

Potential Community Governance Review of Windlesham Parish Council

Surrey Heath Borough Council is currently considering a Community Governance Review (CGR) to explore potential changes to the structure of Windlesham Parish Council (WPC), which currently serves the villages of Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham.

To help our residents make informed representations in response to this consultation, we aim to provide clear information on several key aspects.



Community Governance Review 2019

The last CGR took place in 2019, where SHBC decided not to proceed with reorganising the WPC. The key reasons stated in the report* were:

Out of an electorate of 13,363 there were only 668 responses; 5% of the total electorate with only 14.7% of Windlesham residents responding

'The creation of a new Parish Council for Windlesham Village only would have a negative impact on effective and convenient local government'

'A new Parish Council would not be best placed to deliver quality services efficiently and effectively'

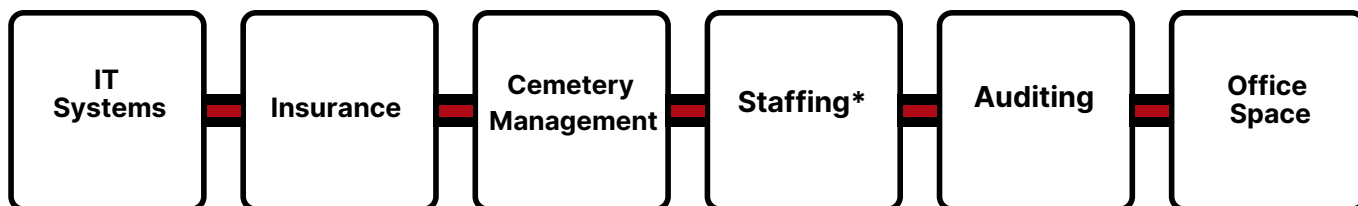
****Access to the full report here:***

windleshampc.gov.uk/Community_Governance_Review_48723.aspx

What impact could this have on my village?

A potential split of the Parish Council would affect all three villages. Initial calculations show that costs for residents would rise due to the duplication of resources needed to run separate councils.

These resources include:



*This could mean up to three Clerks, plus additional support staff including Cemetery Officers. The nearest comparable Parish Councils with Burial Authority are Chobham (3 staff) and Sunningdale (6 staff).

Estimates suggest an increase of 5%-11% for each village if Bagshot & Lightwater remain combined. This percentage would rise further if three separate councils are formed.

What do you get for your Parish Council Tax?



For more information on how we compare nationally and locally, visit:
windleshampc.gov.uk/Community_Governance_Review

Additional Considerations

Setting up a new council for Windlesham would incur additional financial costs including the cost of dividing assets and services between the villages. There is a chance that access to some of these assets could be affected if there is a split.

Further costs including legal, administrative, and professional fees would arise upon a split, all payable by residents of the Parish.

The Village Committee Structure was a voluntary undertaking in response to the outcomes of the previous CGR. Its purpose is to devolve as many decisions as possible to the villages.



Since the beginning of the new 2023-27 term, all committee decisions have been upheld by Full Council, with the exception of the proposed Windlesham Cemetery closure. This was due to wider financial implication for the burial authority.

It has been speculated that Windlesham Parish Council is too large, with 18 serving councillors.



According to The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) guidelines, a separate Windlesham Village Parish Council should have 11 Councillors and a combined Bagshot and Lightwater Parish Council should have 16. This is 10 more than the current arrangement.

Have your say:

Residents of Bagshot, Lightwater & Windlesham are encouraged to share their views on this important issue. Find the survey on the SHBC website under 'consultations' Please submit your response by 5pm on 16th September 2024.

