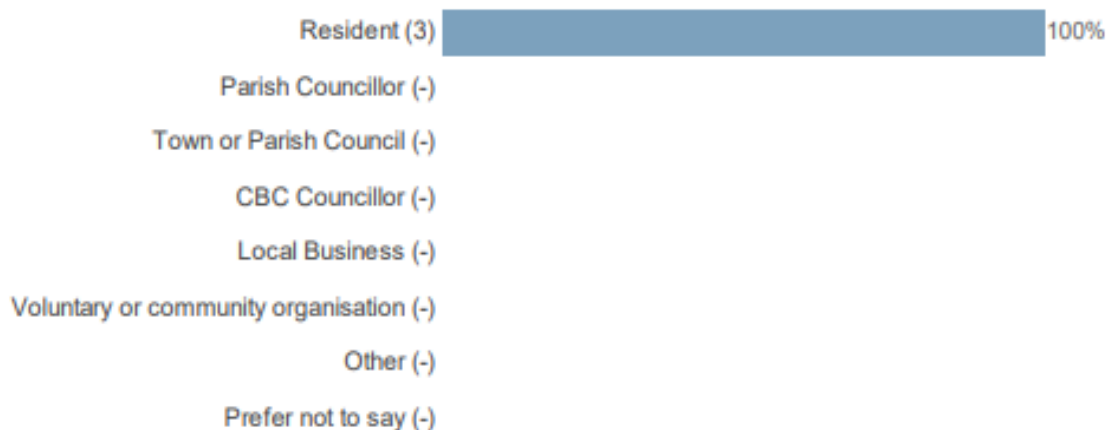
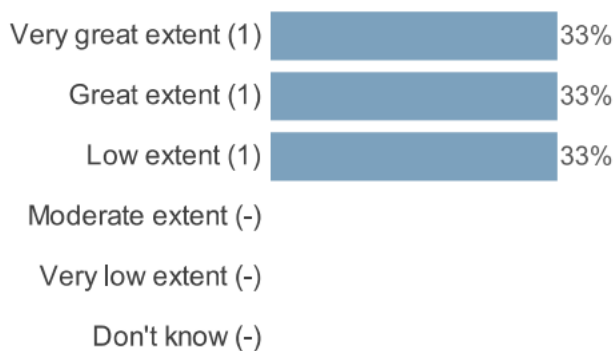
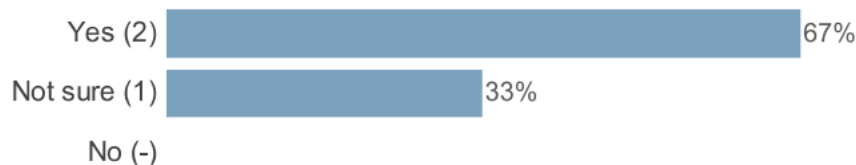
Neighbourhood Watch Youth Council Representative for Bedfordshire, living in Marston Moreteyne. Also Youth Council member of the Marston Moreteyne Youth Council

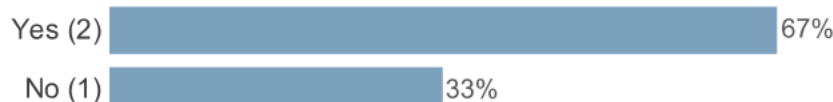
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1. Ampthill 3 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)**To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?****Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?**If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:**

"It seems to focus on the ambitions of the TC with little community engagement, responsive rather than proactive with less focus on fixing daily issues which are framed either politically or as an issue for CBC to resolve with limited regulatory requirements for CBC and no budget, it would seem issues such as parking, school and commuted focused issues arising from traffic etc, local issues with landscaping/green spaces, provision of bins etc. are framed as not within the TCs interests to proactively challenge or support CBC in tackling, there are no local strategies or plans demonstrating priority areas of interest or change (like neighbourhood plans, etc.) for the community to actively engage with or provide transparency where the focus of the local TC lie."

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

Yes, the number of councillors should be increased (-)

Yes, the number of councillors should be reduced (-)

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**

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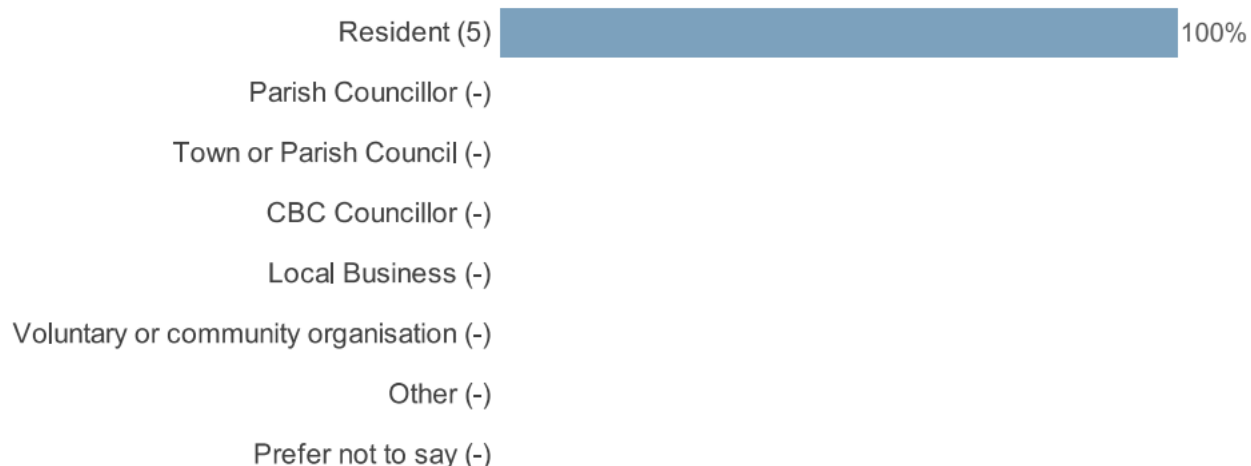
If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

"It is unclear to residents how they conduct the delivery of the community's interests"

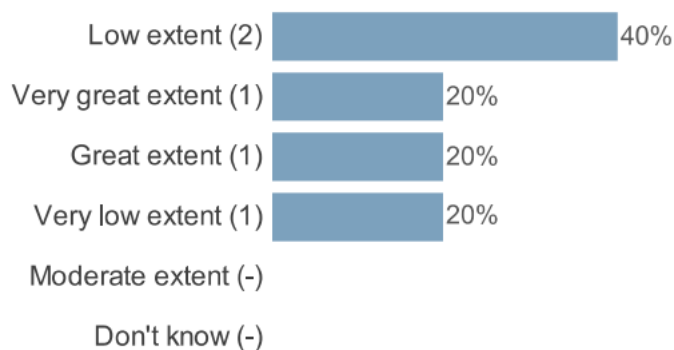
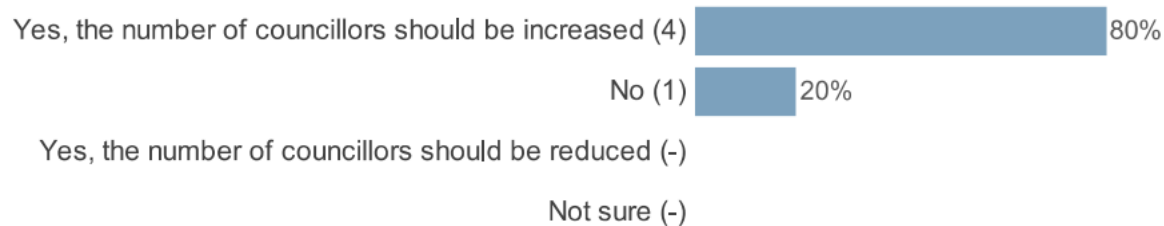
2. Arlesey 5 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

Following debate of the upcoming community governance review during a meeting of Arlesey town council held on 15 April 2025 the council passed a resolution to formally request that the total number of council seats be increased to 9.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:**

“10”

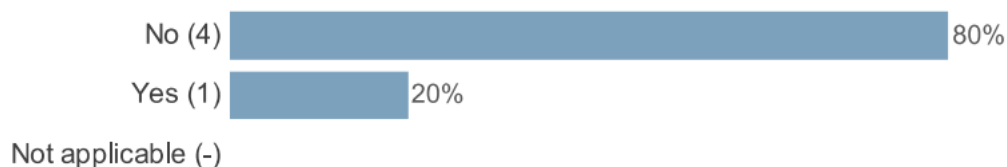
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“9. The Council needs more councillors to help share the admin load, and provide a more diverse representation of the community. If we dont get candidates, at least we havent precluded possible interest.”

“The council does very little for the community, beyond statutory obligations. More councillors may help them take on more projects, even one project would be a start”

“25”

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:

“ 5”

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

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**Do you have any further comments?**

"I feel very strongly that Arlesey town council do not fully represent the town in the way they should. There are areas around the town that have been neglected for some time and need to be looked at with the view of solving there appearance. More effort should be put into getting things that will help the town on general. At the moment the town council is acting as a talking shop and that is not what residents pay there council tax towards."

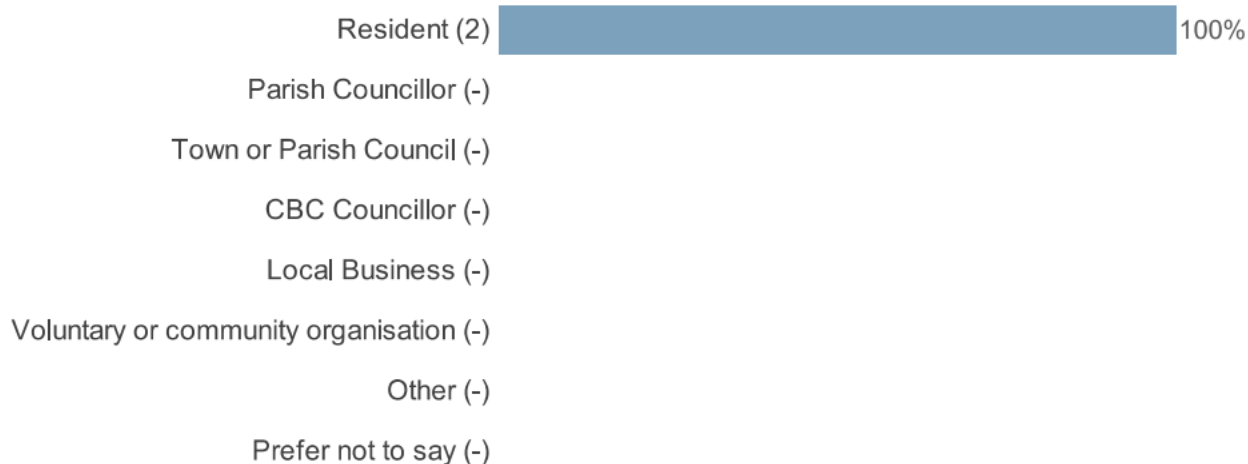
3. Aspley Guise 3 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

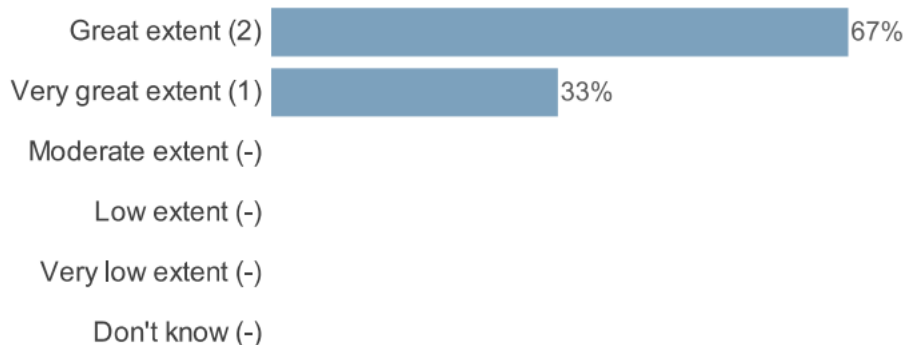
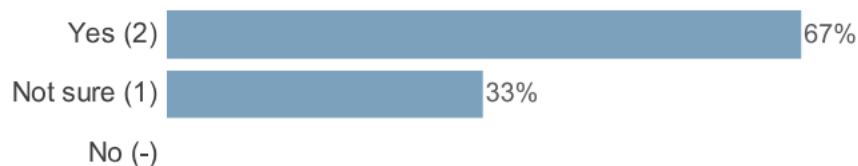
No proposal received.

Review of property anomalies

Numbers 9 and 11 Woburn Road are in the parish of Aspley Heath but the newly built 15 Woburn Road together with the property Henry V11 Lodge are geographically in the parish of Aspley Guise. Consideration should be given to rectify this anomaly.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

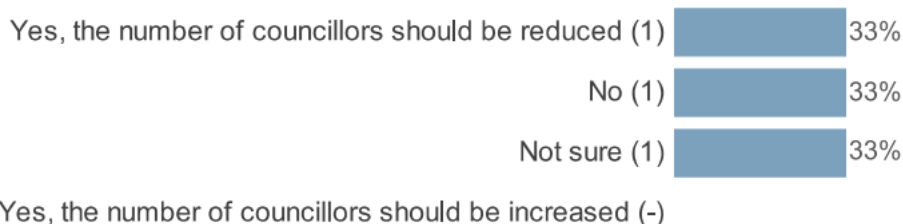
To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

“That part of the Parish which may be the subject of future new development (Aspley Guise triangle) will have a different identity and should not be viewed as part of Aspley Guise Parish/village.”

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?**Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:**

"Number states 12, at best we have had 5, keep it at 5"

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

No answer

Do you have any further comments?

"Local identity and representation is vital to good governance. Central Beds should not be combined with Milton Keynes and or Bedford and Luton. Aspley Guise Parish/village should not be combined with other parishes. Combining authorities is a tool for those in power to reduce local representation and should be resisted."

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

“Not sure many people know about the review I have signed up to email notifications from CBC therefore were aware.”

4. Aspley Heath 2 responses

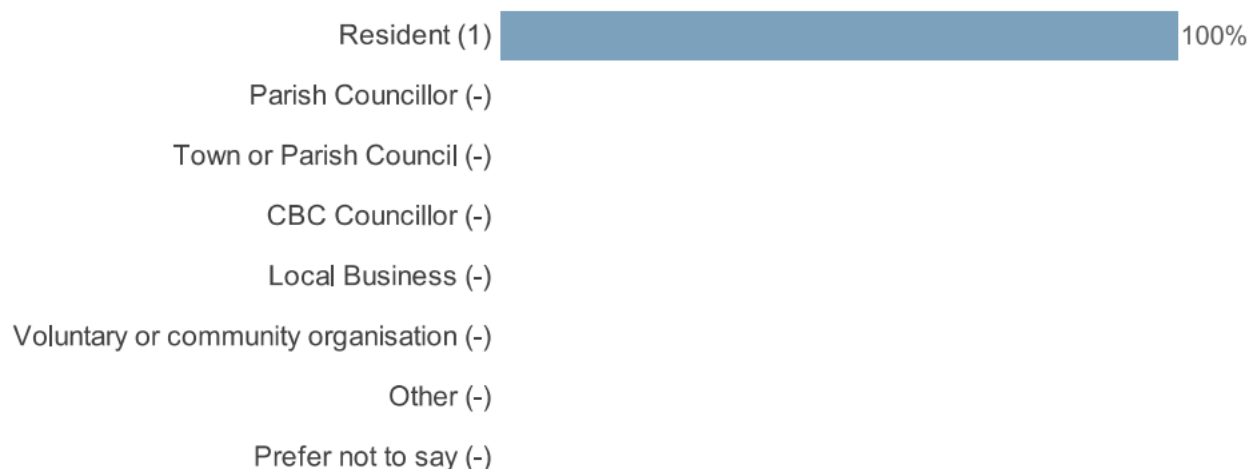
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Review of property anomalies

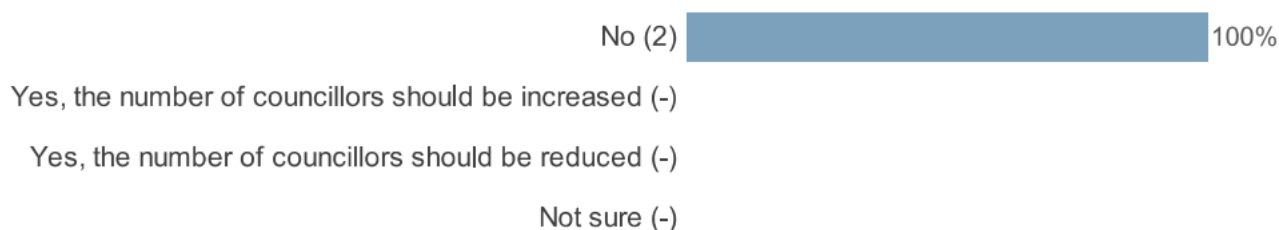
Numbers 9 and 11 Woburn Road are in the parish of Aspley Heath but the newly built 15 Woburn Road together with the property Henry V11 Lodge are geographically in the parish of Aspley Guise. Consideration should be given to rectify this anomaly.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

No answer

Do you have any further comments?

"It would be good if the local council could have more influence on traffic management, not currently in their remit."

5. Astwick No responses

The following information was provided alongside the Potsgrove parish profile prior to the consultation launch.

Astwick is one of eight parishes which do not have a council but rather meets as a parish meeting. The forecast development to March 2030 is estimated at one further dwelling which will generate approximately 2 additional residents over the next 5 years.

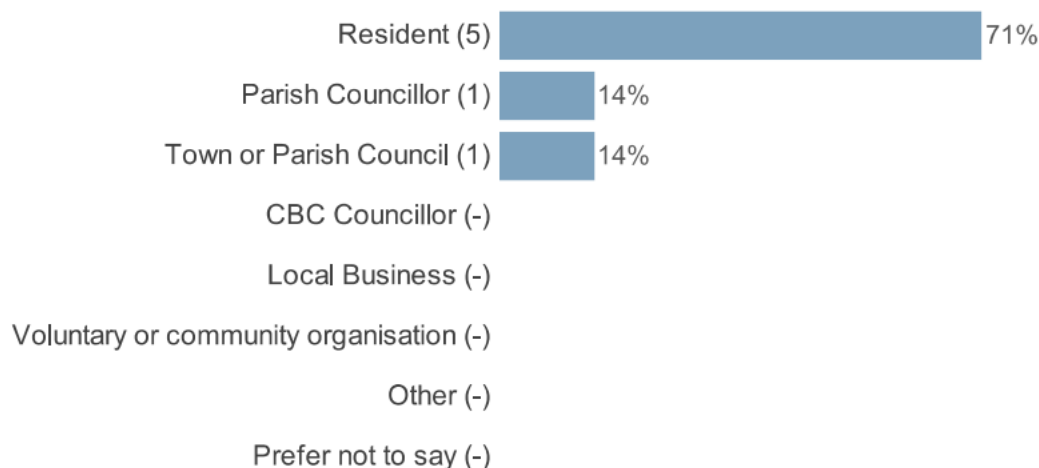
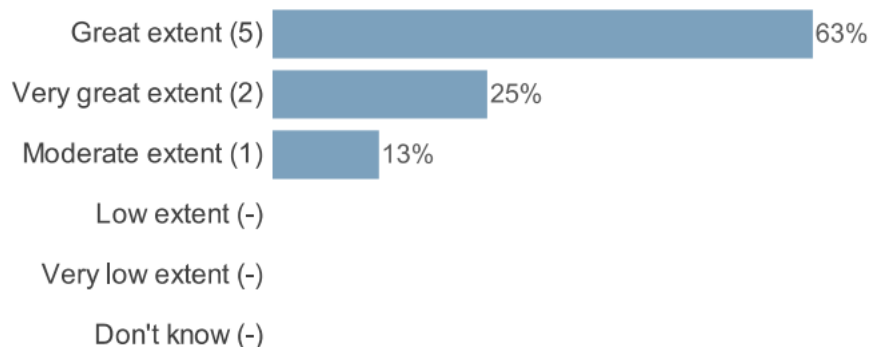
The parish boundary adjoins the neighbouring parishes of Arlesey, Biggleswade, Edworth, Langford and Stotfold. The parish, together with the parish of Stotfold are coterminous (i.e. they border each other in the same area) within the Central Bedfordshire ward of Stotfold.

6. Barton-le-Clay 8 responses

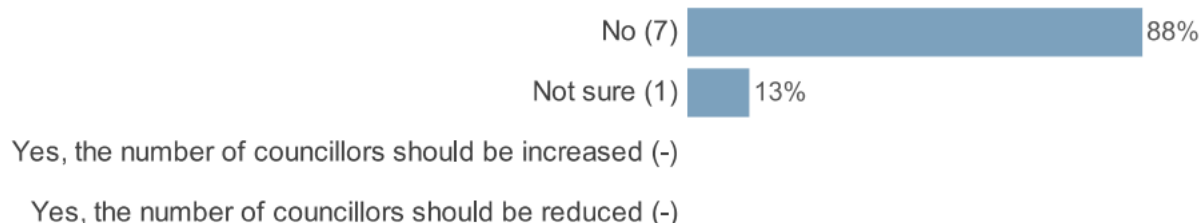
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Are you responding as: (please select one)**if Parish Councillor, which parish is this for?***Barton-le-Clay***If Town or Parish Council, please specify:***Barton-le-Clay Parish Council***To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?****Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)**

Do you have any further comments?

“There has been no recent development in the Parish or neighbouring area and so the current arrangements are fit for purpose.”

“I want the Barton-le-clay parish to remain as is.”

7. Battlesden No responses

The following information was provided alongside the Battlesden parish profile prior to the consultation launch.

Battlesden is one of eight parishes which do not have a council but meet as a parish meeting. The forecast development to March 2030 is estimated at no further dwellings.

The parish boundary adjoins the neighbouring parishes of Chalgrave, Heath and Reach, Hockliffe, Milton Bryan, Potsgrove and Toddington. The parish, together with the parishes of Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, Eversholt, Husborne Crawley, Milton Bryan, Potsgrove and Woburn, are coterminous (i.e. they border each other in the same area) within the Central Bedfordshire ward of Aspley and Woburn.

8. Biggleswade 9 responses (plus a written letter response from Biggleswade Town Council)

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

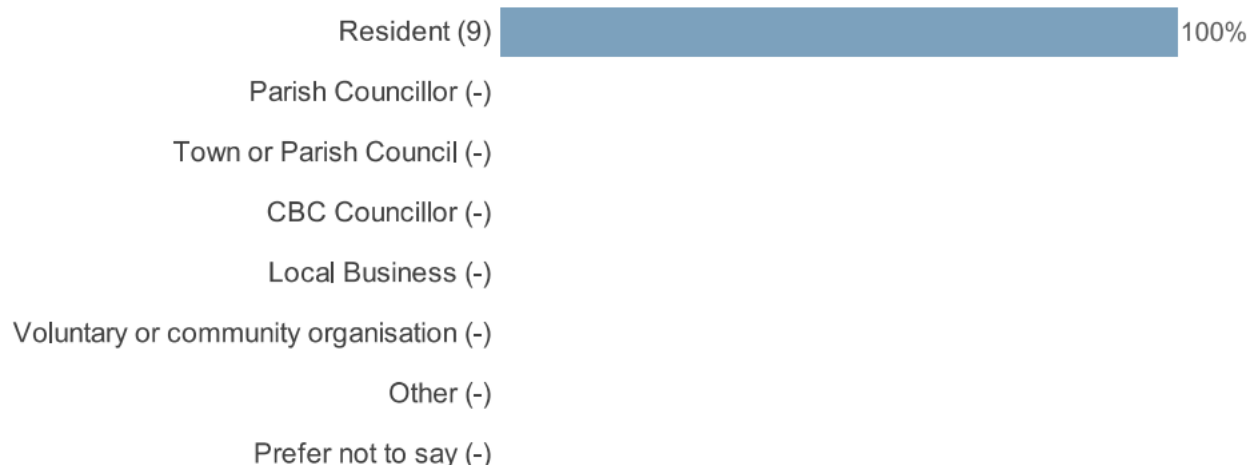
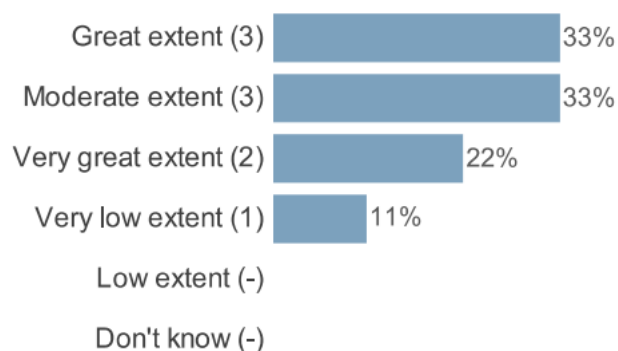
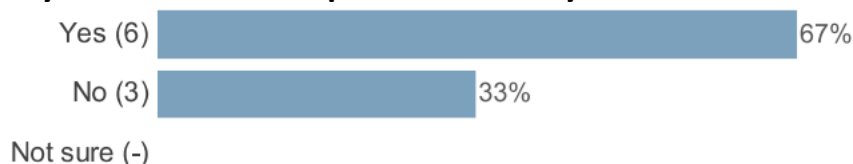
No proposal received.

Review of property anomalies

The property Brook Cottage is in a polling district of the parish of Langford but is geographically in the parish of Biggleswade Holme Ward. Consideration should be given to rectify this anomaly.

We also received a letter responding to the consultation from Biggleswade Town Council, this can be found in full in the Appendix to this report.

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Are you responding as: (please select one)**To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?****Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"Merging, especially to support people living alone with no family"

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

“As Biggleswade continues to expand the town appears divided, and with further expansion on the horizon the town will link up with surrounding villages.”

“You should leave the boundary as it is why spoil the individual areas”

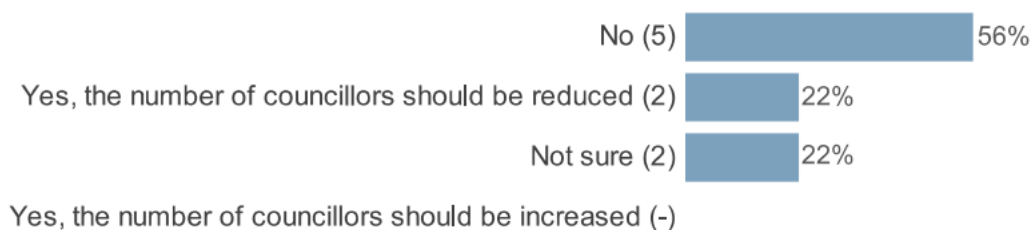
Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

“Community Church”

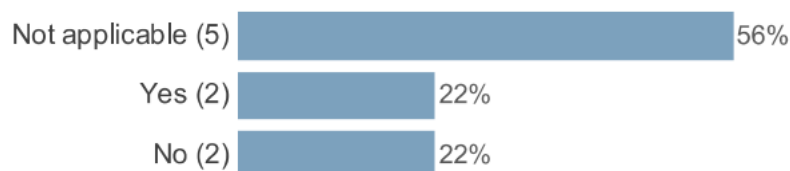
Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

“To many cooks spoil broth. You all fight against each other and nothing gets resolved”

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:

“3”

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



Do you have any further comments?

“I am happy as things are.”

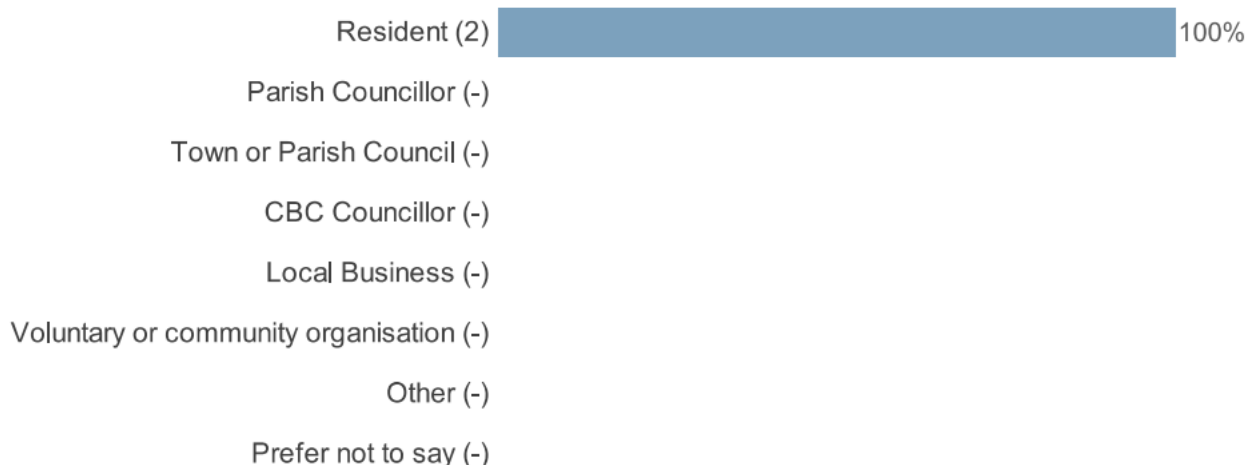
9. Billington 3 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

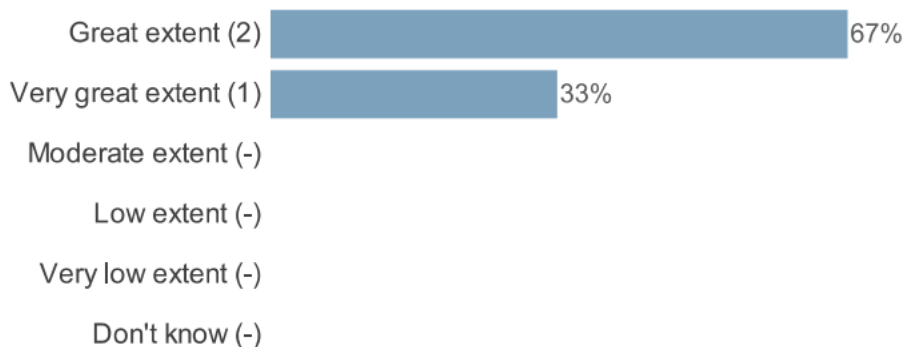
No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?

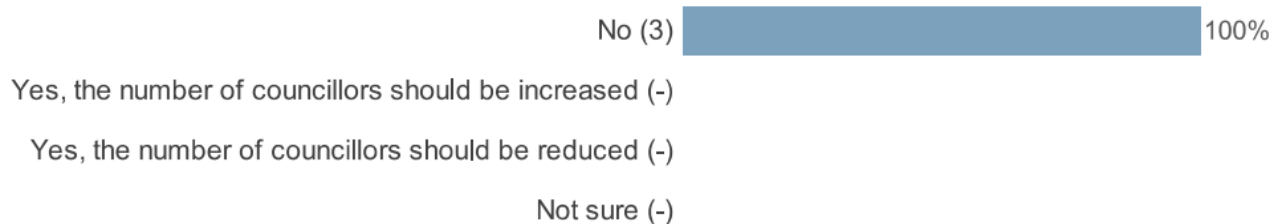


Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

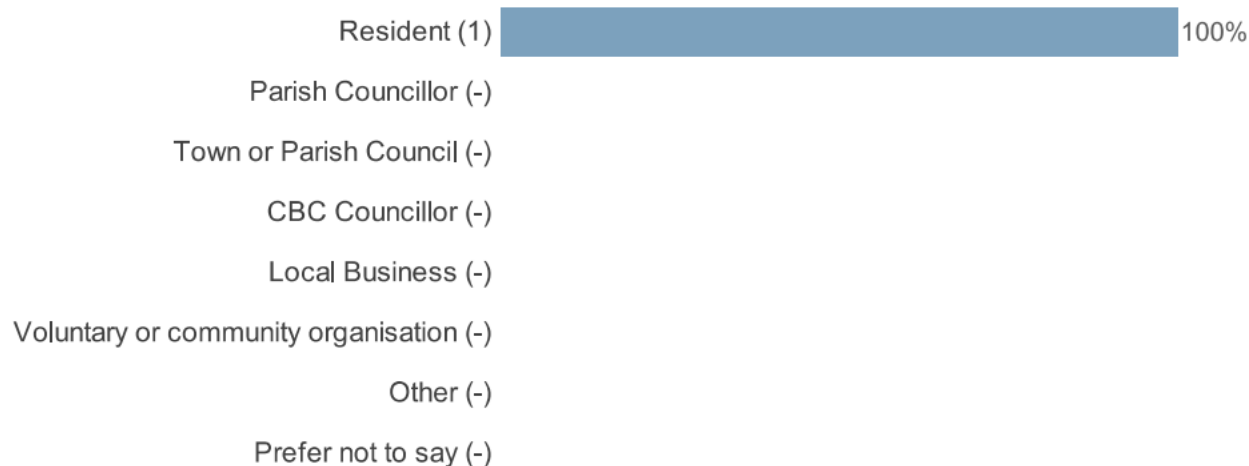
“It would be nice to think that CBC took any notice whatsoever of the views of local people, expressed via the Parish Council. But, I guess, money talks with greater effect.”

10. Blunham 1 response

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

No answer

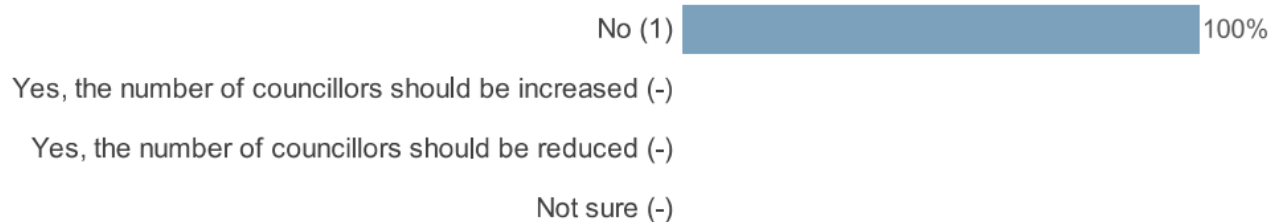
Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?**If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)**11. Brogborough No responses**

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

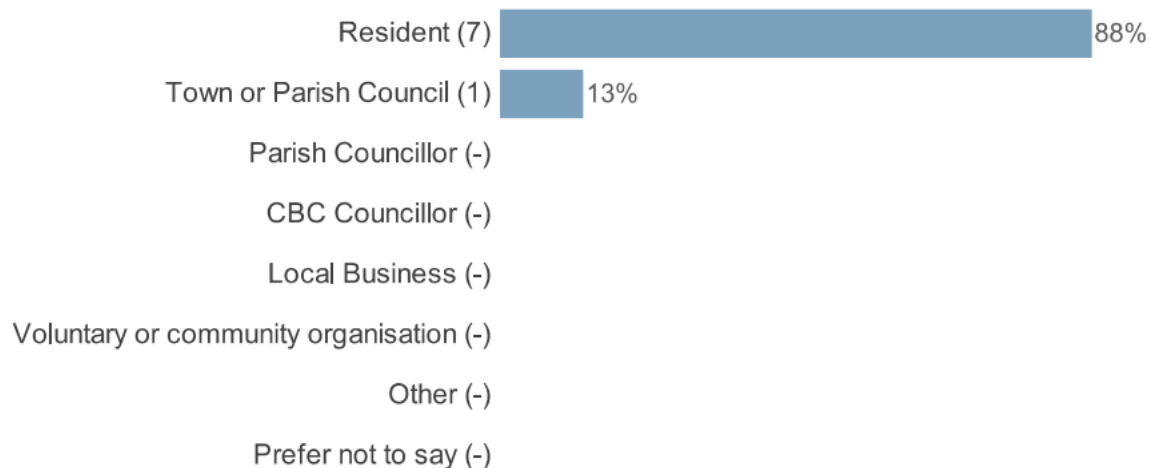
No proposal received.

12. Caddington 8 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

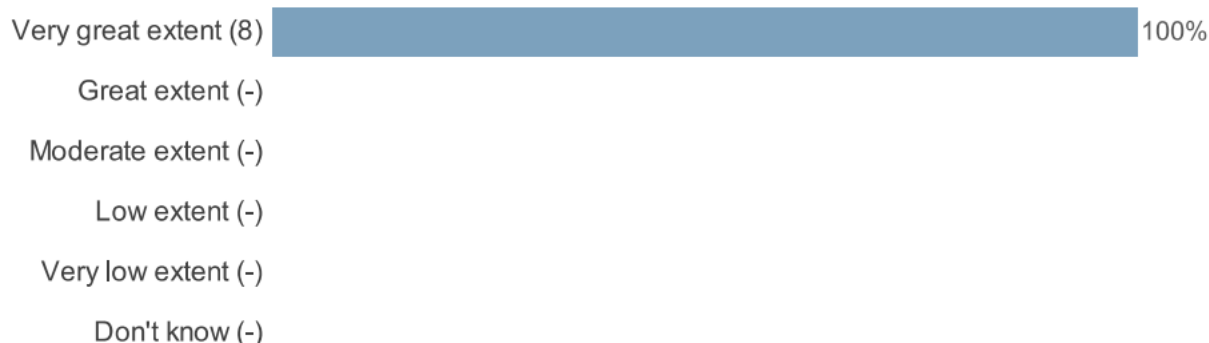
Are you responding as: (please select one)



If Town or Parish Council, please specify:

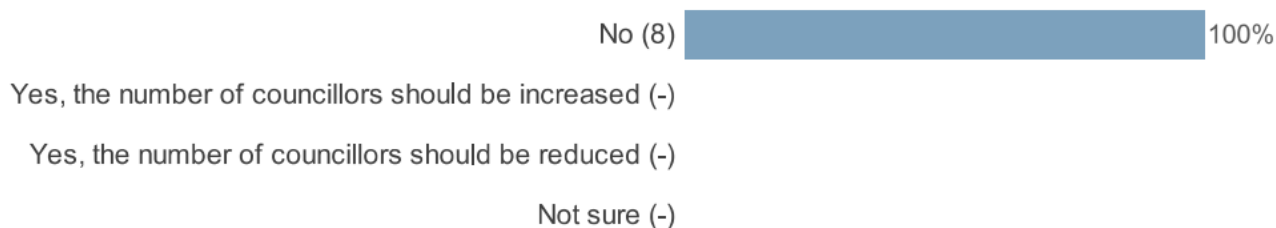
"Caddington Parish Council"

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)**

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



Do you have any further comments?

"In recent years, a major change in Caddington parish was the building of hundreds of houses at Caddington Woods on Chaul End Road. This development is separated from the main part of the village by some distance and it is difficult to travel between the two centres except by car. I believe it is vital for the two parts of the village to be integrated as much as possible to enhance our community (which has a completely different character to its neighbour Luton) and avoid a 'them and us' scenario. I would not like to see Caddington Woods as a separate ward or any other change that would inhibit integration and cooperation between the old and new parts of the village."

"Caddington boundaries should remain unaltered. it's unacceptable that Dunstable is making a land grab for Manshead and nearby fields from Caddington. The land is Caddington's and has been for over a thousand years, it's a hostile takeover and should not be enabled without Caddington agreement."

"Here is the resolution taken at the full meeting of the Caddington Parish Council on Monday 12th May. As part of the ongoing Community Governance Review, Dunstable Town Council informally approached Caddington Parish Council to seek support for two proposed boundary changes:

- 1. That the field adjacent to the entrance of Manshead C of E High School and St Mary's Primary School be transferred into Dunstable, with the intention that it would be used as a cemetery.*
- 2. That the boundary be amended to include the land on which Manshead C of E High School and St Mary's Primary School are situated, thereby moving both schools into Dunstable.*

It was RESOLVED to STRONGLY REJECT both proposals on the grounds that the parish boundary had already been moved in the past, resulting in the loss to Caddington of a hotel, care home, and a number of residential properties. The Council considers Manshead and St Mary's to be Caddington schools, and any further boundary adjustment would leave Caddington without a secondary school, which would be unacceptable to the community. The Clerk then informed the Dunstable Town Clerk/CEO of this decision. Caddington Parish Council subsequently noted with concern that, despite its strong objections to the Dunstable proposals—and the fact that the land in question is not included in the Dunstable Neighbourhood Plan—Dunstable Town Council voted to accept the proposals put forward by a working group and agreed to incorporate them into Dunstable's plan review. At the same time, a similar informal request from Totternhoe to adjust the

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

boundary in its favour was rejected on the grounds that the land concerned was not included in the Totternhoe Neighbourhood Plan.”

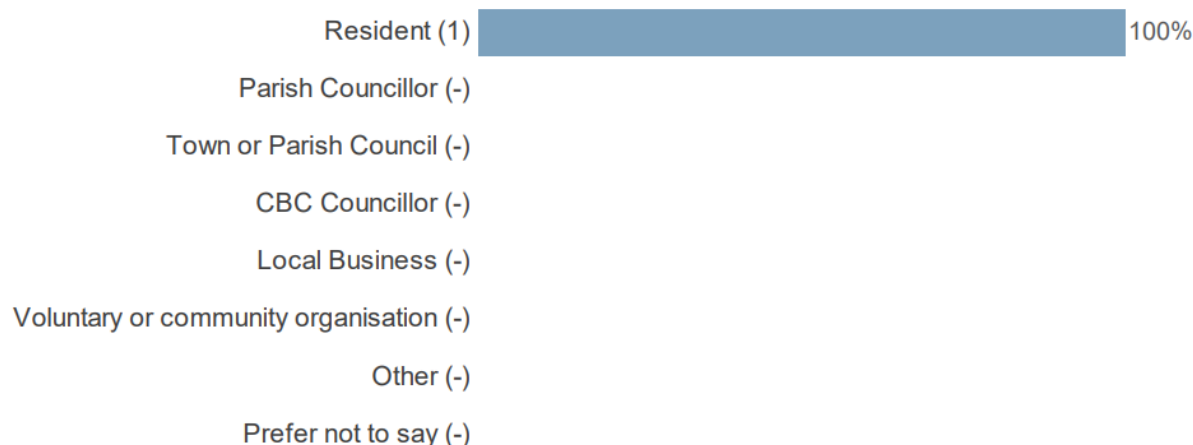
“Please do not move Manshead into Dunstable. The school is a part of our identity and history and is the local secondary school for us all. Moving this would mean risking our children having to go to school in Luton which is not preferred.”

13. Campton & Chicksands 3 responses

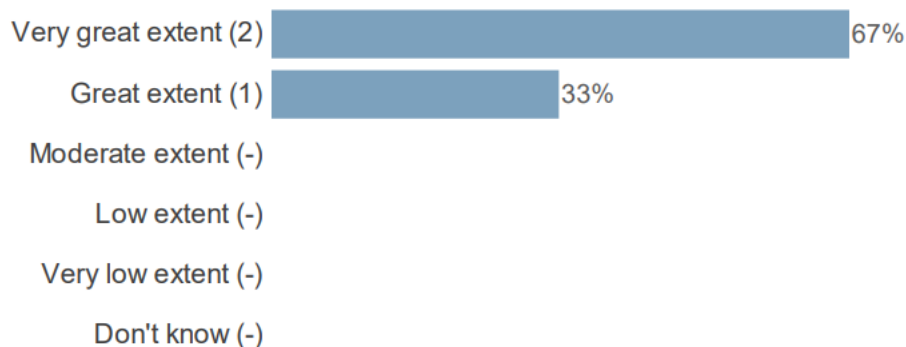
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

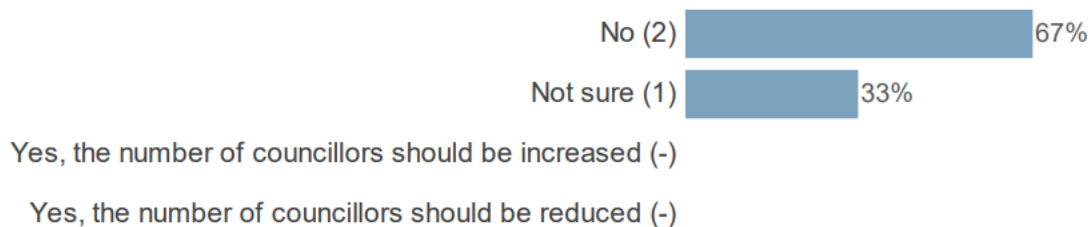


To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

No (2)  100%

Yes (-)

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

No (2)  100%

Yes (-)

Do you have any further comments?

"Councillors can see no reason why the Parish boundary should change, the Neighbourhood plan is based on this boundary, so any change would impact on this and we share a cemetery with Shefford Town Council, in our Ward so any changes would disrupt this."

"The Parish Council represents the views of the community"

"Our Parish Council do an excellent job on behalf of the residents of Campton and Chicksands."

"We are a small, rural community, and wish to remain that way!"

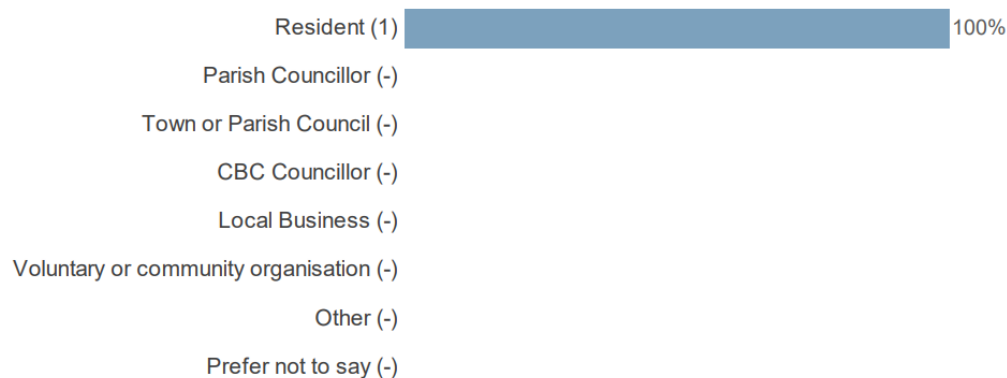
14. Chalgrave 1 response

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?

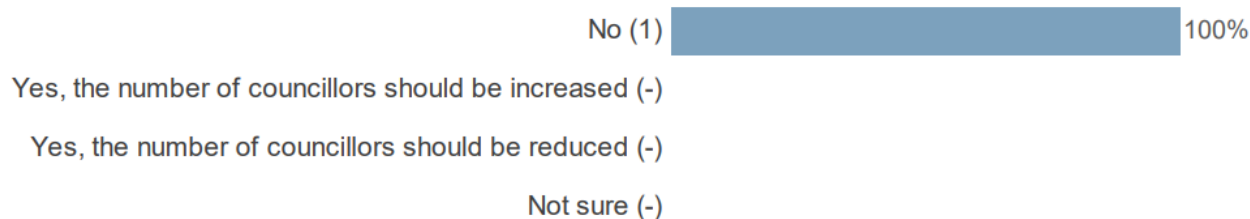


Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

No answer

15. Chalton No responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

At our parish meeting held on 23 May 2025, Chalton Parish Council discussed the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Community Governance Review. In response to the proposal from Houghton Regis Town Council (HRTC), which suggests that part of Chalton Parish Council's (CPC) area—bounded by the Houghton Regis parish boundary, the Luton Borough Council boundary, the M1 Motorway, and the A5-M1 Link Road (Dunstable Northern Bypass)—be transferred to HRTC, Chalton Parish Council wishes to record its strong objection to this proposal.

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

We outline below our reasons for this objection:

1. No compelling need – There is no justifiable requirement for a boundary alteration at this time, particularly with multiple significant housing developments planned in neighbouring areas.
2. Loss of parish integrity – The proposed realignment would leave CPC with a very small parish with an illogical boundary.
3. Misguided justification – The lack of a shop in Chalton (like many villages) is immaterial. County-wide facilities and infrastructure provided by Central Bedfordshire Council are accessible to all residents, irrespective of parish.
4. Future community strength – The occupants of the houses currently under construction will contribute to Chalton Parish Council's population, diversity, and long-term sustainability—strengthening both the viability and vitality of the parish. This opportunity to grow as a community would be lost if the proposed boundary change were implemented.
5. Support for local democracy – CPC would support a democratic referendum in future, allowing new residents to determine whether they wish to remain within CPC or move to HRTC.
6. Active planning involvement – CPC has a fine and published record of representations on planning applications in the proposed landtake area, as well as adjacent parishes, that negatively impact its residents. In particular it has dealt with a range of major warehousing and other 'big shed' applications affecting the parish and HRTC, many of which the latter has been notably inactive.
7. Commitment to public rights of way (PRoWs) – CPC has an excellent record, supported by a dedicated councillor, of actively protecting and promoting its public rights of way (PRoWs). In contrast, HRTC appears to have no equivalent committee or focused approach in this area. This became evident when CPC formally opposed proposed changes to PRoW routes north of the A5 bypass—proposals that HRTC did not address. Moreover, the same rural area (whose residents share little in common with Houghton Regis) has not been included in HRTC's rationalisation proposals, despite being a more logical southern extension of Toddington parish.

Furthermore, Chalton would be no more divided by the A5-M1 link road than the A5 divides HRTC from the small village of Sewell which lies within HRTC boundary. It is equally probable that the residents of Sewell will use the facilities in Dunstable rather than Houghton Regis. Relevantly the 2018 Community Governance Report recorded "It was accepted that it was felt that the existing parish boundaries were historic and suitable and as such should remain as existing. In particular it was felt that the village of Sewell should remain in the parish of Houghton Regis as it is part of the parish's and village's heritage."; given the ongoing rigidity of that HRTC review it is hard to reconcile its desire to split off a fragment of an equally historic parish fragment.

CPC would also like to highlight that, from a broader governance perspective, HRTC should be considered for a merger with Dunstable Town Council (DTC). Such a merger could deliver significant monetary and administrative efficiencies.

Conclusion

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

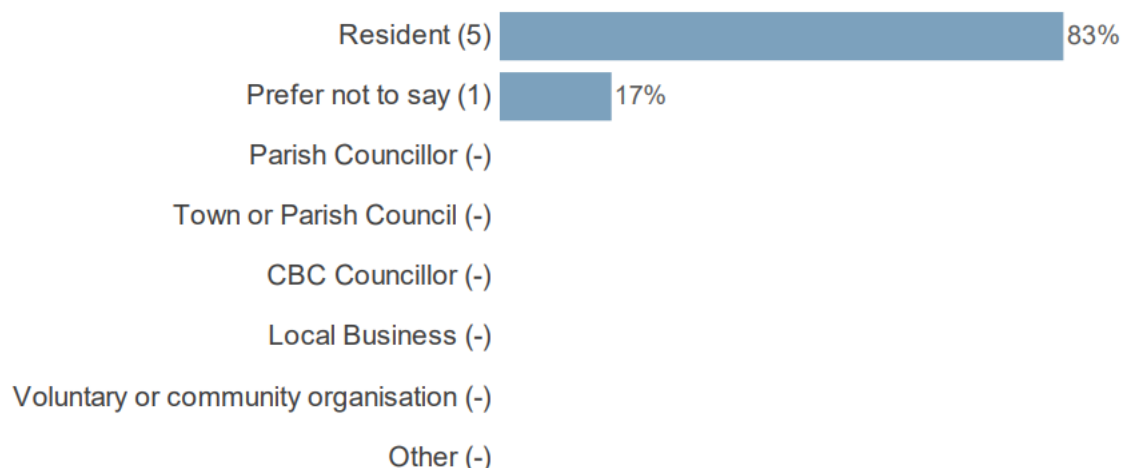
Chalton Parish Council is an active, effective, and principled representative body. We are committed to safeguarding our rural character, protecting the rights of our residents, and supporting sustainable, thoughtful development. We engage constructively with Central Bedfordshire Council, neighbouring parishes, and other local organisations to ensure fair and balanced outcomes. We take pride in our strong local knowledge, proactive engagement, and community focus. Importantly, we look forward to welcoming the new residents of the Linnere development as valued members of our community. It is our clear intention to represent and serve them with the same dedication and integrity we extend to all parishioners. We therefore respectfully urge that the proposed boundary change be rejected.

16. Clifton 8 responses

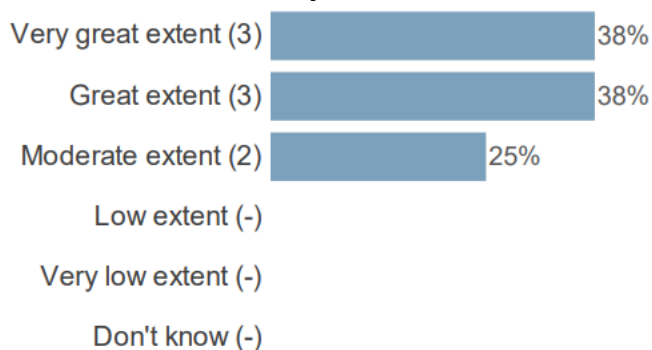
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

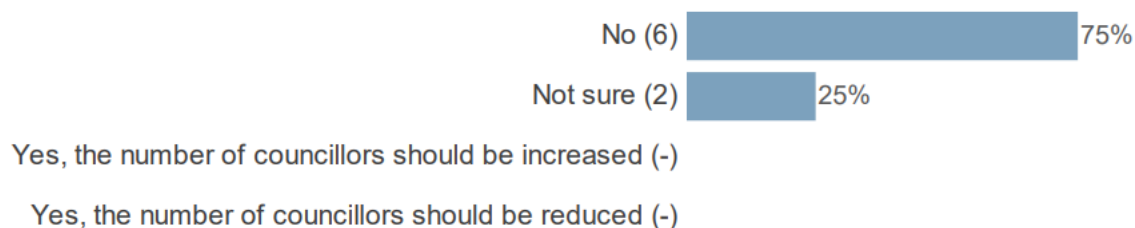


To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)**Do you have any further comments?**

"Clifton is fine as it is. It doesn't need changing."

"The Clifton Parish Council are very active and have a great deal of responsibilities and actions in the community. It would be good to hold elections."

"We have a good team of councillors who reflect the needs of the parish and engage well with the community."

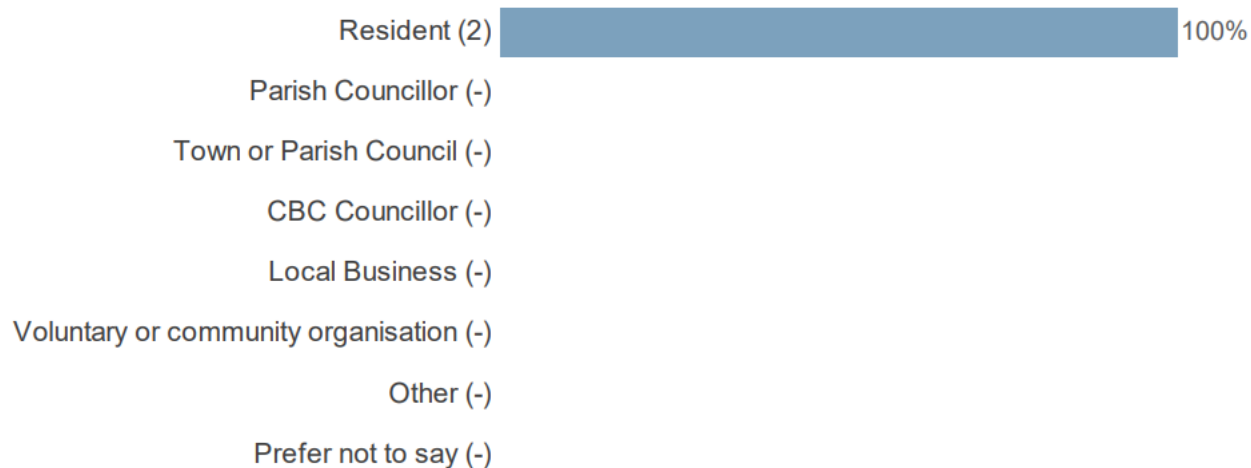
17. Clophill 2 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

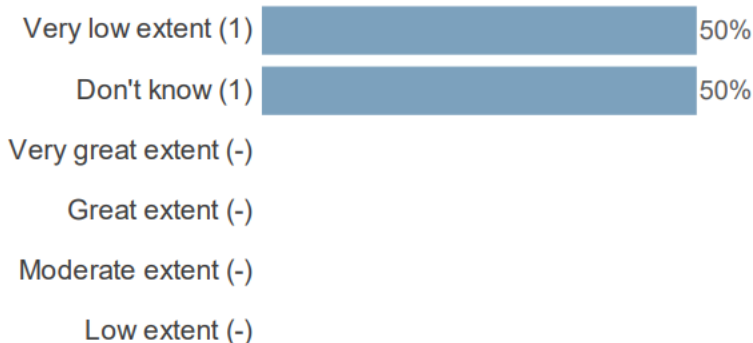
No proposal received.

Review of property anomalies

The properties Orchard End and Willowstream are in the parish of Silsoe, but the remainder of area are in the parish of Clophill. Consideration should be given to rectify this anomaly.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"I would abolish the Parish Councils and just have unitary authority"

"Merge with ampthill or Shefford as need services in those towns"

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

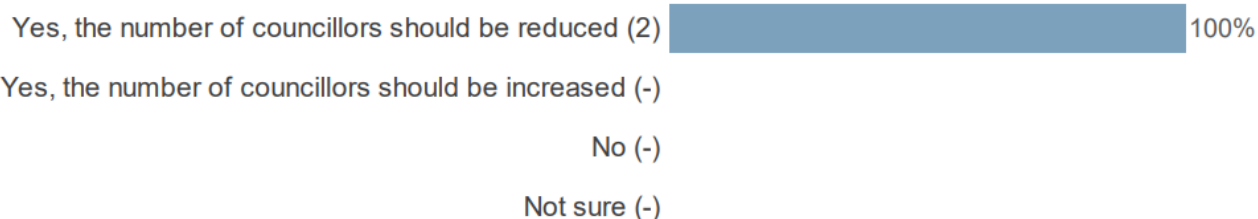


If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

"Need to reflect association with towns"

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

"I would abolish the Parish Councils and just have unitary authority"

"Need to merge"

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:

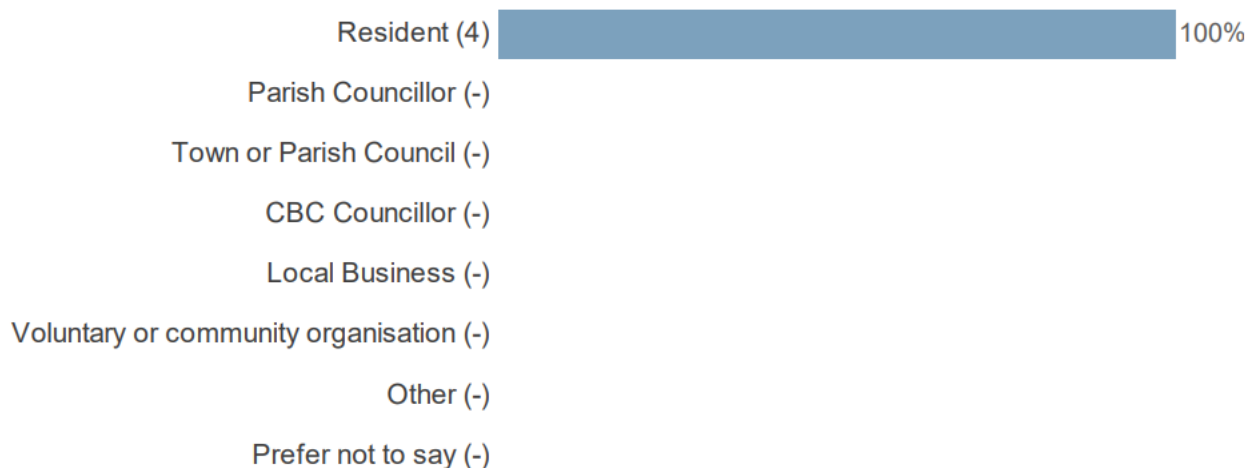
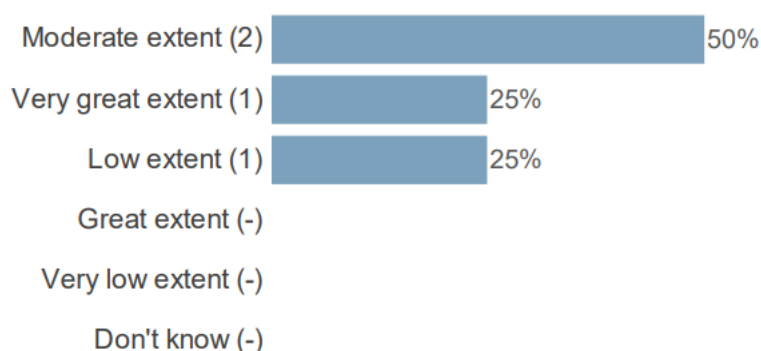
"I would abolish the Parish Councils and just have unitary authority"

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

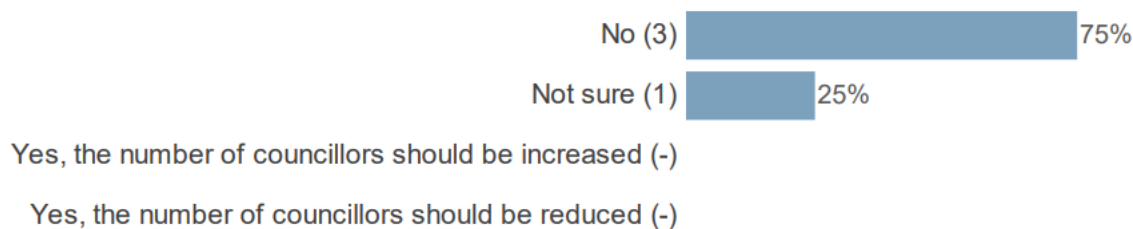
Do you have any further comments?*“I would abolish the Parish Councils and just have unitary authority”***18. Cranfield 4 responses**

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)**To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?****Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you have any further comments?**

“Local councillors often stand for election because they have a “personal agenda” rather than the needs of the entire village at heart. Some small parish councils don't have the expertise or willingness to undertake “traditional” responsibilities, but hand over valuable assets to supposedly respectable and capable management organisations.”

19. Dunstable 19 comments

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

I am writing to confirm that Dunstable Town Council formally agreed this evening:

1.1 To request that CBC include the proposal to amend Dunstable’s parish boundary with Caddington Parish Council by incorporating land forming part of and also adjacent to the Downside Recreation Ground as laid out in Appendix 1.

1.2 To request that CBC include the proposal to amend the boundary with Caddington Parish Council by incorporating the land occupied by St Mary’s and Manshead Schools as laid out in Appendix 1.

1.3 To oppose the changed suggested by Totternhoe Parish Council to move the land depicted in Appendix 4 into Totternhoe’s parish boundary

Dunstable Town Council Working Group Proposals for the Community Governance Review
Proposal 1

To amend the parish boundary to include the land shown.

The land marked in purple is owned by Dunstable Town Council and is provided as part of the Downside Recreation Ground.

The land marked in red is agricultural land know as Cottage Bottom Field. The land is owned by CBC at present. Dunstable Town Council intend to purchase the land and develop a new cemetery on the site.

Operating a cemetery outside the parish boundary would not limit or affect the project – this would not change charges for Dunstable residents, for example. However, the Council’s Community Governance Review Working Group propose that it would make sense for land being used for a Dunstable facility to be moved to form part of the parish boundary.

None of the land includes any residential properties, nor is it likely to every be used for residential development.

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

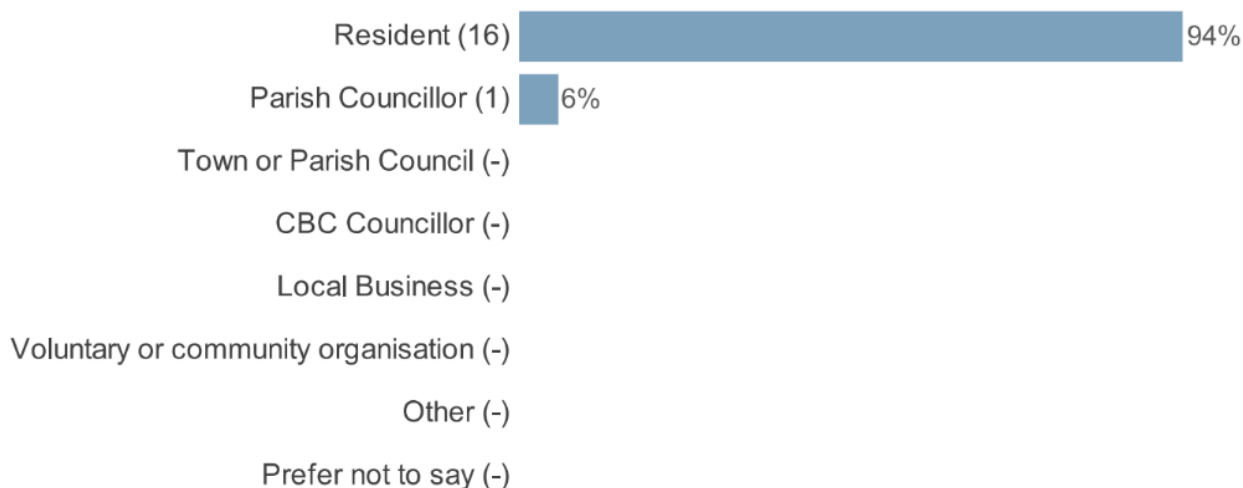
This would mean that the land occupied by Manshead and St Mary's Schools would be inside the Dunstable parish boundary. Dunstable Town Council's Community Governance Review Working Group propose that this appears to be a common-sense change to reflect that the schools are adjacent to Dunstable and some distance from Caddington itself. It would make sense for land being used for a Dunstable facility to be moved to form part of the parish boundary.

None of the land includes any residential properties, nor is it likely to every be used for residential development.

Brian Dunleavy has confirmed that this would not involve a change to Central Bedfordshire Council ward boundaries, so the remit of Central Bedfordshire Council Members would be unchanged.

Lydia Braisher, Central Bedfordshire Council's Admissions Manager, has confirmed that: St. Mary's Catholic Primary School does not operate a catchment area as admissions are primarily based on faith criteria. Manshead School's catchment area, covers Dunstable, Caddington and the surrounding villages/hamlets, so any parish boundary change will not impact on the school's catchment area as they should all be included within the catchment anyway

Are you responding as: (please select one)

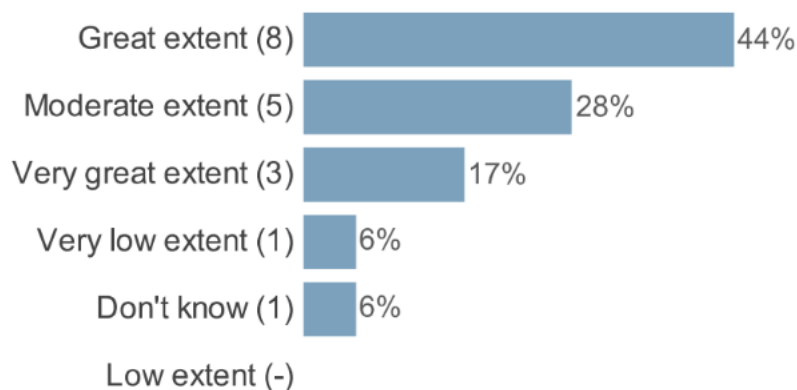


If Parish Councilor, which parish is this for?

"Dunstable South Ward"

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

“Dunstable certain should NOT become part of Luton”

“I live in Dunstable Town not Parish. So can't answer questions about Parishes.”

“West and south Dunstable border Chiltern hills and as such needs to represent the special needs of this area. Especially in new houses, cycle and leisure activities.”

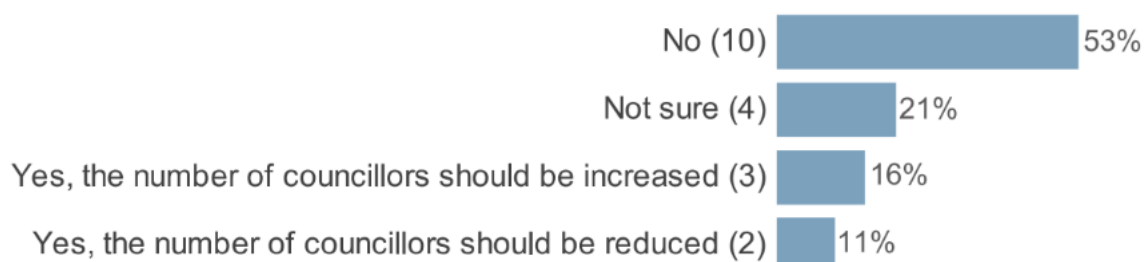
Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

“Dunstable Town”

“Need to incorporate into west Dunstable the importance of the downs to reflect The green belt / aonb”

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

"Increase by 1 given the density of population especially compared to Dunstable West and Dunstable East which both have 4 town councillors whereas Dunstable South only has 2 town councillors with a similar density of population and area."

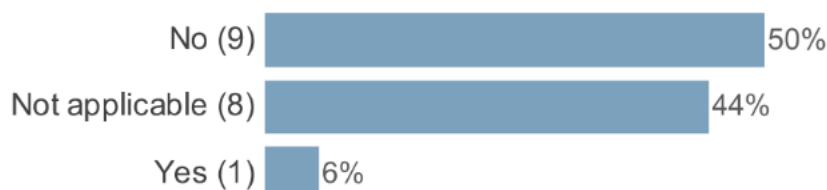
"Too many for each ward"

"An expanding community's needs are increased in line with the growth in population"

"Seem to be too many and they can't agree with each other."

"Increase should reflect the increase in residents"

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)

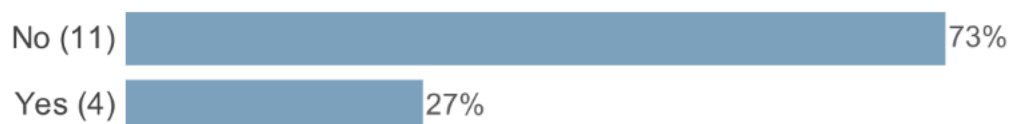
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:

"Increase by 1 given the density of population especially compared to Dunstable West and Dunstable East which both have 4 town councillors whereas Dunstable South only has 2 town councillors with a similar density of population and area."

"Increasing population"

"Number of councillors should reflect ward size. Ward boundaries should be moved to reflect key areas e.g. Dunstable, Studham, Caddington, Kensworh, Houghton Regis"

Do you have any further comments?

"Yes the offices and councillors should work will all businesses and social media sites not pick and choose who they want to work with"

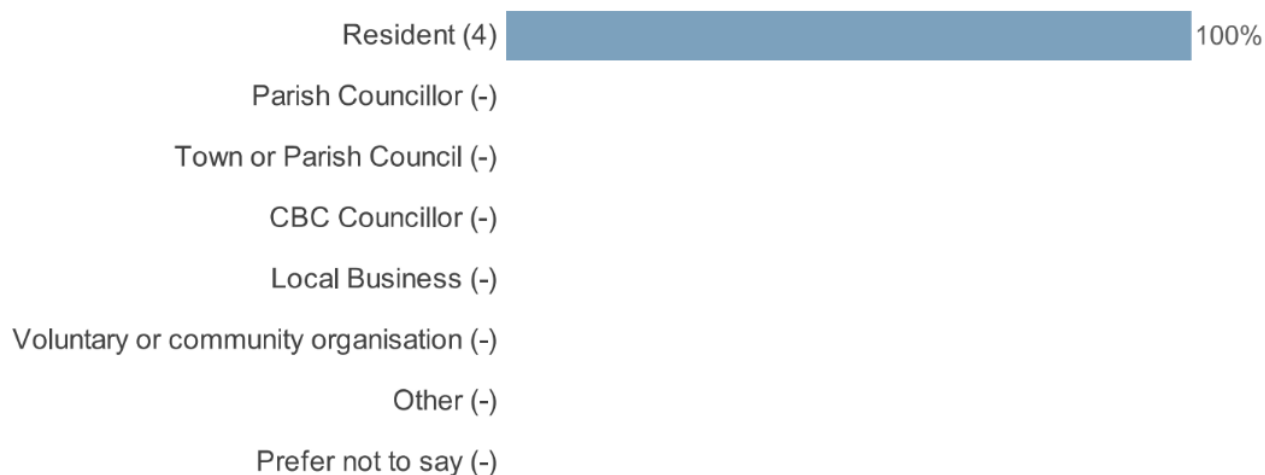
"This review is pointless. You mention at the beginning Town Councils then your questioning is all about Parishes!"

20. Dunton 4 responses

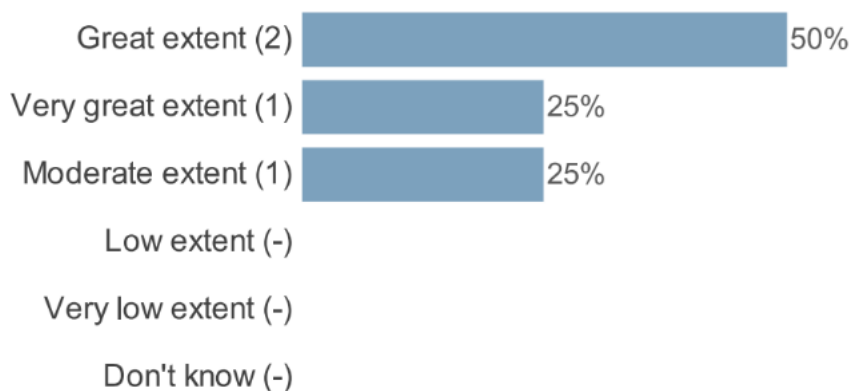
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

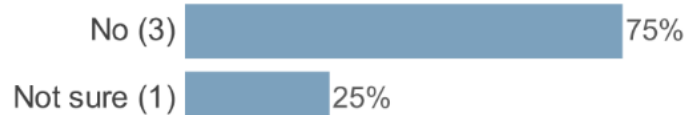


Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?**

Yes, the number of councillors should be increased (-)

Yes, the number of councillors should be reduced (-)

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you have any further comments?**

"This is just another stealth attack on the countryside which from all CBC's actions thus far they hate. CBC are most likely trying to alter the layout of our area to get round a parish obstacles such that they can then destroy more little communities and farm land. CBC will do what they want regardless of this reviews outcome and be dammed with the people of Befordshire."

"More could be done by the local parish coucil to communicate with the local community more effectively. They should consider making more effective use of the community notice board, coordinating with the parish chuch notices, community garden, and the Dunton Recreation Ground Association. I would personally like to see much more collaboration and mutual support within the immediate village and wider parish, for the benefit of all."

21. Eaton Bray 1 response (plus a written letter response from Eaton Bray Parish Council)

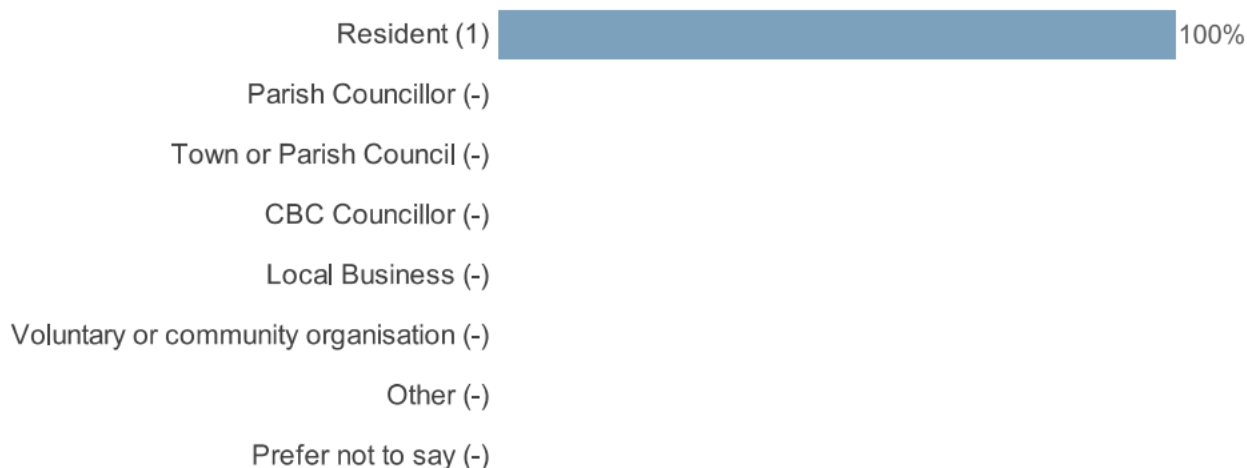
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

We also received a letter responding to the consultation from Eaton Bray Parish Council, this can be found in full in the Appendix to this report.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

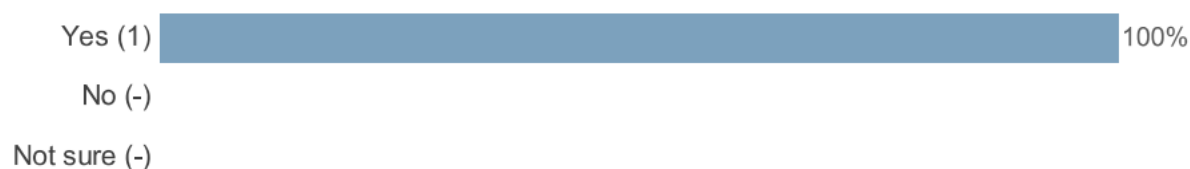
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?

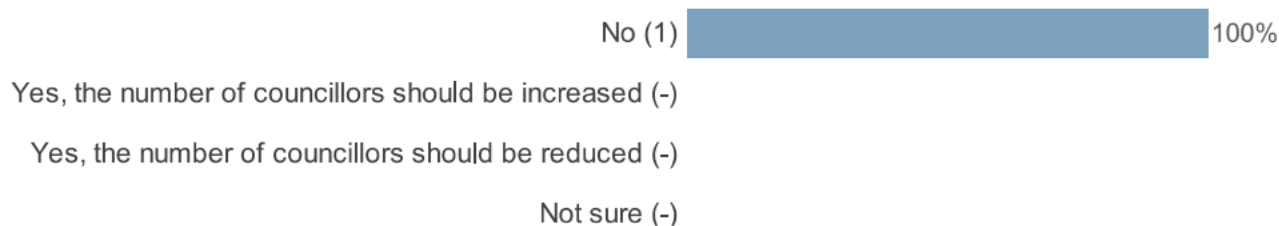


Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

“Amount of theft from cars and fly tipping When increasing housing doctors, schools and sewage needs to be managed and planned at the same time.”

22. Edworth No responses

The following information was provided alongside the Edworth parish profile prior to the consultation launch.

Edworth is one of eight parishes which do not have a council but rather meets as a parish meeting. The forecast development to March 2030 is estimated at no further dwellings.

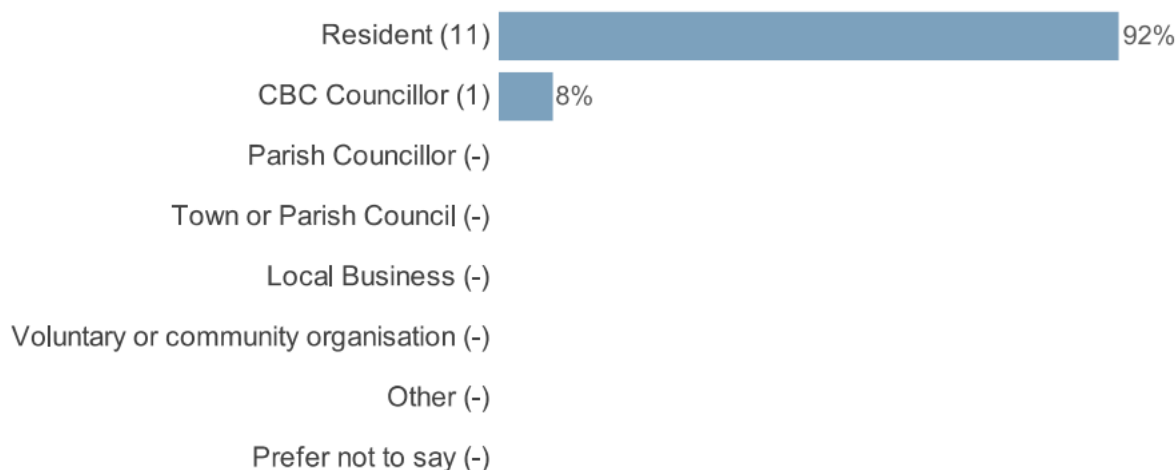
The parish boundary adjoins the neighbouring parishes of Astwick, Biggleswade and Dunton. The parish, together with the parishes of Dunton, Everton, Eyeworth, Pottton, Sutton, Tempsford and Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley are coterminous (i.e. they border each other in the same area) within the Central Bedfordshire ward of Pottton.

23. Eggington 14 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

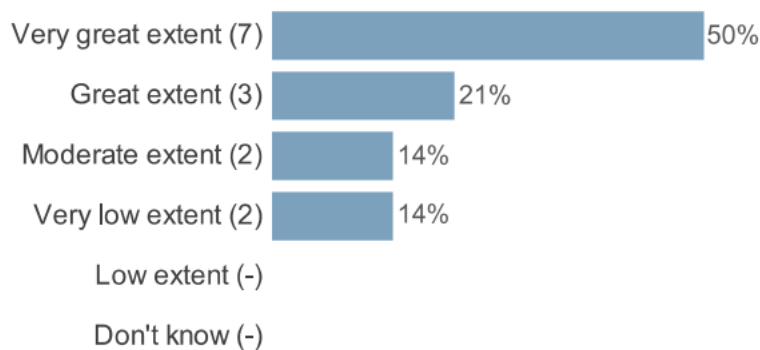
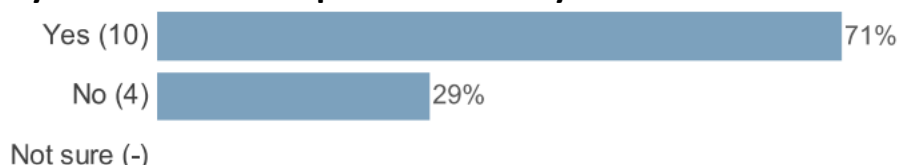
No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"Eggington Village should be separate to the new housing estate. The new houses should be a part of Leighton Linslade Town Council."

"many new homes are within the built environment of Leighton-Linslade."

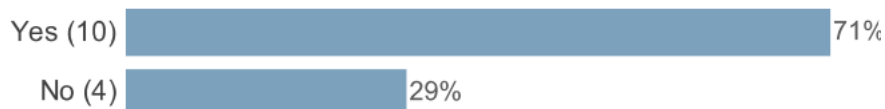
"My house is on the Eastern edge of Leighton Buzzard, yet included to Eggington Parish."

"Eggington is over 1 mile away from the area in which I live (Clipstone park) and not representative of the local area. The only effort at engagement made by Eggington Parish Council is a single notice board in the Clipstone Park area. This notice board is not kept up-to-date with some items shown over 1 year past their date of reference."

"Parts using Leighton-Linslade parish Services should be included/moved to within Leighton-Linslade boundary and pay accordingly"

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

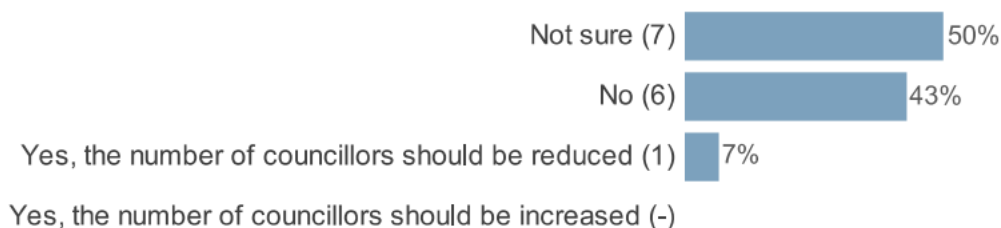
“Eggington Village Parish Council”

“homes attached to the urban sprawl of Leighton-Linslade are not in a village.”

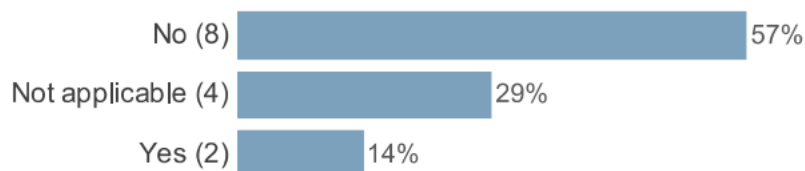
“Clipstone Park is an area of Leighton Buzzard. Naming should reflect this.”

“Eggington & Leighton Linslade”

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:

“Leighton-Linslade”

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:**

"Subject to relevant & fair representation within Leighton Linlade"

Do you have any further comments?

"There was a local vote on whether the Clipstone Park development should be part of Eggington Parish or Leighton Buzzard Town. As an engineer, I voted for the sensible, geographical division making Clipstone Park part of Leighton Buzzard town. Part of the information distributed at the time of the vote mentioned Council tax in Eggington Parish being significantly lower than for Leighton Buzzard Town. I suspect this is the reason many folk chose Eggington."

"The Eggington Parish is doing very well after the addition of the Clipstone Park developments. The Parish Council are doing a lot of noticeable things accross the parish and are spending the budget well and wisely. There is no need to make any changes."

"Those in Clipstome Park do not wish to be drawn into LLTC as the Leighton councillors clearly just see the new housing development as cash cows. Frankly I am offended by their comments of Clipstone Park residents not contributing."

"Very happy with being in Eggington Parish."

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

“As a member of Eggington Parish, we were surveyed a couple of years ago over we wanted the boundary to change. 97% voted to remain in Eggington. A number of councillors from Leighton Linlade are now trying to force a boundary change against the will of residents. They are stirring up bad feelings over social media and accusing Eggington residents of not paying our way. They do not respect democracy and should be instructed to pipe down”

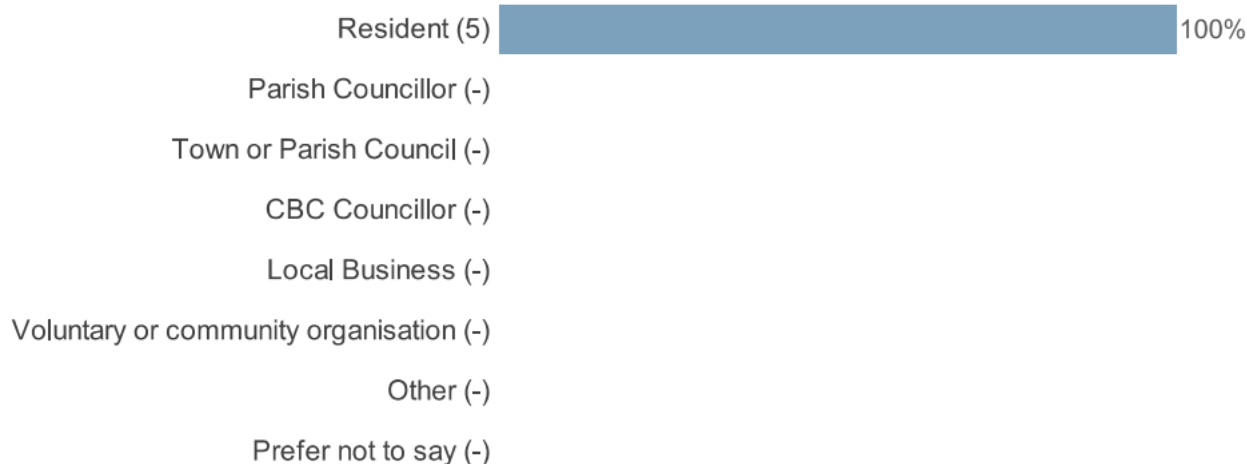
“Clipstone park should remain in Egginton.- and no changes should be made.”

24. Eversholt 5 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

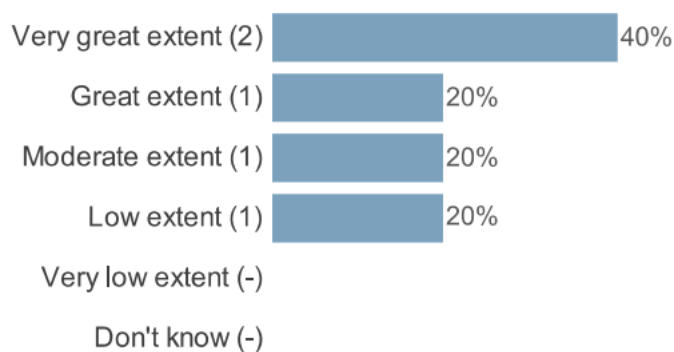
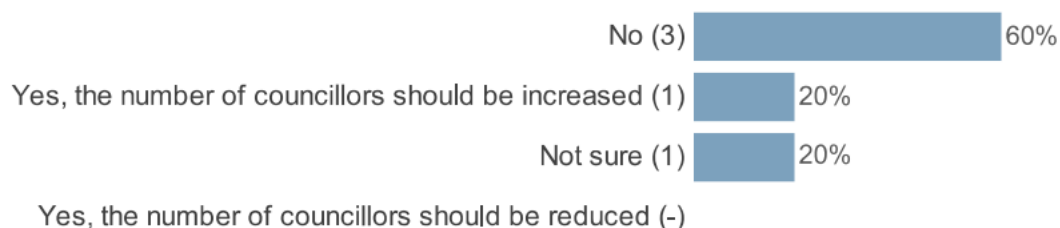
No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

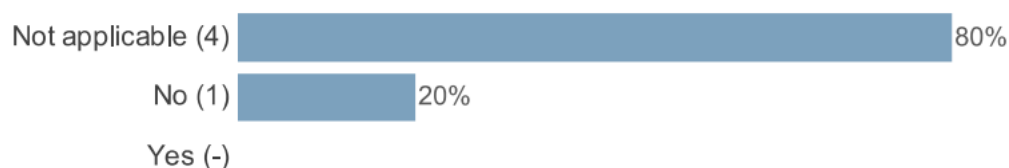


To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:**

"10. The current parish councillors have been sitting for numerous years. Uncontested. There is a great need for fresh faces and ideas"

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



Do you have any further comments?

"There is no diversity in age or culture on the parish council. Younger generations should be encouraged to join."

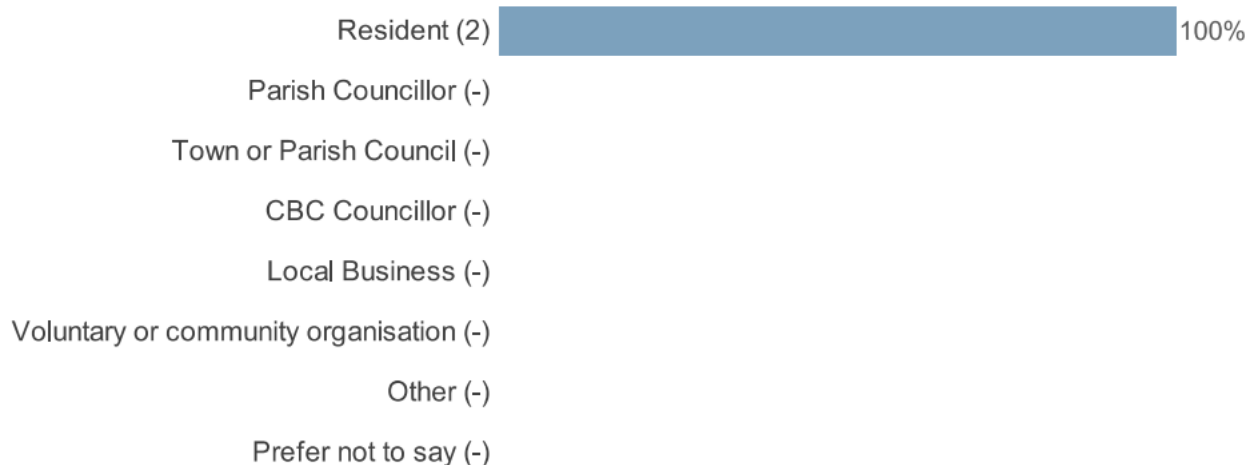
25. Everton 2 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?

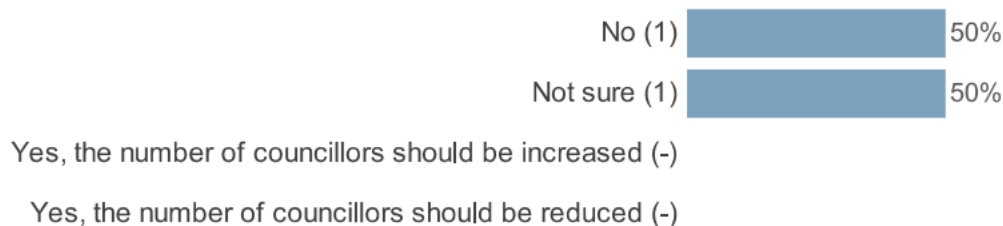


Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)**

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)**Do you have any further comments?**

"Our Parish Council does an excellent job in looking after parishioners interests. Communicating to parishioners with regular news updates. Making sure everyone has a voice."

26. Eyeworth No responses

The following information was provided alongside the Eyeworth parish profile prior to the consultation launch.

Eyeworth is one of eight parishes which do not have a council but rather meets as a parish meeting. The forecast development to March 2030 is estimated at no further dwellings.

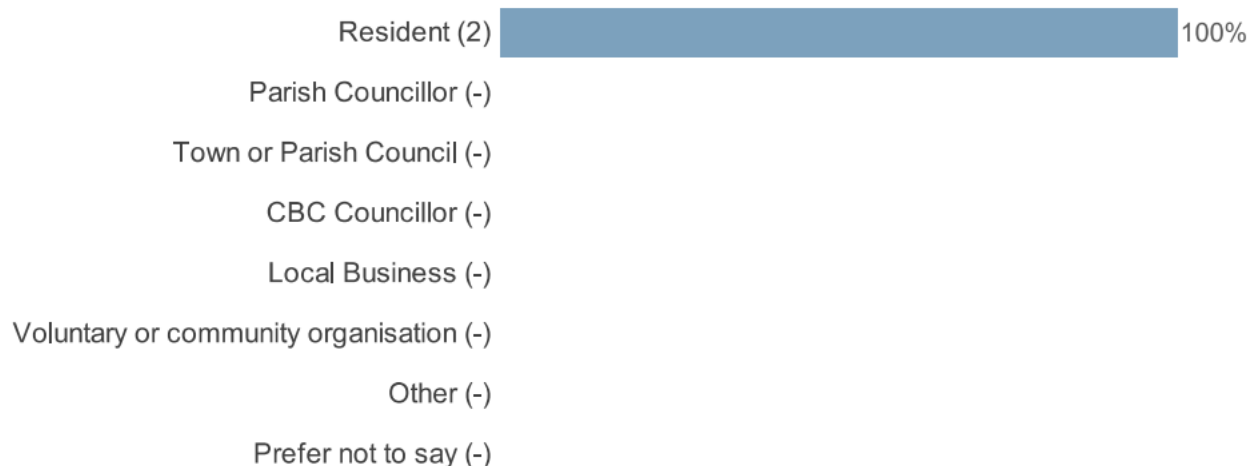
The parish boundary adjoins the neighbouring parishes of Dunton, Sutton and Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley. The parish, together with the parishes of Dunton, Edworth, Everton, Potton, Sutton, Tempsford and Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley are coterminous (i.e. they border each other in the same area) within the Central Bedfordshire ward of Potton.

27. Fairfield 2 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

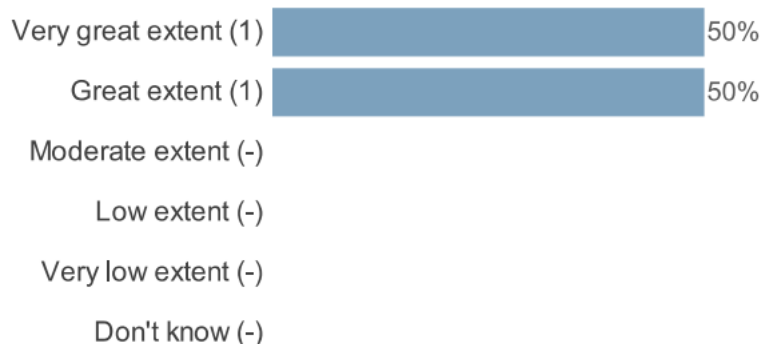
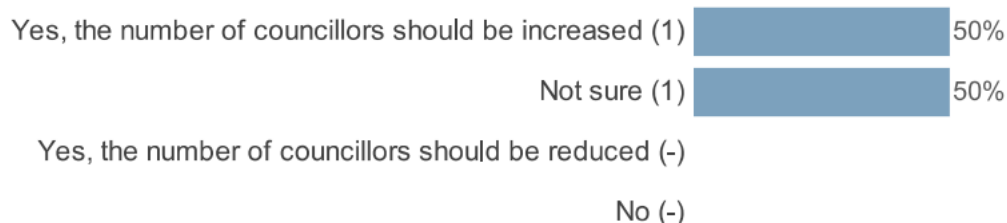
No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:**

"9 - we are getting bigger"

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

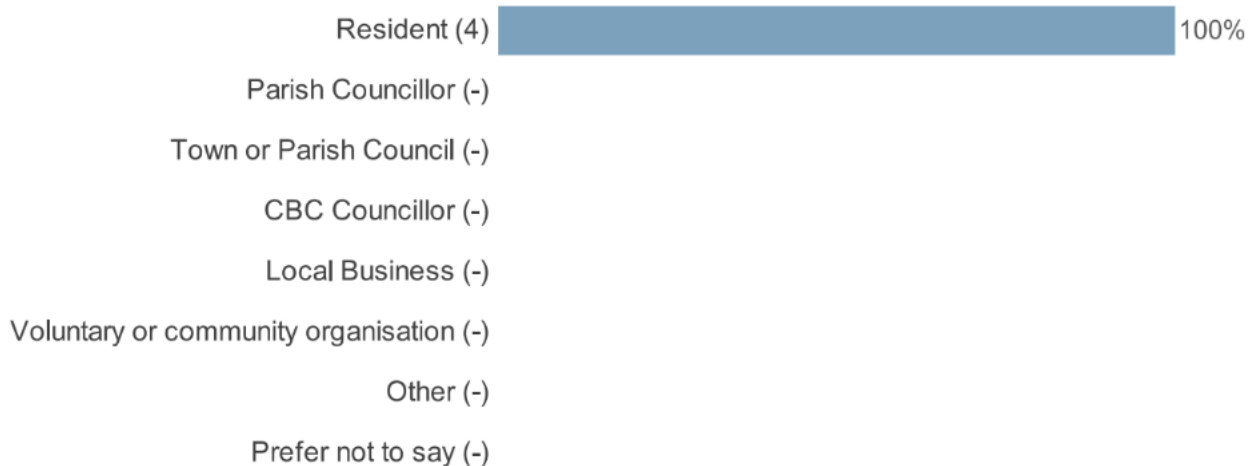
No answer

28. Flitton & Greenfield 4 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

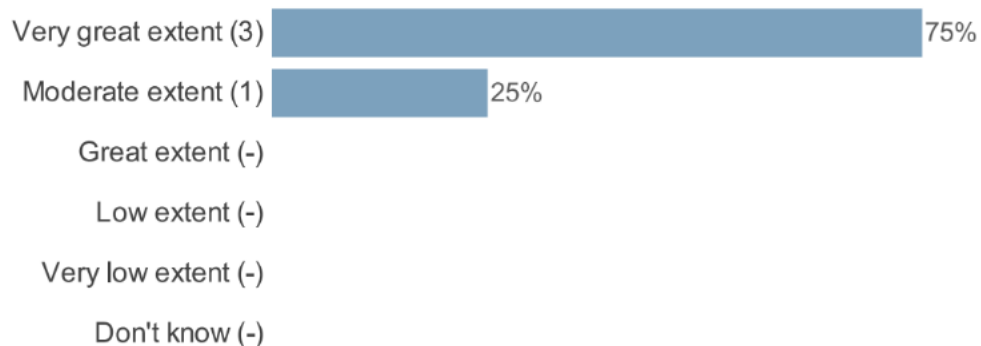
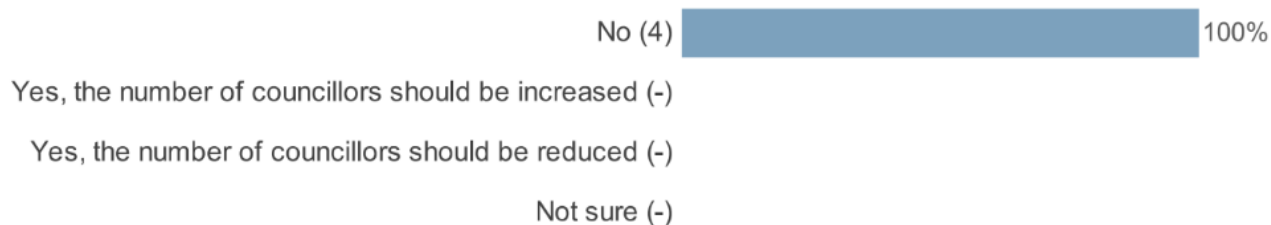
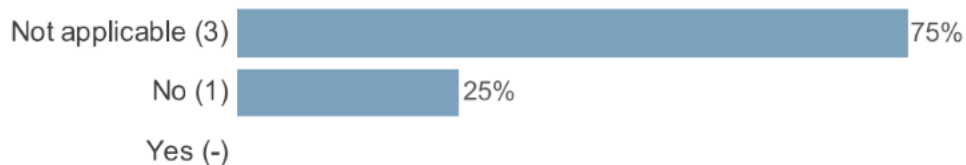
The matter was discussed at a meeting of Flitton & Greenfield Parish Council on Wednesday 12 March. As a result, we do not believe that any changes are necessary to our parish at this time.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



Do you have any further comments?

"status quo should be maintained"

29. Flitwick 10 responses

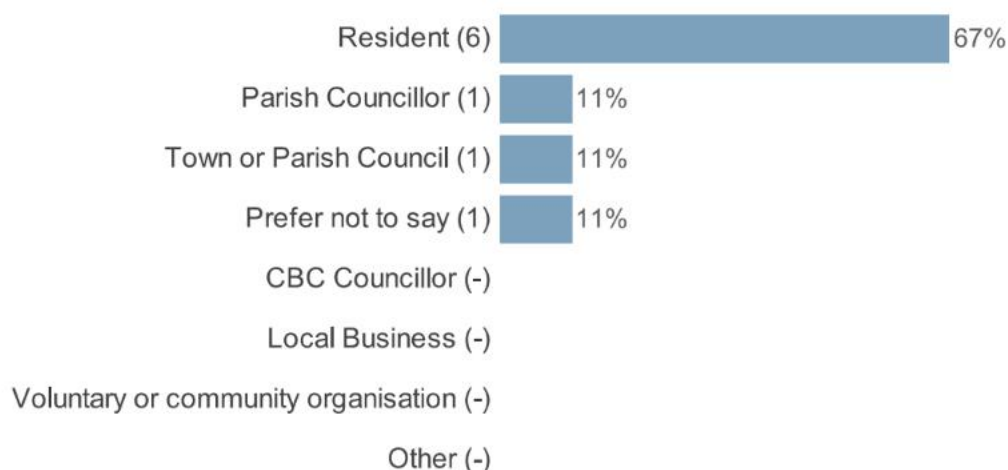
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

It was resolved to ask Central Bedfordshire Council to do the following as part of the governance review for Flitwick:

- abolish the East and West Wards and instate one Flitwick Parish Ward for the town
- reduce the number of council members from 17 to 15

Are you responding as: (please select one)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



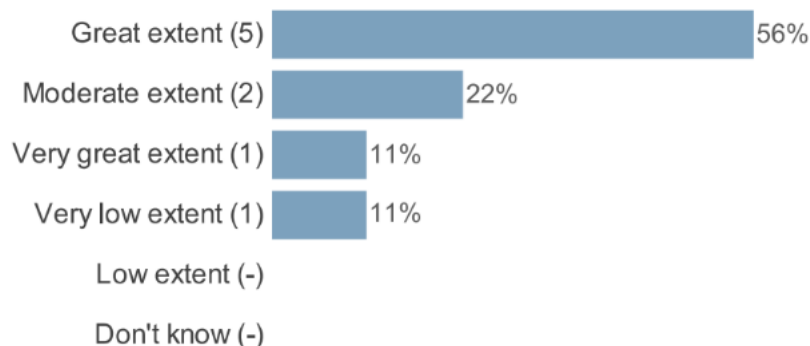
If Parish Councillor, what parish is this for?

Flitwick

If Town or Parish Council, please specify:

Flitwick

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

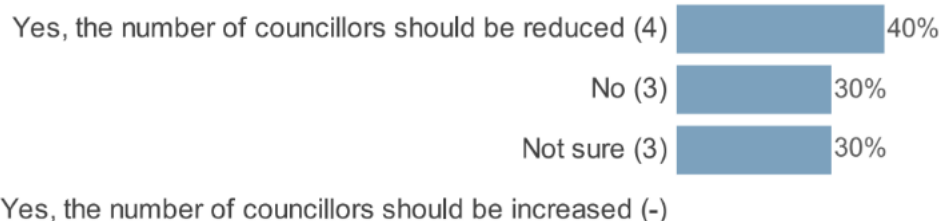


Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

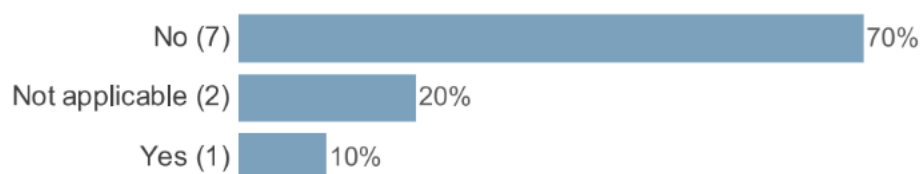
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:**

"Flitwick has 17 councillors and it has been exceptionally difficult to maintain this number throughout the current and the previous term. We have co-opted, but still have three vacancies. I would like to see an election in 2027 to give the Council a mandate for further change and to have the burden of constantly recruiting and inducting new councillors removed. 13 would be ideal, although the council would only resolve to request a reduction to 15."

"we have too many for size."

"To prevent co-opting."

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?**If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:**

"Flitwick is already divided into wards. I see not benefit in changing the existing arrangements, and believe doing so could cause some areas of the parish to become neglected"

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:**

"Flitwick Part (East) and Flitwick Part (West) align with the Mid Bedfordshire District Council wards and have no relevance to our community. The splitting of the town into two parish wards is divisive, with the East side of the railway incorporating the second most deprived area in Central Bedfordshire. We do not work this way as a group of councillors, preferring to see Flitwick as a complete community."

"flitwick should be 1 not 2 areas"

Do you have any further comments?

"The ratio of population to councillors seems high when compared with the council average, but recruiting more councillors may prove difficult. The town council is currently doing a good job and working for the good of the town."

"It would be great if the people in flitwick to have a burial ground,we would like to have a grave in flitwick when we die."

30. Gravenhurst 1 response

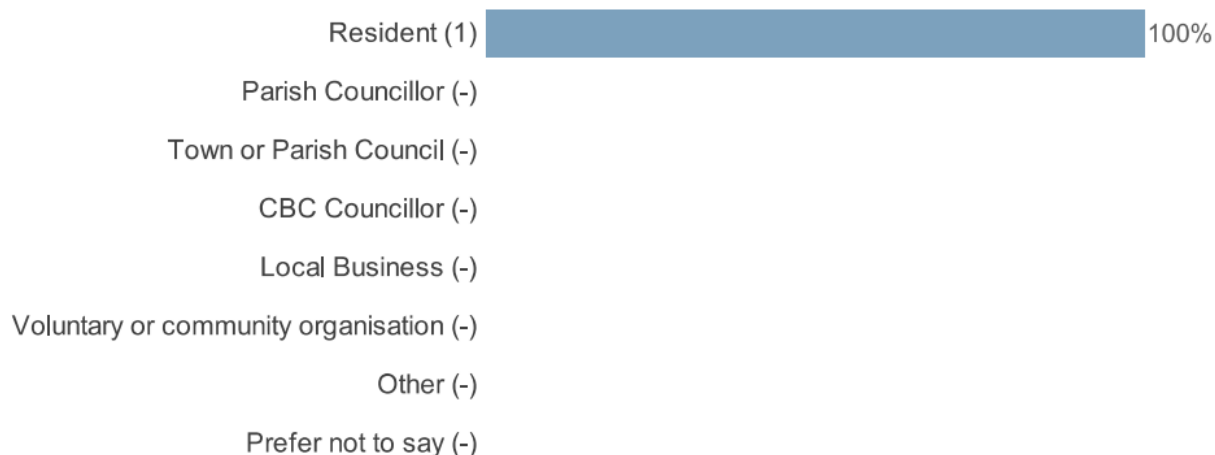
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Review of property anomalies

Brunswick House is in the Parish of Gravenhurst but is geographically in the parish of Westoning. Consideration should be given to rectify this anomaly

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

“The boundary between Shillington and Gravenhurst parishes is the river at the bottom of Shillington Hill. There are properties on the private Old Mill Lane, backing onto the river, that have Gravenhurst post codes:eg MK not SG, as a community associate more with Gravenhurst than Shillington and partake in Gravenhurst parish events. Is it possible to adopt them into Gravenhurst parish please? Asking for a friend!!”

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

Yes (1)  100%

No (-)

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

No (1)  100%

Yes, the number of councillors should be increased (-)

Yes, the number of councillors should be reduced (-)

Not sure (-)

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?

Not applicable (1)  100%

Yes (-)

No (-)

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)

No answer

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

No answer

Do you have any further comments?

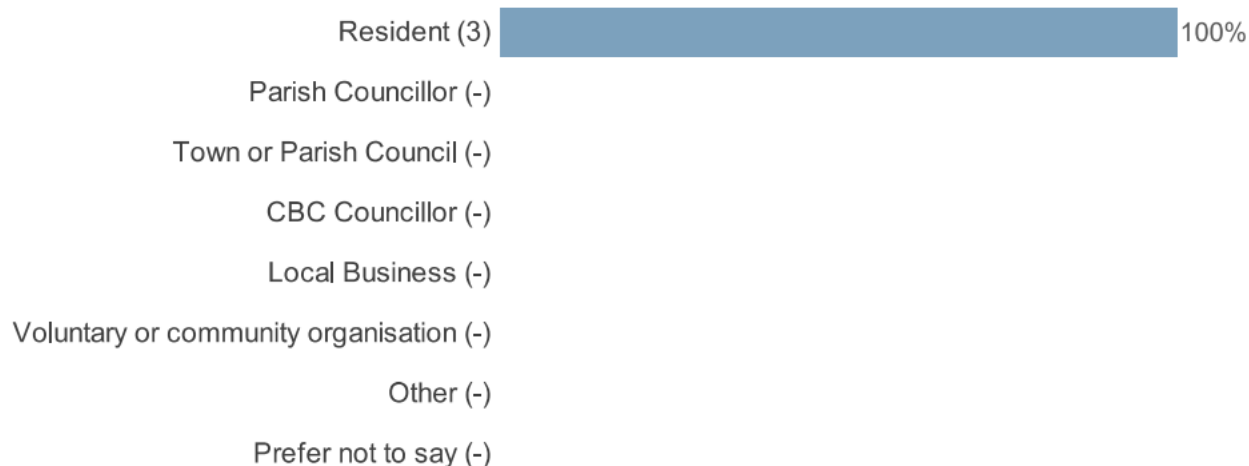
"Interesting that Gravenhurst is only expecting one more property to be built here by 2030 - a relief after the imposition of 70 odd properties with no infrastructure improvements, aside from some much welcomed children's play equipment on the recreation ground - in itself nothing compared to some kids play areas i have seen - in the past 5 years. Thanks to the parish councillors for their time and care, the amazing Discolicious grown from local farmers' covid-kindness, the institution of the Gravenhurst Gallop, and all the Village Hall activities!"

31. Harlington 3 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

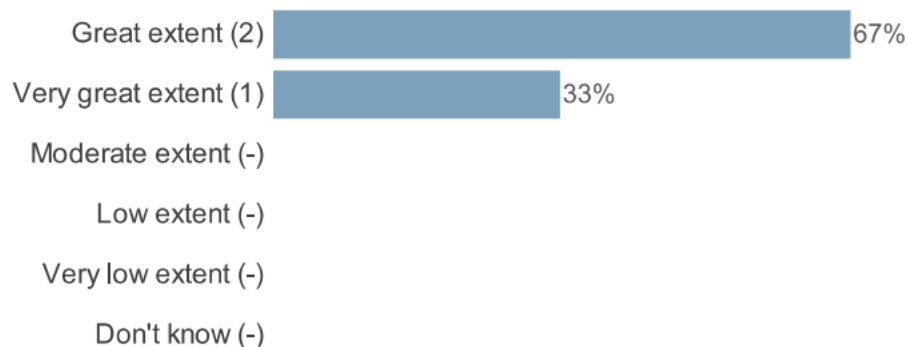
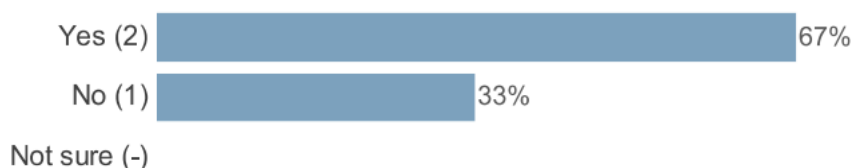
No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



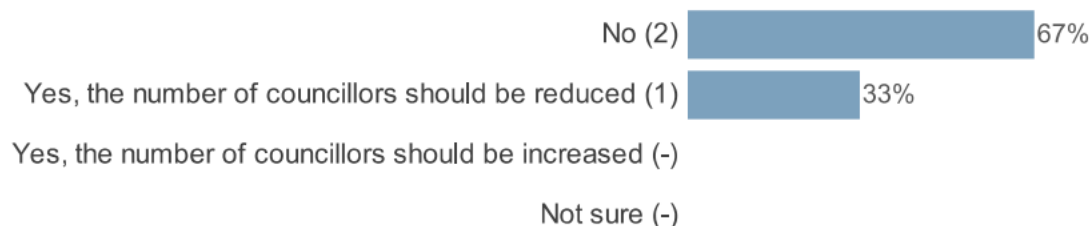
To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"In general the boundary is suitable. However there is a curious 'panhandle' at the north-eastern end of the parish. It is appropriate that Mill End is included in Harlington, but why the extension to the north-east? And the Lovett Green development off the Barton Road surely belongs in Harlington with the rest of Mill End, It's currently in Westoning Parish, but you have to drive through Harlington and on for another 3 miles to get from Lovett Green to Westoning village."

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?**Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?**

If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

“There are always unfilled seats, so by reducing the number it will create more competition for those seats.”

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

“Our parish council is continually short of councillors. This is not good for local democracy, as elections are not contested and some councillors are co-opted. What can be done to encourage more people to put themselves forward?”

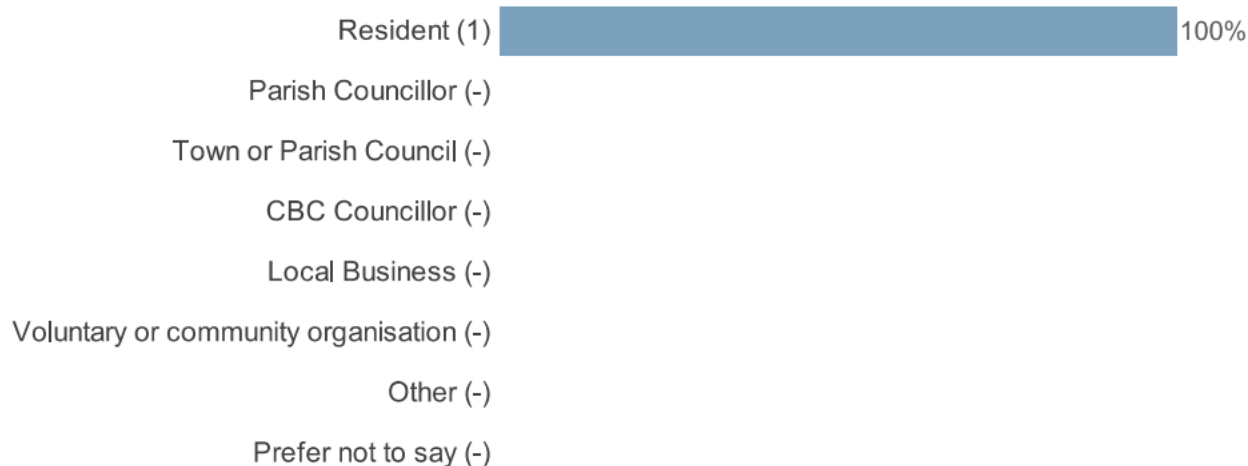
32. Haynes 1 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?

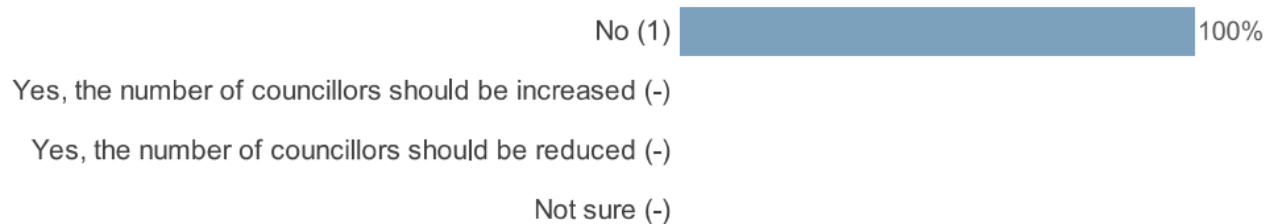


Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

No answer

Do you have any further comments?

“Although Haynes West End is separated from the main village by the A6 it is still very much part of Haynes as are its residents.”

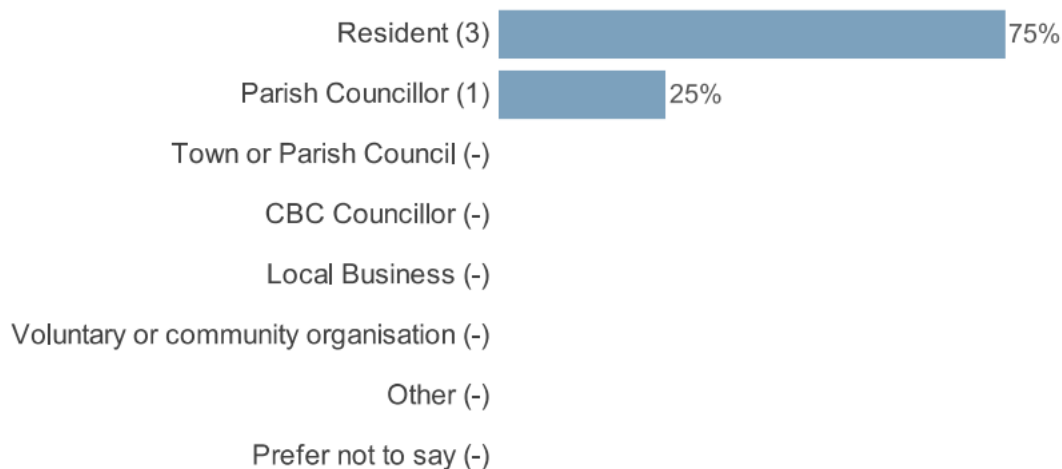
33. Heath & Reach 5 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Regarding the CGR. This was discussed at a PC meeting and there is no comment to make other than Heath & Reach wish to remain as it is.

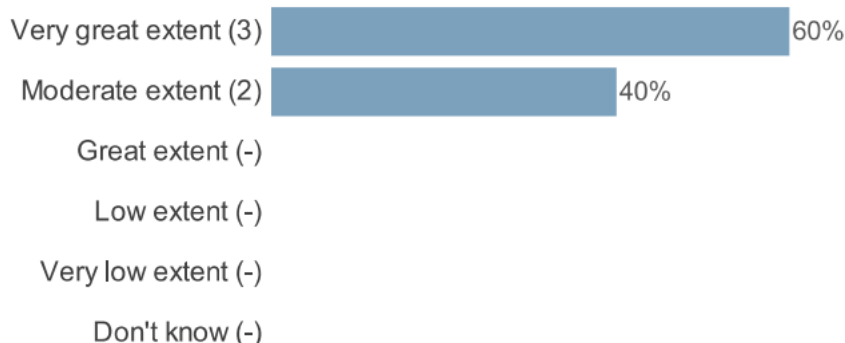
Are you responding as: (please select one)



If Parish Councillor, which parish is this for?

"Heath and Reach"

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

“they could be joined”

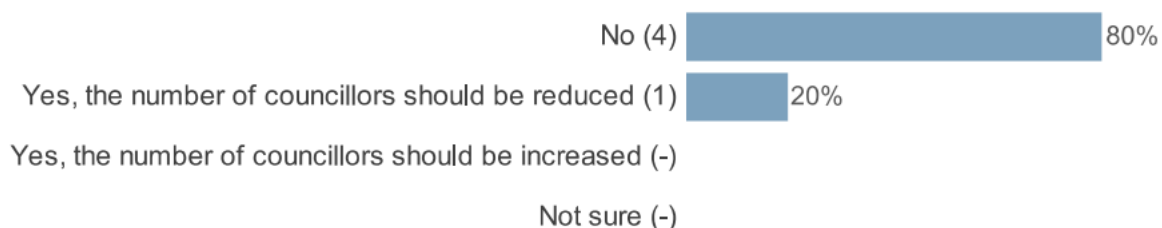
Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

“Joined community”

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

“too many passengers and too few doers. Not sure what they are all doing.”

“this is or someone else to decide looking for efficiency savings .”

“Reasons include: improved efficiency, cost savings nd better representation with fewer deadweights.”

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?

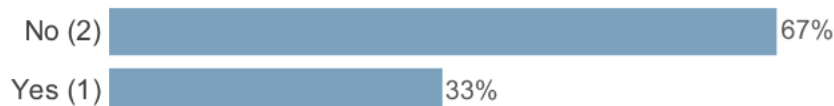


If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)

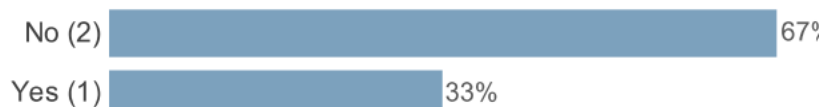
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:

"Efficiency requires more concentration, fewer councillors, a more effective service and reduced number of boundaries."

"The answer cannot be provided insulation of more facts and figures."

"not without more info"

Do you have any further comments?

"In the 35 years we have lived in this Parish no Parish Council has successfully achieved a HGV ban, speed limit reduction to 20mph or traffic calming measures from Central Bedfordshire Council."

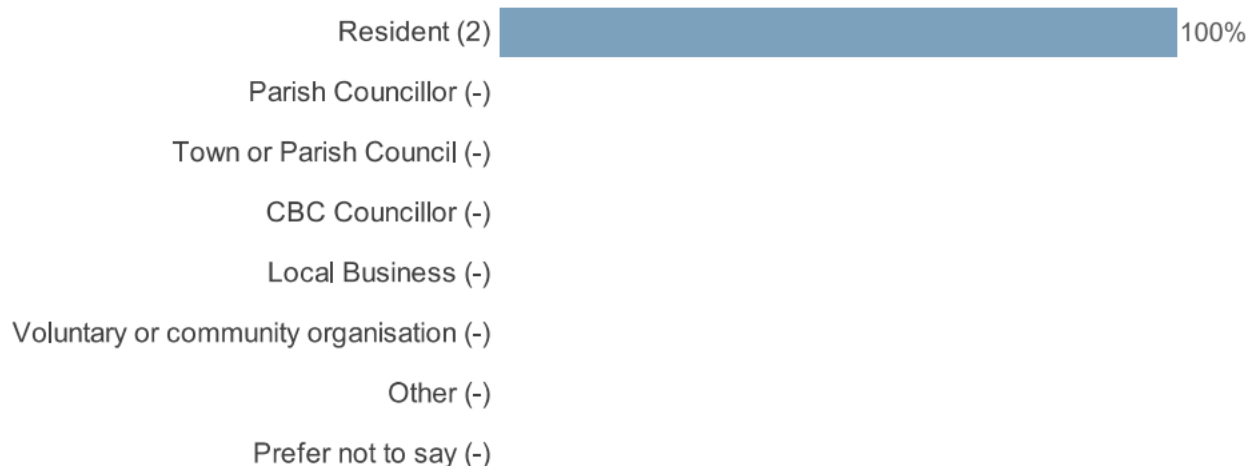
34. Henlow 3 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

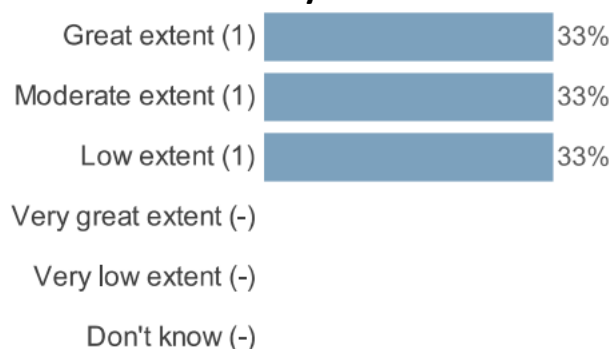
No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

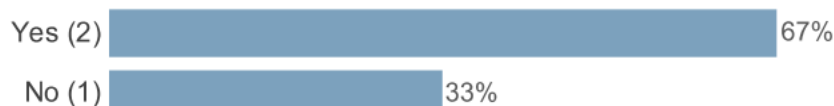
"I see no point whatsoever in having Henlow Camp joined with Henlow village. There are absolutely no synergies. Henlow Camp should have its own Parish Council, especially since the number of new homes have been built along the A600- Bedford Road-past the A659 and there are proposals to build by Derwent School and are there still plans to build/convert into living accommodation on Henlow Camp airfield?"

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

“Henlow Camp is closed to Stondon than Henlow. Would make sense merge or move boundary”

“It makes no sense that Henlow Camp residents and businesses to the east of the Hitchin road are in Henlow parish. This is detrimental to Lower Stondon village as it cuts it in half. They should be moved into Stondon parish so that we can take decisions on the future of our village together.”

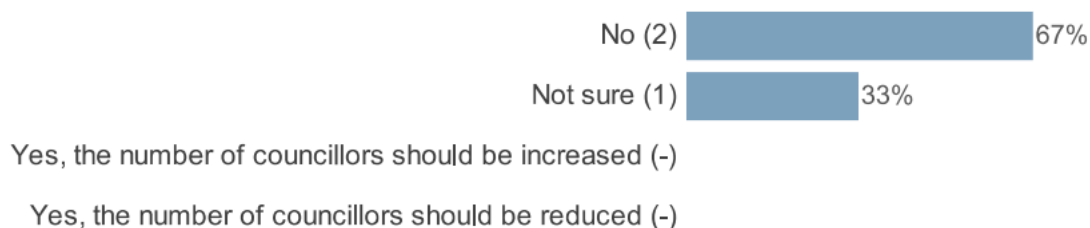
Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

“Henlow Village & Camp.”

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

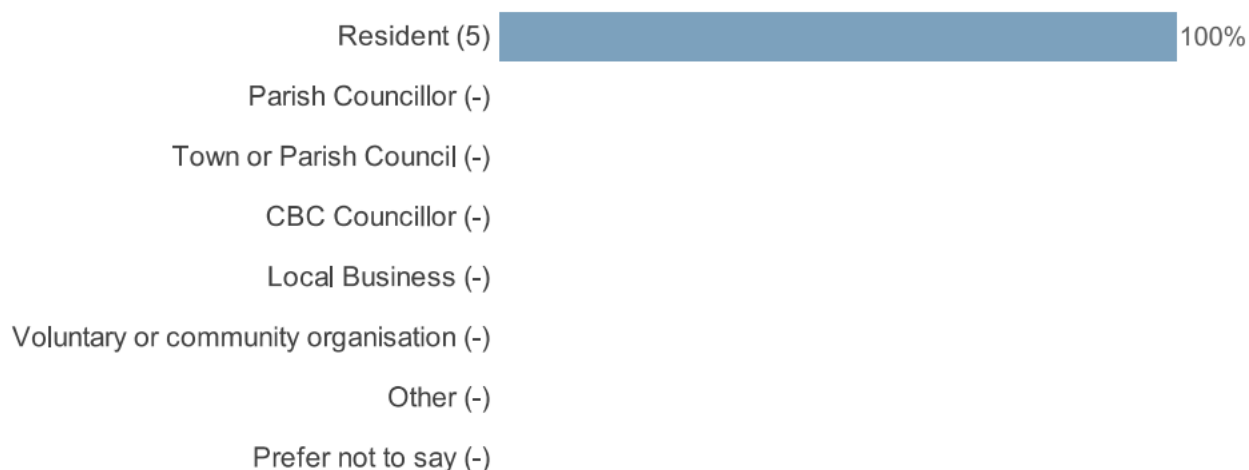
If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

"No, but why does CBC not have a roving observer who can report on the condition of roads, signs for street/highway lamps not working, verges, pathways, public footpaths, community land, rubbish and waste etc?"

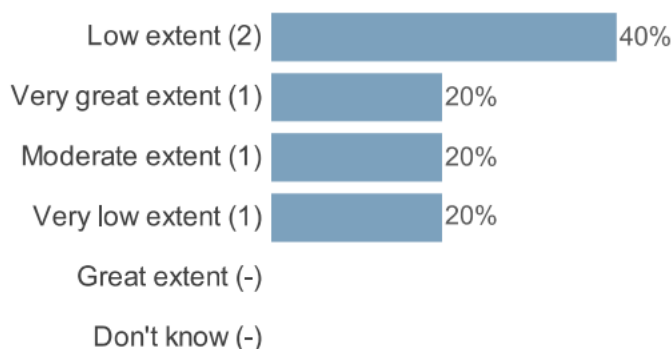
35. Hockliffe 5 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)**To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

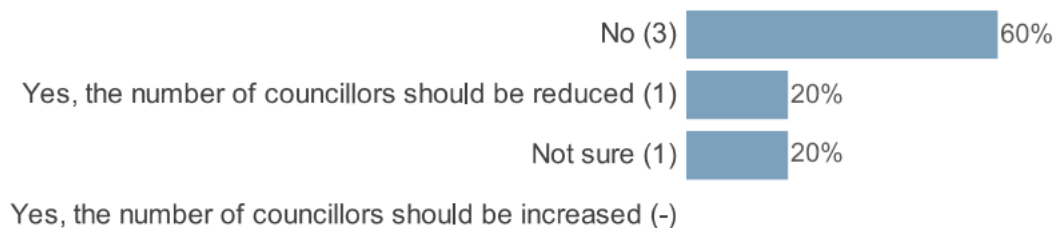
"Hockliffe has always struggled to achieve its seven parish councillor positions, there are currently only four and they are always asking people to apply for co-option but rarely with any success. Councillors rarely have time outside of meetings to get things done, and issues tend to remain on the agenda for months on end. A larger, merged area may achieve a higher number of quality applicants. I think there is a good case for Hockliffe, Battlesden, Heath & Reach and Tilsworth parish councils to be merged. They each have overlapping issues."

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

"As they surround Leighton Linlade Town Council, perhaps several locally merged Parish Councils could be entitled "Leighton Villages East" and "Leighton Villages West" etc."

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?**If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:**

"As the required 7 councillors is rarely achieved, perhaps it should be reduced to 4 and merged with others as already stated."

"Merge Hockliffe, Heath & Reach, Battlesden and Tilsworth."

"Likely to be better quality candidates in a larger area."

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)**

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**Do you have any further comments?**

"Do not think this will alter anything. Not worth the expense - waste of our Council Tax. There is very little interest taken in the village now by the residents, I feel, compared with years ago. Very sad!"

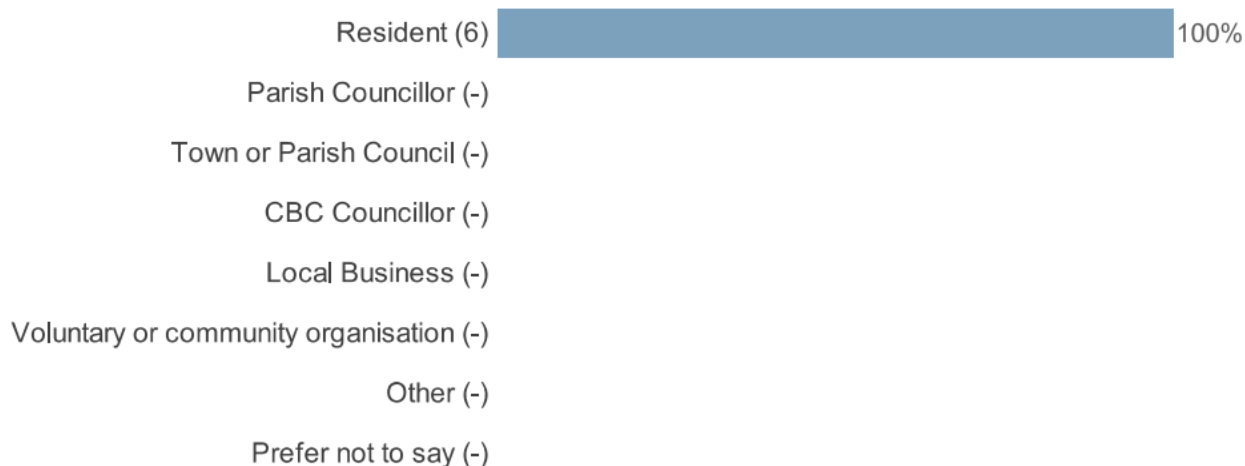
"Communication from parish council has diminished massively over the past 12-18 months, with little to no consultation with residents. There is no forward thinking regarding the parish, and the future the residents wish to see develop in the area. Parish lacks identity and belief from residents."

"You shouldn't change it, particularly to include other villages as it has its own distinct character as a long established transport link community"

36. Houghton Conquest 6 responses

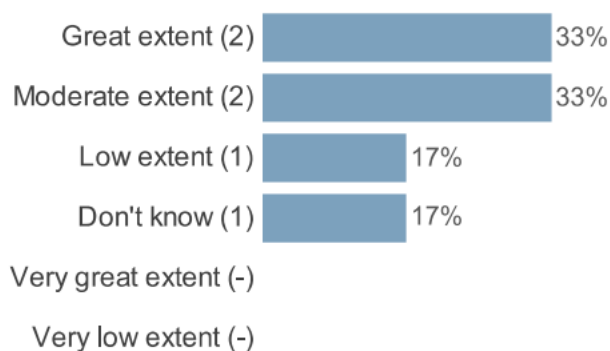
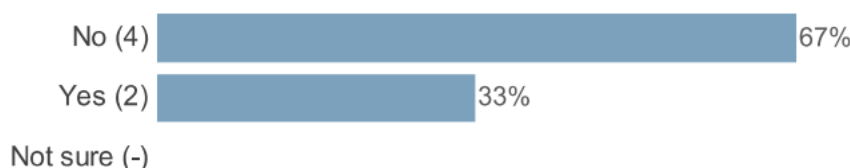
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"All the new estates built in the last 10 years are disconnected from the old village and have very little input into village life."

"The volume of new houses vs the old village creates many issues in view of geographical elements. Such as estate living to village living"

"It now includes the fringe parts of the Wixam development known as Harrowden Green. Whilst this may appear attractive in the sense of increasing the electoral roll and rate precept it also distorts the village and parish of Houghton Conquest. Crime rates have greatly increased where Harrowden Green figures are included in the village numbers. It is clear that the Wixams development is more than encroaching on the village and parish of Houghton Conquest, it is in danger of swallowing it. A 'community' council is a likely outcome by default. This may be seen as 'good' from certain perspectives, but the reality of the Wixams development is major housing and absolute failure to deliver the concomitant social improvements such as the railway station and health care facilities as planned. Given the Central Beds' housing target from national government is a negative one, ie target already achieved and exceeded, more development is not required. However the current development plans for the area, including the proposed Universal Studios site, suggests otherwise. Rate precepts will soar, councils will swell; but what of local services and infrastructure? Wixams has not delivered, it is far from clear that future developments will be better regulated and managed. Houghton Conquest needs a voice that represents the village. Merges with other groups will only lead to loss of identity,

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history and community to the greater swamp of urban sprawl. Note below: A button to upload files to support change: no button for files to oppose change. This is revealing!”

“To not include Wixams, which was never agreed to be part of Houghton Conquest. And our village would also be kept separate, this also refers to the inclusion of the new development around Great Thickthorn Farm where, again, we were promised the village boundary would be maintained by inserting a large area of woodland down & across from Bedford Road across to Great Thickthorn Farm.”

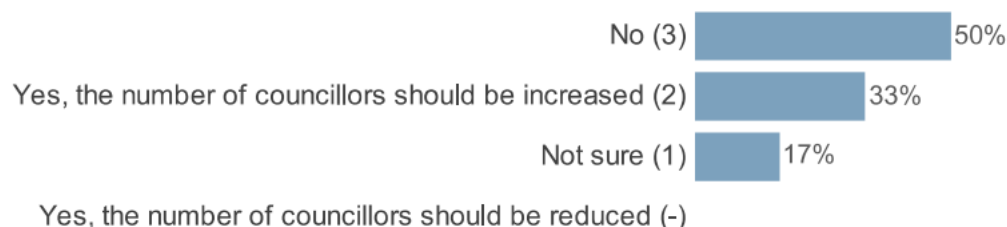
Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

“It doesn't need a new name. It does not need to include Harrowden Green from the Wixams. Harrowden Green should remain part of the Wixams community and Houghton Conquest should retain its historic and community identity.”

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



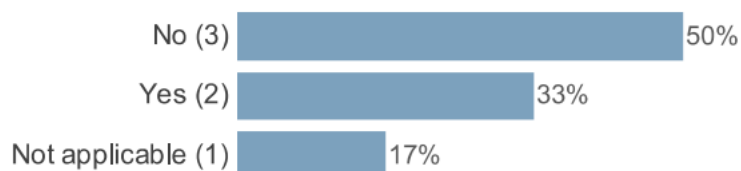
If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

“The population is expected to double, so I would suggest an uplift of at least 50%”

“By a small margin if no geographical boundary changes are made. This will allow for councillors from new estates.”

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?

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If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:

"Part of 'new' Houghton Conquest is swallowed up/surrounded by the Wixams and has nothing to do with the actual village."

"Between old village and new estates such as Wixams"

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



Do you have any further comments?

"This requires a far more detailed and HONEST representation of Central Bedfordshire's Development for the next 20 years, including the impact of the Universal Studio Site. The Wixams. central government strategy, transport policy, both local and national infrastructure, need to be envisioned and explained. Change is

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

inevitable and much good for the local communities will arise from them. However, historic and genuinely local communities need not, inevitably, be swamped by the unrelenting pace of building developments that WILL occur."

"The parish council of Houghton Conquest do a really good job & have all the parishioners at the centre of every decision. But, however much they try they don't appear to be listened to by Central Bedfordshire Council, especially when it comes to planning. There appears to have been many times when the parish council has raised legitimate objections, especially to large scale developments, on behalf of the residents, only to not be listened to or heard. I do wonder if anyone from CBC actually takes notice of anything parish councils & residents say, because the whole heritage of our village is being eroded massively by these new unwanted mass housing areas. Do any of you actually live in this village? Because I think if you did the parish council would actually be listened to and the promised large boundaries would actually happen & the village's entity would be maintained. CBC is eroding history by allowing this to happen, & not gaining a good reputation after it has reneged on so many promises. Our councillor, Becky Hares, does her best to get Houghton Conquest's voice heard, but to little effect as CBC appear to just go through the motions & pretend to listen & then ride roughshod through it with their own plans. So many times CBC have asked for residents views but to then take notice notice, it then means that the residents of Houghton Conquest believe that all of this is a 'tick-box' exercise & no notice is taken of what anyone wants to say. I understand from our councillor that CBC believe everyone in the village is ok with CBC's decisions as no one says anything - that is because we are all worn down with not being listened to & I personally wonder what is the point of commenting as nothing changes, the villager's views are not considered & CBC will just do what it wants. So PLEASE take note of comments & views of the villager's here. We are trying to maintain the historical nature of our village with the beautiful woods & environment surrounding, but fighting against the ever closing boundaries that CBC is allowing which is destroying this village."

"The whole of the parish of Houghton Conquest should have the same doctors/school catchment areas. Our voices clearly don't matter, as we were made promises about our boundaries/protecting our village yet the developments continue!!"

37. Houghton Regis 10 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

At the HRTC town council meeting held on 14 May 2025 its formal response to CBC on this initial CGR consultation, reflecting on the deliberations of the nominated councillors and the discussion held with Chalton parish council. The following resolution was agreed:

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Alteration – Houghton Regis Town Council (HRTC) wishes to suggest that that part of Chalton Parish Council's land bounded by the Houghton Regis parish boundary, the Luton Borough Council boundary, the M1 motorway and the A5-M1 link road (Dunstable Northern Bypass) be transferred into the parish of Houghton Regis.

Number of councillors – to ensure adequate demographic representation given the population growth of Houghton Regis it is requested that the number of Houghton Regis parish councillors be increased to 16 (from 14).

Parish warding – given the recent growth of Houghton Regis, a fourth ward to cover the growth area of Bidwell would support suitable demographic representation. This new ward should be named Thorn Ward as it is reflective of the historic name for this area. The suggested ward boundary would be from Bedford Road following the line of the public right of way to Blue Waters.

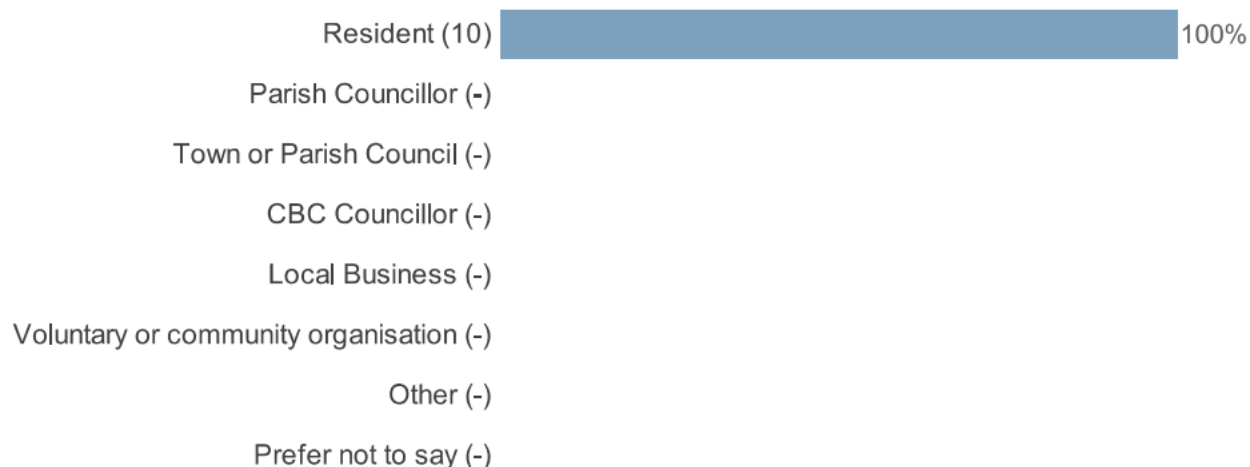
At this time HRTC are unable to comment on how 16 councillors should be split across the four wards (as proposed) as CBC have not released population or electorate data in support of the CGR process. HRTC request that HRTC councillors be split across the proposed four wards as evenly as possible such that each councillor represents the same number of electorate.

Parish Warding - Democratic Services Comment

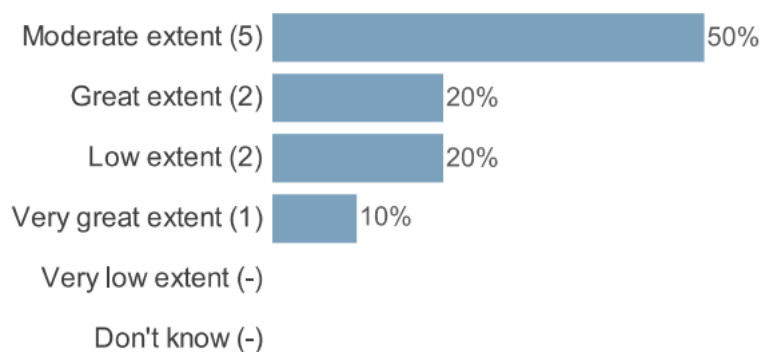
The current polling district HH1 has 3045 properties and 4251 electors. The creation of a new polling district to incorporate all the new development and a small number of the properties in Bedford Road would have 2249 properties with a further 283 planned over the next 5 years making a total of 2532. This would generate a forecast electorate 4304 electors which could served by 3 members (2 new and the reduction of 1 member of the existing HH polling district (5 to 4).

Are you responding as: (please select one)

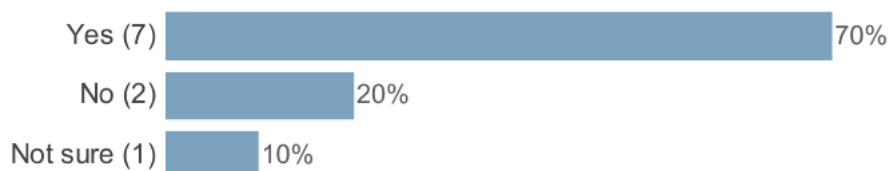
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

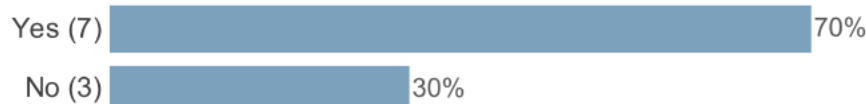
"Houghton Hall Ward is currently too big for the number of councillors due to growth in Thorn/ Bidwell West. We either need a new ward for Thorn/Bidwell West or a split of Houghton Hall Ward. More Town Councillors needed to cover growth in population."

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

“Have more councillors per ward including the new estates”

“Swell in population”

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



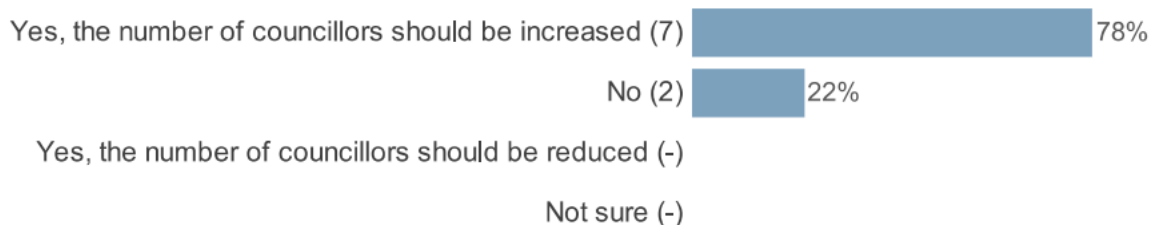
If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

“Houghton Park”

“The name of the ward gives the impression that all households within the Tithe Farm area are all part of the ward which is not true”

“Swollen population”

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

“Not sure on numbers but the reason is that it would give a bigger presence in the wider council.”

“To a number that caters for the substantial population growth”

“Due to the number of new home being built in the area it is important to include them and have a council member on the main council frame”

“The town has grown in size”

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

"20, areas need more councillors as if area is too big, they won't be able to help everyone. More councillors means more help to community members"

"3+ swollen population"

"The need to be working towards the same end and not be at each others necks. If the boundaries were removed everyone would have to work together to achieve a goal for the whole community instead of the selected areas"

"5 swollen population"

"8 Councillors for HHall Ward 2 or 3 for Bidwell West Possible incorporate Chalton"

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:

"Thorn, Linmere, etc"

"Need to have wards for Thorn, Limner Nothr and South and Flamsted."

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

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If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:

"Mingim of two extra councillors for Houghton Hall Ward and two or three new Councillors for Bidwell West"

"increase from 14 to 20."

"The boundaries tend to make people think that anything that needs to change is only a good for their part of the town where they live where's it is east to benefit the whole community of the town. Boundaries do not encourage inclusion"

"Bidwell and Thorn should become separate wards. Need more councillors per ward"

"Remove all boundaries for the parish councils and have one whole parish with many councilors"

"Bidwell and Thorn should remain separate and independent"

"Not in favour of doing another change of wards but do think there should be more councillors per ward"

"Chalton could be included in Houghton Regis"

Do you have any further comments?

"The Town Council do a wonderful job, the Councillors are always on hand to speak with if needed. Susan Goodchild has always been approachable and very knowledgeable about Houghton Regis."

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

“The Councillors are in touch with the area as they live here and understand the everyday running of Houghton Regis.”

38. Hulcote & Salford No responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

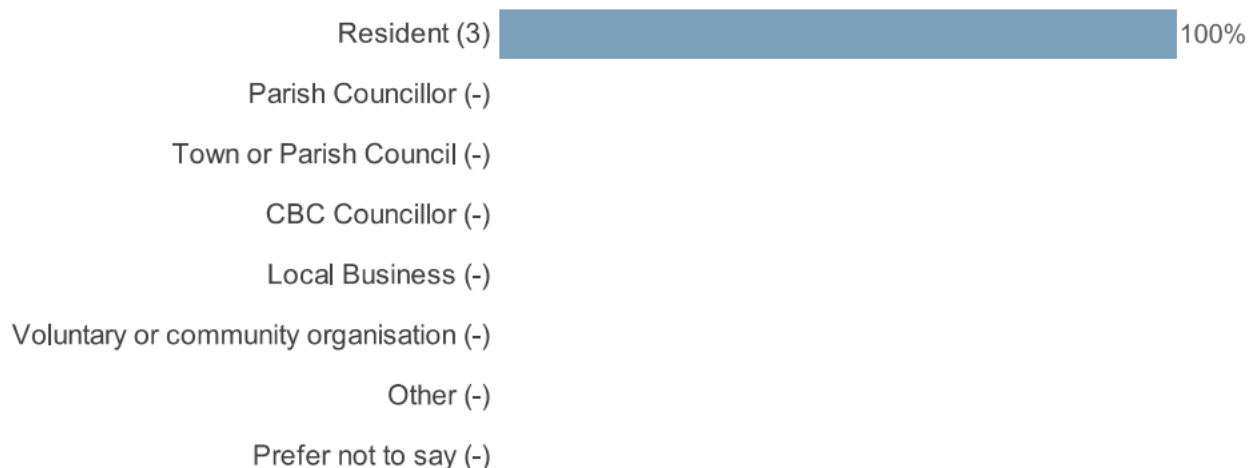
No proposal received.

39. Husborne Crawley 3 responses

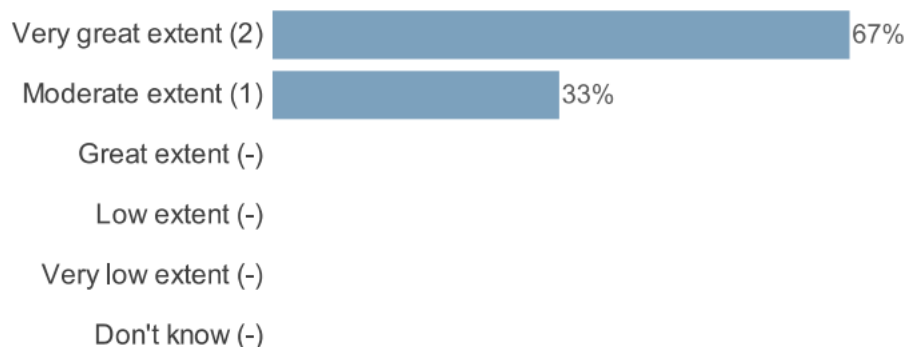
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

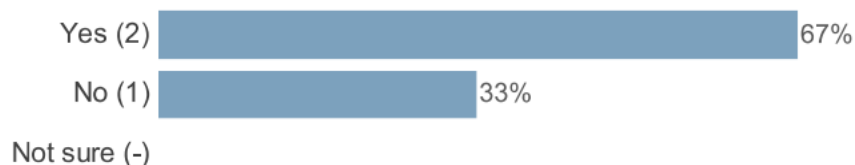
Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



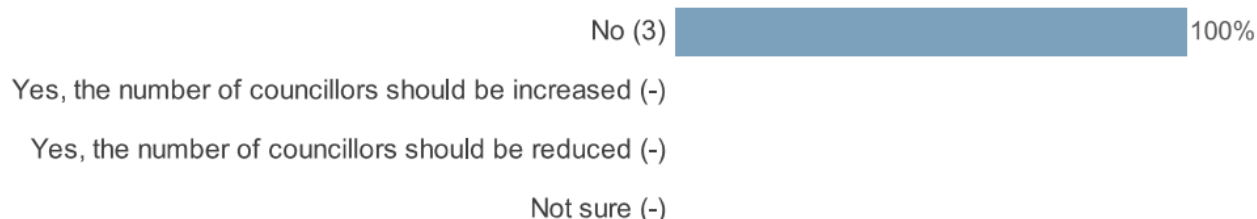
If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"It's too small an area and apart from planning the only real function is the management of a small playground. I was a Parish Councillor and Chair for several years but there was never really anything for us to do."

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)

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No (2)  100%

Yes (-)

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No (2)  100%

Yes (-)

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

No (2)  100%

Yes (-)

Do you have any further comments?

"Having two tier local government only makes sense if the lower tier is able to provide services and take actions that require very specific local knowledge. In very small parishes the issues that cause concern (traffic, grass cutting, road and footpath maintenance) etc are all outside the control of the parish council which means that all councillors can do is pass the concerns of residents up the line to Central Beds councillors. Pretty pointless really!"

"Poor communications the villagers have no idea when the P.C hold meetings there is one notice board .the village is decided it two parts it needs another notice board near Horsepool lane so residents are informed poor web site no idea who the councillors are"

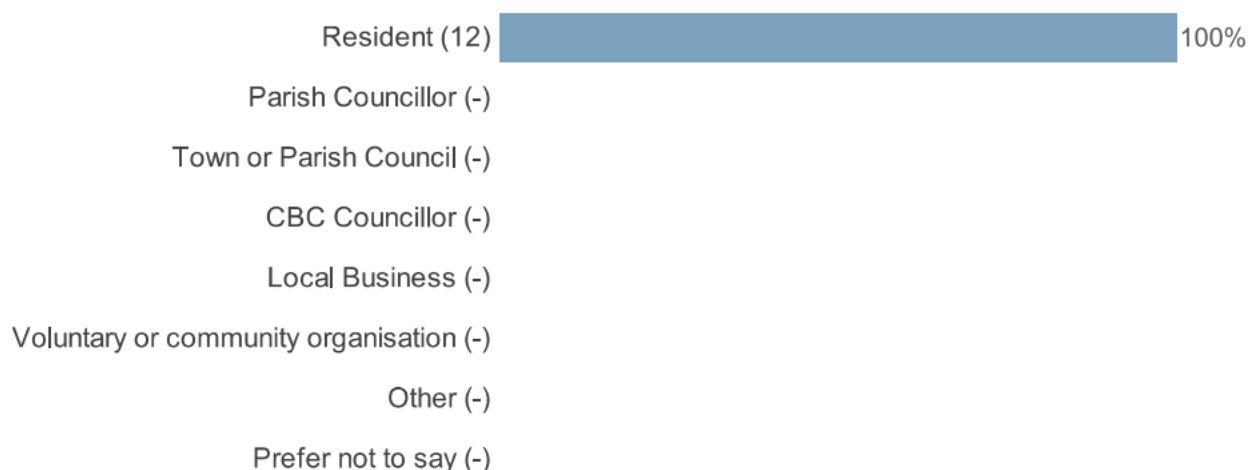
40. Hyde 12 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

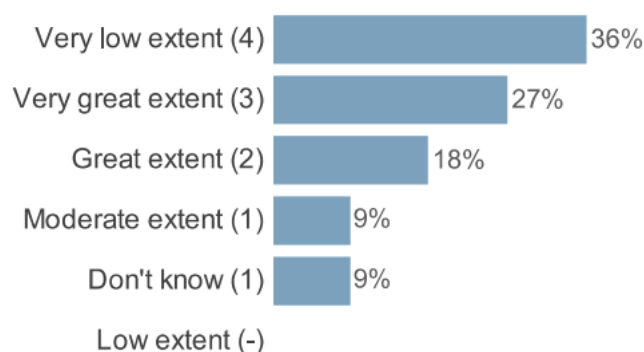
No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"Specifically I am in the east Hyde parish which borders herfordshire, I believe our parish should join the neighbouring herts parish. The main reason for this is the vast majority of the residents use the herts county services, like school, doctors, dentists etc but pay nothing into the herts council tax pot. On the flip side we feel completely isolated from central beds where we use no services and feel like an after thought on the most menial services like having our grass cut regularly."

"Once devolution takes place and the local councils across counties are one tier, it makes absolute sense for Hyde to be part of Hertfordshire. Our GPs, schools, gym, local amenities are all in Hertfordshire. We have no identity with Central Bedfordshire and we would like the boundary to be changed to incorporate us into Hertfordshire. The current and very old boundary is redundant."

"I live in a group of six houses across the road is a different council the bin men have to make an extra trip to get to us and the boundary makes no sense."

"No , while the parish itself is fine - the fact it is in central beds is laughable . We spend all our time and money in harpenden as that's where we live ! The fact you didn't even get the parish name correct speaks volumes - it's East Hyde"

"Central Bedfordshire Council is not relevant to Hyde Parish. As a community, Hertfordshire serves our needs better. We want the county boundary changed to reflect the needs of our community. Please clarify how Central Bedfordshire services apply to Hyde."

"Central Bedfordshire Council is not relevant to Hyde Parish. As a community, Hertfordshire serves our needs better. We want the county boundary changed to reflect the needs of our community. Please clarify how Central Bedfordshire services apply to Hyde"

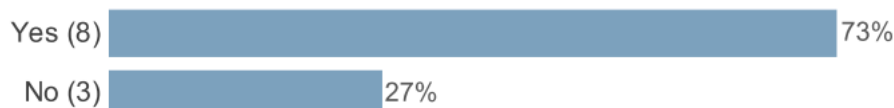
"My property sits within Harpenden but is part of East Hyde. Our day to day lives are around Harpenden but we are not within upper school catchment and cannot influence or requests changes to services."

"We can't access any facilities without going through a different authority first. Proximity means all services we access are in Herts, specifically Harpenden. The additional cost of refuse collection etc for the council is not recovered in council tax. Moving Hyde into Hertfordshire would be more appropriate for the local residents and for geography."

"We would like to seriously consider moving Hyde Parish into Hertfordshire."

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

"Harpenden or Kinsbourne Green"

"Central Bedfordshire Council is not relevant to Hyde Parish. As a community, Hertfordshire serves our needs better. We want the county boundary changed to reflect the needs of our community. Please clarify how Central Bedfordshire services apply to Hyde."

"The Mills"

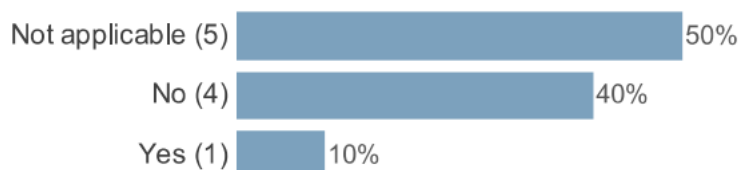
Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



Yes, the number of councillors should be increased (-)

Yes, the number of councillors should be reduced (-)

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



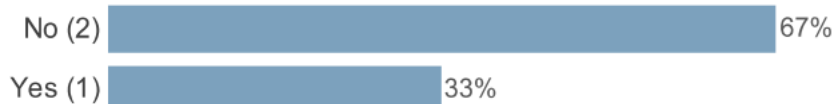
If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:

"Central Bedfordshire Council is not relevant to Hyde Parish. As a community, Hertfordshire serves our needs better. We want the county boundary changed to reflect the needs of our community. Please clarify how Central Bedfordshire services apply to Hyde"

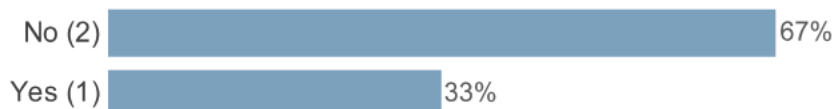
If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:

"The Harrow and perhaps other houses to the North East of Luton Road in Kinsbourne Green / Harpenden should become part of Harpenden."

Do you have any further comments?

"I would like to suggest we should be part of Hertfordshire. I think the boundary is the end of my street and I have always felt far more connected to Harpenden and St Albans than to Luton. I know very little about the parish governance and how it works, but for our needs (eg the tip, council meeting etc), it would be far closer and easier to be linked with Harpenden, in my opinion. I have no complaints about Bedfordshire, other than distance. Thank you."

"As a community we are on the edge of a county and it's very difficult to feel any connection with our current council as we don't use any of the services provided and payed for by us currently. Our children go to Hertfordshire schools and we use the libraries, doctors of Herts. I strongly believe we should be paying into the community pot to which we use the services of. I think our parish provides a vital link to the community and council but feel very removed from the current central beds council."

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

"I will be submitting a full response in due course. Hyde does not identify with Central Bedfordshire and needs a boundary change. It makes no sense for us to be part of Central Bedfordshire. The current boundary is historical and political. A boundary change will better reflect The Hyde Community. We pay our council taxes and want it to better reflect the services we use. Policing, ambulance, waste disposal, schools, doctors in Hertfordshire serve the needs of Hyde residents. The community and I currently speak for over 50% (and growing) want to know how Central Bedfordshire intends to deal with Hyde."

"Having six new houses that have to be serviced by Central Beds and the children living in it have to travel out of town to go to school is nonsense."

"It makes me quite angry that we are part of central beds. We are already a totally forgotten area - the grass outside our houses never even gets cut as you can't be bothered. And this is even before the reorganisation takes place - we will then become an even more forgotten area. We pay a lot of money in council tax for nothing - we are serviced completely by Harpenden. Our kids go to school there, we shop there, use all services etc. We live there! We have an AL5 postcode - it's nonsensical! The fact that we live about 5 metres from the county boundary - can see in the windows across the road of 'Hertfordshire', and therefore my children will not get into a Harpenden secondary even though they have attended Harpenden school since nursery is so unfair and angering. I'm really not sure what we are paying our central beds council tax for"

"Hyde parish does not share a border with any other parish in Bedfordshire and is very distant from Central Bedfordshire. I believe there could be a better fit"

"Central Bedfordshire Council is not relevant to Hyde Parish. As a community, Hertfordshire serves our needs better. We want the county boundary changed to reflect the needs of our community. Please clarify how Central Bedfordshire services apply to Hyde."

"I do not feel any association with CBC, my life and my families life are more aligned with Hertfordshire. We live on the tail end of the county and are totally dissociated from it, even the staff at Chicksands do not know where we are."

"Central Bedfordshire Council is not relevant to Hyde Parish. As a community, Hertfordshire serves our needs better. We want the county boundary changed to reflect the needs of our community. Please clarify how Central Bedfordshire services apply to Hyde" (this a separate submission to the one with the same wording above)

"To reiterate. East Hyde should be come part of Hertfordshire and our specific property should really be part of a Harpenden parish but moving to Herts would be a significant and beneficial step."

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

“Economic and Geographic logic would move Hyde to Hertfordshire. For representation and servicing the residents it would also fit historic and current patterns of behaviour.”

“We feel that Hyde Parish is a bit lost & neglected in the size & scale of Central Bedfordshire Council. We want the boundary changed, to join Herts, which undoubtedly would better reflect & improve local community needs.”

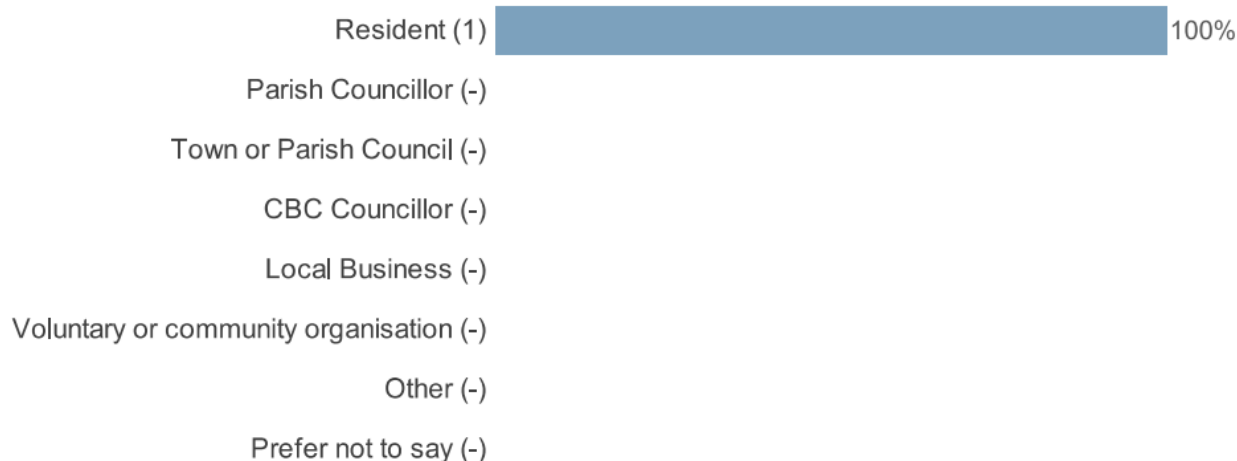
41. Kensworth 1 response (plus a written letter response from Kensworth Parish Council)

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

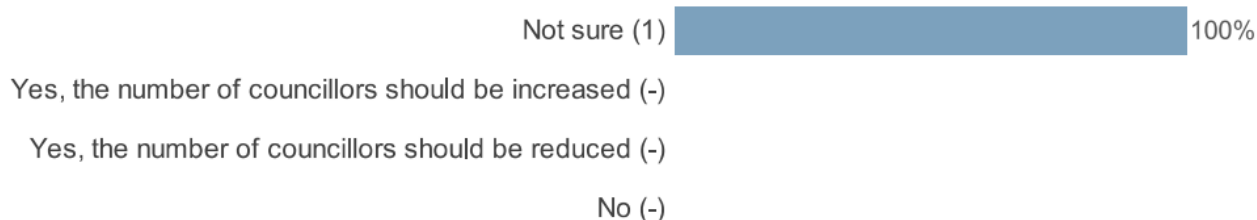
We also received a letter responding to the consultation from Kensworth Parish Council, this can be found in full in the Appendix to this report.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

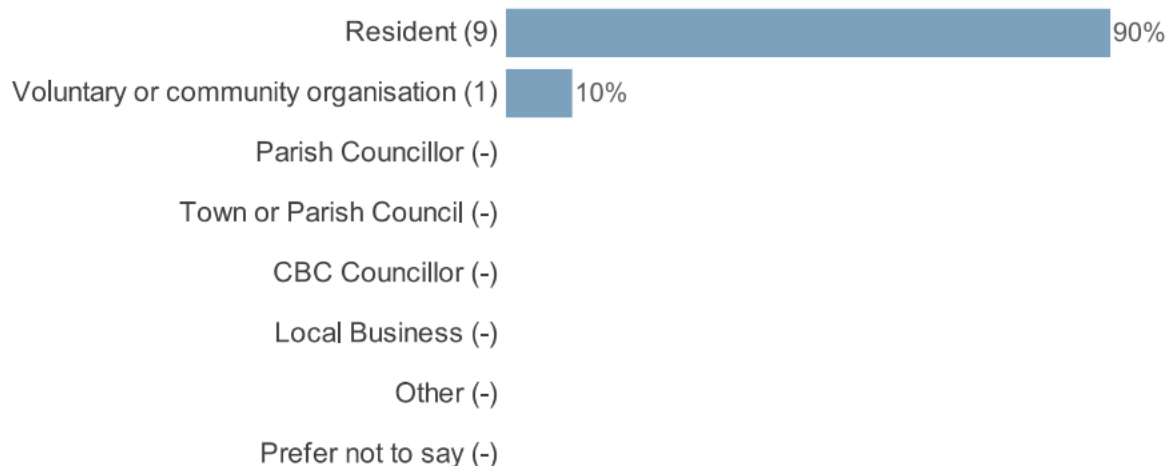
If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****42. Langford 10 responses**

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Review of property anomalies

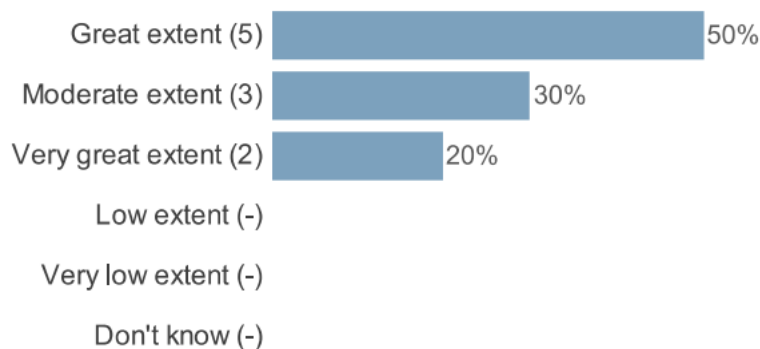
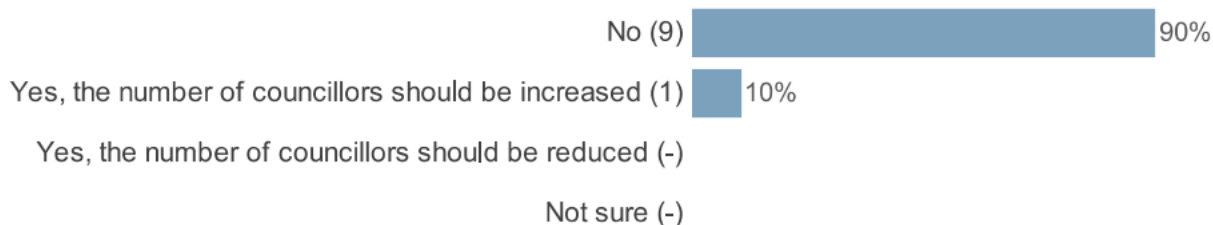
The property Brook Cottage is in a polling district of the parish of Langford but is geographically in the parish of Biggleswade Holme Ward. Consideration should be given to rectify this anomaly.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

If voluntary or community organisation, please specify:

"St andrews church"

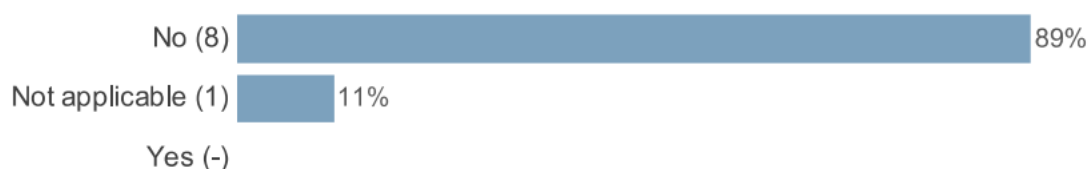
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:**

"We only have one who attends meetings and represents the village"

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



Do you have any further comments?

"As Brook Cottage is linked neighbouring properties in Langford Parish and not near any properties in Holme (?), it would be logical to keep it in Langford Parish, even if it means the boundary going round the property to include it. It is disappointing that the Langford Village Plan isn't given weight when considering planning application approval. I am also surprised but pleased that the number of residents is only likely to increase by 400 by 2030. It hopefully means that village can get the infrastructure to catch up with the new building areas eg school, GPs etc."

"I think Langford Parish Council does a very good job for the village. However, it needs more volunteer Councillors and fresh blood. Where is the incentive for these people to come forward, when the unelected officers of CBC have a track record of either ignoring the clear views of the villagers or misrepresenting them to Government Planning Inspectors?? If you want to really talk about Community Governance then you should start by reviewing the performance of unelected officers and their attention to residents clear and stated views."

"People live or come to live in a village because it is a village, not because they want it expanded into a town. Don't keep trying to lump everybody into one."

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

"It's all very well talking about Parish Councils. My primary concern is that they have minimal influence over how Section 106 agreements are negotiated and agreed as conditions of granting Planning Permission to major Developers. I understand that "decisions" are made at Central Beds level and that financial details are "commercially sensitive" but it is not at all clear that there is ANY WAY in which the needs for facilities are presented and traded off. As a for instance it seems there is NO public/parish lawn tennis provision in Stotfold despite the fact that this is more than TWICE the size of Langford; and Langford's only facilities (tennis & playing fields) were provided by privated donation/bequest decades (if not more than a century) ago when the village was a small fraction of its current population."

"Langford needs to retain its Parish Council, as we no real identity within CBC, and we are totally isolated in the Parliamentary Constituency with services provided over the parliamentary boundary. We have nothing in common with Hitchin, and very little with Shefford. At least our Parish Council seeks to serve the community of Langford when no one else does."

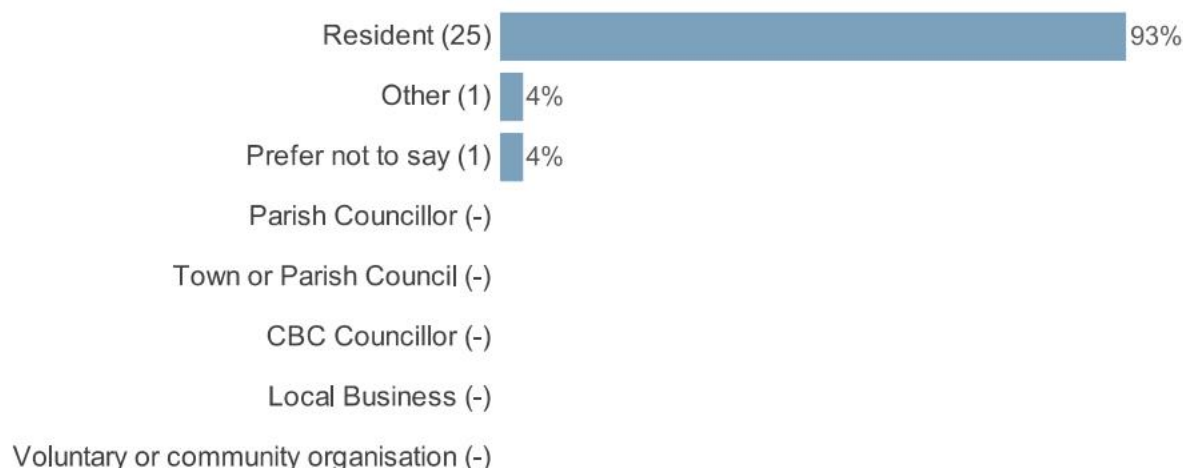
43. Leighton-Linslade 32 responses (plus a joint councillor written letter response)

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

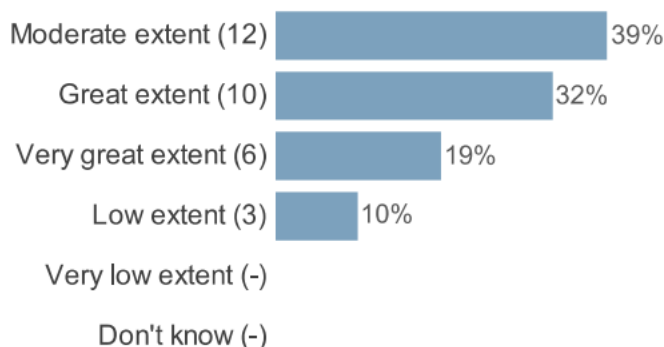
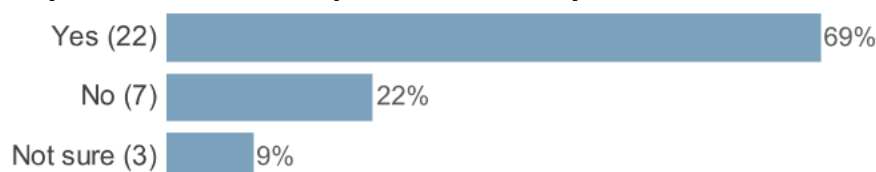
No proposal received.

We also received a letter from joint cllrs responding from Leighton-Linslade to the consultation, this can be found in full in the Appendix to this report.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"Merge some of the smaller local villages/ parishes into the town Council"

"boundaries do not take into account all the new buildings"

"Given eastward expansion of the town significant parts of Eggington Parish should be reclassified as Leighton-Linslade. The people who live in these development use Leighton-Linslade services and the houses themselves are sold as "Leighton - Linslade" homes."

"There a huge new estates of houses built in recent years. These do not come under Leighton Linslade, though the residents will use the town's facilities. Much of this development is currently in the parish of Eggington."

"Decision about the developments in Leighton Buzzard appear to be made by people who seem to have no care or regard for the town's needs I often wonder if these decision making persons have ever been or know what Leighton Buzzard is like. The residents of my town submit objections to building schemes and loss of amenities but we are not heard and the developers bulldoze on regardless ruining the quality of life"

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

and appearance of this once thriving and pretty market town. We see little return for our rates."

"Current boundaries need updating to reflect the new housing estates. Maybe the existing parish needs to be subdivided"

"A large number of new houses have been built to extend the town on its eastern side but a lot of these houses are in Egginton parish. The boundary should be changed to reflect this since none of the new houses are close to the village of Egginton"

"New housing developments outside the Parish (Clipstone - Eggington?) are using services paid for by Leighton-Linslade residents"

"Home built within the urban sprawl should be within the parish"

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



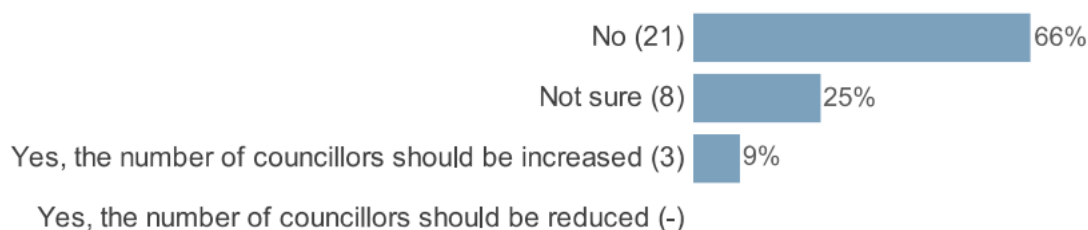
If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

"Leighton Buzzard and Linslade Town Council"

"Leighton-Linslade is meaningless because both were formerly historic towns in their own right with considerable local loyalties(one originally being in Bedfordshire; the other in Buckinghamshire and Leightonians and Linsladers have fierce local loyalties. Then they were merged into one Urban District Council, whose powers were mostly removed in 1974 when Leighton-Linslade was reduced to the legal status of a parish, it's former powers being exercised by a remote concoction of a District, a bureaucratic invention(I refer to Central Bedfordshire. The name of Leighton-Linslade at least preserves historical continuity; it is Central Bedfordshire which needs to disappear and some of its power devolved to Leighton-Linslade. But that aint going to happen, is it?"

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:**

"The disparity in the ratio of councillors to residents is 5x the Ctrl Beds average - that's not exactly how democracy should work."

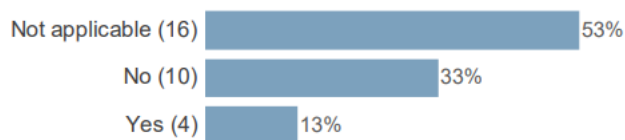
"The number of councillors per resident is much above average and only going to increase with more residents. Young people 16-25 particularly are not well represented or catered for in Leighton-Linslade. Immigrants as well are not represented, I think due to fear of racism, islamophobia, etc. in Bedfordshire which is a well founded fear. With a larger council, we could have more diversity of representation."

"Increase in population due to new homes"

"In general, the ward boundaries should take into account a number of community boundary lines and sizes - particularly with the new residential areas built. For the ward I am in St Barnabas - I would feel more affiliated to a smaller ward based on the streets surrounding Stoke Road - from the point of view of knowing each other - this is an easier number to know and care for. We could also focus then more on issues concerning us eg the speed of traffic on Stoke Road, the lack of play areas for children and protecting the trees which help cool down our whole end of the valley. I would also like to see the Rivers and Canal represented on the council. In living indigenous cultures rivers are represented - if we could consider the River Ouzel and Clipstone Brook and Canal as a ward with the inhabitants as fish, kingfishers etc then we could better care for it as a community and in return be cared for by it - can you imagine how wonderful it would be to have rivers thriving with wildlife again and wetland areas which prevent flooding? Even places for people to enjoy the water and wildlife watch. At the moment, the rivers are polluted and prone to flooding and we are too divided around it to be able to respond. When I have mentioned something on Facebook I have been attacked and told to leave the community as if someone powerful is happy that there is a lack of action and representation."

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:

"Egginton developments need their own ward."

"Egginton has developments that are adjacent to Leighton Linlade. Thought needs to be given as to whether they are included in Leighton Linlade Parish."

"I think 3 to 4 councillors is enough for a ward."

"Boundary to include all development adjacent to Leighton Linlade."

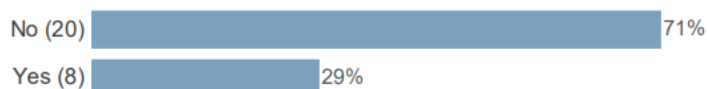
If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:

"You've eroded this market town's sense of community, with unsustainable expansion to the east of the town, abdicating any responsibility for infrastructure needs, including GP & Dental provision. In just 40 years, the population has doubled in size."

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

"Amend to fit the new housing estates and exclude areas where there is no longer housing/ residential"

"There should be a single ward covering the whole town"

"Include all new housing in Leighton Buzzard"

"I think all wards in Leighton-Linslade should go up by 3-5 councillors each to get them to average of 300 residents per councillor - that is closer to the number of people that one person can get to know. Some of those wards should be split up - I can't speak for other wards as I don't know them as well but for St Barnabas - we should have a split so that the roads all adjoining Stoke Road inc Bossington Lane, St Martins etc. are in one ward. I think the Rivers - Ouzel and Clipstone Brook - should be represented as a Ward which all residents of Leighton-Linslade get to vote on but only contains non-human residents. Or you could put it together with the canal and the humans are those who live on the water eg common canal boats - seems fair."

"If Leighton Linslade were to be extended there might be a case for changing the wards and number of councillors."

"Leighton-Linslade is not a village; it's a town of over 40,000 people and it's ridiculous to refer to it as a parish. Enough said."

"Increased population new homes"

"Egginton adjacent to Leighton Linslade, 5 councillors."

"Ward boundaries must reflect the recent housing developments"

For new estates which have been placed outside Leighton-Linslade but use services paid for by Leighton Linslade residents eg Clipstone development / East side development."

"Stop splitting roads in two ie number 31 in one parish/ ward and number 33 being in another. I can appreciate that one side of the road might be in one ward and other ie even side being in another ward"

"Given eastward expansion of the town significant parts of Egginton Parish should be reclassified as Leighton-Linslade. The people who live in these development use Leighton-Linslade services and the houses themselves are sold as "Leighton - Linslade" homes."

"Subject to relevant & fair representation within Leighton-Linslade"

Do you have any further comments?

"Our parish representatives need to look at the quality of our local bus service"

"The Town Council does a good job especially in spaces the County Council does not prioritise or is unable to serve. Additionally, I strongly object to any attempt to abolish the term "Parish" in the forthcoming "review".

"I believe that the councillors age should potentially be taken into account, for example how can an elderly unmarried man with no grandchildren have an any idea of the SEND need in schools."

"An age cap on councillors therefore I feel be a good idea"

"I think you need a balance between stability and new people and ideas. I am concerned about substantial outside interests having too much control of town planning."

"Thank you for asking us."

"It is an empty exercise and futile because it will not change anything for the better."

"Local bus service needs improving"

"Think there are more important issues in Leighton Buzzard/Linslade area than the "parish(es) re-naming etc.,! Community Medical Centre/Hospital/Walk-in Medical Centre, Parking in the High Street to be more "user friendly" and longer times to encourage people to stay/shop."

"Need to protect parish councils from getting too cliquey by co opting people and publicising elections better."

"Compared with other towns I have lived in, this one works quite well"

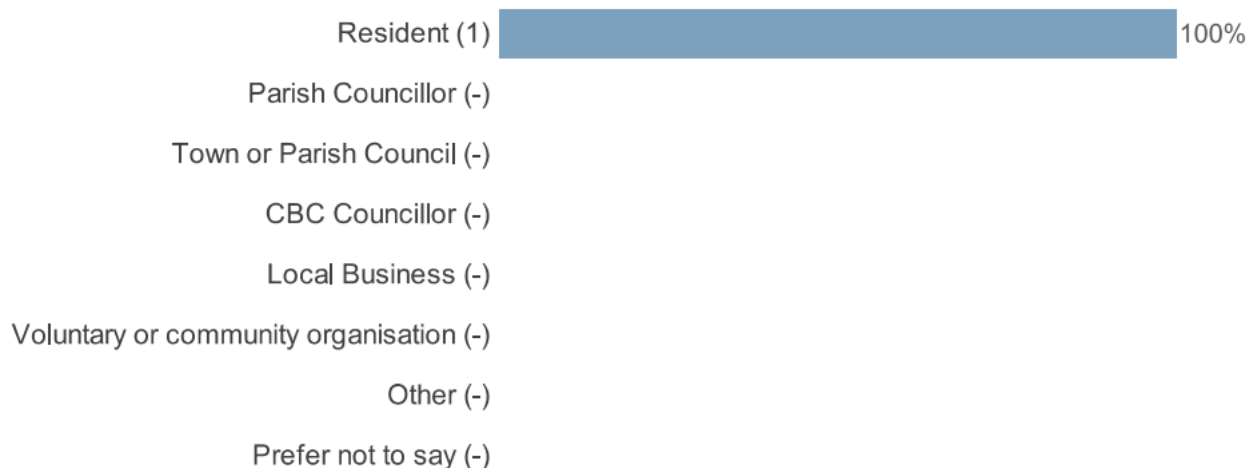
"Perhaps number of L-L councillors could be reviewed in the migration/merging of the two parts she's so there is fair representation and understanding and bonding throughout the new wards/parish"

44. Lidlington 1 response

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

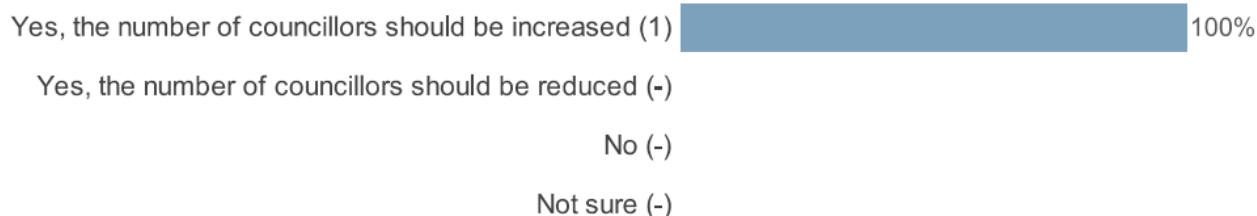


Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:**

“One for Lidlinton, another for Cranfield”

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?**If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:**

“Separate Lidlinton and Cranfield”

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

No answer

Do you have any further comments?

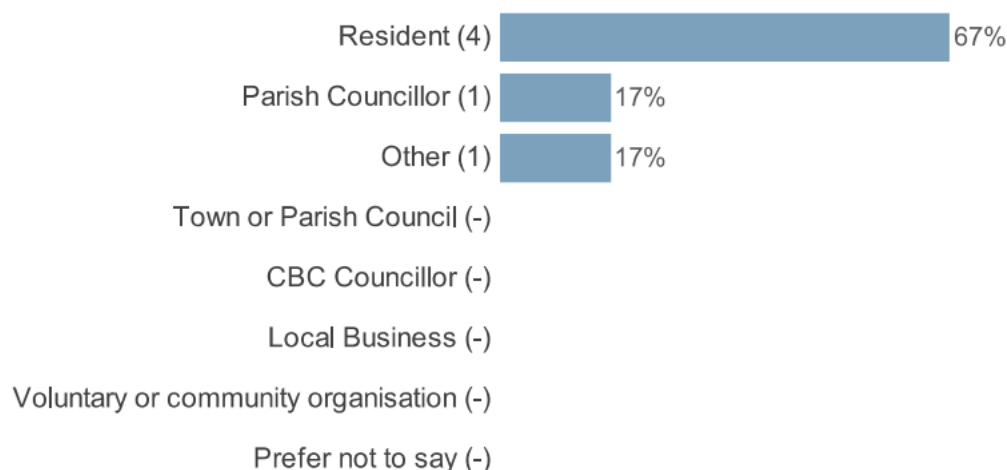
"The residents of Lidlinton seem to be voiceless. We've suffered unsuitable development within the village, endure excessive speeds from through-traffic and see outsiders visit and litter or fly tip on our beauty spots."

45. Marston Moreteyne 6 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



If Parish Councillor, which parish is this for?

"Marston Moreteyne"

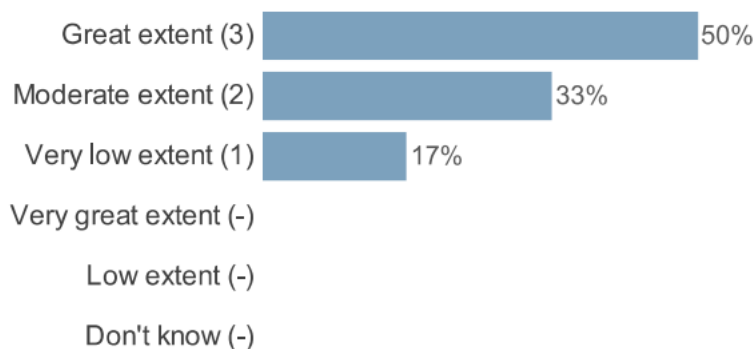
If other, please specify:

"Neighbourhood Watch Youth Council Representative for Bedfordshire, living in Marston Moreteyne"

Also Youth Council member of the Marston Moreteyne Youth Council"

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

“The Parish has effectively been split in two ever since the construction of the new A421 dual carriageway. This has been exacerbated by large scale peripheral new housing developments which do not seem connected or integrated with the Parish”

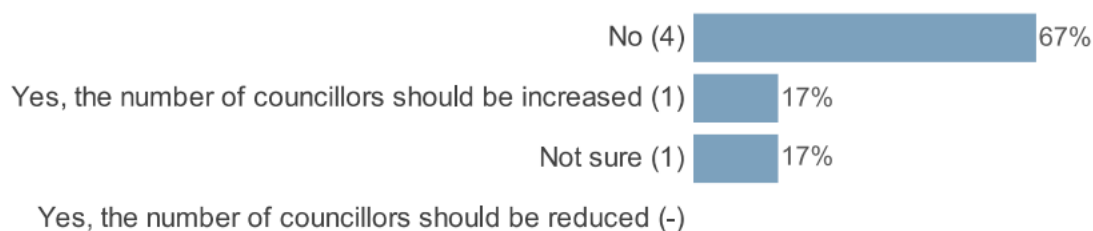
Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

“People mistakenly think the Parish covers Marston and forget surrounding areas like Wood End and the Shelton’s which it also serves”

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

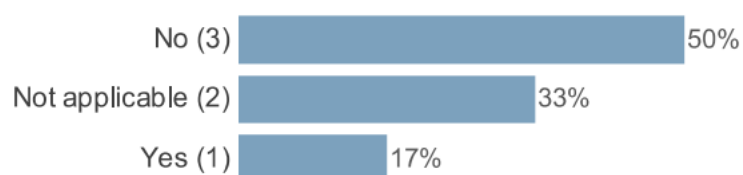
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

"It's 12. It should be 15."

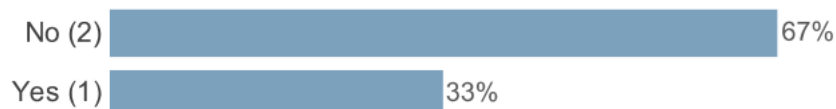
If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



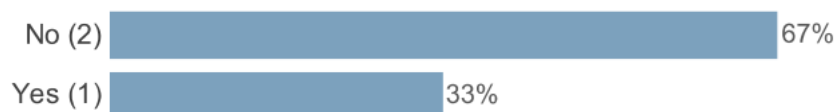
If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:

"As explained in the answer above having "managed" representation from outlying areas of the Parish would help ensure all views are encompassed"

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)

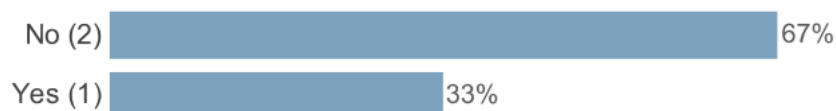


If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:

“Marston should be on its own rather than lumped with Cranfield”

Do you have any further comments?

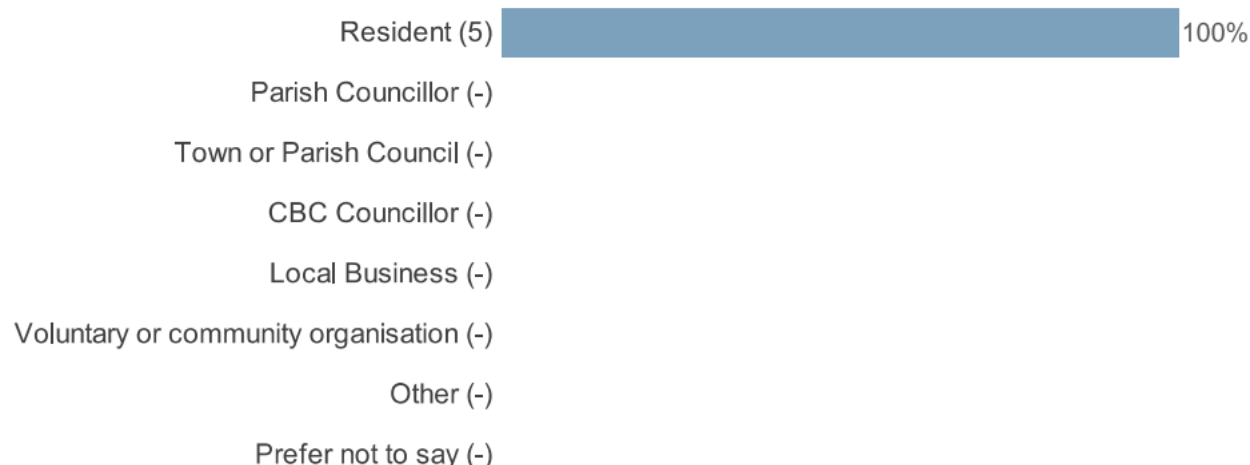
“They are terrible. They do not listen at all too the community.”

46. Maulden 5 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

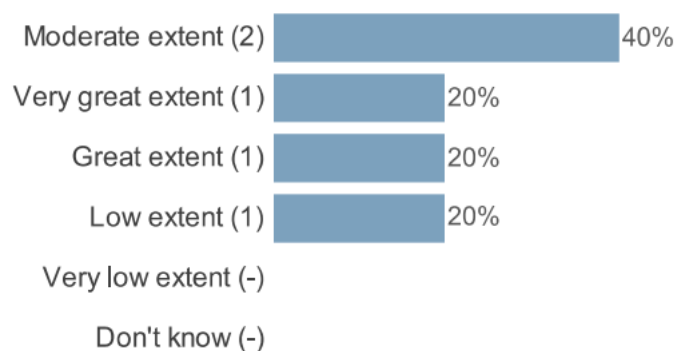
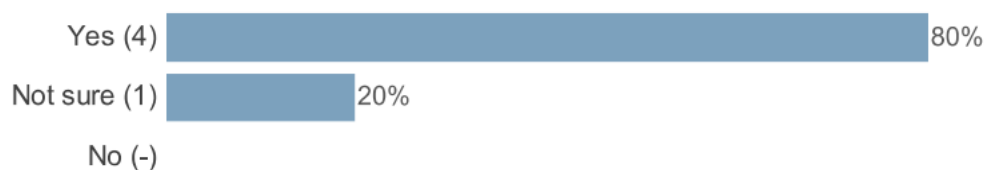
No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



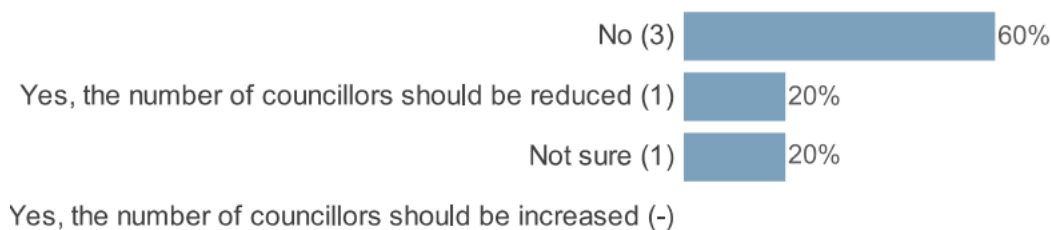
To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"The age profile of the PC does not fully reflect the Village community"

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?**Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?**

If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

“Too many. Less would save money and those remaining should do more than they do already.”

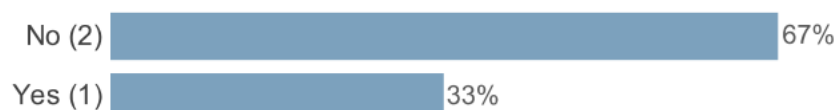
If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



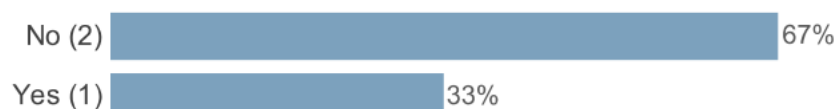
If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:

“We never see a Councillor and the PC never responds to correspondence”

“More Councillors might just improve communication”

Do you have any further comments?

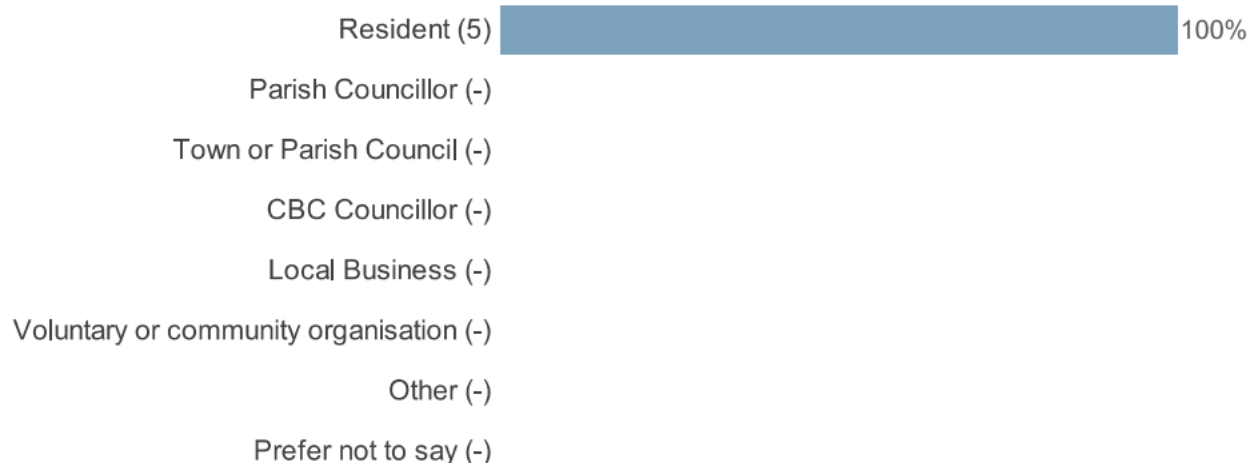
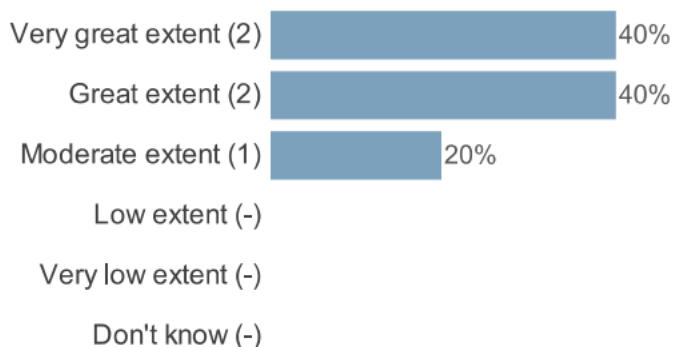
“Maulden PC is uncommunicative and inward looking”

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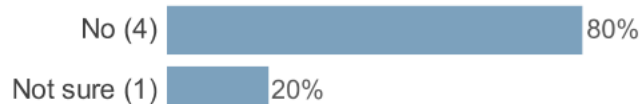
47. Meppershall 5 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

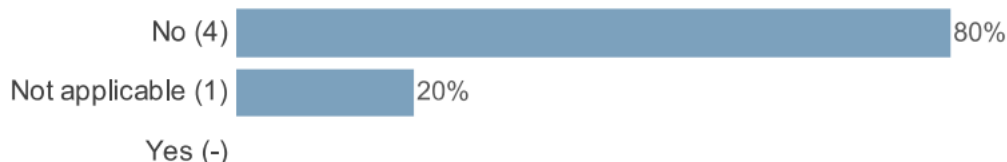
Are you responding as: (please select one)**To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?****Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?**

Yes, the number of councillors should be increased (-)

Yes, the number of councillors should be reduced (-)

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

"There always seems to be a disconnect between the PC and CBC - usually because they have different agendas, that of the PC being more tied to parish needs and wishes. Parish Councils need greater powers, particularly concerning planning. It's

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no coincidence that the prime mover for this Review is to change boundaries to suit endless new estates of "executive homes".

I believe the parish councils should have more influence over building decisions in the local areas as they more closely represent the local resident views."

48. Millbrook No responses

The following information was provided alongside the Millbrook parish profile prior to the consultation launch.

Millbrook is one of eight parishes which do not have a council but rather meets as a parish meeting. The forecast development to March 2030 is estimated at no further dwellings.

The parish boundary adjoins the neighbouring parishes of Ampthill, Houghton Conquest, Lidlington, Marston Moreteyney and Steppingley. The parish, together with the parishes of Ampthill, Clophill and Maulden are coterminous (i.e. they border each other in the same area) within the Central Bedfordshire ward of Ampthill.

49. Milton Bryan No responses

The following information was provided alongside the Milton Bryan parish profile prior to the consultation launch.

Milton Bryan is one of eight parishes which do not have a council but rather meets as a parish meeting. The forecast development to March 2030 is estimated at no further dwellings.

The parish boundary adjoins the neighbouring parishes of Battlesden, Eversholt, Potsgrove, Tingrith, Toddington and Woburn. The parish, together with the parishes of Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, Battlesden, Eversholt, Husborne Crawley, Potsgrove and Woburn are coterminous (i.e. they border each other in the same area) within the Central Bedfordshire ward of Aspley and Woburn.

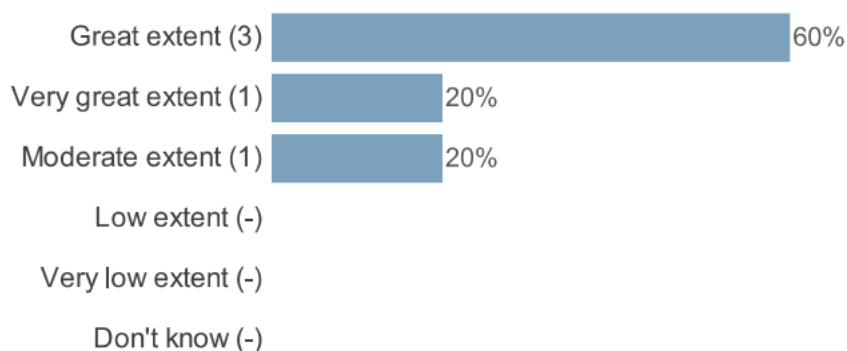
50. Moggerhanger 5 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

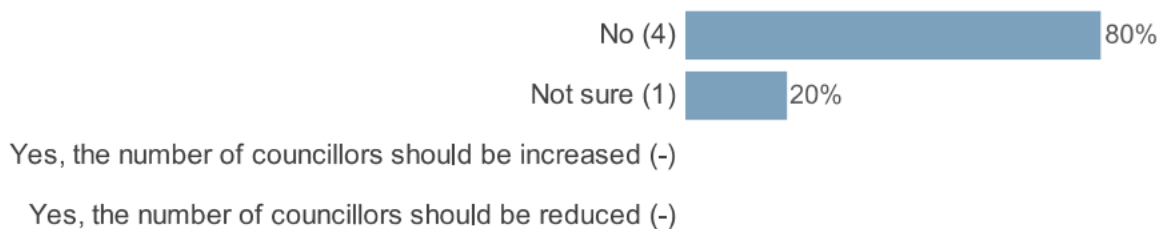
No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**If Parish Councillor, which parish is this for?***"Moggerhanger"**"Moggerhanger"***To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?****Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?**

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**If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

"Moggerhanger struggles to get councillors. But the village is expanding so no need to expect fewer councillor posts."

"The parish of Moggerhanger and local matters are important to parish residents, with good attendance at meetings"

"Yes it is hard to get parish councillors to serve in the Parish but the ones we have are dedicated and work for our vilage. We are also supported by some local"

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volunteer help We are particularly blessed to have our ward councilor Mr Paul Daniels on our council. He is incredibly helpful"

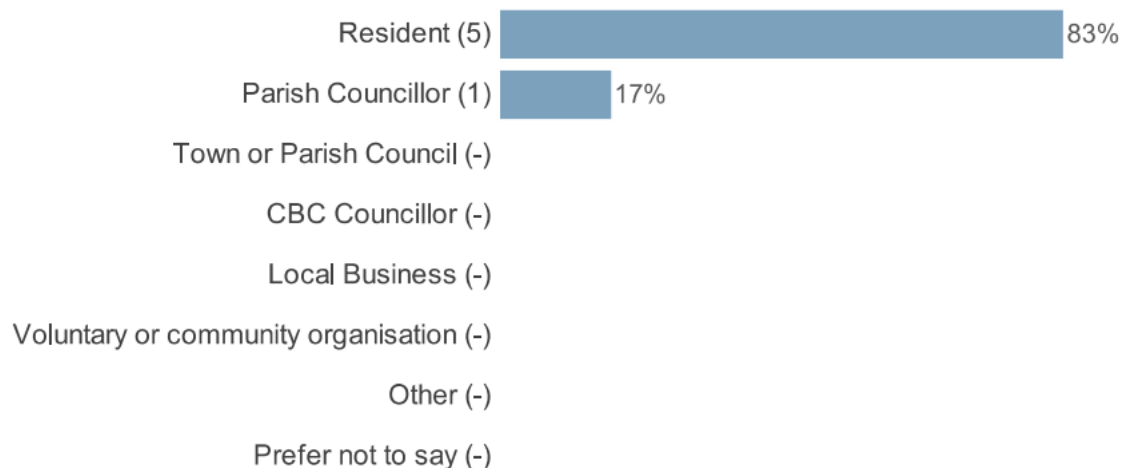
51. Northhill 6 responses (plus a written letter response from Northhill Parish Council)

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

We also received a letter responding to the consultation from Northhill Parish Council, this can be found in full in the Appendix to this report.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

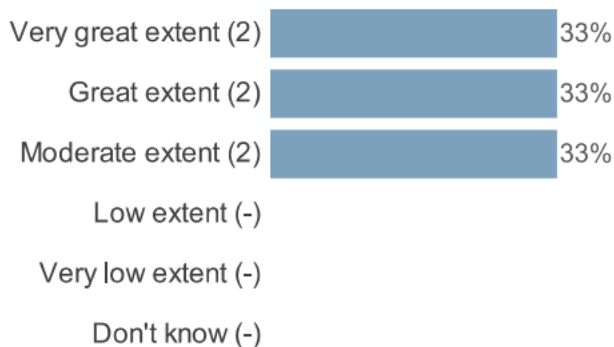
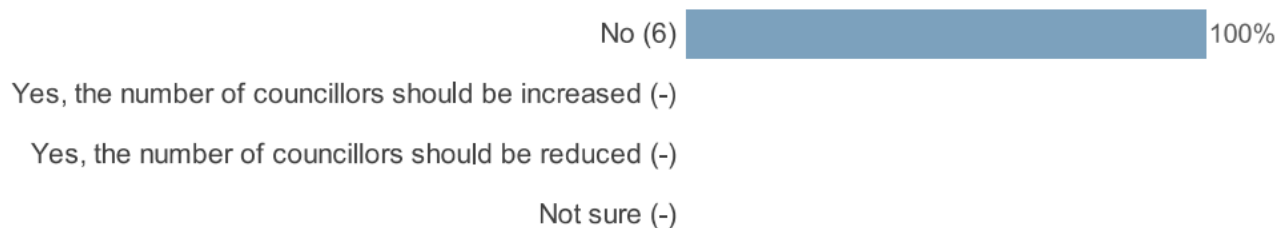
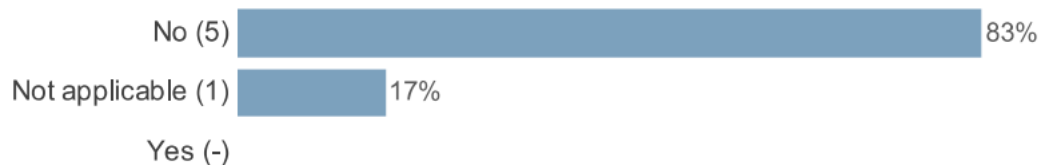


If Parish Councillor, which parish is this for?

"Northhill"

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**

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If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



Do you have any further comments?

"Our Parish Council are very good and communicate well with residents."

"If it is not broken don't fix it."

"It is fine as is!"

52. Old Warden No responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

The councillors of Old Warden parish do not wish for there to be any changes to the parish boundary, parish name or number of councillors.

53. Potsgrove No responses

The following information was provided alongside the Potsgrove parish profile prior to the consultation launch.

Potsgrove is one of eight parishes which do not have a council but rather meets as a parish meeting. The forecast development to March 2030 is estimated at no further dwellings.

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

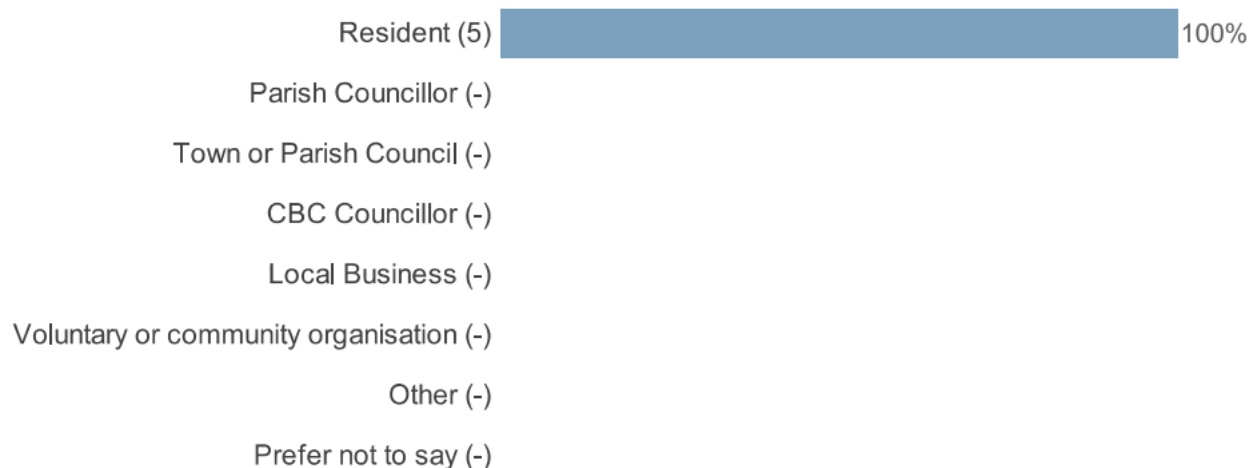
The parish boundary adjoins the neighbouring parishes of Battlesden, Heath and Reach, Milton Bryan and Woburn. The parish, together with the parishes of Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, Battlesden, Eversholt, Husborne Crawley, Milton Bryan and Woburn are coterminous (i.e. they border each other in the same area) within the Central Bedfordshire ward of Aspley and Woburn.

54. Potton 5 responses

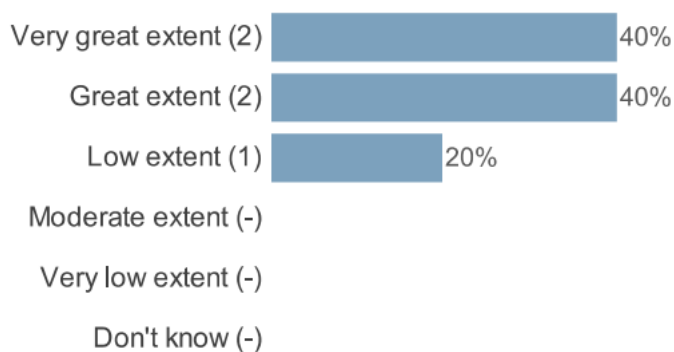
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

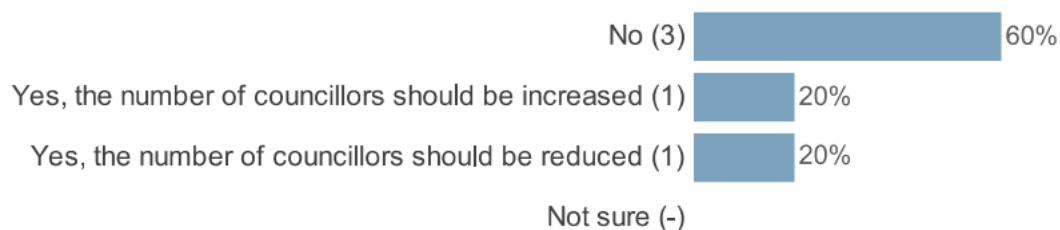


To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



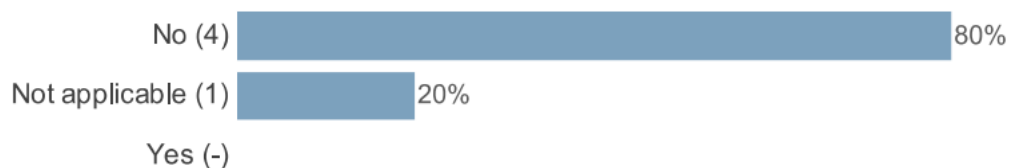
Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?

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**Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:**

"Maybe 12. A better size for full participation in meetings."

"Plus one or two, to reflect the growth of the town"

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

"Sorry I missed the announcement of the consultation on 7th July. I'm currently away, so responses are not fully researched. Potton is currently becoming overwhelmed with increased incoming populations, so help to bring newcomers into our community is needed. Also the rate of expansion of our housing needs to be curtailed until we have commensurate improved infrastructure. Of note, as we are a rural Georgian market town, there is little room to improve road infrastructure, which should be considered a limiting factor to expansion on safety grounds alone."

"I think Potton council do good work serving their town, providing services, facilities, and events"

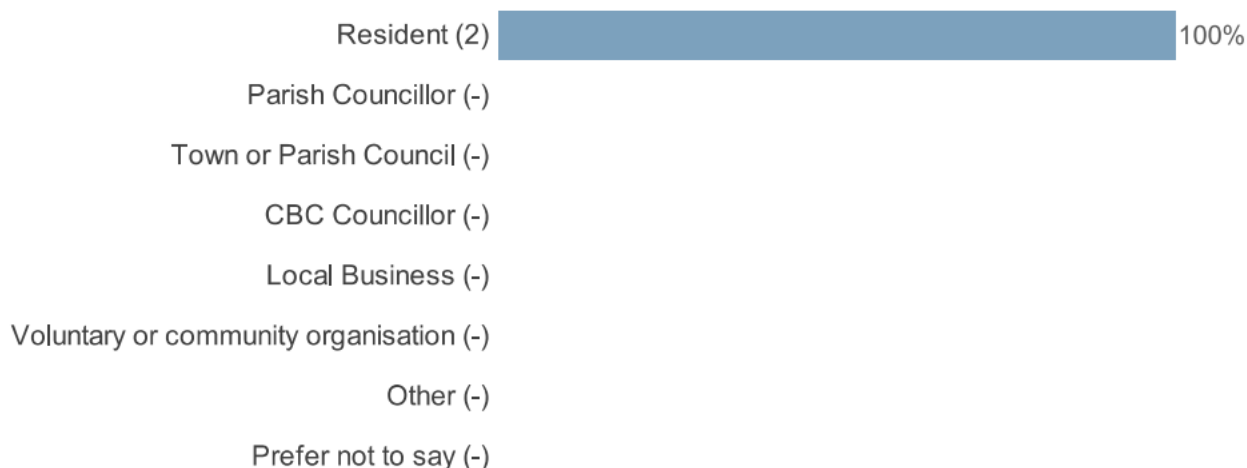
55. Pulloxhill 2 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

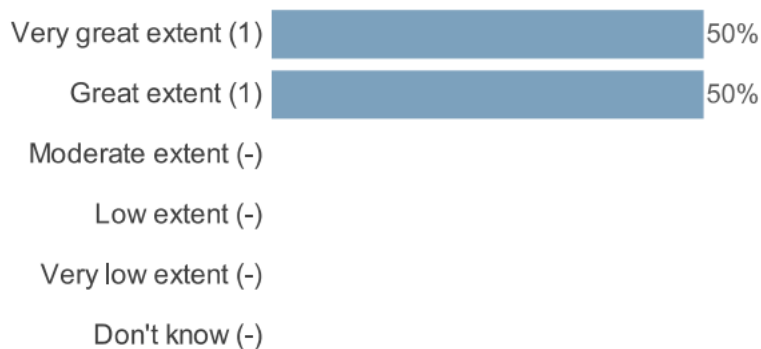
No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



Yes, the number of councillors should be increased (-)

Yes, the number of councillors should be reduced (-)

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



Not applicable (-)

If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:

"I live in Sand -about 12 houses in between Silsoe and Pulloxhill. So we are in between, dont always feel a part of either. Our lampposts are horrible compared to Silsoe - small thing, but does anyone look out for us? No one to my knowledge has ever made themselves known to our area to seek our views. We like it here, not complaining , the peace and quiet of the location is brilliant."

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

No answer

Do you have any further comments?

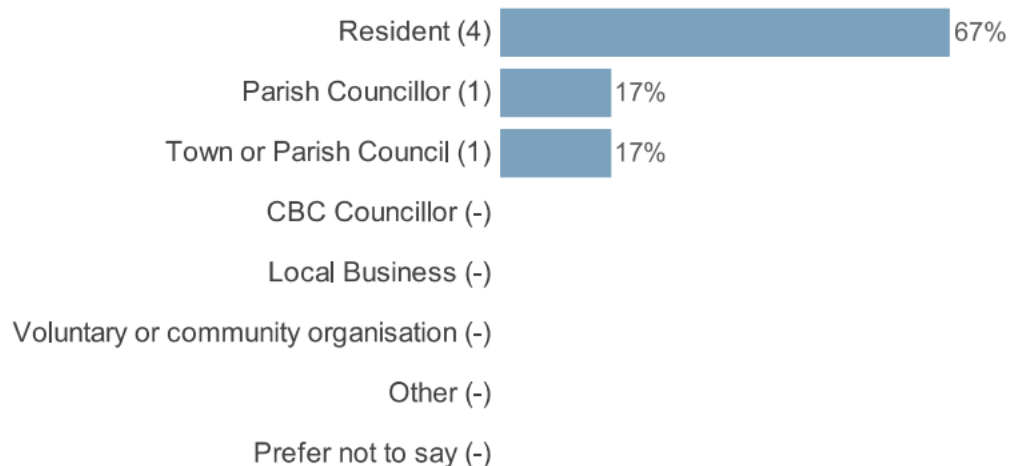
"We were only emailed about the review 5 days before it closed. There has been very poor promotion of the consultation."

56. Ridgmont 7 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



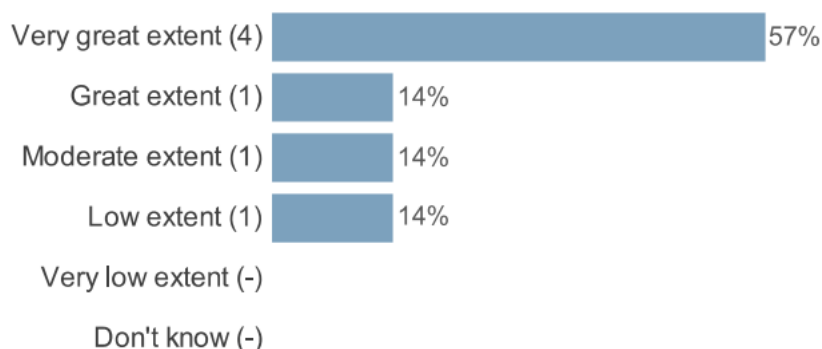
If Parish Councillor, which parish is this for?

"Ridgmont"

If Town or Parish Council, please specify:

"Ridgmont"

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?

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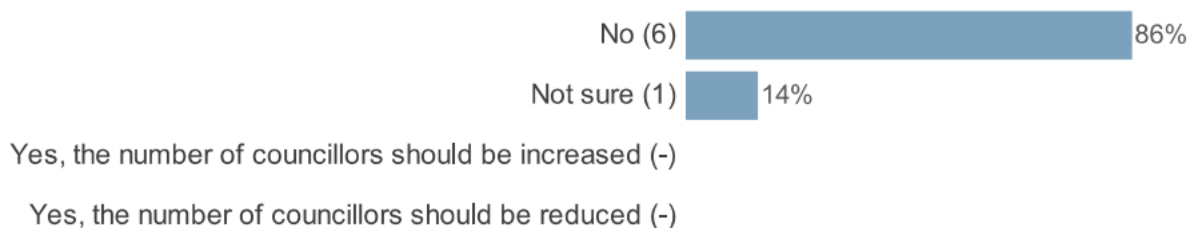
If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"Should be included as marston moretaine, residents of marston tended to use the school"

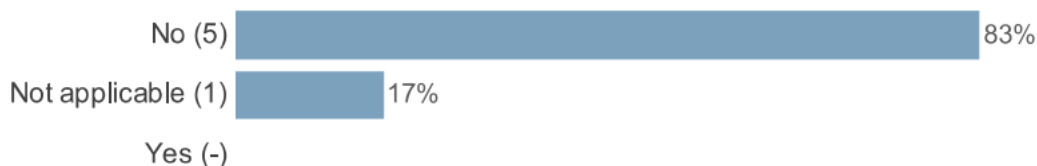
Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



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If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No (5)  100%

Yes (-)

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

No (5)  100%

Yes (-)

Do you have any further comments?

“Parish councils who are unpaid volunteers do an excellent job representing their communities. Without them residents would not have a voice on local issues.”

“Parish boundaries should not be moved to suit the needs of interested land owners/ developers (who may also serve on local councils) The rural aspect of parishes and surrounding should be preserved. We are seeing too many important natural areas being destroyed e.g. warehousing at Junction 13 on the green sand ridge, with the loss of wild life. We need to start thinking about the long term.”

“Parish Councils are an important interface between the Local Authority and the local community. Without PCs the voice of the local community would be lost.”

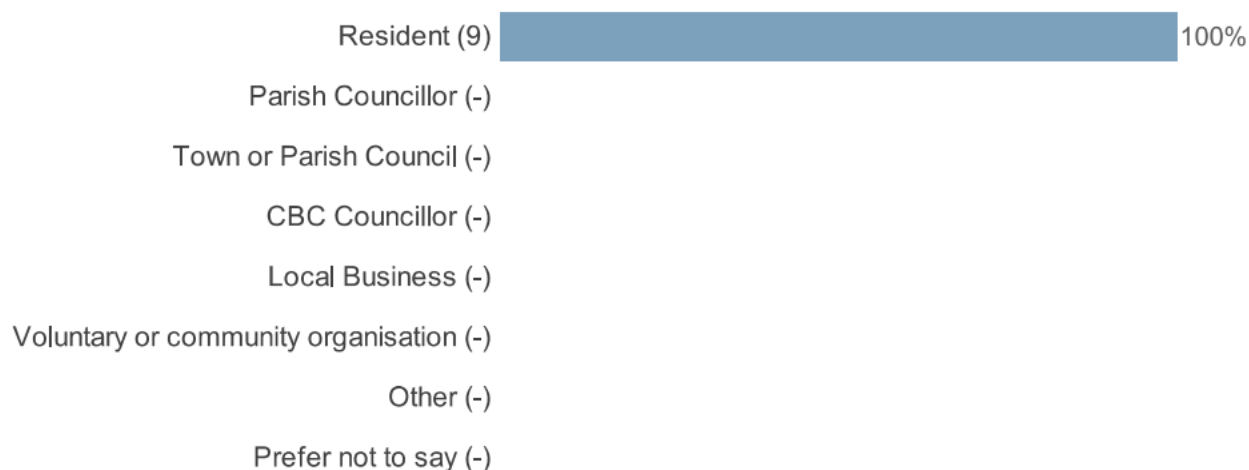
57. Sandy 9 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

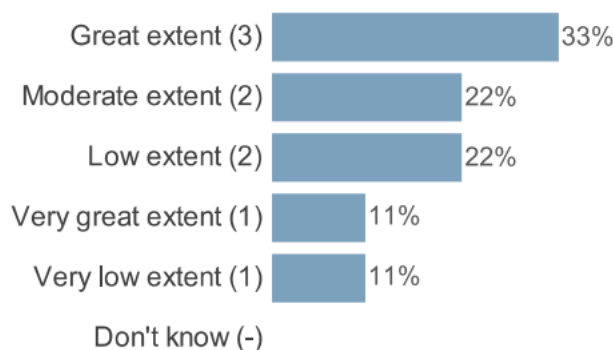
No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

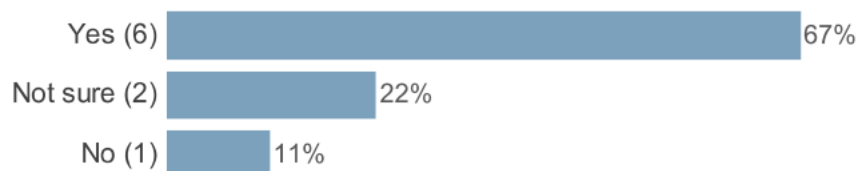
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To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

“Don't know what the current boundary is so difficult to comment.”

“Sandy has grown significantly over the years. This has resulted in smaller areas, such as Beeston, not being well represented (the number of councillors who are from

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Beeston is high but they do not engage with the community (another more general issue)."

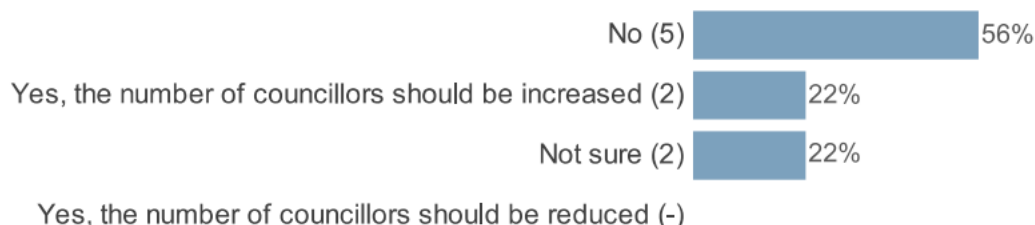
Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

"Sandy and Beeston Town Council"

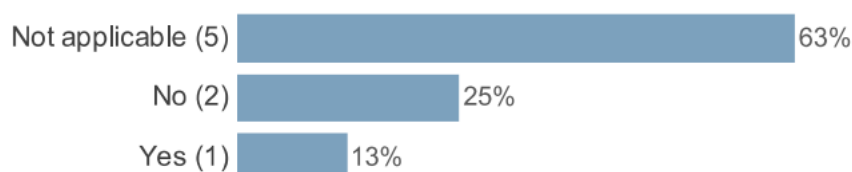
Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

"Twice the existing number, to enable better representation of the population. ward boundary should be proportionate to number of people living there."

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:

"Already divided into wards and seems to work"

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If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:**

"The area covered by each ward should be proportionate to the size of the population within the ward."

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

"Nothing wrong with Sandy Town Council. Far more effective than Central Bedfordshire Council. Its officers and administrators are effective, honest and great communicators, which is more than can be said for staff at Central Bedfordshire Council. I'd be more than happy to give more powers to Sandy Town Council if some of the underperforming administrators in CBC were made redundant and the money saved was handed to Sandy Town Council."

"Sandy Town Council has too few powers for a town of our size, which once had its own Urban District Council. Far too many decisions are made at the level of CBC rather than at the Sandy level, and therefore also have to reflect the views of Councillors from places like Ampthill and Flitwick for whom Sandy is a far off place of little interest. The prevailing view locally is that CBC takes little or no account of the views of Sandy Town Council. Where Sandy Town Council does have powers eg for allotments, it does not have the finances to provide them. The way to renew public

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interest in genuinely local government is to give real powers and funding to Councillors in places like Sandy.”

“The funding through the precept should be supplemented for any devolved services”

“Too many barbers, nail bars, Turkish barbers, more barbers, hairdressers, more hairdressers, too many fast food shops, eating houses too many, no banks and to finish it off a Tattoo Parlour. This hardly represents a thriving country multi community - more like downtown.....!!”

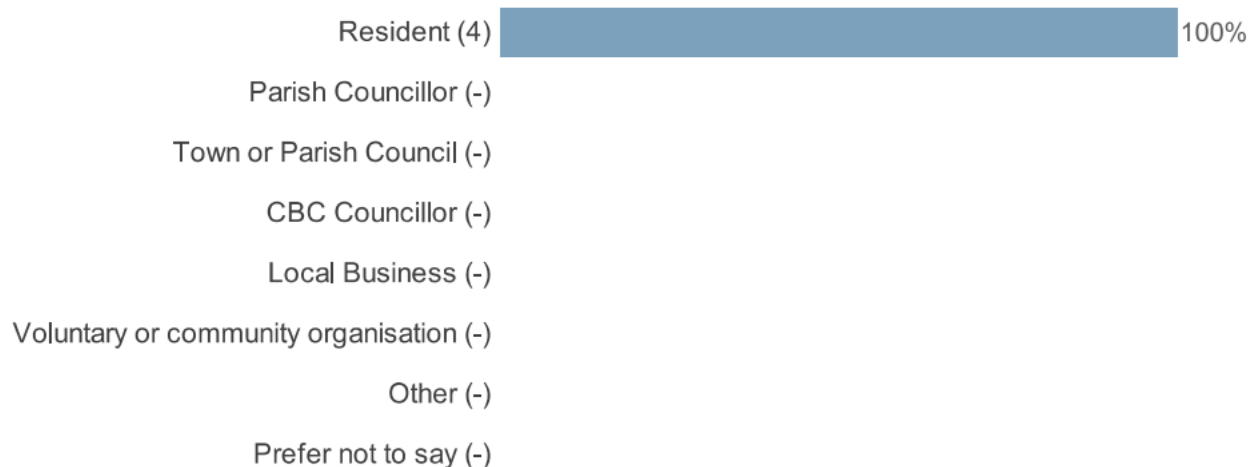
“Boundaries are important. However, the Councillors should be obliged to engage with the people they represent to ensure they are in tune with local people. I appreciate these people are volunteers but just being on the parish council to present your own views needs to be addressed. One other item that needs to be fixed is for the Council to ask residents if they wish to opt out of receiving requests for resident feedback, rather than opt in - this would help address residents complaining they were not consulted.”

58. Shefford 5 responses

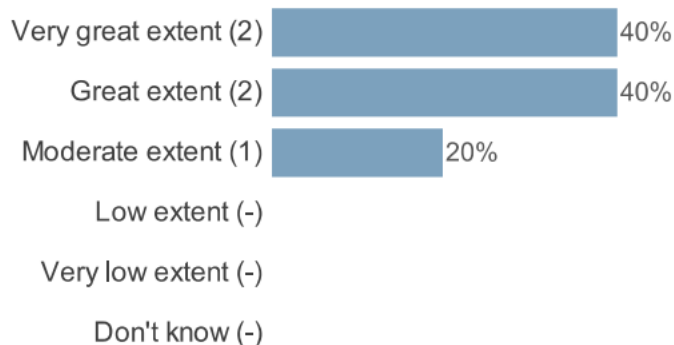
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



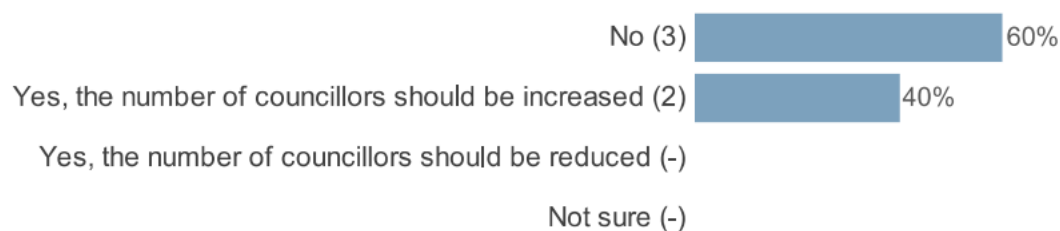
Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

“Three”

“17 - because of the growth in the town”

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?

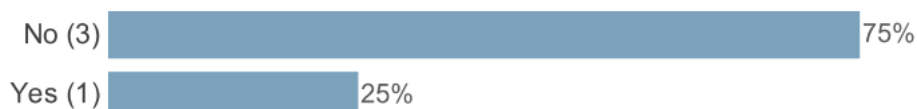
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



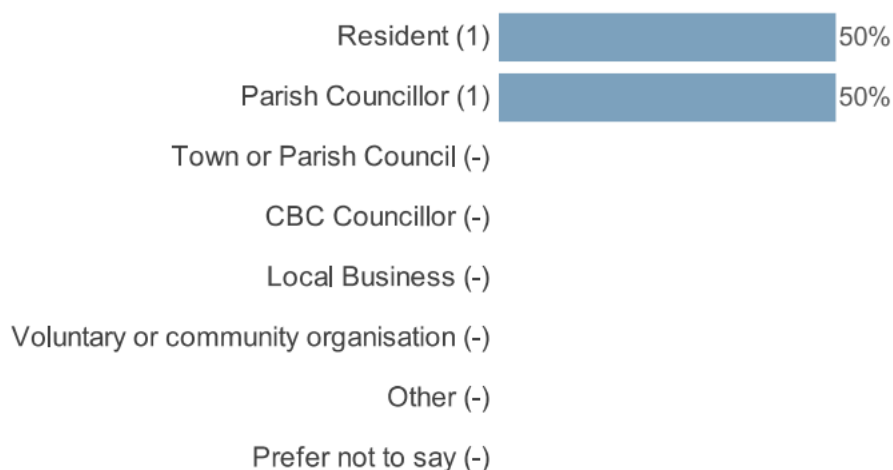
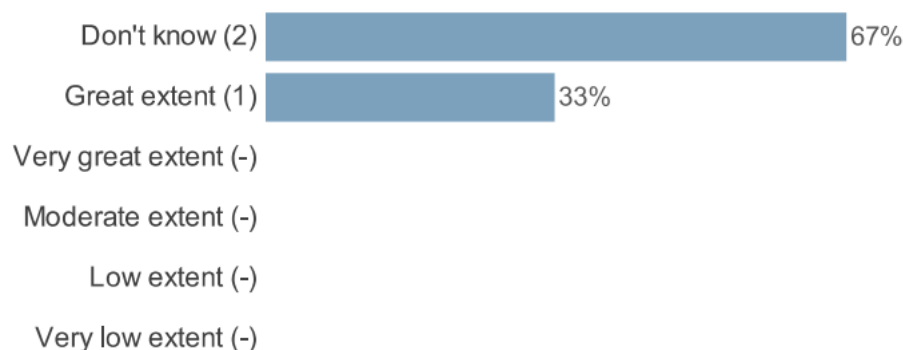
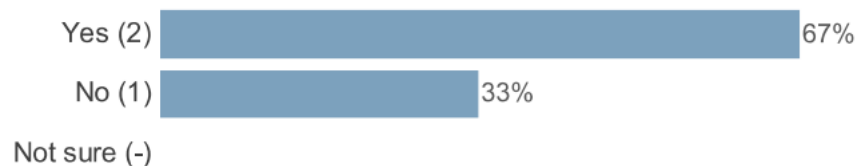
59. Shillington 3 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**If Parish Councillor, which parish is this for?***"Shillington"***To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?****Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"Please see comment on Gravenhurst boundary, to include the technically Shillington homes, with the Gravenhurst postcode MK, not Shillington SG, along Old Mill Lane backing onto the parishes' river boundary, to be considered and included within

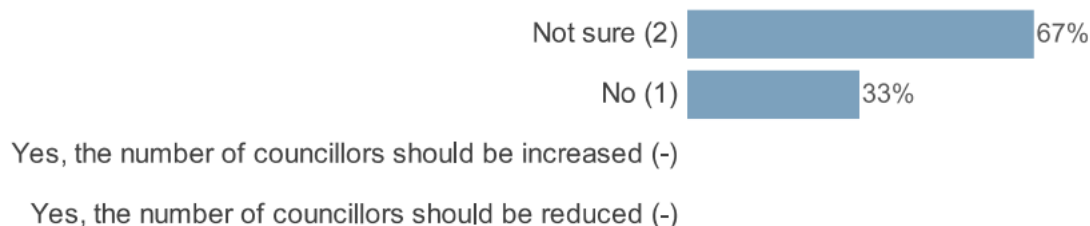
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

*Gravenhurst parish, the natural and habitual focus of the residents. Thank you!
Again, asking for friend who lives there."*

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



60. Silsoe 5 responses

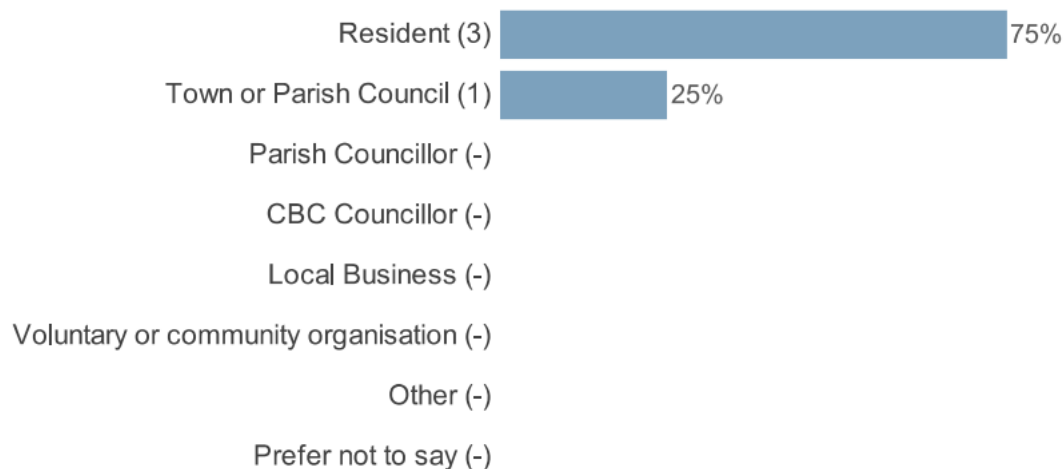
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Review of property anomalies

The properties Orchard End and Willowstream are in the parish of Silsoe, but the remainder of the area is in the parish of Clophill. Consideration should be given to rectify this anomaly.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

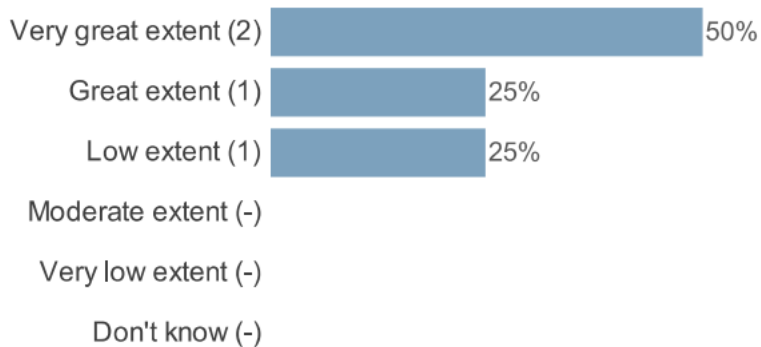
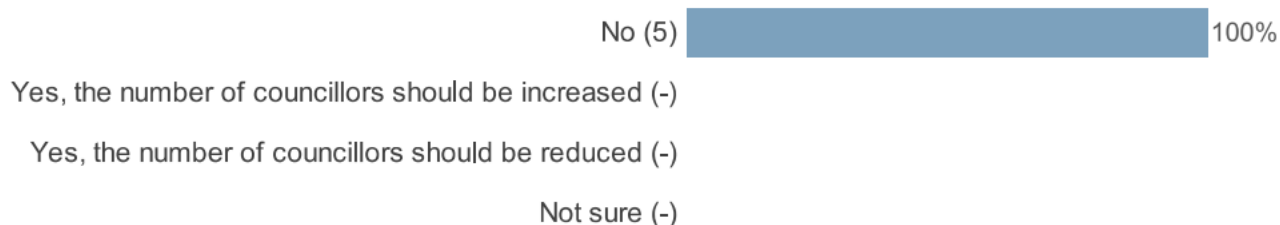


If Town or Parish Council, please specify:

"Silsoe PC"

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



Do you have any further comments?

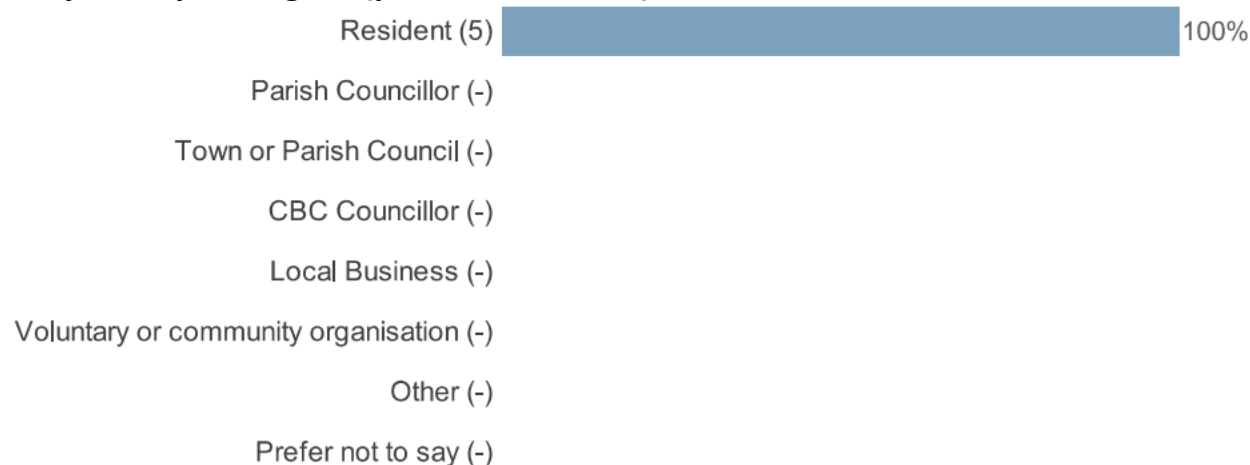
"I feel Silsoe parish council has embraced the new developments of recent years. They do not need to be joined with another parish."

61. Slip End 6 responses

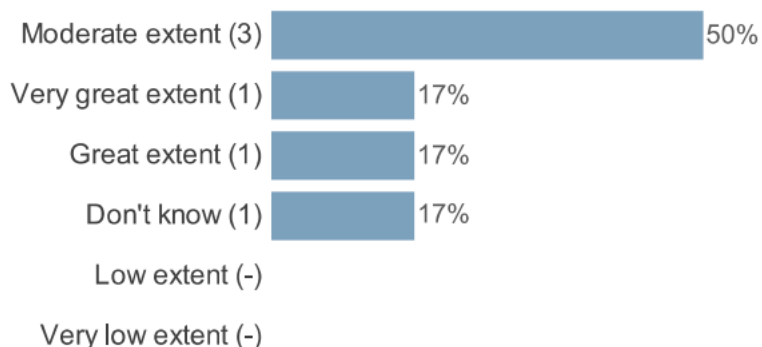
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



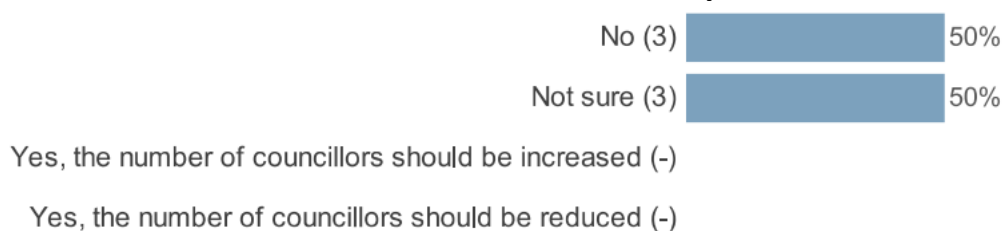
Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

"The parish council seems to achieve nothing. We have had, for over 20 years, flooding of Grove Road. Nothing seems to be done about it even though it has been discussed for all those years. The parish council AND Central Beds council are ineffective in taking any action about it."

"More powers should handed down to the parish from central beds"

"The current system seems to work well, but there is one odd anomaly. Some hedges are the responsibility of the local parish council and they are well maintained, but most are the responsibility of the council council and they are trimmed only in extremis. Currently, one cannot walk down some pavements because of the hedge growth."

62. Southill (Broom Ward) No responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

As discussed previously, Southill Parish Council would like to remove the ward system from the council and still have 12 councillors representing the parish.

63. Southill (Southill Ward) 1 response

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

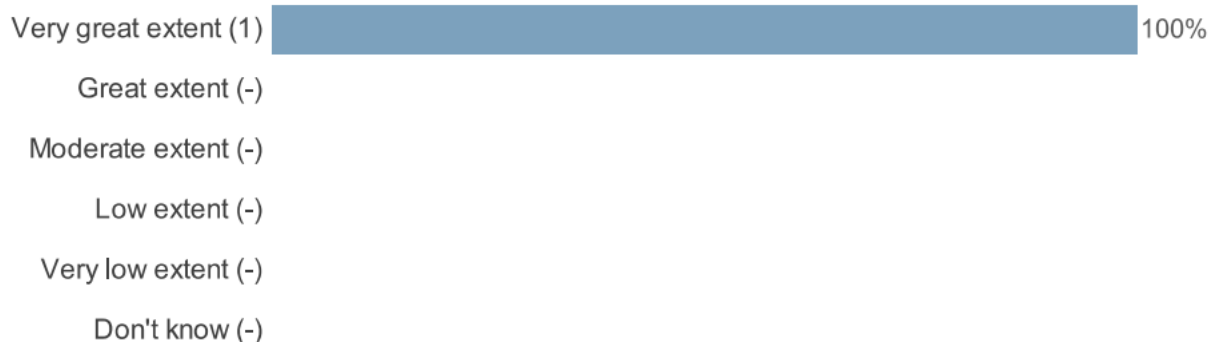
As discussed previously, Southill Parish Council would like to remove the ward system from the council and still have 12 councillors representing the parish.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

- Resident (-)
- Parish Councillor (-)
- Town or Parish Council (-)
- CBC Councillor (-)
- Local Business (-)
- Voluntary or community organisation (-)
- Other (-)
- Prefer not to say (-)

Was not answered

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

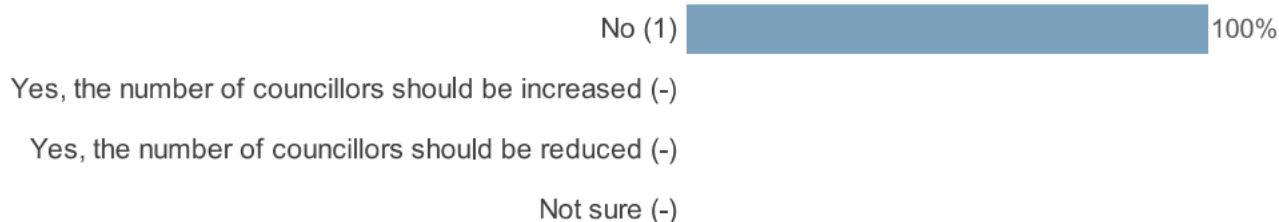


Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)**

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

No answer

If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:

*"Southill Parish Council requests the ward system to be removed for this council
removal of ward system and retain 12 Councillors for this Parish"*

*"no ward system for this parish and retain 12 Councillors, as it currently works with all
Councillors dealing with the whole parish"*

64. Southill (Stanford Ward) No responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

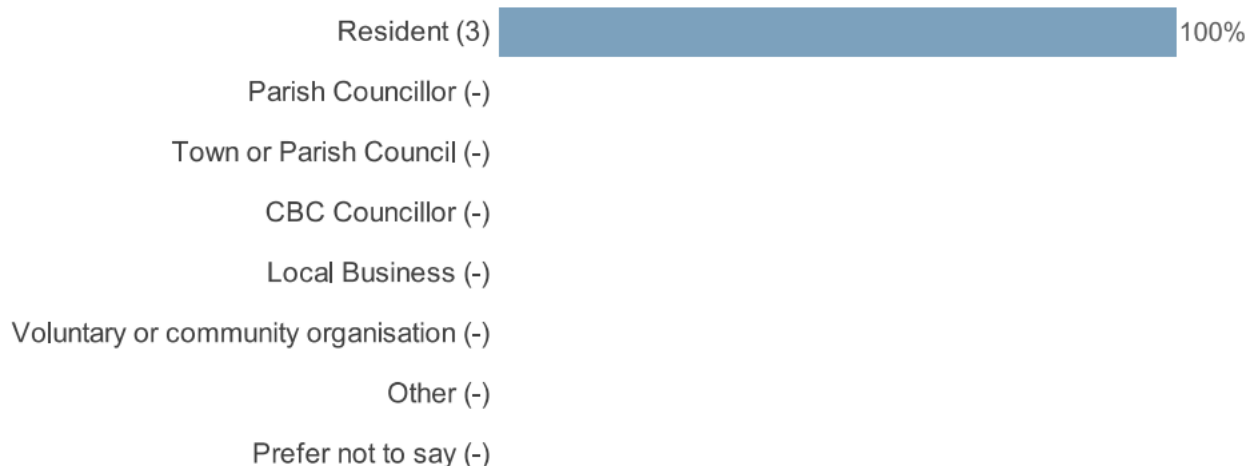
As discussed previously, Southill Parish Council would like to remove the ward system from the council and still have 12 councillors representing the parish.

65. Stanbridge 3 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

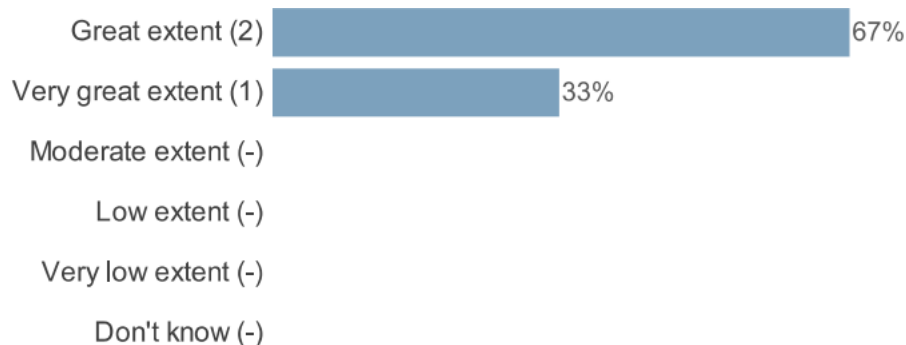
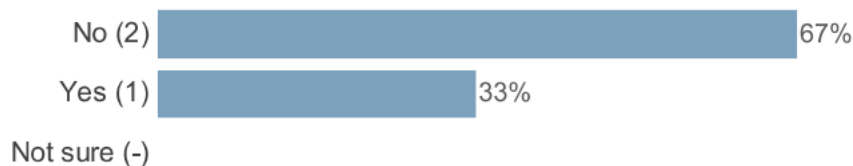
The parish council does not wish to merge with any other parishes, change its name or make a change to the number of councillors.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

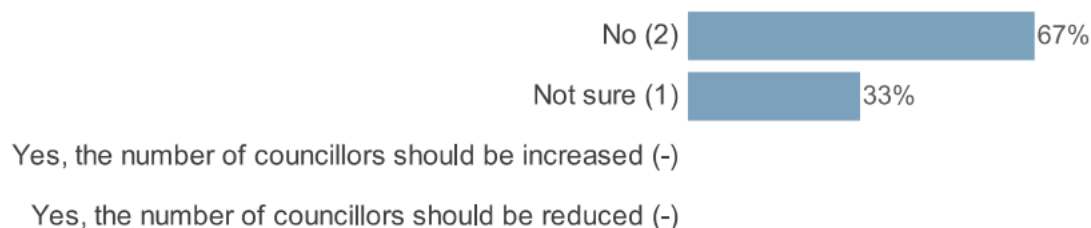
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

“Should merge with Tilsworth who already appear to work together on many things such as Speedwatch and Community Hall support.”

“It would make sense to merge with Tilsworth. Stanbridge and Tilsworth are very similar and share a village hall. Around 50% of Stanbridge PCs precept is spent on the Clerk (i.e. running itself) which is ludicrous.”

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?**Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?**

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

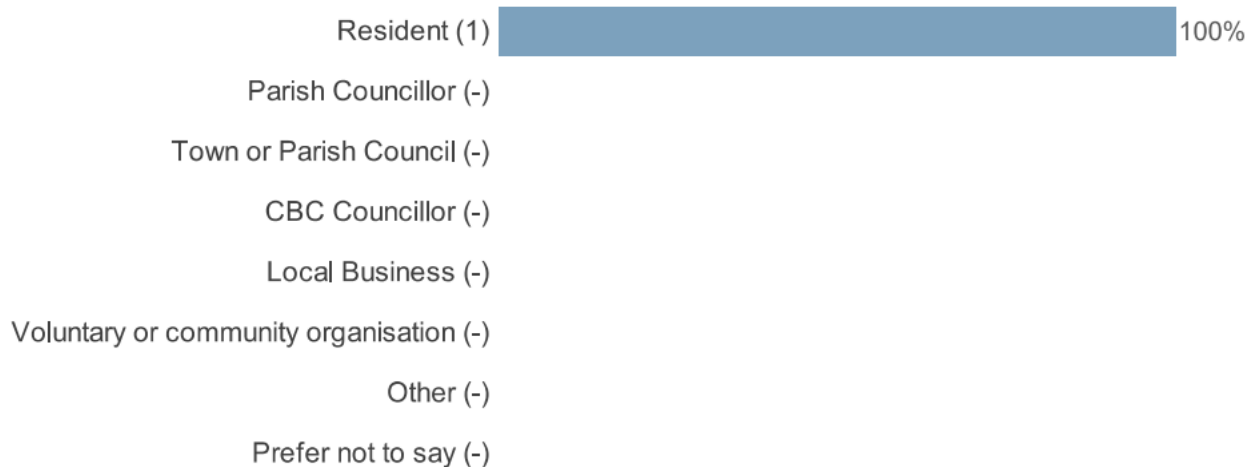
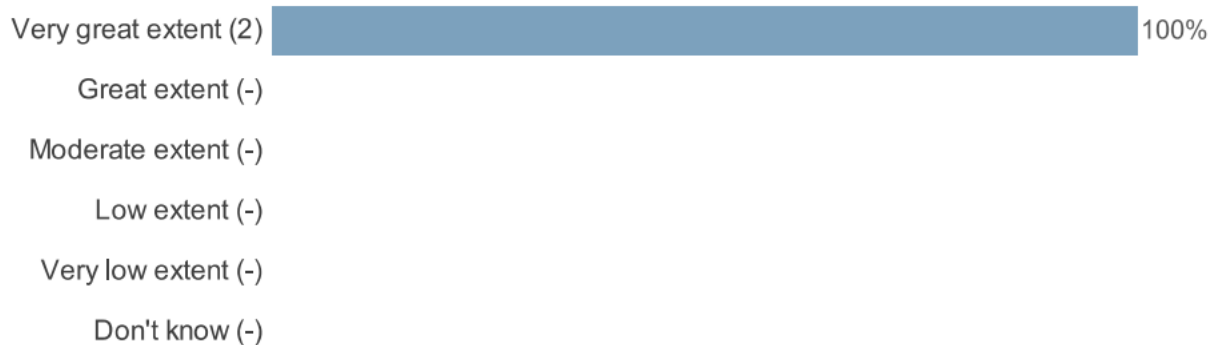
“Administration costs should be considered. In the last financial year, Stanbridge PC had an income of £26,868. Of that money, £11,875 went to the Clerk. That means for an organisation that's mostly run by volunteers we have 44% of the income going to the Clerk. This is absurd. Parish Councils should be axed as they serve no real purpose but assuming that can't be done they should be made larger so as to dilute the effect of the Clerks wages. Source: <https://stanbridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Annual-Governance-and-Accountability-Return-2024-25-Stanbridge-Parish-Council.pdf>”

66. Steppingley 2 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Are you responding as: (please select one)**To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?****Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

Yes, the number of councillors should be reduced (1)  50%

No (1)  50%

Yes, the number of councillors should be increased (-)

Not sure (-)

If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

"This parish council offers poor value for money. The electorate at 152 electors is almost below the threshold for there even being a council. My personal view is that Steppingley should be grouped with Flitwick."

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?

No (2)  100%

Yes (-)

Not applicable (-)

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)

No (1)  100%

Yes (-)

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No (1)  100%

Yes (-)

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

Yes (1)  100%

No (-)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:

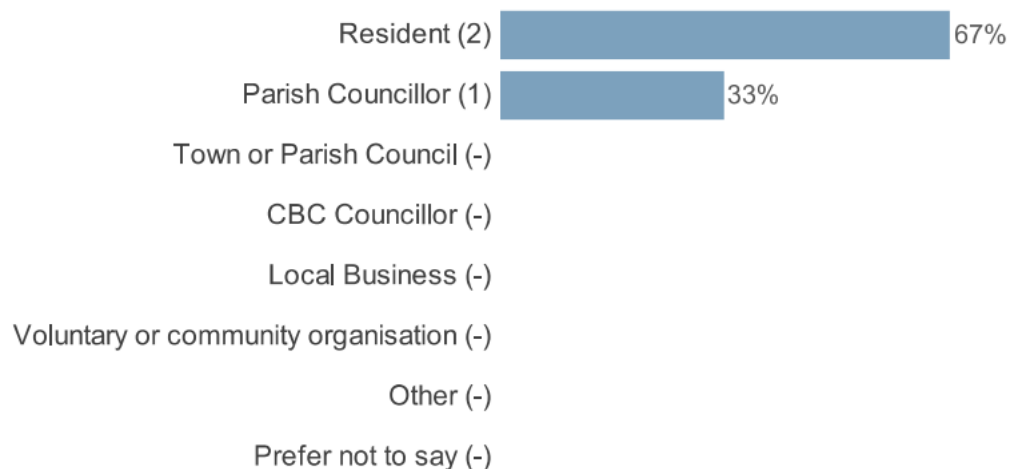
“Propose to abolish the council and group with Flitwick”

67. Stondon 3 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

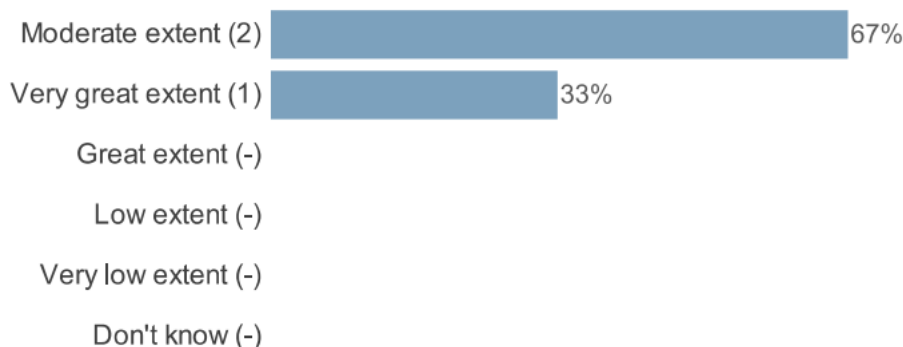
Are you responding as: (please select one)



If Parish Councillor, which parish is this for?

“Stondon”

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"Henlow Camp is approx two miles from Henlow yet for the majority of the populated area it is on the opposite side of the road to Lower Stondon. Stondon should incorporate Henlow Camp."

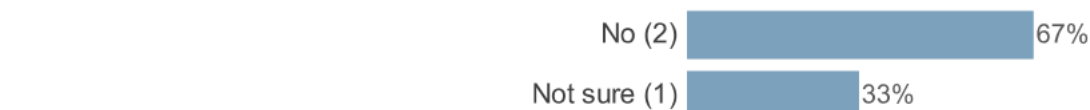
"It makes no sense that Henlow Camp residents and businesses to the east of the Hitchin road are in Henlow parish. This is detrimental to our village as it cuts it in half. They should be moved into Stondon parish so that we can take decisions on the future of our village together."

"Creation of a new parish taking in Henlow camp and the development to the South of the village in Ickleford North Herts that borders Stondon"

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



Yes, the number of councillors should be increased (-)

Yes, the number of councillors should be reduced (-)

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:

“Upper Stondon, Lower Stondon and if adopted Henlow Camp.”

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



Do you have any further comments?

“From my perspective Lower Stondon is seen as the runt of the CBC Parishes with windfall housing applications freely granted. It is no longer a village but a sprawling housing development without any direction or plan and totally lacking in the infra structure to support it.”

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

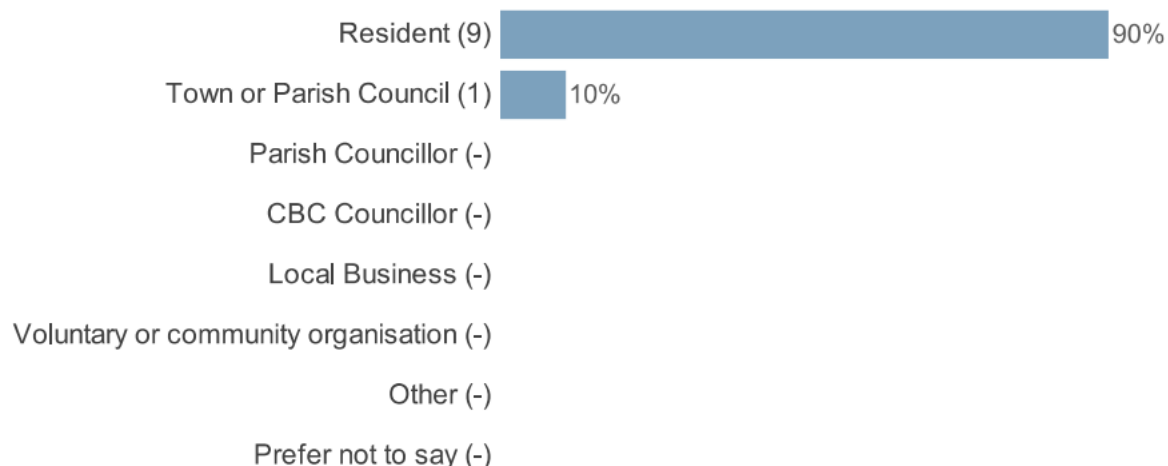
"It makes no sense that Henlow Camp residents and businesses to the east of the Hitchin road are in Henlow parish. This is detrimental to Lower Stondon village as it cuts it in half. They should be moved into Stondon parish so that we can take decisions on the future of our village together."

68. Stotfold 12 responses (plus a written letter response from Stotfold Town Council uploaded into questionnaire)

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

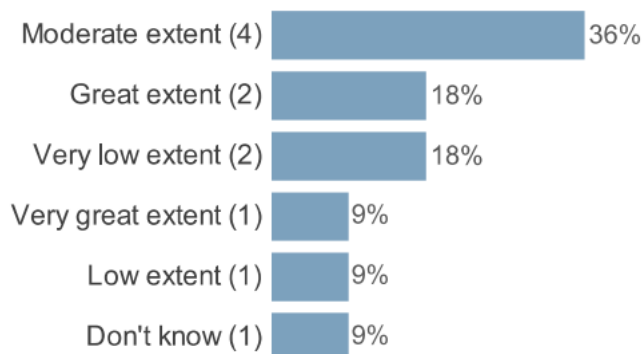
Are you responding as: (please select one)



If Town or Parish Council, please specify:

"Stotfold Town Council"

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

“Should be merged with Hertfordshire, as the location is a common source of confusion and frustration.”

“As the Town Council does not reflect the interests of the town, maybe a review of the area covered should be enacted.”

“Stotfold Town Council has liaised with neighbouring parish and town councils to consider how best the boundaries can reflect the needs of the residents of Stotfold. This includes amalgamating the parish meeting of Astwick as a ward of Stotfold Town Council with its own representative and redrafting the boundary between Arlesey and Stotfold to include Etonbury School and Woods into Stotfold, incorporating the man made boundary of the A507.”

If you would like to upload any files to support any changes, you can do so here:

File was uploaded and included in Appendix

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

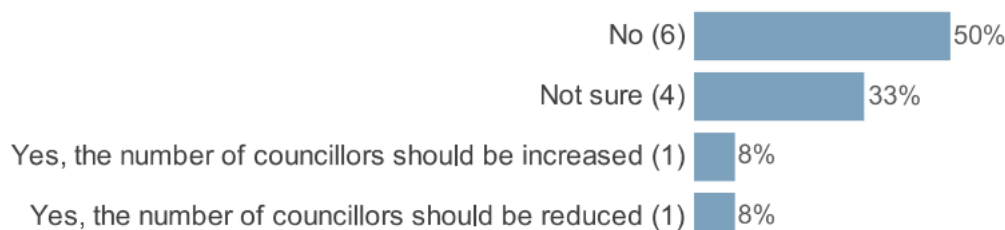


If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

“Stotfold and District. Reason: to expand the area of remit”

“Stotfold and District to reflect the difference between the original town and the new housing estates”

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?**If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:**

"As a resident I'm not in a position to answer."

"Our local councillors are very insular and don't reflect the changing nature of the town. The new estates would benefit from being encouraged to sit on their council by additional seats being made available for them."

"The Mayor and the current council are useless so why have so many drawing so much money from the community"

"Far fewer, more useful council members"

"1, to represent the town and ward, no need for any more waste of money councillors on the town council"

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?**If yes, please provide details of the proposal including; the proposed ward boundary, how this change would make the election of councillors more practical, ward names and how many councillors should represent each ward:**

"As a resident I think this question is beyond my ability but it would help to ensure the council reflected the town if councillors came from specific wards. At the moment the council's make up is very traditional and blinkered. It needs younger people looking to the future, not like it is now with some people sitting on their council because their family always had a seat. As a result they just look after themselves and their friends and don't care about the rest of us."

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

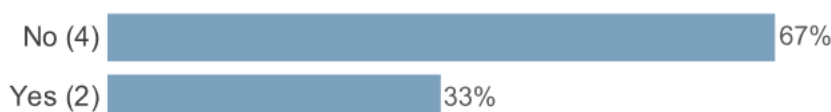
"With all the new housing estates, the existing town feels under represented. Much of the town council decisions feel as though focus on new estates and little improvement is made to existing areas"

"If the parish meeting of Astwick is amalgamated into Stotfold then it should be a separate ward of Astwick with one ward councillor."

"All I can say is that this parish needs wards to ensure all areas are represented."

"3 wards, the green end, Arlesey Road end and hitchin road end"

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:

"There are councillors who do not integrate into town life but prefer to judge and use their position to be condescending and lecture the people living in Stotfold. Let the town people have a proper vote on their councillors rather than be co-opted in"

"The ward boundary for Astwick should be the same as the current parish meeting."

Do you have any further comments?

"Our council needs modernising. At the moment several of the councillors are only on the council because a member of their family has always had a seat. They get on unopposed because none of the make any effort to engage with the community, thereby ensuring that no one is interested in replacing them. They then only look

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

after their own interests, which include substantial property ownership. They survive on apathy and it needs to stop.”

“Stotfold is a large village with limited facilities and due to its location has been ignored by CBC and it's predecessor for years. A change in how we are treated is long overdue.”

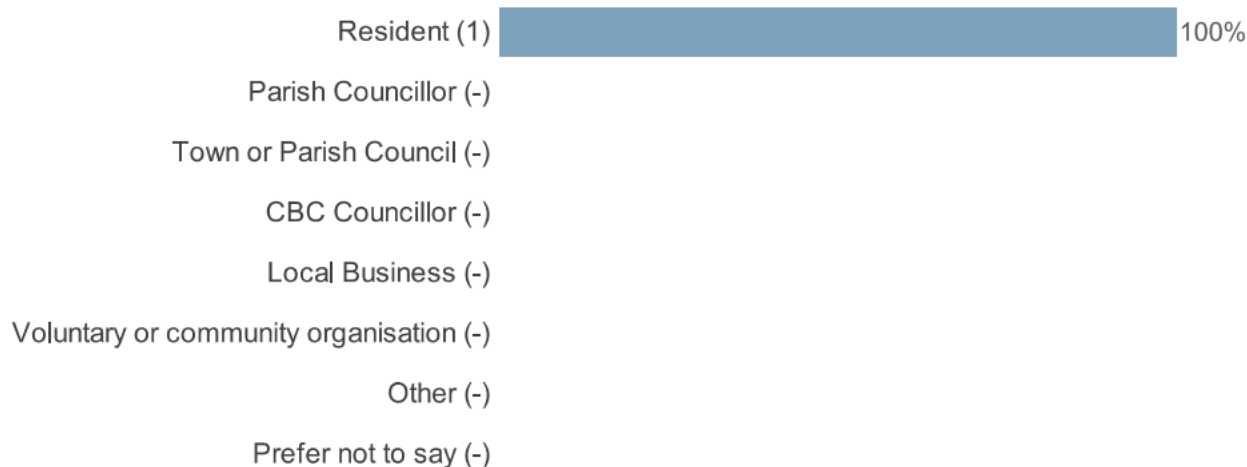
“The town council has begun but needs to create more things for people in Stotfold to be able to do in Stotfold rather than getting in the car”

69. Streatley 1 response

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

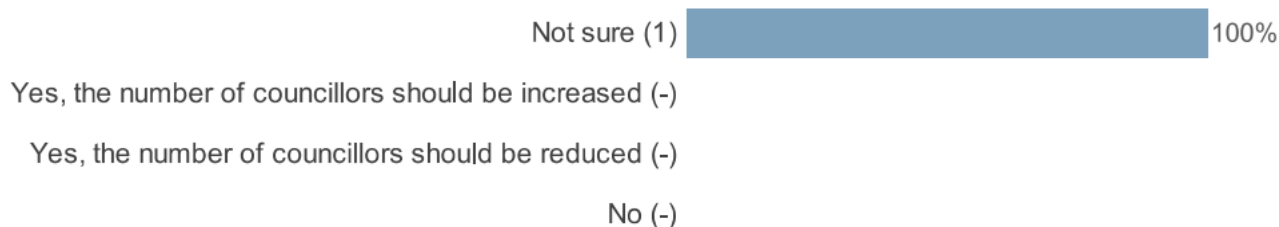
No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

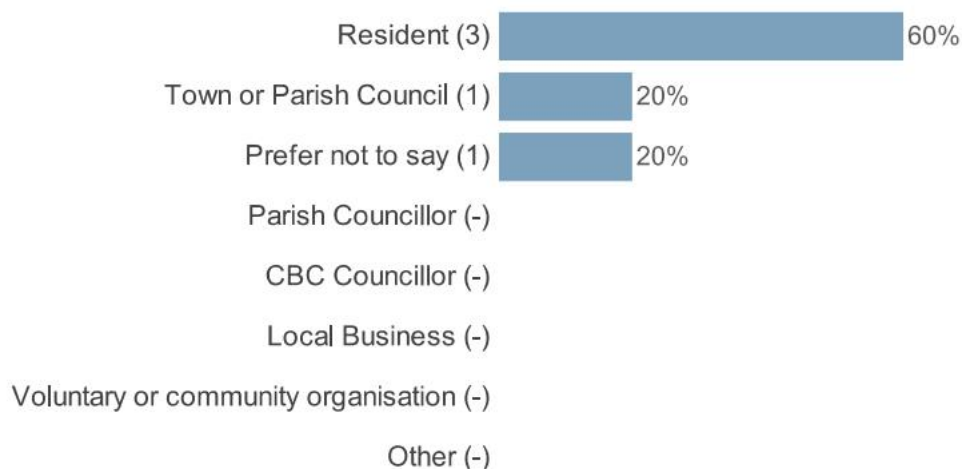


70. Studham 6 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

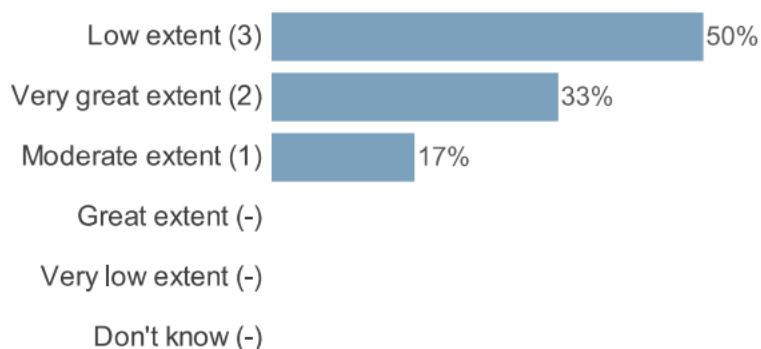
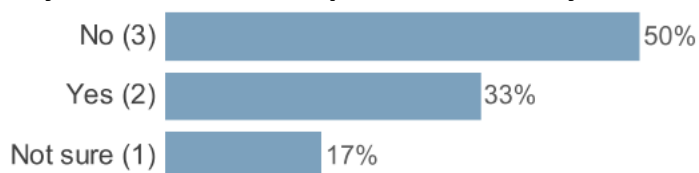


If Town or Parish Council, please specify:

"Studham Parish Council"

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"Studham PC should include Oldhill Wood. The residents have a Studham postal address but are in Whipsnade parish."

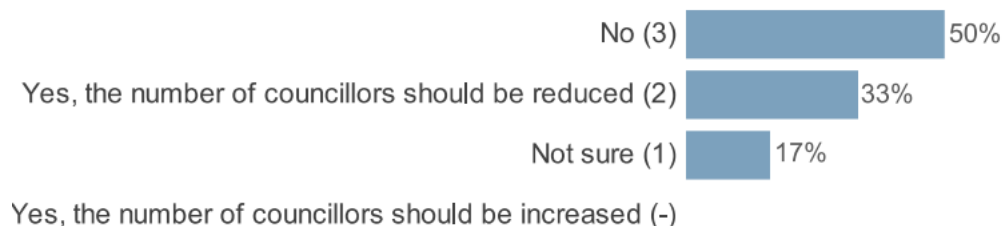
"Merged parishes would bring new thinking to the parish. At the moment the parish councillors are overly protective of their small areas within the parish such as Hollywell, they do not represent the parish as a whole."

"Potential to merge with neighbouring Parishes."

"The parishes within the boundries differ in their size, the type being some are built up and some are not. Merge like for like parishes."

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

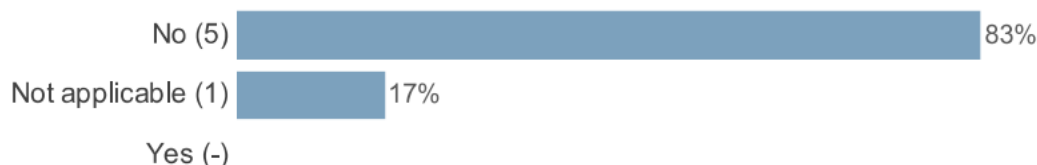


If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

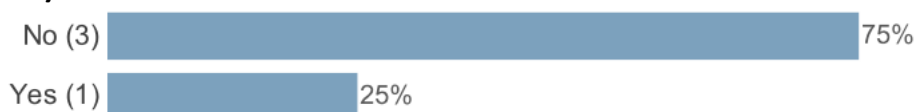
"Reduce the number and ensure they reduced number represent the whole parish not just small pockets of it where they live."

"With merged parishes some of the roles can be conducted across parishes as they are not parish specific."

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:

"Parishes in our ward are too diverse and need to be grouped in like for like parishes."

"Merge the wards to ensure a better representation of the parishes and bring in new thinking."

"1"

Do you have any further comments?

"The Parish Council has a chair who is not representing the views of the whole parish and has a personal agenda. There is no agreed personnel panel authorised by the council to deal with appointments just a chosen few who are invited to join the chair at events other members have no idea about. Issues where the chair should recuse herself from discussion are dealt with as part of the comms the chair deals with."

"Studham Parish Council has found there is no beneficial reason to change, alter or amend existing governance arrangements for Studham at this time, this includes no boundary change across neighbouring parishes and no change in the number of member seats for Studham Parish Council."

"I don't know in depth other parishes so cannot answer which should be grouped together."

71. Sundon No responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

At a meeting of Sundon Parish Council on 2 April 2025 it was agreed that they would like no changes made to their parish at this moment in time.

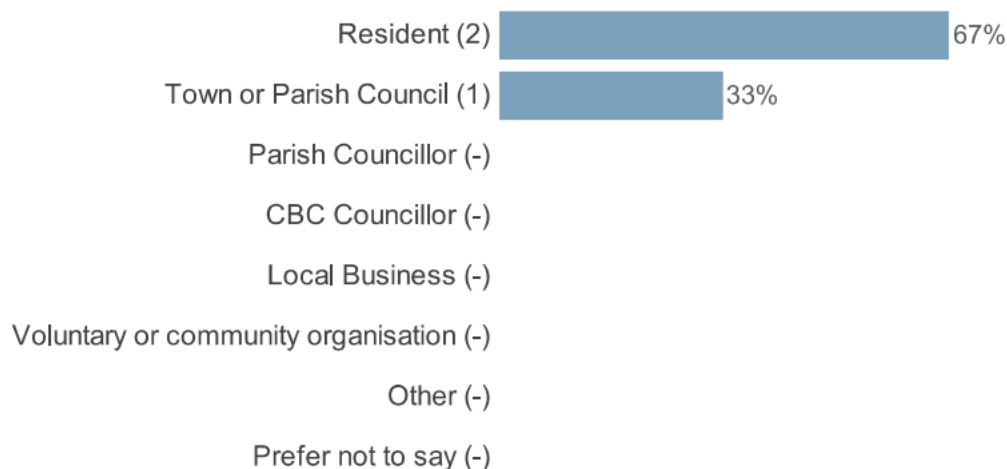
72. Sutton 3 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

No proposal received.

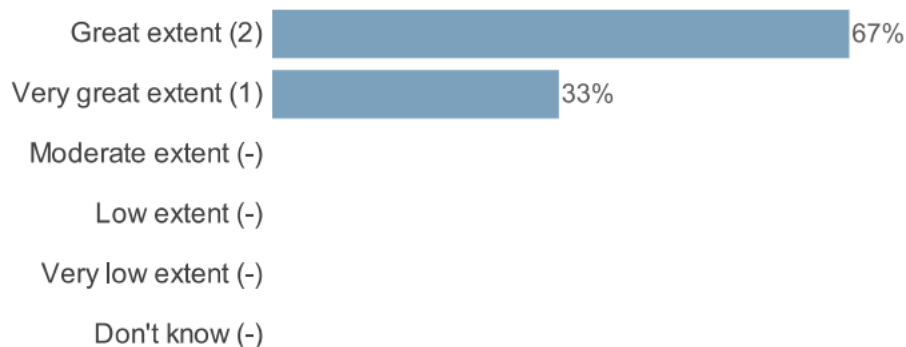
Are you responding as: (please select one)



If Town or Parish Council, please specify:

"Sutton Parish Council"

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

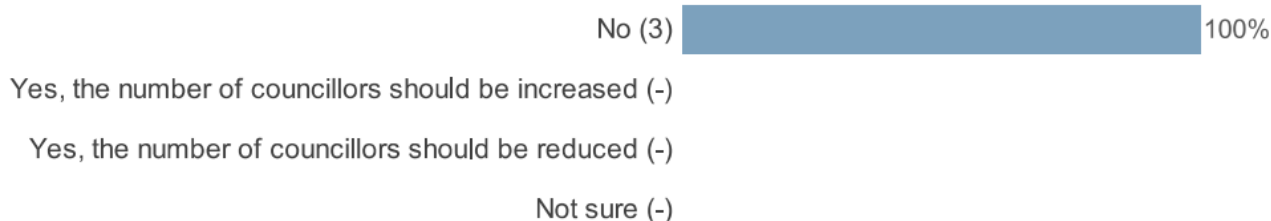


Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

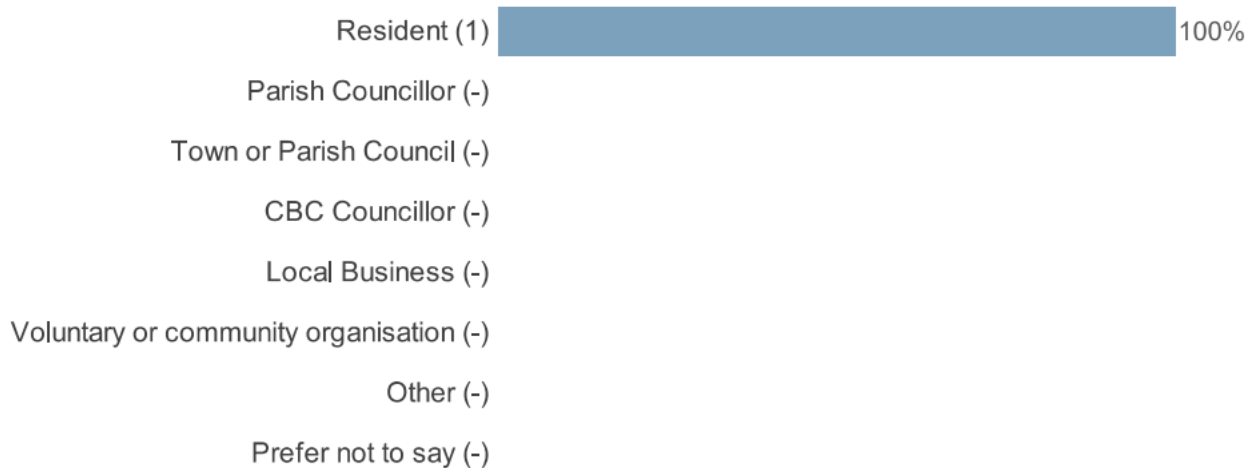
“Sutton Parish Council believes that the current boundaries of the parish, the make-up of the Council and the number of councillors are correct for the parish at this particular time and would not want to see any changes. If however the recent 'Call for Sites' exercise was to include development that effects the parish of Sutton then the Council would want to be consulted further at that time.”

73. Tempsford 1 response

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

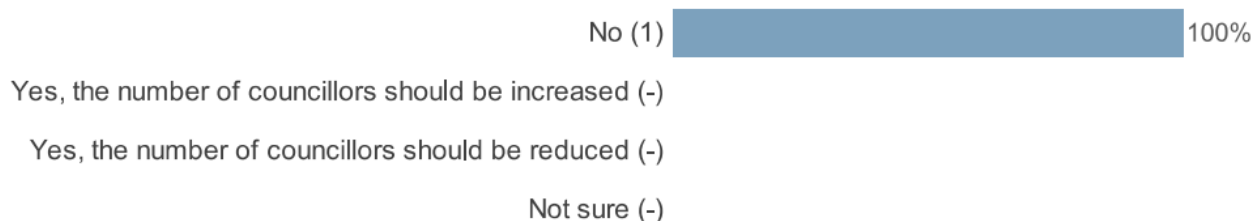


To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

No answer

74. Tilsworth No responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

75. Tingrith 31 responses

The following information was provided alongside the Tingrith parish profile prior to the consultation launch.

Tingrith is one of eight parishes which do not have a council but rather meets as a parish meeting. The forecast development to March 2030 is estimated at no further dwellings. The parish boundary adjoins the neighbouring parishes of Eversholt, Flitwick, Milton Bryan, Toddington and Westoning. The parish, together with the parishes of Flitton and Greenfield, Pulloxhill and Westoning are coterminous (i.e. they border each other in the same area) within the Central Bedfordshire ward of Westoning, Flitton and Greenfield.

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

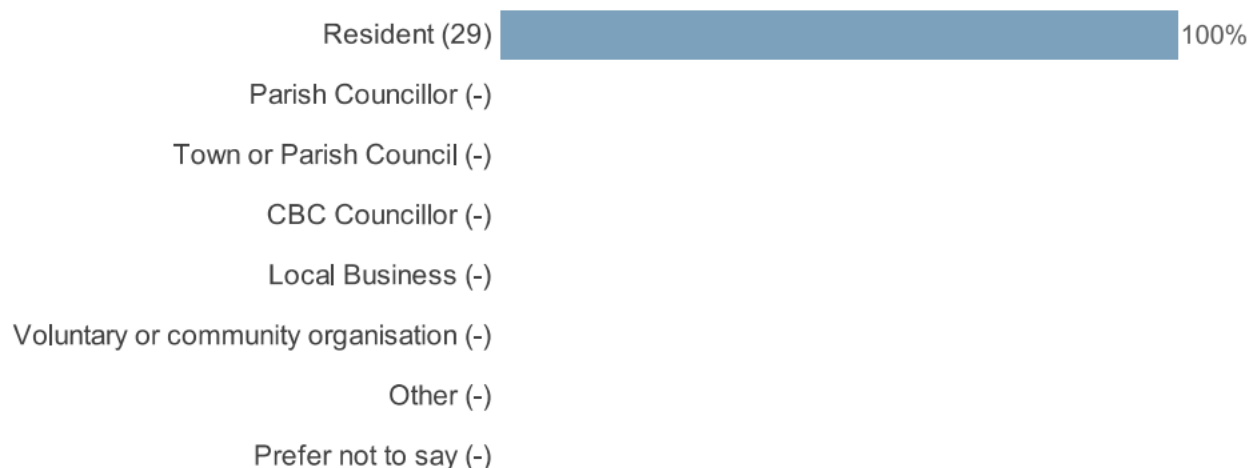
The Parish Meeting would like to formally request a review of the current boundary between Tingrith and Westoning – adjusting the boundary to include Chestnuts Caravan Park and Wood End (see attached map – proposed new boundary in red). The boundary follows the River Flit, wood, road and field boundaries.

We feel this adjustment would more accurately reflect the geographical, historical and community ties. It is also in response to representations from residents. The adjustment would have several benefits, including:

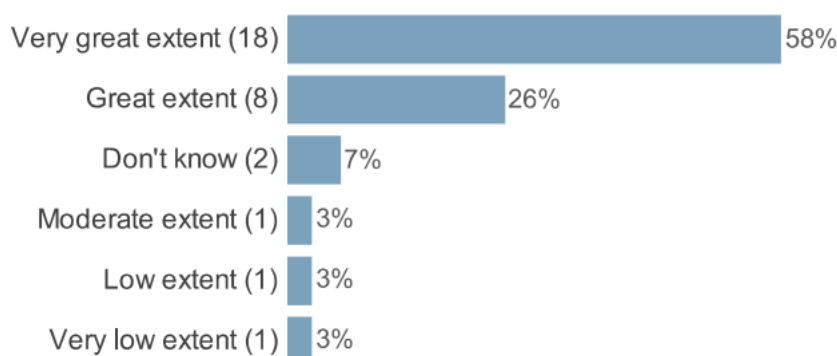
- Improved representation – residents in The Chestnuts and Wood End are more aligned to a small village community. Some already contribute to the parish and participate in the parish meetings. A revised boundary would allow for more accurate representation and participation in local governance.
- Community cohesion – the current boundary divides areas with strong historical and social connections. The postal addresses reflect this as they include Tingrith.
- Local development plans – with the expansion plans for Westoning, the hamlet of Wood End better aligns with a small village such as Tingrith.

Are you responding as: (please select one)

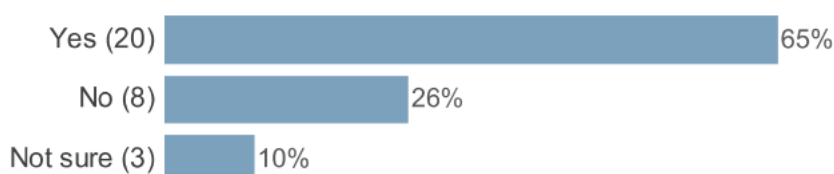
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

“AS PER OUR PROPOSAL AS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED REVISED BOUNDARY TO INCLUDE WOOD END AND CHESTNUTS”

“Tingrith’s parish boundary be changed to incorporate Chestnuts Caravan Park and Wood End.”

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

"I live in Wood End, with a Tingrith post code / address & am already part of the Tingrith community which is 1 mile from, I do know have any personal relationships in Westoning which is 3/4 miles away & far removed from me / my house..."

"increase our boundary to include Wood End and Chestnuts Caravan Park"

"I would like to see the current request made at the last parish meeting to extend the boundary to include Chestnuts and Wood End for all the reasons given at the meeting."

"~The boundary should be changed to include Tingrith Woodend and Chestnuts caravan park as per the proposal in the parish profiles directory for Tingrith"

"I support the proposal made by Tingrith Parish Meeting to change the parish boundary to incorporate Chestnuts Caravan Park and Wood End into Tingrith Parish. Residents of Wood End have close ties with Tingrith and are active in the Tingrith community, having little contact with Westoning, whilst Chestnuts is very close to the main village of Tingrith but miles away from Westoning village."

"We should incorporate chestnuts and wood end"

"Tingrith has a strong sense of community and identity which we must preserve. The parish boundary should be extended as proposed by the parish meeting to include Wood End and Chestnuts because people in Wood End already identify as part of our village."

"The proposal to include Chestnuts and Wood End put forward by Tingrith PM makes absolutely sense – geographically, more representative"

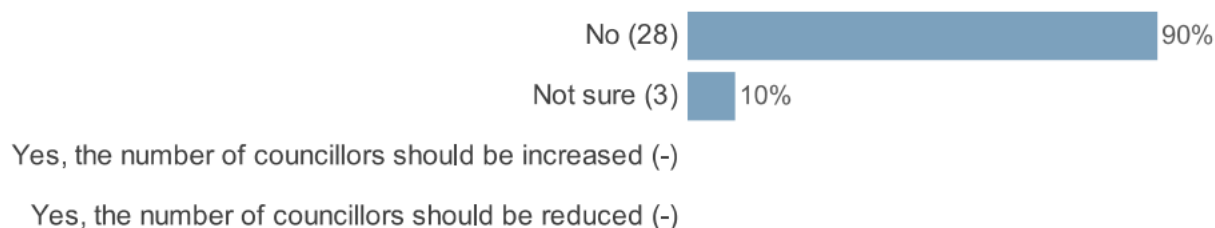
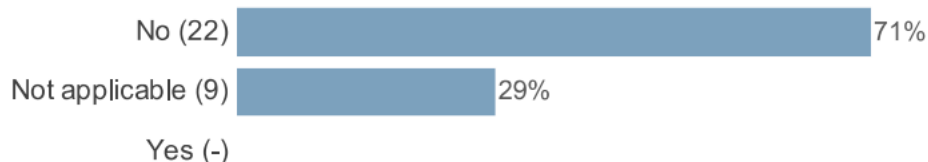
"Redraw the parish boundary to include Wood End into Tingrith parish"

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

"Tingrith should stay as it is!! Don't try and fix something that isn't broken!"

"AS PER OUR PROPOSAL AS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED REVISED BOUNDARY TO INCLUDE WOOD END AND CHESTNUTS"

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

"I object to the proposed merger of Tingrith with larger neighbouring parishes such as Westoning or Harlington. Tingrith has a unique village identity and a longstanding tradition of self-governance that risks being diluted under a merged parish structure. Such a move would likely lead to higher council tax rates without a proportional increase in local services or representation. Decisions affecting Tingrith could be made by councillors with no direct connection to our village, undermining community trust and local accountability. I instead support the Parish Meeting's alternative proposal to expand Tingrith's boundary to include Wood End and Chestnuts Caravan Park, which reflects a more logical and locally supported solution for community development."

"Tingrith is a rural hamlet and has strong local community culture therefore I believe it should be kept as a separate parish and I object to any potential merger with another parish. I am for the boundary change recommended with wood End as this would help bring our two villages into alignment as we already are involved with each others local communities. As a small community we need our local representation to continue."

"It is really important for me to continue to be included in the Tingrith community, with its strong community spirit & identity, as Wood End is so cut off."

"All working very well please leave things alone"

"Although there are no proposals for this I would prefer Tingrith to be in the ward of Eversholt as it has much closer ties with Eversholt both distance wise and community wise than with Westoning."

"Tingrith is a small village with its own identity and community feel. It is very different from the larger villages the council consider merging it with, they have shops, schools, transport links so their priorities would engulf those of a small village like Tingrith."

"Tingrith Parish has a proud history, a very strong sense of identity, a close community and a very active Parish Meeting. I would object strongly to any proposal to merge it with another parish. I support the proposal to increase the parish to include Chestnuts and Wood End. Wood End was historically part of Tingrith and has far more in common with a small rural parish, such as Tingrith, classed as open countryside, than a village earmarked for significant development such as Westoning."

"I would like to strongly object to any potential merger of Tingrith with another Parish, this will significantly dilute the village cohesion and local goodwill."

"I would support change in the boundaries to include the Chestnuts site and Wood End. We in Tingrith have a very strong sense of identity and community and do not this changed at al"

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

“Tingrith has a very strong sense of community/identity. We would support change in boundary to include Chestnuts and Wood end.”

“I am supportive of the boundary to include chestnuts and woodend but I do feel strongly that we should not be merged with a larger parish such as westoning or harlington as we will lose our strong identity. If anything we should be merged with everholt which we have a stronger association with”

“It's vitally important that villages like Tingrith are able to preserve their identity. We have a strong community feeling which would be eroded and our own requirements would be overwhelmed if we were simply annexed to another larger area that is geographically far away and socially very different from our community.”

“Tingrith is a wonderful balance of different socio economic groups, young and old, home owners and renters. We're a tight knit community who have worked hard to ensure people can interact or stay more private without feeling pressured or judged ... and where everyone feels supported. This only happens because of our size. We have a culture and identity which is highly valued and we'd like to protect it by ensuring we don't grow and get caught up in urban creep.”

“We have a massively strong community identity here in Tingrith, and it would be dreadful if we lost this by merging with another parish. This cannot happen. We need to stay as our own separate parish. We wish to be able to have full control over our parish, and not have a larger group make decisions on our behalf when they do not even live here. We have a very strong parish meeting with lots of residents taking an active interest. This needs to be protected. I do not support the proposed change in boundary to include Wood End or Chestnuts caravan park.”

“Tingrith is a community full of people with their own identity and do not want to change this”

“Tingrith is a community full of people with their own identity and do not want to change this”

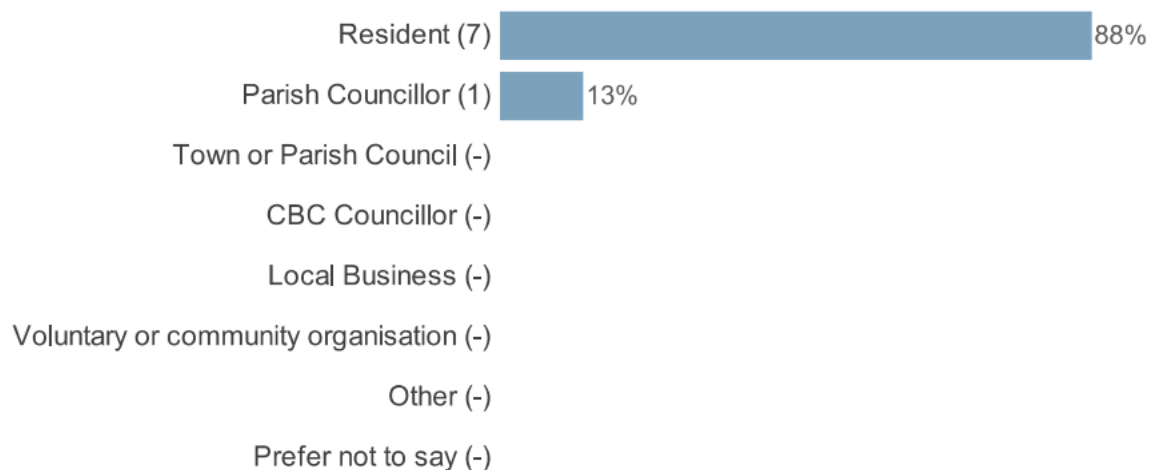
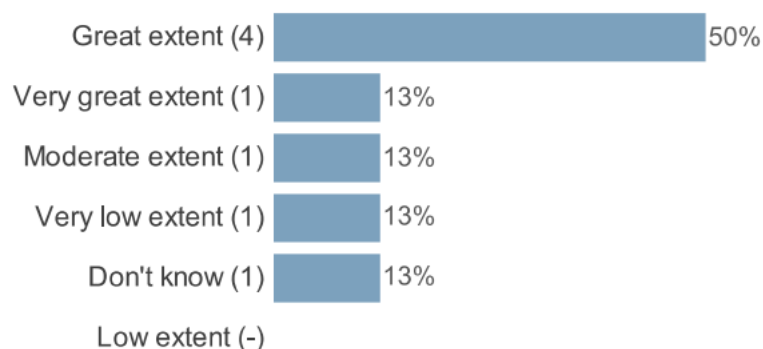
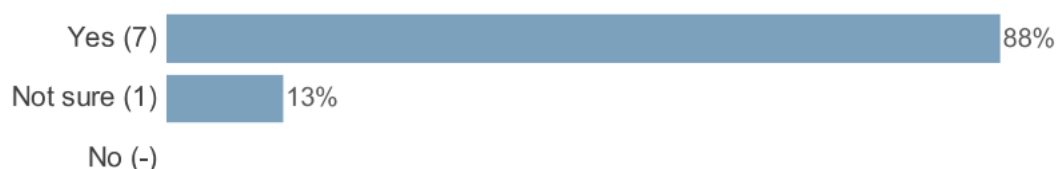
(although the same these are from two separate respondents)

76. Toddington 8 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Are you responding as: (please select one)**If Parish Councillor, which parish is this for?***"Totternhoe"***To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?****Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

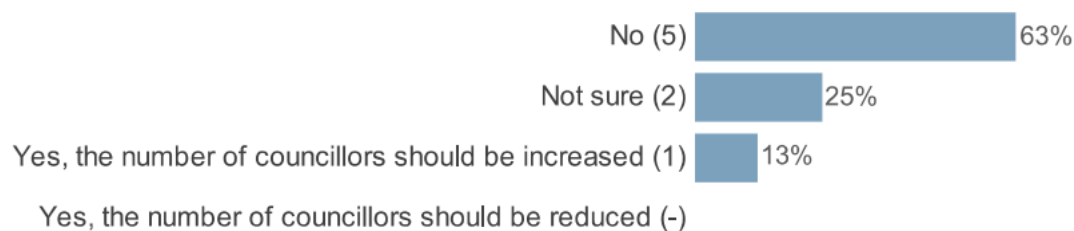
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

“The parish extends beyond the M1 to the east which seems to form a barrier. There is a small area beyond the M1 which might be better joined to the Harlington Parish”

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?



If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:

“A growing number of houses and residents in the parish”

If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)



If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)



Do you have any further comments?

"I think our Parish Council serves and represents the local community of Toddington well."

"This parish works well and should not be interfered with"

"Totternhoe Eaton Bray and Billington Parish Councils now form a Ward named Eaton Bray with one elected Ward Councillor on Central Bedfordshire Council I consider the 3 Parish Councils should be amalgamated to form one large Council to represent the current population of the 3 Villages with 2 elected Councillors from each current Parish to represent that parish so making the new Ward Council have a total of 6 Councillors on the Ward Council and that there should be 2 elected Ward Councillors for this Ward on the Central Bedfordshire Executive Council"

77. Totternhoe 5 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

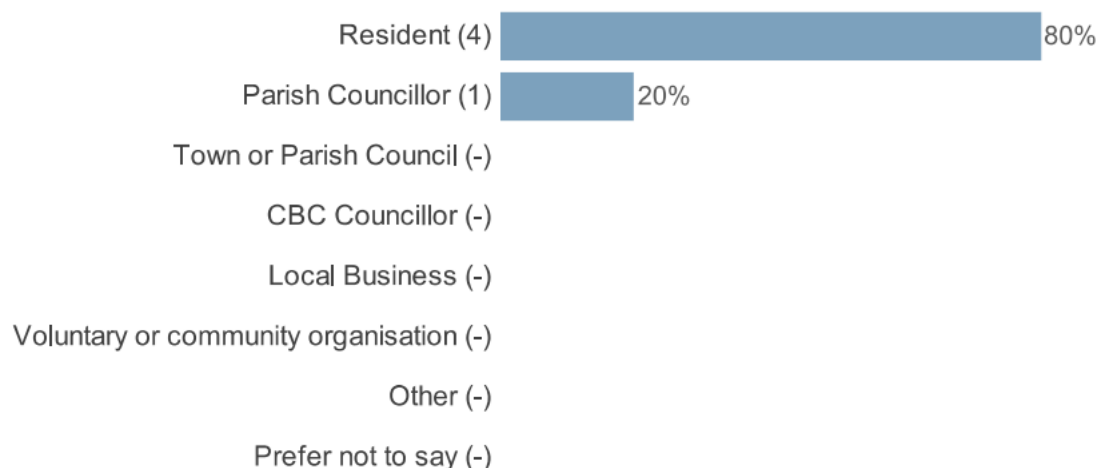
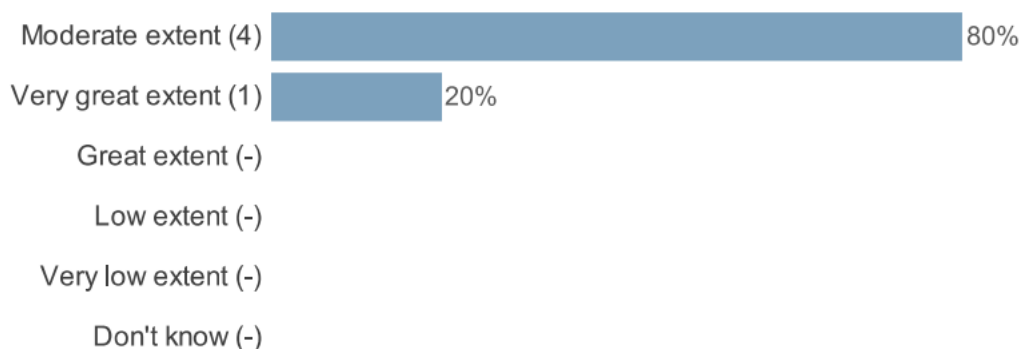
Totternhoe Parish Council has undertaken a government review as proposed under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The parish council examined its boundaries and reviewed their relevance in reflecting local identities and considered that in one area the boundary between the parish and Dunstable had become anomalous.

The existing boundary between the parish and the Badgers Gate development on the western edge of Dunstable follows the byway open to all traffic which leads from Dunstable Road, Totternhoe, to the byway known as Green Lane. The boundary, in our view, should follow the field boundary adjacent to the Badgers Gate houses instead. The field is within the Green Belt that washes over Totternhoe and is in the ownership of a Totternhoe farmer.

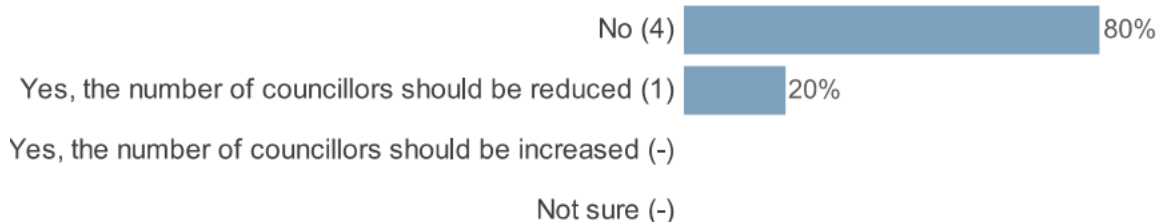
Are you responding as: (please select one)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**If Parish Councillor, which parish is this for?***"Totternhoe"***To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?****Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"Boundary with Dunstable is land based rather than population based."

Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?**Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:**

"Reduced to 7 as ratio is high and have uncontested elections"

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)**

If yes, please provide details of the proposals including; any proposed ward boundaries and the number of councillors and reasoning for these changes, if applicable:

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

“Totternhoe parish is fine as is however the council need’s younger representation as current councillors are stuck in their ways and nothing of significance ever gets done. The key issue is speeding through the village which needs speeds bumps. Other villages get them why not Totternhoe?”

Do you have any further comments?

“The shame is most of our parish councillors have been on the PC for years and are now elderly, it really now does desperately need new people elected. The challenge is to get people to step up”

78. Westoning 7 responses

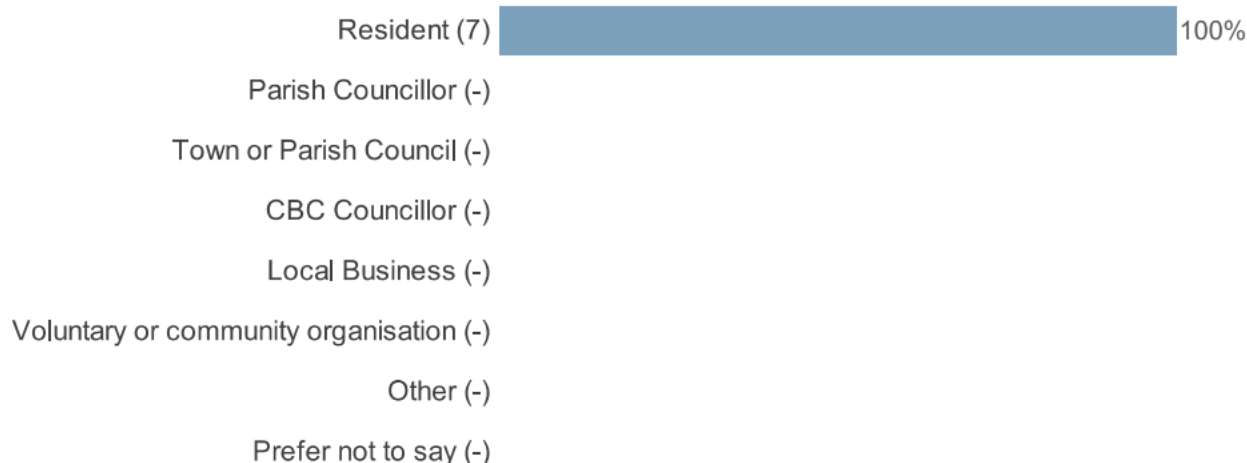
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Review of property anomalies

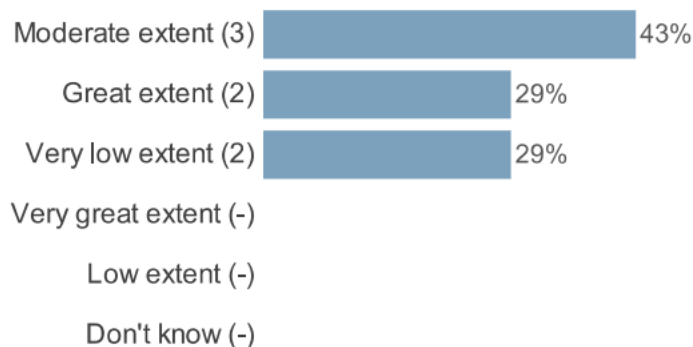
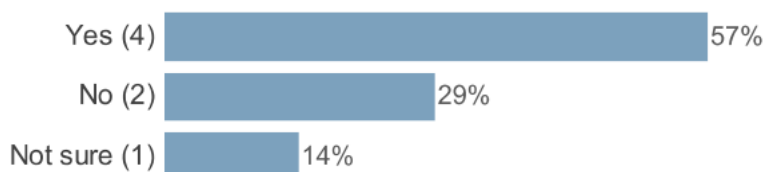
Brunswick House is in the parish of Gravenhurst but is geographically in the parish of Westoning. Consideration should be given to rectify this anomaly.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?**

If no/not sure please explain how it might be changed to best represent the interests of the community in that area (eg: creation of new Parish/merging two or more parishes/grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas/other changes to parish boundary)

"It makes no sense that Lovett Green/Close is part of Westoning Parish - it should be part of Harlington or Gravenhurst Parish."

"Westoning is very much concerned with the village and its residents. We are remote from this environment and would be better suited to a more rural based community as Tingrith"

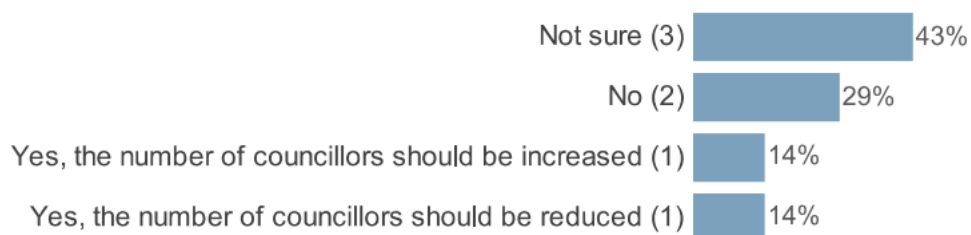
Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

If no, please propose a new name and provide a reason for the change:

"The parish name of Westoning reflects a village urban environment. We are somewhat distant from the village and closer to Tingrith"

Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**If yes, please indicate a number and the reasons for change:**

"8 - the council can't fill the current number of 10."

"New house building had increased the village population"

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

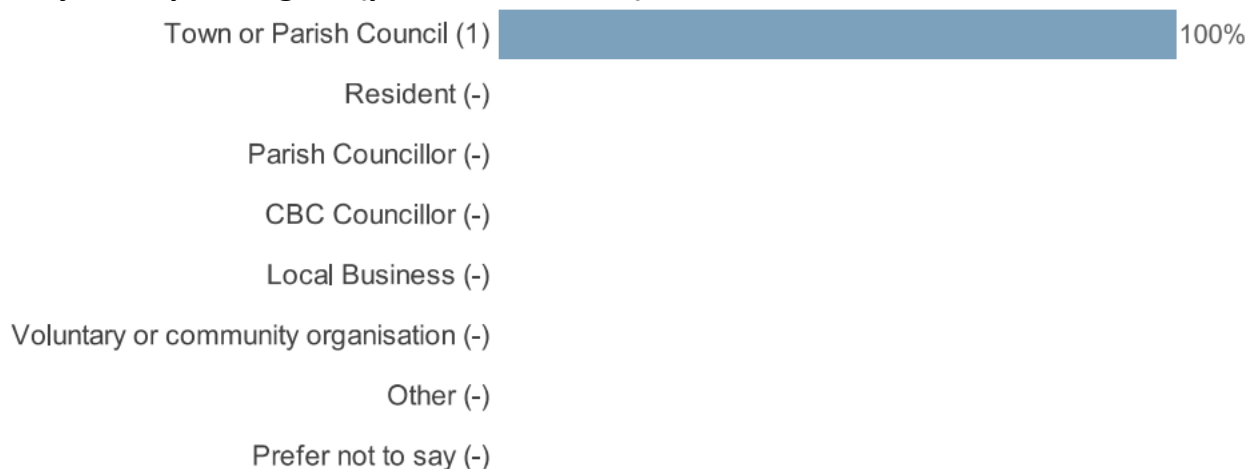
"Westoning Council is completely undemocratic, never having had an election. It is perceived as a clique and they ask those that they favour and are like minded to join. There is no sense of community fostered by the parish Council, there is no village newsletter for example, each organisation is preparing its own flyers for the new houses as there is no newsletter or website of activities withing the village"

79. Whipsnade 1 response

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



If Town or Parish Council, please specify:

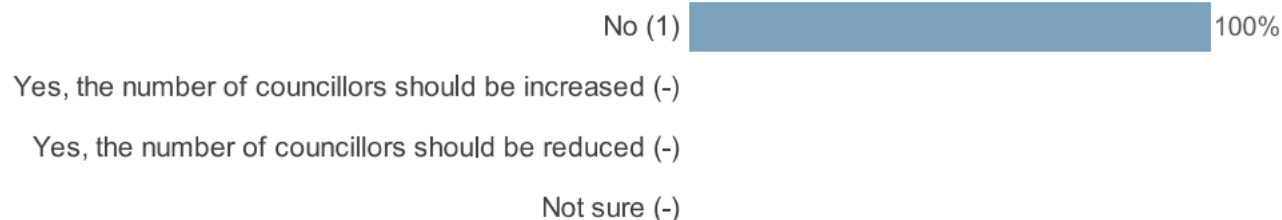
"Whipsnade PC"

To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?



Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

**Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

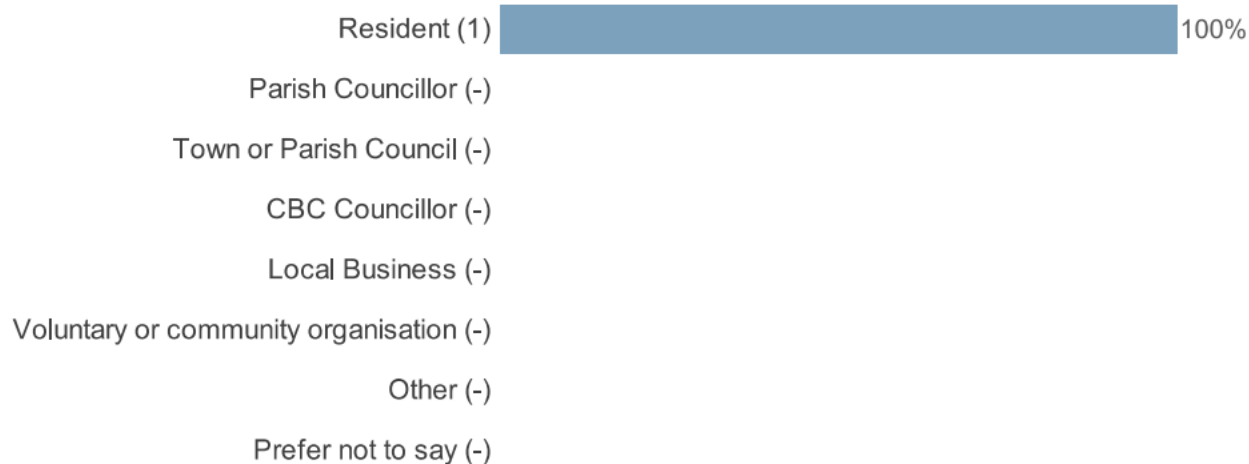
“The current boundary is one that is steeped in heritage and history, it is also the Ecclesiastical boundary. All historical records refer to and are defined by this boundary and it would be very confusing to have it changed. Cllrs can see no benefit in changes being made to the current boundary.”

80. Woburn 1 responses

Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Are you responding as: (please select one)



To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?

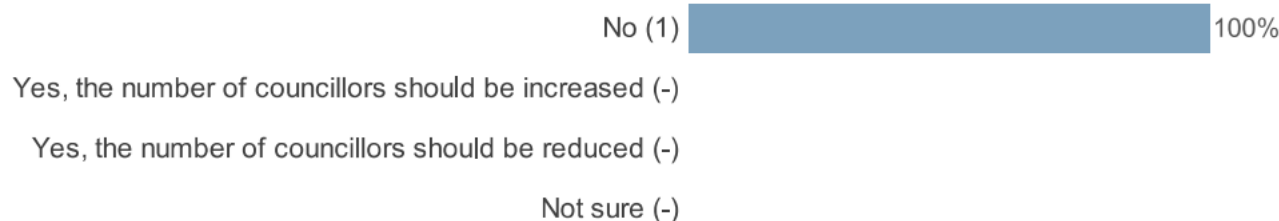


Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?



Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?



Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?**If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)**

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)

No answer

If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)

No answer

Do you have any further comments?

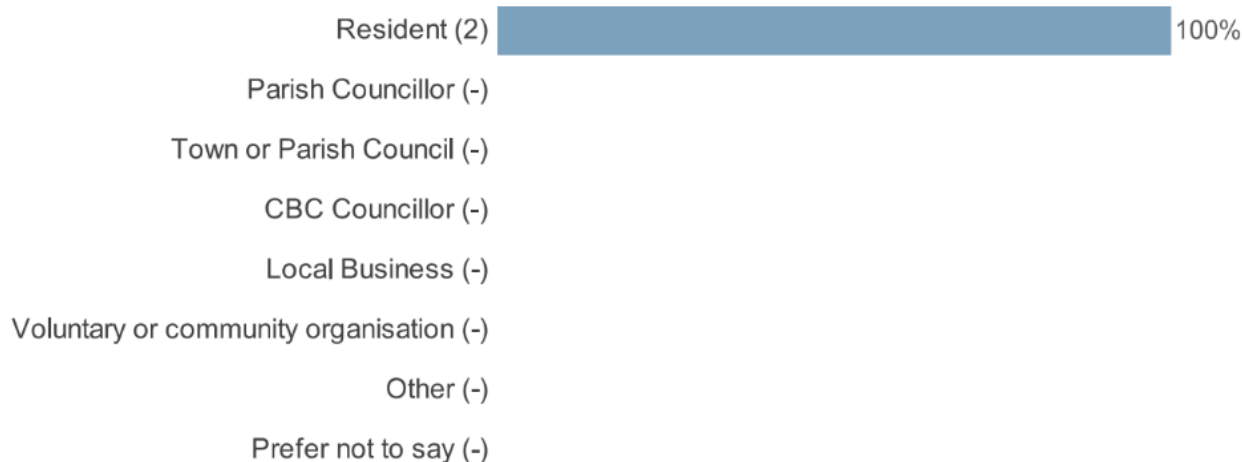
"I think there should be better oversight of the parish council and parish secretary ethics and spending by an independent body."

81. Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley 2 responses

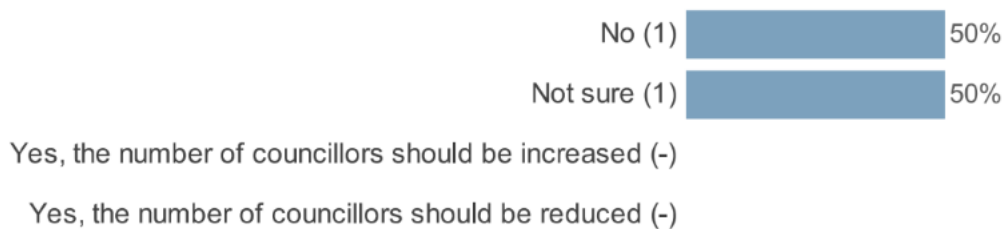
Parish/town council initial proposal for consideration for the 2025 review

No proposal received.

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Are you responding as: (please select one)**To what extent do you think that this parish reflects the local community with a shared identity?****Do you think that the parish boundary is suitable for the community?****Do you think the name of the parish reflects the community and its identity?****Should the number of councillors in this local parish council be changed?**

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

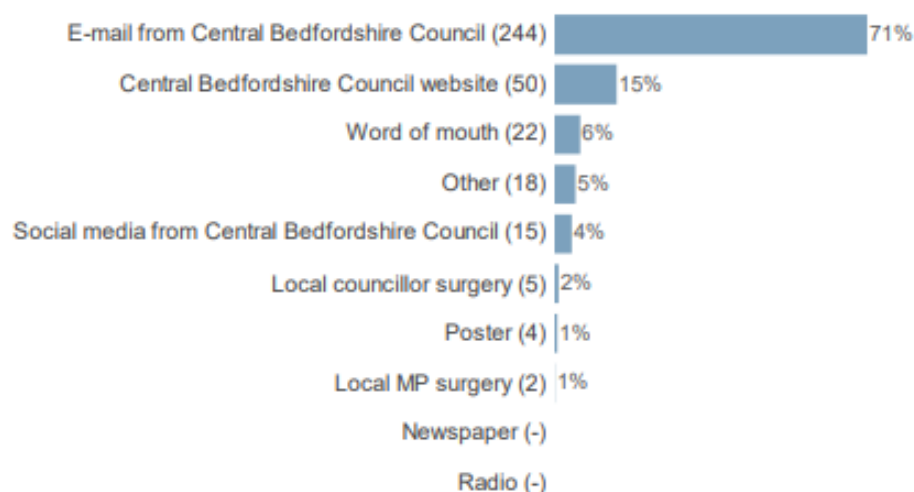
**If applicable, should this local parish be divided into parish wards?****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the wards be changed/added to?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the ward boundaries be removed?)****If the local parish is currently warded: (Should the number of councillors representing each ward be changed?)****Do you have any further comments?**

“Local governance is hard to find support for and hard to please”

Demographics

How did you hear about this consultation?

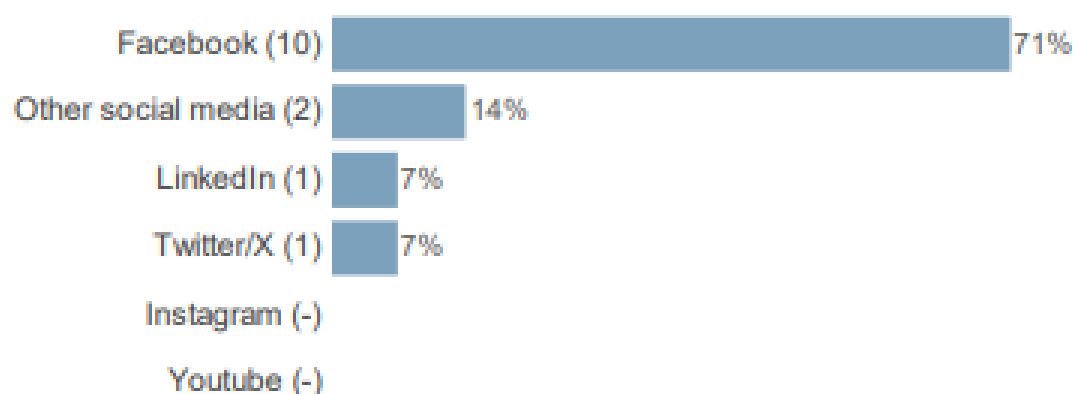
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



If other, please tell us:

- From parish council (6)
- Neighbour (2)
- Facebook (2)
- Article by Parish Council in village magazine. Facebook
- Local WhatsApp group
- Local community facebook group
- Town council arranged community engagement
- Email from the parish clerk.

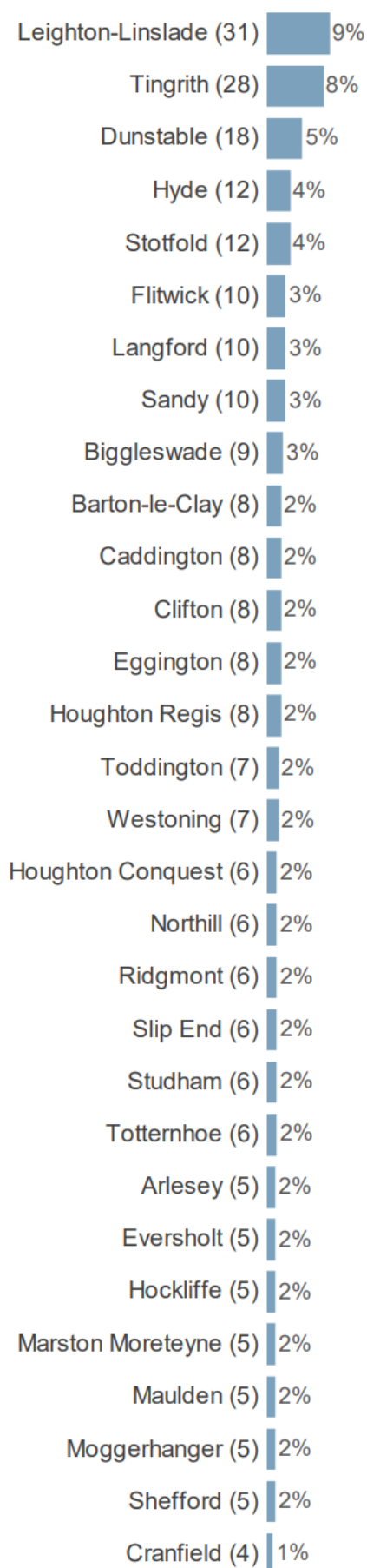
If social media, please tell us which one:



If other social media, please specify:

Email

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



Which parish do you currently live in?

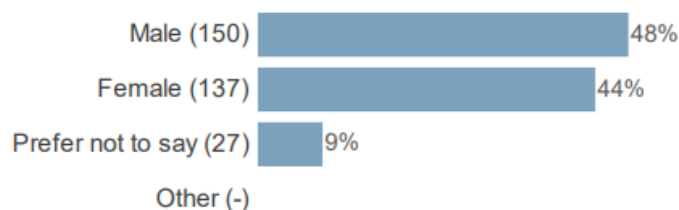
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Dunton (4), Meppershall (4), Putton (4), Silsoe (4), Aspley Guise (3), Flitton & Greenfield (3), Harlington (3), Stanbridge (3), Stondon (3), Ampthill (2), Aspley Heath (2), Billington (2), Campton & Chicksands (2), Clophill (2), Everton (2), Fairfield (2), Heath & Reach (2), Henlow (2), Husborne Crawley (2), Pulloxhill (2), Shillington (2), Sutton (2), Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley (2)

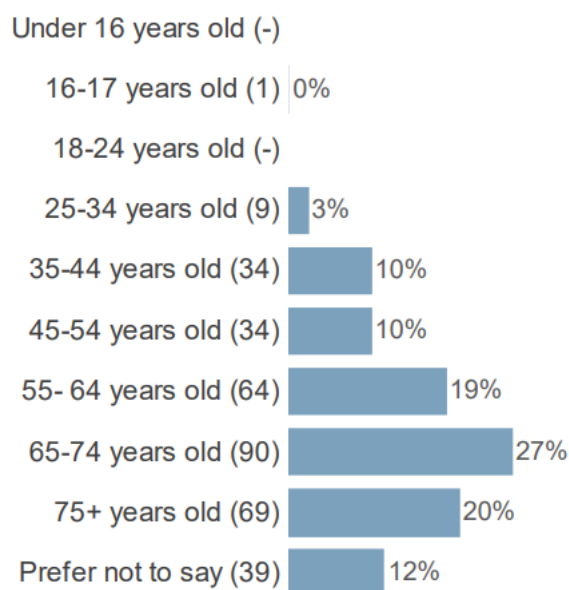
Blunham (1), Chalgrave (1), Eaton Bray (1), Gravenhurst (1), Haynes (1), Kensworth (1), Lidlington (1), Southill (1), Steppingley (1), Streatley (1), Tempsford (1), Woburn (1)

None of these/outside Central Bedfordshire (3)

Are you: (please select one)

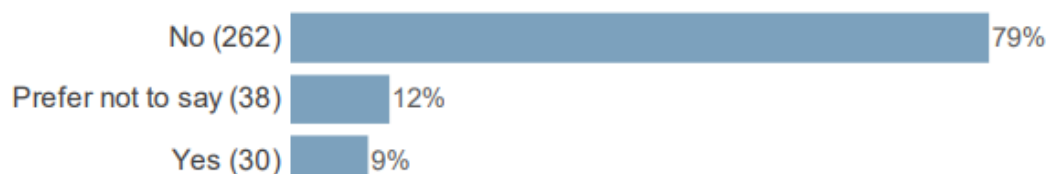
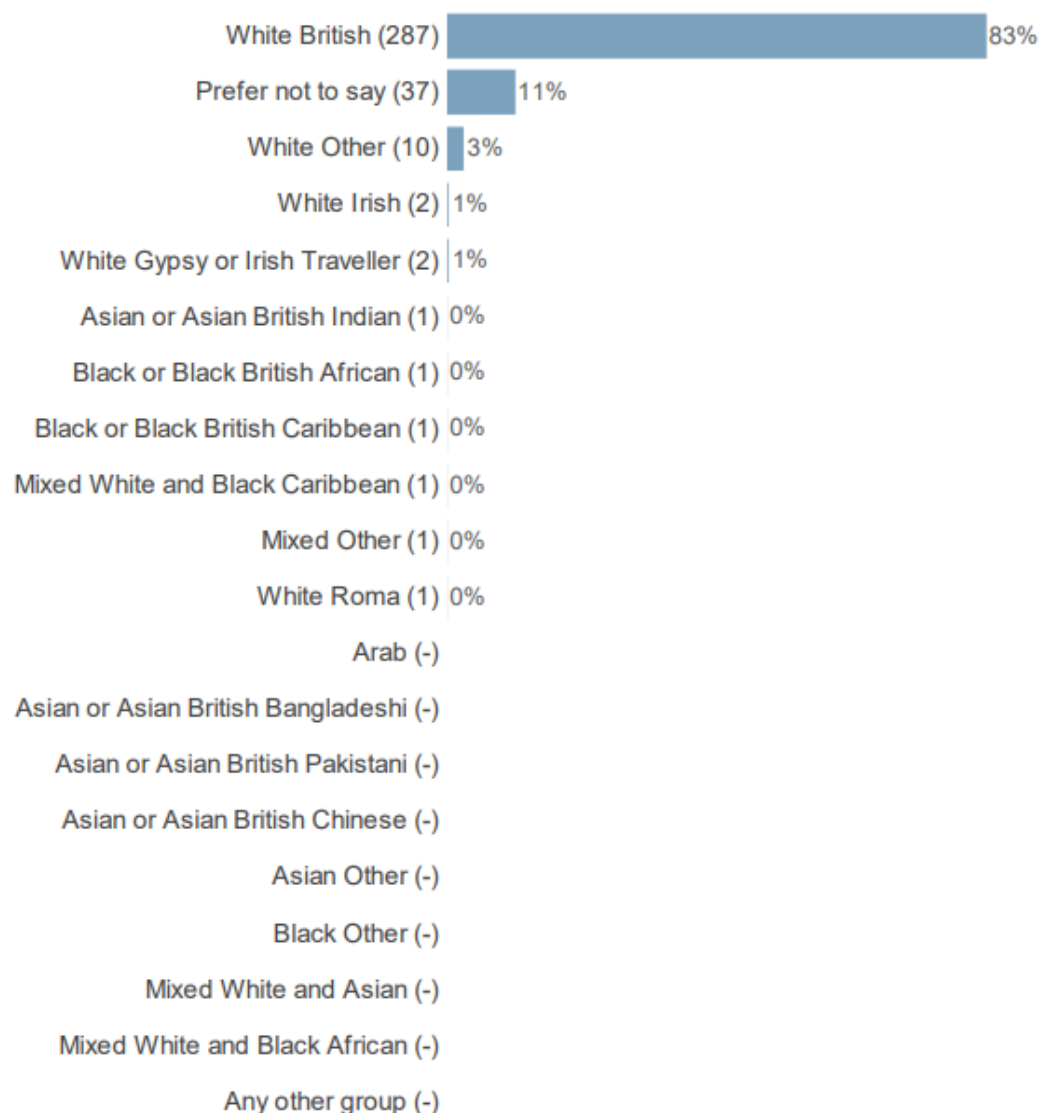


What is your age? (please select one)



Do you consider yourself disabled? (please select one) Under the Equality Act 2010 a person is considered to have a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a sustained and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

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**To which of these groups do you consider you belong? (please select one)**

If other, please specify:

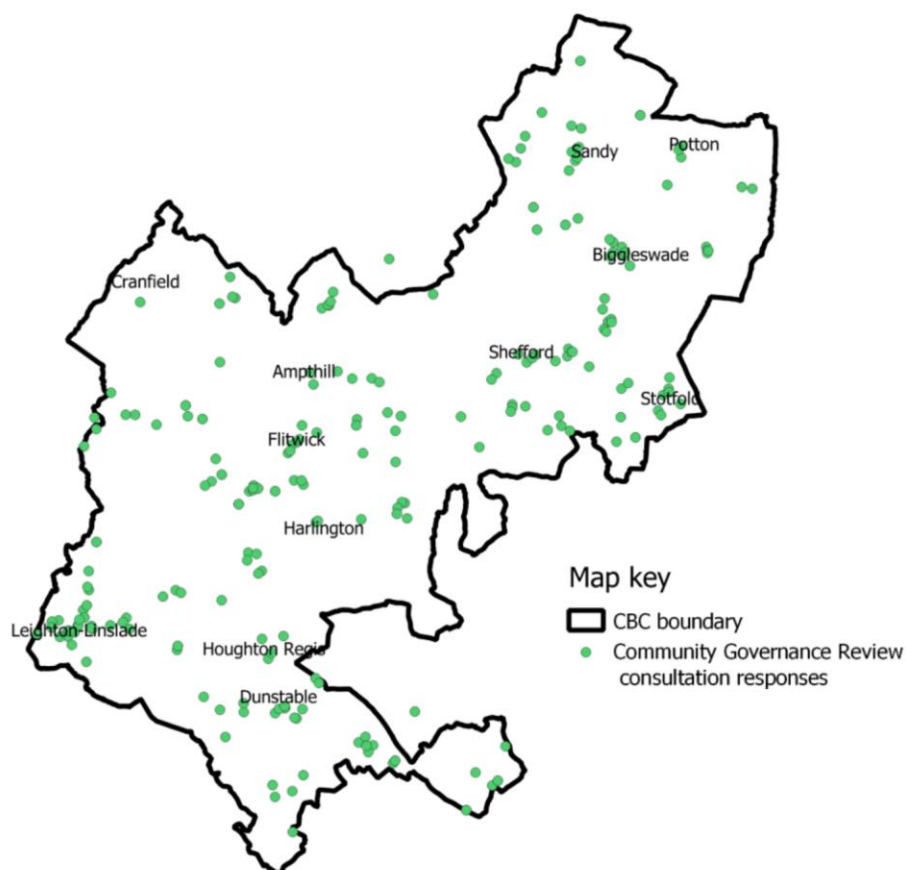
French (1), White English (1), English (1), Polish/British (1), European White (1), British/European (1), European (1)

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Postcode and Acorn analysis

A review of postcodes indicates that respondents were from all parts of Central Bedfordshire, with clusters of responses around the towns.

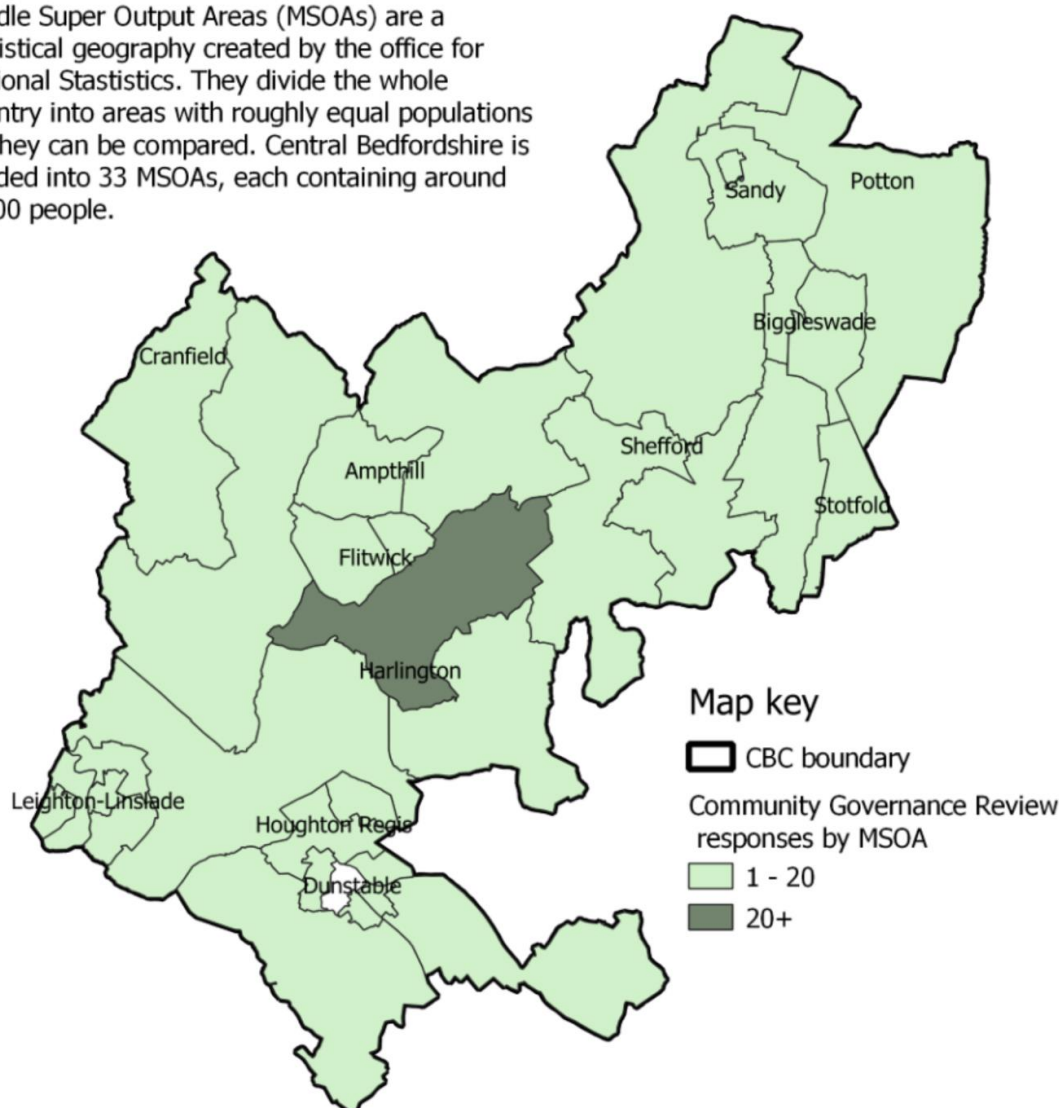
Community Governance Review consultation responses



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Prepared by the Communications and Consultations team.

Community Governance Review consultation responses

Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs) are a statistical geography created by the office for National Statistics. They divide the whole country into areas with roughly equal populations so they can be compared. Central Bedfordshire is divided into 33 MSOAs, each containing around 7,800 people.

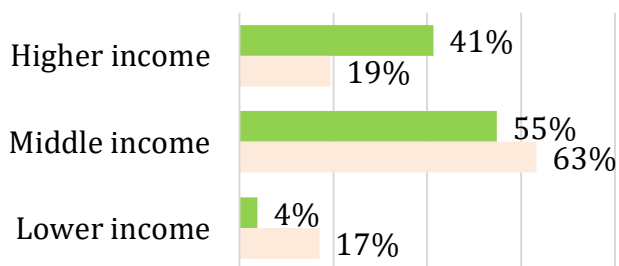


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Prepared by the Communications and Consultations team.

Responses were received from a range of households. Higher income households were much more likely to respond and lower income households were less likely to respond. The proportion of responses from middle income households was similar to their proportion in the overall population.

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Acorn category, respondents vs CB households



- % of respondents with usable postcode
- % of all CB households

Broad divisions	Respondents with a usable postcode	% of respondents with a usable postcode	% of all Central Bedfordshire households
Higher income	107	41%	19%
Middle income	142	55%	63%
Lower income	10	4%	17%
Total, with usable postcode	259	100%	100%

Appendix

In addition to the responses received in the consultation, we received separate representations/responses by letter from the following:

- **1.Northill Parish Council**
- **2.Kensworth Parish Council**
- **3.Joint Cllrs Leighton Linlade**
- **4.Biggleswade Town Council**
- **5.Eaton Bray Parish Council**
- **6.Stotfold Town Council**

1. Northill Parish Council

We received the following letter regarding the consultation from Northill Parish Council.

Good morning,

I am writing on behalf of Northill Parish Council in response to the ongoing Community Governance Review.

Following discussion at our most recent council meeting, members agreed that we are firmly in favour of maintaining our current parish boundary, with the River Ivel remaining the defining border—rather than any realignment to the A1.

We would also like to highlight that Northill Parish Council is an active and fully functioning council, comprising 12 proactive councillors, with no difficulty in filling vacancies when they arise.

In summary, the Council is operating effectively, collaboratively, and in the best interests of the parish community. We are content with the current arrangements and do not support any changes to our existing governance or boundaries.

Northill Parish Council

2. Kensworth Parish Council

We received the following letter regarding the consultation from Kensworth Parish Council.

Hello,

Here are the findings from Kensworth Parish Council:

Kensworth Parish Council – Response to Central Bedfordshire Council Community Governance Review Consultation 2025.

Kensworth Parish Council reviewed and considered the current governance arrangements for the Parish of Kensworth.

It found that there was no beneficial reason to change, alter or amend existing governance arrangements for Kensworth at this time, this includes no boundary change across neighbouring parishes and no change in the number of member seats for Kensworth Parish Council.

The council remains committed to serving the local community by providing and improving services and amenities available and encourages regular engagement through public participation at monthly meetings and events.

Kind regards

Kensworth Parish Council

3. Joint Cllrs Leighton-Linslade

We received the following letter and accompanying response.

Please find attached a paper containing 3 Nr recommendations relating to proposed and potential boundary changes because of major housing developments across or potentially affecting the current Leighton-Linslade Parish boundary. We trust it will receive fair consideration from the Working Group.

The third recommendation relates to a request for a PABR for the Western boundary of

Linslade in the parish of Leighton-Linslade that I know warrants a separate procedure to the CGR.

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

This submission is from both Cllr Owen and me, as CBC members, together with both the Independent and Labour group councillors on Leighton-Linslade Town Council (6Nr)

Please acknowledge safe receipt of the attached document.

Best wishes & Regards

Russ

Cllr Russell Goodchild

Independent Alliance Ward Member for Leighton-Linslade West

Central Bedfordshire Council

Member – Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Authority

Member – Bedfordshire Police & Crime Panel

CBC Community Governance Review 2025

(1) Proposal for change to the existing boundary of Leighton-Linslade Parish to incorporate the new residential development of Clipstone Park, Stearn Land, Leedon and the Pastures, currently within the parish of Eggington

Submitted by Independent District and Town Cllrs Russ Goodchild and Steve Owen jointly with Labour group Town Cllrs Jane Gibson, Pat Carberry, Mike Bishop and Peter McMorrow

The Local Authority CGR Working Party is kindly asked to review the following pertinent criteria that are listed for consideration within the LGBCE guidelines:

a). Local Governance Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Recommendations

The recommendations resulting from the LGBCE electoral review of Central Bedfordshire published in January 2021 made specific provision for local governance of the new development of Clipstone Park to be incorporated within the Local Authority (CBC) Ward of Leighton-Linslade North and further recommended the provision of an additional member within the Planets ward of Leighton-Linslade Town Council.

These government recommendations sent a strong signal to the Principal Authority and both affected local parish councils that they expected their recommendations to be formally confirmed by the Principal Authority.

However, the Principal Authority subsequently failed to allocate the urban extension to the parish ward of Planets contrary to the recommendations in respect of parish governance made by LGBCE. Instead the Principal Authority chose to create a second parish ward of Eggington-Clipstone Park, to cater specifically for the residents whose new community is located some hundreds of metres across a significant area of 'no-mans' land from the existing village community of Eggington, thus forming an unnecessary barrier to community cohesion between the two wards representing the new and existing parish communities.

The consequences of this unfortunate decision by the Principal Authority has not only been divisive for the effected Eggington communities but it has also left a disproportionate elector/councillor ratio in Leighton-Linslade Planets parish ward given that the new parish community was not subsequently allocated to its governance.

b). Community Cohesion

The current electorate within the new Eggington-Clipstone Park Ward has grown to 1,559 and is expected to rise to 1,982 by the year 2030. By comparison, the existing Eggington-

Village Ward records an electorate of 185 and this is only expected to increase to 187 by 2030.

These figures clearly highlight a significant imbalance in that the distant Clipstone Park community will swamp the existing village community by a factor of 10 by the year 2030 and, given the current allocation of parish council seats of 5 for Clipstone Park and 2 for Eggington Village, then the village community will inevitably have any real influence over the decision making for the future of their village. We contend that this situation does not contribute toward the required community cohesion.

In addition, the current status of the Clipstone Park development that straddles the joint boundary of both Leighton-Linslade and Eggington remains a divisive factor given that both communities look toward the commercial centre of Leighton Buzzard for shopping, charter market, leisure, medical, dental and other services provided by Leighton-Linslade Town Council. These services are of course provided through the annual precept raised by the Town Council from the residents within their parish but of course, the increasing numbers of the Eggington-Clipstone Park residents do not contribute a penny toward the provision of these services.

Whilst we recognize that the level of parish council tax should not be an issue in deciding future governance, it remains to say that the very principle of residents receiving 'free' services from an adjacent parish creates a degree of divisiveness that fails to meet the required community cohesion criteria.

c). Effective and Convenient Governance

In previous Community Governance Reviews, the Principal Authority has stated that it 'wants to ensure that parish governance in our area continues to be robust, representative, and enabled to meet the challenges that lie before it'.

Historically, the community of Eggington has remained a small rural village with residents rarely exceeding 200 and has managed its affairs through a small parish council administered by one part-time employee acting as clerk and finance officer overseeing local council services such as roadside seating, dog waste bins, litter bins and grass maintenance.

The Eggington parish boundary has not been redrawn since the early 1980's when the hamlet of Leedon was incorporated within Leighton-Linslade parish following the extensive development of the Meadow Way residential estate. Had this development remained within Eggington parish then the new population would have swamped the existing community by a factor of at least three to one.

As stated previously, the new development of Clipstone Park has the potential of swamping the existing village community by a factor of ten to one and that will create a demand on the current parish administration far in excess than that threatening them in the 1980's. That would require a significant increase of built and human resources to provide the varied services demanded by the new community.

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

However, these services, are currently being accessed and enjoyed by residents of Clipstone Park without any financial contribution or political influence as they are provided by the neighbouring Leighton-Linslade Town Council, with a complement of full time officers and experienced parks and cemetery personnel. Indeed, the Town Council has been a NALC Gold standard 'Quality' parish Council for a number of years and remains one of the top fifty parish councils in the country. Access to the Town Council offices is convenient and their experienced specialist resources are more than capable of absorbing the infrastructure maintenance requirements from the new community area.

We contend that Leighton-Linslade Town Council has a proven record in service delivery is best placed to provide the range and quality of services effectively to the new community of Clipstone Park as it currently provides within it's own parish.

d). Community Identity

The need to secure that community governance reflects the identity and interests of a community is a further criteria set by the LGBCE for the Principal Authority to have regard to.

There can be no argument that the development at Clipstone Park was designed and incorporated within a masterplan specifically as an urban extension to the existing town of Leighton Buzzard. All advertising material contained in the sales documentation issued to prospective buyers by every developer on the estate referred to this specific point:

- ❖ Developer 1: "Clipstone Park is a highly sought-after new community in Leighton Buzzard"
- ❖ Developer 2: "Clipstone Park is a popular development in the historic market town of Leighton Buzzard. You'll benefit from the best of town and country living. This is a great family destination to set down roots"
- ❖ Developer 3: "Located just 1.5 miles away from the centre of Leighton Buzzard, homebuyers have everything a 21st Century lifestyle demands. An eclectic mix of independent stores and boutiques, coffee shops, restaurants, pubs and bars adorn the streets of the historic Leighton Buzzard Town"

Every newly arriving resident was fully aware that they were coming to reside in a development that extended the community of Leighton Buzzard but herein lies the dichotomy where they find themselves in a rural parish in governance terms.

The housing mix within the Clipstone Park area is certainly more of a match in terms of design and density with that of the adjacent existing 'Planets' development, but significantly different than the housing mix found in the village of Eggington.

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e). Proposed Future Governance

The analysis of the current and future electorate numbers in respect of the District Ward of Leighton-Linslade North is as follows:

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE NORTH				Table 1A	
Parish	Ward	Current 2025	Forecast 2030	Parish Councillors	Elector Ratio 2030
Leighton-Linslade	Planets	3,550	3,831	3	1,277
Leighton-Linslade	Plantation	3,184	3,623	2	1,811
Leighton-Linslade	St. Georges	3,602	3,638	2	1,819
Eggington	Clipstone Park	1,559	1,982	5	396
Totals		11,985	13,074	12	

In order to offset the resultant increased numbers in Leighton-Linslade Planets parish ward due to this proposed boundary change, we would further suggest a transfer of the electorate within the existing L-L Planets ward book LBN-PLS3, some 728 electors, reverting back to the parish ward of L-L Brooklands and district ward of Leighton-Linslade South which would also correct the anomaly of the relationship of this area with Planets ward, that has existed for a number of years.

The effect of these changes on Leighton-Linslade North and South District Wards can be shown as follows:

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE NORTH				Table 1B	
Parish	Ward	Adjusted 2025	Adjusted 2030	Parish Councillors	Elector Ratio 2030
Leighton-Linslade	Planets	4,381*	5,085*	3	1,695
Leighton-Linslade	Plantation	3,184	3,623	2	1,811
Leighton-Linslade	St. Georges	3,602	3,638	2	1,819
Totals		11,167	12,346	7	

*Adjusted current changes:

Transfer from Eggington-Clipstone Park :1,559
Transfer to Leighton-Linslade Brooklands: 728

*Adjusted forecast changes:

Transfer from Eggington-Clipstone Park.: 1,982
Transfer to Leighton-Linslade Brooklands: 728

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LEIGHTON-LINSLADE SOUTH					Table 1C
Parish	Ward	Adjusted 2025	Adjusted 2030	Parish Councillors	Elector Ratio 2030
Leighton-Linslade	Brooklands	2,621*	3,349*	2	1,674
Leighton-Linslade	Grovebury	7,227	7,227	4	1,806
Leighton-Linslade	Leston	1,401	1,421	1	1,421
Totals		11,249	11,997	7	

*Adjusted current changes:

Transfer from Leighton-Linslade Planets: 728

*Adjusted forecast changes:

Transfer from Leighton-Linslade Planets: 728

These proposed changes are intended to realise an equitable balance between the Leighton Linslade North and South District Wards and the equivalent parish wards

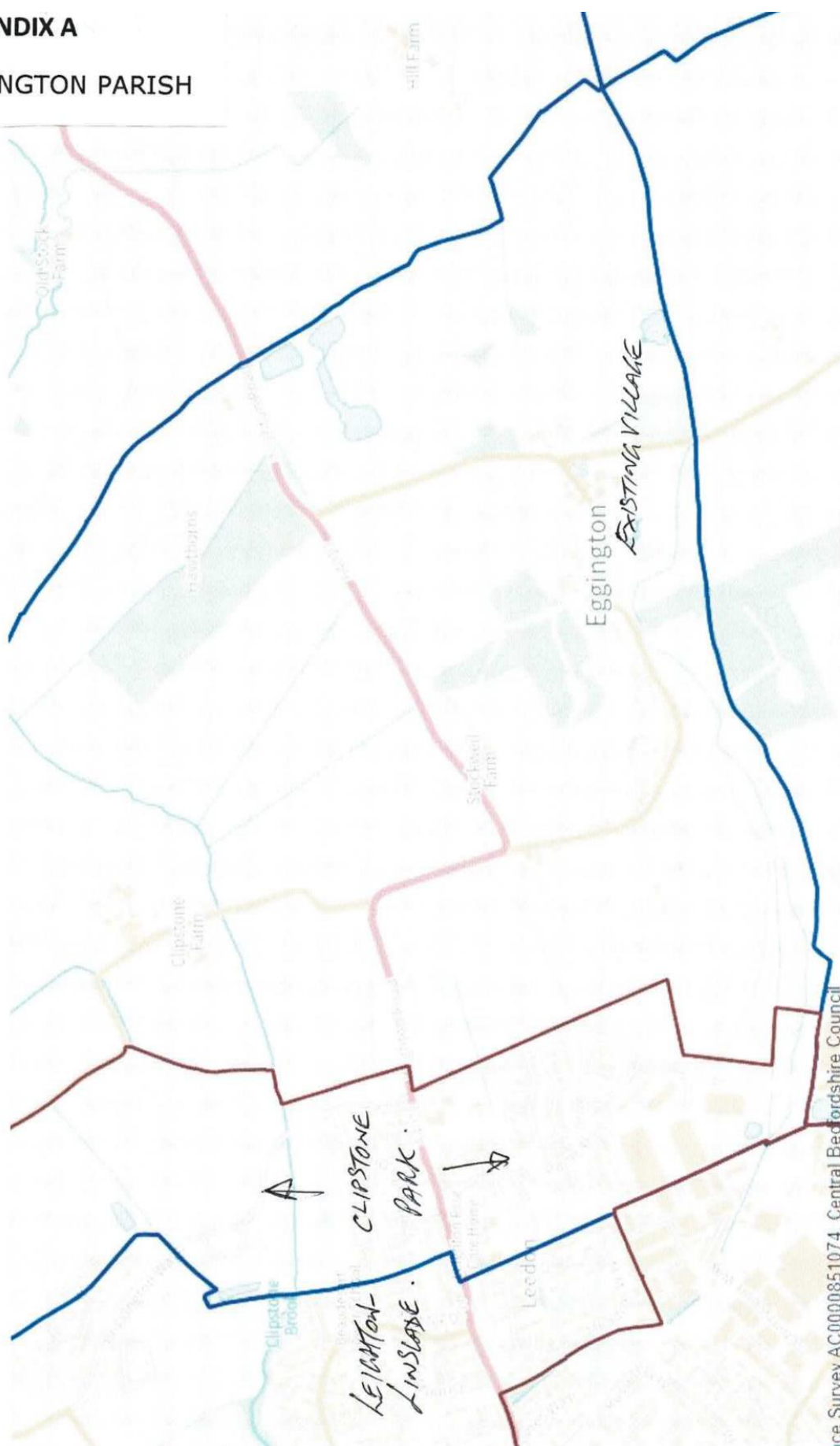
RECOMMENDATION #1

We propose that the existing parish boundary be changed to incorporate the current Eggington-Clipstone Park parish ward into Leighton-Linslade Planets parish ward, adopting the proposed electoral changes outlined in Tables 1B & 1C to maintain a representation of three councillors within each District Ward, and seven parish ward councillors to represent the same areas. (Refer to Appendix A)

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APPENDIX A

EGGINGTON PARISH



(2) Discussion paper on a Proposal for a change to the existing Leighton-Linslade Parish boundary to incorporate the existing parish of Heath & Reach together with the proposed residential development of 3,400 homes at Checkley Wood also within the parish of Heath & Reach

Submitted by Independent CBC and Town Cllrs Russ Goodchild and Steve Owen jointly with Labour Town Cllrs Jane Gibson, Pat Carberry, Mike Bishop and Peter McMorrow

a). Community Cohesion

The village of Heath & Reach has existed for many years as a self-governed parish in their own right nestled immediately adjacent to the Leighton-Linslade parish boundary. Their residents have become respected neighbours and they have played an important part in ensuring their local commercial centre of Leighton Buzzard with its ancient charter market has thrived.

The current electorate within the community of Heath & Reach is 1,159 and is expected to increase by only two, based on current planning information, to 1,161 by the year 2030. However, earlier this year, detailed plans were issued by a local company outlining an extensive residential development of 3,400 dwellings also providing local centres and a museum building dedicated to the sand industry. This development, whilst not yet lodged with the Planning Authority, appears to be at an advanced stage of design and drawings show this to wrap around the South and East edges of Heath & Reach, and finally linking directly with the ongoing Clipstone Park development.

This new development could theoretically produce an additional electorate of some 5,800 in number that will eventually swamp the existing village electorate by a proportion of six to one. Given the contrast of housing design, layout and density, this development will inevitably have a detrimental effect on community cohesion given these new residents will have more affinity with the adjacent Clipstone Park development than existing villagers.

Should the Checkley Wood development come forward within the next five years then there would be a legitimate reason for similar arguments to be made for including the village and development within the parish of Leighton-Linslade given that there will be every likelihood that its residents will automatically look toward Leighton Buzzard for its goods and services thus exacerbating the effect already being experienced from the Clipstone Park on community cohesion.

b). Effective and Convenient Governance

In previous Community Governance Reviews, the Principal Authority has stated that it 'wants to ensure that parish governance in our area continues to be robust, representative, and enabled to meet the challenges that lie before it'.

The community of Heath & Reach is situated immediately adjacent to the Leighton-Linslade parish boundary and forms the largest parish within the current District Ward bearing the same name that returns one representative to that Authority. The other parishes coterminous with Heath & Reach in this Ward are Chalgrave, Hockliffe, Stanbridge, Tilsworth and Eggington (Village Ward)

The parish of Heath & Reach has an allocation of nine councillors, but since the creation of the Principal Authority there has not been a contested election due to there being insufficient candidates. As a consequence, candidates have been elected without contest, the balance being made up from subsequent co-options.

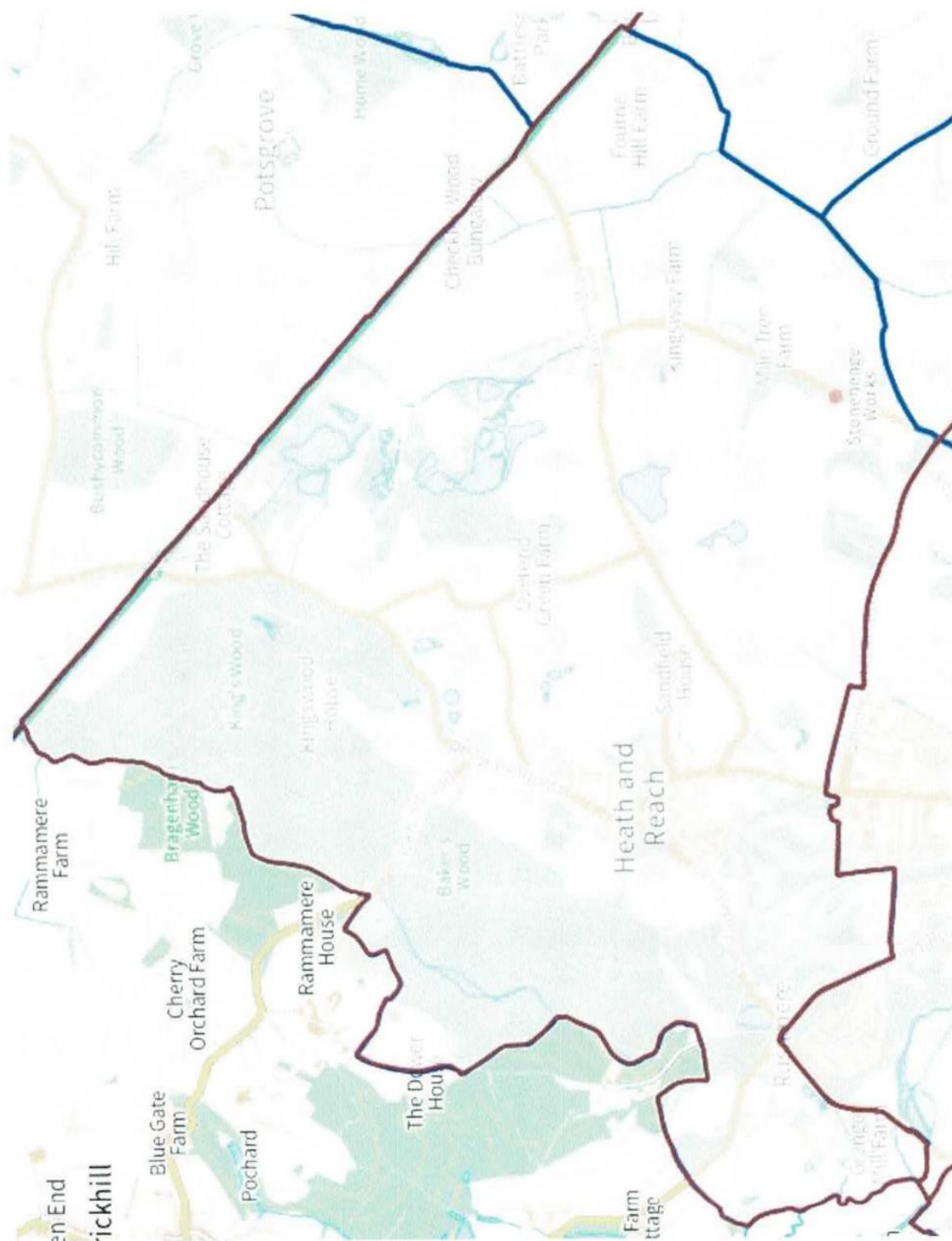
As stated previously, the proposed development of Checkley Wood has the potential of swamping the existing community by a factor of six to one and with the additional allocation of parish councillors to represent the new community this will inevitably create an unwelcome imbalance where decision making for the existing community will be dominated by the new residents particularly given their record on standing candidates. As a result, community cohesion will be adversely effected.

NOTE: We are not advocating a change in the parish boundary at this time but merely flagging up the potential problems that can be foreseen in the future should the Principal Authority delay decision making on governance for this growing community as they did for the Clipstone Park development. We are of the strong opinion that decisions on community governance should be taken immediately following approval of a planning application so that future residents will have certainty as to which community they are joining.

RECOMMENDATION #2

We request that Central Bedfordshire Council take the early opportunity to review the existing community governance of Heath & Reach parish given the potential early commencement of the proposed Checkley Wood development and it's wider implications on community cohesion and effective governance on the existing village community and the commercial centre of Leighton Buzzard. (Refer to Appendix B)

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APPENDIX B**HEATH & REACH
PARISH**

Parliamentary Area Boundary Review

(3) Proposal for change to the existing Parliamentary boundary to the West of Linslade in the parish of Leighton-Linslade to incorporate the enclosed land (as shown hatched on the drawing in Appendix C) that currently lies within the jurisdiction of Buckinghamshire County Council.

Submitted by Independent CBC and Town Cllrs Russ Goodchild and Steve Owen jointly with Labour Town Cllrs Jane Gibson, Pat Carberry, Mike Bishop and Peter McMorro

Following the completion of the Linslade West bypass in 2007, the land encapsulated between the new road and existing County boundary has been the target of various speculative planning applications for residential developments to improve housing provision within the Aylesbury Vale area of Buckinghamshire.

The parish of Leighton-Linslade has fought off these unwanted applications with considerable public support on the basis that should any such development be allowed then the new residents would not have access to a commercial centre within a distance of twelve miles in their county of Buckinghamshire, but instead would look toward the Bedfordshire town of Leighton Buzzard for its goods and services without contributing to the provision or maintenance of said services.

Until such time as the boundary is extended to the A4146, the hinterland between the existing and proposed boundaries will remain vulnerable to planning applications outside the control of the relevant Bedfordshire authorities and this proposal seeks to bring an end to the stream of unwanted development applications and obviate the potential future burden on Leighton-Linslade council tax payers on servicing a new community outwith their parish boundary.

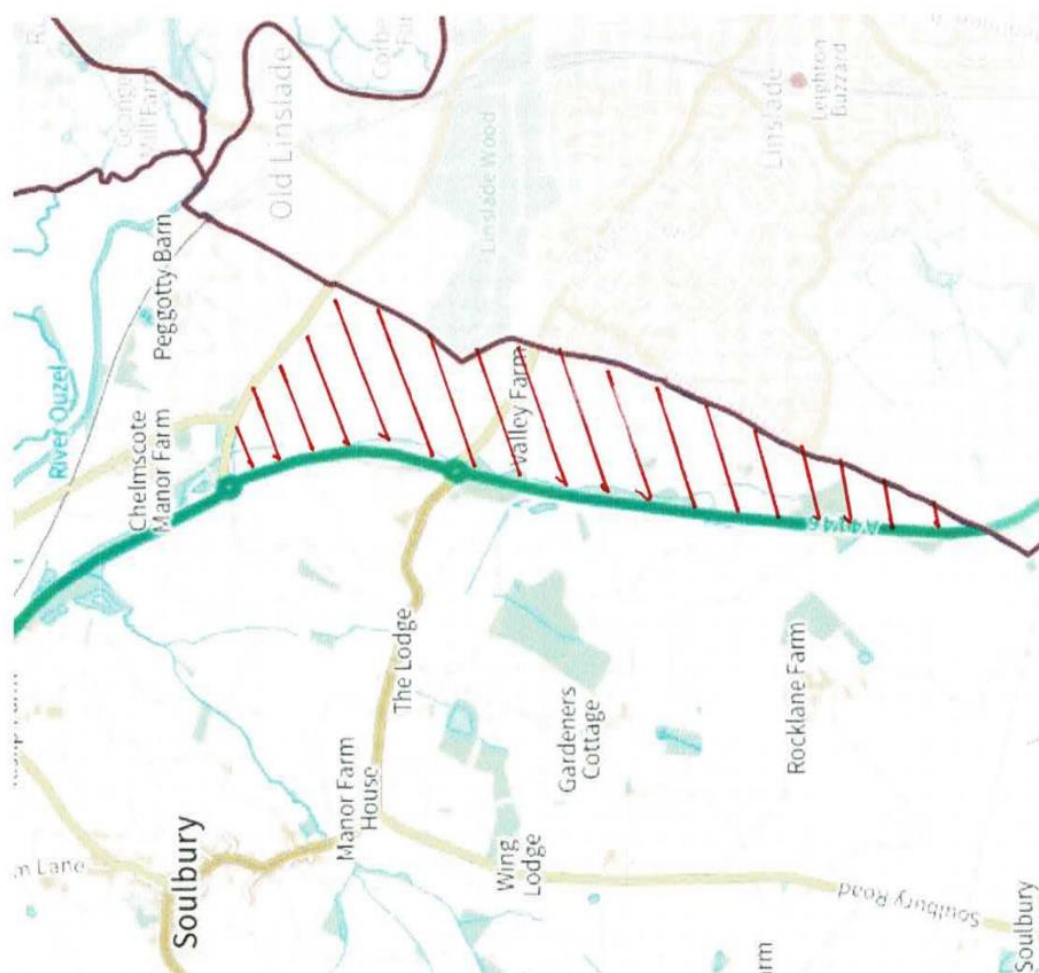
In terms of the resultant shift in electoral numbers and council tax, we understand that only one property exists within the effected transfer area and that is Valley Farm.

RECOMMENDATION #3

This Council wishes Central Bedfordshire Council as the Principal Authority to instigate the formal PABR process, including discussions with Buckinghamshire County Council, to bring about the proposed re-alignment of that part of the Parliamentary/County boundary around Western Linslade extended out to the natural boundary of the A4146 Linslade West bypass, and the transfer of land/property within that prescribed area as shown hatched on the drawing included in Appendix C.

APPENDIX C

RE-ALIGNMENT OF BOUNDARY – WEST LINSLADE



4. Biggleswade Town Council

We received the following letter regarding the consultation from Biggleswade Town Council.

Community Governance Review Submission

August 2025

Notification

Central Bedfordshire Council notified the Town Council of its intention to conduct a Community Governance Review (CGR) for the whole of the council area starting on the 30th June 2025 and with submissions to be received by the 23rd August 2025.

CBC specified that the review would consider:

- the creation, merger, alteration or abolition of parishes;
-
- the naming of parishes and the style of any new or revised parish;
-
- electoral arrangements for existing parishes including council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council, parish warding, and
-
- grouping parishes under a new common parish council with any of their surrounding areas.

Structure to Submission in Response

1. Process
2. Timing
3. Political Perspective
4. Discussions with Neighbouring Parishes
5. Proposals for Change
6. Consultation with Residents
7. Future Partnership Working
8. Conclusion

1. Process

Biggleswade Town Council has followed the process that was recommended:

- checked the existing Parish Boundary – see Appendix A;
- engaged with our residents;
- engaged with neighbouring parishes, and
- been conscious of our legal authority when suggesting a reason for change.

2. Timing

Elected Members of the Town Council have expressed concern in regard to the timing of the review and in particular its inter-connectivity with the Local Plan and Call for Sites. The Call for Sites has advanced many sites in and around Biggleswade and, depending on which sites go forward, this could have a significant bearing on sensible future governance for our town and surrounding parishes. Please refer to Appendix B which shows sites already with

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planning permission; Holme Farm, allocated in the current Local Plan; and the sites in blue put forward in the Call for Sites.

The CBC timeline below shows a two-stage process where initial decisions are put to further consultation. However Stage 3 begins in November and the results of the assessment of sites put forward in the Call for Sites is not scheduled to be available before early 2026. To enable an understanding of the likely development to be put forward in the revised Local Plan and its impact, the second consultation should be when the assessment of sites put forward has been concluded and likely development known. Perhaps Stage 3 timing could be re-considered?

CBC Timeline:

Dates	Review Stage	Timescales	Activity
March – April 2025	Preparation	2 months	Invite parishes to submit proposals for change. Desk research and information gathering. local briefings and meetings. Terms of Reference for the review are prepared
26 June 2025	Approval		General Purposes Committee approves commencement of CGR and Terms of Reference
30 June 2025	Commencement		Terms of Reference published; Council notifies stakeholders
30 June 2025 – 23 August 2025	Stage One	8 weeks	Initial submissions invited in response to consultation document
26 August 2025– 27 September 2025	Stage Two	5 weeks	Consider submissions received and prepare draft recommendations
23 October 2025			General Purposes Committee
17 November – 8 February 2026	Stage Three	12 weeks	Publish draft recommendations for further consultation with stakeholders and residents
9 February – 15 March 2026	Stage Four		Consider submissions received and prepare final recommendations
April 2026*	Conclusion		General Purposes Committee Final recommendations are approved by GP Committee and recommended to Council
14 May 2026*	Resolution		Council resolves to make a Reorganisation Order
October/November 2026	Implementation		Effective date of Order Effective date of any changes to parish/town boundaries and electoral arrangements
6 May 2027			Parish Elections

* Date of meeting to be confirmed

Whilst the Community Governance Review should not be delayed further, it is worth noting that the Government is currently carrying out a wider review of local government. This may result in Central Bedfordshire being joined with other principal authorities under a directly elected mayor. It is not clear if and how the role of town and parish councils might change under any new regime and therefore what boundaries may be pertinent.

3. Political Perspective

“Looking to the future, we want to continue to deliver excellent services while trying to reduce reliance on our local council tax.” said Cllr Madeline Russell, Chairman of the Governance Working Group.

“This review enables us to reflect on the breadth and character of the community of Biggleswade; how to better serve residents and how to ensure the right level of representation.”

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4. Discussions with Neighbouring Parishes

The Town Council met with elected representatives of Northill Parish Council, Dunton Parish Council, Sutton Parish Council and Edworth Parish Meeting to discuss potential options for change.

Their Members were encouraged to then discuss these proposals at Council and to share with Biggleswade Town Council any respective resolutions.

Northill Parish Council

Members of Northill Parish Council did not see the need for a boundary change. They had had no complaints from residents and the boundary should remain as it is. They agreed to offer Biggleswade Town Council the opportunity to bid for Public Realm work when they next tender. They wish to continue to work in partnership as appropriate.

Northill official response:

“Following discussion at our most recent council meeting, members agreed that we are firmly in favour of maintaining our current parish boundary, with the River Ivel remaining the defining border—rather than any realignment to the A1. We would also like to highlight that Northill Parish Council is an active and fully functioning council, comprising 12 proactive councillors, with no difficulty in filling vacancies when they arise. In summary, the Council is operating effectively, collaboratively, and in the best interests of the parish community. We are content with the current arrangements and do not support any changes to our existing governance or boundaries.”

Dunton Parish Council

Members had not considered the Governance Review. They were concerned about electricity supply because the village already experiences power cuts. They intend to oppose the development referred to in the Call for Sites as 136407.

Dunton official response:

“Dunton Parish Council thank you for inviting them to the informal meeting at your office. Members of Dunton Parish Council have now had time to discuss and have decided they will not be submitting anything to CBC.”

Sutton Parish Council

The Council is likely to oppose two sites proposed in the Call for Sites, sites 136407 and 136620, and therefore think that any discussion of boundaries is premature.

Sutton official response:

“Sutton Parish Council has responded to the Review to say that they do not want, at the present time, any changes to its parish boundary but may want to revisit this if the Call for Sites exercise determines development should take place on Sutton parish land.”

Edworth Parish Meeting

Edworth Parish Meeting were content for the boundary to be Dunton Road from the Edworth Turn on the A1. They explained that the village looks towards Hinxworth and Ashwell for services, not Biggleswade.

They do not have the capacity or expertise to engage with CBC about planning issues.

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They would appreciate regular contact with Biggleswade Town Council and to work together on planning if the commercial site goes forward.

Edworth official response:

"Members of Edworth Parish Meeting are supportive of the Biggleswade boundary being extended along Dunton Road to the Edworth Turn on the A1. No formal submission has been made by the Parish Meeting in response to the Governance Review."

5. Proposals for Change

Biggleswade Town Council proposes that the boundaries with both Northhill and Edworth be reviewed.

Northhill Parish

There is currently an area of residential, commercial & farmland between the River Ivel and the A1 from Hill Lane north to the boundary of Sandy Parish that sits within Northhill Parish. It contains Sainsbury's supermarket, the Tidy Tip and a small number of flats and houses. Biggleswade Town Council proposes that the boundary should be changed from the river to the A1, as far as the Sandy boundary. Please refer to Appendix C.

The general public think that this area is in Biggleswade. They refer to Biggleswade Sainsbury's and Central Bedfordshire Council, on its website, refers to the Biggleswade Household Recycling Centre. The small number of residential properties adjoin the river and have easy access to all Biggleswade's facilities. They are within a ten-minute walk of the town centre, closer than the majority of the housing to the east of the town, and yet make no financial contribution to the amenities available.

The Town Council asks for the boundary change to go ahead whilst noting that Northhill Parish Council disagrees with the change.

Edworth Parish

Biggleswade Town Council proposes that Dunton Road from the Edworth turn from the A1 makes a more natural boundary than the existing boundary, even more so if the land to the north of Dunton Road is approved, as requested, for inclusion as commercial development in the revised Local Plan. The land in question is currently solely farmland and, as above, Edworth Parish Meeting are content to see this change. The Town Council will work with Edworth should development be proposed to ensure that the Parish Meeting's views are represented. Please refer to Appendix C.

Dunton and Sutton Parishes

Whilst respecting that both parishes wish to oppose the inclusion of Site 136407 in the revised Local Plan before considering any boundary changes, Biggleswade Town Council proposes that, if development takes place, the whole of the site, including parts of Dunton and Sutton parishes, should be within Biggleswade Parish. This is in line with the Government's view that neighbouring houses should not be in different parishes. The land is currently farmland with only farm properties, no other housing.

There may also be an issue with Site 136620, which is wholly within Sutton parish but adjoins the site within Biggleswade which already has outline planning permission for 1,500 houses.

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

6. Consultation with Residents

The Council held a public meeting at the Orchard Community Centre on 26th June. The feedback was mainly positive but with some feeling that change may be premature and should perhaps wait until any development occurs.

The Council also launched an online survey to capture residents' views and the following responses were received.

Question 1: Would you broadly be in favour of adjusting the municipal boundary of Biggleswade Town Council to more obviously recognise local natural geography e.g. the A1?

Yes: 20 (63%) No: 12 (38%)

Question 2: Would you broadly be in favour of adjusting the municipal boundary of Biggleswade Town Council to more obviously recognise recent residential and/or commercial development?

Yes: 21 (66%) No: 11 (34%)

Question 3: Would you broadly be in favour of adjusting the municipal boundary of Biggleswade Town Council to more obviously recognise future residential and/or commercial development, in part informed by the CBC (Central Bedfordshire Council) call for sites?

Yes: 18 (58%) No : 13 (42%)

7. Future Partnership Working

In line with the expansion and needs of the town, Biggleswade Town Council's capacity, skills and competency has grown over the last five years. This potentially allows the Council to offer the benefits of economies of scale to other local Councils in the spirit of partnership.

As a consequence of our commissioning and procurement process the Council has developed effective and mature partnerships with a range of external agencies, notably in personnel management, payroll, car parking, public conveniences, football pitch maintenance and bowls pitch maintenance.

These partnerships could be extended to include other neighbouring Councils using the 'cost-plus' model (the pricing mechanism where a contractor is paid for the actual costs of providing the service, plus a pre-agreed fee or mark-up). This has the opportunity to reduce their unit costs and impact positively upon the quality of service delivery, giving better value for money. It would also enhance Biggleswade Town Council's income generation opportunities, reducing reliance upon the precept.

The informal engagement referred to above was a positive experience that has opened up opportunities for future partnership working, sharing competencies and expertise, in the way that the Town Council is already working with Northill Parish Council on an active travel issue. Where appropriate, it was agreed that Biggleswade Town Council would be invited to tender for services and also that other opportunities for co-operation would be explored in future meetings with those parishes to discuss items of mutual interest.

8. Conclusion

Biggleswade Town Council has been grateful for the opportunity to consider the issues raised by the Community Governance Review.

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

The need to consult neighbouring parishes has been positive in establishing relationships and in indicating possible future collaboration on issues of joint interest.

The Town Council confirms its request for changes to the boundaries with Northhill and Edworth as a priority.

The Council also confirms that it is likely that other boundary changes will be needed, with both Dunton and Sutton, when the Call for Sites assessments have taken place. If the sites quoted above go forward in the Local Plan process, they are effectively an extension of Biggleswade.

Supporting Appendices

Appendix A: Current Biggleswade parish boundary.

Appendix B: Call for Sites map, showing allocated/approved sites and potential sites.

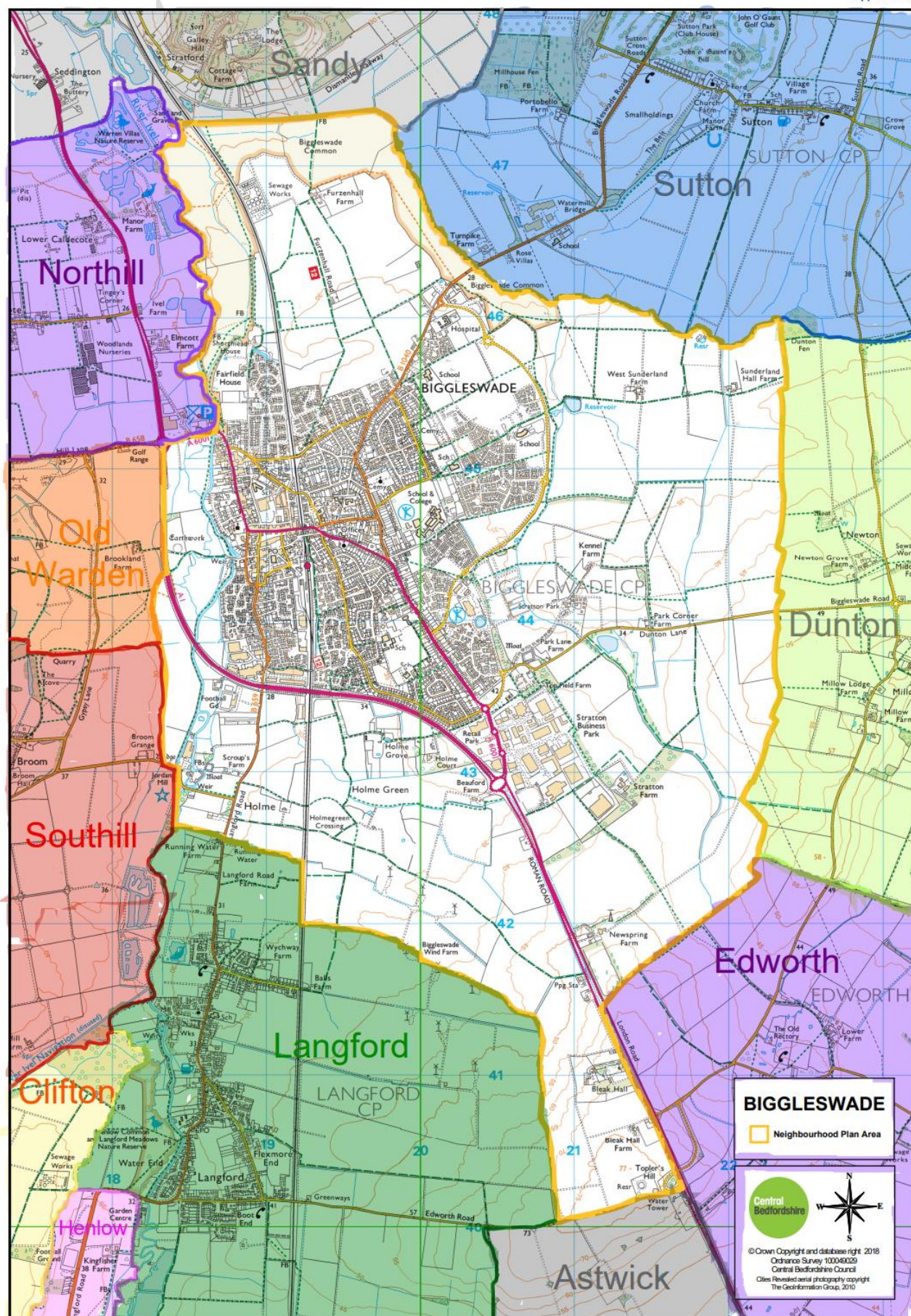
Appendix C: Areas for inclusion within Biggleswade boundary.

(Please note that the base Ordnance Survey map used for the above is dated 2018 and does not show much of the completed housing development to the north-east of the town.)

Biggleswade Town Council, August 2025

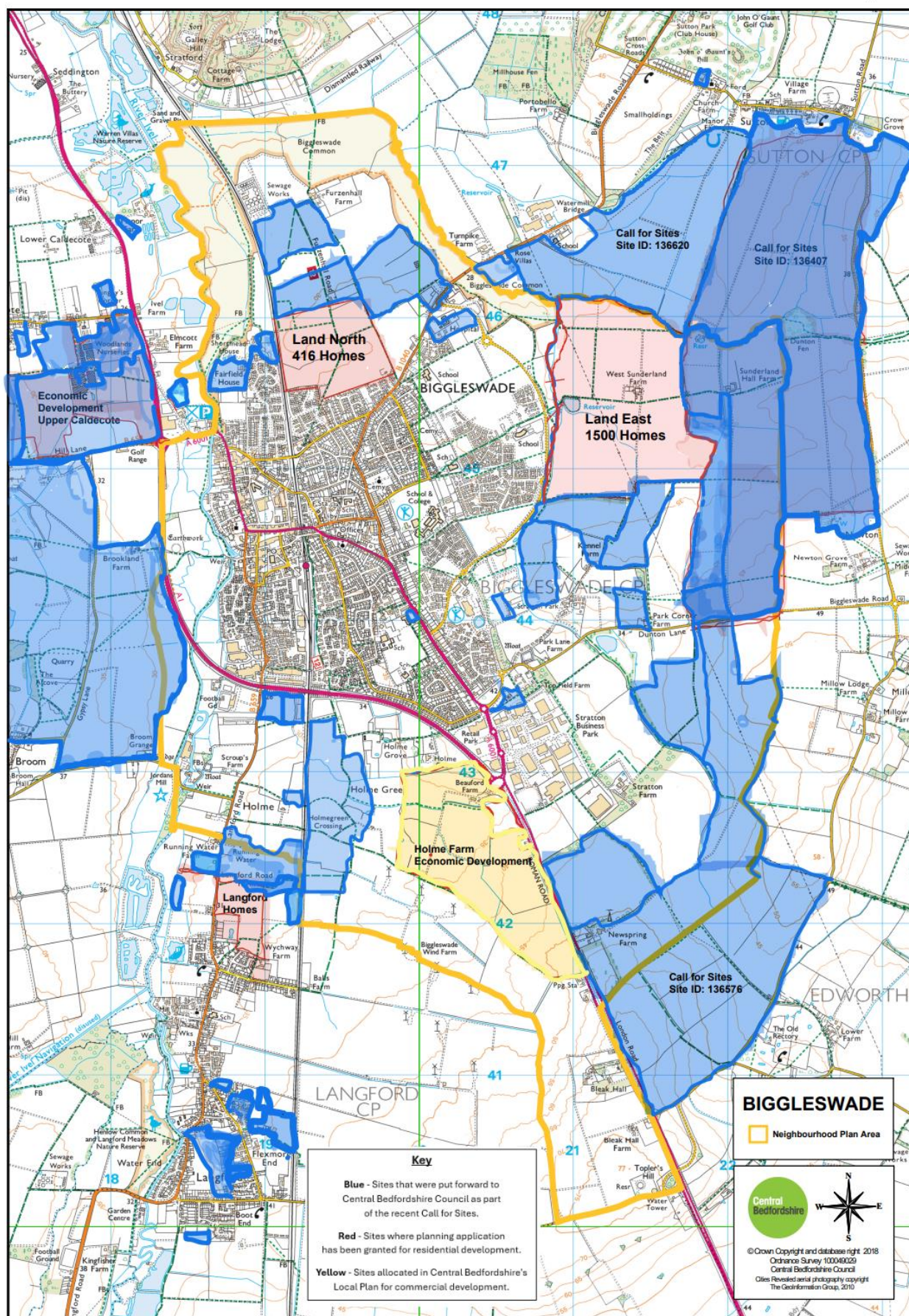
Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

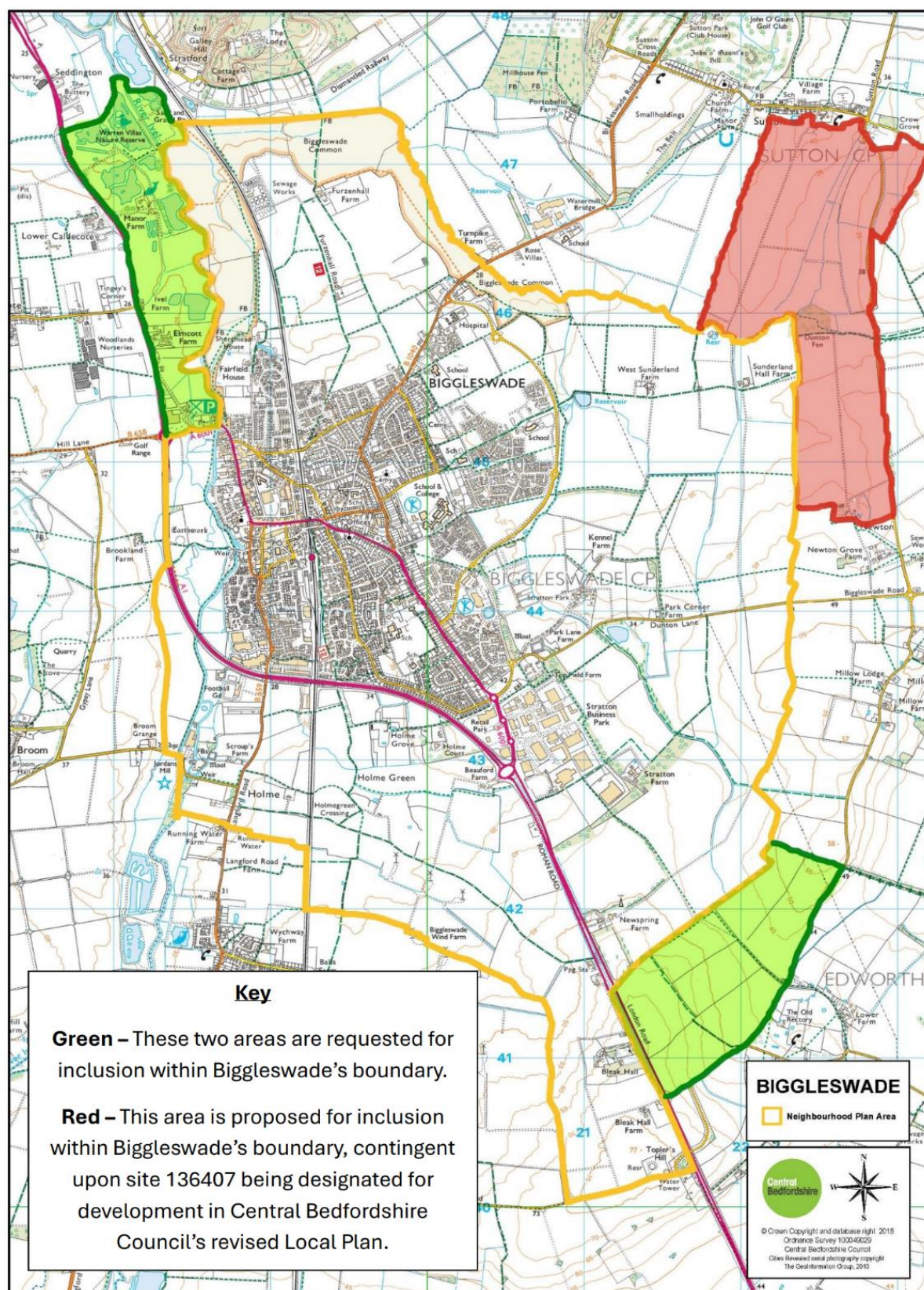
Appendix A



Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report

Appendix B





5. Eaton Bray Parish Council

We received the following letter and accompanying map regarding the consultation from Eaton Bray Parish Council.

Re: Eaton Bray – Community Governance

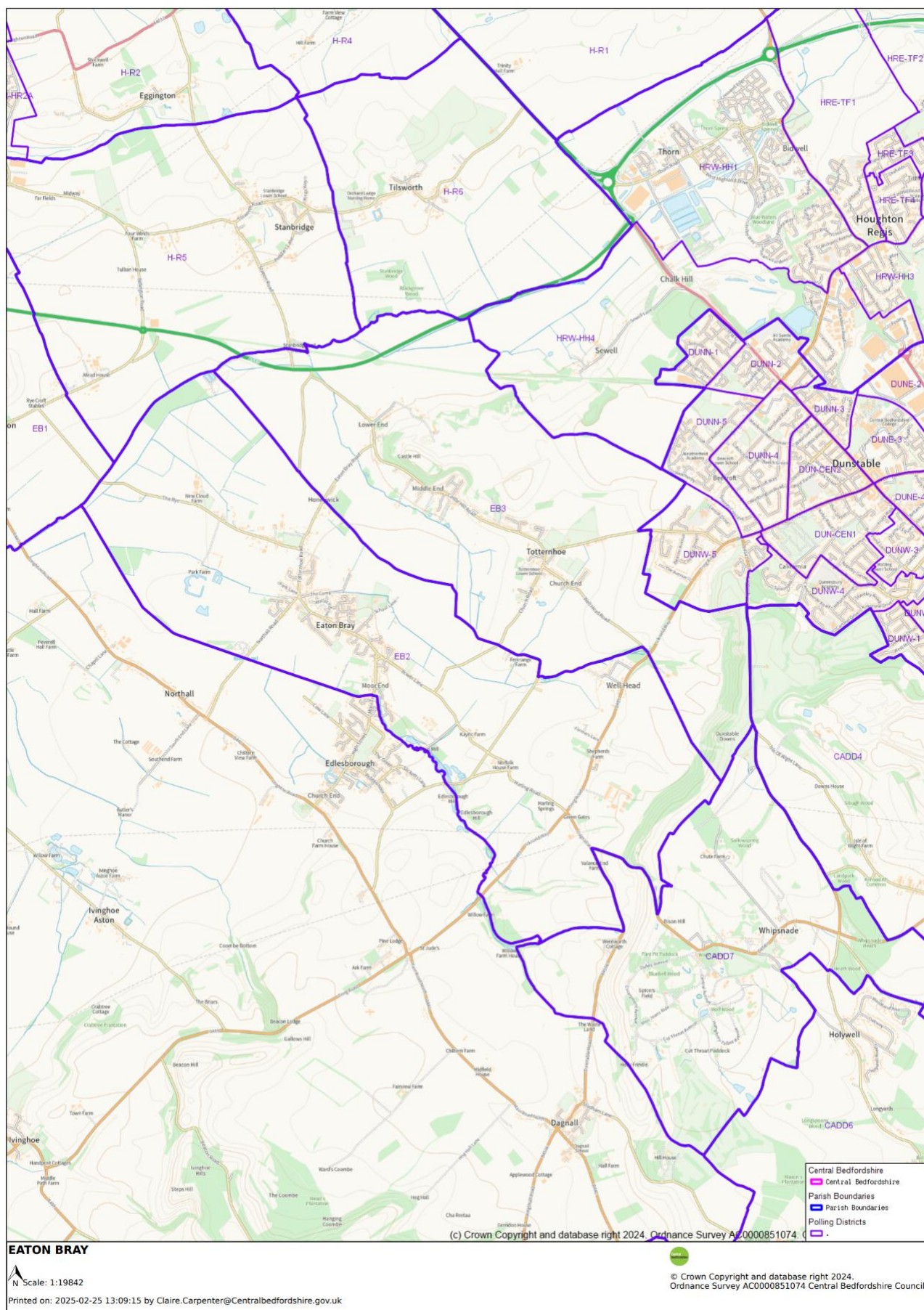
Eaton Bray Parish Council are happy with the current situation.

We feel that the size, boundaries, number of Parish Councillors and financial arrangements all work very satisfactorily, so are not looking for any changes.

Kind Regards,

Eaton Bray Parish Council

Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation report



6. Stotfold Town Council



STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Stotfold Town Council, The Greenacre Centre, Valerian Way, Stotfold, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 4HG

Telephone: 01462 730064

enquiries@stotfoldtowncouncil.gov.uk | www.stotfoldtowncouncil.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TG

28 August 2025

Dear Sirs,

Proposal for Community Governance Review - Redrawing of Parish Boundaries

Purpose

Following Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) decision to launch a new Community Governance Review (CGR) and recognising significant local development and boundary anomalies since the 2017/18 review, Stotfold Town Council submits this proposal to reshape parish boundaries and governance arrangements in our area.

Background

A statutory CGR (Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007) allows the principal authority to review parish boundaries and electoral structures to ensure effective and convenient local governance, reflecting community identities.

Key Drivers for this Review:

- Population shifts: Urban growth merging former village areas and boundary anomalies.
- Equity: Fairer distribution of electorate and councillor workloads.
- Fiscal Sustainability: Ensuring all communities contribute appropriately to shared services.

Any recommended changes would take effect from May 2027.

Proposals

a) Merging Astwick Parish Meeting with Stotfold Town Council

- Dissolve Astwick Parish Meeting as an independent entity.
- Incorporate Astwick as a new ward of Stotfold Town Council, with dedicated representation (one ward councillor elected).

Justification & Benefits:

- Astwick residents gain access to enhanced amenities and professional administrative support.
- Strategic planning becomes more integrated, preventing fragmented development.
- Broader, fairer representation and pooled council resources bolster community projects, supported by the resources of Stotfold Town Council.



STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Stotfold Town Council, The Greenacre Centre, Valerian Way, Stotfold, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 4HG

Telephone: 01462 730064

enquiries@stotfoldtowncouncil.gov.uk | www.stotfoldtowncouncil.gov.uk

- Astwick is currently included in the area of designation for the Stotfold and Astwick Neighbourhood Plan

Risks & Mitigation:

- Acknowledge the potential loss of local identity and concerns over representation.
- Propose ring-fencing of a portion of the precept for ward-specific initiatives.
- Commit to robust community engagement to safeguard Astwick's voice.

Stotfold Town Council representatives met with Astwick Parish Meeting to discuss the proposals. The increase in the council tax was explained, along with the additional support that the Town Council could provide to residents with regards to planning and grounds maintenance. At their meeting on 27 August 2025, residents voted in favour of the proposal to become a ward of Stotfold by 9 votes with 1 abstention.

b) Redrawing the Arlesey Boundary to Follow A507

- Realign the boundary between Stotfold and Arlesey along the A507, a well-defined man-made feature as preferred by the Boundary Commission.
- Incorporate Etonbury School and Etonbury Woods within Stotfold.
- Note that the Arlesey Cross development remains outside the proposed new boundary.

Justification & Benefits:

- A clearer, logical boundary follows national guidance.
- Inclusion of key local amenities within Stotfold.
- Enables optimal use of S106 funding for improvements benefiting residents.

The Town Council met with representatives of Arlesey Town Council to discuss the proposals. Concerns were raised by Arlesey about loss of land however, the land in question is predominantly made up of Etonbury Woods, owned by CBC, with no potential housing development identified.

Financial Implications

- The inclusion of Astwick would increase Stotfold's council tax base with this portion of the precept being ring fenced for ward specific activities.
- S106 funds relating to Etonbury Woods would support local facility improvements.

Conclusion

This proposal supports equitable access to services, strengthens strategic governance, and ensures all communities contribute fairly. We would ask that CBC incorporate these recommendations into the CGR consultation and look forward to engaging constructively throughout the process.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Steve Buck Mayor, Stotfold Town Council

**Central
Bedfordshire**

Central Bedfordshire in contact

Find us online: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Call: 0300 300 8000

Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Write to: Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House,
Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

Appendix C

Dunstable Town Council Working Group Proposals for the Community Governance Review

Proposal 1

To amend the parish boundary to include the land shown.

The land marked in purple is owned by Dunstable Town Council and is provided as part of the Downside Recreation Ground.

The land marked in red is agricultural land known as Cottage Bottom Field. The land is owned by CBC at present. Dunstable Town Council intend to purchase the land and develop a new cemetery on the site.

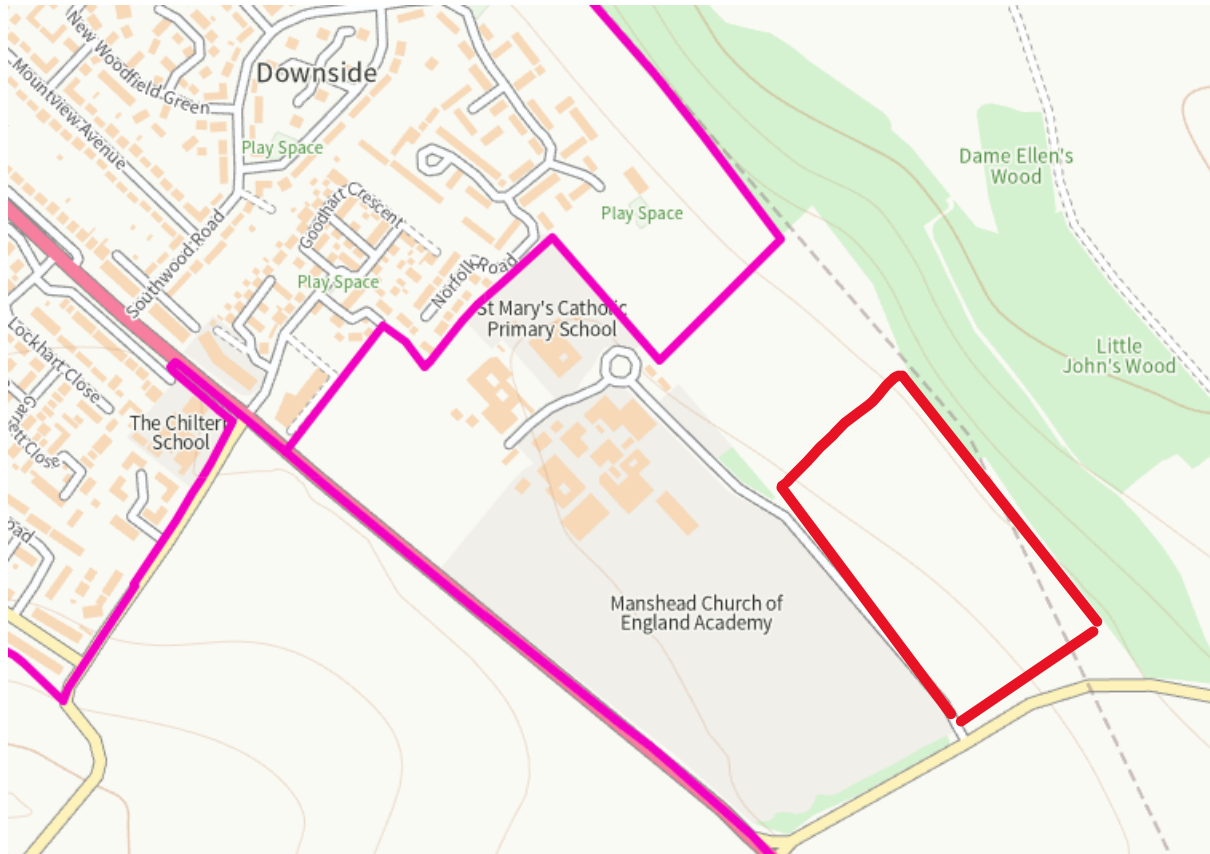
Operating a cemetery outside the parish boundary would not limit or affect the project – this would not change charges for Dunstable residents, for example. However, the Council's Community Governance Review Working Group propose that it would make sense for land being used for a Dunstable facility to be moved to form part of the parish boundary.

None of the land includes any residential properties, nor is it likely to ever be used for residential development.

Satellite View of Option 1

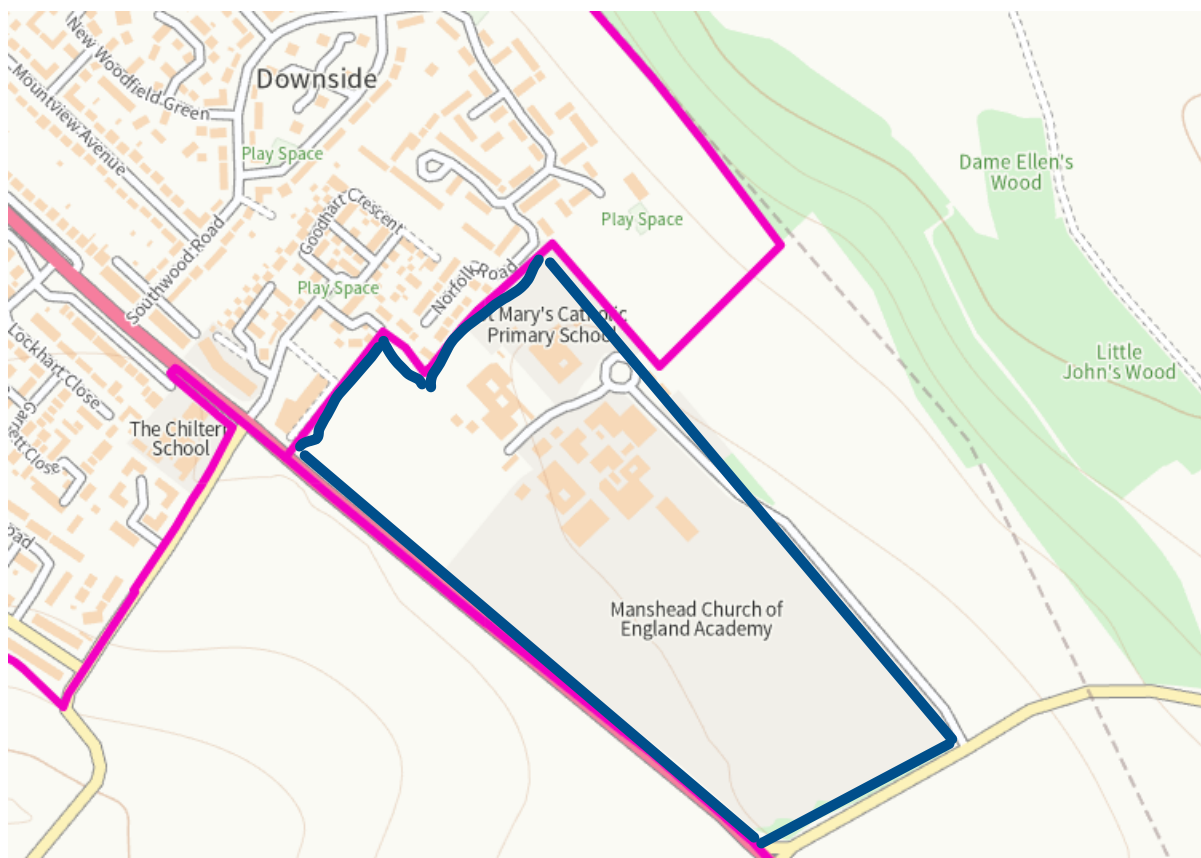


Option 1 showing current parish boundary



Option 2

To amend the parish boundary to include the land shown below in blue:

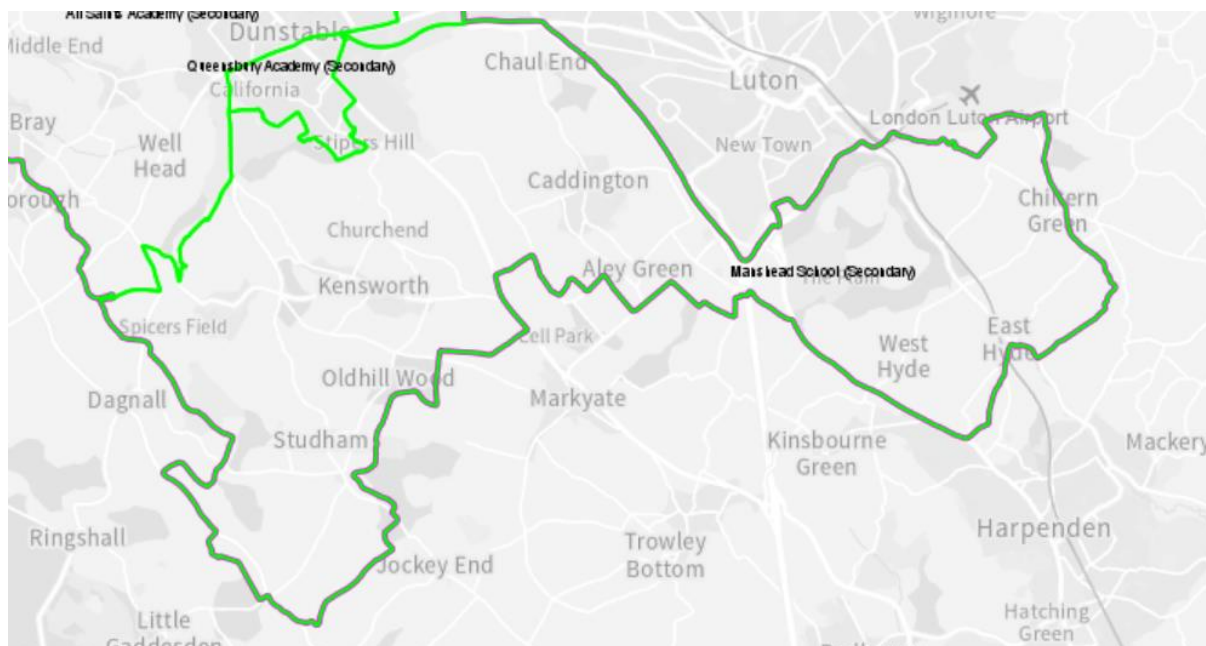


This would mean that the land occupied by Manshead and St Mary's Schools would be inside the Dunstable parish boundary. Dunstable Town Council's Community Governance Review Working Group propose that this appears to be a common-sense change to reflect that the schools are adjacent to Dunstable and some distance from Caddington itself. It would make sense for land being used for a Dunstable facility to be moved to form part of the parish boundary.

None of the land includes any residential properties, nor is it likely to every be used for residential development.

Brian Dunleavy has confirmed that this would not involve a change to CBC ward boundaries, so the remit of CBC Members would be unchanged.

Lydia Braisher, CBC's Admissions Manager, has confirmed that, "*St. Mary's Catholic Primary School does not operate a catchment area as admissions are primarily based on faith criteria. Manshead School's catchment area, covers Dunstable, Caddington and the surrounding villages/hamlets, so any parish boundary change will not impact on the school's catchment area as they should all be included within the catchment anyway. Below is the catchment boundary of Manshead School which depicts the area covered:*



7.2 Representations relating to the Community Governance Review Report



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE
TOWN COUNCIL

Mark Saccoccio

Town Clerk

Tel: 01525 631920

Email: info@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk

17 October 2025

Cllr Steve Watkins, Chair of General Purposes Committee

Cc: Cllr John Baker, Vice Chair of General Purposes Committee

Natasha Taylor, Monitoring Officer

Mr Brian Dunleavy, Democratic Services Manager

Via email

Dear Cllr Watkins

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 23 OCTOBER 2025

I write with reference to item 7 on the meeting agenda for the above, in respect of a Community Governance Review and the recommendations made with regard to the parish of Leighton-Linslade.

I note in Appendix B of the report, the representation submitted by six elected members of the Town Council, two of whom are also Central Bedfordshire ward councillors.

May I take the opportunity to underline the fact that this representation reflects the personal views of individual town councillors, but not the formal, collective view of the Town Council as a body.

At a meeting of its Policy & Finance Committee on 16 June 2025 and subsequently at an extraordinary meeting of the Town Council on 11 August 2025, the Community Governance Review was discussed. On both occasions, it was determined by majority vote that no changes to existing governance arrangements be proposed.

The Town Council therefore submitted no formal response to the consultation, as no changes were to be proposed.

Should you have any queries on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mark Saccoccio

Town Clerk



To: Cllr Steve Watkins, Chair of General Purposes Committee

Cc: Cllr John Baker, Vice Chair of General Purposes Committee

Natasha Taylor, Monitoring Officer

Mr Brian Dunleavy, Democratic Services Manager

Dear Cllr Watkins

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 23 OCTOBER 2025

I write with reference to item 7 on the meeting agenda, specifically the recommendations made regarding the Parish boundary of Eggington from the Stage 1 consultation of the Community Governance Review.

The report for the Stage 1 consultation states 'Guidance suggests that it is good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years'. You will be aware that there was a boundary review for the Parish of Eggington not more than 4 years ago and the results of which were to retain the boundary where it is. The residents of Clipstone Park voted almost unanimously in favour of the boundary remaining where it is and from our communications with residents this remains the overwhelming majority. Another review of the boundary is not wanted or needed by the residents of Eggington Parish and would be seen by them as a waste of CBC time and money.

Further, I include below from the report, the recommendation made for Eggington Parish (Page 32, 7.2 Appendix A):

Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to move the boundary is made in accordance with the request of a number of Councillors from Leighton Linlade Town Council (LLTC) to ensure effective and convenient local government and to improve representation and enhance community engagement and cohesion.

To make a recommendation to change a parish boundary impacting 1559 electors (who have shown no desire to relitigate the boundary review from a few years ago), based on the personal desire of a minority number of LLTC councillors seems non-sensical. LLTC had an extraordinary meeting in which this matter was voted on and the majority vote was that LLTC had no desire to adjust its boundaries.

The comments in the report from residents are from a tiny population sample and are not conclusive for any particular preference. The consultation itself was also setup in a manner which illicit response mainly from those that want a change but not from those that want to keep the status quo. As such responses from residents can't be held to be a string indicator on their own. That being said, there were still a number of responses from Eggington Parish



residents making it clear they do not want a boundary change as they are very happy with the services of their Parish Council.

I note that on pages 32 to 33 of 7.2 Appendix A you have the statement that representatives of Eggington Parish Council read out at the LLTC extraordinary meeting, this still accurately reflects our position.

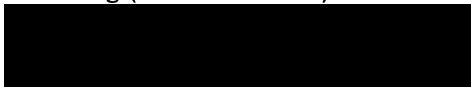
In conclusion, Eggington Parish Council requests that the committee amends the recommendation made for the Eggington Parish boundary. There is no evidence in the report to show there is support to warrant the current recommendation to change the boundary. Changing the boundary is not endorsed by LLTC or Eggington Parish council, additionally it is our strong belief that it is a change not desired by the majority of residents in Clipstone Park and Eggington village as they have an effective parish council working for their benefit already.

So, in whose benefit is this change?

Should you have any queries on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

Cllr King (Vice-Chairman) on behalf of Eggington Parish Council.



7.3.1 Proposed Amendment by Councillor Leaman-Eggington

Community Governance Review – Member Amendment Submission Template

Town or Parish Council: Leighton-Linslade and Eggington Parish Council

Draft Recommendation on which amendment is concerned: 2-5

Proposed Amendment:

That no change should be made to the Parish Boundaries, Number of Councillors or Wards.

Rationale for Amendment:

There is limited desire for change contained within the initial consultation response with the Appendix stating: “Feedback received through the public consultation, indicated a preference to retain the current level of representation and to make no other changes.”

Official representations have also been received from Leighton-Linslade Town Council and Eggington Parish Council that have suggested their preferred option is for no change.

The Eggington Parish boundaries have also recently been reviewed and decided upon by this Council. In the consultation previously conducted:

“In summary, overall (across all respondent groups), 61% supported the recommendation for the Eggington boundary to remain unchanged.” General Purposes Committee report, June 2022.

This consultation contained responses from Leighton-Linslade residents, Eggington Village residents and Clipstone Park residents. The Council has no evidence to suggest those views have changed or can demonstrate any meaningful strength of feeling that suggests the question should be posed again.

Supporting Documents (if any):

Report to General Purposes Committee on changes to Eggington Parish boundaries
<https://cms-centralbedfordshire-uk.azeusconvene.com/data/f24cbb0f-2b0b-4225-8250-0c131700ae7f/parts/7.1%20Community%20Governance%20Review%20report.pdf>

7.3.2 Proposed Amendment by Councillor Leaman-Houghton Regis

Community Governance Review – Member Amendment Submission Template

Town or Parish Council: Houghton Regis

Draft Recommendation on which amendment is concerned: 3

Proposed Amendment:

Create 1 additional ward to cover the new housing within the Thorn/Bidwell area to be named Thorn.

The boundary line for the new Bidwell ward has been drawn above the Blue Waters footpath which will then include The Baulk. This should be changed as it never was part of Thorn. It should remain in the Houghton Hall ward.

A new CGR is conducted in five-ten years' time when the area is more developed which would include looking at whether Linmere should have its own ward.

Rationale for Amendment:

The naming of the ward Thorn reflects the historic name for the area.

Linmere currently has only 650 homes, it would be better addressed at a future CGR.

Supporting Documents (if any):

Email sent to the Committee from the Clerk of Houghton Regis Town Council.

7.3.3 Proposed Amendment by Councillor Goodchild-Leighton-Linslade

Leighton-Linslade

This response is sent on behalf of Cllr Owen and me in respect of the recommendations included within the report for the parish of Leighton-Linslade.

We confirm our agreement to the recommendations listed as 1 and 3. However, we have the following concerns regarding the proposed allocation of parish seats set out in the options at recommendations 4 and 5:

Recommendation 4: This option would appear impractical given the potential size of ballot paper which could exceed 30 names given the number of political parties that are likely to put up candidates e.g. Conservatives, Labour, LibDem, Reform plus Independents, Green etc.

Recommendation 5: The attached analysis of this option shows that it only works for L-L West as the elector/seat ratio is within an equitable range over the whole Ward. However, the differential in ratios shown for the proposed L-L North and L-L South Wards are clearly not equitable across these Wards.

We would therefore recommend no change to the current parish seat allocation.

CBC CGR 2025

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE : PARISH WARDS OPTION 2

Parish Ward	Seats	WG Proposal	Current Electors	Ratio of Electors to Seats	Forecast Electors	Revised Ratio of Electors to Seats	Comments
L-L North							
Plantation + St Georges	4	5	6,786	1,696	7,261	1,452	Differential in Ratio not Equitable
Planets	3	2	5,109	1,703	5,813	2,906	
	7	7	11,895		13,074		
L-L South							
Grovebury	4	5	7,227	1,807	7,227	1,445	Differential in Ratio not Equitable
Brooklands + Leston	3	2	4,022	1,341	4,042	2,021	
	7	7	11,249		11,269		
L-L West							
Barnabas + Bassett	4	4	6,255	1,564	6,376	1,594	Differential in Ratio Equitable
Southcott	3	3	4,412	1,471	4,412	1,471	
	7	7	10,667		10,788		

8. Ombudsman Complaints Review

To receive an overview of complaints considered by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman between 2019/20 and 2024/25, specifically in relation to themes and financial settlements.

Central Bedfordshire Council

23 October 2025

General Purposes Committee

Ombudsman Complaints Review

Report of:

CLlr John Baker, Executive Member for Finance and Highways
john.baker@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Responsible Director:

Robert Ling, Director Resources & Organisational Change,
robert.ling@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

The following sections of this report are exempt: -

N/A

This report relates to a decision that is: *Non-Key*

This report relates to a decision that is urgent/exempt from call-in: No

Purpose of this report

To provide an overview of complaints considered by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman between 2019/20 and 2024/25, specifically in relation to themes and financial settlements.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the content of this report and the trends identified
2. Support the development of targeted training for staff in high-risk service areas to reduce recurrence of upheld complaints

Background

1. The General Purposes Committee requested a report on complaints considered by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. The Committee asked for an overall picture of cases, including any financial settlements, to understand any themes where the Council was found to be at fault and any lessons learnt or improvements to services.

Central Bedfordshire Council Complaint Procedures

2. Members of the public can complain to the Council if they are affected by the provision of services, to them as individuals.
3. There are statutory regulations in place for some complaints, which the Council must follow. For all other complaints, the Council must follow the Ombudsman Complaint Code. The Council therefore has three complaint processes in place:
 - Adult Social Care & Public Health Statutory Complaint Process – this covers all complaints relating to adult social care and public health services.
 - Children’s Social Care Statutory Complaint Process – this is specifically for practice and assessments relating to a child in need; a looked after child; a child leaving care; special guardianship support; or post adoption support.
 - The Council Complaints Process covers all services not subject to statutory complaint procedures under Adult Social Care; Public Health; and Children’s Social Care. However, it also includes complaints about the Council in its role as a housing landlord, which are statutory in nature. Although these are statutory, they are managed under this process because both the Housing Ombudsman and Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman operate under the same Complaint Handling Code.
4. If complainants are not satisfied with the outcome of their complaint once a final response has been issued (under any of the above complaint processes), they can refer their complaint to the appropriate Ombudsman for consideration. The Housing Ombudsman deals with complaints about the Council in its role as a landlord. The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman deals with all other complaints about the Council.

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman

5. The LGSCO is the final step for complaints about Councils, except for those relating to the Council’s role as a housing landlord, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Housing Ombudsman. The Ombudsman are independent and offer a service that is free and impartial.
6. They will issue decision notices on any complaints they consider. Not all decision notices are the result of an investigation. In some cases, they will assess and close complaints where the law says they are not allowed to investigate, or where it would be a poor use of public funds if they did.
7. If an investigation does take place, the Council will be asked to respond to a list of enquiries and provide specific information in relation to the complaint. After consideration of the information, a draft decision will be issued to give both the Council and complainant an opportunity to check accuracy and to challenge any areas they may not agree with. Any comments on the draft will be considered before a decision notice is issued.
8. A decision notice will confirm whether the complaint has been upheld or not upheld. If a complaint is upheld this means evidence of fault was found, or the Council provided a suitable remedy prior to their investigation.

9. If a complaint is upheld the LGSCO may make recommendations on how the Council should put things right. These can include a written apology to the complainant; financial compensation; providing a service; reconsidering decisions; or policy/procedure change.
10. All recommendations are set with a completion date, and Councils are expected to provide evidence of compliance. The LGSCO will consider any evidence submitted before issuing a remedy satisfaction notice.
11. The LGSCO decision notice is final. Parties can request a review of a decision if there is new and relevant information that was not previously available, but a decision will only be reviewed once. The alternative is an application to the High Court to challenge a decision if it is believed to be legally flawed. There is no other way to challenge a decision notice.
12. If LGSCO recommendations are not complied with they can issue a formal public interest report about the complaint, naming the Council involved. The report must be made available to the public and advertised in the local press.
13. The LGSCO usually publish any decisions they make on a complaint, as part of their commitment to learning and transparency. However, concerns that raise serious issues or highlight matters of public interest can be given extra prominence by issuing a public interest report.
14. They also release an annual review of local government complaints at the end of each financial year. The review looks at the number of complaints they have received and the outcomes of any investigations they have undertaken, alongside statistics for individual local authority performance.

Review of LGSCO Decisions against CBC from 2019/20 to 2024/25

15. Over the last six years, the number of LGSCO decision notices has fluctuated, with the lowest (15) in 2022/23 and the highest (50) in 2024/25.
16. It is usual to see a higher number of cases being closed after initial enquiries than those being investigated. 2022/23 saw the lowest number of investigations (5), whilst 2024/25 saw the highest (17).
17. Most complaints were upheld following LGSCO investigation, with the top categories being related to education for children with special educational needs and alternative education provision.
18. LGSCO recommendations for service improvements have related to staff training; reconsidering decisions; improving record keeping; reviewing procedures and guidance; and improving resources. CBC's compliance rate with LGSCO recommendations has consistently been at 100%.
19. Recommended financial payments to complainants have totaled £38,374 over the last 6 years. The top four categories were:
 - SEND (£18,124 over 6 years)
 - Alternative education provision (£17,650 over 6 years)
 - Adult social care – residential care (£500 over 6 years)
 - Fostering (£500 over 6 years)

20. Financial recommendations can be broken down into payments for avoidable distress/time and trouble taken to make a complaint, or where the person affected has suffered a loss of service/provision.

- Avoidable distress/time & trouble (£14,125 over 6 years):
- Loss of service/provision (£24,250 over 6 years):

21. There has been one public interest report issued against CBC over the last 6 years. This was issued in 2021/22 because the Council failed to provide proper alternative education for more than a year to a child unable to attend primary school and failed to put in extra support when it became aware the child had been diagnosed with an autistic spectrum condition and related anxiety. The LGSCO recommendations included an apology to the family and financial payment; a review of procedures for deciding reasons for non-school attendance; amending the approach to alternative education for pupils out of school for medical reasons; and to review all cases of pupils out of school between March 2019 to 2020 to ensure faults had not occurred in other cases. All recommendations were completed.

22. The Council has accepted all LGSCO decisions and recommendations over the last 6 years.

23. A more detailed breakdown of information can be found at Appendix A.

Council priorities

24. The effectiveness of complaint handling contributes to the priorities set out in the Strategic Plan, endorsed by the Council in April 2024.

Legal Implications

25. Complaint handling operates under the following legislative framework:

- Local Authority Social Services and National Health Services Complaints (England) Regulations 2009.
- The Children's Act 1989 Representations Procedure (England) Regulations 2006.
- The Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023
- LGSCO Complaint Handling Code issued under Section 23(12A) of the 1974 Local Government Act

Financial and Risk Implications

26. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, costs can be recommended by LGSCO following their consideration of a complaint.

27. Costs through the complaint process are met within existing service budgets.

Equalities and Fairness Implications

28. The Council has a statutory duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization; advance equality of opportunity; foster good relations in respect of the

following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.

29. Staff are required to complete annual mandatory Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training.
30. Equality data for contacts is collected as appropriate to identify potential equality issues.
31. There are no identified equality implications arising from this report.

Biodiversity and Sustainability Implications

32. There are no direct biodiversity and sustainability implications arising from this report.

Conclusion and next steps

33. Over the past six years, the Council has demonstrated a strong commitment to learning from complaints and maintaining high compliance with LGSCO recommendations. The majority of complaints investigated were upheld, with recurring themes in SEND and alternative education provision. The Council has responded proactively to recommendations, including service improvements and financial remedies.
34. The single public interest report issued in 2021/22 highlights the importance of robust procedures and timely interventions, particularly in education related cases. The Council's 100% compliance rate and acceptance of LGSCO decisions reflect a culture of accountability and continuous improvement.
35. To further strengthen complaint handling and service delivery we recommend targeted training for staff in high-risk service areas to reduce recurrence of upheld complaints.

Appendices

Appendix A: Dashboard

Report author(s):

Paula Terry, Customer Relations Manager, paula.terry@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Ombudsman Complaints Review

Directorate

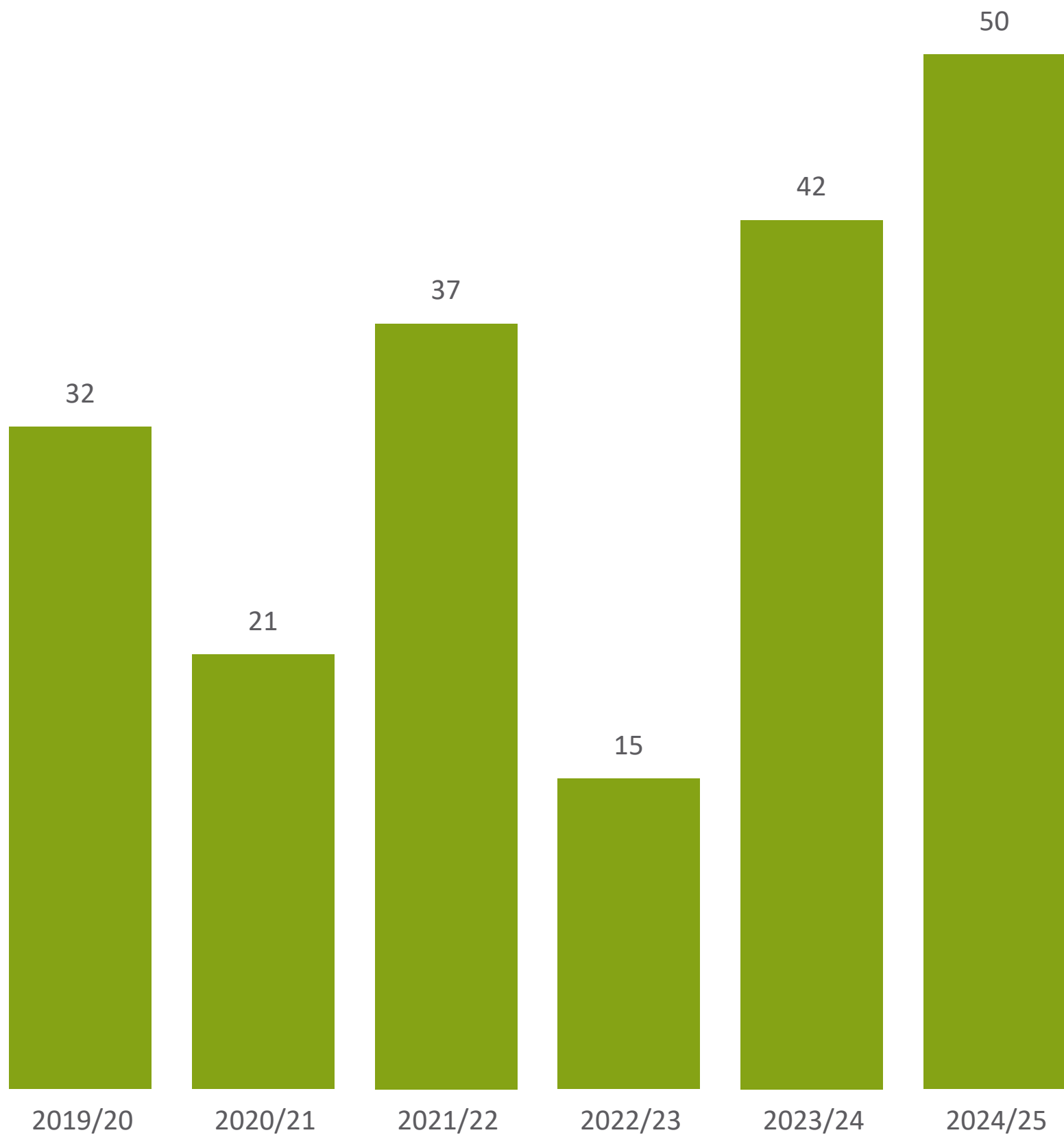
All

Service Directorate

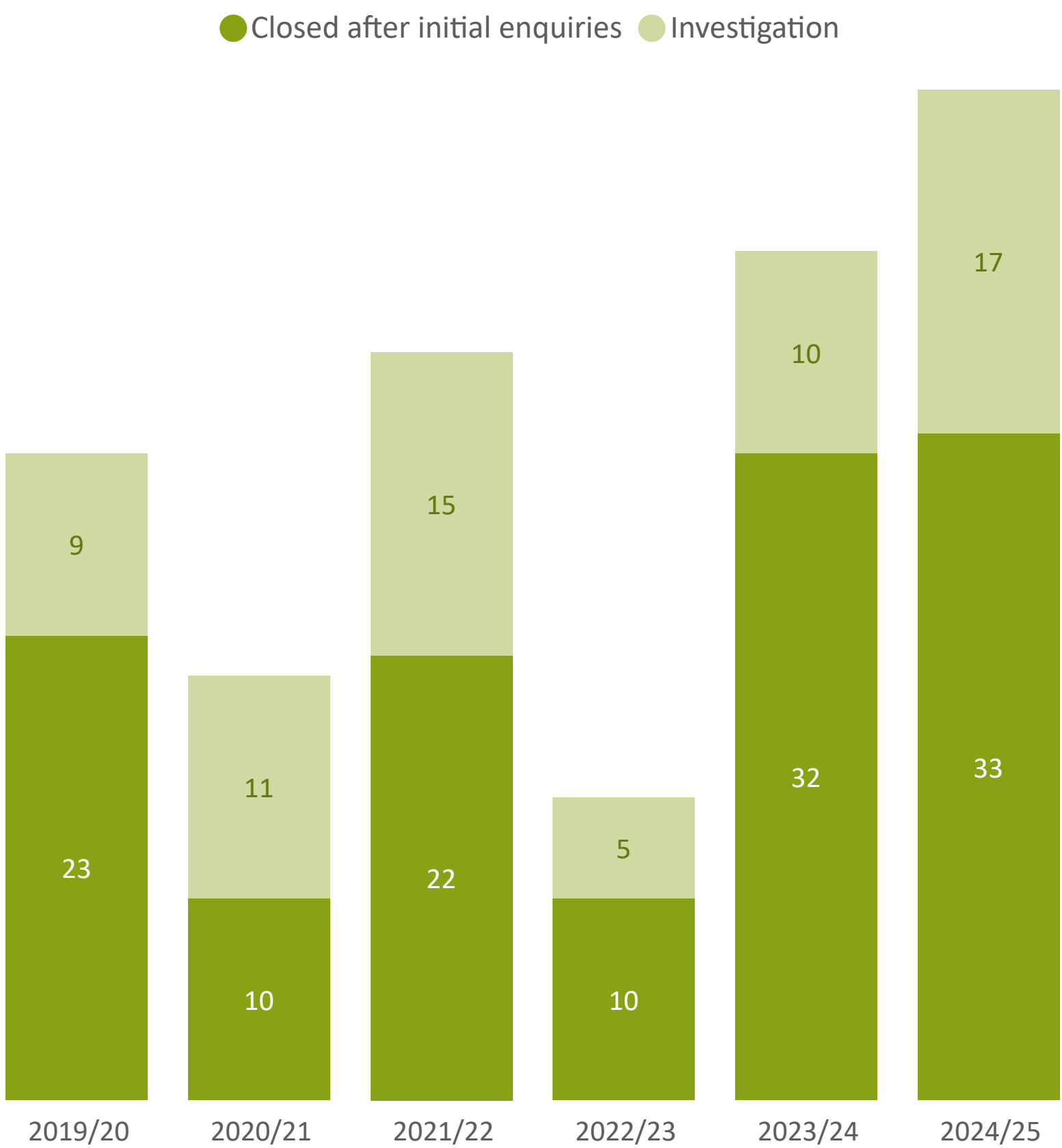
All

Total Decisions and Investigations

Number of LGSCO Decisions Per Year

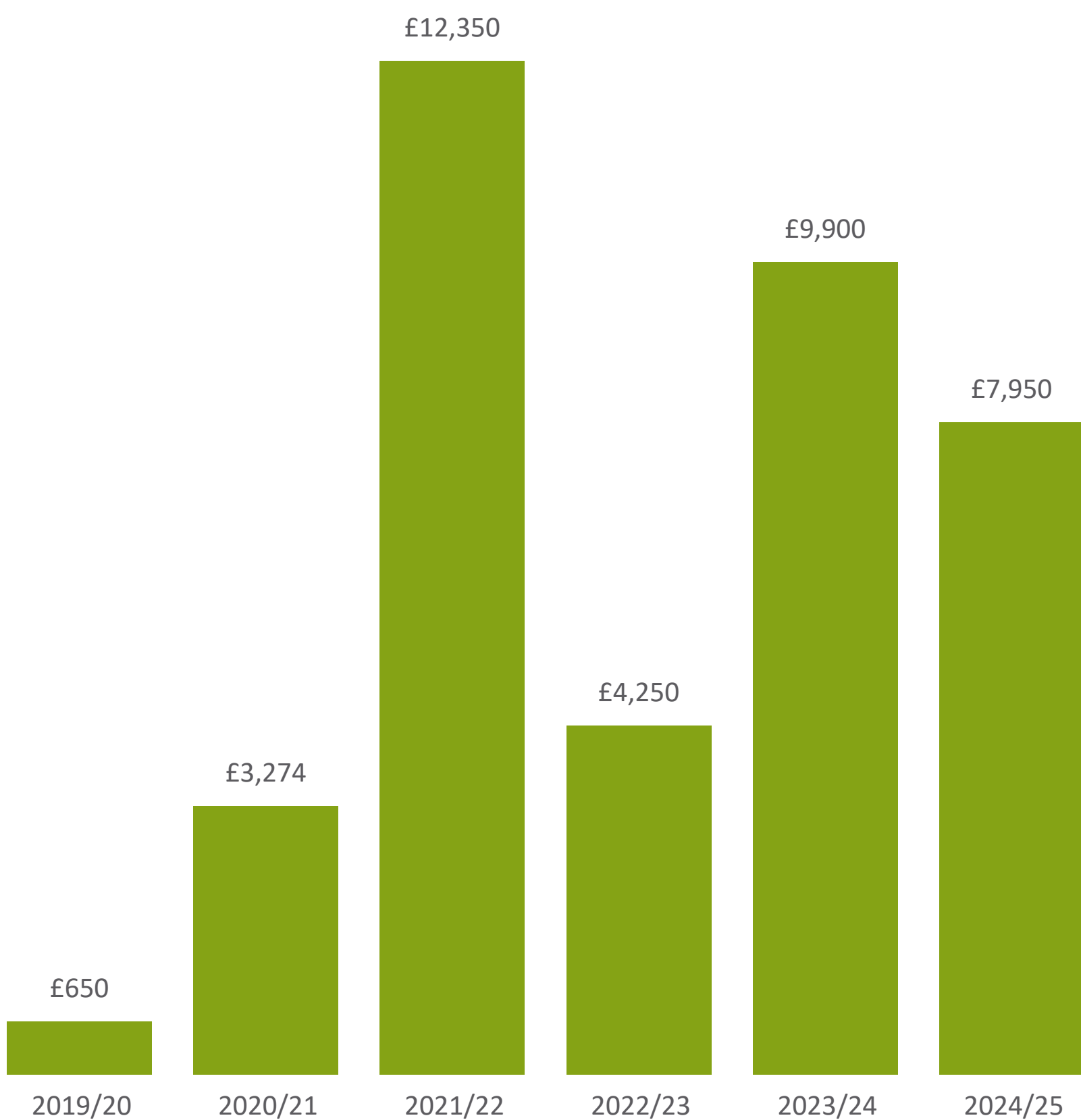


Type of LGSCO Decision - Closed after initial enquiries or investigation



Financials and Payments

Financial Remedies Recommended

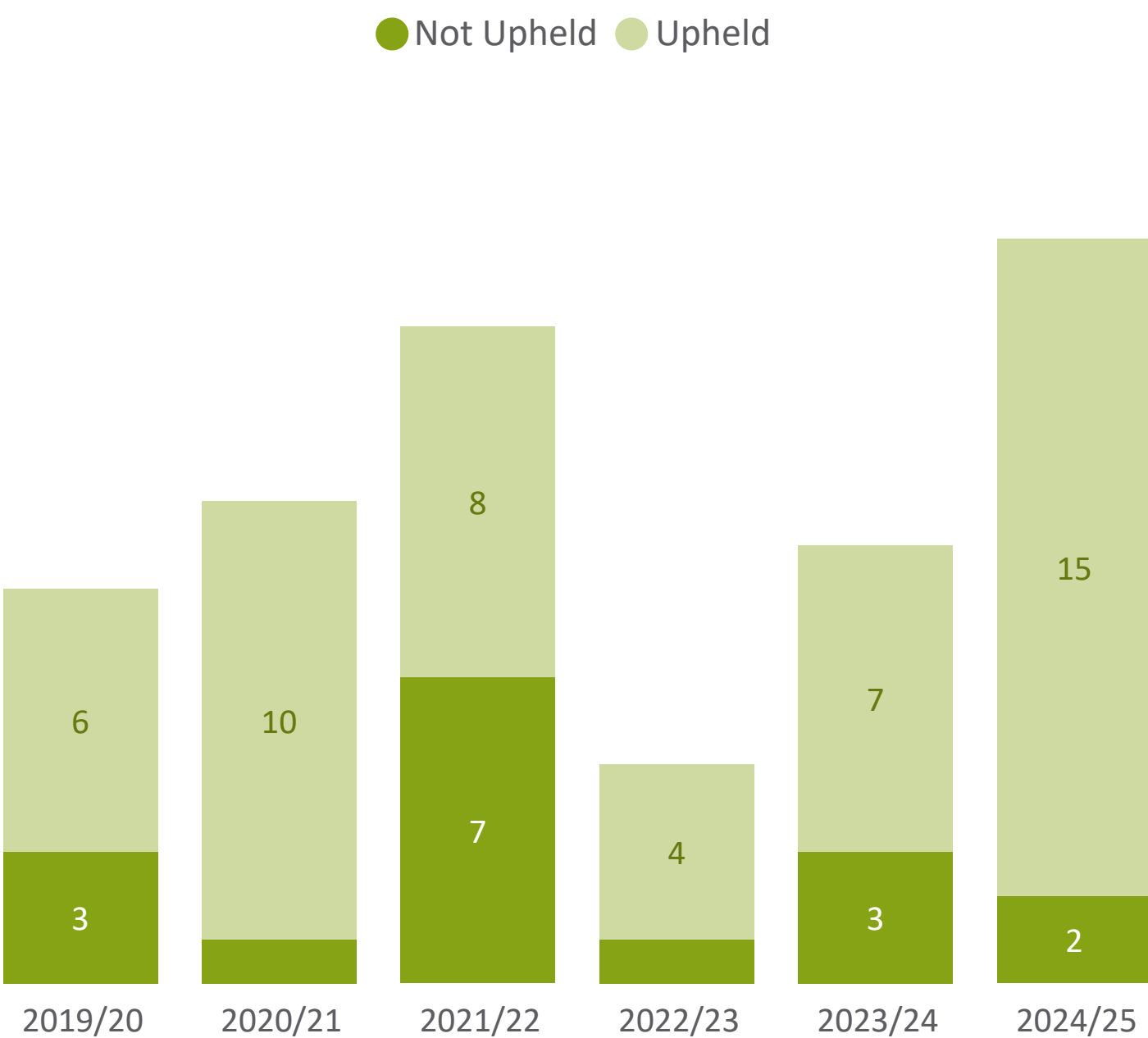


Payments for Distress / Time & Trouble



Upheld Investigations

Investigation Decisions - Upheld or Not Upheld



Upheld Themes

Sub Category	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Adoption				1		
Alternative Education Provision			1		2	4
ASC - Assessment & Care Plan					1	1
ASC - Residential Care		1				
ASC - Safeguarding		1				
Child in Need	1					
Child Protection	1	1			1	
Children with Disabilities	1					
Council Tax			1			
Environment - Refuse & Recycling						2
Fostering			1			
Highways - VXO		2				
Homelessness	1					
Planning advice		1				
Planning application		2	2			
Private housing						1
School Transport	1				1	
SEND	1	2	3	3	2	7

Payments for Loss of Service



Financial Remedies Recommended

Sub Category	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Alternative Education Provision			£6,050		£5,900	£5,700
ASC - Assessment & Care Plan					£200	
ASC - Residential Care		£500				
Child in Need					£150	
Child Protection		£100				
Fostering			£500			
Highways - VXO		£250				
Homelessness						
Planning application		£100				
Private housing						£150
School Transport					£150	
SEND	£150	£2,324	£5,800	£4,250	£3,500	£2,100



Ombudsman Complaints Review

Directorate

All

Service Directorate

All

Recommendations

Financial Year	Category	Service improvement recommendations
2019/20	Child Protection	The Council will ensure staff are aware of their duties under the local safeguarding policy. Specifically, it should complete and provide the social worker's report at least three days before the child protection conference. Also, staff should share important information received from professionals with all people attending child protection conferences.
2019/20	Homelessness	• review all other outstanding homelessness decision reviews to ensure no other applicants have been offered incorrect rights of review. • review its procedures regarding record-keeping and ensure staff are clearly aware of them. • provide clearer guidance to staff on the process for completing s198 local connection referrals and ensuring that a relief duty is always offered in these types of cases. • review its training programme for new officers and the support and monitoring they receive on case management. • review its escalation process regarding “high contact” customers and provide clearer guidance to staff about when and how to implement a communications plan.
2019/20	SEND	The Council will issue a reminder to relevant staff that amended Education and Health Care plans should be issued within 8 weeks of the review meeting.
2020/21	Planning application	Review its design guidance on retaining rear access and update this if it considers necessary Review its procedures on non-material amendment applications so that in each case it considers whether it is necessary to publicise or consult interested parties and record the reasons for its decision
2021/22	Alternative Education Provision	the Council will: review its procedures for pupils not attending their named school and to consider having a named officer to decide on appropriate action within a set required time; and ensure its revised policy allows medical evidence from a range of professionals for cases of pupils out of school; and ensure it covers cases of pupils out of school under the 'otherwise' criteria. review its alternative education policy for pupils who cannot attend school for medical reasons and ensure the revised policy is ratified by the relevant Committee; andensure the policy recognises its equality duties and that pupils received alternative education, regardless of whether they are engaging in a medical 'treatment' programme. consider increasing its supply of home tuition providers; andensure the Medical Needs Team provides a clear rationale for the number of hours of home tuition offered and keep this under review. invite the complainants to make suggestions about how the information on the Council's Local Offer could be improved. review all its cases of pupils out of school (whatever the reason) between March 2019 to March 2020 (beginning of lockdown) to ensure that the faults in this case have not occurred; andif they have, the Council should seek to remedy the injustice caused to the child without parents/carers having to make a formal complaint.
2021/22	Fostering	The Council already has plans to improve the foster carer payment system to the benefit of all foster carers.
2021/22	SEND	The Council has agreed to send the Ombudsman an update on its liaison with partner agencies in setting a timescale for issuing draft amended EHC Plans after an annual review. At present, the Code says this should be done without delay. But the Council recognises it would be good practice for it to be more specific.
2021/22	SEND	The Council should review its existing arrangements for issuing draft and final plans and evidence the steps it is taking to ensure it meets statutory timescales.
2022/23	SEND	• Remind its staff about ensuring the best interests of a child are considered and met when the level of alternative provision is agreed and arranged. • Review its alternative provision policy to ensure decisions about the level of provision are clearly and accurately recorded. The record should confirm all relevant factors which have been taken into account and how the provision arranged meets the best interest of the child.
2022/23	SEND	The Council will tell us whether it will offer further advice/guidance to providers of s19 education about the need to ensure pupils in their GCSE/A level years receive suitable full time education (dependent on their medical needs) to ensure they are not disadvantaged in comparison to their peers.
2023/24	Alternative Education Provision	The Council agreed to produce, and share with the Ombudsman, a detailed action plan for how it intends to address the lack of capacity in its educational psychology service and the delays this has caused to producing education, health and care plans. The Council agreed to review how its special educational needs team monitors and records contacts to ensure it records and responds to contact in a timely manner, and that it pro-actively keeps people up-to-date where there are delays.
2023/24	Alternative Education Provision	The Council agreed to provide details of the review it said it was doing following its investigation under its formal complaints procedure within four months.
2023/24	SEND	The Council will review its monitoring of part-time timetables process considering at every review of a child's part-time timetable whether the Council needs to supplement education provided by the school with alternative education. The Council will provide the evidence this has happened.

9. Member Development Programme

To consider and support the implementation of the updated Member Development Programme and recommend to Full Council the updates to the Constitution.

Central Bedfordshire Council

23 October 2025

General Purposes Committee

Member Development Programme

Responsible Officer:

Natasha Taylor, Monitoring Officer (monitoring.officer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

The following sections of this report are exempt: -

None

Purpose of this report

The report introduces an updated Member Development Programme, invites feedback on its content, and seeks support for proposed constitutional changes that will enable its effective delivery.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Committee is asked to:

1. Support the implementation of the updated Member Development Programme at Appendix A.
2. Support and recommend to Full Council the updates to the Constitution as detailed in Appendix B to support the effective delivery of the Programme.

Background

1. Since 2019, the Council has delivered a Member Development Programme (MDP) designed to support elected Members in their roles through a mix of formal and informal learning activities. While the programme has provided a consistent offer over the years, it has remained largely unchanged.
2. With the next local elections scheduled for 2027, this is a timely opportunity to reset the programme to better reflect the evolving needs of Members and respond to feedback from Members and feedback received through a previous Corporate Peer Challenge. It also provides the opportunity to introduce clearer expectations around participation in development activities.
3. The MDP is led by the cross-party Member Development Forum, which plays a central role in shaping, overseeing, and promoting Member learning. The Forum has been re-established to ensure the programme remains responsive, inclusive, and aligned with best practice.

Purpose and Approach

4. The programme is designed to equip Members with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to fulfil their responsibilities effectively. It supports both newly elected and experienced Councillors, offering a blend of formal training, informal learning, and personal development opportunities. The programme is delivered across the four-year electoral cycle and is shaped by Member feedback, officer input, and strategic priorities.

Programme Structure

5. The MDP is structured around several core components:
 - **Induction and Welcome:** Following each election, a comprehensive induction programme is delivered to introduce Members to the Council's services, priorities, and ways of working. This includes directorate-led sessions, support with statutory requirements, and informal engagement with officers.
 - **Mandatory and Compulsory Training:** Members appointed to specific committees must complete mandatory training before participating in meetings. In addition, a series of compulsory sessions are offered to all Members, covering key areas such as scrutiny, safeguarding, corporate parenting, communication, and leadership. These are scheduled early in the Council term to allow time for deeper learning later.
 - **Optional Learning and Briefings:** A wide range of optional sessions are available throughout the cycle, based on demand and emerging issues. These include topics such as mental health, personal safety, partnership working, and political understanding. Ad-hoc briefings and written updates are also provided to ensure Members stay informed on key developments.
 - **Flexible Delivery:** Recognising the varied needs and schedules of Members, the programme offers a mix of face-to-face, virtual, hybrid, and eLearning formats. Supporting materials are made available via the Council's learning portal and Teams channel.

Personal Development and Support

6. Members are encouraged to take ownership of their learning through optional personal development plans and access to mentoring and coaching. While there is no formal mentoring scheme, support is available on request.

Governance and Oversight

7. The programme is overseen by the cross-party Member Development Forum, which meets quarterly to review progress, evaluate impact, and shape future activity. The Forum ensures that learning is aligned with the Council's strategic plan and reflects both individual and organisational needs.

Constitutional Alignment

8. To support the effective delivery of the Member Development Programme, it is proposed that the Constitution be updated to formalise expectations around Member participation in learning and development.
9. Specifically, the Constitution will set out a requirement for Members to attend the training sessions listed as mandatory within the programme. These sessions are essential for Members to carry out their roles safely, legally, and effectively, particularly where they relate to regulatory functions, safeguarding, and governance. Failure to complete mandatory training may be considered a standards issue and could be referred for further consideration under the Council's Code of Conduct procedures.
10. In addition, the programme highlights the importance of completing training on GDPR and data protection. These sessions are critical to ensuring Members understand their responsibilities when handling personal and sensitive data. Members who do not complete this training may find their access to Council systems restricted or removed, in line with the Council's information security policies.
11. These changes aim to reinforce the Council's commitment to high standards of conduct, accountability, and continuous professional development, while ensuring Members are equipped to meet their statutory duties and serve their communities effectively.

Inclusion of Town and Parish Councillors

12. While the programme is primarily aimed at Central Bedfordshire Councillors, it retains flexibility to involve Town and Parish Councillors in relevant sessions. This will be reviewed throughout the cycle to ensure appropriate opportunities for collaboration and shared learning.

Reason/s for decision

13. The refreshed Member Development Programme ensures Councillors are equipped to meet their responsibilities effectively. Formalising expectations around mandatory training in the Constitution will strengthen accountability, support good governance, and help safeguard access to Council systems where training is essential, such as GDPR and data protection.

Council priorities

14. The Member Development Programme directly supports the Council's strategic objectives by ensuring elected Members are equipped to lead effectively, make informed decisions, and represent their communities with confidence. Through targeted learning on governance, leadership, safeguarding, partnership working, and community engagement, the programme strengthens Members' ability to contribute to the Council's priorities around service improvement, accountability, and inclusive growth.

Legal Implications

15. The Member Development Programme supports Members in meeting their statutory duties, particularly in areas such as safeguarding, data protection, and regulatory decision-making. Formalising mandatory training within the Constitution helps ensure compliance with legal obligations.

Financial and Risk Implications

16. There are no financial or risk implications arising from this report. There is a dedicated budget for Member development activity of £7k per annum that will be used for the delivery of any training sessions.

Equalities and Fairness Implications

17. The programme is designed to be inclusive of all elected Members. It offers tailored support such as personal development plans and mentoring and provides flexible learning formats to accommodate different needs and working styles. The inclusion of equality, diversity and inclusion training helps promote fair and respectful engagement across the Council and within communities.

Biodiversity and Sustainability Implications

18. While the programme itself does not directly impact biodiversity, it contributes to sustainability using virtual learning, written briefings, and digital platforms, reducing reliance on travel and printed materials. In addition, training on environmental topics, including biodiversity and climate awareness, is offered as part of the programme, helping Members consider sustainability in their decision-making and community leadership roles.

Conclusion and next steps

19. The refreshed Member Development Programme provides a clear and structured approach to supporting elected Members over the coming Council term. It reflects current priorities, strengthens expectations around participation, and aligns with the Council's strategic and governance frameworks.

20. Subject to committee approval, the next steps will include:

- Finalising the programme content and schedule for the coming year.
- Implementing proposed changes to the Constitution via Full Council to formalise mandatory training requirements.
- Promoting the programme to all Members and encouraging early engagement.
- Continuing oversight and review through the Member Development Forum.

Appendices

Appendix A: Draft Member Development Programme (Updated)

Appendix B: Changes to the Constitution

Background Papers

None

Report author:

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Appendix A

Central
Bedfordshire

great
people

Developing Members across Central Bedfordshire Council

Member Development Programme

2023-2027



Member Development Programme 2023-27

Latest revision: 05/09/2025

Councillors are responsible for making decisions on a wide range of often complex issues, many with long-term impacts. They bring valuable knowledge and experience that benefit both the Council and the wider community. To make the most of this, the Council is committed to keeping Members informed, skilled, and supported in their roles.

The Member Development Programme (MDP), delivered throughout the four-year cycle, provides a range of learning opportunities to help Councillors be effective and contribute to the Council's strategic goals.

This 2025–2027 programme update supports both new and experienced Councillors, helping them build new skills and refresh existing knowledge in response to changing legislation, priorities, and feedback from the 2023–24 Corporate Peer Challenge. Key areas of focus include:

- **Comprehensive and Ongoing Development**
A full programme beyond induction, with regular reviews to address skills gaps and evolving needs.
- **Tailored and Inclusive Support**
Individual learning plans, coaching, and mentoring for all Members, including opposition leaders and committee chairs.
- **Collaboration and Leadership Development**
Joint working between Executive Members and senior officers, and leadership training across roles.
- **Strategic Oversight and Engagement**
Re-establishing the Member Development Forum, involving group leaders in shaping the programme, and using horizon scanning to anticipate future challenges.
- **Quality and Accountability**
Building on successful training (e.g., Code of Conduct), clarifying mandatory training in the Constitution, and making the most of external support such as from the LGA.

The Council supports continuous professional development to prepare Councillors for future roles and ensure they can meet the organisation's evolving needs. The Member Development Forum, a cross-party group, oversees and reviews the programme regularly. The role of the Forum MDF is set out at Appendix A.

Whilst this programme is aimed at CBC Councillors it provides the flexibility to involve Town and Parish Councillors at relevant points. This will be reviewed throughout the programme with invitations provided to Town and Parish Councillors to attend appropriate sessions.

Role Descriptions

To support Members in understanding their roles and identifying development needs, the Council has drafted role descriptions as part of the Member Development Programme. These descriptions are intended as supportive tools to clarify expectations, guide personal development, and help shape relevant training. They are not prescriptive and do not limit the flexibility of Members in how they carry out their roles. Role descriptions can help ensure that development is meaningful and tailored to individual needs. They also provide a useful reference point for Members to assess their own learning priorities. These role descriptions were shaped with input from Members during previous development sessions and are included at appendix B:-

- All Councillors
- Committee Chairs

These role descriptions will be agreed by the General Purposes Committee and made available online as a resource for Members, without being formally included in the Constitution.

Sharing the commitment to deliver the programme

To ensure the effective delivery of this programme all stakeholders agree to a series of commitments as set out below:-

Central Bedfordshire Council

In setting out this plan the Council commits to the following:-

- The delivery of a Member Development Programme that supports the Council's strategic priorities for Central Bedfordshire.
- The delivery of learning and development opportunities for all Councillors.
- Sufficient resources to meet the learning and development needs identified.
- Supporting officers with facilitation and presentation skills to deliver effective sessions.
- Offering learning opportunities in key areas, for example:
 - where the Council has statutory obligations
 - to prevent inefficiency or waste
 - to meet changes in legislation
 - where there is a need to improve and maintain standards of service
 - to support Members in their community leadership role
 - to develop skills to work effectively in partnerships.

Member Development Forum

The Member Development Forum is inclusive of all political groups and is responsible for the overall delivery of Member Development at Central Bedfordshire Council. The full terms of reference are included at Appendix A and in undertaking its role it commits to the following:

- Learning resources are allocated based on identified needs in a transparent process.
- Learning reflects the needs of Councillors, the Council and its Committees and is aligned with the priorities in the Council's Strategic Plan.
- The effectiveness of learning is evaluated relative to costs and benefits of development and the impact on performance.

- Councillors are assisted and encouraged to identify learning and development needs that reflect their own and the Council's objectives.
- The Member Development Programme is publicised to encourage all to participate in the learning opportunities offered, including attending briefings and events and completing e-learning modules.

All elected Councillors

All elected Members at CBC are responsible for:

- Actively engaging in learning and development events and activities to enhance the delivery of improved outcomes for their communities.
- Identifying their learning and development requirements to help them carry out their duties.
- Managing learning through an optional Personal Development Plan.
- Sharing advice, skills and learning with colleagues.
- Providing feedback on sessions they have attended to help improve the offer.

Programme Delivery and Learning Themes

The Member Development Programme (MDP) offers a range of sessions designed to meet Members' learning needs, which are identified through annual surveys, feedback during committee meetings, and officer input, particularly in response to new legislation or service changes. Wherever possible the sessions identified in this programme will use a mix of interactive briefings as well as more traditional briefings. The sessions that are provided via the programme are set out in detail at Appendix C.

The programme is shaped around the LGA's Political Skills Framework and includes the following key elements:

- **Being a Councillor Events**

An open evening is held at least nine months before each election to inform prospective candidates about the Council, the role of a Councillor, and the support available. Current Members are encouraged to attend and share their experiences.

- **Induction and Welcome Programme**

Held every election year in May, this includes a welcome event and a 6–8 week induction for new and returning Councillors. Sessions, led by each directorate, provide insights into services, challenges, and priorities, and offer informal engagement with officers. Support is also provided for completing statutory paperwork and accessing ICT.

- **Mandatory Training**

Members appointed to specific committees must complete mandatory training sessions before they can attend meetings as committee members. If these sessions are not completed, members will be unable to serve on the committee until the training is finished. Full details can be found in Appendix C.

- **Compulsory Learning**

Throughout the four-year Council cycle, Members will be offered compulsory learning opportunities. Some sessions will be repeated to allow for refreshers. In general, all Members are expected to attend these sessions, except for Audit and Fraud training, which is compulsory only for Audit Committee Members. To support Members in attending sessions in a manageable way, the compulsory training will generally be delivered earlier in the four year cycle, providing the opportunity for Members to develop their knowledge of other topics over a period of time.

While attendance at compulsory sessions is strongly encouraged to support Members in fulfilling their roles and statutory responsibilities, not attending these sessions will not disqualify a Member from serving on any Council Committee. Participation is not mandatory but is monitored and reported to the Member Development Forum. Full details can be found in Appendix C.

- **Optional Learning**

Optional sessions will be delivered throughout the four-year Council cycle depending on demand from Members. All Members will be invited to attend optional sessions, but

participation will not be monitored or reported to the Member Development Forum. Full details can be found in Appendix C.

- **Information Sessions**

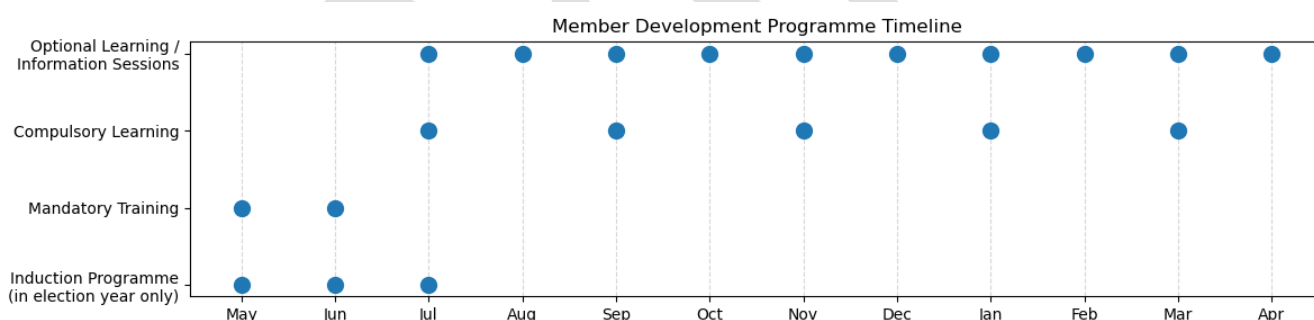
Ad-hoc briefings will be held throughout the year to provide timely updates and share key information, typically delivered by Council officers. These sessions will not be recorded, as past experience shows recordings are rarely viewed and require significant resources to produce. However, officers will be encouraged to provide clear supporting materials, including summaries, FAQs, and any relevant documents discussed during the session, which will be made available to Members afterwards.

- **Written briefings**

In addition to the learning and development activities delivered in person or via Teams, officers will be encouraged to provide written briefings where appropriate instead of delivering an in-person session. These will be used to share important information, insights, or knowledge with Members when a written format is the most effective means of communication. To support this, a shared digital space will be created to ensure these documents are easily accessible and efficiently distributed to all Members.

Scheduling and frequency

At the beginning of each municipal year, a schedule of learning and development events will be published to help Members plan. Additional sessions may be arranged as needed, particularly for significant topics such as the Local Plan, while considering the time commitments of both Members and officers. The Council will attempt to provide a mix of daytime and evening sessions.



Flexible learning options

The Council recognises that Members learn in different ways. The programme offers a mix of face-to-face, hybrid, virtual sessions, and eLearning modules that can be completed at Members' convenience. Sessions are scheduled based on demand and feedback, including the annual learning and development survey. Resources and recordings are shared on the Council's learning portal whenever possible.

Joint Learning

Collaboration with partners, such as other councils, health services, and the police is encouraged to share learning. Members are also invited to contribute to sessions by sharing their experiences.

Mentoring

While there's no formal mentoring scheme, support is available, particularly for Committee Chairs. Members can request a Personal Development Plan or mentoring, typically provided by external mentors, to build confidence and skills.

Success Factors

The Council's Success Factors platform provides Members with access to a wide range of eLearning materials and resources from previous sessions. In addition, Members can use the LGA's Member Learning Hub, which offers further eLearning modules. Members will be regularly reminded of these opportunities to support their ongoing development.

Teams Channel

A dedicated Teams channel is available to all Members. Managed by Governance Services, it provides a space for questions, information sharing, and requests for mentoring, briefings, or development plans.

Reviewing the programme and activity

The Council is committed to providing the best outcomes for all Councillors, and the organisation, through its Member Development Programme and seeks to identify where improvements can be made in the future.

Evaluation of the Learning and Development Programme takes place through:

- The Member Development Forum who meet quarterly to review current, past and planned learning events and initiatives
- Regular engagement with Member Development Champions on behalf of their Groups
- Feedback received following a briefing/learning event, via e-form questionnaires.
- Bi-annual Survey of all Members
- Informal discussions with officers

An annual report will be shared with the Member Development Forum to review the year's learning activities and assess the programme's impact.

Appendix A

Member Development Forum Terms of Reference

Membership

Membership of the Forum is inclusive of all political groups and supported by a Governance Services officer. The Forum is responsible for the overall delivery of Member Development at Central Bedfordshire Council.

Frequency of Meetings

The Forum meetings are held at least four times per year. Standing items on each agenda include feedback from previous learning and development events and the on-going Member Development Programme.

Aims of the Forum

1. To lead on implementing the Member Development Programme which aims to ensure that all Councillors are equipped to deliver the Council's statutory objectives and corporate priorities as set out in the Council's Strategic Plan.
2. To promote, oversee and evaluate the Member Development Programme to ensure:
 - it is responsive to Members' collective and individual training needs
 - it is owned and valued by Members
 - it is based on national good practice
 - delivers a range of learning and development opportunities that enhance the knowledge and skills of Members
3. To engage in the scoping of specific training opportunities delivered for Members to ensure they are meaningful and add value.
4. To act as Member Development Champions on behalf of their Groups, where applicable (in accordance with the Annex).
5. To encourage the progress of Personal Development Plans for Members for those who have expressed interest.
6. To review and assess learning and development needs and consider new national and local development initiatives to ensure that best practice is maintained.

Annex

Role description: Member Learning and Development Champion

Each Group will appoint at least one Member Learning and Development Champion. Their core purpose is to act as an advocate for Member learning and development, promoting a culture of continuous improvement and supporting Members in fulfilling their roles effectively.

Key responsibilities

- Promote Member development within their Group.
- Encourage attendance at learning and development briefings and events.
- Encourage Members to share learning from events and conferences.
- Ensure that all appropriate Members attend training relating to their regulatory and statutory responsibilities.
- Work with officers (particularly the Service Director Governance) to identify learning needs across the Group and help shape the development programme accordingly.
- Promote the use of buddy/peer support particularly for newly elected Members.
- Act as a link between Members and officers responsible for Member development.
- Share good practice and highlight development needs within their political group.
- Support the monitoring of attendance and engagement in learning activities.
- Gather feedback from Members of their Group on training sessions and suggest improvements.
- Assist in welcoming and mentoring new Members, particularly after elections.
- Provide updates to the Member Development Forum.

Appendix B

Role description for elected Members

The primary role of a Councillor is to represent their ward and the people who live in it. A Councillor should participate in the governance of the Council and contribute to the formation and scrutiny of the Council's policies, budgets, strategies and service delivery.

Community Leadership

As the democratically elected local community leader, a Councillor will engage with their local community and represent their interests to help resolve issues. In particular, a Councillor will:

- Be a local champion for the communities and residents in their ward, helping to provide direction, resolve concerns and reconcile different views.
- Deal with casework.
- Represent their community within the Council when participating in the Council's decision-making process.
- Campaign on local issues.
- Promote effective relationships with public, private, voluntary and community organisations in their area.
- Pro-actively engage with residents and groups within their community and communicate information and news of the Council's activities.
- Be the Council's link to Town and Parish Councils within their Ward, where they exist, and play a key role in supporting local community groups.
- Monitor the performance of local public services in their ward, hold poor performance to account and help plan improvements.

Decision-making and Influencing

A Councillor has a significant role in the corporate decision-making process that includes:

- Making informed decisions at Council meetings on strategies, policies and budgets.
- Working with partners and outside bodies as a representative of the Council.
- Undertaking the role of a Corporate Parent for children and young people in the care of the Council.
- Liaise and engage with Town and Parish Councils within their Ward.
- Engagement with local voluntary organisations.

Regulatory Duties

Specialist training, arranged by the Council, is required before Councillors sit on regulatory committees, such as Development Management and Licensing. Councillors will:

- Act in accordance with all relevant legislation.
- Ensure that local views and perspectives from local town and parish councils, within their Ward, where they exist, are considered and ensure proceedings are carried out fairly and in an open and transparent way.

Day-to-Day Activities

A Councillor's role includes a wide range of activities:

- Managing roles and responsibilities.
- Understanding and interpreting information.
- Using the Council's ICT systems effectively.
- Attending and participating in council meetings, committees, and other relevant forums.
- Communicating, using all types of media, ensuring adherence to corporate guidance and in a style that takes account the different needs of different audiences.
- Taking personal responsibility for continuous professional development to build understanding, knowledge and skills to ensure that the role of Councillor is undertaken as effectively as possible.
- Attend training sessions and opportunities for continuous professional development when they are provided by the Council to stay informed and compliant.
- Developing effective working relationships with officers, partners and Councillors in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct (Part 5 of CBC's Constitution) including upholding the principles of public service and acting with integrity and accountability.
- Ensure adherence to safeguarding policies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals. Collaborate with relevant agencies and organizations to promote the safety and well-being of the community.
- Actively participate in corporate parenting responsibilities, advocating for the welfare of children in care.
- Monitor and review safeguarding practices within the council and community.

Role profile for committee Chairs

The following role profile is intended as a guide for the use of Committee Chairs as an indication of effective Chairing. It is based upon guidance and support provided by the LGA and discussions held between current Committee Chairs in 2022. It also provides a guide for Chairs to reflect on their own performance as well as seeking input from other Members and officers.

Before the meeting

- To utilise Chair's Briefings to ensure a balanced and valuable forward work programme that looks to the future and minimises the number of items 'to note'.
- To engage effectively with report authors prior to the meeting, ensuring clarity of the purpose of items including the intended outcomes and the time allocated to each item.

At the meeting

- To ensure that discussions take place according to the Council's standing orders and to remind attendees of the 'rules' of debate.
- To effectively manage the pace of the meeting, ensuring it achieves the intended outcomes within the timescales.
- To marshal the way that questions are delivered to ensure the effective running of the meeting and to ensure that everyone who wishes to, can ask their questions. This includes ensuring the participation of non-committee Members at the appropriate point of the meeting.
- To encourage the participation of those who are disengaged in the meeting, without embarrassing them if there is a reason they have not spoken up, ensuring an inclusive environment in meetings.
- To manage declarations of interest and the appropriate participation of those who have declared any.
- To avoid and address any aggressive behaviour, including by adjourning the meeting or asking attendees to leave where necessary.
- To remain neutral and not to deliver an opinion during the debate, this is different to asking questions during the debate and opinions can be expressed at the close of the debate. If for any reason the Chair feels it necessary to share their opinion as part of the debate, for example if they are the local ward Member, they could consider handing the Chair to the Vice-Chair for that item.
- To summarise the debate and comments and ensure clarity on the specific recommendations and/or comments that are to be forwarded to decision makers (if appropriate).

After the meeting

- To proactively seek feedback on the running of the meeting from Members and Governance Services colleagues attending in support and consider ways to enhance the running of the meeting.

Appendix C –

Induction events for Members

These events are open to all elected Members and are generally all delivered face to face.

Title	Expected outcomes
Welcome event	Senior officers welcome Members, explain the Council's work and Ward Member roles, outline support available, and introduce training sessions.
Intro to the Office of the Chief Executive, Place and Communities, Resources, Adult Social Care, Housing, Overview and Scrutiny, Children's Services, Schools and Public Health	Support Members to understand the role and priorities of a council directorate/service, build relationships with officers, and gain the knowledge needed to represent their communities effectively. It also highlights available support and encourages future collaboration.
Health, safety and wellbeing including Debate note Hate campaign	Raises awareness of Councillors' responsibilities around health, safety, and wellbeing, both for themselves and others. It also introduces the Debate Not Hate campaign, promoting respectful challenge and protecting elected Members from abuse and intimidation.
Introduction to Local Government Finance	Provides an overview of how local government is funded, how budgets are set and managed, and the financial responsibilities of Councillors. It helps Members understand key financial principles to support informed decision-making.
Safeguarding our Children in CBC	Outlines Councillors' responsibilities in safeguarding children, explains how the Council protects vulnerable young people, and highlights how Members can identify and report concerns to ensure children's safety and wellbeing.
Being a Corporate Parent	Explains the role Councillors play as corporate parents to children in care, outlining their responsibilities to support, advocate for, and help improve outcomes for looked-after children and care leavers in Central Bedfordshire.
Introduction to health partners and the ICB	Introduces councillors to key health partners, including the ICB, and explains how health and care services are planned and delivered collaboratively across Central Bedfordshire. It highlights the role of Councillors in supporting integrated care and improving local health outcomes.

Title	Expected outcomes
Adult Safeguarding	Outlines Councillors' duties in protecting vulnerable adults, explains how safeguarding concerns are identified and addressed in Central Bedfordshire, and highlights how Members can support safe, respectful, and responsive care in their communities.
Effective Ward Councillor	Members will learn strategies to engage with constituents, address their concerns, and represent their interests effectively.
Being a Councillor and ethical governance	Members will understand ethical governance and their responsibilities as councillors including their responsibilities in communication and social media.

Mandatory training for Committee Members

Title	Expected outcomes	Attendance	Priority	Delivery	Method
Appeals Panel	Members will understand the procedures and best practices for managing staff appeals, ensuring fair and consistent outcomes.	Mandatory for Members of the Appeals Panel before they can serve on an Appeals Committee	1	Internal	F2F/Teams
Appointments Panel	Members will understand the processes involved in appointments, ensuring transparency and fairness.	Mandatory for Members of the Appointments Panel before they can serve on an Appointments Sub-Committee	2	Internal	F2F/Teams
Licensing	Members will gain knowledge of licensing laws and how to apply them effectively. This training is compulsory before sitting as a Member of the Licensing Committee.	Mandatory for Members of the Licensing Committee	3	External (Legal experts)	F2F/Teams
Planning	Members will understand planning laws and how to make informed decisions on planning applications. This training is compulsory before sitting as a Member of the Development Management Committee.	Mandatory for Members of the Development Management Committee	3	External (Legal experts)	F2F/Teams

Compulsory training for Members

Title	Expected outcomes	Attendance	Priority	Frequency	Delivery	Method
Chairing Skills	Chairs will gain confidence and tools to manage meetings efficiently, address inappropriate behavior, and facilitate productive discussions.	Compulsory for all Chairs of Committees	1	Annually (as required)	External (LGA/LGiU)	F2F/Teams
Scrutiny and Challenge	Members will strengthen their ability to scrutinise decisions, ask effective questions, and hold the Executive to account. The module helps them analyse information quickly and provide clear, constructive feedback and challenge.	Compulsory for all Cllrs	1	4-yearly	External (LGA/LGiU)	F2F/Teams
Being a Corporate Parent	Members will understand their role in supporting and advocating for children in care.	Compulsory for all Cllrs	2	4-yearly	Internal	F2F/Teams
Communication Skills (inc. social media)	Members will improve their communication skills and learn how to use social media effectively in their roles. The module also helps them listen well and speak appropriately with different groups in the community.	Compulsory for all Cllrs	2	4-yearly	External (LGA/LGiU)	F2F/Teams
Equality, Diversity and inclusion	Members will learn how to foster an inclusive environment and address issues of inequality.	Compulsory for all Cllrs	3	Annually	Internal	eLearning
GDPR and Data Protection	Members will learn how to comply with data protection laws and safeguard personal data.	Compulsory for all Cllrs	3	Annually	Internal	eLearning
Information Security	Members will understand how to protect sensitive information and prevent data breaches.	Compulsory for all Cllrs	3	Annually	Internal	eLearning
Local Leadership	Members will build leadership skills to represent their communities effectively. They will learn how to listen to local concerns and raise them with the Council. They will also work to resolve issues for residents and reflect community views in policy-making. The module helps Members hold the Executive to account and lead with confidence.	Compulsory for all Cllrs	3	4-yearly	External (LGA/LGiU)	F2F/Teams

Title	Expected outcomes	Attendance	Priority	Frequency	Delivery	Method
Partnership Working	Members will gain a clearer understanding of the local partnership landscape and the value of effective collaboration. This includes learning how the Council works with key partners, such as health services, the police, and neighbouring councils, and the importance of understanding their roles, challenges, and ways of working.	Compulsory for all Cllrs	3	4-yearly	External (LGA/LGIU)	F2F/Teams
Safeguarding our children in CBC	Members will be equipped with knowledge and skills to protect children and ensure their welfare and how to report concerns.	Compulsory for all Cllrs	2	Annually	Internal	F2F/Teams
Audit and Fraud	Members will understand audit processes and how to identify and prevent fraud.	Compulsory for Members of the Audit Committee	3	Annually	Internal	eLearning
Budget setting/MTFP process	To help Members understand the process of setting the MTFP and their role in the discussions	Compulsory for all Cllrs	3	4-yearly	Internal	Teams

Optional training for all Councillors

Title	Expected outcomes	Priority	Frequency	Delivery	Method
Handling intimidation	Members will learn strategies to handle intimidation and ensure their safety.	3	4-yearly	External (LGA Learning Hub)	Teams
Holding Council meetings online	Members will learn how to effectively hold and participate in online meetings and to recognise the challenges of webcast meetings.	3	4-yearly	External (LGA Learning Hub)	eLearning
Mental health awareness and support	Members will gain knowledge of mental health issues and how to access and provide support.	3	4-yearly	External (MIND)	Teams
Personal safety when canvassing	Members will learn how to stay safe while canvassing.	3	4-yearly	Internal (with Beds Police)	Teams
Stress management and personal resilience	Members will develop techniques to handle stress and maintain resilience in their roles.	3	4 yearly	External (LGA Learning Hub)	Teams
Supporting constituents with complex issues	Members will develop skills to assist constituents facing complex challenges.	3	4-yearly	External (LGA Learning Hub)	eLearning
Supporting wellbeing and positive communication within your role as a Councillor	Members will learn strategies to support their own wellbeing and communicate positively.	3	4-yearly	External (MIND)	Teams
Finance Unpacked	To provide councillors and officers with an understanding of some of the key concepts within local government finance and audit.	3	4-yearly	Finance Unpacked (LGA)	eLearning
Political Understanding	Group Leaders may wish to access resource which enables Members to develop a range of 'political' skills. These do not form part of this induction programme but the opportunity for discussion as to the best way to scope and resource this development will be made available.	3	4-yearly	External (LGA/LGiU)	F2F/Teams



**Central
Bedfordshire**

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PART 5A – MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

6.22 Complying with the Code of Conduct

As a Councillor:

- 6.22.1 I undertake Code of Conduct training provided by my local authority.
- 6.22.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.
- 6.22.3 I do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings.
- 6.22.4 I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct.
- 6.22.5 I complete all mandatory training sessions as set out in the Council's Member Development Programme and those compulsory sessions that are required of me as a Member.
- 6.22.6 I understand that failure to complete mandatory training may be considered a breach of the Code of Conduct and could result in a referral under the Council's standards procedures.
- 6.22.7 I acknowledge that certain training, such as on GDPR and data protection, is required to maintain access to Council systems. Failure to complete this training may result in restricted or withdrawn access, in line with the Council's information governance policies.

10. Work Programme

To consider the General Purposes
Committee work programme.

Central Bedfordshire Council

23 October 2025

General Purposes Committee

Work Programme

Responsible Director:

Natasha Taylor Monitoring Officer

Natasha.Taylor@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to assist the General Purposes Committee in discharging its responsibilities by providing a proposed work programme for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the proposed work programme attached at Appendix A.

Reasons for Decisions

1. To assist the General Purposes Committee, a work programme is attached at Appendix A to this report. The work programme contains the known agenda items that the Committee will need to consider.
2. Additional items will be identified as the municipal year progresses. The work programme is therefore subject to change.

Council Priorities

3. The activities of the General Purposes Committee are crucial to the governance arrangements of the organisation.

Legal Implications

4. There are no legal implications.

Financial and Risk Implications

5. There are no financial and risk implications.

Equalities and Fairness Implications

6. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Sustainability Implications

7. There are no sustainability implications.

Conclusion and next Steps

8. This report will assist the General Purposes Committee in discharging its responsibilities. Any amendments approved by the Committee will be incorporated in the work programme.

Appendices

Appendix A – General Purposes Committee Work Programme

Background Papers

None

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Appendix A

General Purposes Committee Work Programme

2025/26 Municipal Year	
December	• Annual Pay Policy Statement 2026/2027 (SD HR) • Work Programme (CSO)
March	• Annual Report on Standards Complaints (MO) • Regulation of Investigatory Powers Annual Report (MO) • Work Programme (CSO)