



Rutland
County Council

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW: BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE PARISHES
OF BARLEYTHORPE AND OAKHAM AND COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE
ARRANGEMENTS**

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Review

In February 2015 Rutland County Council agreed that a Community Governance review be undertaken. The terms of reference for the Review were agreed by Full Council and published in January 2016; the initial consultation on these terms of reference commenced on 29 January they are outlined below.

In the terms of reference the Council was looking at several aspects of community governance of the Barleythorpe and Oakham parish areas including the four options below (Illustrated in Maps 1-4) and any subsequent changes to Parish boundaries which arise:-

1. Removing the common boundary between the two parish areas so that the entire parish area of Barleythorpe is brought within the Parish of Oakham (Oakham Town Council's parish area). Any subsequent amendments to Oakham Town Council to accommodate an increased geographical area and increased electorate – this would include reviewing and making provision for the number of councillors and wards within Oakham Town Council (See Map – Option 1);
2. Amending the common boundary so that only properties in the new Oakham North development are brought within Oakham Town Council's parish area – the 'old' properties would maintain their historic identity in a continued, but smaller, parish area of Barleythorpe (See Map – Option 2);
3. Retaining the common boundary and reviewing the existing community governance arrangements for residents living in the parish area of Barleythorpe – this would include reviewing the current electorate, the impact of future developments and the establishment of any new Parish Council covering the parish area of Barleythorpe (See Map – Option 3);
4. Retaining the common boundary and dividing the parish of Barleythorpe into two separate parished areas comprising of properties in the Oakham North development and properties situated in the 'old' Barleythorpe area respectively – this would include reviewing the electorate in each of the new

parished areas and the appropriate community governance arrangements for each area, which could include the establishment of a new Parish Council to cover the newly formed Parish Wards if appropriate (See Map – Option 4);
Note: The considerations below are relevant to each of the four options detailed above.

5. Transfer of any Community Assets such as playing fields, community buildings etc.
6. Reference to section 94 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 that states as follow:

- 94 (2) If the parish has 1,000 or more local government electors, the review must recommend that the parish should have a council.
- (3) If the parish has 150 or fewer local government electors, the review must recommend that the parish should not have a council.

Background

The parish area of Barleythorpe currently has no Parish Council but operates a Parish Meeting. Historically, there has not been a sufficient number of electors in the Barleythorpe parish to form a Parish Council. The number of electors in the parish of Barleythorpe is increasing due to the housing development of Oakham North with a predicted electorate of over 2000 by the year 2025.

The parish area of Oakham has a Town Council comprising 12 town councillors covering four parish wards (Oakham North West/Oakham North East/Oakham South West/Oakham South East). Each Ward has around 2000 electors.

Barleythorpe is a parish in its own right and does not form part of the parish of Oakham. It is, however, situated within the Oakham North West Ward of Rutland County Council along with the North West Ward of the Parish of Oakham.

Consultation

The residents of Barleythorpe and Oakham North West, the Parish Meeting of Barleythorpe, Barleythorpe Residents Group, Oakham Town Council, County Ward councillors and other organisations were invited to submit comments on the terms of reference and the proposals contained within on during the initial consultation period (29 January – 29 April 2016). The County Council was also invited to make a submission. The terms of reference along with maps and a frequently asked questions document were published onto the County Council's website and displayed on the notice board in the foyer of its main office.

A press release regarding the Review was issued on 7 March 2016. Another press release went out in April to remind residents that the Initial Consultation period was drawing to a close on 29 April 2016.

Responses to the consultation have been logged by the Corporate Support Team, each one has been given a unique reference number and logged on a spreadsheet to include the indicated preferred option and any comments put forward. A summary of the number of responses received and preferred options can be found in the table below:

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3	OPTION 4	NO PREFERENCE	TOTAL
Barleythorpe Residents	11	11	124	8	5	159
Oakham Residents	32	28	44	14	7	125
Other/No Postcode or Address	0	0	4	0	5	9
Total	43	39	172	22	17	293

Consequential Matters

The Law, Duties and Guidance

Under section 93 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, a Principal Council must comply various duties when undertaking a community governance review, including:

- i. It must have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review:
 - a. reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area;
 - b. is effective and convenient.
- ii. In deciding what recommendations to make, the Council must take into account any other arrangements, apart from those relating to parishes and their institutions:
 - a. that have already been made, or
 - b. that could be made for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in respect of the area under review.
- iii. The Council must take in to account any representations received in connection with the review.

Under Section 100 of the Act, the Council must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. In March 2010 Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England Community Governance Reviews, published guidance on community governance reviews.

The guidance states that the Council must have regard to the need to secure community governance within the area under review; it reflects the identities of the community in the area and is effective and convenient.

The guidance also acknowledges that how people perceive where they live is significant in considering the identities and interests of local communities and depends on a range of circumstances, often best defined by local residents.

Draft Recommendations

Taking into account the guidance, the statutory obligations and the results of the consultation exercise, the Rutland County Council has made the following draft recommendations for the community governance review of Barleythorpe and

Oakham North West which will be subject to further consultation prior to being finalised:

1. That the existing Barleythorpe parish and Oakham North West parish areas are amended as reflected in Maps A-E;
2. That a new Parish Council is created in the Parish of Barleythorpe;
3. That the name of the this Parish should be “Barleythorpe Parish Council”; and
4. That the Electoral arrangements for the Barleythorpe Parish Council should follow the timetable provided below.

TASK	Timescales
Shadow/Interim parish established	From June 2017
Establishment of Precept (Established by Council in consultation with shadow parish)	By December 2017
Election of Parish Councillors (For one year term of office)	May 2018
Establishment of Precept	Submit to RCC by December 2018
Ordinary Election of Parish Councillors (Four year term)	May 2019 (then every four years)

Consultation on Draft Recommendations

In accordance with statutory guidance, the original Terms of Reference and Draft Timetable approved by Council on 11 January 2016 , there will be a further period of consultation on the Draft Recommendations.

The second phase of consultation will commence on 29 July 2016 and end on 23 September 2016.

How can you have your say?

A letter will be sent to all households in the area under review inviting the submission of responses to the second phase of consultation on draft recommendations.

Other organisations affected by the review will also be invited to respond to the consultation.

You can respond to the consultation online by following the link below. This link can also be found on the Council website (www.rutland.gov.uk - searching Community Governance Reviews) :

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CGR_Barleythorpe_and_ONW_Draft_Recommendations

Alternatively you can send your comments, recommendations and views on the various aspects of the review to the address below:

Corporate Support Team

Catmose

Oakham

Rutland

LE15 6HP

Tel: 01572 722577 / email: communitygovernance@rutland.gov.uk.

Further Information can be found at the Rutland County County Council Website by visiting www.rutland.gov.uk and searching Community Governance Reviews.

Further information is also displayed in the Foyer at Rutland County Councils Main Office (Catmose, Oakham, LE15 6HP) and Oakham Library.