

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	6 December 2022
Subject:	Community Governance Review – Dumbleton/Wormington
Report of:	Head of Democratic Services
Head of Service/Director:	Corporate Director
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Corporate Governance
Number of Appendices:	None

Executive Summary:

To update Members on progress made on the implementation of the Community Governance Review approved by Council in May 2022 and to advise on discussions with Wormington residents in relation to whether they wish to be represented by a Parish Council rather than by a Parish Meeting as approved by Council.

Recommendation:

- 1. To NOTE progress to date on implementing the Community Governance Review.**
- 2. To REAFFIRM the decision set out in Paragraph 2.3 that a Parish Meeting be created for the new Parish of Wormington.**

Financial Implications:

None.

Legal Implications:

None.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications:

None.

Resource Implications (including impact on equalities):

None.

Safeguarding Implications:

None.

Impact on the Customer:

The electorate of Wormington will be responsible for their own area and its governance whether that be via a Parish Meeting or a Parish Council.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** In May 2022 the Council approved the Community Governance Review 2021/22 final recommendations.
- 1.2** Members will recall that some of the approved changes to Parish boundaries affected Borough Wards and County Divisions which required consent from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England prior to implementation.

2.0 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

- 2.1** The review was sent to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in June 2022 as Parishes altered by the Commission's Review of Borough Wards in 2019 were classed as protected and could not be altered without the Commission's consent. Consent from the Commission was received on 5 October allowing the first Order to be made on 10 October, giving effect to all the Parish alterations with the exception of the abolition of the existing Parish of Dumbleton and the creation of two new Parishes; Dumbleton and Wormington which was to be subject to a separate Order.
- 2.2** The Tewkesbury Borough Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) (No. 1) Order 2022 was then sent to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to consider the consequential amendments to any Borough Wards and County Divisions. These changes were approved by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at the end of October although the Order has not yet been received. In respect of Dumbleton/Wormington, there is no impact on Borough Wards/County Divisions and consequently, no further approval from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is required.

DUMBLETON/WORMINGTON

- 2.3** In relation to Dumbleton/Wormington the Council approved the following recommendation: -
- a) Creation of a separate Parish Meeting to serve the residents of Wormington resulting in the abolition of the current Dumbleton Parish Council and creation of a new Parish Council for Dumbleton (excluding the area to form a new Wormington Parish Council).
 - b) The number of Councillors for the new Parish Council for Dumbleton be five in accordance with the scale of representation.
- 2.4** The proposal for Wormington to be served by a Parish Meeting was recommended on the basis that legislation required that any new Parish Council created would need to serve a minimum electorate of 150 electors. As the proposed new Wormington Parish would have an electorate of less than 100 electors, it was considered at the time the decision was made that a Parish Meeting was the only option for the residents of Wormington. However, in drafting the Order to implement the Council's decision it was discovered that the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides an exception to the 150 electors requirement in circumstances where the area was previously part of a Parish which has a Parish Council. This exception applies in the case of Wormington which is currently part of the Dumbleton Parish Council. It was considered that this new information should be communicated to residents of Wormington to enable them to consider whether there was any appetite for the Borough Council to make a new Parish Council for Wormington. Residents of Wormington have been made aware that, unless the electorate increases significantly, it is unlikely that there will be any further opportunity in the immediate future for a Parish Council to be created.

- 2.5** Consultation has been undertaken with the residents of Wormington and a number of responses have been received, the majority of which are in favour of a Parish Meeting, accepting that the option of a Parish Council would be very unlikely to be available in the future.
- 2.6** On that basis, the Council is being asked to reaffirm the previous decision taken in May for a Parish Meeting to be created for Wormington. The formal Order bringing into effect the governance changes for Dumbleton and Wormington will then be made in accordance with the authority granted by the Council in May.
- 3.0 CONSULTATION**
- 3.1** A meeting was organised by the residents of Wormington to receive information from the Council and to discuss whether they wish to be governed by a Parish Meeting or a Parish Council.
- 4.0 ASSOCIATED RISKS**
- 4.1** None.
- 5.0 MONITORING**
- 5.1** N/A.
- 6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES/COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**
- 6.1** None.

Background Papers: Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008

The Tewkesbury Borough Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) (No. 1) Order 2022

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Appendices: None