

Guildford Borough Council
Community Governance Review 2022
Parish of West Horsley
Terms of reference

What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review is a review of the whole or part of the Borough to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of a parish and the style of a new parish (i.e. whether to call it a “village”, “community” or “neighbourhood” with the council similarly named as a “village council”, “community council” or “neighbourhood council”);
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (including council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding), and
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

The Borough Council is required 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
- is effective and convenient.

In doing so, the Community Governance Review is required to take into account:

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

The government has emphasised that recommendations made in Community Governance Reviews ought to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

What do parish councils do?

By way of information, a summary of the general powers and duties of parish councils is attached as **Annex 1**.

Why are we carrying out this Community Governance Review?

We have received a request from West Horsley Parish Council for a community governance review to increase the number of parish councillors to be elected to the Parish Council from nine to eleven.

The area under review is the area of the borough of Guildford comprising the parish of West Horsley (see map at **Annex 2**).

The parish of West Horsley is located within the Clandon and Horsley ward of Guildford Borough Council. It is also located within the Horsleys Division of Surrey County Council and forms part of the Mole Valley Parliamentary Constituency.

What are we consulting on?

We are consulting the public on the request from West Horsley Parish Council, which is:

To increase the number of parish councillors elected to West Horsley Parish Council from nine (9) to eleven (11).

If approved, the change will come into effect on the date of the next scheduled parish council elections in May 2023.

Why has this request been made?

The Parish Council's justification for the increase in the number of parish councillors is set out below:

- (a) to reduce the workload on individual parish councillors that has grown considerably over the past 24 months and is expected to continue;
- (b) to address the substantial increase in population as a result of windfall and major housing developments underway in the Village as a consequence of implementing Guildford Borough Council's Local Plan; and
- (c) to seek to improve diversity on the parish council.

For the purposes of this review, we are also required by law

to make recommendations on other related "electoral arrangements" in respect of West Horsley Parish Council as follows:

- (1) the year in which ordinary elections of parish councillors are to be held;**
- (2) the division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purpose of electing parish councillors;**
- (3) the number and boundaries of any such wards;**
- (4) the number of parish councillors to be elected for any such ward;**
- (5) the name of any such ward.**

In relation to (1) above, Guildford Borough Council proposes that no change be made to the year of ordinary elections, as they currently coincide with borough council elections and elections to other parish councils in the borough.

In relation to (2) to (5) above, the introduction of 'wards' would mean that each parish councillor would be elected by voters living within a particular area (or ward) within the parish, and they would represent those voters on the parish council. The Borough Council proposes that, irrespective of the outcome of this community governance review, West Horsley parish should continue to be unwarded, i.e. no change be made. West Horsley Parish Council supports this proposal.

We would therefore like to know what YOU think of the proposals:

- (a) to increase the number of parish councillors on West Horsley Parish Council from 9 to 11, and**
- (b) to make no other changes to the electoral arrangements in respect of West Horsley Parish Council**

Electorate Forecast

At the time Guildford Borough Council considered the request to carry out this community governance review, the Local Government electorate for the parish of West Horsley was 2,241.

For the purpose of this review, we are required to forecast the expected growth in the electorate for the parish of West Horsley for the next five years from the beginning of this review.

There are currently outstanding planning permissions (permitted but not completed, including those commenced) for 68 homes in the parish of West Horsley. The Local Plan/Land Availability Assessment provides for 258 homes within 5 years, making a total of 326. On the basis of the average number of electors per dwelling being 1.7, it is anticipated that the increase in the number of homes in the parish will result in an additional 554 electors.

How to let us know your views

Any representations on this matter above must be in writing and should be sent to:

John Armstrong
Democratic Services and Elections Manager
Guildford Borough Council
Millmead House
Millmead
GUILDFORD
Surrey GU2 4BB

by no later than 5pm on Monday 11 April 2022.

Alternatively, you may send your representations either:

- by email to: committeeservices@guildford.gov.uk; or
- via our online facility: [View past and present consultations - Guildford Borough Council](#)

Please ensure that you state your name and address clearly on any representations submitted. Please note that any submissions received after 11 April 2022, or any representations submitted anonymously, will not be taken into account.

Please also note that the consultation stages of a Community Governance Review are public consultations. We will not publish your personal information; however, in the interests of openness and transparency, the Council will make available for public inspection full copies of all representations it takes into account as part of this review.

All personal information submitted to us during the course of this consultation will be destroyed once the matter has been determined by the Council.

What happens next?

In arriving at its final recommendations, the Council will take account of the views of local people and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the Review by judging them against the criteria set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and associated government guidance.

The Borough Council will take steps to notify consultees of the outcome of the review by publishing all decisions taken, together with reasons, on the Council's website (and ask West Horsley Parish Council to publish the same on their website), through general press releases, and by placing key documents on public deposit at Guildford Borough Council's offices and at the office of West Horsley Parish Council.

If any change to the electoral arrangements for West Horsley Parish Council is approved, a Community Governance Reorganisation Order will be made to give effect to the change.

A timetable for the Community Governance Review

A Community Governance Review must, by law, be concluded within a 12-month period from the day on which the Borough Council publishes the terms of reference and ending on the day on which the Council publishes its final recommendations. The proposed timetable for this Community Governance Review is set out below:

9 February 2022	Terms of Reference and Timetable for Review approved by Guildford Borough Council.
28 February 2022	Guildford Borough Council to publish approved Terms of Reference. Six-week consultation period begins with local people and interested parties.
11 April 2022 (5pm)	Closing date for consultation period.
26 July 2022	Guildford Borough Council to consider consultation submissions and publish final recommendations.
4 May 2023	Any change in electoral arrangements comes into effect for the purposes of parish council elections

Date of Publication of Terms of Reference:

28 February 2022

Powers and Duties of Parish Councils

The role played by parish councils varies considerably. Smaller parish councils have only limited resources and generally play only a minor role, while some larger parish councils have a role similar to that of a small district council. Parish councils receive funding by levying a "precept" on the council tax paid by the residents of the parish.

The list below is intended as a summary of the main functions of parish councils. It is not intended to be a definitive list of such functions. Where a function is marked with an asterisk a parish council also has the power to give financial assistance to another person or body performing the same function.

Functions	Powers And Duties
Allotments	Powers to provide allotments Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied
Bus Shelters and roadside seats	Power to provide and maintain
Bye Laws	Power to make byelaws for public walks and pleasure grounds
Clocks*	Power to provide public clocks
Closed Churchyards	Powers (and sometimes duty) as to maintain
Commons Land and Common Pastures	Powers in relation to enclosure as to regulation and management and as to providing common pasture
Community Centres and Village Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power to provide and equip premises for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives • Power to provide buildings for offices and for public meetings and assemblies
Conference facilities*	Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities
Crime Prevention*	Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures including
Drainage	Power to deal with ponds/ditches
Education	Right to appoint governors of primary schools
Entertainment and the Arts*	Provision of entertainment and support of the arts
Environment	Power to act for the benefit of the community by tackling and promoting awareness of environmental issues
Flagpoles	Power to erect flagpoles in highways
Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power to repair and maintain footpaths and bridleways • Power to provide lighting of roads and public places • Power to provide parking places for vehicles, bicycles and motorcycles • Power to enter into an agreement as to dedication and widening • Power to provide traffic signs and other notices • Power to plant trees, etc., and to maintain roadside verges • Power to prosecute for unlawful ploughing of a footpath or bridleway • Power to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes
Investments	Power to participate in schemes of collective investment

Functions	Powers And Duties
Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power to acquire land by agreement or compulsory purchase, • Power to appropriate land • Power to dispose of land • Power to accept gifts of land • Power to obtain particulars of persons interested in land
Litter bins	Power to provide litter bins including receptacles for dog faeces
Lotteries	Power to promote lotteries
Monuments and Memorials	Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials
Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms	Powers to provide mortuaries and post-mortem rooms
Nature Reserves	Power to designate statutory to the nature reserves and marine nature reserves - English Nature can designate sites of specific scientific interest
Nuisances	Power to deal with offensive ditches, ponds and gutters
Open Spaces, Burial Grounds, Cemeteries and crematoria*	Power to acquire, maintain or contribute towards expenses
Parish Property and Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powers to direct as to their custody • Power to collect, exhibit and purchase local records
Parks and pleasure grounds	Power to hire pleasure boats in parks and pleasure grounds
Parochial charities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power to appoint trustees of parochial charities • Duty to receive accounts of parochial charities
Planning	Right to be notified of and power to respond to planning applications
Postal and telecommunications facilities	Power to pay the Post Office, British Telecommunications or any other public telecommunications operator any loss sustained in providing post or telegraph office or telecommunications facilities
Public Conveniences	Power to provide public conveniences
Raising of Finances	Power to raise money through the parish precept
Recreation*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds, and open spaces and to manage and control them. • Power to provide gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps
Swimming pools, bathing places, baths and washhouses	Power to provide
Tourism*	Power to contribute to the encouragement of tourism
Town Status	Power to adopt town status
Transport*	Power to (a) establish car sharing schemes (b) make grants for bus services, (c) provide taxi-fare concessions; (d) investigate public transport, road use and needs; (e) provide information about public transport services Community Transport Schemes
Village greens	Power to maintain, to make bylaws for and to prosecute for interference with village greens
Water Supply	Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water therefrom.

