

31 July 2017

## **Cherwell District Council Community Governance Review 2017 – Possible change in the number of Parish Councillors in some parishes**

Cherwell District Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review. This is the process that allows the Council to make changes to parishes, such as parish boundaries and numbers of parish councillors.

Five parish councils contacted Cherwell District Council, to ask for a review of their number of parish councillors. A working group of district councillors considered the requests, and made recommendations to full Council on 17 July 2017. Councillors agreed all of the recommendations and this is your opportunity to comment.

### **Fritwell Parish Council**

Fritwell Parish Council contacted Cherwell District Council and requested that consideration be given to increasing the number of councillors for the parish from six to seven.

The justification for the request is the increase in electorate during the 1990s, when significant development took place within the parish.

The last parish election for Fritwell was held in 2015, and there were seven candidates for the six seats.

The electorate for Fritwell on 1 December 2016 (annual publication of the new Electoral Register) was 548. Guidance from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) recommends a parish council of seven where the electorate is up to 900.

**On this basis, the recommendation is that number of parish councillors be increased by one so there would be seven parish councillors from the next scheduled election in Fritwell in 2019.**

### **Stratton Audley**

Stratton Audley Parish Council contacted Cherwell District Council and requested that consideration be given to increasing the number of councillors for the parish from five to seven.

The justification for the request is the increasing amount of work that the parish undertakes, and a larger council would also provide resilience in the event of holidays or sickness.

The last parish election for Stratton Audley was held in 2014, and there were five candidates for the five seats.

The electorate for Stratton Audley on 1 December 2016 was 349. Guidance from NALC recommends a parish council of seven where the electorate is up to 900.

**On this basis, the recommendation is that the number of parish councillors be increased by two, so there would be seven parish councillors from the next scheduled election in Stratton Audley in 2018.**

### **Tadmarton**

Tadmarton Parish Council contacted Cherwell District Council and requested that consideration be given to reducing the number of councillors for the parish from seven to six.

No justification has been provided for the request.

The last parish election for Tadmarton was held in 2014, and there were six candidates for the seven seats.

The electorate for Tadmarton on 1 December 2016 was 484. Guidance from NALC recommends a parish council of seven where the electorate is up to 900.

The working group feel that reducing the number of councillors could potentially cause issues with the quorum, in the event of holiday or sickness absence.

**On this basis, the recommendation is that the number of parish councillors for Tadmarton remains seven.**

### **Weston-on-the-Green**

Weston-on-the-Green Parish Council contacted Cherwell District Council and requested that consideration be given to increasing the number of councillors for the parish from seven to eight or nine.

The justification for the request is that the Neighbourhood Plan is nearing completion, and there would be additional work required to implement it as and when it is approved.

The last parish election for Weston-on-the-Green was held in 2014, and there were six candidates for the seven seats.

The electorate for Weston-on-the-Green on 1 December 2016 was 446. Guidance from NALC recommends a parish council of seven where the electorate is up to 900.

**On the basis of the justification from Weston-on-the-Green Parish Council the recommendation is that the number of parish councillors be increased by one, so there would be eight parish councillors from the next scheduled election in Weston-on-the-Green in 2018.**

## Yarnton

Yarnton Parish Council contacted Cherwell District Council and requested that consideration be given to increasing the number of councillors for the parish from nine to 10.

The justification for the request is the considerable increase in dwellings in Yarnton over the last 30 years, with no subsequent increase to the size of the parish council.

The last parish election for Yarnton was held in 2015, and there were seven candidates for the nine seats.

The electorate for Yarnton on 1 December 2016 was 2491. Guidance from NALC recommends a parish council of 10 where the electorate is between 2,001 and 2,700.

**On this basis, the recommendation is that the number of parish councillors be increased by one, so that there would be 10 parish councillors from the next scheduled election in Yarnton in 2019.**

### What happens next?

People now have the opportunity to tell the Council what they think of these recommendations.

Please complete the reply slip and send it back to us in the envelope provided. You don't need to use a stamp as Cherwell District Council will pay the postage.

Alternatively, you can send an email to [democracy@Cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@Cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk), or visit our webpage [www.cherwell.gov.uk/communitygovernance](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/communitygovernance) and click on the survey monkey link to reply electronically.

All written or emailed responses should reach us by **Friday 8 September 2017** to be taken into consideration. The online survey will close at 11:59pm on the same date.

Responses received will be considered by the working group of District Councillors, who will make a final set of recommendations that will be considered at the meeting of Full Council on Monday 16 October 2017.



**Tell us what you think of these recommendations**

Name.....  
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Address.....  
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You do not have to provide your full address if you do not wish, but please state which village you live in.

**Which recommendations are you commenting on?**

Fritwell

Stratton Audley

Tadmarton

Weston-on-the-Green

Yarnton

**Do you agree with the recommendations?**

Yes

No

**Please give a reason for your answer**

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**Would you like to make any further comments regarding these recommendations?  
(please continue over the page if necessary)**

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