Welcome to our Community Governance Review exhibition!

Please sign-in here and collect supporting materials

www.havant.gov.uk/CGR

An introduction to key terms used

By law, this consultation follows a specific process and uses set terms to describe elements within it. Some of the key terms are explained below.

Community Governance

Community Governance is about local representation, and the formal structure/s used to best support local needs, identities and interests.

Community Governance provides the most local form of governance and can be developed bespoke to local need. Options can include the development of Parish Councils, or other forms of community association.

Principal Authority

District, county and unitary authorities in England are sometimes referred to as 'principal local authorities' to distinguish them from parish and town councils that work at a more local level.

For this Community Governance Review, the Principal Authority is Havant Borough Council.

Community Governance Review

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 empowered local communities and local government with the means to make decisions about matters such as the creation of parishes and their electoral arrangements.

A Community Governance Review is the process to reach such a decision after suitable public interest in change has been reached, and a formal application to explore options has been submitted by local residents.

Neighbourhood Forum

The term Neighbourhood Forum is given to a community group that – provided it can meet certain requirements that the Principal Authority approves –has been granted the legal power to undertake neighbourhood planning in an agreed area. The forum will nevertheless need to adhere to local and national planning policies,

Emsworth already has a Neighbourhood Forum, but the outcomes of the Community Governance Review may replace this with an alternative form of governance.

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Why is this happening?

A Community Governance Review is not an ad-hoc process; it is triggered by specific events and actions.

A Principal Authority is under a legal duty to carry out a community governance review if it receives a valid petition on that specific issue for the whole or part of the council's area.

Hayling Island submitted a valid petition signed by electors from Hayling East and Hayling West wards. The Emsworth Neighbourhood Forum applied on behalf of Emsworth, accompanied by a signed petition from local electors.

By law, Havant Borough Council must undertake the review, following a set process. The process must include consultation with residents and other interested parties so that local views and community identities are reflected.

Once started, the review must be completed within 12 months. The review begins when the council publishes terms of reference of the review and concludes when the council publishes the recommendations made.

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What is the process?

The review must meet set requirements and ensure sufficient public consultation. A timetable of actions and outcomes has been prepared.

January to March 2026: First public consultation launched

May 2026: Conclusions from first consultation published

June 2026 Principal Authority considers report and next actions
"If evidence concludes insufficient interest to continue. Review closes"

June to July 2026 Potential second consultation held to finalise preferred form of new local governance

August 2026 Conclusions from second publication published

September 2026 Principal Authority makes final decision on new local governance arrangements

May 2027 First elections for parish council (if preferred option)

Please note – This may be subject to change dependent on outcomes.

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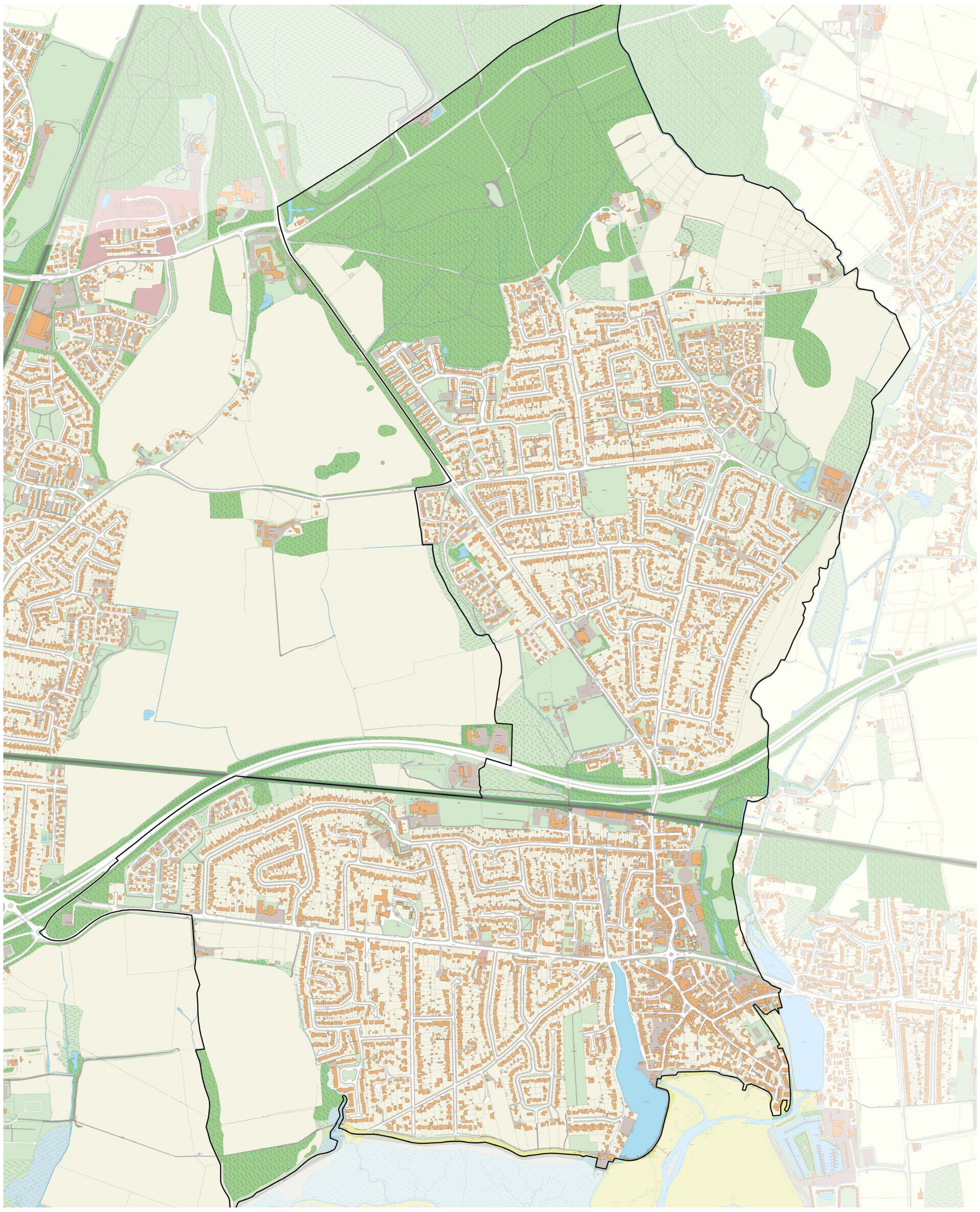
What area is being covered?

The area marked below highlights the boundaries of the Community Governance Review for Emsworth.



Please note - Anyone with an interest in the consultation can take part – they don't need to be a resident in the area.

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What area is being covered?

The area marked below highlights the boundaries of the Community Governance Review for Hayling Island.

Please note - Anyone with an interest in the consultation can take part – they don't need to be a resident in the area.

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What governance options are there?

The review will explore models for local governance – including no change - and will be led by local feedback on the most suitable option.

Parish Council
Democratically elected, Parish Councils are the most local tier of government, operating below district/borough councils.

Area Committee
These are councillor-led panels held by the Principal Authority that focus on specific geographic areas. Holding regular meetings, they review service performance, address public questions and influence budget allocations.

Neighbourhood Forum
As addressed in the introduction to this exhibition, these forums are provided with the legal power to undertake neighbourhood planning in an agreed area.

Community/Neighbourhood Association
Independent of the Principal Authority, these are volunteer-run organisations that manage services such as community centres and run social or educational programmes.

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What powers can a Parish Council hold?

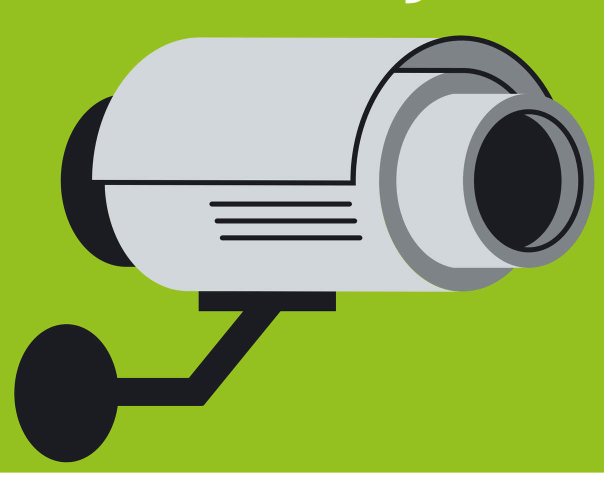
Variety exists in what the Parish Council offer can be. Dependent on what is negotiated with the Principal Authority, they can manage services including:

Allotments
(transferred from day one of a new parish council)

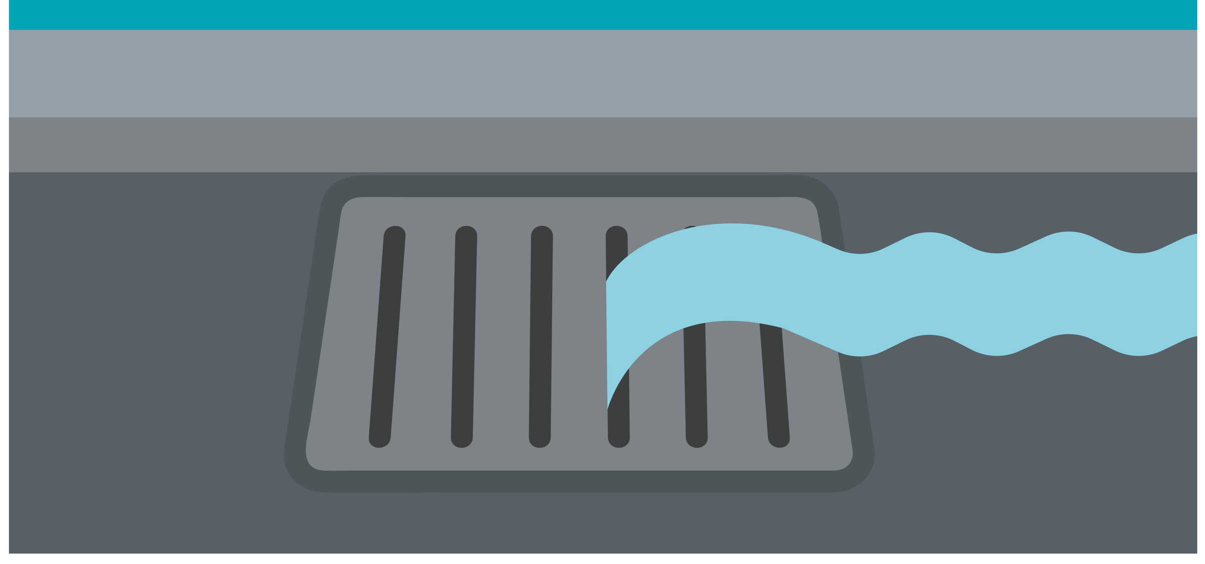
Cemeteries and Crematoriums

Community Centres

CCTV and Community Safety



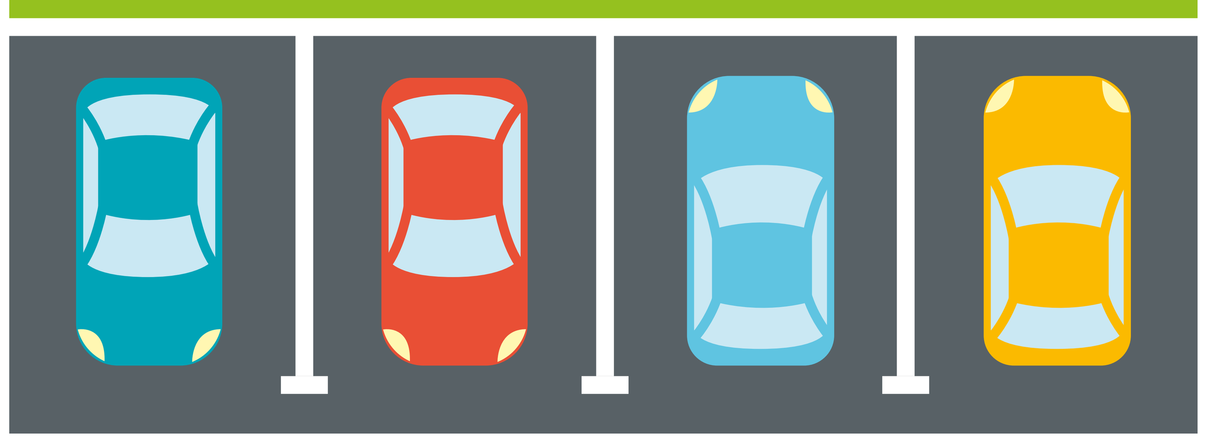
Drainage



Entertainment and the Arts

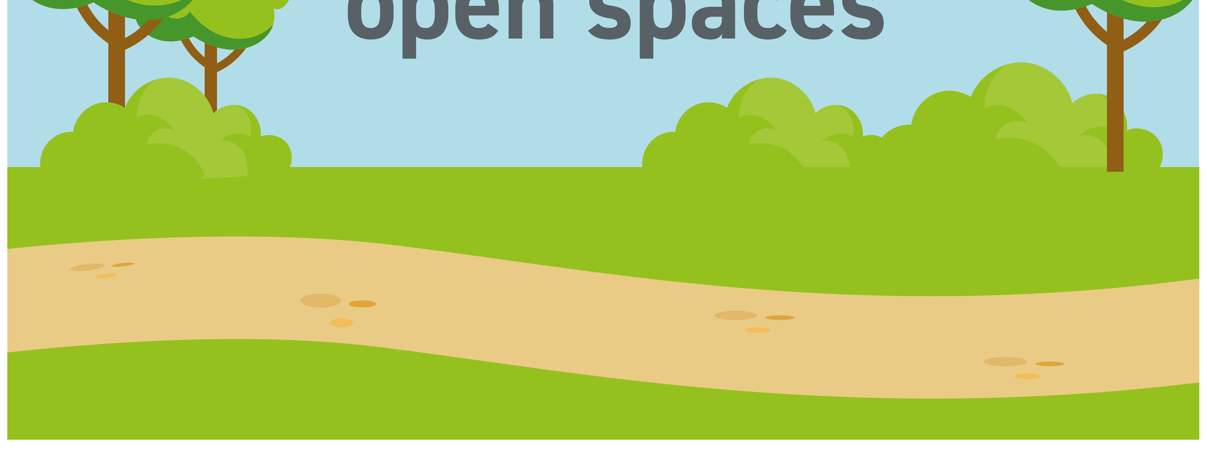
Street Maintenance

Car Parking
(Subject to consultation with Highway Authority)



Public conveniences

Parks, recreation grounds, and open spaces



Community Lottery

Planning consultation, neighbourhood planning

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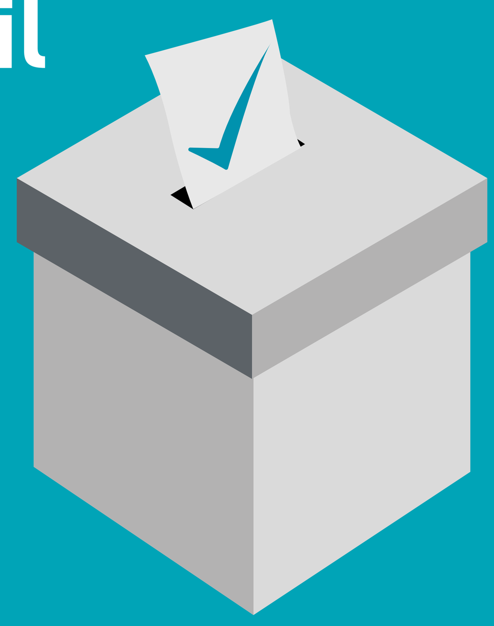
What form would a Parish Council take?

Although set processes would be followed in the establishment of a parish council, there is still variability in how some elements could work.

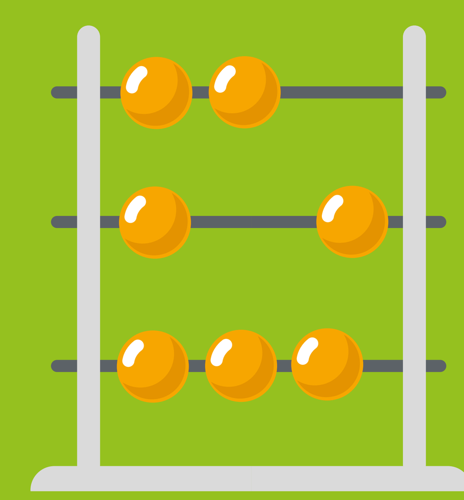
When would Parish Council elections take place?

Elections begin in May 2027 and then run every four years.



How many councillors would a Parish Council need?

A minimum of five councillors is required to run a parish council.

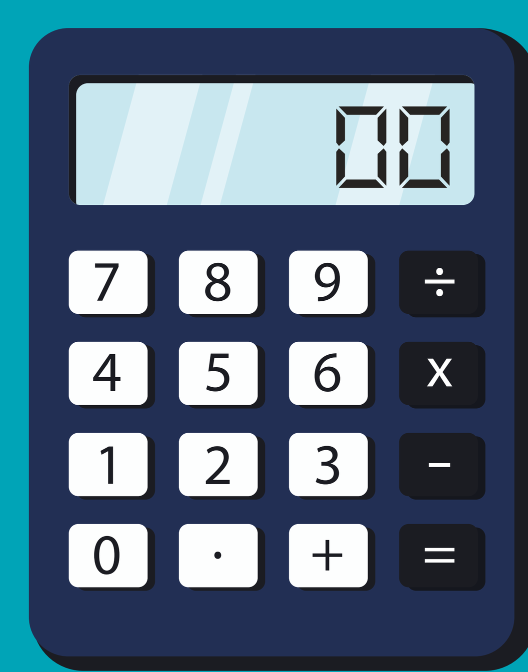


Will the level of responsibility dictate councillor numbers?

Yes- the number of councillors required should reflect the number of services the council will provide.

Does the level of finance dictate councillor numbers?

Yes - the number of councillors required should reflect the size of budget the council will manage.



Can other variables influence councillor numbers?

Possibly - the size and particular requirements of the community served by the council may inform the recommended number of councillors for the parish.

Can our community support the councillor numbers required?

Consideration – if relevant - may also be given to the difficulty of attracting sufficient candidates to stand as councillors when deciding.

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How will new governance be funded?

There will be a cost involved with implementing new governance, but it is too early to predict what this would be. It is reliant on the decisions made.

A Council Tax precept could be required

Precepts are set by councils to fund to meet their annual requirements and claimed through payment of Council Tax, as permitted by the Local Government Finance Act 1992. A new Parish Council would require an additional precept to the existing Council Tax bill to support its financial solvency.

Other sources of income could also be required

In addition to a Council Tax precept, a Parish Council can also raise funds through fees and charges for services provided, and securing grants. Fees and charges can be revised annually and are not subject to any maximum limits if increased.

There are financial costs to supporting councillors in their role

Although parish councillors do not receive an allowance - unlike borough, district, unitary and county councils - they are eligible to reclaim expenses for the work they undertake.

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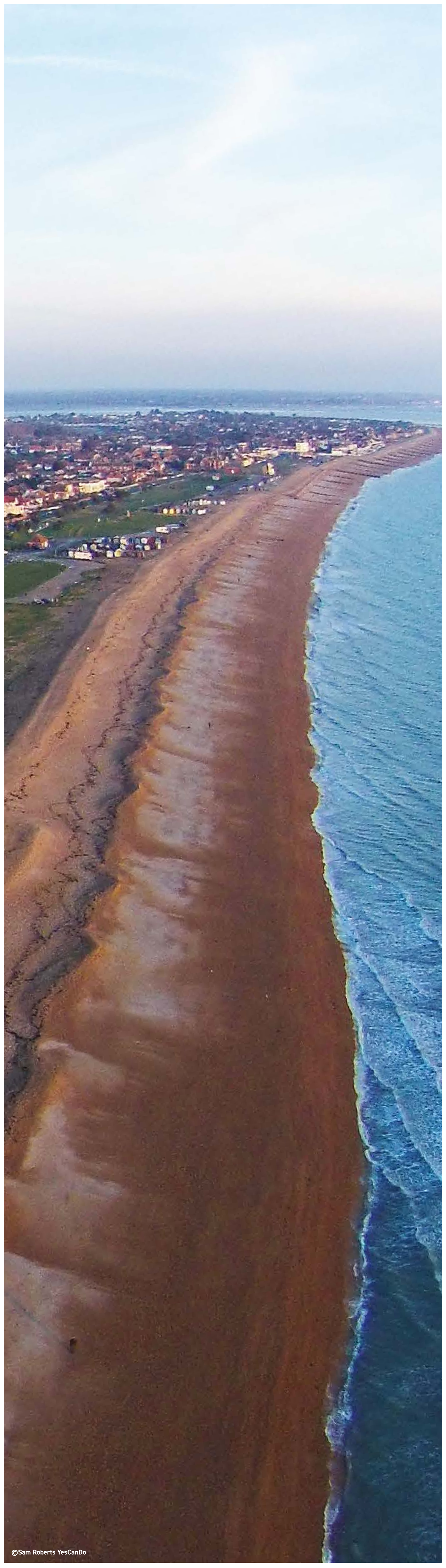
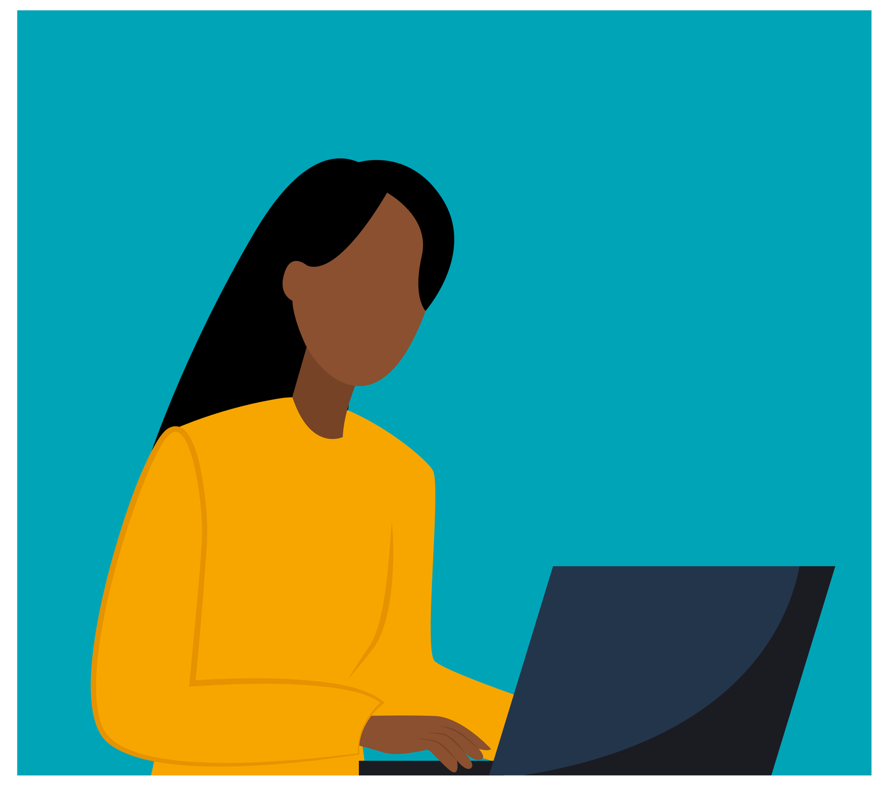
How do I take part?

There are a number of ways to feedback your views on the review. By participating, you can help influence the future face of local governance.



Complete our online survey at home

You can complete the online survey by following the link below or using the QR code any time before midnight on Monday 23 March.



Complete the online survey at today's event

If you would like assistance in completing the online survey, council staff at this event are happy to help. Tablets are available to complete the survey at this event, with staff available to guide you through the entire process.

Complete paper forms at today's event

If you would prefer to complete a paper form to provide feedback, just ask – staff at today's event will be happy to provide them. They can be completed at this event today or posted back before midnight on Monday 23 March.

It doesn't take long to share your thoughts!

You can share as much or as little of your thoughts on local governance when you contribute to this consultation. Times will vary as a result, but we recommend allowing 10 minutes to complete the survey.

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