



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE PARISHES OF BARLEYTHORPE AND OAKHAM AND COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

Rutland County Council (the Council) is undertaking a Community Governance Review (CGR) to consider whether the areas of the existing parishes of Barleythorpe and Oakham should be altered by adjusting their common boundary and to consider the most effective and convenient form of community governance for residents in the parish of Barleythorpe whilst maintaining the identities and interests of the community.

The Council is required to have regard for the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This guidance has been considered in drawing up these terms of reference.

Why are we conducting a review?

Following a request to the Council by Oakham Town Council for a review of the boundaries of Oakham and Barleythorpe parishes to be conducted under the Local Government and Public Involvement of Health Act 2007, the Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR) in order to consider:

- a) the boundary between the Parish Area of Barleythorpe and the Parish/Town/Ward Area of Oakham North West;
- b) the appropriate level of governance for the residents in those areas; and
- c) any other consequential matters that might arise.

Current Arrangements

The parish area of Barleythorpe 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.

The accompanying map (Map A) shows:

The Oakham North West Ward of Rutland County Council (containing the Parishes of Barleythorpe and the North West Ward of the Parish of Oakham) denoted by the red line.

The common boundary between the parish of Barleythorpe and the North West Ward of the Parish of Oakham denoted by the orange and purple line.

The outline of the Oakham North development area denoted by the blue line.

A further map (Map B) detailing the Oakham North development can also be viewed on the website at www.rutland.gov.uk and search Community Governance Reviews.

What will the review be considering?

The Council will consider various aspects of community governance of the Barleythorpe and Oakham parish areas including the four options below (Illustrated in Maps 1-4):-

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 (See Map – Option 1);
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 (See Map – Option 2);
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 (See Map – Option 3);
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.

A CGR must have regard to two key principles:-

- a. community governance must reflect the identities and interests of the community;
- b. community governance must be effective and convenient.

This review will be conducted in accordance with Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Will there be additional costs for residents?

The residents of Barleythorpe, should a parish council be established or it becomes part of Oakham Town Council, may see a change to the level of parish precept that they pay. The potential precept for any new parish will be calculated based on the cost of the parish council and the transfer of any assets or services.

Who conducts the review?

The county council is responsible for conducting the review and approving the final Order. Due to the predicted increase in the electorate in the Barleythorpe Parish and in accordance with Section 94 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, one of the outcomes of the review must be to recommend that the parish of Barleythorpe should have a parish council – the outcome of the consultation will need to determine whether this would be as a new, separate Parish Council, or whether the whole or part of the parish of Barleythorpe becomes part of Oakham Town Council.

How can you have your say?

A letter will be sent to all households in the area under review inviting the submission of responses to the consultation. A suite of documents will accompany this letter which will provide further information and guidance regarding the Community Governance Review to include; Consultation Response Form; Terms of Reference; Maps detailing current and proposed arrangements; and Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.

Other organisations affected by the review will also be invited to respond to the consultation.

Alternatively you can send your comments, recommendations and views on the various aspects of the review to the address below:

Corporate Support Team
 Catmose
 Oakham
 Rutland
 LE15 6HP
 Tel: 01572 722577 / email: communitygovernance@rutland.gov.uk.

Additional Information

The initial request by Oakham Town Council was considered by a meeting of the full Council on Monday 9 February 2015 in Report No. 36/2015. The reports and minutes of the meeting are available on the Council's website at <http://rutlandcounty.moderngov.co.uk/CeListDocuments.aspx?Committeeld=145&MeetingId=812&DF=09%2f02%2f2015&Ver=2>.

How long will the review take?

An indicative timetable for the review can be seen below:

TASK	Timescales (12 months - indicative)
Terms of Reference presented to full Council	11 January 2016
Desk research, information gathering	One Month January to February 2016
Consultation - Submissions are invited and deadline for initial submission to be received by The Corporate Support Team at Rutland County Council	Three months January to April 2016
Consideration of submission received – Draft recommendations are prepared	Two months April to June 2016

TASK	Timescales (12 months - indicative)
Draft recommendations are published – further consultation commences	Three Months June to September 2016
Consideration of submissions received – Final Recommendations are prepared	Two months September to November 2016
Final recommendations published – concluding the review	December 2016 / January 2017
Council resolves to make a Reorganisation Order	January 2017
Order Comes into effect	1 April 2017