

## **Adderbury Community Governance Review – Appendix 3**

Across the consultation responses there were a number of recurring themes and queries raised.

These themes and queries are detailed here, along with responses.

### **1. The cost of the Community Governance Review – who is paying for this?**

Cherwell District Council has a responsibility to carry out Community Governance Reviews (CGR). The costs of carrying out the reviews can be met from existing budgets.

### **2. Two parish councils would cost more for the residents, I would like to know more about the possible increase in my Council Tax**

Each parish council has to decide how much money it needs to run the parish, and how much of this would be raised from residents via the council tax.

If Adderbury Parish were separated into two parish councils, discussions would need to take place about the separation of services within the existing parish. Only then could each side calculate their budget, and possible changes to the council tax. It is not possible for Cherwell District Council to provide any information relating to this at this time.

### **3. The process for electing Councillors to the parish council needs changing, and we need to limit the length of time a person can serve on a parish council and be Chairman**

Elections to parish councils are run in accordance with requirements of the Electoral Commission. Each parish council has an election every four years, and people wishing to stand must meet one of the four criteria for being a candidate. Each prospective candidate completes a form, that has to be supported by two people in the parish.

If there are more candidates than available seats, a contested election takes place. If there are fewer candidates than seats, those who have completed a form are automatically elected to the council.

Cherwell District Council has no power to limit the amount of time a person serves on a parish council or as Chairman. If a person continues to meet the criteria for standing as a candidate they are eligible to stand.

More information relating to parish elections can be found on the [Electoral Commission website](#)

### **4. The petition submitted to the Council had been supported by a small proportion of the parish, was it a valid petition?**

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 is the legislation that gives Councils the power to carry out a CGR.

This Act also allows electors to submit a petition to their local Council, requesting that a CGR takes place.

A CGR petition has to be signed by a certain proportion of the electors for a parish. Electors are the people who are eligible to vote in local elections and appear on the Electoral Register.

Adderbury Parish has an electorate of 2,458. In line with the requirements of the Act, a CGR petition had to be signed by at least 187 electors. Democratic and Elections Officers checked the signatures on the petition against the Electoral Register, and there were 188 valid signatures. The Council therefore had an obligation to carry out the CGR.

#### **5. We have concerns over the Milton Road planning application**

Issues regarding Planning do not have an impact on CGRs. The Milton Road planning application has been considered by the Planning Committee and approved, therefore any concerns relating to the application should be raised with the planning department.

#### **6. There are issues with traffic calming and flooding in Adderbury that need addressing**

These issues would need to be raised with Oxfordshire County Council, as the relevant Council for highway and flooding issues in Oxfordshire. Adderbury Parish Council does not have the power to address issues of this nature themselves.