

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

A review of Parish electoral arrangements under the
Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Published 12 October 2026

You are invited to comment on these proposals, and/or
suggest alternative options by Sunday 15 November 2026

The consultation webpage can be found [here](#).

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1. INTRODUCTION

On 16 July 2026, Stroud District Council made the decision to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR) for the following Town and Parish Council areas:

- Brimscombe and Thrupp
- Chalford
- Frampton on Severn
- Great Oldbury
- Minchinhampton
- Standish
- Upton St Leonards

When conducting a CGR, councils are required to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). The guidance suggests that it is good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years.

A district-wide CGR took place in 2019, followed by a further review in 2022-23. As part of the 2022-23 review, Council agreed that a further CGR should be undertaken ahead of the next scheduled parish elections in May 2028. This decision was taken to allow time for new and developing communities to become established and for residents to be meaningfully consulted on whether governance arrangements remained appropriate. The review was intended to revisit a number of areas expected to be affected by development and changing community identities, including the areas of Brimscombe and Thrupp, Minchinhampton, Cam, Standish and Frampton on Severn.

Ahead of commencing this CGR, all Parish and Town Councils were asked if there had been any significant changes within their areas and whether they wished to be included within the CGR. As a result of this pre-engagement exercise, requests were received from Brimscombe and Thrupp, Chalford, Frampton on Severn and Great Oldbury. These requests included consideration of parish boundaries, councillor numbers and the governance arrangements associated with new and growing communities. Minchinhampton Parish Council advised through the pre-engagement survey that it did not wish to be included within the review, however due to the boundary proposal submitted by Brimscombe and Thrupp, they were included. Similarly, Standish Parish Council was also included within the review as a result of the proposal from Great Oldbury which would impact the boundary between the Parishes. Upton St Leonards Parish Council also requested inclusion within the review to enable consultation on community governance arrangements affecting the parish. However, proposals relating to the creation of a single parish council covering the whole of Coopers Edge fall outside the scope of a Community Governance Review and would instead require a Principal Area Boundary Review carried out by the LGBCE.

Whilst the 2022-2023 CGR identified Cam Parish Council as an area for further consideration, Cam Parish Council, as part of the pre-engagement survey advised that

development within the area had not progressed sufficiently since 2023 for a distinct community identity to be established and therefore was not included as part of this review.

1.1 What is a Community Governance Review?

A CGR is the process used to consider whether existing parish arrangements under the jurisdiction of the local authority should be changed in any way. CGR's can address the following:

- Altering the boundaries of existing boundaries
- Changing the names of existing parishes
- Creating or abolishing parish councils
- Merge existing parish councils
- The electoral arrangements for parish councils (including the number of councillors and arrangements for parish warding)
- The grouping or de-grouping of parish councils
- The “style” of a new parish

The aim of the review is to bring about improved and stronger community engagement, creating more cohesive communities, to improved better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services; ensuring electors across are treated equitably and fairly.

At a meeting of Full Council on 16 July 2026, the Council approved the Terms of Reference for the review and agreed to establish a Working Group to oversee the process and produce the draft recommendations following a period of consultation. The period for initial submissions closed on the 9 September 2026. The Council now publishes these draft recommendations and identifies proposals for parish arrangements (including both changes to, and retention of, existing arrangements) in response to the consultation comments received.

The CGR Working Group was made up of District Ward Councillors from the parish areas under review. The following Members attended the Working Group meetings:

Date of Meeting	Areas under consideration	Councillors in attendance
05/10/2026	• Chalford • Frampton on Severn • Great Oldbury • Standish	Cllr Chloe Turner (Chair) Cllr Helen Elliott-Boult Cllr Helen Fenton Cllr Mark Ryder Cllr Gill Thomas Cllr Tricia Watson
06/10/2026	• Brimscombe and Thrupp • Minchinhampton • Upton St Leonards	Cllr Chloe Turner (Chair) Cllr Helen Elliott-Boult Cllr Helen Fenton Cllr Gary Luff

1.2 What is the purpose of the draft recommendations?

The cross-party Member-led CGR Working Group, appointed for the purposes of formulating the review's Draft and Final Recommendations, reviewed all submissions received and met two times to consider the consultation responses. In preparing draft proposals the Council has been mindful of the initial submissions received, which are referred to in this document and attached as an appendix to these draft recommendations. The Council also has the role of balancing the submissions against the wider requirements and duties which are placed upon it by the Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. In particular the Council has a duty to ensure that community governance in its area:

- Reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area;
- Improves local democracy;
- Is effective and convenient, and;
- Takes into account any other, non-Parish, arrangements for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in the area.

The review offers two opportunities for residents to have their say. The first period of consultation has been undertaken, which forms the basis of these draft recommendations for consideration. Publication of these draft recommendations launches a second stage of consultation regarding the Council's proposals for the future of parish electoral arrangements and we welcome views from all stakeholders.

The deadline for responses to these draft recommendations is **Sunday 15 November 2026** after which the final proposals will be prepared and presented to the CGR Member Working Group responsible for overseeing the CGR process followed by consideration by full Council in December 2026.

1.3 Consideration of submissions

Thirty-Five consultation submissions were received as part of the first consultation period which indicated that there are strongly held views across the areas included for review. Appendix 1 contains the details of the consultation submissions received since the publication of the Terms of Reference.

Approximately a third of consultation submissions were largely supportive of the current electoral arrangements and did not propose any changes to current Parish arrangements.

All submissions received were reviewed and considered by the CGR Working Group. These draft recommendations were developed having regard to the evidence submitted and the extent to which the submissions received met the statutory criteria that community

governance arrangements should reflect the identities and interests of the local community and facilitate effective and convenient local government.

In formulating its draft recommendations, the Working Group identified a number of areas where it would welcome further evidence during the second consultation stage. In particular, the Working Group wishes to receive additional information relating to the proposed boundary amendment between Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish and Minchinhampton Parish (Brimscombe Ward). The Working Group would also welcome further evidence regarding whether the communities within Chalford Parish support exploring a change on name to Chalford and Bussage Parish Council and the proposal to amend the current parish warding arrangements and alter the number of parish councillors. This will assist the Working Group in determining whether the proposed changes would reflect community identity and interests and support effective and convenient local governance.

1.4 Councillor allocations – effectiveness of current Parish/Town Councils in representing their communities

The number of elected members on each Parish and Town Council was established in 1974 by the arrangements made under the Local Government Act 1972. Parish and Town Councils must have a minimum of five members, although most have more than this. There is no limit to the number of Councillors a Parish and Town Council may have and there are no strict guidelines in terms of the number of councillors per elector.

As there is no definitive number of Councillors per electorate, the CGR Working Group adopted the guidelines proposed by Aston Business Schools review published in 1992 of average Council sizes. The following table sets out the respective position for electorate of each Parish or Town Council:

Electorate	Number of Councillors
0 – 500	5 – 8
501 – 2,500	6 - 12
2,501 – 10,000	9 – 16
10,001 – 20,000	13 – 27

This approach was chosen to allow maximum flexibility and to ensure that each area could be considered on its own merits whilst taking into consideration the broad pattern of existing council sizes and elector demographics. The Working Group also had access to the Council and electorate sizes for all Parish and Town Councils in the Stroud District to help draw comparisons when considering making alterations to Councillor allocations. Consideration was also given to the average number of electors represented by each individual Councillor to identify any areas of relative over-or-under representation.

Whilst consistency across Councils is important, local circumstances are key in any decision and each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities. The Council has therefore needed to:

- pay particular attention to existing levels of representation,
- the broad pattern of existing Council size which have stood the test of time,
- the take-up of seats at elections and the number of vacant seats in its consideration of this matter; and
- the existing number of local government electors for a parish and any change in that number which is likely to occur in the period of five years from the start of the review.

1.5 The role of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Whilst Stroud District Council is the principal Council responsible for undertaking the CGR we are required to seek permission from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to agree and sanction any proposed changes prior to their implementation that have an impact on District or County boundaries.

We are required to seek consent as changes in parish boundaries that affect the boundaries of District wards and or County Council electoral divisions will be referred to the LGBCE with a recommendation that the appropriate changes be made to those boundaries.

Local Government Reorganisation adds uncertainty to the implementation of any recommendations affecting principal authority electoral boundaries. Whilst the Government's local government reorganisation programme has been paused, the future timetable for transition remains uncertain. As a result, there may be limited opportunity for any consequential changes to District ward or County division boundaries to be considered and implemented before any future shadow authority elections or reorganisation arrangements take effect.

Accordingly, where draft recommendations would result in consequential changes to District ward or County division boundaries, the Council will need to consider the practical implications for implementation.

1.6 Next steps of the Review

Before finalising the recommendations on the CGR we invite views on these draft recommendations. We welcome all comments relating to the proposed changes to parish boundaries, warding arrangements and Councillor allocations. We will consider all new evidence and comments regarding these prior to formulation of the final recommendations. As the final recommendations will be made in response to the outcome of the next consultation there is the possibility that they will significantly change these draft proposals.

If changes to the existing structure of community governance in the affected areas are being recommended, the Review will be completed when the Council adopts a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order, and any alterations are expected to come into effect on the 1 April 2028.

1.7 How to contact us or make a representation

If you have an interest in this review or are impacted by its outcome as a resident, Parish Council, local business or organisation the Council would like to hear your views and we invite submissions and comments by **Sunday 15 November 2026**.

Comments should be submitted to Electoral Services (CGR) They can be submitted either online in response to the survey, by letter, by email or by phone.

You can send your comments to:

Online: Using the online submission form at <https://letstalkstrouddistrict.uk.engagementhq.com/community-governance-review-2026-phase-2-consultation>

By Email: elections@stroud.gov.uk

By post: Electoral Services (CGR)
Stroud District Council
Ebley Mill
Ebley Wharf
Stroud
GL5 4UB

The deadline for receipt of comments is midnight on Sunday 15 November 2026.

1.8 Your personal details

Please note that your personal details supplied in your submission will be held in paper or data format by Stroud District Council for the purpose of this consultation under the Data Protection Act 2018. The information collected may be disclosed to officers and Members of the Council and its' partners involved in this consultation. Summarised information from the submission will be published, but no personal details will be disclosed under these circumstances. Your personal details will be safeguarded and will not be divulged to any other individuals or organisations for any other purposes. The information you provide shall be kept until the review has been completed and the recommendations implemented in May 2028, after which time your information will be destroyed. For further information about how your personal data is processed, please see sections [1-10](#) and section [13.5](#) of the Council's privacy notice for details affecting Electoral Services at www.stroud.gov.uk.

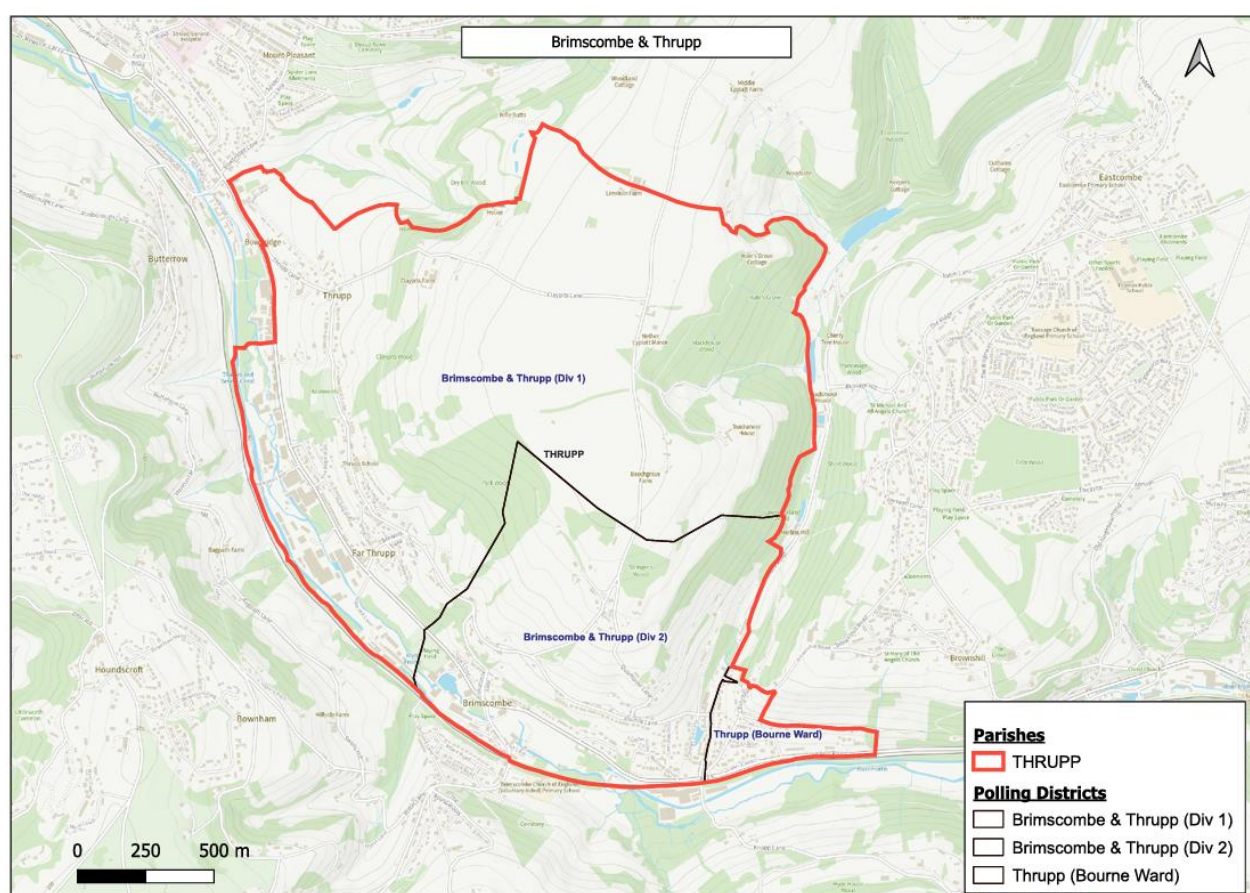
2. ANALYSIS AND DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 BRIMSCOMBE AND THRUPP PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish of Brimscombe and Thrupp has an electorate of 1,539 and is currently represented by nine Councillors and divided into two parish Wards.

Current Wards	No. Of Cllrs	Electorate
Brimscombe and Thrupp	8 Councillors	1,300
Bourne Ward	1 Councillor	239

Electorate growth is not expected to significantly increase within the current existing Parish boundary by 2031, the projected five-year electorate forecast is 1582. The current scale of representation indicates that Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council should have between 6 and 12 Councillors; the current arrangements are within the scale of representation.



Summary of submissions received

A detailed submission was received from Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council requesting an alteration to the parish boundary with Minchinhampton Parish Council (Brimscombe Ward). The Parish Council initially considered seeking the transfer of two areas from Minchinhampton Parish into Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish: the areas around Albert Road, Orchard Lane and Victoria Road, together with the areas around the

Wimberley Park and Dark Mills development sites. This was presented as part of their pre-engagement response in June 2026.

Following their own consultation with local residents, Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council confirmed that it no longer wished to pursue the transfer of the Albert Road, Orchard Lane and Victoria Road areas, in part due to the mixed views expressed by residents. Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council also acknowledged that Minchinhampton Parish Council had financial commitments surrounding the restoration of the playing field and believed that the area should therefore remain within Minchinhampton Parish. However, the Parish Council confirmed that they wished to continue to pursue the boundary amendment relating to the area around the Wimberley Park and Dark Mills developments. This was due to the geographical relationship of the sites with Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish, their limited and poor road access from Minchinhampton and the expectation that future residents would primarily use infrastructure associated with Brimscombe and Thrupp. These developments would therefore form a natural extension to Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish.

A comprehensive submission was also received from Minchinhampton Parish Council opposing any amendment to the existing parish boundary between Minchinhampton and Brimscombe and Thrupp Parishes. Minchinhampton Parish Council highlighted that insufficient evidence had been presented to justify a boundary change, noting that similar proposals had been considered during previous Community Governance Reviews. It also highlighted the significant investment planned for the Albert Road Playing Field, the lack of overwhelming support for change from affected residents and the fact that future residents of the Wimberley Park and Dark Mills developments are not yet able to express a view on their community identity. The Parish Council therefore supported retaining the existing boundary unless compelling evidence for change emerged through the review process. Details of the response from Minchinhampton Parish and residents can also be found in section 2.5 on pages 22-24.

A further nine submissions were received which related to the alteration of the boundaries between Brimscombe and Thrupp and Minchinhampton Parishes. A number of residents supported transferring the Albert Road, Orchard Lane and Victoria Road areas into Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish. The reasons cited included community identity, use of local facilities, the location of Brimscombe Church and Brimscombe C of E Primary School, and the view that the current railway line boundary does not reflect the community on the ground. Brimscombe C of E Primary School Governors also supported the proposal to be transferred from Minchinhampton into Brimscombe and Thrupp arguing that a transfer would provide greater clarity and community cohesion.

However, there were submissions from other residents who opposed any change and expressed a preference to remain within Minchinhampton Parish. These respondents highlighted their use of facilities and services within Minchinhampton, existing community links and their appreciation of the role played by Minchinhampton Parish Council.

Submissions from the local County Councillor and a District Councillor expressed support for further exploration of the proposals and consultation with residents.

Draft recommendations

The Working Group spent considerable time considering the submissions received from Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council, Minchinhampton Parish Council, and local residents.

The Working Group acknowledged that Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council had refined its original proposal as part of the pre-engagement exercise, following consultation with residents and no longer sought the transfer of Albert Road, Orchard Lane, Victoria Road, the play area and lower Brimscombe Hill. However, a number of consultation responses highlighted the strong community links between the affected area and Brimscombe Church and Brimscombe C of E Primary School with the wider Brimscombe community.

The Working Group also considered the proposal relating to the areas around the Wimberley Park and Dark Mills development sites and noted that no residents currently occupy these sites. Whilst this limits the evidence available regarding community identity, the Group highlighted that the sites are geographically more closely associated with Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish due to topography and they considered that future residents would be likely to access local facilities and services within Brimscombe.

In considering the submissions received, the Working Group had regard to whether any boundary amendment would reflect the identities and interests of local communities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. Members recognised that there were strongly held views both in support of and in opposition to the proposal and that differing evidence had been presented by Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council, Minchinhampton Parish Council and local residents.

On balance, the Working Group considered that there was sufficient evidence to justify consulting further on a proposal to amend the boundary between Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish and Minchinhampton Parish for both the Albert Road, Orchard Lane, Victoria Road areas and the Wimberley Park and Dark Mills development site areas. In reaching this view, the Group noted the physical relationship between the affected area and Brimscombe, the location of Brimscombe Church and Brimscombe C of E Primary School, and the case presented regarding the future Wimberley Park and Dark Mills developments.

However, the Working Group also recognised that consultation responses from residents were finely balanced and that it had not received sufficient evidence at this stage to be fully satisfied that the proposed amendment would best reflect the identities and interests of the communities concerned. Members were particularly mindful of the need for further representations from residents living within the affected area of Brimscombe Hill. The Working Group also noted that the Wimberley Park and Dark Mills developments are not yet occupied and that future residents have therefore had no opportunity to express a view on the community with which they identify or the parish they wish to be represented by.

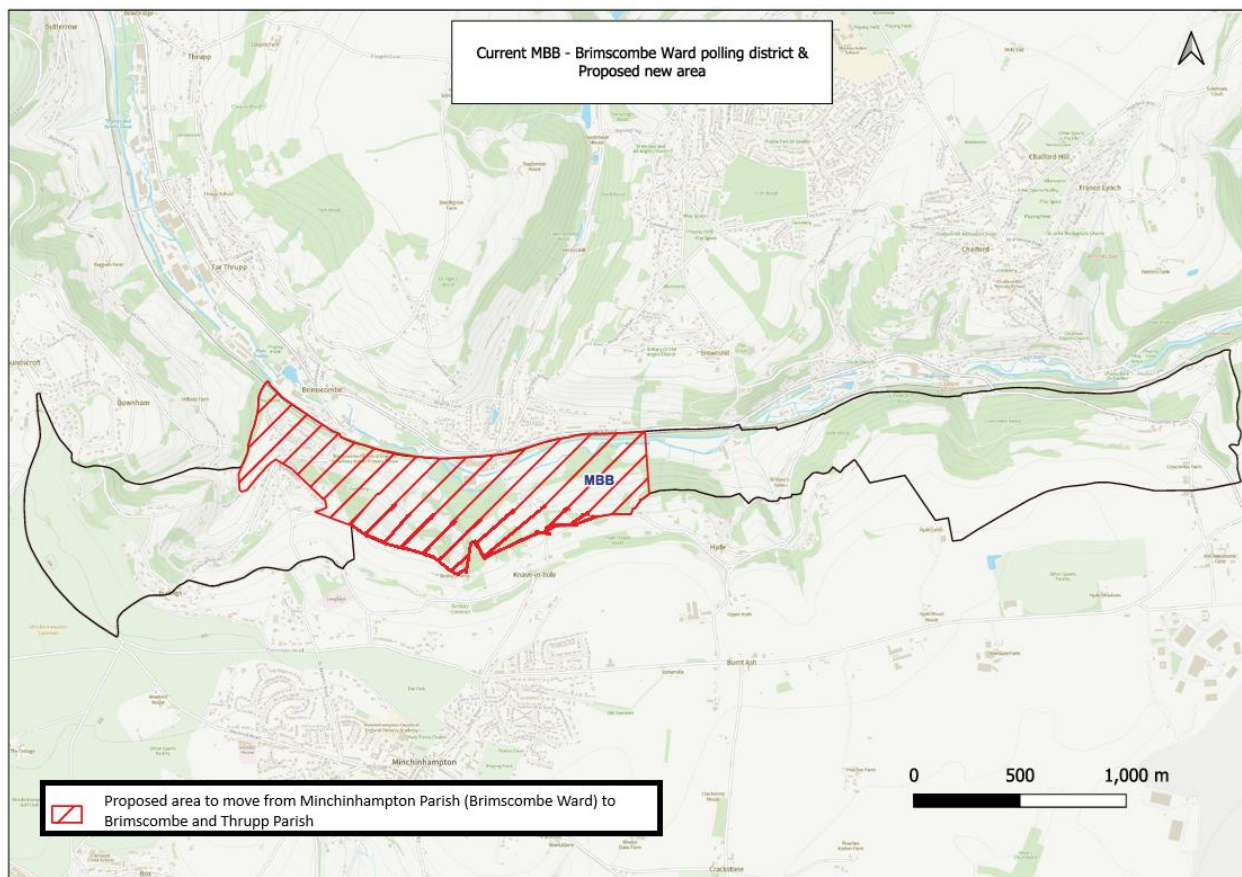
The Working Group considered it appropriate to publish draft recommendations supporting the proposed boundary amendment for both the Albert Road, Orchard Lane and Victoria Road area and Wimberley Park and Dark Mills sites to seek further representations through the second consultation stage. In particular, the Group would welcome additional representations regarding community identity, local connections, use of local facilities and services, and whether the proposed boundary amendment would better reflect the identities and interests of local communities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.

The Working Group considered that the second consultation stage would provide an important opportunity to test the draft recommendations with those most directly affected before final recommendations are prepared.

It is recommended that:

- a) The boundary between Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council and Minchinhampton Parish Council (Brimscombe Ward) be amended as shown on Map 1 to transfer the Albert Road, Orchard Land and Victoria Road area, together with Wimberley Park and Dark Mills development sites, into Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council (Brimscombe and Thrupp Division 2).**
- b) The Working Group invites further representations during the second consultation stage from residents and stakeholders within the affected area regarding whether the proposed boundary amendment would better reflect the identities and interests of the community and facilitate effective and convenient local government.**
- c) No changes are proposed at this stage to the current allocation of NINE Parish Councillors for Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council. However, the Working Group would welcome further representations on whether the existing councillor allocation would continue to provide fair and effective representation should the proposed boundary amendment be implemented.**

Map 1: proposed boundary amendment to Minchinhampton (Brimscombe Ward) as outlined in red

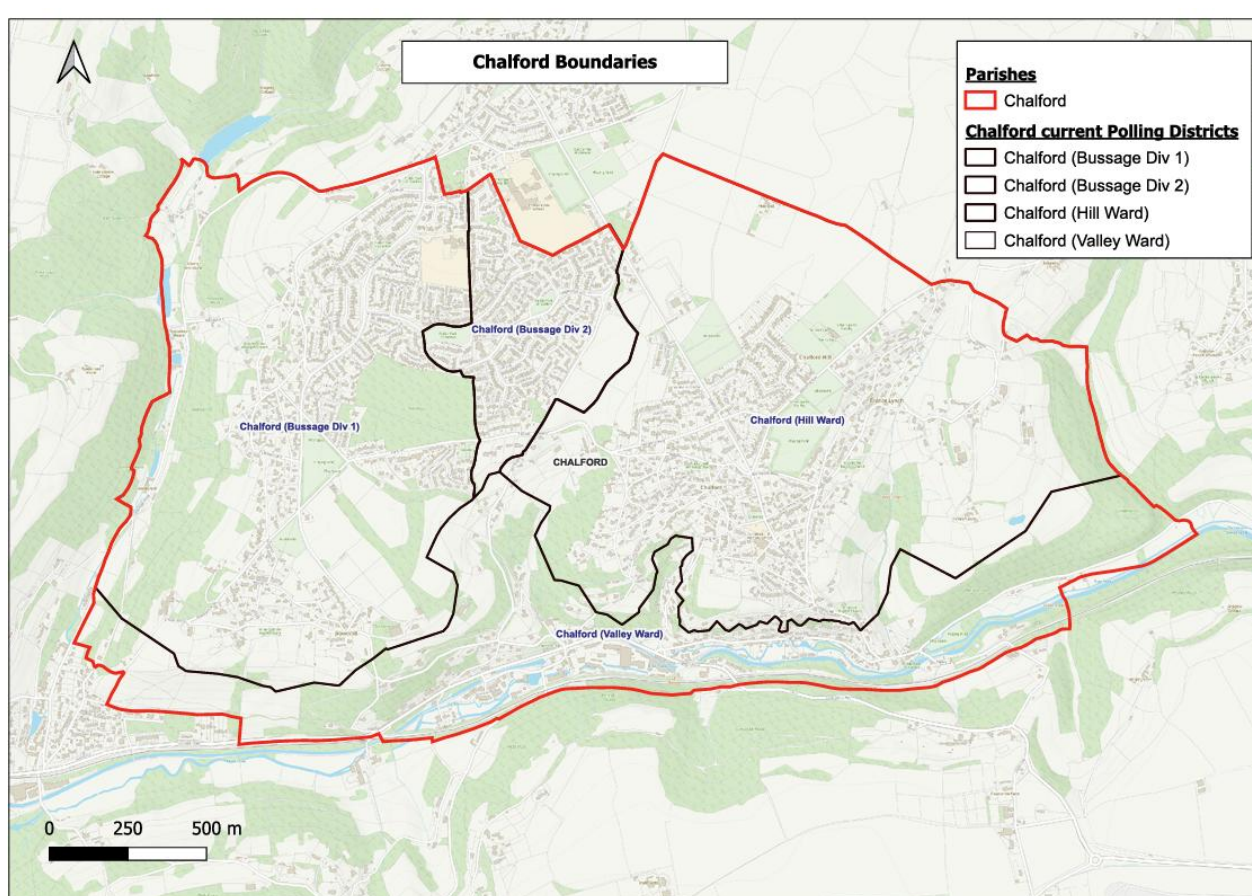


2.2 CHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish of Chalford has an electorate of 4,943 and is currently represented by fifteen Councillors and has three wards.

Current Wards	No. Of Cllrs	Electorate
Bussage Ward	7 Councillors	2928
Hill Ward	6 Councillors	1538
Valley Ward	2 Councillors	477

Minor electorate growth is expected within the current existing Parish boundary by 2031, the projected five-year electorate forecast is 5,008. The current scale of representation indicates that Chalford should have between 9 and 16 Councillor; the current arrangements are within the scale of representation.



Summary of submissions received

Eleven consultation responses were received during the first phase of consultation.

A detailed consultation response was received from Chalford Parish Council requesting a reduction in the number of Parish Councillors and a review of the existing Parish Ward Boundaries. The parish council highlighted significant variations in the elector-to-councillor ratios across the existing wards and advised that it had not been able to maintain a full complement of councillors for several years. The Parish Council proposed that consideration be given to reducing councillor numbers and merging Hill Ward and Valley

Ward to provide fairer and more effective representation. The submission also highlighted that no contested parish elections had taken place for many years and that there were currently vacant seats on the Parish Council.

A further three consultation responses, comprising two residents and the District Councillor for Chalford, supported the Parish Council's proposal to amend the warding arrangements and reduce councillor numbers. Respondents considered that the current warding arrangements do not provide equitable representation between wards and supported combining Hill Ward and Valley Ward.

Two further responses supported a reduction in councillor numbers. The County Councillor for Chalford considered that the Parish Council was best placed to determine the most appropriate number of councillors required, whilst a resident considered that the current council was larger than necessary. Three consultation responses, comprising two residents and a local community group, requested no change to the current governance arrangements.

A single consultation response was received requesting to alter the boundaries between Minchinhampton and Bisley & Painswick County Division due to the Parish of Chalford being split between two County Divisions.

One consultation response proposed a more fundamental review of the parish, including a reduction in councillor numbers, alterations to existing ward arrangements and the creation of separate parish councils for the communities currently within the parish. The submission argued that Chalford Parish Council covers a number of distinct communities with differing identities and considered that the current council is larger than required for effective governance

Draft recommendations

The Working Group carefully considered the submissions received regarding councillor numbers, warding arrangements and future arrangements for the parish.

The Working Group adopted the Councillor allocation guidelines recommended by Aston Business School. Within these guidelines, consideration could be given to reducing the number of Parish Councillors whilst remaining within the recommended scale of representation.

Particular consideration was given to the proposal submitted by Chalford Parish Council to merge Hill Ward and Valley Ward. The Working Group noted the disparity in elector-to-councillor ratios across the existing wards and the evidence provided regarding the similarities between Hill Ward and Valley Ward in terms of demographic characteristics, community identity, housing patterns and local infrastructure. Members also acknowledged that the Parish Council has not maintained a full complement of councillors for a number of years, that elections have frequently been uncontested and that there are currently vacant seats on the Council.

Whilst the Working Group recognised that additional evidence would be beneficial, Members considered that there was sufficient evidence at this stage to support draft

recommendations to merge Hill Ward and Valley Ward. The Working Group also considered the overall councillor allocation for the parish. Having regard to the Aston Business School guidance and the evidence submitted, Members considered that Bussage Ward should retain its current allocation of seven councillors and that the proposed merged ward should return six councillors, resulting in a reduction in the overall councillor allocation from fifteen to thirteen. The Working Group considered that these proposals may provide more consistent representation across the parish whilst continuing to facilitate effective and convenient local government. The proposal would remove the existing Hill Ward and Valley Ward and replace them with a single ward. For the purposes of consultation, "Chalford Ward" is proposed as an appropriate title for the merged ward, although the working group would welcome feedback on these proposals and any alternative suggestions before final recommendations are prepared.

Members also recognised that the evidence submitted to date has focused principally on councillor numbers and electoral representation and that limited evidence had been received regarding community identity, the practical implications of the proposed ward merger and whether a reduction in councillor numbers is justified having regard to the planned or actual level of service provision undertaken by the Parish Council. The Working Group would therefore welcome further evidence and representations during the second consultation stage, particularly in relation to the relationship between Hill Ward and Valley Ward, the identity of those communities and the appropriate level of representation for any revised ward structure.

The Working Group also reviewed the proposal to create a separate Parish Council for Bussage. Whilst Members acknowledged the distinct identity of Bussage and the views expressed regarding local accountability, they did not consider that sufficient evidence had been submitted to justify the creation of a new parish at this time. The Working Group considered that the current parish arrangements remain effective and that further subdivision of the parish could create unnecessary complexity, particularly given that the parish is already split across two County Divisions. Members also considered whether any new parish council could sustain effective representation and maintain sufficient councillor numbers in the future.

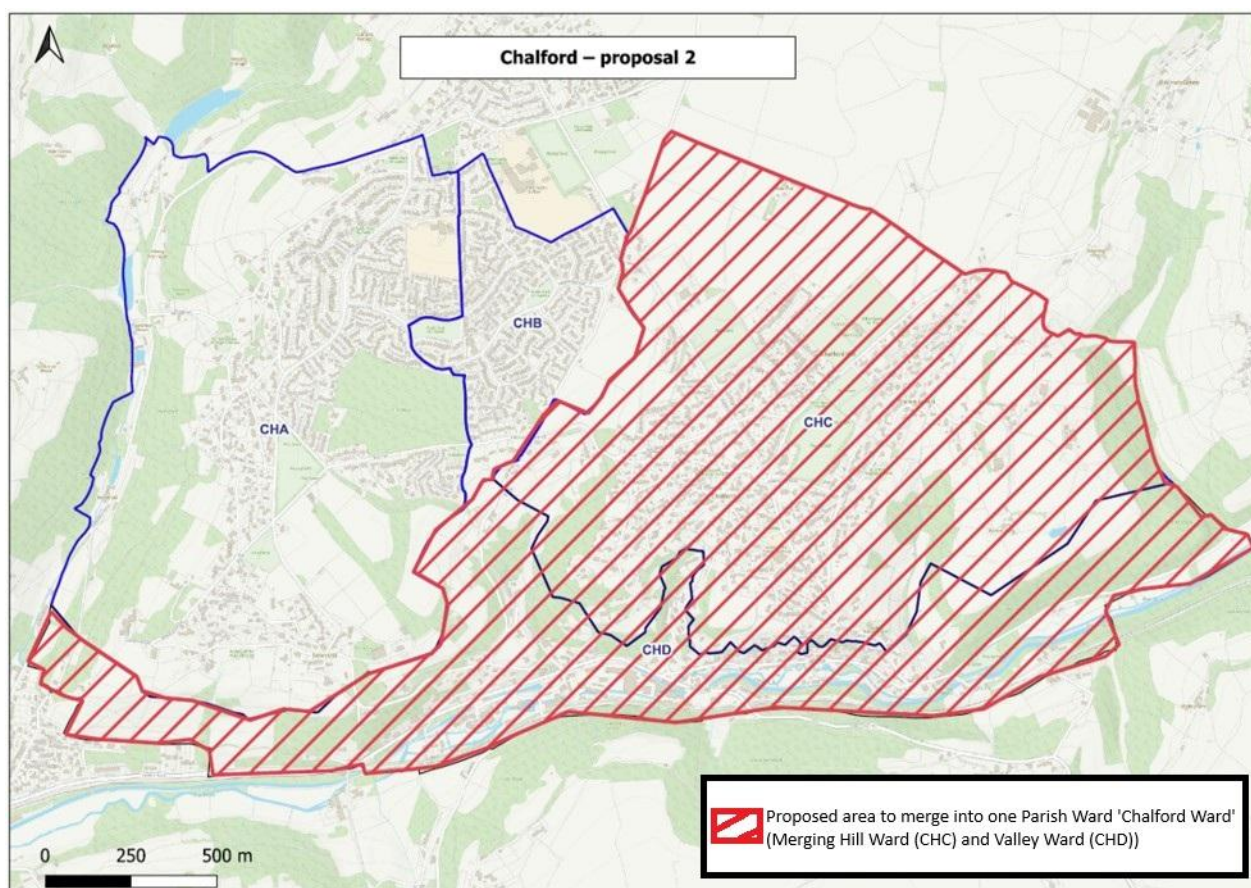
However, the Working Group did consider whether the name of the Parish Council should better reflect the communities represented within the parish. Members recognised that Bussage could be considered a distinct community within the parish and agreed that further views should be sought on a proposal to rename the parish as "Chalford and Bussage Parish Council" to ensure that the communities within Bussage Ward are appropriately recognised within the parish. The Working Group would welcome feedback from residents before reaching any final recommendation on this matter.

The Working Group considered that the second consultation stage would provide an important opportunity to test the draft recommendations and gather further evidence before final recommendations are prepared.

It is recommended that:

- a) The existing Parish Hill Ward and Valley Ward be merged into a single Parish Ward known as 'Chalford Ward', as shown on Map 2;
- b) The allocation of Parish Councillors for the proposed Chalford Ward, named in recommendation a) above, is reduced from EIGHT to SIX;
- c) There is no change to the existing Bussage Ward Councillor allocations or boundaries; and
- d) The Working Group invites further representations during the second consultation stage regarding whether there is support amend the name of the Parish to 'Chalford and Bussage Parish Council'.

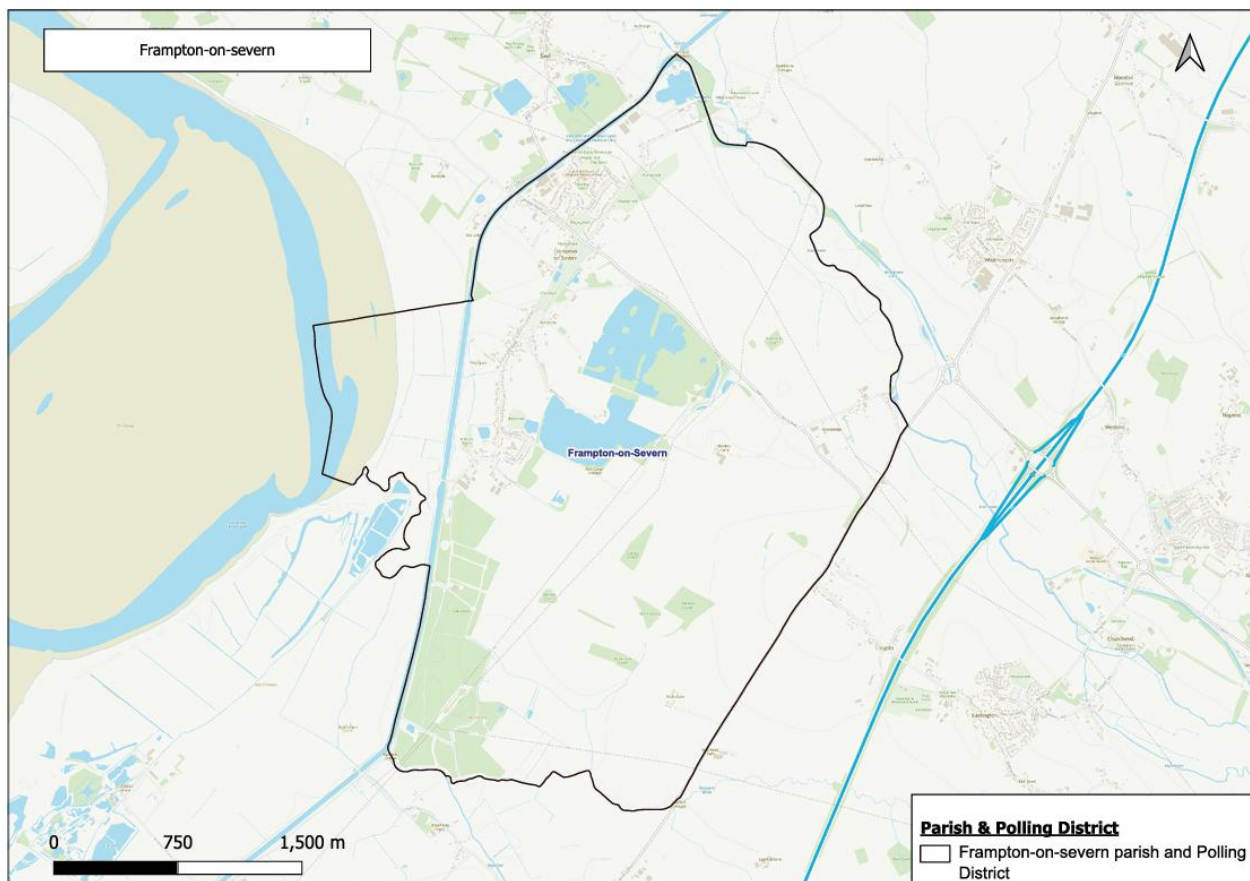
Map 2: proposed boundary amendment to Chalford Hill Ward (CHC) and Valley Ward (CHD).



2.3 FRAMPTON ON SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish of Frampton on Severn has an electorate of 1090 and is currently represented by ten Councillors and has no Parish Wards.

Electorate growth is not expected within the current existing Parish boundary by 2031, the projected five-year electorate forecast is 1,096. The current scale of representation indicates that Frampton on Severn should have between 6 and 12 Councillors; the current arrangements are within the scale of representation.



Summary of submissions received

Four consultation responses were received during the first phase of the consultation. A detailed submission was received from Frampton on Severn Parish Council requesting a reduction in the number of Parish Councillors from ten to nine. The Parish Council advised that the number of councillors was increased from nine to ten as part of the previous Community Governance Review to support a number of significant projects. However, the Parish Council currently has three vacancies and considered that a reduction to nine councillors would better reflect current levels of participation whilst continuing to provide effective governance.

A submission was also received from the District Councillor for Severn Ward supporting the proposal to reduce councillor numbers. The submission noted the difficulties experienced by the Parish Council in filling vacancies and considered that the ratio of electors to councillors was lower than in many comparable parishes.

One resident supported retaining the current arrangements. A separate submission proposed a boundary amendment between Frampton on Severn and Fretherne with Saul Parish Councils in relation to Saul Warth and Frampton Court Estate, arguing that the area forms part of a wider environmental and land management area associated with the Severn Estuary and would benefit from representation by a single parish council.

One resident supported retaining the current arrangements. A separate submission from a resident proposed a boundary amendment between the Parishes of Frampton on Severn and Fretherne with Saul specifically around Saul Warth and Frampton Court Estate relating to ownership of land and environmental considerations and protocols relating to the Severn Estuary and RAMSAR site.

Draft recommendations

The Working Group carefully considered the proposal to decrease the number of Councillors.

The Working Group adopted the Councillor allocation guidelines recommended by Aston Business School and noted that a reduction to nine councillors would remain within the recommended scale of representation. Members were mindful that the previous Community Governance Review had increased the allocation from nine to ten councillors. However, the Working Group acknowledged that the circumstances which had justified that increase had changed and that the Parish Council currently had three vacant seats which it had been unable to fill.

The Working Group considered that a council of nine members would continue to provide effective and convenient local government. Members also agreed that an odd number of Councillors offers practical advantages in decision making and would maintain an appropriate level of representation for the size of the parish, they therefore agreed that a reduction from ten to nine Councillors was justified.

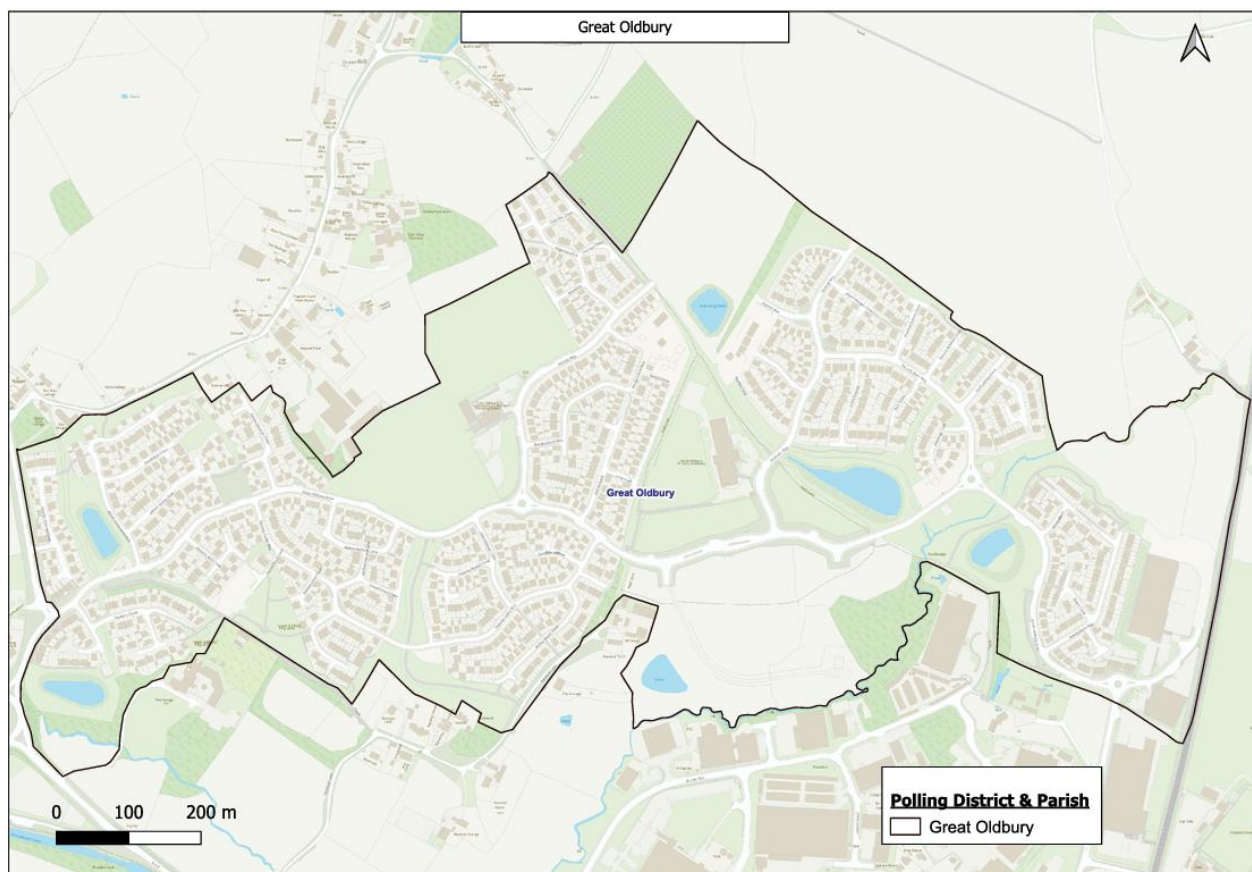
The Working Group reviewed the submission relating to a potential boundary amendment between Frampton on Severn and Fretherne with Saul Parish Councils. However, as Fretherne with Saul Parish Council were not included within the Terms of Reference for this CGR, the Working Group did not consider it appropriate to make a recommendation as part of this review and agreed that it would be too late to expand the review criteria to include additional areas.

It is recommended that the number of Parish Councillors be decreased from TEN to NINE.

2.4 GREAT OLDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish of Great Oldbury has an electorate of 1989 and is currently represented by seven Councillors and has no Parish Wards.

Significant electorate growth is expected in the parish by 2031, the projected five year forecasted electorate is 2,624. The scale of representation indicates that Great Oldbury should have between 6 and 12 Councillors; the current arrangements are within the scale of representation.



Summary of submissions received

A comprehensive submission was received from Great Oldbury Parish Council requesting an increase in Councillors from seven to nine. The Parish Council advised that since its creation in 2023, the parish had experienced significant growth and that the workload for parish councillors including representing residents, responding to planning matters, engaging with community groups and overseeing local projects has increased substantially. The Parish Council considered that increasing the number of councillors would improve resilience, reduce reliance on a small number of Councillors and increase opportunities for community representation and engagement. The submission also included a proposal to amend the existing boundary with Standish Parish Council in relation to the proposed PS19a Local Plan site allocation.

A submission was also received from a District Councillor for Severn Ward supporting an increase in Councillor numbers and they also supported exploring the future governance

arrangements of the PS19a site. Whilst acknowledging that no planning permission has yet been granted and that the site remains undeveloped, the submission considered that PS19a may ultimately form a natural extension of the Great Oldbury community and should therefore be considered as part of the review

Submissions were received from Standish Parish Council and a District Councillor for Hardwicke Ward opposing any alteration to the parish boundary relating to the PS19a site. Both submissions considered that it would be premature to alter the boundary before any development had taken place and before future residents had the opportunity to express a view regarding their community identity and governance arrangements. Standish Parish Council also highlighted the site's importance to its emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan and requested that the existing boundary remain unchanged. Details relating to the boundary between Great Oldbury and Standish Parish Councils are also briefly outlined in section 2.6 of this report, which can be found on pages 25-26 below.

Draft recommendations

The Working Group carefully considered the proposal to increase the number of Parish Councillors. The Working Group adopted the Councillor allocation guidelines recommended by Aston Business School and noted that an increase to nine Councillors would remain within the recommended scale of representation. Particular consideration was given to the significant growth experienced within Great Oldbury since the parish was established in 2023 and the continued growth forecast over the coming years.

The Working Group recognised that Great Oldbury Parish Council has become increasingly established since its creation and noted the development of community infrastructure, including Great Oldbury Primary Academy and the Community Centre, which have contributed to the development of a distinct community identity within the parish. The Group also acknowledged the evidence submitted by the Parish Council regarding increasing workloads, governance responsibilities and community engagement activity.

The Working Group considered that increasing the number of Parish Councillors would improve resilience, broaden community representation and assist in ensuring the continuation of effective and convenient local government as the parish continues to grow. Members also considered that an allocation of nine Councillors would provide sufficient capacity to support future growth whilst remaining proportionate to the current and forecast electorate.

The Working Group discussed the Local Plan site PS19a and consideration was given as to whether it should be transferred to the Parish of Great Oldbury following a submission from the Parish Council and reference from a District Councillor at the first consultation phase. As the site is located within Standish Parish Council, the assessment of this proposal is considered under section 2.6 of this report, which can be found on pages 25-26 below.

It is recommended that:

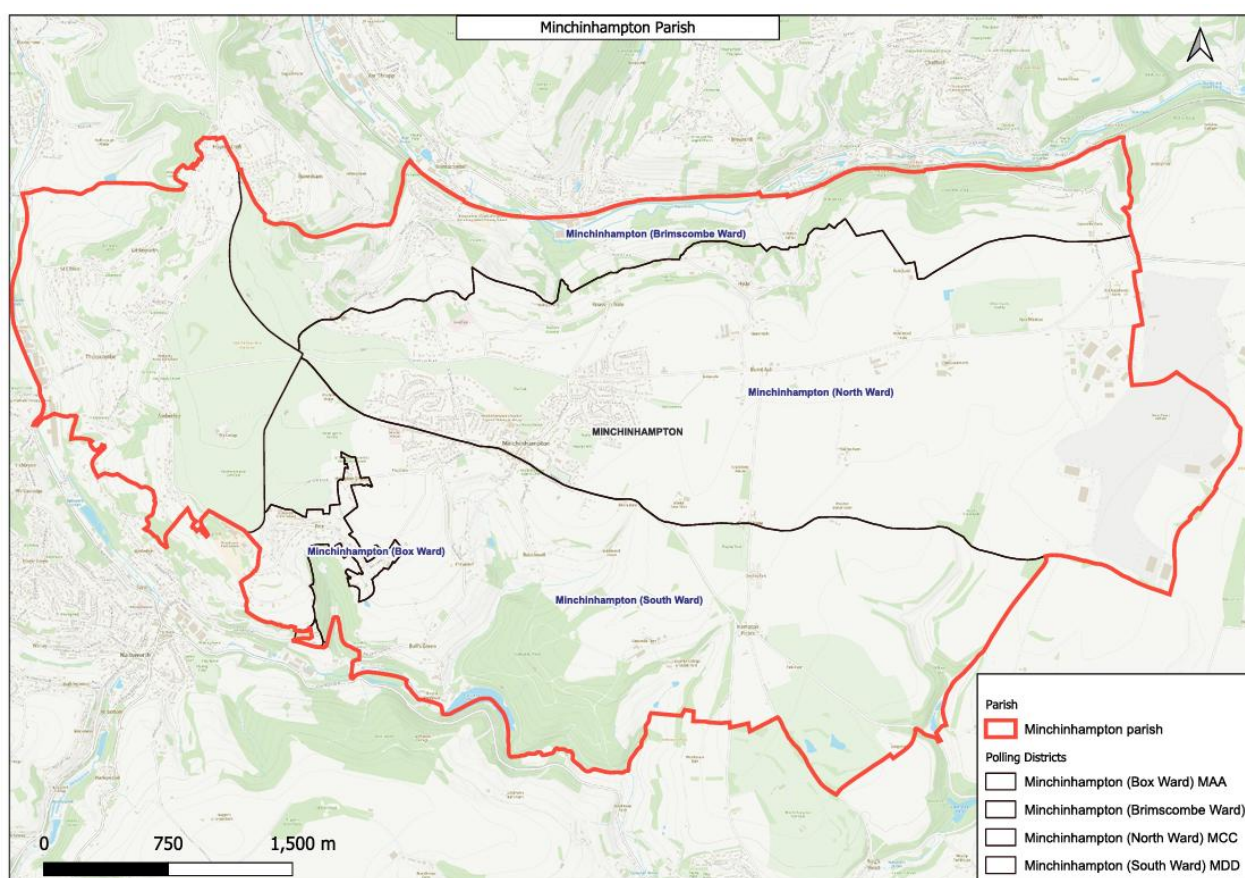
- a. The number of Parish Councillors be increased from SEVEN to NINE.**
- b. No change is made to the boundary between Standish Parish and Great Oldbury Parish.**

2.5 MINCHINHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish of Minchinhampton has an electorate of 4,432 and is currently represented by fifteen Councillors and is made up of five Parish Wards.

Current Wards	No. Of Cllrs	Electorate
Amberley Ward	2 Councillors	777
Box Ward	1 Councillor	279
Brimscombe Ward	3 Councillors	536
North Ward	6 Councillors	2076
South Ward	3 Councillors	764

There is expected elector growth predicted before 2031 within Minchinhampton Parish Council, the projected five year forecasted electorate is 4,643. The scale of representation indicates that Minchinhampton should have between 9 and 16 Councillors; the current arrangements are within the scale of representation.



Summary of submissions received

A comprehensive submission was received from Minchinhampton Parish Council opposing any proposed alteration to the boundary between the Parishes of Minchinhampton and Brimscombe and Thrupp. The Parish Council raised concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposals on community identity, democratic representation, community assets and the future financial sustainability of both Parish Councils, in particular around the Albert Road Playing field and the financial commitment Minchinhampton Parish Council has made. The Parish Council also undertook its own consultation with residents regarding

the proposed changes, they advised that the responses received did not demonstrate overwhelming support either for or against a boundary change and considered that there was no compelling community driven case for altering the existing arrangements at this stage.

Minchinhampton Parish Council also made reference to the development sites at Wimberley Park and Dark Mills, they noted that the sites are not yet occupied and argued that future residents should be given an opportunity to express a view regarding the parish with which they wished to be associated before any boundary changes are made. It also referenced previous Community Governance Reviews carried out by the Council that had reached similar conclusions.

There was one submission from a resident who supported no change.

A further nine submissions were received which jointly related to the alteration of boundaries between Minchinhampton and Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council. Whilst the submissions were predominantly from residents living within the Minchinhampton Parish, as they relate to the proposal from Brimscombe and Thrupp, further detail of these responses can be found in section 2.1 on pages 8-12 under Brimscombe and Thrupp.

Draft recommendations

As nearly all the consultation responses related to the proposed boundary amendment proposal from Brimscombe and Thrupp, the Working Groups draft recommendations regarding any boundary changes can be found in section 2.1 on pages 8-12 under 'Brimscombe and Thrupp'.

Should the final recommendations support the transfer of the Albert Road, Orchard Lane and Victoria Road areas, together with the areas around the Wimberley Park and Dark Mills development sites, from Minchinhampton Parish to Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish, changes would need to be considered to the existing Minchinhampton Brimscombe Ward. In such circumstances, it may be appropriate for the remaining area of Minchinhampton Brimscombe Ward to be incorporated into Minchinhampton North Ward, with a corresponding increase in councillor representation to reflect the enlarged electorate and to ensure effective and convenient local government. As part of the second consultation stage, the Working Group would welcome the views of Minchinhampton Parish Council, local residents and other interested parties on whether this approach would provide fair and effective representation, whether any alternative warding arrangements should be considered should the proposed boundary amendments be implemented and the appropriate number of councillors required to represent the area.

It is recommended that:

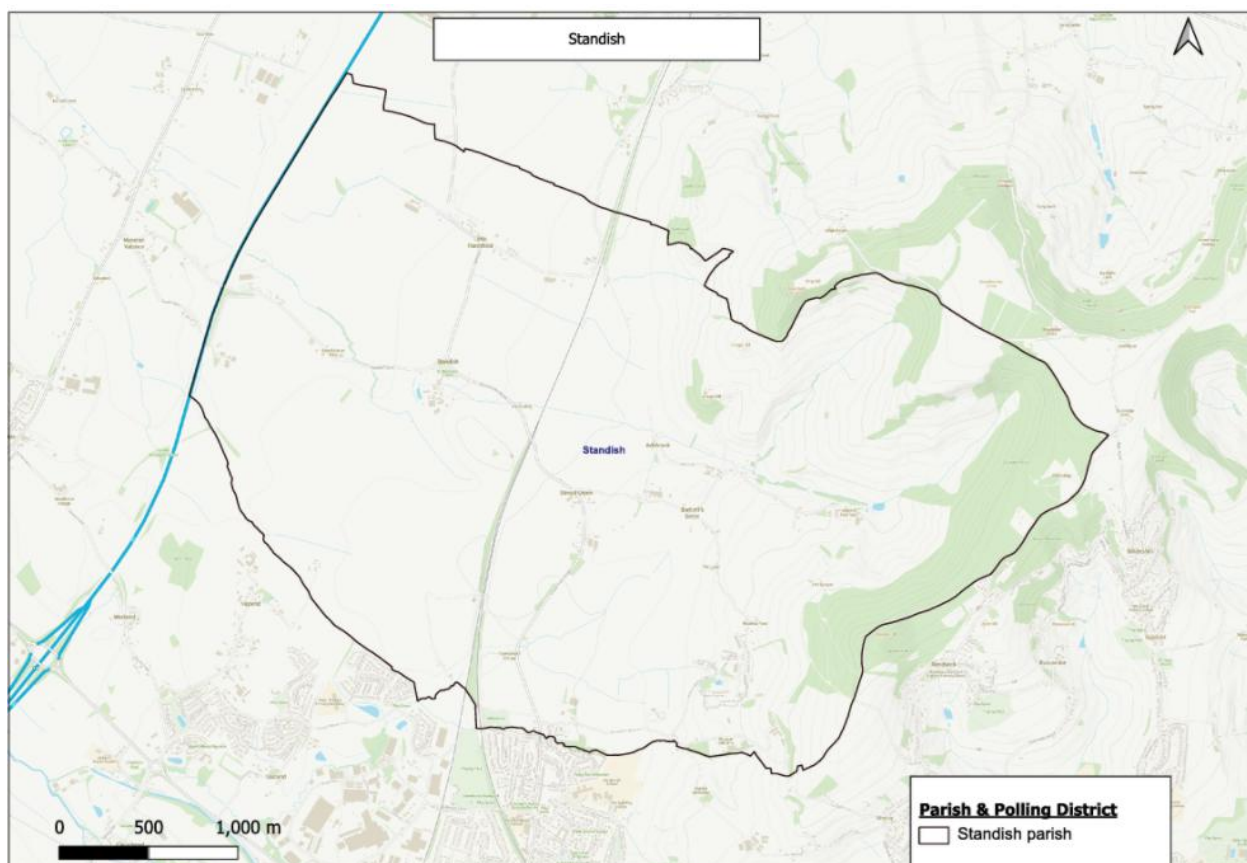
- a. Please refer to 2.1 Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council for the draft recommendation made to amend the boundary between Minchinhampton (Brimscombe Ward) and Brimscombe & Thrupp Parish Council; and**

- b. Should the final recommendations support the transfer of the Albert Road, Orchard Lane and Victoria Road areas and/or the Wimberley Park and Dark Mills development site areas to Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council, consideration be given to the abolition of Minchinhampton Brimscombe Ward and the incorporation of the remaining area into Minchinhampton North Ward, together with a reduction to parish councillor allocations.**

2.6 STANDISH PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish of Standish has an electorate of 478 and is currently represented by six Councillors and has no Parish Wards.

Some electorate growth is expected in the Parish by 2031, the projected 5-year electorate forecast is 547. The scale of representation indicates that Standish should currently have between 5 to 8 Councillors, the current arrangements are within the scale of representation.



Summary of submissions received

Two submissions were received relating directly to Standish. A comprehensive and detailed submission from Standish Parish Council and a submission from a District Ward Councillor for Hardwicke requested no change to current allocations and opposed the requested boundary change proposed by Great Oldbury Parish Council in respect of site PS19a as outlined within the Terms of Reference.

Two other submissions were also received which referred to both Great Oldbury and Standish Parish Council relating to the PS19a Local Plan site. Both submissions (Great Oldbury Parish Council and the District Councillor for Severn Ward) supported the request to amend the boundary to absorb the PS19a site into Great Oldbury Parish, further details can be found on pages 19-21 above.

Draft recommendations

The Working Group discussed Local Plan allocation PS19a and considered whether the site should be transferred from Standish Parish to Great Oldbury Parish. Members recognised that any decision regarding the future governance of the site should be informed by the views of the community that would ultimately reside there. However, as no planning permission had been granted and no residents currently lived on the site, the Working Group considered that there were no electors whose views could be sought at this stage.

In reaching this conclusion, the Working Group noted that the site had been considered in detail during the 2022 to 2023 Community Governance Review which established Great Oldbury Parish Council. Members considered that circumstances had not materially changed since that review. The site remained undeveloped, no resident community had been established and there was therefore insufficient evidence to justify departing from the conclusions reached through the previous review process.

The Working Group acknowledged the comprehensive submission received from Standish Parish Council, including the comments regarding the emerging Standish Neighbourhood Development Plan and the future relationship of the site with the wider parish. Members recognised that the eventual development of PS19a may raise legitimate questions regarding community governance arrangements and parish identity. However, they considered that any such assessment should be undertaken when a resident community exists and meaningful evidence regarding community cohesion, local identity and effective governance can be obtained.

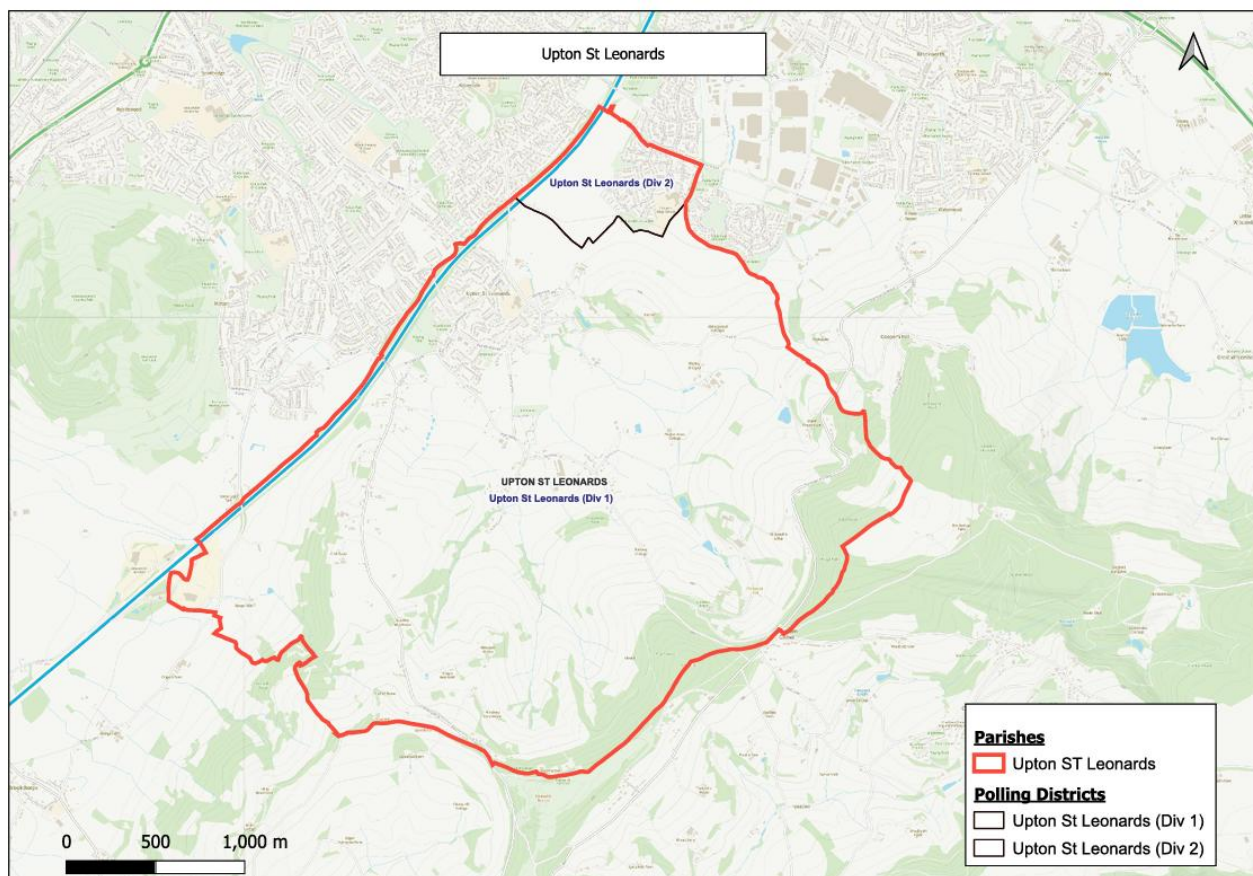
The Working Group therefore concluded that no changes to the parish boundary should be proposed at this stage. Members nevertheless considered that the governance arrangements for PS19a would be likely to require further consideration in the future once development had progressed and residents were living on the site. At that stage, the views of local residents should form a central part of any future review.

It is recommended that there is no change to the current arrangements.

2.7 UPTON ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish of Upton St Leonards has an electorate of 4,991 and is currently represented by ten Councillors and has no Parish Wards.

Electorate growth is not expected within the current existing Parish boundary by 2031 the projected forecast electorate is 5,008. The scale of representation indicates that Upton St Leonards should have between 9 and 16 Councillors, the current arrangements are within the scale of representation.



Summary of submissions received

Six consultation responses were received at the first stage of consultation.

A number of submissions received related to the community of Coopers Edge, which is split between the Parish of Upton St Leonards within the Stroud District Council area and the Parishes of Brockworth and Hucclecote within the Tewkesbury Borough Council area.

For a number of years, the three parish councils have worked together through the Coopers Edge Liaison Committee (CELC). The CELC is a joint advisory committee of the three councils with an additional representative of the Coopers Edge Trust with the agreed aim to 'co-ordinate actions relating to Coopers Edge on behalf of the three parish councils and on their behalf lobby and influence the development consortium and public authorities responsible for the area'. In March 2026, individual requests were received by both Stroud District Council (SDC) and Tewkesbury Borough Council from Upton St Leonards,

Brockworth and Hucclecote Parish Councils seeking the creation of a single parish council covering Coopers Edge and for this to be established as soon as practicably possible, including, if necessary, undertaking a Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR) to place the whole area within a single local authority area.

At district level there has been support in principle for the creation of a new single parish, although there has not been any formal consideration. However, the creation of a single parish council covering the whole of Coopers Edge cannot be achieved through the current Community Governance Review. This is because the community spans two principal authority areas and whilst a Community Governance Review can make recommendations regarding parish governance arrangements, it cannot alter the boundary between Stroud District and Tewkesbury Borough. Creating a single parish council for the whole of Coopers Edge would therefore require a Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR) carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to place the community within a single principal authority area before a single parish council could be established.

With the commencement of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), it was considered inappropriate to progress formal work on the proposal until the future local government structure for Gloucestershire became clearer, particularly as a single unitary authority would remove the existing district boundary issue affecting Coopers Edge. This approach also reflected discussions with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), which advised that it would discourage requests for Principal Area Boundary Reviews in areas affected by ongoing local government reorganisation proposals. As a result, both district councils and the parish councils agreed that work should continue to gather evidence regarding community identity and local support whilst awaiting greater certainty regarding future governance arrangements. The Community Governance Reviews being undertaken by Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council were therefore identified as an opportunity to gather additional evidence regarding community identity, governance arrangements and any support for the creation of a stand-alone parish and parish council for Coopers Edge, albeit in the knowledge that neither review would be able to secure that outcome directly.

The submission from CELC generated a total of 126 responses, of these, 120 supported Coopers Edge having a single parish council covering the whole neighbourhood; 5 did not support this; and one respondent did not indicate a preference. The responses also demonstrated that there was a clear sense of community identity from the majority of those who responded.

A submission was also received from Upton St Leonards Parish Council requesting that:

- the consultation that the Coopers Edge Liaison Committee (CELC) had undertaken be noted supporting the principle for a single Coopers Edge Parish Council;
- that Stroud District Council request the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) that the Structural Changes Order (SCO) makes provision to confer the Community Governance Review (CGR) functions on the Shadow Authority during the shadow period be pursued;

- that based on the evidence and information currently available, Upton St Leonards Parish Council supports the stand-alone Parish and Parish Council for Coopers Edge.

One resident supported retaining the existing arrangements. One resident and one Parish Councillor responded to request an alteration to the principal boundary between Stroud and Tewksbury to create a single Parish Council to better reflect the identity of Coopers Edge as a growing community with a separate identity to the rest of Upton St Leonards.

A comprehensive submission was also received from a resident of Coopers Edge supporting the creation of a single Coopers Edge Parish Council. The submission also explored a number of alternative governance arrangements that might assist in strengthening local representation and community identity should the preferred option not be immediately achievable.

Draft recommendations

The Working Group gave careful consideration to the consultation responses relating to Upton St Leonards Parish and the Coopers Edge development and recognised the huge strength of feeling expressed regarding the future governance of the area. Members noted the evidence submitted by the Coopers Edge Liaison Committee, Upton St Leonards Parish Council, local residents and community organisations, all of which highlighted the distinct identity that has developed within Coopers Edge and the desire amongst many respondents for governance arrangements that more closely reflect that identity.

The Working Group acknowledged that Coopers Edge currently spans the principal authority areas of both Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council. Members noted that whilst a Community Governance Review can consider parish governance arrangements, it cannot create a parish council that crosses principal authority boundaries. Such changes would require a PABR undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and implemented by the Secretary of State.

Members recognised that the consultation responses demonstrated considerable support for the long term aspiration of a single parish council serving the whole Coopers Edge community. The Working Group agreed that such an arrangement could potentially provide governance arrangements that more closely reflect the communities and neighbourhoods that have developed on the ground. However, given the current position regarding Local Government Reorganisation and the limitations of the Community Governance Review process, the Working Group did not consider appropriate to make any recommendations for change at this stage.

The Working Group strongly considered whether any interim arrangements within the Stroud District Council area should be proposed including warding or the creation of a small parish council for the area of Coopers Edge within the Stroud District. Members acknowledged that such arrangements could potentially provide a stepping stone

towards governance arrangements that more closely reflect the identity of the Coopers Edge community. However, the Working Group concluded that insufficient evidence had been submitted to demonstrate clear support for any particular interim model and that residents had clearly demonstrated a desire for a single parish council for the whole development area. Members were also mindful that any interim arrangements could be relatively short lived given the uncertainty surrounding Local Government Reorganisation and the potential for future governance changes affecting the whole of Coopers Edge. The Working Group therefore considered that Local Government Reorganisation may provide a more practical and straightforward route for the future consideration of governance arrangements across the entire Coopers Edge community.

Whilst no immediate changes are proposed through this review, the Working Group considered that the evidence submitted demonstrates a clear and developing community identity within Coopers Edge. Members therefore considered it important that the consultation outcomes and aspirations expressed by residents and local councils are brought to the attention of those responsible for future governance arrangements in Gloucestershire.

The Working Group also agreed that should Local Government Reorganisation not take place, that a formal request for Principal Area Boundary Review should be reconsidered.

It is recommended that Council:

- a. Note the outcome to the consultation undertaken in connection with the proposal for a stand-alone Parish and Parish Council for Coopers Edge;**
- b. Note the request to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for the Gloucestershire Structural Changes Order to make provision to confer Community Governance Review functions on the Shadow Gloucestershire Unitary Authority during the shadow period;**
- c. Having considered the evidence and information available, including the consultation responses and joint submission from the Coopers Edge Liaison Committee, the Working Group supports, in principle the future creation of a stand alone Coopers Edge Parish and Parish Council; and**
- d. If Local Government Reorganisation does not proceed, considers whether a Principal Area Boundary Review should be pursued.**

Reference (Assume online response unless flagged as email / paper)	Which areas of the Stroud District would you like to comment on?	Please tell us about your connection to all of the areas within the Stroud District that you wish to comment on	Do you think your Parish/Town Council may benefit from exploring any of the following options? (select all that apply)									Please give your reasons for each response selected above	Do you have any additional comments you would like to make which have not been previously covered within this survey?
			Increasing or decreasing the number of Parish/Town Councillors	Altering parish boundaries	Creating, changing or removing Parish wards	Merging or splitting your Parish	Changing the name of your Parish	Grouping or de-grouping together with a neighbouring Parish/Town Council	Changing the style of your Parish/Town Council	Abolishing your Parish so that it becomes an unparished area	None of the above		
CGR.001	Brimscombe and Thrupp	Resident		YES								It would be useful to see maps of these suggested changes, as I thought the port was already in the parish? Including the school in the parish is a good idea if the boundaries are clear as it follows the railway line at present. Is there scope to look further at the boundary as it always feels as though the Victoria Road area is Brimscombe but is in Minchinhampton parish.	NONE
CGR.002	Frampton on Severn	Resident	INCREASE	YES								I agree with the recommendation to increase parish council numbers to 10 because the parish population has grown and is likely to grow more. I feel that the boundary should extend to include Saul Warth as far as the Sewage works. The reason for this is that this land belongs to the same owner (Frampton Court Estate) as the adjacent Frampton on Severn land on the Severn Estuary and is managed under the same protocols, being part of the RAMSAR site and various environmental protections. It is a piece of land which is unified with the rest of the FoS Severn Estuary and managed the same for wildlife protection (see Frampton on Severn Community Design Statement Wildlife and Estuary sections, which I am not e-mailing as you already have it). There is no obvious reason why the parish boundary cuts it across in the middle. In the future, when the Department of the Environment or other agencies need to deal with public bodies in reference to this land it makes more sense for them to deal with one parish council not two and Frampton on Severn parish council has a much stronger interest in the wellbeing of this land because of its integrity with the the Frampton on Severn Estuary land than does Fretherne with Saul, for which Saul Warth only forms a small part of their parish	NONE

Appendix A – Summary of Initial Responses

Reference (Assume online response unless flagged as email / paper)	Which areas of the Stroud District would you like to comment on?	Please tell us about your connection to all of the areas within the Stroud District that you wish to comment on	Do you think your Parish/Town Council may benefit from exploring any of the following options? (select all that apply)									Please give your reasons for each response selected above	Do you have any additional comments you would like to make which have not been previously covered within this survey?
			Increasing or decreasing the number of Parish/Town Councillors	Altering parish boundaries	Creating, changing or removing Parish wards	Merging or splitting your Parish	Changing the name of your Parish	Grouping or de-grouping together with a neighbouring Parish/Town Council	Changing the style of your Parish/Town Council	Abolishing your Parish so that it becomes an unparished area	None of the above		
CGR.003	Upton St Leonards	Resident									YES	Upton St Leonards is a distinct village in that it remains independent to ever encroaching Gloucester suburbia. There is an active social life within the village, it has not become a dormitory village and still holds village values and its ties to the Stroud five valleys. It still maintains a large rural community who live and work in the village and large areas classed within the parish are agricultural land. Therefore it would not be suitable to merge with the city of Gloucester. The parish council are very effective in maintaining the village.	NONE
CGR.004	Chalford	Resident									YES	I think the present arrangement works well. It is highly local and accountable.	NONE
CGR.005	Upton St Leonards	Parish/Town Councillor		YES	YES		YES		YES			The parish of Upton St Leonards does not serve those living in Coopers Edge due to a lack of understanding regarding the area needs, possibly unintentionally but those councillors living outside the estate are receiving precept payments for an area and Coopers Edge are having to make convincing applications for how they are spent within the given area, money received by USL can potentially be spent in the 'village of Upton' and there are too few parish councillors living in CE. Plus, the reverse could also be true, Coopers Edge parish councillors are in the minority and therefore being asked to make funding decisions for USL despite not really having a dissenting voice? There are 3 parish councils covering CE which also dilutes the impact of precept monies and oversight. There needs to be in my view an opportunity for coopers Edge to become a single parish, with a postal address of Coopers Edge not Brockworth, there is absolutely no connection with Brockworth and the post office needs to be held to account in the decision to do so.	NONE
CGR.006	Upton St Leonards	Resident	INCREASE	YES	YES		YES					People living in Coopers Edge should have a say on how their precept money is spent for the benefit of their community.	NONE

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			Increasing or decreasing the number of Parish/Town Councillors	Altering parish boundaries	Creating, changing or removing Parish wards	Merging or splitting your Parish	Changing the name of your Parish	Grouping or de-grouping together with a neighbouring Parish/Town Council	Changing the style of your Parish/Town Council	Abolishing your Parish so that it becomes an unparished area	None of the above		
CGR.007	Chalford	Resident		YES								Chalford Parish was part of Minchinhampton but was then split between. Minch an Bisley&Paiswick. This might have looked logical on paper bit takes no account of the people and their families who	Don't understand the question
CGR.008	Brimscombe and Thrupp Minch	Resident		YES								The area covering Brimscombe Hill south of the railway line, including Victoria Road, Albert Road and Orchard Lane should be in Brimscombe and Thrupp parish. We identify our home as being in Brimscombe. Our postal addresses are in Brimscombe. Culturally we are in Brimscombe! Brimscombe School and Brimscombe Church are in this area. We use the community facilities and businesses in Brimscombe. Minchinhampton Parish Council are too distant to represent residents in our area properly. The current parish boundary is based on an arbitrary line based on the railway track. It takes no account of the houses in the area.	NONE
CGR.009 (online & email)	Standish	Parish/Town Councillor									YES	The Parish Council's response is too long to fit here. I am sending it by email. See full response below on page 17-18	NONE

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			Increasing or decreasing the number of Parish/Town Councillors	Altering parish boundaries	Creating, changing or removing Parish wards	Merging or splitting your Parish	Changing the name of your Parish	Grouping or de-grouping together with a neighbouring Parish/Town Council	Changing the style of your Parish/Town Council	Abolishing your Parish so that it becomes an unparished area	None of the above		
CGR.010	Great Oldbury	Parish/Town Clerk	INCREASE	YES								When Great Oldbury Parish Council was established, seven councillors were considered sufficient to manage the responsibilities of the new parish. Experience since then has demonstrated that this number is no longer adequate. The parish has experienced substantial growth and the workload associated with representing residents, responding to planning matters, engaging with community groups, overseeing local projects and participating in strategic discussions has increased significantly. In practice, the demands placed upon councillors have been considerable. A number of the original councillors have subsequently left the council because they were unable to sustain the level of time commitment required. Increasing the number of councillors from seven to nine would: • Improve the distribution of workload across elected members; • Enhance resilience and continuity of governance; • Reduce reliance on a small number of councillors; • Increase opportunities for resident representation and engagement; • Strengthen the council's capacity to participate in strategic planning and future growth discussions. The Government's guidance highlights the need for governance arrangements to support effective local democracy and take account of the size and population of communities. Great Oldbury is not a static parish. Existing growth and future planned development will continue to increase the population and place additional demands on local governance. The council's current membership does not adequately reflect either the scale of the existing community	NONE

Reference (Assume online response unless flagged as email / paper)	Which areas of the Stroud District would you like to comment on?	Please tell us about your connection to all of the areas within the Stroud District that you wish to comment on	Do you think your Parish/Town Council may benefit from exploring any of the following options? (select all that apply)									Please give your reasons for each response selected above	Do you have any additional comments you would like to make which have not been previously covered within this survey?
			Increasing or decreasing the number of Parish/Town Councillors	Altering parish boundaries	Creating, changing or removing Parish wards	Merging or splitting your Parish	Changing the name of your Parish	Grouping or de-grouping together with a neighbouring Parish/Town Council	Changing the style of your Parish/Town Council	Abolishing your Parish so that it becomes an unparished area	None of the above		
												or the anticipated future population. An increase to nine councillors would provide a more sustainable governance structure capable of supporting the parish through the next phase of growth. This additional capacity would be particularly valuable in progressing matters such as strategic planning, infrastructure discussions, community engagement and any boundary review arising from the Community Governance Review process itself. The review guidance states that community governance arrangements should reflect the identities and interests of local communities. Great Oldbury has developed as a distinct and rapidly growing community. Residents identify strongly with Great Oldbury and increasingly use facilities, services and community networks centred on the parish. As further development takes place, it is important that governance arrangements continue to reflect the reality of how the community functions. The proposed development PS19a is a significant example. The site represents a natural extension of the existing Great Oldbury community in terms of its physical relationship to the parish and its likely reliance on Great Oldbury's infrastructure, facilities and community networks. The Community Governance Review should therefore consider whether the parish boundary remains appropriate in light of current and planned development patterns. A boundary review would help ensure that governance arrangements accurately reflect the communities that exist on the ground and support community cohesion as the area continues to grow.	

Appendix A – Summary of Initial Responses

Reference (Assume online response unless flagged as email / paper)	Which areas of the Stroud District would you like to comment on?	Please tell us about your connection to all of the areas within the Stroud District that you wish to comment on	Do you think your Parish/Town Council may benefit from exploring any of the following options? (select all that apply)									Please give your reasons for each response selected above	Do you have any additional comments you would like to make which have not been previously covered within this survey?
			Increasing or decreasing the number of Parish/Town Councillors	Altering parish boundaries	Creating, changing or removing Parish wards	Merging or splitting your Parish	Changing the name of your Parish	Grouping or de-grouping together with a neighbouring Parish/Town Council	Changing the style of your Parish/Town Council	Abolishing your Parish so that it becomes an unparished area	None of the above		
CGR.011	Chalford	Resident	DECREASE		YES							I feel it would make sense to combine Chalford Hill and Valley, then reduce number of councillors. Although essential to have councillors from both areas for fairness.	NONE
CGR.012	Chalford	Resident	DECREASE		YES							NONE	Merge the hill and valley wards and reduce councillors by 2. Reduce councillors in other wards. End up with many fewer councillors and ideally contested elections.
CGR.013	Chalford	District Councillor	DECREASE	YES	YES							I fully support the parish council recommendations for Chalford to adjust the in-parish wards & reduce the total cllr numbers to more fairly represent the residents "per cllr".	NONE
	Brimscombe and Thrupp Minch			YES	YES							I am supportive of those parishes on our boundary (& partly within my ward) with their suggestions to review boundaries between Brimscombe, Thrupp & Minchinhampton to better reflect community groupings & in respect of new build changing resident numbers. Parish boundaries will become more relevant as we progress with LGR due to reduced unitary elected cllr representation, loss of the Stroud District grouping & the as yet undefined Neighbourhood arrangements. I am totally supportive of parishes taking this into account to redraw where they can agree those boundaries need to be. I defer to parishes to provide the evidence base & will actively support resident consultations within my ward.	NONE
CGR.014	Frampton on Severn	Resident									YES	I am happy with the parish and its council as it is.	NONE

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Reference (Assume online response unless flagged as email / paper)	Which areas of the Stroud District would you like to comment on?	Please tell us about your connection to all of the areas within the Stroud District that you wish to comment on	Do you think your Parish/Town Council may benefit from exploring any of the following options? (select all that apply)									Please give your reasons for each response selected above	Do you have any additional comments you would like to make which have not been previously covered within this survey?
			Increasing or decreasing the number of Parish/Town Councillors	Altering parish boundaries	Creating, changing or removing Parish wards	Merging or splitting your Parish	Changing the name of your Parish	Grouping or de-grouping together with a neighbouring Parish/Town Council	Changing the style of your Parish/Town Council	Abolishing your Parish so that it becomes an unparished area	None of the above		
CGR.015	Brimscombe and Thrupp	Primary school governor		YES								I responded on behalf of the Brimscombe Primary School Governors. We support the proposal to transfer the Brimscombe ward of Minchinhampton Parish to Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish. It is an anomaly that Brimscombe Primary School, the church and the surrounding nearest residences are not located in Brimscombe Parish but Minchinhampton. It causes confusion about the school's catchment area. Transferring the ward to Brimscombe and Thrupp would create clarity and unity.	NONE
CGR.016	Chalford	Resident	DECREASE									Many Parish cllrs contribute little to the parish	NONE
CGR.017	Brimscombe and Thrupp Minch	Resident		YES				YES				We would like our area of Brimscombe to be merged with the Brimscombe & Thrupp parish council	NONE
CGR.018	Brimscombe and Thrupp Minch	Resident	INCREASE				YES					I am supportive of Minchinhampton Parish Council and glad to be in this parish. The Council are very sensible and influential. They have been of great help and service to our community. A name change to include Brimscombe might make some members of the community feel more of a part of the parish.	I am grateful to MPC for allocating funds to improve the play equipment at Albert Road Playing Field. A very worthy initiative.

Appendix A – Summary of Initial Responses

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CGR.019	Brimscombe and Thrupp Minch	County Councillor		YES								As county councillor for Minchinhampton and Brimscombe & Thrupp and district councillor for Minchinhampton, I am supportive of the exploration of a boundary change for the lower section of Brimscombe Hill & surrounding roads, plus the Wimberley development and Brimscombe Port. I can see the arguments around the topography of this community, but I am also conscious that some residents in the existing streets do identify strongly with Minchinhampton (in particular with the common, where eg they walk their dogs there every day) and use Minchinhampton services such as the doctors surgery and chemist, and do not identify at all with Thrupp and the valley community, so the picture is a bit mixed. I am waiting to see the full results of the community consultation before taking a view, and look forward to a detailed discussion on the evidence in the working group.	NONE
CGR.020	Chalford	County Councillor	DECREASE									I am supportive of Chalford Parish Council's proposal to reduce the number of councillors, on the basis that they are well placed to judge the optimal number to support the workload of the council and its working groups.	NONE
CGR.021	Minch	Resident									YES	Hi, I would like to say that as a resident of spinney court, we feel more part of the minchinhamptom parish than Brimscombe. We more frequently head up the hill than down, whether visiting friends, tending our allotment, going to the library, cafe or shop. A neighbour who has lived here for over 30 years also strongly voiced his desire to stay with Minch Parish. He walks to the shop in Minch every morning to buy his papers.	NONE

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CGR.022 (email)	Minch (email)	Resident									YES	We recently received a leaflet regarding the proposed parish boundary changes, asking whether we would prefer to remain within Minchinhampton Parish Council or move to Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on this proposal, and would like to remain within Minchinhampton Parish Council.	NONE
CGR.023 (email)	Chalford (email)	Parish/Town Councillor	DECREASE			YES						See full response below on pages 19 - 20	NONE
CGR.024	Great Oldbury	District Councillor									YES	I am concerned that a CGR at this point does not fairly serve either Parish of Standish or Great Oldbury. I fear the proposed decision on boundary changes to cede open land from Standish to Great Oldbury will be dominated by comments and views from the Parish with the larger population, all for an area that has no residents currently that can express their wishes. Assuming this land designated as a strategic allocation in the draft local plan is developed as planned, then it may be a logical extension of Great Oldbury, or it may be the urban edge of a rural Standish Parish - a factor that has long been in consideration and planning for Standish Parish Council. If developed, there will be perhaps 1,400+ residents - they are the only people who should be consulted on boundary changes. I myself championed the call for a CGR for the new village of Hunts Grove. If that consultation was held before the residents moved in, then there would have been a completely different outcome for the community. It is the voice of the future residents that matter most - green fields cannot express an opinion! In the case of Hunts Grove, engagement in the CGR by	NONE

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												the residents it affected, led to a very successful result driven by their wishes. In summary, my view is that the hard work and planning put in place by Standish Parish Council should be respected and implemented until such time as the residents that live on the land in question express a view otherwise.	
CGR.025	Chalford	Local Community Group									YES	happy with parish council as it stands	no evidence has so far been put forward that shows abolishing either parish/town/district council would improve local oversight and inclusion in important decisions within a small area
CGR.026	Frampton on Severn	District Councillor	DECREASE									As it relates to Frampton, I support the Parish Council's request to reduce the number of councillors. The Parish Council is currently finding it impossible to fill the vacancies and the ratio of electors per parish council looks too low in comparison to the other parishes.	NONE
	Great Oldbury		INCREASE	YES								As the review relates to Great Oldbury, I support the increase in councillor numbers, especially as Great Oldbury is likely to see further housing growth. On the boundary with Standish, there is a difficult conflict. On the one hand, it is Standish's land and though PS19a is in the Draft Local Plan no applications have actually been approved on the site, thus a transfer to Great Oldbury seems unjustifiable. However, in the likely event that a housing application is approved on the site in the future, it's important that the CIL money go to Great Oldbury Parish Council as they will have de facto responsibility for the plot due to its	NONE

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												access to the northern part of the estate. Thus a change to Great Oldbury now would ensure the correct parish council receives the CIL money.	
CGR.027	Chalford	Resident									YES	Leave well alone. Change is not necessarily progress.	NONE
CGR.028 (email)	Upton St Leonards	Parish/Town Clerk									YES	Upton St Leonards Parish Council requests the following: - That the outcome to the consultation carried out in connection of a stand-alone Parish and Parish Council for Coopers Edge be noted. - That the request to MHCLG (Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government) for the SCO (Structural Changes Order) to make provision to confer CGR (Community Governance Review) functions on the shadow authority during the shadow period be pursued. - That based on the evidence and information currently available, Upton St Leonards Parish Council supports the stand-alone Parish and Parish Council for Coopers Edge.	NONE
CGR.029 (email)	Upton St Leonards	Local Community Group						YES				I attach the joint response from Brockworth, Hucclecote and Upton St Leonards Parishes setting out the proposal to create a single parish for Coopers Edge. It also sets out consideration of various options including warding of each parish as an interim measure. Also attached are the survey information including a report on the results and methodology and a redacted copy of the survey results. I have also attached 2 letters of support from TBC Councillors and 2 community organisations.	NONE

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												I will send additional details of the survey responses in a separate email. See page 21 for full response	
CGR.030 (email)	Minch	Parish/Town Clerk									YES	Conclusion MPC fully supports a proper and transparent Community Governance Review and will participate constructively in the process. However, the burden must be on the evidence to demonstrate that changing the existing boundary would provide better and more convenient local governance and better reflect the interests of the communities concerned. At this stage, MPC does not believe that case has been made. The Council therefore strongly supports retaining the existing parish boundary unless the evidence gathered through the review demonstrates compelling reasons for change. MPC will continue to gather evidence, consult affected residents and engage with SDC and BTPC as required should the review be progressed. If BTPC do submit a formal proposal, it must include a very clearly funded business case to cover the necessary expenditure required by the playground improvements. See pages 22 - 23 for the full response	NONE
CGR.031 (email)	Upton St Leonards	Resident									YES	I attach a personal submission in respect of Coopers Edge for the CGR process. See pages 24 - 27 for the full response	NONE

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CGR.032 (email)	Brimscombe and Thrupp	Parish/Town Clerk		YES								Please find below a map showing the rough proposed area that Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council would like to be considered to be moved from Minchinhampton Parish to Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish as part of the Community Governance Review. As detailed in our submission, the Parish Council feels that the development areas of Wimberley Park and Dark Mills (which are currently within Minchinhampton Parish) will have a significant impact on Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish, both in terms of infrastructure usage and connectedness to our parish. The area is geographically isolated from the rest of Minchinhampton Parish with extremely poor road access and so therefore we believe it would be a natural extension of our parish to move the boundary to include those areas within Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish. We have provided a map with a rough outline of the area in question and can work with the team at SDC to identify the specific area in question - we are aware from our recent meeting at SDC that the team at SDC have access to more accurate mapping facilities to draw this up. See page 28 for the accompanying map This submission is linked to CGR.035	NONE
CGR.033	Chalford	Parish/Town Clerk	DECREASE		YES							The Parish Council is considering whether the current ward arrangements provide fair and effective representation. The two main issues are: The imbalance in the number of electors per Parish Councillor in each of our wards; and The number of Councillors on the Parish Council. Currently:	NONE

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												The Parish Council currently has 15 seats, but it has rarely had the full number of councillors in recent years despite publicity to raise awareness. There have not been any contested elections for many years. All current councillors were appointed by co-option, and there are currently two vacant seats. Bussage Ward has seven councillors representing 2,934 electors, a ratio of 420 electors per parish councillor. Chalford Hill Ward has six councillors representing 1,561 electors, a ratio of 260 electors per parish councillor. Chalford Valley Ward has two councillors representing 496 electors, a ratio of 248 electors per parish councillor. The Parish Council has considered whether the current ward and councillor arrangements should remain as they are, or whether one of the following options would provide fairer and more effective representation. Options discussed by the Full Parish Council include: Reduce the number of Chalford Hill Ward councillors to five, increasing the ratio to 312 electors per councillor, or to four, increasing the ratio to 390 electors per councillor. Reduce the number of Chalford Valley Ward councillors to one, increasing the ratio to 496 electors per councillor. Merge Chalford Hill and Chalford Valley Wards and reduce the number of councillors. The wards have similar demography, housing, history and infrastructure. On current numbers, the merged area would have eight councillors and a ratio of 257 electors per councillor. Reducing the number of councillors to seven would increase the ratio to 294	

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												electors per councillor; reducing it to six would increase the ratio to 343 electors per councillor. Chalford Parish Council submits these matters and options for consideration as part of the Phase 1 Community Governance Review consultation.	
CGR.034	Frampton on Severn	Parish/Town Clerk	DECREASE									Frampton on Severn Parish Council would like to decrease the number of councillors from 10 to 9. The number of parish councillors increased from 9 to 10 councillors at the last Community Governance Review, at the request of the parish council. At the time, it was thought it would be useful to have a higher number of councillors to share the workload as there were several demanding ongoing highways projects. Currently, the parish council has 3 vacancies. Frampton on Severn is a relatively small parish and is an active village with a number of volunteer groups and organisations. The parish council supports the reduction in the number of councillors for the following reasons: 1. The parish council had 9 councillors, until the last CGR when the number was increased to 10 councillors following a request from the parish council. 2. The parish council currently has 3 councillor vacancies. 3. The parish is relatively small but is an active parish with a significant number of parishioners already involved in volunteer roles in various activities and organisations across the village. 4. The parish is divided into 9 wards which aligns well with 9 councillors. Each councillor takes responsibility for their	NONE

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												assigned ward. 5. An odd number of councillors benefits during decision making, ensuring decisions can be made by a clear majority. 6. A parish council meeting must have at least a third of councillors present to be quorate. If the number of councillors is not divisible by 3 it must have a third plus one, ie at least 4 councillors present to be quorate.	
CGR.035	Brimscombe and Thrupp Minch	Parish/Town Clerk		YES								The Parish Council proposed that the Victoria Road, Albert Road and Orchard Lane area up to Brimscombe Church should form part of Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish. We consulted with residents and although the majority of responses we received were in favour of this change we also received a number of responses preferring to remain in Minchinhampton Parish. In view of the lack of overwhelming feedback and considering the complex issues surrounding the restoration the playing field and Minchinhampton Parish Council's current commitment to delivering this, we no longer believe that it is appropriate to pursue this element of the boundary change at the current time. The development areas of Wimberley Park and Dark Mills will however have a significant impact on Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish, both in terms of infrastructure usage and connectedness to our parish. The area is geographically isolated from the rest of Minchinhampton Parish with extremely poor road access and so therefore we believe it would be a natural extension of our parish to move the boundary to include those areas within Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish. This submission is linked to CGR.032	YES – See submission CGR.032

CGR.009 Full response (Standish Parish Council)

Our comments are too long to fit in the box provided so I am submitting them here. Please also note the link to our emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan which includes relevant maps showing the PS19a allocation as identified in the emerging Local Plan, together with the location of Stagholt Farm.

Standish Parish Council wishes the parish boundary to remain as it is. The land described in the draft Local Plan as PS19a should not be transferred to Great Oldbury.

The land in question is not simply an area located on the edge of the parish. It forms an integral component of the emerging Standish Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), which has recently completed the Regulation 14 consultation stage, and has been considered extensively throughout a lengthy process of evidence gathering, policy development and community engagement. Since 2018, when work first started on the NDP, residents, businesses, landowners and other stakeholders have been engaged in a range of consultations which have consistently included this land and its future role within the parish.

In the context of this process, the land has been embedded within the collective vision for Standish and it features prominently within the aspirations, objectives and emerging policies set out in the draft NDP, which will help guide the future of the parish over the next 15 to 20 years.

The request from Great Oldbury Parish Council to transfer PS19a to that parish would therefore disregard a significant body of community-led work and undermine the views and aspirations consistently expressed by Standish residents throughout the preparation of the emerging NDP. It would remove from Standish an area that residents have actively planned for and considered as part of their community's future.

The emerging Standish NDP demonstrates that the land forms part of the social, environmental and planning identity of Standish. The consultations on the NDP have helped shape policies relating to this area as part of a shared vision for the future of the parish. The emerging NDP also contains a detailed policy relating to Stagholt Farm. It is evident that, if PS19a were to become part of Great Oldbury, Stagholt Farm would too, thereby further undermining the many years of work and consultation that have gone into the NDP. The fact that local people have engaged in discussions regarding the future management, protection and development of both PS19a and Stagholt Farm demonstrates a clear and established connection between the site and the Standish community. This is precisely the type of evidence of community identity that should be afforded significant weight within a Community Governance Review.

The Great Oldbury proposal would also create significant practical planning complications. The designated neighbourhood area for the Standish NDP is coterminous with the existing parish boundary. Should part of that land be transferred to another parish, it would fall outside the designated neighbourhood area and could no longer be planned for through the emerging Standish NDP without significant procedural changes, delay and uncertainty. The Standish neighbourhood planning process which includes this land is at an advanced stage, having been prepared on the basis of a comprehensive evidence base which consistently includes this land, making the timing of the Great Oldbury request particularly concerning. Site assessments, environmental evaluations, policy development, community priorities and spatial planning work have all been undertaken on the assumption that the land will continue to form part of Standish parish. Residents, businesses and other stakeholders have participated in consultation exercises in good faith on the understanding that this land forms part of Standish and will continue to contribute to the parish's future. To remove the land at this stage would undermine the integrity of that evidence base and could render elements of the emerging NDP incomplete, inconsistent or in need of significant revision. together with the credibility and legitimacy of the consultation undertaken to date. It would effectively disregard the considerable time, effort and resources invested by local people in shaping the future of their community. Standish residents could reasonably feel disenfranchised if land that has featured prominently throughout the neighbourhood planning process were to be removed from the parish boundary.

Significant public financial and other resources and considerable volunteer effort have already been invested in preparing the emerging Standish NDP. If the land were transferred out of the parish, substantial additional work would be required to review evidence, amend policies, revisit consultation material and reconsider aspects of the Plan. This would result in avoidable costs and delays, contrary to the principles of efficient, effective and accountable local governance.

Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism agenda to empower communities and provide residents with a genuine opportunity to influence the future development of their area. The land in question has formed a key part of that locally-led conversation for many years. The boundary revision requested by Great Oldbury Parish Council would frustrate the ability of the Standish community to deliver the vision it has developed through a participatory planning process.

Moreover, regardless of the merits of any wider boundary review, it is considered premature to pursue a change affecting land that forms an important part of an active and emerging NDP. Any alteration to parish boundaries impacting land included within the Plan area would more appropriately be considered following completion of the neighbourhood planning process, thereby avoiding prejudice to an ongoing statutory planning exercise and ensuring that the outcome of extensive public consultation is properly respected.

Additionally, Great Oldbury Parish Council's proposal runs counter to the principles and recommendations of the 2023 Community Governance Review (CGR), which were adopted by Stroud District Council. Paragraph 12.2.1 in the report of the CGR working group stated:

Appendix A – Summary of Initial Responses

“The Working Group considered the Local Plan site PS19a, as outlined in Map 4, at great length but believed that it was important that future residents of the site of any new development should be consulted with before making any recommendations for change. It was therefore recommended that there was no change to the current arrangements at this time.”

And

“FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 12.5.1 It is RECOMMENDED that the following community governance and electoral arrangements be approved; - a) A Community Governance Review for Standish Parish is considered in the future when the development at site PS19a becomes established.”

For all the reasons set out above, Standish Parish Council considers that PS19a is wholly unsuitable for transfer to another parish. Such a transfer would undermine community identity, weaken the integrity of the emerging NDP, disregard public consultation, create avoidable planning uncertainty, and result in unnecessary delay and expense. It would deprive future residents of a say in which parish they would like to be part of.

Standish Parish Council therefore respectfully requests that the existing parish boundary remain unchanged.

If/when housing is built at PS19a, Standish will need additional parish councillors but that is not the case at the present time.

The emerging Standish NDP, including maps, can be viewed in full at [Standish Parish Council | Standish Village](#)

CGR.023 Full Response

Both as a member of Chalford Parish Council and its Chair for a number of years and a member of the community I feel that Chalford Parish Council needs splitting.

The present CPC is very large, covers 6 individual communities with no obviously geographical and cultural links between them.

The Council was formed at the beginning of the last century and was not materially altered when the large Bussage estate was built in the latter stages of the previous century. So, my view, is this is a ideal opportunity to make the area more accountable to its residents.

My thoughts (indeed voiced at CPC when I was Chair) is that the Council be split. There should be a Bussage Council which will include old Bussage and Brownshill. Basically everything from Toadsmoor road to Old neighbourhood road.

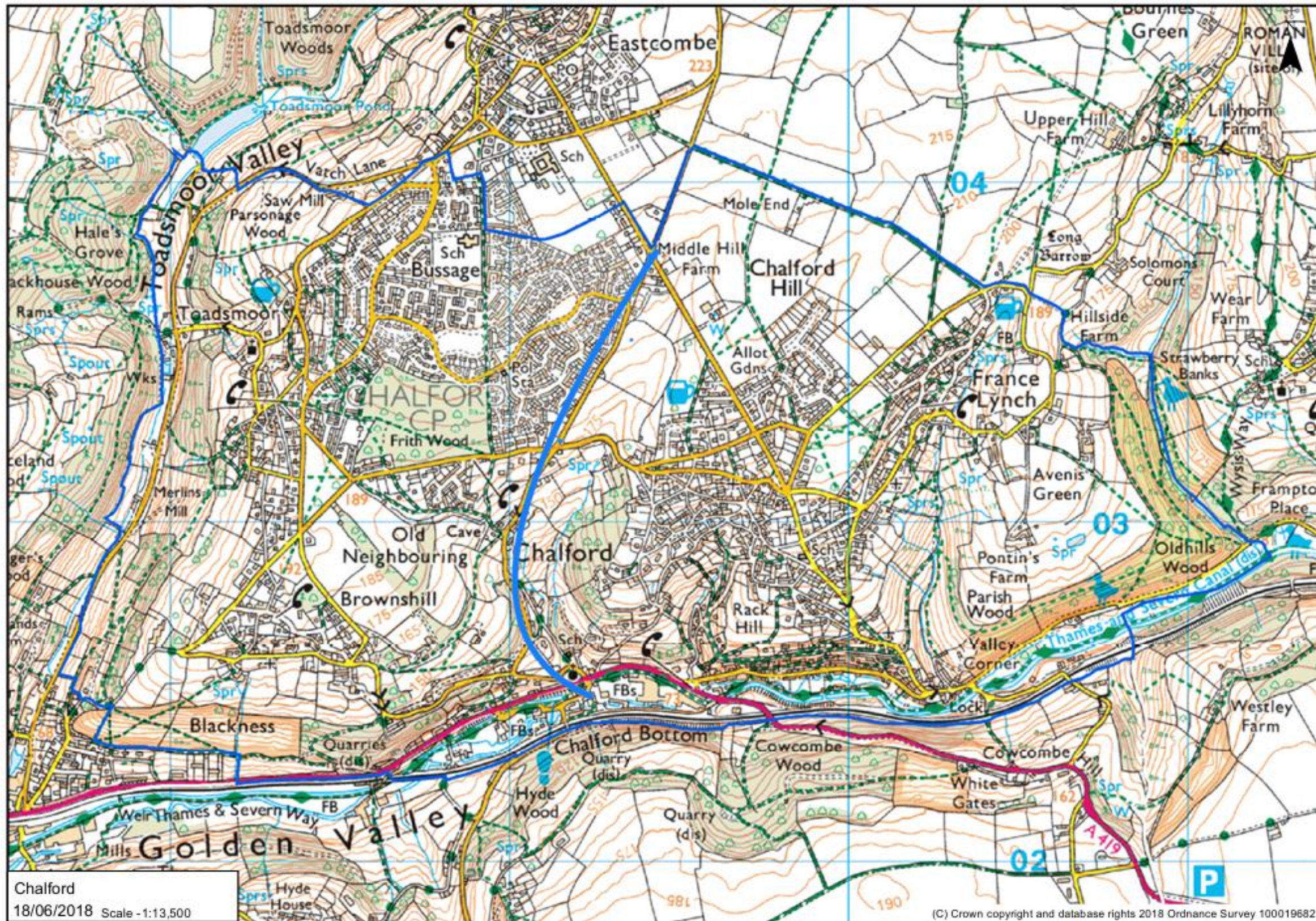
There could be a debate on whether or not Eastcote is split from Bisley and joined Bussage. They all sit basically on the plateau. 5 councillors

Chalford and Frances Lynch would make up the second Council. Both of these communities have the same geographical location, virtually the same heritage and can easily be classed as one community. Therefore, all communities from the east of Old neighbourhood Road. 4 councillors

Chalford Vale (or Bottom) is a completely separate area from Chalford Hill/ France Lynch having its own heritage, customs. It is a thriving area of the existing Parish which is often ignored.1 councillor

The Vales does not really link into Chalford/ France Lynch neither does it easily link into Minchinhampton. It could be made into a parish meeting or merged with Chalford/France Lynch.

The present Council has too many councillors (15) and it makes it very difficult to get any meaningful debate and decisions. Less councillors would make the council more efficient even if it was not split.



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CGR.029 Full response

I attach the joint response from Brockworth, Hucclecote and Upton St Leonards Parishes setting out the proposal to create a single parish for Coopers Edge. It also sets out consideration of various options including warding of each parish as an interim measure.

Also attached are the survey information including a report on the results and methodology and a redacted copy of the survey results.

I have also attached 2 letters of support from TBC Councillors and 2 community organisations.

I will send additional details of the survey responses in a separate email.

The submission and summary, together with the individual letters of support and a spreadsheet which includes the responses from both the paper and online surveys, are attached as Annex A and B to Appendix 1. The individual responses covered by the spreadsheet are available from Democratic Services.

CGR.030 Full response

Community Governance Review – Phase 1 Response September 2026

MPC's Position

Minchinhampton Parish Council (MPC) strongly opposes the proposed alteration to the parish boundary between Minchinhampton and Brimscombe & Thrupp.

MPC recognises that this is Phase 1 of the Community Governance Review and that no formal proposal has yet been submitted by Brimscombe & Thrupp Parish Council (BTPC). However, the area currently being considered is substantial and includes established residential areas, Brimscombe Church and Primary School, the Albert Road playing field and the significant future developments at Wimberley Mills and Dark Mills.

MPC's concern is not simply where a line is drawn on a map. The proposal has potentially significant consequences for community identity, democratic representation, existing community assets, future development and the financial sustainability of both Parish Councils. At present, MPC does not consider that sufficient evidence has been produced to justify such a fundamental change.

A History of Previous Reviews

This is not a new issue. Similar attempts to alter this boundary have been considered during previous Community Governance Reviews, including in 2012/13, 2019 and 2023.

The 2023 review is particularly relevant. In considering Wimberley Mills, the Working Group concluded that it would be more appropriate to review the boundary once the development had been completed, so that its residents could have a say in which parish they wished to belong to.

That principle remains highly relevant. The proposed developments have still not become established communities. It would be premature to determine their future parish identity before the people who will live there have had any opportunity to express their views.

Albert Road Playing Field

The proposed inclusion of the Albert Road playing field is of particular concern.

MPC took ownership of the playing field from Stroud District Council only earlier this year, following a Community Asset Transfer. This was undertaken because MPC had plans to invest significantly in the facility for local residents.

MPC has committed £85,000 during the current financial year towards improvements, including new play equipment, with further investment anticipated. In addition, MPC meets the ongoing costs of ownership, including weekly safety inspections, annual independent inspections, insurance, maintenance and repairs, with a £10,000 annual playground maintenance budget for the sites for which it is responsible.

A recent tree condition survey has also identified significant additional expenditure on tree works and safety measures.

Because of the uncertainty created by the proposed boundary change, MPC has had to place its planned investment in the playing field on hold. This is extremely disappointing for residents and is not a position the Council would otherwise have taken. However since our informal meeting with SDC officers and the Chair and Clerk of BTPC, it is probable that MPC will progress preliminary planning work as that can be supported from current attributable income.

If the playing field were ultimately transferred to BTPC, the review must establish how the substantial investment and ongoing financial responsibilities already undertaken by MPC would be addressed, and whether BTPC has the capacity and commitment to provide an equivalent level of investment and stewardship.

Even if the boundaries were moved the rateable value of the area under consideration would not be sufficient in its own right to cover the costs of the required improvements as BTPC do not generate the necessary precept.

Financial and Strategic Consequences

The proposed transfer would also remove existing properties and significant future development from MPC's tax base. The full financial consequences for both Parish Councils have not yet been properly assessed.

MPC has made long-term financial commitments and investment decisions based on its existing boundary and tax base. Removing both existing residents and future development would inevitably affect that position and could ultimately place additional pressure on the remaining residents of Minchinhampton Parish.

Equally, any assessment of the proposal must consider whether BTPC has the financial capacity to take on additional assets and responsibilities while meeting its existing and proposed commitments.

Appendix A – Summary of Initial Responses

SDC’s website states that “A Community Governance Review cannot...change the amount of money that a parish council raises through your council tax (known as ‘precept’)”. It therefore follows that the additional costs of managing the Albert Road Playing Field will have a negative effect on the ratepayers of the area in question in the longer term irrespective of any short-term gain.

These are not matters which should be assumed or overlooked. They require proper evidence and transparent financial assessment before any boundary change can reasonably be considered.

Community Identity

BTPC has indicated that residents in the affected area feel naturally part of Brimscombe. MPC does not dispute that residents may have connections with Brimscombe, but this assertion had to be tested rather than assumed.

MPC has therefore sought the views of all potentially affected households by way of a hand-delivered questionnaire. The Council felt the need to do this as a response to the similar exercise undertaken by BTPC, but which lacked critical detail concerning the bigger picture. To date, there has been no overwhelming response one way or the other; of the 10 responses received by MPC, two felt they needed more information to make an informed decision and 3 were in support of staying in Minchinhampton Parish*. Interestingly, this seems to support the feedback gathered by BTPC and shared at the informal meeting there is no particular community driver to make any changes.

The Council considers that the views of existing residents must carry significant weight for any change to be processed; clearly there is no overwhelming concern one way or the other for the majority of those residents potentially affected.

Equally, the future residents of Wimberley Mills and Dark Mills should not effectively be denied a voice simply because development has not yet taken place.

* Should SDC wish to see copies of the responses received by MPC, these can be provided

Conclusion

MPC fully supports a proper and transparent Community Governance Review and will participate constructively in the process.

However, the burden must be on the evidence to demonstrate that changing the existing boundary would provide better and more convenient local governance and better reflect the interests of the communities concerned.

At this stage, MPC does not believe that case has been made.

The Council therefore strongly supports retaining the existing parish boundary unless the evidence gathered through the review demonstrates compelling reasons for change.

MPC will continue to gather evidence, consult affected residents and engage with SDC and BTPC as required should the review be progressed. If BTPC do submit a formal proposal, it must include a very clearly funded business case to cover the necessary expenditure required by the playground improvements.

CGR.031 Full response (Resident)

Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council Community Governance Reviews

A personal submission in respect of Coopers Edge

Principles of Local Self-Government

1 In approaching the question of parishing areas, it is important to be clear about the democratic principles that should apply to local self-government. A key document is the European Charter of Self Government and the 2009 protocol on citizens' rights to participate in local government, which came into force in 2012.¹ It is considered that the following principles from the Charter and the protocol need to underpin Tewkesbury Borough and Stroud District's approach to promoting the community self-government of Coopers Edge, as it should apply to all neighbourhoods in progressing both Community Governance Reviews but also to proposing Principal Area Boundary Reviews.

- **Right to Participate:** Every citizen has the right to participate in the conduct of local authority affairs.
- **Means of Participation:** Governments are required to provide citizens with the legal, regulatory, and practical means to influence local decision-making. This includes rights to use consultations, public petitions, and local referendums.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Local authorities must operate transparently, ensure documents are accessible, and remain fully accountable to the communities they serve.
- **Inclusivity:** Processes must actively reduce discrimination, ensuring that the right to participate is open to all citizens, including marginalized or underrepresented groups.
- **Supportive Environments:** Member states must put measures in place to overcome legal or social obstacles that might prevent citizens from exercising these participatory rights.
- **Legal Foundation:** The principle of local self-government must be recognized in domestic legislation and, if possible, in the constitution.
- **Concept of Autonomy:** Local authorities possess the right and ability to regulate and manage a substantial share of public affairs under their own responsibility.
- **Democratic Representation:** Councils must be composed of freely elected members via universal, equal, and direct secret ballot.
- **Scope of Responsibilities:** Basic powers and responsibilities must be prescribed by law, giving local authorities full discretion to exercise initiatives not exclusively reserved for other levels of government.
- **Boundary Protection:** Changes to local authority boundaries shall not be made without prior consultation of the local communities concerned.
- **Adequate Resources:** Local authorities must be provided with adequate financial resources that match their responsibilities.
- **Administrative Supervision:** State supervision of local activities is strictly limited to ensuring compliance with the law, respecting the proportionality of interventions.
- **Right to Associate:** Local authorities are entitled to cooperate and form consortia with other local bodies to carry out tasks of common interest.
- **Judicial Protection:** Local authorities must have the right of recourse to a judicial remedy to safeguard their free exercise of powers and local autonomy.

2. The point about Coopers Edge is that it was conceived in the early 2000s as a new neighbourhood and should therefore be able to expect governance arrangements that reflect that identity. It is completely unacceptable that a new neighbourhood should be left without a clear local democratic voice, where residents can participate in decisions affecting their community. It is simply not enough for residents to have to rely on the existing parishes to represent their interests. The European Charter of Local Self-Government and its 2009 Additional Protocol emphasise the right of citizens to participate in local authority affairs, the need for transparent and accountable local institutions, and the importance of providing practical means for local self-government are essential. Where a distinct neighbourhood has been planned, built and now functions as a community, those principles support the creation of a parish council so that residents have democratic representation, local accountability and a body able to speak and act for the neighbourhood as a whole. Whilst the UK Government has failed in its treaty obligations to enact the Charter into UK law, The question for the community governance process is how to deliver effective democracy to local residents at pace and with appropriate regard to their intended treaty rights.

Creation of a Single Parish Council

3. The creation of a single parish council is the most practical and sensible option; however, it is recognised that Government red tape could hinder a solution being delivered at pace, due to legislation preventing parishes being established which straddle a local authority boundary and Local Government Boundary Commission for England adopting a particularly passive approach to Principal Area Boundary Reviews.

Principal Area Boundary Review

4. Whilst it is reputed that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has set itself against undertaking any Principal Area Boundary Reviews in areas that are subject to LGR this has not been tested by any recent proposals. In fact their Business Plan for 2026-2027 does not qualify this simply stating:

“We will consider carrying out reviews of the external boundaries of local authorities, such as where local authorities jointly request a change to the boundary between two areas”

5. Given the uncertainty that now exists over LGR it is submitted that Tewkesbury BC and Stroud DC should agree on a PABR proposal which places Coopers Edge in a single council area, most likely to be wholly within Tewkesbury Borough. This would mean that a proposal was then in progress, in the event that the Government was to revert to consideration of a two unitary proposal. This should then be highlighted to Government to be taken account of as part of the Structural Changes Order.

Government Pause and Review of LGR

6. The Government’s recent announcement of a pause and review of the 16 July 2026 LGR decision for Gloucestershire creates considerable uncertainty and whilst one possible outcome is a re-confirmation of the existing decision, this is not by any means certain. As a consequence, the two districts should be nimble footed enough to engage with the Government to make the case for the whole of Coopers Edge to be placed in a single unitary authority. This could require a further period of consultation on a LGR decision but would be an effective way of overcoming the problems that would be caused by the neighbourhood being divided between two districts as proposed by the Cheltenham 2 unitary proposal.

Creation of a Coopers Edge Parish in each District

7. In the absence of progress at pace by other means it is suggested that each district creates a parish covering the part of Coopers Edge in each district. This could be seen as aa short-term expediency. This approach would result in the creation of a Coopers Edge Parish Council in each district which for discussion purposes are described as Coopers Edge (Tewkesbury) and Coopers Edge (Stroud) referred to as CE(S) and CE(T). It is noted, for example, that there are currently two Staunton parishes in the Forest of Dean (but they are geographically separate), so the concept of similarly named parishes does not appear to be an legal issue.

8. Appendix A describes a possible operating model which would enable the two councils to co-operate as a single Joint Committee with all councillors being members delivering services across the two parishes. This model would deliver parish services to a single cohesive neighbourhood but would ensure that the statutory duties of each respective legally created council also operated within the statutory requirements. This approach would create as near to a single parish council as possible, within the constraints of the Community Governance Review process. The question for Tewkesbury and Stroud is whether they would be content with the two proposed parishes having a clear sense of identity separate from the existing three parishes. It is considered that despite the 2022 decision by Tewkesbury on this matter, that the two authorities can and should recognise the two councils as legitimate areas to be separate parishes. Simply because each has a separate identity from the parish they are joined to.

9. The electoral size of the two councils would need to be carefully considered. The minimum statutory size of a parish council is five councillors and therefore CE(S) would require five councillors, to achieve equality of representation this would suggest tht CE(T) would need to have ten councillors. However, this is likely to result in an over large joint committee and perhaps a compromise is for CE(T) to have eight members, resulting in a total of 13 councillors on the joint committee.

Conclusion

10. The priority for Stroud District Council is to work jointly with Tewkesbury Borough Council in a solution focused way that can be deliver a positive outcome in a reasonable period of time enabling Coopers Edge to become a neighbourhood in control of its own destiny, rather than relying on unacceptable historical boundaries and what is now decades of underinvestment of precept resources in the local community and its needs not being fully championed by the existing three councils.

Now is the time for both authorities to back change.

Appendix A

A Possible Two Councils/ Joint Committee Model

Two Legally Separate Councils working jointly together for the Whole Neighbourhood

1 In this model the two parishes are the “legal necessities” to comply within current law and the joint committee would be the day-to-day delivery body to which members of both councils would be appointed. The delegated powers of the joint committee would be intentionally wide so that all decision making would be shared by councillors across Coopers Edge, However, it would also ensure that the functions that are not able to be delegated to a committee continue to be undertaken by each respective council.

Staffing

2. A Single Clerk could be appointed by the Joint Committee who, in turn would be appointed as Clerk and RFO of the two councils, all other staff would be appointed by the Joint Committee and would report to the Clerk.

Functional Responsibilities

Coopers Edge (Tewkesbury) Parish Council	Coopers Edge (Stroud) Parish Council
Each Council operates in full compliance with statutory requirements for a parish council including: - - Minimum Statutory 4 Meetings a Year (Annual and 3 other meetings) - Appoints a Chair and Vice Chair - Appoints a proper officer and RFO. - Approves standing orders and financial regulations and a code of conduct - Holds an annual parish meeting - Sets an annual precept on the Council Tax Billing Authority - Approves Annual Accounts and Annual Governance Statement - Gives notice of vacancies and if required co-opts councillors to Vacancies on the respective council - Retains Legal ownership of any assets in its area. - Both councils are party to an agreement on how the joint committee between the two councils will operate. (The Joint Agreement whilst intending to be enduring until a single parish could be created, would provide for periodic review). - The Council appoints all of its councillors to serve on the Joint Committee.	

Coopers Edge Joint Committee Possible Working Title Coopers Edge Parishes Committee
- Operates as a Section 102 LGA 1972 joint committee on which all councillors of the two councils serve and has wide delegation of functions under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 as provided in the joint agreement - Appoints a Chair and Vice Chair (one from each of the two councils) - Employs a Clerk (who is also responsible officer and RFO of the Committee and the two councils), who manages all other staff employed. - Recommends an annual budget to the two councils and recommends a precept based on a single Band D precept for the two parishes

Examples of Existing Joint Services

3. There are probably no directly similar examples of parish councils delegating most of their functions to a joint committee but there are examples of District Councils jointly providing services and one of the most enduring has been the Worthing and Adur model, established in 2007, which whilst retaining a distinct political structure for each council delegates operational delivery to a Joint Committee and officer structure.

4. There are also locally examples of One Legal which provides legal services for 4 of the 6 district councils in Gloucestershire. Additionally there are examples of joint committees operated by parishes are also included below, primarily related to planning,

Adur and Worthing

5 Adur and Worthing agreed in 2007 to deliver functions and services through a Joint Officer Structure and a Joint Committee Structure “to deliver all of the services of Adur and Worthing Councils jointly”. This in the context of two district councils operating “executive arrangements” provides for a joint executive committee, joint appointments committee, a joint committee dealing with non-executive functions, a joint overview and scrutiny committee and a joint remuneration panel. Each council has a constitution, but it appears that these mirror each other. The two councils continue to operate independent meetings of each council, an executive as well as licensing and planning committees. The two councils also have a joint council website. An example of a review of the agreement dating back to 2018 has been found and can be accessed at: - <https://democracy.adur-worthing.gov.uk/Data/Joint%20Governance%20Committee/201809251830/Agenda/media,150742,en.pdf>

One Legal

6 One Legal is a joint legal service for 4 District and Borough councils covering Tewkesbury, Stroud, Gloucester and Cheltenham. It is operationally hosted by Tewkesbury Borough Council but is overseen by a Joint Management Board consisting of 8 Councillors, 2 each appointed by the member councils. There is a presentation provided by One Legal which can be accessed here: - <https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/documents/s5563/Annex%20F%20-%20Presentation%20from%20One%20Legal.pdf>

Creech St Michael Parish Council and West Monkton Parish Council Joint Committee

7 This is a joint committee of two parishes “constituted to lead the response to and oversight of the Langaller Park Development (formerly known as MH2) on behalf of the Creech St Michael Parish Council and West Monkton Parish Council.” This is a 1450 home development proposed for a site to the north east of Taunton. It is currently the subject of a planning application by two developers. Link to terms of reference: - <https://westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Joint-Committee-of-Creech-St-Michael-Parish-Council-and-West-Monkton-Parish-Council-Terms-of-Reference-1.pdf> Information on the planning application: - <https://www.creechstmichaelparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-council/langaller-park-development/>

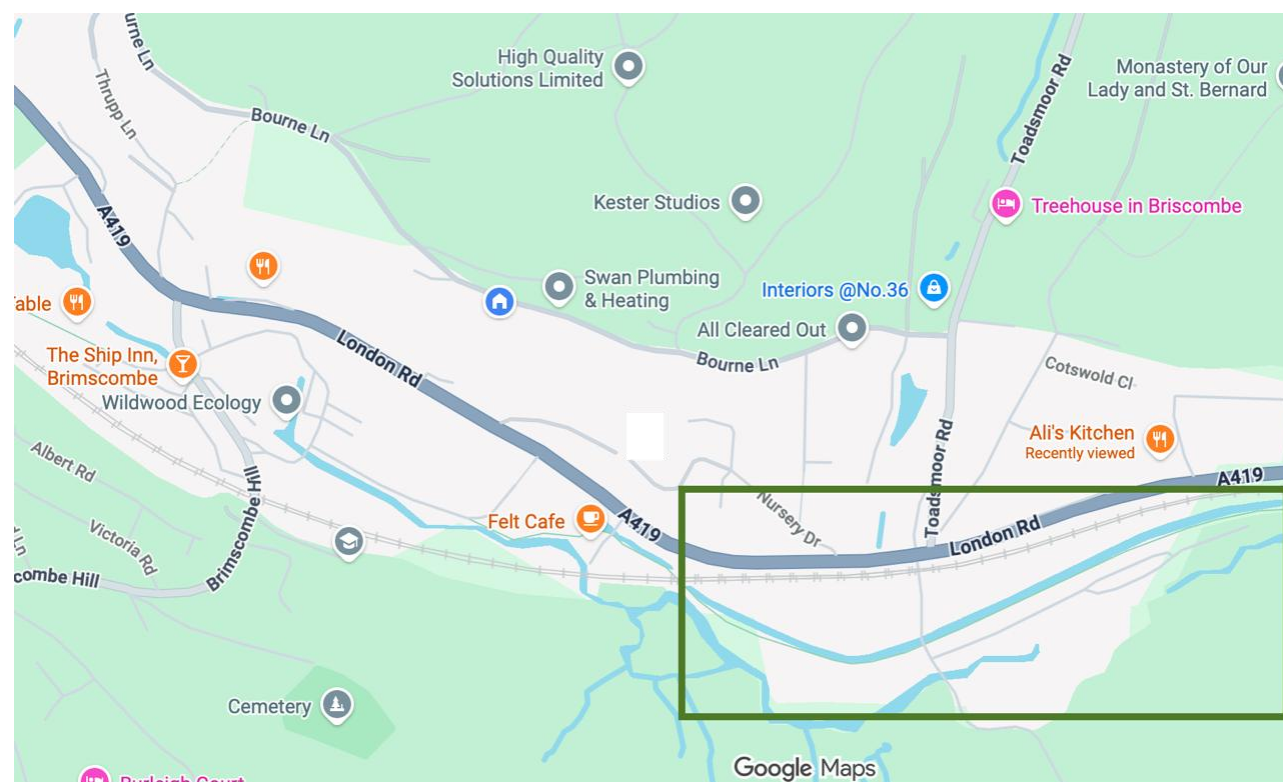
Caterham, Chaldon and Whyteleafe Neighbourhood Plan

8 This is a neighbourhood plan covering four parishes with a total population of 21,000 and is administered by the largest of the four councils through a joint committee funded by the four councils. This has been long term, as the plan was originally adopted in 2021, and has been revised and approved in a referendum with 87% in favour in 2026. Details of the terms of reference can be found <https://www.caterhamhill-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-implementation-group-joint-committee/>

ⁱ The Pan-European General Principles on Local Self-Government, Research Network on EU Administrative Law, <https://renewal.eu/projects-and-publications/renewal-2-0?view=article&id=32&catid=2#III>

CGR.032 Map accompanying email (Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council)

Please find below a map showing the rough proposed area that Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council would like to be considered to be moved from Minchinhampton Parish to Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish as part of the Community Governance Review. As detailed in our submission, the Parish Council feels that the development areas of Wimberley Park and Dark Mills (which are currently within Minchinhampton Parish) will have a significant impact on Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish, both in terms of infrastructure usage and connectedness to our parish. The area is geographically isolated from the rest of Minchinhampton Parish with extremely poor road access and so therefore we believe it would be a natural extension of our parish to move the boundary to include those areas within Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish. We have provided a map with a rough outline of the area in question and can work with the team at SDC to identify the specific area in question - we are aware from our recent meeting at SDC that the team at SDC have access to more accurate mapping facilities to draw this up.





**Submission to Tewkesbury Borough
Council and Stroud District Council
Community Governance Reviews**

By

Brockworth Parish Council

Hucclecote Parish Council

Upton St Leonards Parish Council

Revised Version September 2026

Executive Summary

This paper sets out the case for a Coopers Edge Parish Council which is supported by the Brockworth, Hucclecote and Upton St Leonards Parish Councils who each currently cover about one third of the neighbourhood. It considers various aspects including previous Community Governance Reviews, Coopers Edge as a planned neighbourhood, residents views and presents a range of options, whilst reinforcing the preferred option that Coopers Edge has a new parish council for the neighbourhood. Whilst there is unanimity about the need to create a Coopers Edge Parish, some parishes are less inclined to support some of the options considered and where this is the case this is recorded in the consideration of the option

- Background (paragraphs 1 to 4)
- Previous Community Governance Reviews (paragraphs 5 to 8)
- Coopers Edge as a planned neighbourhood (paragraphs 9 to 22)
- Coopers Edge Operating as a Neighbourhood (paragraphs 23 to 35)
- Residents Views from Survey on neighbourhood (36 to 38)

Parishing Options

- Option A: Single Parish Covering Coopers Edge includes impacts on existing (paragraphs 39 to 44). **This is the preferred option**
- Option B: An Existing Parish expanded to cover Coopers Edge (paragraphs 49 to 52). **The disadvantages of this option outweigh the benefits and therefore is not supported by the three councils.**
- Option C: No change to boundaries (paragraph 53). **This is not considered sustainable in the medium to long term.**

Consideration is also given to short term stepping stones to a single parish including: -

- Option D: Warding of Parishes (paragraphs 54 to 58). **For the reasons set out in the submission this is not supported by any of the parishes.**

We would draw attention to the recommendation in paragraph 42 that the finance teams of Stroud and Tewkesbury undertake some modelling of the Band D equivalent figures for the proposed parish and the three altered parishes to enable more accurate future financial planning to be undertaken as the boundary changes are likely to have a significant financial impact on both Upton St Leonards and Hucclecote Parish Councils.

Conclusion (paragraphs 59 to 61)

The original submission made to Tewkesbury Borough Council recommended that a **joint consultation be undertaken by Stroud District and Tewkesbury Borough on the creation of a single parish council, once the Government has announced its decision on Local Government Re-organisation.** Subsequently, the decision was announced on 16 July by the Government to create a single unitary council, which means that from 1 April 2028 the three parishes will be within the same local authority area and decisions on a single council for Coopers Edge can be made by the new Gloucestershire Council. If the Government grants CGR powers to the council during the shadow period it would be possible to progress this during to come into force from 1 April 2028 (subject to capacity within the shadow authority and the existing councils). Otherwise, steps should be taken to create the new parish council as soon as possible after vesting day.

Background

1 This is a joint proposal by Brockworth Parish Council, Hucclecote Parish Council and Upton St Leonards Parish Council which sets out the case for a single parish council covering Coopers Edge for consideration by Tewkesbury Borough Council as part of their Community Governance Review (CGR). As Stroud District Council is now conducting its own CGR this document will also be submitted to Stroud for their consideration.

2 It is the shared view that there should be a single parish council for Coopers Edge, but this paper, covers the two possible options to achieve this: -

- A Single Coopers Edge Parish Council
- An Existing Parish expanded to cover Coopers Edge

3 We also consider a no change option and a temporary stepping stones of creating a Coopers Edge ward in each parish and conclude there are practical difficulties with this option, particularly if it is intended to be a temporary arrangement.

4. This document has arisen from discussions within the Coopers Edge Liaison Committee, including discussions at meetings of each of the parish councils during June. Following a meeting of the Committee on Wednesday 17 June the final draft of the document was recommended to the three parishes to approve the final draft in accordance with each council's formal decision-making process.

Previous Community Governance Reviews

5. Tewkesbury Borough Council previously considered the question of parishing of Coopers Edge during a CGR which was completed in 2022. The initial consultation round reported on the working group's deliberations and records in the draft recommendations to the Executive Committee and agreed to seek LGBCE advice on how to create a single parish covering the whole of Coopers Edge or alternatively creating a parish of the parts in Hucclecote and Brockworth. The resolution of this item delegated further consideration of creating a Coopers Edge parish covering only the Brockworth and Hucclecote parts. ¹

6. The final report was agreed and considered by the Council at its Annual Meeting on the 17 May 2022, and it records that the creation of a single cross boundary parish was the preferred option of both Brockworth and Hucclecote parishes but concluded that was not within the remit of a Community Governance Review. Consideration of a single parish covering the Brockworth and Hucclecote parts of Coopers Edge was rejected:-

“as it was felt there was insufficient community identity to create a Parish Council made up of those two areas only.”

7 The option of creating Coopers Edge wards in both parishes was also rejected, primarily to keep the existing Brockworth parish wards coterminous with the Borough Wards. The report did, however, note: -

“The Working Group was however keen to stress support for a separate Coopers Edge Parish Council should a Principal Area Review take place in the future or Local Government re-organisation that would facilitate all three areas of Coopers Edge being incorporated in one Parish Council including the area currently included in Stroud District Council.”²

8, In Terms of Stroud District Council Community Governance Reviews there is no formal record of any consideration of Upton St Leonards and Coopers Edge in previous reviews. Nevertheless, we understand that Stroud District also recognises the administrative issues that are posed by a neighbourhood straddling the district boundary.

Coopers Edge as a Planned Neighbourhood

9 In considering the need for a Coopers Edge Parish Council we think it is relevant to consider the extent to which the area was planned and delivered as a single neighbourhood. The idea of releasing a portion of land within the former Brockworth Aerodrome for housing development was under active consideration by Tewkesbury Borough and Stroud District in 1998 for an area totalling 80 Hectares, which was considered through the County Structure Review process.³ The 2nd Review of the County Structure Plan in terms of Stroud states “In this strategy, some development will also take place within Stroud District at the former Brockworth airfield site.” Likewise, in terms of Tewkesbury it states: - “The strategy envisages that the majority of the development will take place in and around Tewkesbury/ Ashchurch and some development at the former Brockworth Airfield Site.”⁴

10. Stroud District and Tewkesbury Borough both asked their respective local plan inquiry to report early on the policies in their draft plans in respect of allocations for 1400 dwellings in Brockworth and Hucclecote and 500 homes in Upton St Leonards. The Stroud version of the Local Plan Draft, included to the report to Stroud DC Council on 19 February 2004, states at paragraph 5.9.6a referring to the Stroud allocation: -

“This site forms part of a larger allocation within Tewkesbury Borough Council’s administrative area. It is intended to produce a joint master plan and development brief for the site overall to ensure the whole area is developed in a co-ordinated manner, the necessary public facilities and services are provided, and the resultant development is cohesive and creates a balanced community.”⁵

11. It also states in that paragraph that: -

“The scale of the development proposed is considered sufficient to create a largely self-contained new community.”

12 This shows that the two local planning authorities intended to create a single neighbourhood, supported by a range of local services across the development.

13. The original promoters of the development, Westbury Homes (Holdings) Limited, P & O Property Holdings Limited and Bovis Homes (South West) commissioned Roger Evans Associates to produce a design statement to support the outline planning application submitted to both authorities, the design statement was subsequently revised in 2003. The design statement described the whole development, straddling the two council’s boundary as a “new neighbourhood at Brockworth Airfield.” This and similar phrases appear throughout the document, including at page 3, 11, 20, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38, 49, 50, 53, 58, 60, 62, 63 and 64. Other neighbourhood wording is also used including “village green” on page 38 and also high street about the main route which was envisaged to link areas within the neighbourhood. It also refers to a ‘resident’s trust’ to manage communal buildings (page 50) and a “neighbourhood centre” (p 58),

14. At page 11 the design statement states: -

“It is essential that the development of the former airfield be conceived as a true neighbourhood and not just a series of housing estates. Neighbourhoods are distinguished by having a range of facilities at their heart with residential areas within walking distance of the centre and accessible for all..... In achieving this objective, the shape and form of the proposed development takes account of best planning practice rather than arbitrary administrative boundaries.”

15. The design statement also includes a very useful flow chart illustrating the relationship between the various aspects of the planning process, including the design statement, statutory and non-statutory local authority planning documents and the planning application

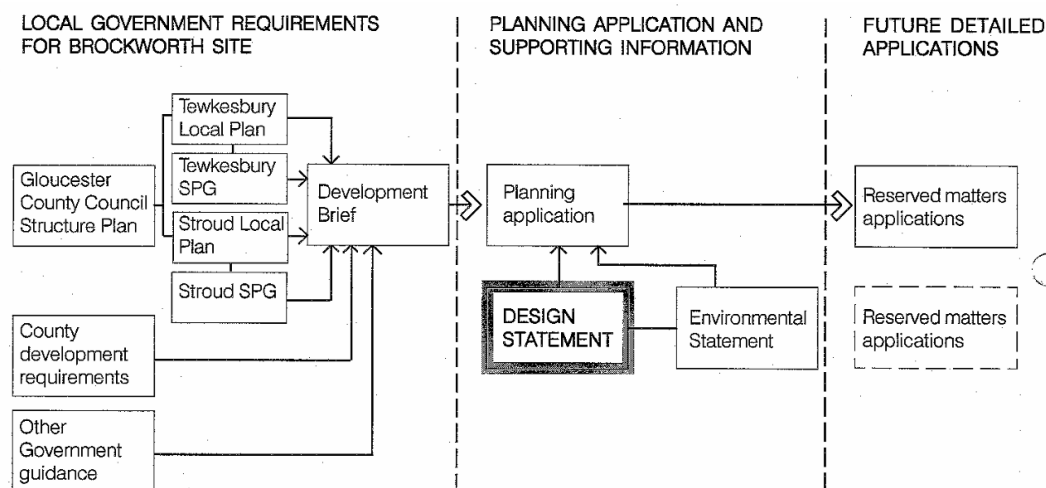


Fig 1.2 Planning process for new neighbourhood at Brockworth Airfield

Figure 1: Extract from page 2 of the Roger Evans Associates Design Statement for New Neighbourhood at Brockworth Airfield.

16. Stroud District Council's Development Control Committee considered the outline application at its meeting on 11 June 2004. Tewkesbury had previously approved the application at their meeting on 14 April 2004. Both authorities recommended consent subject to Section 106 agreements covering highways, education libraries, open spaces, play provision and community centre.⁶

17. In terms of a joint planning brief it states that: -

"The Brockworth Airfield Development Brief which covers the housing area has been adopted by Tewkesbury Borough Council and Stroud District Council and forms part of the comprehensive Brief." (Page 45)

18. It also states on the same page that: -

"The Design Statement seeks to achieve a neighbourhood with community buildings at its centre rather than a series of housing estates. Buildings will be grouped to define the public realm with densities higher around the neighbourhood centre."

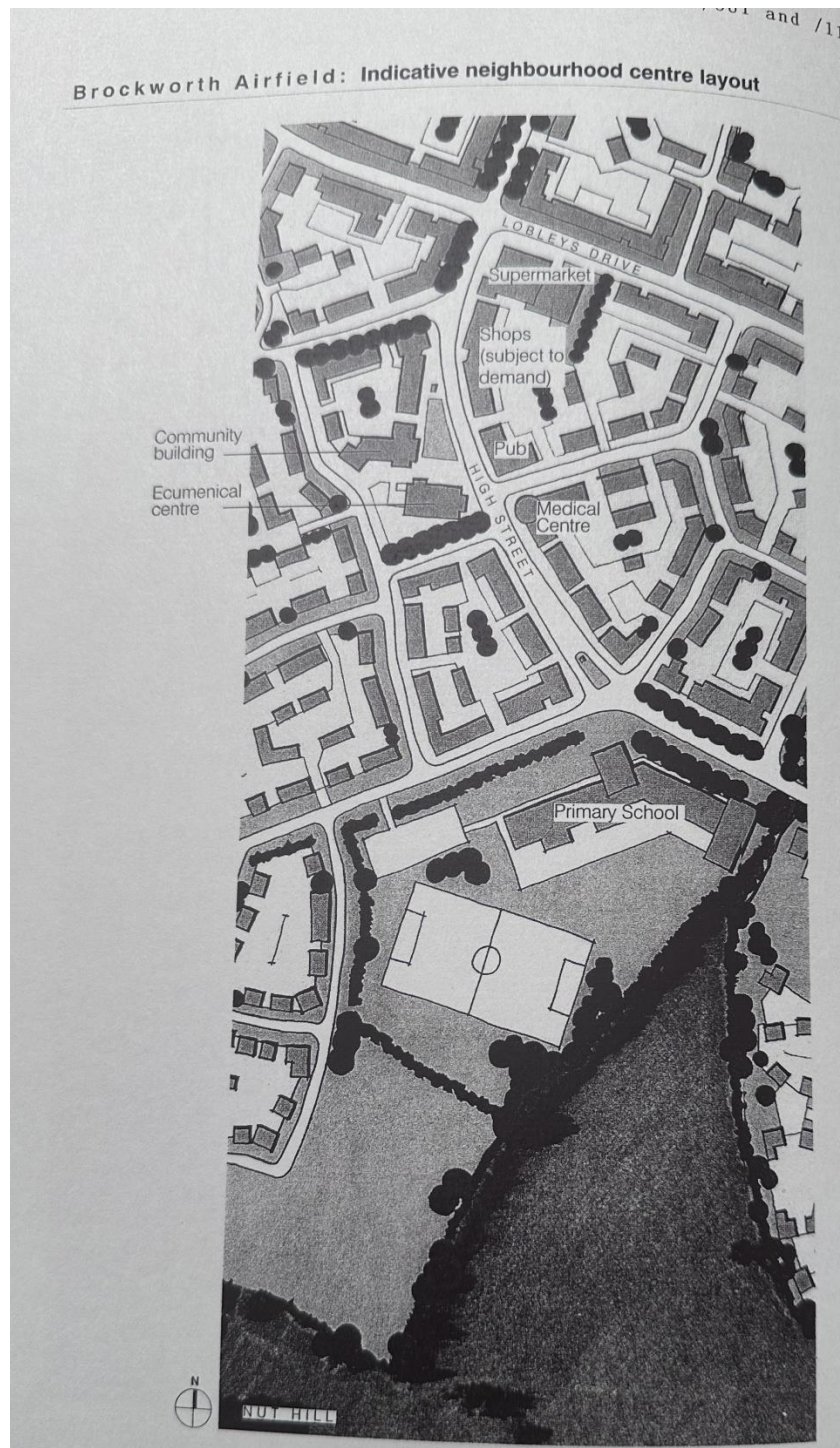
19. There were also specific planning conditions which refer to the "neighbourhood centre" (condition 5, 9, 10, 14 as shown in Stroud Committee report).

20. Much of the Tewkesbury Borough Council planning report considered by the Planning (Special) Committee on 19 April 2004, covers much of the same ground as the Stroud report, albeit focused on the issues for Tewkesbury Borough, and for brevity is not covered in detail here, apart from noting that the report refers to Local Plan Policy BR1 at paragraph 4.7.1 in which the final bullet point records: -

"provide a comprehensive approach in conjunction with the proposed housing allocation and community and recreation facilities within Stroud District."

21. Additionally, attention is drawn to the plan included in the report which shows the extent of community facilities envisaged, some of which has not been delivered and due to

the conversion of sites to residential use, is now never likely to be provided. This includes an ecumenical centre, medical centre and a community pub.⁷



Extract from TBC Planning (Special) Committee Report 19 April 2004

22. Whilst significant questions still exist about whether all aspects of the original vision have been delivered, facilities to create an integrated neighbourhood have been delivered including –

- Edge Community Centre
- Coopers Edge primary school
- Sports Hub and Sports Courts
- Retail space (50% under provision)
- Extensive Play space including
 - Coopers Edge Skate Park
 - Martin Close Play Area and Green space
 - Merlin Close Play Area
 - Handley Park
- Allotment Site (allocated but not delivered)

Coopers Edge Operating as a Neighbourhood

23. In addition to the intention of the developers and the local planning authorities to create a neighbourhood it is important to consider how the area functions as a neighbourhood and the following paragraphs consider how the neighbourhood operates as a community.

Coopers Edge Trust

24. The Coopers Edge Community Trust is the leading “anchor institution”⁸ in the community in that it is the owner of the Coopers Edge School site and nominates the Trust Governors to the School. It also manages the Community Centre, on a long lease from Stroud District Council, which also provides the Edge Deli-Café. It is anticipated the Trust will also manage the local allotments, when the site is transferred to Stroud DC. The Trust has also provided a letter in support of creating a Coopers Edge Parish Council.

Coopers Edge School

25. A central point of the neighbourhood centre was the provision of a two-form primary school and it is another essential part of the community infrastructure within Coopers Edge. It operates as a foundation school, a maintained school, operated by its governing body. The school allocation policy includes a catchment area based on the neighbourhood.⁹ The school also provides space for the recently established Youth Club.

Coopers Edge Sports Hub

26. The sports hub constructed by the main developers of the Coopers Edge Development was transferred under one of the Section 106 Agreements to Tewkesbury Borough Council who offered the sports hub on a 25-year lease, through a competitive process, which resulted in Barnwood United being awarded the lease. Coopers Edge residents are actively involved in the running of the club, including the Club’s Chief Operating Officer and it actively encourages residents to join their teams. The club also play all their home matches at the Coopers Edge Sports Hub. The Club have provided a letter of support for the proposal, and this is included in the attachments to this submission.

27. The facilities comprise of two natural turf area for football pitches, a multiuser games area (MUGA), a 5 a side football astroturf pitch, a changing pavilion and parking area. are available for hire when not required by the club. The have converted part of the space into a licensed bar and have also provided additional storage equipment on site. The team operates several men’s teams and also have a pyramid of youth teams to offer opportunities for people of all ages and also runs a Comets Pan Disability Football Group at the at the Coopers Edge Community Centre.

Deli Edge Café

28. The café space at the Community Centre was taken over by a local couple and officially opened in September 2022. They completely transformed the menu, and it is now a

busy community café welcoming residents and providing another focal point for the community.

Youth Club Provision

29. The three parish councils are in the second year of commissioning Brockworth Link to provide a youth club on a Tuesday evening during term time at the School. Additional activities arranged are arranged during the Easter and Summer holiday periods. It has been successful in drawing in additional funding from Gloucestershire County Council and from the Lady Downe Trust. The activities are well regarded by the young people.

Convenience Store and Take Away

30. Despite an early vision to create a “high street” feel to the main street the neighbourhood has less than half the retail space anticipated and it has taken many years longer than expected to be delivered. The developer of the site is a local franchisee of KFC. The Tesco convenience store opened earlier this year and appears to have high level of local customers, as well as lunchtime patronage from workers on the adjoining business park. The original plans for the site envisaged two takeaway units but this is now operating as a single eat in and take away KFC. Both are well patronised.

Public Open Space

31. There is extensive public open space, local equipped areas of play (LEAP) in addition to local area of play (LAP) located throughout the development. This includes extensive areas of attenuation ponds and a remodelled course of the Wotton Brook. Some of the open spaces provide specialist areas like the skate park located in Public Open Space 1 – to the north of Lobleys Drive. The most significant area of public open space is adjacent to Tiger Moth Close which includes the protected veteran oaks, which need to be carefully managed.

Churches

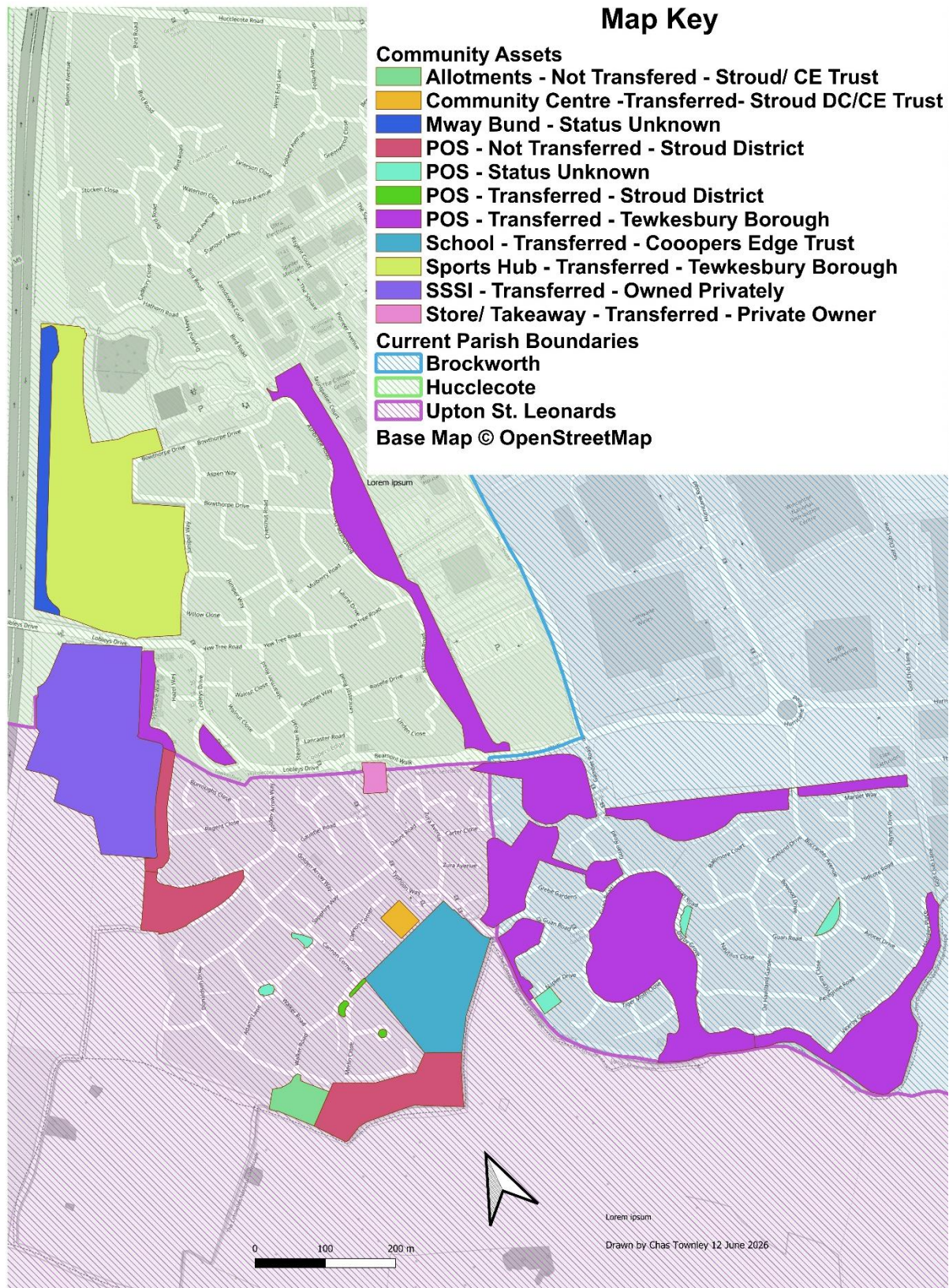
32. The Church of England retains parish boundaries which were coterminous with civil parishes within Coopers edge for Brockworth, Hucclecote and Upton St Leonards. The only notable exception being that the Hucclecote ecclesiastical parish still includes a large area within the City, but no longer covers any part of Churchdown Hill.¹⁰ The Gloucester Diocese actively works to plant new churches in new communities and in 2024, after a long period of planning, Coopers Edge Community Church was established and holds weekly services in the Community Centre and also undertakes a wide range of activities. They describe themselves as a “friendly, all-age Christian community rooted in Coopers Edge.”¹¹

33. A Coopers Edge Baptist Church meetings weekly in the Coopers Edge School and was formed in 2013, on website they describe themselves as “a group of ordinary people committed to serving the community of Coopers Edge.” They also hold regular meetings for young people, women and men within the community.¹²

33. There is also a Pentecostal church which meets at the Pineholt Village Hall, adjacent to Coopers Edge, and is linked to the Birmingham and Wolverhampton based P.A.W.A Mount Beulah Apostolic Churches, the location of this church perhaps reflects one aspect of the diversity of the local community.

Coopers Edge Community Assets

Map Key



Map1: Illustrating Community Assets Spread Across the Community

Regular Activities in the Community Centre

34. Regular community activities take place at the community centre and examples of the groups operating there are given below.

- **Little Coopers Play and Stay Sessions**

These are held weekly every Monday morning, which describes itself “as an exciting stay and play in Coopers Edge for under 5s and their guardians.”

- **The Ark Baby and Toddler Group**

This is a stay and play fun young children operated by Coopers Edge Community Church and operates every term-time Wednesday.

- **Tumble Tots Gloucester**

Tumble Tots is a franchise operation and the Gloucester franchisee operates 26 sessions a week across Gloucester and suburbs on the north of the City. Eight of these sessions take place at Coopers Edge Community Centre on a Friday and Saturday.

- **Walking Football**

A locally affiliated group of the Walking Football Association meets weekly at the community centre.¹³

- **Coopers Edge Liaison Committee**

The Coopers Edge Liaison Committee, a joint committee of the three parish councils holds its meeting at the Community Centre

- **Other Groups**

There also other groups who use the community centre including: -

- Elevate Dance: Adult Ballet/Dance
- Badminton groups & hire for the community.
- Coopers Edge & Innsworth Tae Kwon Do
- Pilates
- Yoga & Sound Baths
- Subdud Community Meeting
- Baptist Church Youth meeting
- Baptist Church Prayer & Ladies Meetings
- Hearts & Hurricanes WI
- Theatre Train Gloucester
- NHS Health Visitors Baby Hub
- Walking Cricket
- GKR Karate
- Toddler Football
- Singing Mamas
- Accessible Youth Football With Barnwood AFC
- PE Classes for Belong Learning
- Tutoring for students with Belong Learning (for those not in mainstream education)
- 11+ Exam prep
- Roller Disco twice a week
- Dance fitness

Pineholt Village Hall

35 Pineholt Village Hall was developed as part of the Cranham Gate housing development to the north of Coopers Edge, and provides a large meeting room, office facilities for Hucclecote Parish Council and is also home of the Pineholt Bowls Club. Being adjacent to Coopers Edge it also helps to develop local community spirit and offers space to local groups. Also provided by the parish council, in conjunction with the local surgeries is the Hucclecote Community Walk and Talk, which regularly includes routes around Coopers Edge and draws some attendees from Coopers Edge.

Community Views on Coopers Edge as a Neighbourhood

36. In total 126 responses have been received and these are being provided to Tewkesbury Borough Council, alongside this report. As part of the resident's survey comments were asked "What do you feel makes Coopers Edge a community?" Details of the full responses received are being shared with Tewkesbury Borough Council, examples of the responses received include: -

- "The proposal for the development was supported by a single planning brief agreed by both Stroud District and Tewkesbury Borough and has specific community assets spread across the development, including a sports hub and major play area in the Tewkesbury part of the neighbourhood and a community centre and school in the Stroud part. There are also various groups who have a clear Coopers Edge identity including the School and its associated Trust."
- "The school, community centre and things like Halloween & advent windows bring everyone together. The Facebook group also allows Edgers to communicate, ask for advice, moan (!) and help maintain the community identity. It's a clear area and should be treated as one community."
- "Coopers Edge has a good community, I enjoy going for walks in the open spaces, visiting the parks and going to the deli cafe. It feels like everything you need is within walking distance which makes it feel like a community."
- "Our family has lived in Coopers Edge for over 10 years, and in that time we have seen it become a real community with a strong local identity. What makes Coopers Edge special is the way residents come together and take pride in the area. There are active local groups, community pages and neighbours who genuinely look out for one another and want to improve where we live"
- "The addition of an Anglican 'community' church that is active and participates and leads many community activities (e.g. Easter trails / Christmas Carol service) which have been established in recent years further enriches this community sense."
- "There is a fantastic community that join together for multiple family events throughout the year which is something that I haven't seen or experienced in other areas in the same way, and it's lovely to see residents who you may not normally have had the opportunity to meet. It's also great for the children that live here. The neighbours and community are friendly and it feels like the people that live here are genuinely respectful of the area and others that live here too. Coopers edge is always clean and tidy. I have seen local people regularly volunteer litter picking."

37 These responses show that residents consider that Coopers Edge is a neighbourhood with strong community identity. Residents clearly identify the need for a single parish council with comments like: -

- "By having us all under one council will only help to solidify this sense of community."
- "A single parish council would give the whole neighbourhood one clear voice and help ensure decisions reflect the needs of the people who actually live here and use these spaces."

- “In our experience, Coopers Edge is not simply a housing estate — it is an established, connected and active community, and a parish council would help support and strengthen that community spirit even further.”
- “Now that it has a shop and takeaway, as well as a well-used and popular community centre and primary school, combined with the fact that most residents walk to these facilities from their houses means that it feels like its own location and community.”

38. Respondents have also been asked “Do you agree that Coopers Edge should have a single parish council cover the whole neighbourhood?” Responses received showed 120 out of 126 responses in support for a single parish council. As previously stated all responses received will be communicated to Tewkesbury Borough.

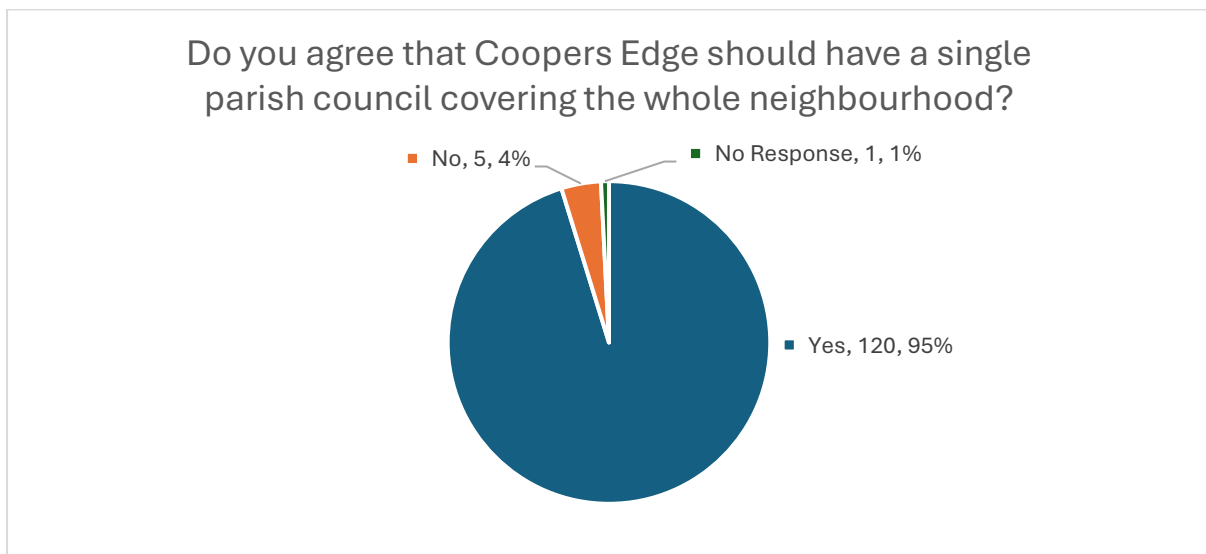


Figure 1: Responses to Survey 22 June 2026

Parishing Options

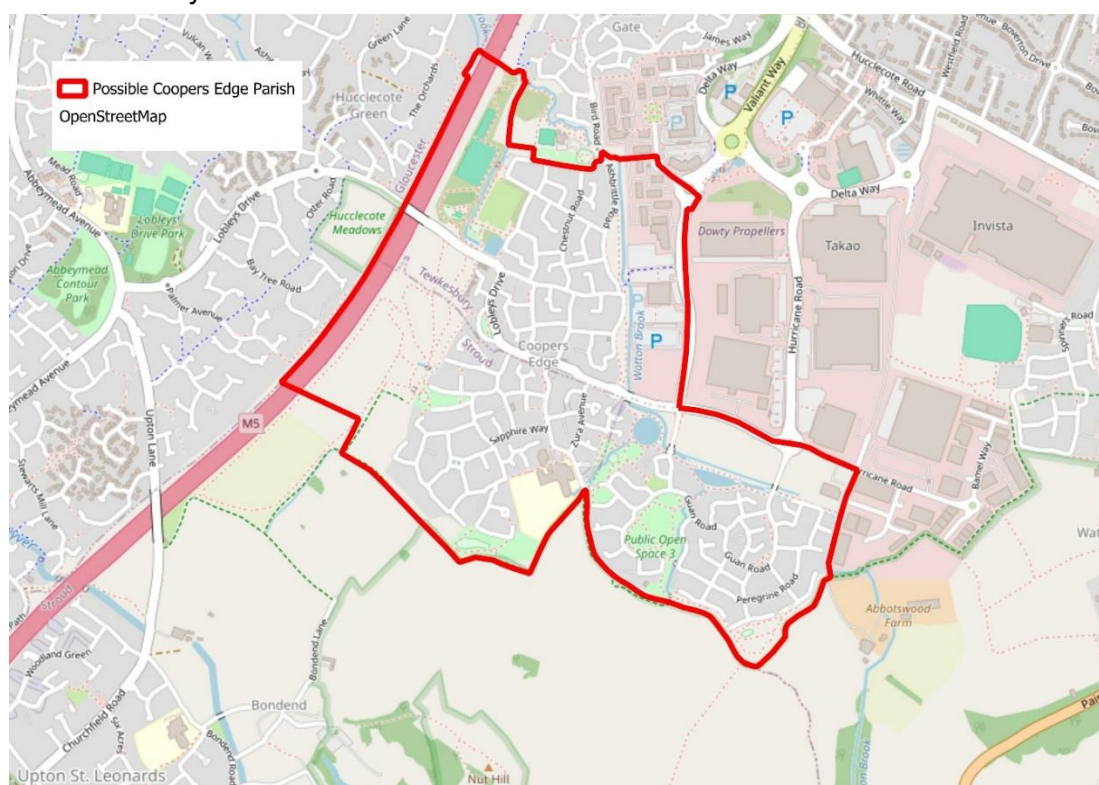
39. There are several options that can be considered, however, **the three parishes overall preference is for a single parish covering Coopers Edge**. How this can be delivered will be very much dependant on the outcome of the unitary boundaries when the Government's decision is announced in July. If the three parishes are in the same proposed unitary authority, we would seek that the process be assisted by Gloucestershire Structural Changes Order (the order which creates the new unitary or unitaries and abolishes the existing councils) to empower the shadow authority to undertake or complete community governance reviews.

The options that have been identified as potentially available are listed below and considered in subsequent paragraphs.

- a) A Single Parish Council for Coopers Edge
- b) Extending the boundaries of an existing parish to cover the whole of Coopers Edge. This is most likely to be an expansion of Hucclecote but another option on this theme could be an expanded Brockworth parish.
- c) No change continues existing parishes with no alterations to boundaries
- d) The creation of a Coopers Edge Ward in each parish

Option A - A Single Parish Council for Coopers Edge

40. The suggested boundaries for a stand-alone Coopers Edge Parish are shown below. It is possible that some minor modifications may be required but in essence this boundary includes the whole of the neighbourhood, some parts of the Business Park immediately adjacent to Coopers Edge. It is intended to also include the bridleway which skirts the southern boundary.



Map 2: Map of Proposed Parish

Warding and Number of Councillors

41. It is assumed that the current borough/district wards and county division boundaries may need to remain in place and therefore there would be a need to create parish wards to reflect these boundaries, although the actual boundaries might be adjusted to match current physical features rather than follow the long-forgotten field boundaries. Details of the current polling districts and the proposed names for the wards are shown in the table below: -

Table 1: Proposed Warding and Electorate Figures for Coopers Edge Parish			
Polling District	Electorate	Current Polling Station	Ward Name
Hucclecote (HCCA)	1033	Pineholt Village Hall	Coopers Edge North
Brockworth (BRWC)	933	Coopers Edge Community Centre	Coopers Edge East
Upton St Leonards (PUI)	1064	Coopers Edge Community Centre	Cooper Edge West
Total proposed parish electorate	3030		

42. Based on the Tewkesbury scale of councillors to electorate this would suggest a parish council on the borderline between 11 and 13 councillors. It is considered that each ward needs to be entitled to an equal number of councillors and that would suggest a council size of 9 or 12 (with 3 or 4 councillors per ward). We would recommend 9 with 3 councillors per ward. In the event there is high demand to serve on the council, membership can be expanded in the future in line with future election cycles.

Impact on Existing Parishes

43. The creation of a Coopers Edge Parish will have variable impacts on the three existing parishes. In electorate terms all three parishes would lose electors to a new Coopers Edge parish. In the case of Brockworth, it is considered that the impact of this would be lessened by further planned housing within the Perrybrook where phases 4, 6 are nearing completion and phase 7 is under construction. Whilst putative proposals for additional development in Hucclecote and Upton St Leonards are being developed, neither are currently the subject of active planning applications and therefore the assumption for now is that their populations would fall by around 50% as shown in the table below.

44. There is no provision, within the legislation for transitional financing, but different outcomes arise with the distribution of reserves, whether existing parishes are abolished and replaced by new parishes or whether they are treated as altered but continuing parishes. Based on the legislation, there is a case for suggesting they should be treated as continuing parishes, although actual practice varies.. Stroud and Cotswold in the cases of Birdlip, Great Oldbury and Hunts Grove have treated the existing parishes as continuing parishes. In the Tewkesbury 2022 CGR, Dumbleton was abolished and the new reduced parish created afresh.

45. In terms of precept income, it is enormously difficult to accurately predict the proportion of precept income derived in a part of a parish. This is because the actual Band D equivalent rate will depend on vacant properties, single person occupancy as well as other factors and it is recommended that the finance teams at Tewkesbury and Stroud are requested to undertake some modelling to estimate the Band D Equivalent number of properties so that more accurate forecasting, both for a new parish of Coopers Edge but also the impact on the 3 altered parishes. The most likely impact would be for the number of staff employed by the continuing councils; It should be noted that Regulation 12 of the 2008 order provides for continuity of employment for staff redeployed to a new council and it will be important that the parishes manage staffing issues to maximise continuity of employment.¹⁴

Table 2: Electorate of 3 Parishes and Coopers Edge (2026 Data)					
Parish	Current Electorate	Electorate in Coopers Edge	Electorate in Rest of Parish	Coopers Edge Electorate	Rest of parish
Brockworth	7802	955	6847	12.2%	87.8%
Hucclecote	2124	1033	1091	48.6%	51.4%
Upton St Leonards	2349	1064	1285	45.3%	54.7%

Table 3: Indicative Income Raised in Coopers Edge and Remainder of each Parish							
2026/2027 Precepts	Parish Tax Base	Precept	Band D Charge	CE Tax Base (2025 estimate)	CE Assumed Precept Raised	Assumed Precept in Rest of Parish	% Parish Raised in Coopers Edge
Brockworth	3488.16	£358,600.00	£102.80	511.55	£52,588	£305,995	14.66%
Hucclecote	1003.21	£63,200.00	£63.00	565.89	£35,651	£27,551	56.41%
Upton St Leonards	1,221.86	£51,750.00	£42.35	576.78	£24,426	£27,319	47.20%

Electoral Matters for Continuing Councils

46 As a result of the creation of a single Coopers Edge Parish there would need to be consideration given to the future number of councillors for the remaining parishes. Whilst both Stroud and Tewkesbury operate their own advisory scales there is no one size that fits all. Guidance produced jointly by the then Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission in 2010 (paragraphs 153 to 168 which also covers warding issues) is still considered to be relevant.¹⁵ National Association of Local Councils has also produced its own scale which is also used by some councils including the Vale of the White Horse District Council, in Oxfordshire.¹⁶

48 The table below shows the outcome of applying different scales, but no view is provided at this stage as these are matters that can be consulted on in the future.

Table 4: Parish Size if Coopers Edge Parish Created							
Parish	Current Electorate	Electorate in Coopers Edge	Electorate in Rest of Parish	Current Councillors	NALC Scale	TBC Scale	SDC Scale
Brockworth	7802	955	6847	21	14	21	TBC
Hucclecote	2124	1033	1091	9	8	9	TBC
Upton St Leonards	2349	1064	1285	10	8	9	TBC

Table showing current electorate and councillor number and outcomes of scales

Option B - Extending the boundaries of an existing parish to cover the whole of Coopers Edge

49 The option of combining all of Coopers Edge in a existing single council could, in theory be progressed with any of the three councils, but is most likely to be suitable for Hucclecote as it has a developed neighbourhood – Cranham Gate - immediately to the north of Coopers Edge and has a village hall and play area very close to this boundary. In this scenario three quarters of the parish would be electorate from Coopers Edge and one quarter from Hucclecote and assuming the same approach to ward size would result in 4 wards represented by 3 councillors, giving a total of 12 councillors,

Table 5: Possible Wards in a Coopers Edge and Hucclecote Parish			
Polling District	Electorate	Current Polling Station	Suggested Ward Name
Hucclecote Coopers Edge (HCCA)	1033	Pineholt Village Hall	Coopers Edge North
Hucclecote (HCCB)	1091	Pineholt Village Hall	Hucclecote
Brockworth (BRWC)	933	Coopers Edge Community Centre	Coopers Edge East
Upton St Leonards (PUI)	1064	Coopers Edge Community Centre	Cooper Edge West
Total possible parish electorate	4121		

50. Hucclecote is a well-established parish, formerly a tithing of Churchdown, but it was radically reduced in 1965, losing a large part of the urbanised village to the former Gloucester County Borough. It then became a small parish with about 100 properties straddling Hucclecote Road between the motorway overbridge and the Victoria Inn. There was and remains a very sparse population on the Hucclecote side of Churchdown Hill. The parish tripled in size in the late 1960's with the development of about 200 homes in Sussex Gardens and Colerne Drive. The Cranham Gate development, south of Hucclecote Road followed in the early 2000s resulted in 300 homes being constructed on land formerly owned by Gloster Aircraft Company. The Hucclecote part of Coopers Edge extends to Lobleys Drive, with parts of Hazel Way and Sycamore Walk which are intermixed with other homes in Stroud District and Upton Parish.

51. The possible benefits of this approach include economies of scale including using Pineholt Village Hall as an office base. On the other hand, there are perceived negatives of not creating a dedicated single parish for Coopers Edge and there is a risk of the focus of the council moving away from the Hucclecote neighbourhood and becoming a predominantly Coopers Edge focussed parish, to the potential detriment of those residents.

52. Hucclecote Parish would be open to considering this option, however, **the consensus of all three councils is that a single new parish would be the most appropriate approach, and the community consultation has been undertaken on creating a single parish covering Coopers Edge.**

Option C No change

53. This would continue the current arrangements of three separate parishes; it is considered this is not a satisfactory solution. The Coopers Edge Liaison Committee could continue to exercise advisory functions on behalf of the three parishes, but that would be a

matter for the three parishes to determine. Whilst all parishes could work together to make matters work, this is not considered a sustainable option and is reliant on continued coordination between the three parishes.

Option D – Warding of Parishes

54. **The three parishes do not support this option.** Both Hucclecote and Upton St Leonards are currently unwarded and councillors are elected for the whole parish. Brockworth, due to having two Borough wards in the parish has two coterminous parish wards and Coopers Edge is included in the Brockworth West ward. All three parishes have councillors who live in Coopers Edge and there are currently 1 each in Upton and Brockworth and Hucclecote presently has 2, making a total of 4. The table below estimates the number of councillors each part of Coopers Edge might have taking account of comparable size of the wards created in each parish.

Warding of Parishes to create Coopers Edge Wards (2026 Data)							
Parish	Current Electorate	Electorate in Coopers Edge	Electorate in Rest of Parish	Current Councillors	Coopers Edge proportion	Remainder of Parish	Possible Coopers Edge Wards
Brockworth	7802	955	6847	21.00	2.57	18.43	2
Hucclecote	2124	1033	1091	9.00	4.38	4.62	4
Upton St Leonards	2349	1064	1285	10.00	4.53	5.47	4

55 It is understood that the intention of warding arrangements is to broadly reflect the size of the electorate in the ward so that each councillor represents similar number of electors within the parish. These are the principles that are used by LGBCE in warding districts, counties and unitary authorities and also by Boundary Commission for England in Parliamentary boundary reviews. The guidance on community governance reviews discussed earlier at paragraph 166 notes: -

“There is no provision in legislation that each parish councillor should represent, as nearly as may be, the same number of electors. However, the LGBCE believes it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards.”

56. Warding of each of the parishes to have a Coopers Edge Ward, does have attractions in that it creates a clearly identifiable ward in each parish, which might help to encourage more residents to come forward as parish councillors for the area. However, it might also be challenging for the existing councils as this would only be a temporary change, pending the creation of Coopers Edge Parish and when a Coopers Edge Parish is created it would be affected by two changes, possibly in short succession.

57 We would also note that the power for the council to make changes to the timing of elections is limited by Section 53 to only change the year of elections, so that the parish elections take place at the same time as district elections, we therefore think that a district council does not have a power to change the year of elections for an altered parish. In the case of continuing councils, Regulation 10(1) of the 2008 regulations does anticipate the

situation where a council's boundary is varied during the councillor's term of office as it provides:

"Any person in office immediately before the order date as a parish councillor for an area which is altered by the order ("an altered area") shall continue as parish councillor for the area as so altered until the date on which he would ordinarily have retired had the order not been made"¹⁷

Additionally, Regulation 10(2) provides that any vacancies, "shall be treated as a vacancy for a parish councillor of the altered area.". In the case of a warded parish, this would be particularly difficult to manage if the creation of Coopers Edge parish took place before the next four-year cycle of elections.

58. It is for this reason that the three councils consider that the creation of a Coopers Edge ward in each ward, whilst offering some benefits would create considerable difficulties if Coopers Edge Parish was created before the normal cycle of elections in 2031 or 2032.

Conclusion

59 We believe that the evidence submitted as part of this submission demonstrates strong evidence of the community of Coopers Edge operating as a single neighbourhood; despite being split across two districts and three parishes. The survey results, although limited in size, gives a broadly consistent picture of residents wanting to see a single parish council to be established. It should also be noted that the number of responses for a much smaller area compare favourably to the number of responses received by BCP Council in respect of the proposal to create Bournemouth and Poole Town Councils.¹⁸ Therefore, the best practical outcome would be the creation of a single parish council for Coopers Edge, as the resolution passed by the three councils earlier this year proposed.

60 Stroud District and Tewkesbury Borough do not have the statutory powers to create a new parish, as it is not lawful to create a cross boundary parish. Now that the Government has announced that there will be a single Unitary Authority within Gloucestershire, it would be possible for the new unitary to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR) to create a single parish. As it currently stands the new unitary will not possess Community Governance Review powers until vesting day. However, the Government could include CGR powers in the Structural Changes Order, which abolishes the existing councils and creates the new council. This would enable preparatory work to establish a new parish to be undertaken prior to vesting day. We urge Tewkesbury Borough and Stroud District to press the matter with the Secretary of State. In the event that this is successful, we would hope that capacity can be found to undertake a CGR during the summer and autumn of 2027 to enable a new parish to be established from 1 April 2028.

61 In the event that the Secretary of State is unwilling to give CGR powers to the shadow authority, it is recommended that both Tewkesbury and Stroud pass a resolution addressed to the Shadow Unitary submitting a joint report on their observations on the need for a single parish for Coopers Edge recommending that work is prioritised by the new council to undertake a CGR as soon as possible after 1 April 2028, with a view to the new parish being created by the 1 April 2029. We also note that this would be possible to happen without there being a need for new elections for the three existing councils for the reasons set out in paragraph 57.

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- ¹ TBC Executive Committee Meeting 5 January 2022, Agenda Item 69
<https://minutes.tewkesbury.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1029&MId=3916&Ver=4>.
- ² TBC Council Meeting 17 May 2022 Agenda Item 17, Appendix 1, pp 6-7,
<https://minutes.tewkesbury.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=256&MId=3910&Ver=4>
- ³ “Object to Airfield Housing”, Hugh Worsnip, Local Government Reporter, Gloucester Citizen - Saturday 07 February 1998, p12, Accessed on-line [23/05/2026]
<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0004999/19980207/012/0012>
- ⁴ Paragraph 5.7.8 and 5.7.9, Gloucestershire County Structure Plan 2nd Review,
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/auvpcixz/cd1110-gloucestershire-structure-plan-2nd-review-november-1999.pdf>
- ⁵ The report also contains a copy of a report to TBC Environment Committee considered on 23 September 2003. <https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Council/200402191900/Agenda/cncl-02-04-Item10d-ds-026-01-04.pdf>
- ⁶ Stroud DC Development Schedule 11 May 2004 from page 25,
<https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Development%20Control%20Committee/200405111000/Agenda/Sch-11-05-04.pdf>
- ⁷ Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning Minutes 2003-2004, Gloucestershire Archives DC/TW/C/2/6/10
- ⁸ Anchor Institutions are defined as those that have a significant stake in their local area. They have sizeable assets that can be used to support their local community’s needs. For a Kings Fund explainer of the term in a health context see <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/long-reads/anchor-institutions-and-peoples-health>
- ⁹ Coopers Edge School Determined Admissions Policy 2026/2027, map appears on page 6,
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/aprlhpd3/coopers-edge-school-determined-admission-policy-2026-27.pdf>
- ¹⁰ Church Near You Website
Brockworth: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/search?acny_search_place=Court+Road%2C+Brockworth%2C+Gloucester+GL3+4ET%2C+UK&lat=51.8483224999999&lon=-2.1577974&place=Court+Road%2C+Brockworth%2C+Gloucester+GL3+4ET%2C+UK&postcode=GL3+4ET&text=
Hucclecote: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/search?acny_search_place=Larkhay+Road%2C+Hucclecote%2C+Gloucester+GL3+3NS%2C+UK&lat=51.85807&lon=-2.1875109&place=Larkhay+Road%2C+Hucclecote%2C+Gloucester+GL3+3NS%2C+UK&postcode=GL3+3NS&text=
Upton: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/search?acny_search_place=Churchfield+Road%2C+Upton+Saint+Leonards%2C+Gloucester+GL4+8AT%2C+UK&lat=51.8342071&lon=-2.1989637&place=Churchfield+Road%2C+Upton+Saint+Leonards%2C+Gloucester+GL4+8AT%2C+UK&postcode=GL4+8AT&text=
- ¹¹ Coopers Edge Community Church Website <https://cecommunitychurch.com/index.html>
- ¹² Coopers Edge Baptist Church Website - We are a group of ordinary people committed to serving the community of Coopers Edge. <https://coopersedgebaptist.org/who-we-are>
- ¹³ WFA Website <https://thewfa.co.uk/directory/coopers-edge-community-centre/>
- ¹⁴ Regulation 12, The Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008,
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2008/625/regulation/12/made>
- ¹⁵ Guidance on community governance reviews DCLG and LGBCE 2010
<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78e983ed915d0422066530/1527635.pdf> x
- ¹⁶ Vale of White Horse District Council Community Governance Review Report (undated)
https://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/documents/s55730/CGR_G_Uffington_report%20schedule.pdf
- ¹⁷ Regulation 10(1) The Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008,
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2008/625/regulation/10/made> .
- ¹⁸ Report of BCP Council Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group, from page 13, table on page 16, <https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/documents/g5959/Public%20reports%20pack%2030th-Sep-2025%2018.00%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Board.pdf?T=10>



Coopers Edge Parish Survey

Methodology

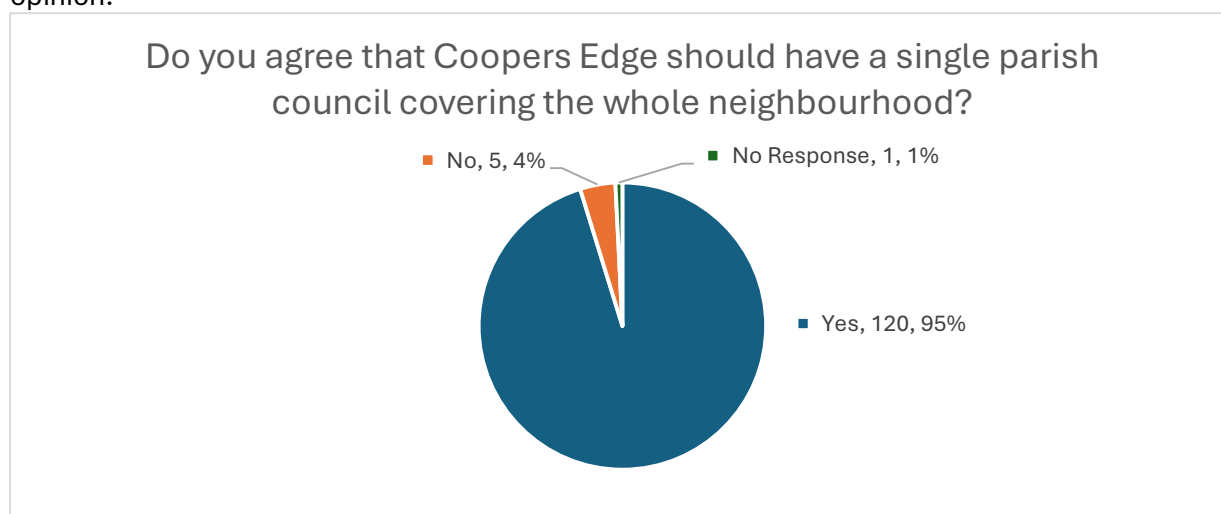
A two-sided flyer and survey was circulated to all residential properties in Coopers Edge (excluding any opting out of receiving leaflets). This also advertised a public meeting held on Saturday 30 May. The survey was also established on-line and copies were available at the community centre and at local council offices. There were also a number of “post boxes” set up at the Community Centre and Parish Council offices. In total 39 paper responses were received alongside 87 on-line responses, which totalled 126

Questions Asked in the Survey

The survey asked 2 main questions one in response to whether people supported a single parish council and a second about what aspects made Coopers Edge a Community. 125 respondents, answered the question about creating a single parish and 110 answered the question about Coopers Edge being a community. All except 6 respondents provided their name and address (which is not being published either by the parish councils or by the District Councils). These anonymous responses have been included in the data shown below.

Question 1 Do you agree that Coopers Edge should have a single parish council covering the whole neighbourhood?

In total 120 out of 126 voted yes to this question and 5 voted no, this represents 95% in support and 4% against, with 1 person 1% not answering the question. Given the opportunities to respond it is considered that the response gives a good perspective of residents' views and these responses are estimated to represent 4.2% of the 3030 registered electors in the area of Coopers Edge. In a recent consultation on the creation of Poole Town Council by BCP, there were responses from 683 residents living in Poole which represents about 0.82% of the 84,000 electorate.¹ As a consequence the number responses are felt to be representative of public opinion.



Question 2: In Considering a proposal to create a parish council the law says that the area needs to have a sense of community identity. What do you feel makes Coopers Edge a community?

Overall Summary

Most respondents described Coopers Edge as a genuine community with a clear and growing identity of its own. The strongest reasons given were the shared use of local facilities—especially the community centre, school, café/shop, sports hub, parks and play areas—which act as focal points for daily life and bring residents together. Many also highlighted community events, local Facebook groups, neighbourliness, family connections through the school, and a strong sense that residents identify as being “from Coopers Edge” rather than from Brockworth, Hucclecote or Upton St Leonards. A smaller number of respondents felt the community is still fragmented or not yet fully cohesive, often because of the area’s split across multiple councils/parishes and limited communication, but the overall picture from the responses is of Coopers Edge as a distinct and active community with shared facilities, shared spaces and a shared local identity.

Summary of responses: *What makes Coopers Edge a community?*

Across the responses, the clearest message is that **most respondents do feel Coopers Edge has a recognisable community identity**, and they describe that identity as being built around **shared facilities, local relationships, events, and a distinct sense of place separate from neighbouring parishes**.

Main themes raised

1) Shared community facilities are the strongest marker of identity

The most common point was that Coopers Edge functions as a community because residents share the same local places and amenities, especially:

- the **Community Centre / The Edge**
- the **school**
- the **café / shop**
- the **sports hub / football facilities**
- parks and play areas

These places were repeatedly described as the “hub”, “heart” or focal point of local life.

2) School, children and family life help bind people together

Many responses linked community identity to:

- children attending the **same local school**
- parents meeting through school life and activities
- family-oriented events and services
- children using the same parks, pitches and community activities

This suggests Coopers Edge is seen as a practical, day-to-day family community rather than just a housing estate.

3) Events and activities create a sense of belonging

A large number of respondents referred to:

- events at the **community centre**
- **Christmas** and **Halloween** activities
- local sports events and family days
- clubs, toddler groups, church activities and classes
- communication through **Facebook/community groups**

These responses suggest that community identity is strengthened by regular opportunities for residents to meet, participate and help one another.

4) Coopers Edge is seen as a distinct place in its own right

A recurring theme was that residents identify themselves as being “**from Coopers Edge**”, rather than Brockworth, Hucclecote or Upton St Leonards.

People described Coopers Edge as:

- having its **own name and identity**
- being a **single neighbourhood**
- sharing the same facilities and concerns
- deserving **one voice** and clearer local representation

Several responses explicitly said “**we are Coopers Edge**” and argued that the current split across multiple parishes/councils does not reflect how people actually live.

5) Geography and layout help create a separate community

A number of responses said Coopers Edge feels like a community because it is physically distinct:

- separated by the **motorway / business park / access roads**
- relatively self-contained
- linked by common roads, green routes and walking spaces
- experienced as one estate with shared day-to-day issues

For some, this physical separation has helped create a stronger internal identity.

6) Neighbourliness, mutual support and pride in the area

Many respondents described Coopers Edge as a place where:

- neighbours **look out for one another**
- people help via local groups and informal networks
- residents care about safety, upkeep and the local environment
- there is pride in the area and a desire to improve it

This “community spirit” theme often sat alongside references to families, events and shared facilities.

Responses that raised concerns / a different view

A smaller number of responses said that:

- community identity is **not yet strong enough**
- communication and engagement could be much better
- the area still feels **fragmented** because it is split across councils/parishes
- some residents do **not** see Coopers Edge as clearly distinct from neighbouring areas

One response did not support the creation of a single Coopers Edge Parish and advocated, joining the whole of Coopers Edge into an extended Brockworth Parish Council. Another was happy with the service they currently got from Tewkesbury Borough and was concerned about being joined with Stroud or Gloucester. And another saw little distinction between Hucclecote and Brockworth

So while most comments were positive about community identity, there is also a minority view that the community is still developing or not yet fully cohesive.

Count of responses mentioning each theme

Total responses reviewed: 110

Theme mentioned	Count of responses*
Shared facilities / community hub (community centre, café/shop, hub)	51
School / children / families	40
Events / celebrations / community groups	37
Distinct Coopers Edge identity / separate from neighbouring parishes	33
Parks / green spaces / walks / play areas	29
Neighbours helping each other / friendliness / community spirit	27
Sports clubs / sports hub / football	22
Geography / boundaries / physical separation / isolation	13
Concerns that community identity is weak, fragmented or underdeveloped	11

*Counts are **theme mentions**, so one response may appear in more than one theme.

Location of Responses

Only 120 of the responses have a postcode shown on the survey and these have been allocated to the individual area and whether the response was from within Coopers Edge. 115 responses were from residents in Coopers Edge, with responses coming from all three parishes areas within Coopers Edge, as shown in the table below.

Location	Count of Postcode
Within Coopers Edge	
Brockworth	29
Hucclecote Parish	36
Upton St Leonards	50
Sub Total	115
Not in Coopers Edge	
Abbeymead	1
Churchdown	1
Hucclecote Parish	1
Hucclecote, Gloucester City	1
Witcombe	1
Sub Total	5
Total	120

Conclusion

The two questions show a clear sense of community identity and a strong desire to support the creation of a single parish council for Coopers Edge. Whilst there was a small minority who did not support the idea the overall direction of travel is strongly in favour of a single Coopers Edge Parish Council.

24 June 2026

¹ Report to BCP Council Scrutiny Committee on outcome of Community Governance Review. 30 September 2025

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/documents/g5959/Public%20reports%20pack%2030th-Sep-2025%2018.00%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Board.pdf?T=10>

Subject: Cooper's Edge

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 20/06/2026, 18:33

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Cllr [REDACTED]

I write to you as a Tewkesbury Borough Councillor for Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote.

Although I am not a Hucclecote Parish Councillor I frequently attend the meetings and so keep up to date with at least some of the issues facing the area. It seems to me that Coopers Edge is a well-defined area with its own identity. Inevitably it is hard for its need to be adequately addressed by the current arrangement of Parish Boundaries which split the area. I believe that it would be expedient to form a new single parish for this area at this time when other re-organisations are taking place.

With all good wishes

[REDACTED]
Councillor for Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

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Letter of Support for Coopers Edge Parish Council from [REDACTED]

Subject:Re: One Community, One Voice for Coopers Edge

Date: Wed, 29 Jul 2026 20:20:25 +0000

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and for the considerable amount of work that you and the Coopers Edge Liaison Committee have undertaken to develop this proposal.

I am very pleased to provide my support for the creation of a single Coopers Edge Parish Council.

This is a proposal that I have supported for a number of years. Shortly after being elected to Tewkesbury Borough Council, I met with residents of Coopers Edge to discuss the unique challenges faced by a community divided between three parish councils and two district councils. During my election campaign, I pledged that I would support the creation of a Coopers Edge Parish Council, as I believed then, and continue to believe now, that the community deserves governance arrangements that reflect how people actually live their lives.

Since becoming a Borough Councillor, I have consistently spoken in support of this objective at both Tewkesbury Borough Council and Brockworth Parish Council. I was pleased to help encourage the early discussions that led to the formation of the Coopers Edge Liaison Committee, particularly through collaborative work on issues such as antisocial behaviour and youth provision. As the Liaison Committee has developed and established itself, I have been able to step back from the organisational work while continuing to support the proposal in my role as a Borough and Parish Councillor.

Throughout my casework, one theme has remained constant: residents identify themselves as living in Coopers Edge. The parish and district boundaries are largely administrative and do not reflect the way the community functions. Residents use the same schools, parks, community centre, sports facilities, local shops and green spaces, regardless of which parish they happen to live in.

The current arrangements divide one community between three parish councils and two district councils. In my experience, this has often resulted in confusion over responsibilities, fragmented representation and missed opportunities to invest in the area as a whole. Too often, Coopers Edge has found itself on the margins of multiple authorities rather than at the heart of one.

A single parish council would provide residents with clearer local representation, a stronger collective voice and a council whose sole focus would be the needs and aspirations of Coopers Edge. It would also place the community in a much stronger position as Local Government Reorganisation progresses and local government structures continue to evolve.

I therefore fully support the proposal to establish a single Coopers Edge Parish Council and wish the Liaison Committee every success in its submission to both Tewkesbury Borough Council and Stroud District Council.
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Tewkesbury Borough Councillor – Brockworth West Ward
Brockworth Parish Councillor

The Coopers Edge Trust
@ The Edge Community Centre
Typhoon Way, GL3 4DY

06/04/26

To the Members of the Coopers Edge Liaison Committee,

Letter of Support: Proposal for the Creation of a Coopers Edge Parish Council

I am writing on behalf of The Coopers Edge Trust to formally declare our support for the creation of a dedicated Coopers Edge Parish.

As an organisation deeply rooted in the area, the Trust has had the privilege of watching Coopers Edge grow from a new development into a vibrant, well-established, and highly active community. Thanks to the hard work of residents, local groups, and the Liaison Committee itself, we already benefit from fantastic community engagement, shared spaces, and a strong collective identity.

However, because Coopers Edge currently sits across existing administrative boundaries, our residents are split between different parish authorities. We believe that forming a single, unified Coopers Edge Parish Council is the vital next step to solidify and build upon the success we have already achieved.

The creation of this parish will benefit our area in two distinct ways:

- **Cementing Community Cohesion:** A dedicated parish council will finally bring the entire development under a single, localized democratic body. It removes the artificial administrative divisions that currently fragment our geography, ensuring that every resident of Coopers Edge is represented with a single, clear, and unified voice.
- **Targeted Local Improvement:** A single parish council can focus 100% of its resources, attention, and local precept (funding) directly back into our area. Whether managing our green spaces, supporting local youth and community initiatives, or advocating for infrastructure upgrades, decisions will be made *in* Coopers Edge, *by* people who live here.

The Coopers Edge Trust has always been committed to fostering a thriving environment where people love to live, work, and play. We are confident that a dedicated Parish Council will provide the structural framework needed to protect our community spirit, streamline local governance, and unlock the area's full potential.

We fully endorse this proposal and stand ready to collaborate with the Liaison Committee to make the Coopers Edge Parish a reality.

Yours sincerely,



Chair of Trustees

The Coopers Edge Trust



Wednesday 10th June

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Support for the Creation of a Coopers Edge Parish Council

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of Barnwood United AFC to express our support for the proposal to establish a dedicated Parish Council for Coopers Edge.

Barnwood United AFC has become deeply embedded within the Coopers Edge community over recent years. Through our management of the Coopers Edge Sports Hub, our seasonal use of the school playing fields, and our regular hire of facilities at the Community Centre, we provide sporting opportunities for local children, young people and families throughout the area. Many of our volunteers, players, coaches and supporters live within Coopers Edge and neighbouring communities, and the club is proud to play an active role in local community life.

A significant part of our connection with Coopers Edge is through our lease and operation of the Sports Hub, which we lease from Tewkesbury Borough Council. The club has invested considerable time, effort and resources into developing and maintaining this important community asset, ensuring it remains available for local residents, grassroots sport and wider community use. Through this experience, we have seen first-hand the value of strong local partnerships and clear lines of communication between community organisations and local councils.

As an organisation serving the whole of Coopers Edge, we also recognise the challenges created by the current governance arrangements, where the community is divided across multiple parish and local authority boundaries. Whilst all parties work with the best of intentions, community organisations can find it difficult to engage consistently with several different councils and decision-making bodies whose priorities are naturally focused on their own individual areas. This can make it more difficult to develop coordinated approaches to community issues, facilities, events and local investment.

We therefore believe there would be significant benefits in creating a single parish dedicated to Coopers Edge. A unified parish council would provide a stronger and clearer voice for local residents and organisations, while helping to foster more effective partnerships between community groups, local services and elected representatives. It would create a natural focal point for community engagement and make it easier for organisations such as ours to build long-term working relationships that benefit residents.

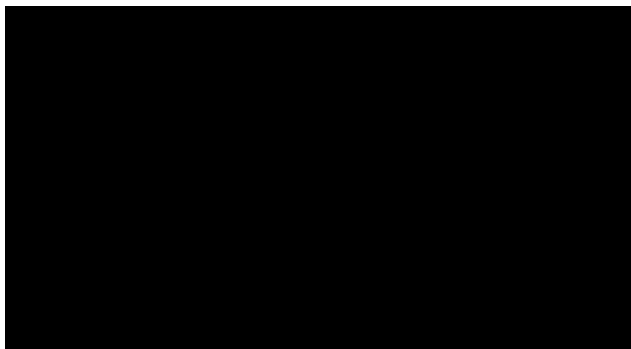
From the perspective of a community sports club, we see particular value in having a parish council whose focus is entirely on the needs and aspirations of Coopers Edge. The opportunity

to work alongside a dedicated local council, support community projects, contribute to local events and access grant funding or other forms of support for clubs and community groups would help strengthen the social fabric of the area. A single parish structure would also encourage greater collaboration between local organisations and help ensure that community resources are directed towards priorities identified by Coopers Edge residents themselves.

Barnwood United AFC is committed to investing its time, energy and resources into supporting Coopers Edge for the long term. Our club's future is closely linked to the success and wellbeing of the community we serve. We believe that a dedicated Coopers Edge Parish Council would strengthen community identity, improve collaboration between local organisations, and help create the foundations for a prosperous and sustainable future for current and future generations.

As an organisation woven into the fabric of Coopers Edge, we welcome the proposal and would look forward to working closely with a future Coopers Edge Parish Council to support the continued development of the community.

Yours sincerely,



Website: barnwoodunited.co.uk

Id	Do you agree that Coopers Edge should have a single parish council covering the whole neighbourhood?			In Considering a proposal to create a parish council the law says that the area needs to have a sense of community identity. What do you feel makes Coopers Edge a community?
	Yes	No	No answer	
1	Yes			The proposal for the development was supported by a single planning brief agreed by both Stroud District and Tewkesbury Borough and has specific community assets spread across the development, including a sports hub and major play area in the Tewkesbury part of the neighbourhood and a community centre and school in the Stroud part. There are also various groups who have a clear Coopers Edge identity including the School and its associated Trust (Coopers Edge Trust a registered as a charity and company no 07407883). The Trust also runs the Coopers Edge Community Centre. The Coopers Edge Baptist Church https://coopersedgebaptist.org/ and also the Coopers Edge Community Church (described as rooted in Coopers Edge) https://cecommunitychurch.com/ The provision of a Coopers Edge heritage trail was undertaken jointly by the three parishes and they also jointly fund a Coopers Edge Youth Club. The Community Centre cafe provides a good social meeting space within the community and residents identify themselves as living on Coopers Edge and there is a specific Coopers Edge Community Facebook Group. Barnwood United now lease the sportshub from Tewksbury Borough Council, and despite the name they have become very much a Coopers Edge community organisation. I identify as a resident of Coopers Edge rather than the parish that I live in.
2	Yes			The people, the community centre, the local parks - everything! It's a lovely community to be a part of.
3	Yes			I feel like most people would say they are from Coopers Edge rather than "Brockworth" or "Hucclecote" when asked around here. Everyone seems to care about what goes on in Coopers Edge, I like to keep track of what goes on on the facebook group Coopers Edge Noticeboard. Everyone in the group likes to help eachother out, be it giving away free things to people that they don't need anymore or local jobs or even advice for a good chinese takeaway!
4	Yes			Over the years it has become more "self-sufficient" with the school, community centre, parks, sports pitches and buildings which has eased the pressure of neighbouring areas. Neighbours and friends often come together to enjoy the spaces and activities CE has to offer.

5	Yes			Although Coopers Edge spans parts of Brockworth, Hucclecote and Upton St Leonards, it has developed its own identity as a place. People share institutions (school, community centre, clubs), spaces (parks, sports, walking routes), activities, and a growing local identity.
6		No		I am extremely happy with how the Coopers edge community is currently split. At present we sit within the remit of Tewkesbury Council, I am extremely satisfied with their service and would not like to be amalgamated with Gloucester or Stroud council at this present time.
7	Yes			There are many families on the edge, who have links to the local school, and this has created many bonds and friendships. People care what happens in the area, its upkeep and safety. It is a friendly community that people are proud to be a part of. By having us all under one council will only help to solidify this sense of community.
8	Yes			Coopers Edge feels like a community because it is a distinct neighbourhood, physically separate from surrounding areas, with its own shared spaces, roads, facilities and everyday concerns. These are predominantly used by Coopers Edge residents, so the issues affecting the area are very local to us. A single parish council would give the whole neighbourhood one clear voice and help ensure decisions reflect the needs of the people who actually live here and use these spaces.
9	Yes			Shared challenges, separate from those of other communities.
10	Yes			I think that Coopers Edge has a shared identity based on location and similar demographics over the whole three developments. I believe that people share a common interest in getting the best for residents and ensuring that services are delivered in an effective and accountable way. Having moved here fairly recently I find that most people are willing to help out and are quite outgoing towards each other. I think a parish council would help facilitate interactions between different people and probably address issues that are currently just highlighted by a grumpy howling on social media! It is a pity that there is not more of a traditional 'High Street' area that would enable people to interact although the Edge Cafe serves people well in that regard and is an essential service for people who live here. There are issues with antisocial behaviour and it would be useful if there was visible presence of PCSO's and Community Wardens rather than just the police who are not on foot and interacting routinely but in cars.
11	Yes			The school, community centre and things like Halloween & advent windows bring everyone together. The Facebook group also allows Edgers to communicate, ask for advice, moan (!) and help maintain the community identity. It's a clear area and should be treated as one community.
12	Yes			Coopers Edge has a good community, I enjoy going for walks in the open spaces, visiting the parks and going to the deli cafe. It feels like everything you need is within walking distance which makes it feel like a community.
13	Yes			It has its own fb page, neighbourhood watch. People care about their properties and community, a lovely safe place to live.

14	Yes		Our family has lived in Coopers Edge for over 10 years, and in that time we have seen it become a real community with a strong local identity. What makes Coopers Edge special is the way residents come together and take pride in the area. There are active local groups, community pages and neighbours who genuinely look out for one another and want to improve where we live. Events and traditions have naturally grown over the years — whether it's the atmosphere at Halloween with decorated houses and families out together, or the sense of community at Christmas with lights, local activities and neighbours connecting with each other. People here share the same schools, parks, green spaces and everyday concerns about road safety, maintenance, infrastructure and protecting the character of the area. Residents care about Coopers Edge and want a stronger voice in shaping its future. In our experience, Coopers Edge is not simply a housing estate — it is an established, connected and active community, and a parish council would help support and strengthen that community spirit even further.
15	Yes		Coopers Edge is its own separate community due to its more isolated location and it's important that decisions are made for the people that live here. There is a fantastic community that join together for multiple family events throughout the year which is something that I haven't seen or experienced in other areas in the same way, and it's lovely to see residents who you may not normally have had the opportunity to meet. It's also great for the children that live here. The neighbours and community are friendly and it feels like the people that live here are genuinely respectful of the area and others that live here too. Coopers edge is always clean and tidy. I have seen local people regularly volunteer litter picking. The children's play areas and sports grounds are generally very well maintained and a great feature for families. There are also local running groups. The local businesses that service the area are also places that residents can meet bringing a sense of community. I moved here at the end of 2024 and can say I genuinely enjoy living here. Although it's a good sized estate, it's still small enough to have a community feel. It's quite a peaceful place to live and it feels safe.

16	Yes			Coopers Edge is naturally a community because of its geography. The estate is relatively large but it has only one through road to other places and is also bordered by the large Gloucester Business Park. Now that it has a shop and takeaway, as well as a well-used and popular community centre and primary school, combined with the fact that most residents walk to these facilities from their houses means that it feels like its own location and community. The addition of an anglican 'community' church that is active and participates and leads many community activities (e.g. Easter trails / Christmas Carol service) which have been established in recent years further enriches this community sense. In short, when I tell people where I live, I always say Coopers Edge, it feels much more accurate and descriptive than Brockworth / Hucclecote etc.
17	Yes			Actually I am concerned that as yet I have never found Coopers Edge very community minded. In the 4 years I have lived here, there has been no communication from anyone about a Coopers Edge community activity! In fact the survey that landed on my mat yesterday was the first I had heard of the Coopers Edge Liaison Committee. That to me is poor and it seems there is an eclectic group of people who only communicate with themselves and see that as community spirit. Why haven't you all been out there, knocking on doors and helping to generate a community spirit? When was there last a well publicised community event? I certainly have not heard of one in the 4 years of living here! Yes, it seems ridiculous that there are three different parishes and two councils and there should be equity in the area. However, unless the Coopers Edge Liaison Committee can actually get out there, properly, in the community and help generate the community spirit they claim exists, I can't see Coopers Edge being regarded as having a sense of community identity. That's my two penneth.
18	Yes			The sense of pride and collective of living in Coopers Edge. In talking to individuals they say they live in CE rather than neighbouring areas with overlapping parish boundaries. It has an identity.
19	Yes			Our shared use of Lobleys drive as a single way in and out. Our play fields, cycle paths and close proximity to Nut Hill. Accessibility to the business park and being on the edge of the Gloucester suburbs.
20	Yes			we are still finding our identity
21	Yes			I honestly believe that neighbours will do anything for each other round here and help out as much as possible. Also everyone is united on the stress of parking !
22	Yes			
23	Yes			
24	Yes			Our ability to create our own events such as the Advent Fenster Trail, to help each other out in a time of need on the community groups, to share support and information and to be proud of the area we live in.
25	Yes			Everyone looks after each other when we can. Also we all give things to each other, even complete strangers. Great Community spirit at festive times too

26	Yes			Our local school, community centre and deli café are all a huge part of the community, and more recently Barnwood Football Club with their summer family day. The community centre holds events throughout the year, especially the Christmas fair, and we now also have the addition of the local shops. The festive advent window displays at Christmas and Halloween around the Edge are amazing and much loved by everyone in the community.
27	Yes			The events that are put on in the community centre and the school contribute to the community. Christmas time and Halloween are all times when the community get together to make it special for the children
28	Yes			Community is proud of the area. Residents are proactive in creating opportunities in the area. Eg at the community centre. Community events.. Christmas advent windows and Halloween show an example of Community activities.
29	Yes			I think there is a core of people who have been here a long time that care about the local environment and the upkeep of the area and it's surroundings. Pride in the place they live. The local facebook page highlights the need for a parish council as many people ask a similar question of who to report issues to and most of the time, the answers are unclear. I would think the majority of people are looking on in the background but if it came to it, would prefer a single parish council. The split between boroughs is not such an issue, i am in the tewkesbury side and find that this works better for me with bins especially being better organised.
30	Yes			Lots of community Christmas trail, lots on at community centre and school
31	Yes			Nothing at present as we are divided between councils
32	Yes			Coopers Edge has a strong sense of community identity because residents share local facilities, schools, parks, and community spaces, which bring people together on a regular basis. Many residents know each other through local groups, events, sports activities, and community initiatives. There is a genuine willingness among people to support one another, share information, and work together to improve the area. The community has developed its own identity over the years, with residents taking pride in where they live and actively engaging in local matters. The community centre, local businesses, and social groups all contribute to creating a connected and inclusive neighbourhood. These shared experiences and common interests help make Coopers Edge more than just a housing development , it is a recognised and established community.

33	Yes			My family and I have been residents of Coopers Edge for the past eight years, after moving from Kingsway when I left the British Army .Brockworth parish had a fantastic reputation which was one of our deciding factors. Personally and this is a personal view, Ive felt somewhat snubbed by Brockworth parish, church events , local activities even charity events, when I’m discovered to be living in Coopers Edge.Ive watch a small community grow into something I’m proud to be apart of. From the numbers of children who attend Coopers edge school, to organised events in the community centre , to having our own Tesco express and dare I say KFC. We’re curious , polite everyday people who want the best for our families and communities.Having our own Parish Council leaders will make an enormous contribution towards the development and growth of our community and help maintain its growth and prosperity.
34	Yes			Clearly defined geographical area
35	Yes			It is a large estate which is a long way from other communities like Hucclecote Brockworth and Upton. Coopers edge needs one voice separate to the above communities
36	Yes			It has a community cafe that is a great space for families with yournger kids, the classes and activities in the community centre are inclusive to a large portion of the community. Community events.
37	Yes			Neighbours look out for each other. Fab cafe and community centre that could be utilised so much more. Lots of parks and play areas again that could be improved.
38	Yes			As Chair of Barnwood United AFC, I believe our club has become deeply embedded within the Coopers Edge community. We operate the Sports Hub in Coopers Edge, seasonally hire the School field and regularly hire the Community Centre sports hall, to provide sporting opportunities for local children, young people and families throughout the area. Our volunteers, players and supporters are part of the everyday life of Coopers Edge. For that reason, we strongly welcome being a part of a dedicated Coopers Edge Parish. Our club’s future is intrinsically linked to the success and wellbeing of the community we serve. Being part of a single parish focused solely on Coopers Edge would help foster a clear and enduring partnership between community organisations, local residents and parish representatives. Barnwood United AFC is committed to investing its time, energy and resources into supporting Coopers Edge for the long term. We believe a unified parish structure would strengthen community identity, improve collaboration, and create the foundations for a prosperous and sustainable future for current and future generations of residents. As an organisation woven into the fabric of Coopers Edge, we would welcome the opportunity to continue growing alongside the community through a dedicated Coopers Edge Parish.
39	Yes			We have a community centre that hosts all kinds of events that bring us together. We look out for each other on the CE Facebook page.

40	Yes			The cafe and community centre are the hub and heart of where it all happens. Church, toddler groups, coffee and chats, sports activities, dancing and Pilates. It's where people gather together and do life. So many from coopers edge and the surrounding areas too! It's a special place to live.
41	Yes			Coopers Edge is tied together by its unique geographical identity, shared local facilities, and a collective desire among residents to unify its currently fragmented boundaries. It sits right by the landmark of Cooper's Hill, giving the area its own unique character separate from the older, surrounding villages. Coopers edge is a wonderful community to live in, the people are friendly, welcoming and it's an all round great place to live. Having moved here two years ago myself and my family have never been happier and have been made to feel welcome by everyone we have met.
42	Yes			
43	Yes			Consideration of others, looking out for others, sharing information with our neighbours, being able to know who to report things like street lighting to, broken or rotten benches & fences to, would help massively if things came under one umbrella
44	Yes			Coopers Edge operates day to day as one cohesive community where residents cross paths daily, through green spaces, shop and cafe facilities, the school and community hub and it shouldn't be defined by historical boundaries
45	Yes			People seem helpful, especially in the online (social media) groups. If somebody is asking for help, there are always people commenting with helpful info. The community centre is lovely and serves the local residents well.
46	Yes			People in the area look out for one another; participate in local events and celebrate special occasions e.g. Christmas, king's coronation etc.
47	Yes			
48	Yes			
49	Yes			Coopers Edge is one community. We are deeply connected by our wonderful environment. Green spaces, surrounded by bridle pathways that encompass us into one. People connect readily meeting and talking in the out door spaces as one community. The school and community centre are at its heart as a central focal point for many of the younger families.
50	Yes			
51	Yes			It's people. Having a single parish for the community will only help create a community feeling.

52	Yes			Over the last 15 years it has been united but the building of a community led primary school, a 'meanwhile community space' that was used prior to the current community centre being built, and the employment of a Community Organiser. Early residents worked together to secure a grant from NESTA of £200k to build social capital and give the area a sense of identity. Since these foundations here laid, there have been a number of community events including an annual Advent Fenster Christmas Window Trail, which has now been running for over 10 years, there was an 'All Welcome' bring and share picnic lunch following the outcome of the Brexit referendum, and Halloween each year sees hundred of families walking around the community - probably the most friendly evening of the year. However, it has also been united by serval challenges - including housing Developers not delivering on Section 106 commitments. As a result there was a campaign resulting in a viral rap about the need for playgrounds. Further to this residents also parked cars outside the Developers Sales offices, with posters in them advising new buyers not to purchase in Coopers Edge until S106 commitments were fulfilled. It is crazy to think this community could be split by a local government reorganisation - I think a parish council for Coopers Edge would help to ensure local people had more control over their local community and their own lives. However, I do have concerns that there won't be enough local people who are in a position to stand for election - with the cost of living crisis people are working longer hours and grandparents are needing to take up more childcare responsibilities. This can mean the role of a local Cllr can be one that only those with a degree of privilege are able to fulfil. We would also need a radical new way of doing Parish Councils that makes it dynamic, relevant and engaging - perhaps through citizen assemblies and other forms of participatory practice that aids the engagement process with local residents who might not see the relevance of engaging in local democracy. A traditional 'business as usual' style Parish Council won't work here.
53	Yes			Deli edge cafe and the sports hub.
54	Yes			Has a well supported Community Centre where events are well attended. Huge area with people of all ages wanting to see the area thrive. People happy to support one another and work together.
55	Yes			Coopers Edge should be its own parish. It has its own identity that is not part of Brockworth or Huccelcoat or Upton St Leonards, it has its own community and as such it should be recognised. It deserves it's independence and to be managing itself and not by 3 separate parish councils.
56	Yes			
57	Yes			
58	Yes			Friendly neighbours and local facilities as well as a school.
59	Yes			coopeters edge has a community that is inclusive and accepting of all its residents and visitors they come together for celebrations sports and community events. My daughter gets to attend a pan disability football session in coopeters edge community hall that cant be found anywhere else Barnwood united afc and pan disability fc use multiple sites in coopeters edge

60	Yes			Being part of Barnwood United FC Coopers Edge is part of the our community.
61	Yes			
62	Yes			It's close nit, and looks out for each other
63	Yes			Coopers Edge is a distinct community of residents who share their local environment and facilities whatever their age or circumstances. It's a really lovely place to live for many reasons. We are fortunate with the rural landscape on our doorstep for walks and we all share that experience of living on the boundary with the farmland. We all benefit from it and have a special relationship with it. The school and community centre and cafe are a fantastic hub and resource for the residents of Coopers Edge, as are the various well used play areas, and the sports hub. These areas are all resources we use wherever we happen to live on Coopers Edge. I feel strongly that bringing these within the realm of a single parish council would be the best way to ensure a cohesive use of, maintenance of, and improvement of them for the people who live here. I know I feel lucky to live here. (I have been in my house here 9 years, my daughter and her family have lived here in their flat for longer). It feels like a village. There's a strong network of people within the community who care about where we live, and about the wellbeing of everyone in the community. There are several CE Facebook communities for different things but the Coopers Edge Noticeboard private group has 5.5k members. Everyday there are posts of people who live here making enquiries, sharing info or photos, offering help... that tells a clear story that there is very much a community here. And it is specific to the neighbourhood in which we live. There was tremendous local excitement when we got our Royal Mail postbox, and more when we recently had the Tesco Express open! As I said, we are like a village. Whilst old villages and towns grow over many years and many generations, and Coopers Edge is relatively newborn as a community, time has passed. It is no longer a growing housing development filled with empty boxes awaiting owners. Coopers Edge is now a well established community with roots and interconnectedness, with families being born and growing up here, with people of all ages choosing to make their home here and staying.

64	Yes			We have a community centre, which provides a sense of cohesive community, providing a variety of services and events. We have more and more local services, such as a shop, takeaway and sports club. There is a local community church. When I am asked where I am from, I say, "Coopers Edge"; people often know of it. I do not say, "somewhere near Stroud/Tewkesbury". In my opinion, we are a suburb of Brockworth as the boundaries actually touch and we should be categorised as such.
65		No		Nothing at all, there is no community spirit
66	Yes			There is a strong sense of community in Coopers Edge, people help one another, there is a local school where local children go to, a community centre and a cafe ran by family that reside in Coopers Edge. There is a shop here now as well. The identity of Coopers Edge residents is not the one that aligns with Brockworth, Huccelcote or Upton St Leonards, it's the one that belongs to the residents of Coopers Edge solely.
67	Yes			Everyone looks out for each other no matter where on the estate you live
68	Yes			This will help Cooper Edge establish its own identity. We are currently on the "edge" of several different areas, councils, and parishes, which has resulted in the community being fragmented and divided. This proposal would allow us to make decisions as one unified community, rather than having different councils bring forward planning proposals without considering the wider area as a whole. A coordinated approach would ensure that future development reflects the needs and interests of the entire Cooper Edge community.
69	Yes			Its a distinct community with its own school shop etc it needs a post office
70	Yes			All the facilities that are within the area really help it feel like it is own area and community. Events are put on by the community centre, the school, football club and churches in the area which all build community spirit.
71	Yes			Coopers Edge has always been a friendly community and deserves its on parish council. We are not Brockworth or Hucclecote or Upton we are Coopers Edge.
72	Yes			It has a village feel. The size of the residential area. It is not directly connected to Hucclecote, Brockworth and Abbeymead, giving it a stand alone feel.

73	Yes			I have lived happily in Coopers Edge since June 2013 and in my experience, it is a caring, close-knit community centred around protected green spaces, preserving the old oak trees, easily accessible rural paths, a primary school and community centre offering access to a range of classes and group activities. Residents here look out for each other and actively deter crime or anti-social behaviour which makes it a safe place to reside for both younger families and retired people. There is a sense of pride in maintaining the local area in Coopers Edge community and in supporting one another, which adds to the sense of community. Having a single parish council covering the whole neighbourhood would enhance the local community and provide access to funds to support local activities, children's facilities, etc. and would publicise any initiatives to improve the area and its facilities for residents.
74	Yes			It is a vast diverse community with households from all backgrounds and a big sense of community flows through the estate. On a personal note if becoming a parish also means finally having the roads adopted will that also mean the end of the fibrenest monopoly on the persimmon nutshell green estate part which has tied households into being stuck with them and blocked from the open reach network.
75	Yes			
76	Yes			Yes, and answer a lot of questions/concerns
77		No		People group together and look after the community
78	Yes			
79		No		I don't feel there's much making Cooper's Edge particularly distinct from Hucclecote or Brockworth.
80	Yes			WHY? Having one Parish Council should improve visibility for the residents and transparency. Decisions on the needs of the community can be democratically decided by those who live in the Parish. The lived experiences of residents will be key to understanding and should underpin decision making WHAT does the community currently feel like? There is the school and community centre which creates a community environment for some but not everyone who lives locally has school age children nor chose to access or know how to access the community centre. There needs to be a cross generational approach to everything in Coopers Edge
81	Yes			It's shared local facilities, parks, sports pitches gives us a strong community identity / spirit. There is an aspiration of many of our fellow community members desire to unite a historically split suburb across different districts and parishes, we residents have actively campaigned to form our own unified parish council to give this area a singular, representative voice. The overall pride many have of living here in Coopers Edge and the need to strengthen this feeling by us officially becoming our own parish.

82	Yes			We have a school, a community centre, a community Trust, a sports hub with an active local football club (Barnwood Utd), a netball team - we are already a strong community in Coopers edge that has been established since I've lived here - 14 yrs!
83	Yes			The school, the community centre, the Christmas advent windows.
84	Yes			We have Center, church, cafe and school and people (demographically). We don't belong to anything else really (Abbymead or Brockworth are too far and there is no sense of 'welcome'). We are united by 'isolation'. Proximity to Gloucester business park and M5 requires dedicated attention to protect community's needs and environment. Currently nobody is 'fighting' our corner properly.
85	Yes			People help each other out in the area, it is one group area, has its own local Tesco, noticeboard where people talk about what is going on and help each other out with stuff like a community.
86	Yes			fully support the proposal to bring Coopers Edge together as a single, united community under its own parish council. Establishing a dedicated parish council will eliminate the current confusing boundaries, ensure cohesive management of our local amenities, and give our community a strong, unified voice.
87	Yes			Coopers edge is completely separate from the three parishes that it made from Brockworth is the car side of a industrial estate .Upton saint Leonard's not accessible from the estate even the notice board has been removed. If anything the edge should be combined with Huccelcote parish. No vehicle access to there either.
P1	Yes			Coopers Edge has its own identity with local families, schools, parks, shops, and community spaces that bring people together and make it feel one community.
P2	Yes			The shared facilities including School, Community Centre + sports facilities. Clear boundaries & sense of one community
P3	Yes			I'm unclear how something as subjective as community identity can be measured, however, it is clear the community is drawn together by the school, community centre, sports facilities and now shops (finally). Geographically the boundaries of Coopers Edge couldn't be clearer, its madness to have it so split while so much common interest exists
P4	Yes			-
P5	Yes			The people, shared identity - we are Coopers Edge!
P6	Yes			The area has a common name, a common bus service and a common set of facilities. These are used by all residents giving interaction and a sense of community to all who use the services
P7	Yes			It feels like a semi-split community at the moment. But events run by "the edge" help build community.
P8	Yes			The School - The community centre - nice park areas for walking

P9	Yes			People value the local countryside & history of the area. There is a real sense of family community eg Xmas lights. Halloween decorations etc, and as young mum the community of local families has a real strong feel in Coopers Edge
P10	Yes			Geography, consistency of housing development, local community activities
P11	Yes			Neighbourhood, A central point - the edge, social events
P12			No Answer	Community centre community events
P13	Yes			Its isolation from other communities. Its unique design layout and architecture. Its brooks and balancing ponds its green walks.
P14	Yes			People caring
P15	Yes			As one of the vicars for Coopers Edge - it was decided it needed its own church as felt different community/needs of surrounding areas/ People say that live in Coopers Edge - don't try to merge it with surrounding areas. Very strong sense of community and belonging
P16	Yes			Coopers Edge is an Island - cut off from its neighbours by a bridge over the motorway, a bus gate that Hucclecote PC blocked up, fields and a business park. The isolation has brought together the residents, who feel a unique identity and a good place to live. I do not feel I live in Hucclecote, Brockworth or Upton St Leonards, but in Coopers Edge.
P17	Yes			The community centre, church and the Art Group and Pinehold Village Hall all offer events and activities for all that bring the community together.
P18	Yes			Better sense of community. One place to discuss issues for the area
P19	Yes			There is a single community centre and sports field
P20	Yes			
P21	Yes			
P22	Yes			Community centre and school, sports hub local shop
P23	Yes			Community centre activity and football club
P24	Yes			I do not live in Coopers Edge but visit the area weekly specifically Coopers Edge Community Centre. But I know that a community is the shared facilities, public spaces and regular interactions. If 3 separate parish councils are managing needs for Coopers Edge may not be specifically met
P25	Yes			Deli Edge Café is a hub for the community. School that is just ours
P26	Yes			Coopers Edge is a new estate that was built 15 years ago. It is home to around 900 families making it a community
P27	Yes			Been more cohesive
P28	Yes			Local school, Play parks, community centre, bowls club, football pitches
P29	Yes			Being one as a whole
P30	Yes			

P31	Yes			It's a small neighbourhood where most people know each other. Events such as halloween and Christmas are good in CE as residents put on things for local children
P32	Yes			One community friendship united
P33	Yes			The school, the shop, community centre. We want a community. We all want to be one.
P34	Yes			I think it is already a good community but to align the neighbourhood it would be good to have one.
P 35		No		Having lived in the area for four years, I don't feel that Coopers Edge identified as a community, logistically it is closer to Brockworth. The M5 motorway forms a distinct East/West boundary and in the interest of community and efficiency it would make sense to merge Hucclecote South with Brockworth PC and Hucclecote North with Churchdown PC. At the same time, the Stroud Stroud/Tewkesbury boundary should be adjusted for the S/W Section of Coopers Edge with Brockworth PC
P36	Yes			It is definitely a community of its own!
P37	Yes			I think it would help Coopers Edge and help the Children
P38	Yes			Having community events, Green Spaces we can enjoy, feeling safe, supporting and respecting diversity
P39	Yes			Where people look out for one another and are prepared to challenge unruly behaviour eg barking dogs, noisy motorcycles, litter etc

	Yes	No	No Response
Outcome	120	5	1

Do you agree that Coopers Edge should have a single parish council covering the whole neighbourhood?

