

Community Governance Review

Your Parish, Your Choice

Help Shape the Future of Your Community



Important Information for the residents of Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham



Scan for more information:
Windlesham Parish Council
Website

In order to support residents in making an informed representation as part of the Surrey Heath Borough Council consultation, this leaflet has been prepared to offer further detail and clarification on the proposed options and how to have your say.

Accessible Formats: If you require this information in an alternative format (such as large print, please contact the Parish Council Office on 01276 471675.

What is happening?

Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) has completed the first phase of a Community Governance Review (CGR), which looks at whether parish boundaries and councils still meet community needs.

Following this consultation, SHBC agreed on 22 October 2025 to begin a second phase focused on Windlesham Parish. This will assess if current arrangements reflect local identity and provide effective, convenient governance.

This review takes place in light of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) - a major driver for change that is fundamentally altering how local services are delivered and how communities are represented.

Results & Recommendations from Phase 1

- Phase 1 Consultation Results:
 - Of an electorate of 13,636 residents, 607 responses were received (429 Windlesham, 97 Bagshot, 65 Lightwater). Of these:
 - 292 respondents requested separate village councils (2.14% of electorate).
- SHBC Officer Recommendations from Phase 1:
 - No changes to external boundaries.
 - Merge Windlesham North and South into a single ward.
 - Further consultation on councillor numbers and governance improvements.

At the Surrey Heath Borough Council meeting held on 22nd October 2025, a motion was passed to reunite Windlesham North and South wards into a single ward as from the elections in May 2027, and to consult residents on the following questions:

Phase 2: Questions for residents

Q1: Do Windlesham Village residents wish to remain with the current combined arrangements, or separate from Bagshot and Lightwater to establish their own Parish Council?

In the event that the above generates a low response rate, or a strong majority is not in favour of change, the proposals will progress no further.

Q2: ONLY IF WINDLESHAM VILLAGE RESIDENTS SUPPORT CHANGE.

Do residents in Bagshot and Lightwater wish to move to 2 separate parishes, or stay combined as Bagshot and Lightwater?

Q3: Do residents want to alter the number of parish councillors representing each of the wards?

In the event of a resident's decision to maintain the status quo, the existing Parish Council is to be advised to review its governance arrangements with a view to addressing issues raised in the consultation. However it should be noted that SHBC can only advise as the Parish Council is an independent legal entity.

Comparison of Options

Option	Possible Advantages	Possible Disadvantages
Separate Councils	• Stronger local focus and representation • Decisions tailored to community needs • Reflects local identity • Greater attention to niche concerns • Encourages civic participation • Clearer visibility of decision-makers	• Higher admin costs and complexity • Loss of shared facilities or preferential rates for example use of the allotments and burial rates • Duplication of services and governance • Transition costs to implement changes • May have limited influence when negotiating shared services or funding at a unitary level.
Combined Council	• Shared resources reduce costs and improve efficiency • Consistent policies and decision-making • Easier coordination for multi-community projects • Unified services across all villages • Greater influence on shared services and funding	• Risk of underrepresentation for some areas • Balancing priorities can be challenging • Shared identity may reduce village prominence • Possible uneven resource distribution • May feel less responsive to unique local issues

How could this affect my council tax?

We understand that many residents are concerned about how any changes to parish boundaries might affect their Council Tax. The following information explains what this could mean.

Indicative baseline costs for new village councils have been identified for guidance only. Final budgets and council tax rates will be set by the new councils.

Creating separate councils will involve some duplication of costs, and actual spending may exceed estimates.

Visit our homepage for a detailed breakdown or use the QR provided: www.windleshampc.gov.uk

Current Band D £65.29	BAGSHOT & LIGHTWATER	BAGSHOT	LIGHTWATER	WINDLESHAM
Predicted Percentage Increase	1%	12%	4%	16%

Note: Residents should be aware that, due to the ongoing local government reorganisation in Surrey, these projected figures do not include potential asset transfers, which could substantially increase the precept.

Does Windlesham Parish Council provide value for money?

Windlesham Parish Council provides a range of services and holds assets, which, after adjusting for high-volume items, results in an amenities-per-pound ratio of 0.81. This can be compared to the provision levels of other parish councils in the area.

Areas of Responsibility	Windlesham	Chobham	West End	Bisley
Play Areas	5	1	2	1
Muga	1	1	1	1
Outdoor Gym	2	1	1	0
Pond	1	0	1	2
Recreation Grounds	2	1	1	1
Cemeteries	3	1	0	0
Council Buildings owned	3	2	0	1
Maintenance Depots with buildings	1	0	0	0
Trusts - Managing Trustee of buildings and land	2	3	0	0
Leased Building or land	3	1	1	0
Greenspaces and woodland	5	0	3	3
Listed Buildings	0	0	0	0
War Memorials	3	2	1	1
Allotments	52	0	0	8
Bus Shelters	1	1	0	0
Lamp columns	10	0	0	0
Trees	5670	104	247	187
Number of meetings	59	45	26	19
Cost for each band D property	65.29	50.52	69.86	70.3

Council	Core Amenities ¹	Scaled Allotments ²	Scaled Trees ³	Adjusted Amenities	Band D Cost (£)	Amenities per £1
Windlesham	42	5.2	5.67	52.87	65.29	0.81
Chobham	14	0.0	0.10	14.10	50.52	0.26
West End	11	0.0	0.25	11.25	69.86	0.16
Bisley	10	0.8	0.19	10.99	70.30	0.16



How You Can Have Your Say



To complete the consultation and give your views, please visit the Surrey Heath website consultation page by scanning the adjacent QR code.
Closing date 26th January 2026



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This leaflet is for informational purposes only to help residents understand how the community governance review may impact our parish and encourage participation in the consultation.