

Appendix A: Analysis of Consultation: Submissions to Thriplow Community Governance Review, January to March 2020

Summary

1. 56 people in total made submissions to the Community Governance Review. The majority of 41 (76%) respondents agreed with the proposed ward representation and a minority of 13 (24%) were against. Of respondents living in Heathfield ward, a larger majority agreed (26 or 90%) than disagreed (3 or 10%) with the proposed representation. Of respondents from Thriplow village ward, a larger number also agreed with the proposed representation, although the majority was not as strong as for the parish wide response or in comparison with Heathfield ward. Of respondents for Thriplow village ward there were 15 or 60% in agreement and 10 or 40% in disagreement. 9 residents suggested alternative representation; 2 suggested a Heathfield ward majority; 5 a Thriplow village majority and 2 equal representation.
2. In relation to the proposed name change to 'The Parish of Thriplow and Heathfield', of 55 respondents, the majority agreed with the proposed name change (38 or 69%) with the remaining 17 or 31% in disagreement. Of respondents living in Thriplow village ward, there was almost equal numbers in agreement and disagreement with the proposed name change with 12 or 48% in agreement and 13 or 52% in disagreement. Of respondents living in Heathfield ward, the majority agreed with the proposed name change (26 or 87%) and the minority in disagreement (4 or 14%).
3. Analysis of quantitative and qualitative data has been analysed and is presented below. Quantitative data is presented in whole numbers and percentages. Qualitative data has been analysed by theme per question, only information relevant to the Community Governance Review has been included.

Respondents

4. 56 people in total made submissions to the Community Governance Review, 25 (45%) from Thriplow village ward and 31 (55%) from Heathfield ward. Not all respondents answered each question.

Responses by question:

Question 1: Do you think the number of councillors representing Thriplow village ward should decrease from seven to five AND that the number of

councillors representing Heathfield ward should increase from two to four?
(Yes or No response)

5. As set out in Table 1a below, of the 54 responses to this question, 41 (76%) agreed with the proposed ward representation and 13 (24%) did not agree. 2 people did not respond to this question (both were Heathfield residents) and neither responded to question 3 (where respondents could suggest alternative ward representation). Of respondents from Heathfield ward, a larger number agreed with the proposed representation (26 or 90%) than the number of people who disagreed with the proposed representation (3 or 10%). Of respondents from Thriplow village ward, a larger number also agreed with the proposed representation, there were 15 or 60% in agreement and 10 or 40% in disagreement.

Table 1a: Agreement with Proposed Representation by Ward

-	Thriplow		Heathfield	
-	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	15	60%	26	90%
No	10	40%	3	10%
-	25	-	29	-

Question 2: Please provide the reasons for your decision (Written response only)

6. Of the 41 people who agreed with proposed representation, 36 people gave reasons for their decision – relevant verbatim comments are set out in Tables 2a and 2b in Annexe A at the end of this report. Of those who **agreed**, two main themes were apparent; some stated the proposed number of councillors per ward would lead to a more balanced representation of the electorate with greater recognition given to the specific needs of Heathfield residents (see 1 to 24 in Table 2a). Others indicated that Heathfield ward residents should have greater representation or expressed concern/ potential solutions should Heathfield ward seats on the council not be filled (see 25-29 Table 2a).
7. Of those who **disagreed** with the proposed representation and gave an explanation for their decision, the main theme was that that Heathfield ward should have greater representation, either through an increased number of councillors or a separate Parish Council (see comments 30 to 33 in Table 2b). There were two comments outside this theme. One indicated that the best candidate should be chosen (and the other one person expressed a belief that Thriplow ward representatives are better placed to represent the whole community (see comments 33 and 34 in Table 2b).

Question 3: If you answered NO to question one above, please let us know the number of councillors you think should represent Thriplow village ward and Heathfield ward. Please note that the total number of councillors should be no more than nine. (Number response)

8. As set out in Table 3 in Annexe A, 9 people responded to this question, of these, 7 were Thriplow village ward residents and 2 were Heathfield ward residents. 2 suggested a Heathfield ward majority, 5 suggested a Thriplow village ward majority and 2 suggested equal representation. Several respondents did not adhere to the note that the total councillors should be no more (or less – although this was not specified) than 9. There was little commonality between suggested representation of wards.

Question 4. Please provide the reasons for your decision (Written response only)

9. As set out in Table 3 in Annexe A, of those suggesting a Heathfield ward majority, one expressed a view that due to its larger electorate, Heathfield ward residents contributed the majority of the precept but received a minority of Parish Council expenditure.
10. For those suggesting a Thriplow village ward majority, reasons for doing so included the view that Thriplow village ward had more community amenities and concerns over behaviour of Heathfield ward residents particularly in relation to provision of a new play area.
11. For those suggesting equal representation, reasons for doing so include:
- the differing needs and interests of each ward
 - the assertion that Heathfield ward should be able to determine its own policies
 - concerns that when it has not been possible for Parish councillors to represent the ward where they reside - and it has been necessary co-opt a Parish councillor who does not reside in the ward they represent - this has led to ongoing tensions as each ward fell underrepresented.

Question 5. Do you support a name change, to ‘The Parish of Thriplow and Heathfield’? (Yes or No response)

12. Of the 55 respondents who answered question 5, the majority were in agreement with the proposed name change (38 or 69%) with the remaining 17 or 31% in disagreement. Of respondents living in Thriplow village ward, there was almost equal numbers in agreement and disagreement with the proposed name change with 12 or 48% in agreement and 13 or 52% in disagreement. Of respondents living in Heathfield ward, the majority were in agreement with the proposed name change (26 or 87%) and the minority in disagreement (4 or 14%).

Table 3: Agreement with Proposed Name Change

-	Total		Thriplow		Heathfield	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	38	69%	12	48%	26	87%
No	17	31%	13	52%	4	13%
Total	55	-	25	-	30	-

Question 6: Please provide the reasons for your decision (Written response only)

13. Of those who were in **agreement** and responded this question, most indicated they believed that the parish name should refer to both wards in order to be more inclusive and accurate. One respondent advised the name change was the best case scenario but they would prefer Heathfield ward to be part of Duxford Parish and that the name change was best case scenario but they would prefer Heathfield ward to be a separate parish. See Table 4 at the end of this report for relevant verbatim comments.
14. Of those who were in **disagreement** and responded this question, some wanted to keep the parish name as is because they value the name of the parish, others advised they saw the wards as separate villages or felt Heathfield ward was an 'infill village' and as such should not be incorporated in the parish name, others suggested that Heathfield ward should be a separate parish or be included in Duxford Parish and that Pepperslade (within Heathfield) should have representation.
15. A small number of respondents shared concerns about the effectiveness of the Parish Council.

Annex A: Verbatim comments relevant to the Community Governance Review

Table 2a: Reasons given for **agreement** with proposed representation:

-	Comment	Ward of residence
-	Theme 1 – More balanced representation	-
1	We are a larger population now than Thriplow. There has to be fair representation for the Heath ward area	Heathfield
2	The real needs of Heathfield ward residents are often overlooked or are considered an additional expense/ inconvenience by the current council. Therefore the importance of issues such as access road, bad parking and street lighting in Heathfield need to be a higher priority and having more Heathfield Cllrs will permit that.	Heathfield
3	More equitable	Heathfield
4	Seems unbalanced at present	Heathfield
5	Makes it more even on both sides	Heathfield
6	Because there is more people in Heathfield ward	Heathfield
7	300 houses on one side, 185 on the other side, seats should be split between 2 villages in proportion of size. Nothing to stop people from Thriplow sitting on Heathfield seats if no one fills them.	Heathfield
8	It is my understanding that the larger proportion of the residents now reside in the Heathfield ward, therefore it seems only logical that the representation was proportional	Heathfield
9	the size of the Heathfield ward has changed dramatically in the last 10 years	Heathfield
10	I volunteer on committees in both areas to try and bridge the divide and this would give a more inclusive approach	Heathfield
11	Heathfield has grown so only far that the representation changes to reflect this.	Heathfield
12	Increased representation for Heathfield is essential	Heathfield
12	More representative of the current situation	Heathfield
13	To give fair representation from both	Heathfield
15	To be more proportionate to number of residents in each ward	Heathfield
16	Heathfield ward now comprises several housing areas with a greater population than Thriplow. Might stop the "them and us" feeling	Heathfield
17	The population of those living in Heathfield is greater than those living in Thriplow. Heathfield are forgotten and therefore should have a fairer representation.	Heathfield
18	Heathfield has more people than Thriplow	Thriplow
19	There is a greater number of residents in the Heathfield ward. We are underrepresented	Thriplow
20	Heathfield has more residents than Thriplow!	Thriplow
21	The number of residents on Heathfield means they need to be properly represented	Thriplow
22	I am assuming that this reflects the relative population	Thriplow

23	A more balanced and representative council will result from this change	Thriplow
24	Better represent the population	Thriplow
-	Theme 2 – Concern over fill Heathfield seats/ solutions to address this concern	-
25	I hope that Heathfield will be able to find 4 councillors - although for many years it has been a struggle to find 2.	Thriplow
26	Even better would be to retain 2 seats on the council from either ward (i.e. move to 4 from Thriplow & 3 from Heathfield & 2 unspecified) Reason being that it is not unusual to have seats unfilled and restricting seat eligibility may mean this happened more often in future	Thriplow
27	Unless there is the option to have more Heathfield Cllrs than Thriplow, as this would more accurately reflect the numbers in our area	Heathfield
28	As a minimum- Heathfield voters make up to 57% so the proportion should be 5/4 in favour of Heathfield!	Heathfield
29	But surely the number of Cllrs should be in ratio to the population so if Heathfield has more then it should have a higher number of Cllrs than Thriplow ward- otherwise it will always be skewed towards Thriplow.	Heathfield

Table 2b: Reasons given for **disagreement** with proposed representation:

-	Comment	Ward
-	Theme 1 – Greater representation for Heathfield or a separate Parish Council	-
30	This still fails to properly address the imbalance in the electorate between the two wards - a better balance would be SIX councillors to represent Heathfield and THREE to represent the Thriplow Village ward	Heathfield
31	I think Heathfield should be an independent parish with a separate Parish Council	Thriplow
32	Heathfield should have their own PC	Thriplow
33	Thriplow parish council has suffered for years from tensions between ward representatives because of the differing needs of the two wards. A recent survey carried out as part of a community plan consultation elicited many responses from both wards indicating dissatisfaction with the wards being combined in one PC	Thriplow
-	Other comments	-
34	The Thriplow village ward has a better understanding of the community needs.	Heathfield
35	Should just be best candidate	Heathfield

Table 3: Reasons given for **agreement** with proposed representation:

-	Ward of residence		Proposed representation		Total proposed councillors	Q4 reasons for decision
	Thriplow	Heathfield	Thriplow	Heathfield		
<i>Majority Heathfield ward</i>						
1	0	1	3	6	9	The Heathfield ward has a significantly bigger electorate and has been grossly underrepresented over the years. Such a balance would go a long way to redress the situation. Heathfield is by far the poorer ward, bordering on being deprived, yet it contributes approximately 55% of the precept income to the Parish, yet receives somewhere in the region of 40% of the precept expenditure. This smacks of a situation where the rich people of the Thriplow Village ward are being subsidised by the poor people of the Heathfield ward.
2	1	0	0	2	2	-
<i>Majority Thriplow</i>						
3	0	1	7	2	9	DNR
4	1	0	6	3	9	Thriplow is a bigger village with more amenities than Heathfield
5	1	0	6	3	9	More amenities in Thriplow village, bigger and needs more counsellors compared to Heathfield.
6	1	0	6	3	9	DNR
7	1	0	as many as possible	as little as possible	0	I strongly oppose giving more representation to Heathfield ward. I am, however, strongly in favour of opening a position for Pepperslade to be represented by itself.
<i>Equal representation</i>						
8	1	0	9	9	18	The two places are quite different with different interests and Heathfield should be allowed to decide its own policies

9	1	0	7	7	14	It has often not been possible to get councillors from each ward and co-options have been made from Thriplow village residents to represent Heathfield ward and vice-versa. This leads to ongoing tensions of each ward having cause to feel underrepresented in the PC.
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Table 4a: Reasons given for **agreement** with Parish name change:

	Comment	Ward of residence
1	It's a more accurate description. We need to demonstrate that we embrace Heathfield in the Parish and that they're not an add on!	Thriplow
2	Yes - fully supportive of appropriate and proportionate representation	Thriplow
3	Obvious change	Thriplow
5	If Heathfield cannot have a separate parish council in their own right this is probably the next best option.	Thriplow
6	A good idea to include the two names to better reflect the entire community which is aware it needs to integrate more fully	Thriplow
7	Accurately reflects the parish	Thriplow
8	I feel the name should change to give equal representation of the parish and not just Thriplow	Heathfield
9	The Parish of Thriplow & Heathfield- to take into account the growing population of Heathfield	Heathfield
10	Representative of both areas it serves	Heathfield
11	So that it reflects the people it serves	Heathfield
12	Yes	Heathfield
13	Because its inclusive of both areas within the Parish	Heathfield
14	If it is a parish council for both VILLAGES (even if Heathfield is only an infill village) then the name should represent both.	Heathfield
15	There are two wards, why not mention them both?	Heathfield
16	The size of the Heathfield ward	Heathfield
17	Inclusion & recognition	Heathfield
18	The Parish is more than just the village	Heathfield
19	I would prefer the name to represent the whole population and where we live- our postal address isn't even Thriplow, Its Duxford.	Heathfield
20	To be more inclusive	Heathfield
21	The two wards are joint and funding is combined. To be separate is misleading.	Heathfield

Table 4b: Reasons given for **disagreement** with Parish name change:

	Comment	Ward of residence
1	The name of the Parish is more than adequate	Thriplow
2	It should continue with the current name	Thriplow
3	Separate villages would rather not a merge	Thriplow
4	There should be two parishes each with its own council as they have so little in common	Thriplow
5	think that they should each have their own parish. Heathfield is big enough and can have its own.	Thriplow
6	We are Thriplow and they are Heathfield, the villages need to keep their own identity	Thriplow
7	I actually think that Heathfield should have their own PC	Thriplow
8	Thriplow as a village is very precious to me and I want the name to be as it always has been. Changing the name would completely spoil it.	Thriplow
9	The two wards should have separate parish councils.	Thriplow
10	I feel Heathfield is more Duxford than Thriplow & it should be advertised as so.	Thriplow
11	Heathfield is an infill village. The name should stay the Parish of Thriplow only.	Heathfield
12	The Parish of Heathfield and Thriplow would be much more appropriate given the size of the two electorates and the ratio of precept funding that each ward contributes. The Heathfield ward has been downtrodden by Thriplow village ward for far too long. An even better solution would be to split the parish in two, creating "The Parish of Heathfield "and "The Parish of Thriplow".	Heathfield
13	No, its fine as it is	Heathfield