



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

FINAL 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 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;
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;
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;
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.

Following the consultation on the terms of reference the following draft recommendations were approved by Council, published and subject to a further period of consultation:

1. That the existing Barleythorpe 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 this Parish Council should be “Barleythorpe Parish Council”;
and
4. That the Electoral arrangements for the Barleythorpe Parish Council should follow the timetable.

Consultation

The terms of reference and draft recommendations were the subject of a thorough phase of consultation. The two periods of consultation were 29 January – 29 April 2016 and 30 July – 23 September 2016. Each consultation involved a letter being issued to every household in the area under review; all relevant documentation made accessible on the RCC website, in the library and in the foyer at RCC; a

Survey Monkey electronic response form was provided on the RCC Website and detailed in Press Releases.

In accordance with guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government the review included consultation with relevant parties including Ward Councillors, Parish Meetings and Community Groups, other interested organisations, households in the area under review, as well as relevant departments of RCC. The Constitution Review Working Group was updated on the progress of the review. Council was provided with updates and recommendations for approval at relevant points in the review.

The documentation relating to this review, including the details of the consultations and responses and comments received from the consultations can be viewed on the [Community Governance](#) page of the Council website.

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.

Final Recommendations

Taking into account the guidance, the statutory obligations and the results of the consultations, Rutland County Council has made the following final recommendations for the community governance review of Barleythorpe and Oakham North West:

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
Interim parish established (Following appointment by Council in March 2017)	From June 2017
Election of Parish Councillors (For one year term of office)	May 2018
Ordinary Election of Parish Councillors (Four year term)	May 2019 (then every four years)

This ends the Community Governance Review of the parishes of Barleythorpe and Oakham North West.

The Electoral Registration Officer

Catmose

Oakham

Rutland

LE15 6HP

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