



Report To: Civic Affairs Committee
Lead Officer: Sustainable Communities and Partnerships Manager

28 July 2016

Community Governance Review of the Parish of Haslingfield: response to the first phase of consultation

Purpose

1. To consider the submissions received during the first phase of public consultation for the Community Governance Review of Haslingfield Parish.
2. Taking account of the submissions received, to consider options and agree a draft recommendation for further consultation to fulfil Stage Three of the Community Governance Review of the parish of Haslingfield.
3. This is not a key decision.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that the Civic Affairs Committee considers the options set out at paragraph 14 and, in line with legislation, makes a draft recommendation for further consultation, which may, if relevant, include a proposed parish name (see paragraph 14).

Reasons for Recommendation

5. The Community Governance Review for the Parish of Haslingfield commenced on 15 February 2016 and must be completed within twelve-months. The published terms of reference stated that submissions to the Stage One consultation would be considered by 15 August 2016 (Stage Two). Stage Three of the process will be a consultation on the draft recommendation as agreed by the Committee.

Background

6. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the 2007 Act") provides for a Principal Council to conduct a review of the community governance arrangements for the whole or part of its area for the purpose of considering whether or not to make any changes to Parish boundaries or size, and/or the creation of new parishes; and the review of the electoral arrangements for new and/or existing parishes. Section 93 of the 2007 Act allows principal councils to decide how to undertake such a review, provided that they comply with the duties in the Act which apply to councils undertaking reviews. If, following a review, the Council decides that changes should be made to the electoral arrangements they may make an Order giving effect to the changes.
7. Section 93 also states that in reaching conclusions on the boundaries between parish wards the principal council should take account of community identity and interests in the area and consider whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries. Principal councils should seek views on such

matters during the course of a community governance review and seek sound and demonstrable evidence of such identities and linkage.

8. The guidance states that when considering parish ward boundaries principal council should ensure they consider the desirability of fixing boundaries which are, and will remain, easily identifiable, as well as taking into account any local ties which will be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries. A review offers an opportunity to put in place strong-clearly defined boundaries, tied to firm ground features, and remove anomalous parish boundaries.
9. The Principal Council is required to determine the terms of reference under which a community governance review is to be undertaken. The terms of reference must clearly specify the area under review and must be published. The guidance states that "Ultimately, the recommendations made in a community governance review ought to bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services".
10. When making its decision to progress a Community Governance Review, the Committee considered the forecast housing trajectory for the South Cambridgeshire part of the Trumpington Meadows development, as well as the electorate forecast, and the scheduled ordinary elections.
11. Informal consultation with Haslingfield Parish Council, Granchester Parish Council and Trumpington Residents' Association took place prior to commencement.

Considerations

12. Following a discussion at Civic Affairs Committee on 9 July 2015 draft terms of reference for a Community Governance Review of the parish of Haslingfield were prepared and agreed on 8 November 2015. The terms of reference set out the matters on which a Community Governance Review will focus.
13. The formal publication of these terms of reference, 15 February 2016, marked the start of the Community Governance Review (given in Appendix A). It is a legal requirement that the review must be completed within twelve months. The Terms of Reference include a timeline for the review, which is shown below.

Timetable for the Community Governance Review for Haslingfield Parish	
Publication of the Terms of Reference	15 Feb 2016
Local briefings and meetings	Feb / March 2016
Stage One: Submissions invited	From 15 March to 13 June 2016
Stage Two: Submissions considered and recommendations prepared	Draft recommendations published 15 August 2016
Stage Three: Consultation on draft recommendations	Consultation closes 14 November 2016

Final recommendation to Civic Affairs committee	December 2016
Council resolves to make a Reorganisation Order (if required)	January 2017

14. The submissions made in response to the formal consultation, which was conducted between 15 March 2016 and 13 June 2016 and followed a round of briefings to the Southern Fringe Community Forum, Trumpington Meadows Residents Association, the Trumpington Meadows Management Committee and to the parish councils of Haslingfield, Hauxton and Grantchester the resultant submissions can be summarised as follows, options A, B and C propose a new civil parish- the only name advanced for this body was Trumpington South. Option D represents a “no change” option. These options are summarised below and maps can be found at Appendix C:

Option A:

Creation of a new civil parish.

The new parish (green area) to be comprised of that land currently within Haslingfield Parish which is bounded by the River Cam to the west, with Lingey Fen (pink area) transferred to Grantchester Parish, and extending south of the M11, bounded by the River Cam as far south as Hauxton Mill, with the new boundary formed along the current boundary between the parishes of Haslingfield and Harston.

The rescaled parish of Haslingfield would retain its current complement of parish councillors, which the parish council finds satisfactory at present.

The newly created parish to have a similar scale of representation as other parishes within the district, which would suggest a figure of nine councillors.

Haslingfield Parish holds no assets and offers no services in those areas considered either for (a) transfer to Grantchester Parish Council or (b) forming the new parish within this option.

Option B:

Creation of a new civil parish.

The new parish (green area) to be comprised of land currently within Haslingfield Parish, bounded to the west by the River Cam, such that Lingey Fen (pink area) is transferred to Grantchester Parish and to the south by the M11. Land south of the M11 and east of the Cam (yellow area) to be transferred to Hauxton Parish Council.

The rescaled parishes of Hauxton and Haslingfield would retain their current complements of parish councillors, which the parish councils find satisfactory at present.

The newly created parish to have a similar scale of representation as other parishes within the district, which would suggest a figure of nine councillors.

Haslingfield Parish holds no assets and offers no services in those areas considered either for (a) transfer to Grantchester Parish Council or (b) forming the new parish within this option.

Option C:

Creation of a new civil parish.

The new parish (green area) to be comprised of that land currently within Haslingfield Parish to include Lingey Fen to the north of the M11 and extending south of the M11, bounded by the River Cam as far south as Hauxton Mill, with the new boundary formed along the current boundary between the parishes of Haslingfield and Harston. The rescaled parish of Haslingfield would retain its current complement of parish councillors, which the parish council finds satisfactory at present.

The newly created parish to have a similar scale of representation as other parishes within the district, which would suggest a figure of nine councillors.

Haslingfield Parish holds no assets and offers no services in those areas considered either for (a) transfer to Grantchester Parish Council or (b) forming the new parish within this option.

Option D:

No change to Haslingfield Parish boundary or its electoral arrangements.

Consequential Amendments and District Electoral Review

15. The full electoral review of the district's warding arrangements is currently underway, with implementation of new district ward boundaries at all out elections in May 2018 to result. Community Governance Reviews started alongside the review will be separate, and will not be completed in time to be included within the review.
16. The Committee will be aware that the Council only has the power to amend parish boundaries. District ward boundaries will not automatically be affected by changes made by Community Governance Reviews. Should district ward boundaries need to be changed after a Community Governance Review the Council would have to apply to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make consequential amendments.

Options

17. The Committee could:
 - (a) agree a preferred option (see paragraph 14) to consult upon during Stage Three of the Community Governance Review.
 - (b) agree a variation to the options, documenting reasons, set out in paragraph 14 to consult upon during Stage Three of the Community Governance Review.

Should the Committee agree to consult on the "no change" option it should be noted that the Community Governance Review must continue to proceed to conclusion (see paragraph 13).

18. If appropriate (depending on the preferred Option in relation to paragraph 17), the Committee could:
- (a) consult upon the proposed name of 'Trumpington South' for a new parish,
 - (b) suggest an alternative name for consultation, or
 - (c) request suggestions for a name as part of Stage Three.

Implications

19. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Financial

20. The cost for parish council elections falls to the parish. There would be a cost to elections in a new parish were this to be agreed. This review has been scheduled such that it completes in time for elections to coincide with other polls (the County Council's 2017 election).

Legal

21. The draft terms of reference for a Community Governance Review of the parish of Haslingfield has considered the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, published in April 2008, which reflects Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972, Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010, and the following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the Review: Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/626). (The 2007 Act transferred powers to the principal councils which previously, under the Local Government Act 1997, had been shared with the Electoral Commission's Boundary Committee for England.)

Staffing

22. The Community Governance Review of the parish of Haslingfield is being carried out within existing resources.

Consultation responses

23. All parties that made submissions to the consultation have been made aware of this report. The consultation responses received are included in Appendix B.

Effect on Strategic Aims

ENGAGEMENT and WELLBEING

24. Appropriate community governance arrangements will help the Council to sustain existing successful, vibrant villages and establish successful and sustainable new communities.

Background Papers

Where [the Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection: -

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

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