

REPORT FROM: CORPORATE DIRECTOR

TO: COUNCIL

DATE: 9th DECEMBER 2021

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COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To report the outcome of the Community Governance Review undertaken by the Governance Working Group.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Corporate Director be authorised to make the necessary legal Orders under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to implement the changes outlined at paragraph 10 of the report; and to undertake the related publicity and notifications required under the Act.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To implement and finalise the Community Governance Review.

1. On behalf of the Council, the Governance Working Group has carried out a Community Governance Review under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to look at certain issues relating to parish and town councils in the Borough.
2. In doing so it has had regard to the guidance issued by the Government under the Act and in particular the need to secure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community and is effective and convenient.
3. A consultation exercise was carried out in March in which town and parish councils and members of the public were asked for their suggestions as to what the review should cover.
4. In the light of the responses the Working Group agreed that the review should cover the following:

- Abolishing the Bracewell and Brogden parish meeting which has become defunct and amending the boundary of Barnoldswick parish to incorporate the parish;
 - Amending the Barnoldswick/Salterforth parish boundary so that the whole of the Dales View Park is within the Salterforth parish, subject to the agreement of the Local Government Boundary Commission to also alter the boundary between the Borough wards of Barnoldswick and Earby and Coates;
 - Increasing the number of councillors on Roughlee Parish Council from seven to nine;
 - Reducing the number of Brierfield parish wards from five to three by combining the existing North and East wards into a new East ward, the existing Central and South wards into a new South ward, and retaining the existing East ward.
5. Consultations were carried out between 21st September and 29th October as follows.
6. A letter was sent to all 97 properties in the Bracewell and Brogden parish. Five responses have been received all in favour of the proposal. In addition the chairman and clerk of Barnoldswick Town Council, the chairman of the Bracewell and Brogden meeting and the Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council were informed.
7. A letter was sent to the 21 properties affected on Dales View Park. No responses have been received. In addition the chairman and clerk of Barnoldswick Town Council and the Chairman of Salterforth Parish Council were informed.
8. The proposal for Roughlee Booth was included in the parish newsletter which was distributed to all residential properties. One response from a resident has been received, in favour. In addition the parish council has responded in favour.
9. Notice of the proposal relating to Brierfield parish was given on the Council's website and social media communications were issued. One response has been received but this did not address the question in the proposal other than to say that the proposed changes were irrelevant, a nonsense and waste of time. Lancashire County Council have responded to say they have no comments. County Councillor Azhar Ali has also responded in favour of the proposal.
10. Notwithstanding the limited responses, the Working Group recommends the Council to authorise the Corporate Director to make the necessary legal Orders:
- to abolish the Bracewell and Brogden parish and amend the boundary of the Barnoldswick parish to include the parish in the Craven ward of the Barnoldswick parish;
 - to increase the number of councillors on Roughlee Booth parish council from seven to nine;
 - to amend the Barnoldswick/Salterforth boundary so that the whole of Dales View Park is within the Salterforth parish (this will be subject to the approval of the Local Government Boundary Commission to also alter the boundary between the Borough wards of Barnoldswick and Earby and Coates);
 - to reduce the Brierfield parish wards from five to three by combining the existing North and East wards into a new East ward, the existing Central and South wards into a new South ward, and retaining the existing West ward.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report.

Financial: None arising directly from the report.

Legal: None arising directly from the report.

Risk Management: None arising directly from the report.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Sustainability: None arising directly from the report.

Community Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report.

APPENDICES - None

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - None