



Borough Wide Community Governance Review 2025-26

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – UNPARISHED AREAS OF SURREY HEATH

This document includes FAQs for residents of the unparished areas of Surrey Heath – Camberley, Frimley, Frimley Green Mytchett, Deepcut, Heatherside, and Parkside. - on the consultation on whether to create new parish councils in these areas.



Contents

1. What are we consulting on?	3
2. Why are we consulting on this?.....	3
3. What is the difference between a Parish Council and a Town Council?	3
4. What would the new parishes do?.....	3
5. What assets will be transferred?	4
6. Where will the Council Offices be located and meetings take place?	4
7. Will the changes affect Council Tax?	4
8. When would the first elections for a new parish council take place?	4
9. What will the boundaries for the new parishes be?	5
Option 1; the creation of four new parish councils:	5
Option 2: The creation of two new parish councils:	6
10. Will parish councillors live in the area?	7
11. How many councillors would there be in a new parish council?	8
12. What happens if I don't want a new parish council in my area?	9
Map of Option One: 4 Parish Councils.....	10
Map of Option Two: 2 Parish Councils	11



1. What are we consulting on?

Surrey Heath Borough Council is consulting on whether to create new parishes in the area of Surrey Heath borough that does not currently have parish councils. This includes Camberley, Frimley, Frimley Green, Mytchett, Deepcut, Heatherside, and Parkside.

2. Why are we consulting on this?

In April 2027 Surrey County Council and the eleven districts and borough authorities will be abolished and replaced with two larger unitary authorities. Surrey Heath will become part of West Surrey Council, a larger unitary authority covering all of west Surrey.

The proposals to create new parishes are being considered to help address a potential loss of local representation.

3. What is the difference between a Parish Council and a Town Council?

None – they are simply different styles of the same level of local government. Other terms include ‘community councils.’

The term ‘parish’ has been used throughout this document for ease, but the Council may choose to adopt ‘Town’ or ‘Community’ as an alternative.

4. What would the new parishes do?

Parish councils can manage community amenities such as allotments, village greens, cemeteries and community centres, supporting facilities like play areas, footpaths and community events.

Parish Councils are also statutory consultees on planning applications within their boundaries, ensuring that locally elected officials can comment on planning matters



which the new West Surrey Council will take into consideration when determining applications.

5. What assets will be transferred?

When established, allotments are automatically transferred to the newly created parish council.

Further assets can be transferred from the parent authority to the new parish council. This can include community buildings and spaces, parks and recreation grounds.

6. Where will the Council Offices be located and meetings take place?

This is still to be determined, but it is expected that they would be located within the community which they serve.

7. Will the changes affect Council Tax?

Parish councils are funded through a precept, which is an additional charge included in your Council Tax bill.

The current precepts for all parishes within the borough are between £50.52 and £70.30 for a Band D property.

The Council Tax precept for any new parishes will be the decision of the new parish council, although Surrey Heath Borough Council would need to set the initial precept for 2027/28 if new parishes are formed.

8. When would the first elections for a new parish council take place?



Any new parish councils would have their first elections held in May 2027. Parish councillors would be re-elected every four years from this date.

9. What will the boundaries for the new parishes be?

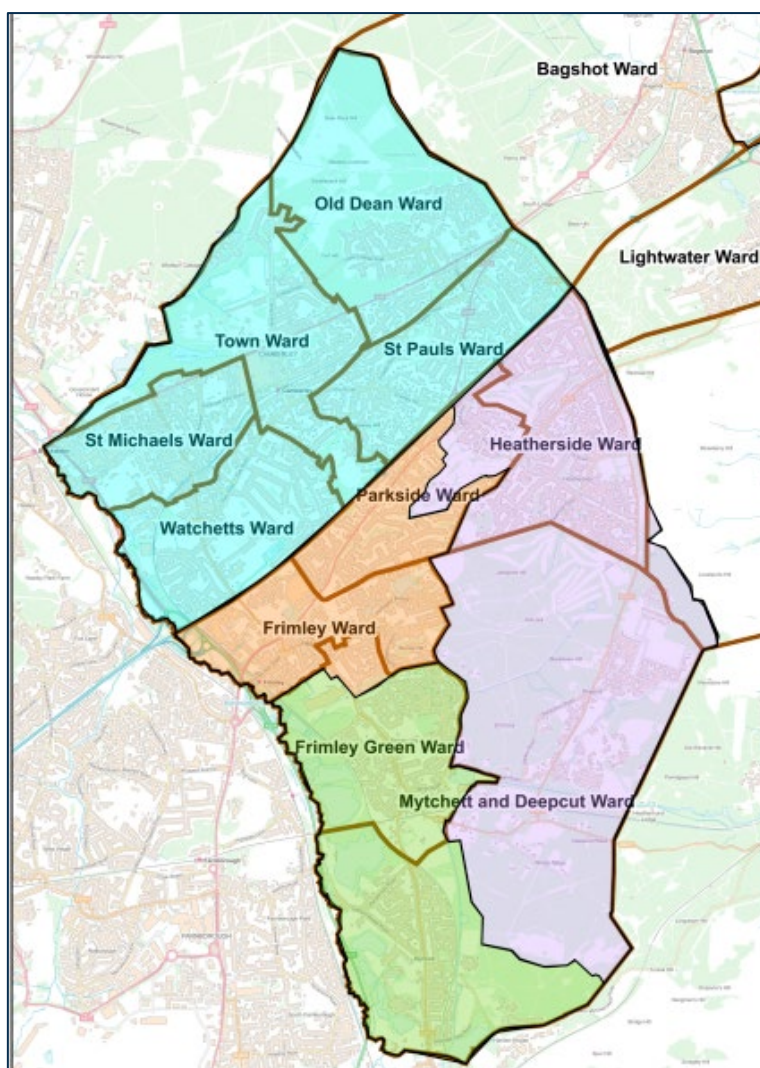
This is part of the consultation. We want your views on which areas the new parishes, if created, should cover.

The consultation is currently gathering the views of residents about two proposals, these are listed below alongside maps to illustrate the proposed boundaries. Larger copies of the maps can be found at the end of this document.

Option 1; the creation of four new parish councils:

- Camberley Town Council (Aqua)
 - ◆ St Michaels, Town, Old Dean, Watchetts & St Pauls
- Heatherside & Deepcut Parish Council (Purple)
 - ◆ Includes the Wellington Estate, Prior Road Estate, Youlden Drive and Camberley Heath Golf Course
- Frimley & Parkside Parish Council (Orange)
- Frimley Green & Mytchett Parish Council (Green)

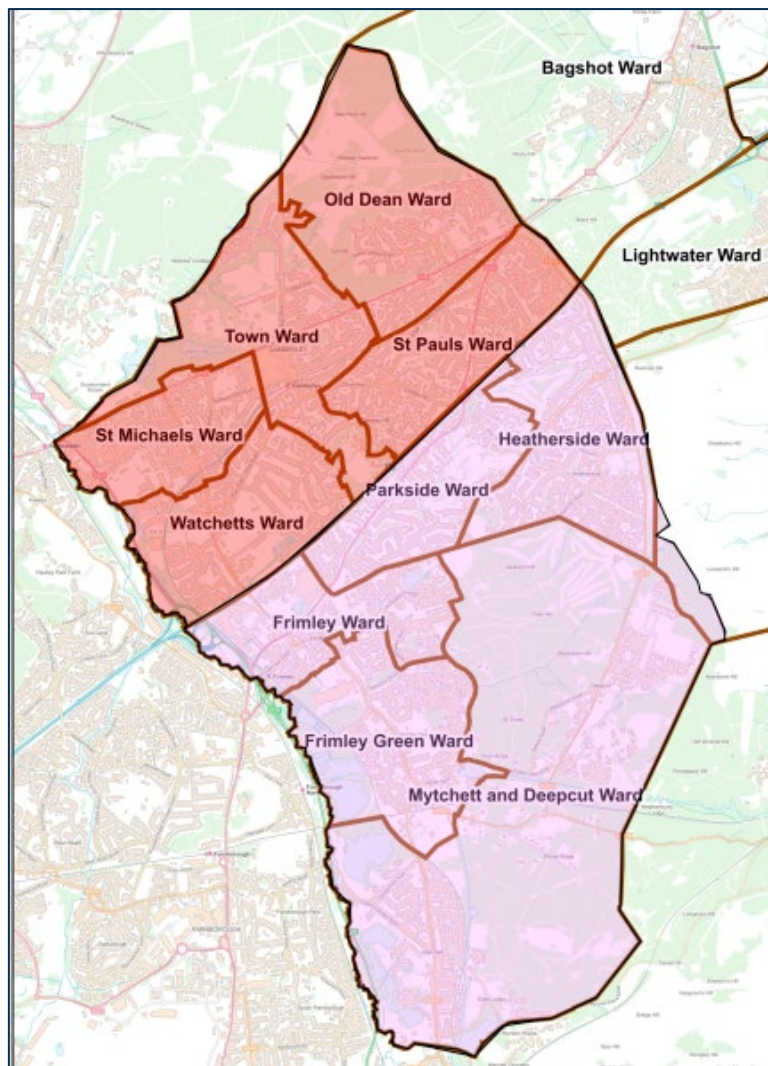




Option 2: The creation of two new parish councils:

- Camberley Town Council (Red)
 - ◆ St Michaels, Town, Old Dean, Watchetts & St Pauls
- Frimley Community Council (Pink)
 - ◆ Parkside, Heatherside, Frimley, Frimley Green, Mytchett & Deepcut





10. Will parish councillors live in the area?

Parish councillors are elected to serve as a councillor for a 4-year term of office. Elections will take place in May 2027.

Election candidates must be eligible to stand for election (i.e. must be over 18 years old and qualify on the grounds of nationality), and must meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. They are registered as a local government elector for the area of the parish



2. They have, during the whole of the 12 months preceding that day or those days occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the parish
3. Their principal or only place of work during those 12 months has been in the parish named above
4. They have during the whole of those 12 months resided in that parish named above or within 4.8 kilometres of it.

11. How many councillors would there be in a new parish council?

The minimum number of councillors a parish council could have is five. This is the only requirement in legislation regarding the number of councillors a parish council should have, and the final number of parish councillors would be determined by Surrey Heath Borough Council.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) published guidance in 1988 on the suggested number of parish councillors, based on the size of the population being represented. The NALC recommend for a parish council serving up to 900 electors, at least seven councillors would be needed to govern effectively. The table below provides a further suggested thresholds for the number of councillors in a parish, up to a maximum of 25:

Electors	Councillors	Electors	Councillors
901 to 1,400	8	10,400	17
2,000	9	11,900	18
2,700	10	13,500	19
3,500	11	15,200	20
4,400	12	17,000	21
5,400	13	18,900	22
6,500	14	20,900	23
7,000	15	23,000	24
9,000	16	Over 23,000	25

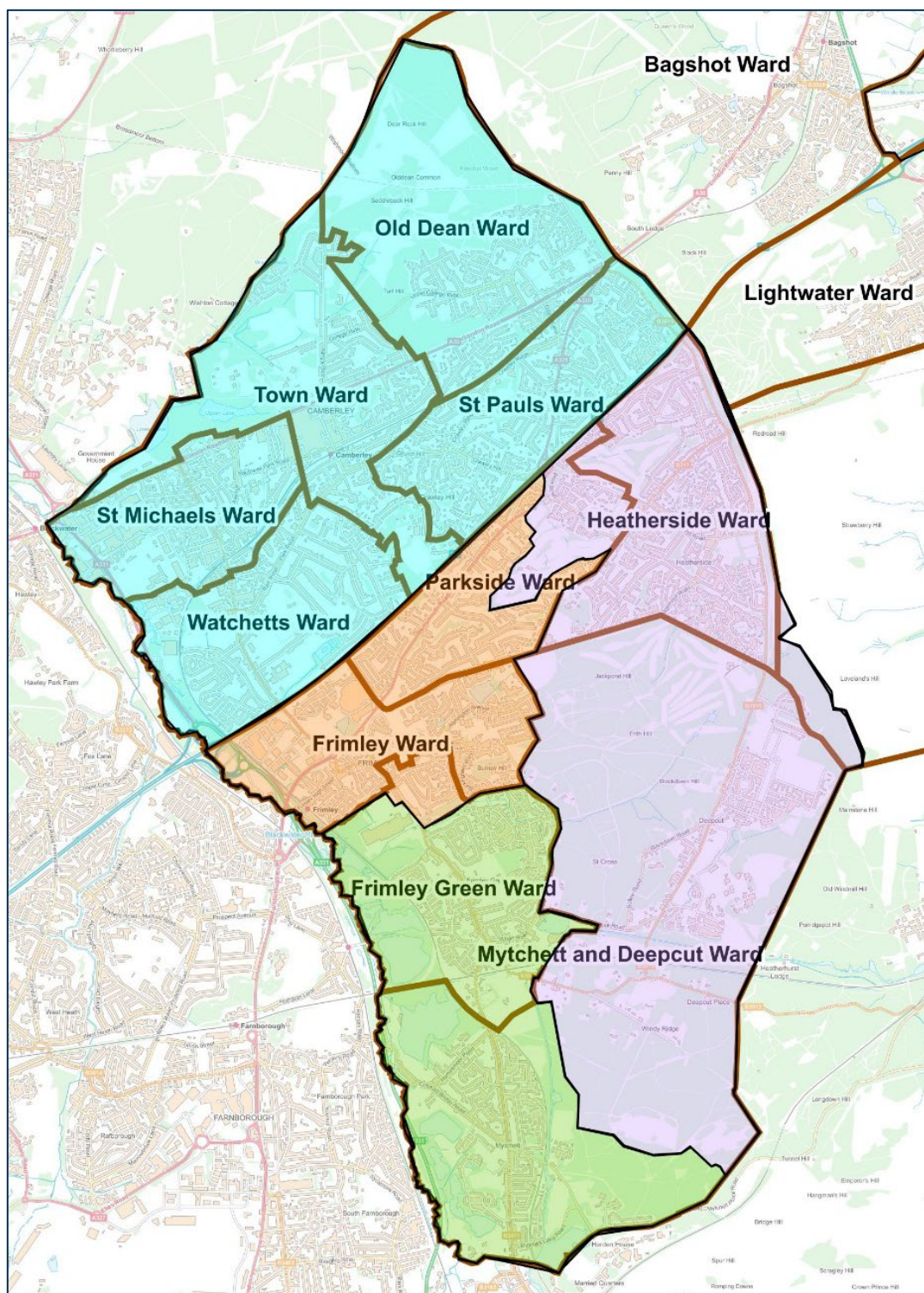


12. What happens if I don't want a new parish council in my area?

It is important that we hear all views on the proposal to create new parishes. If you do not wish to see new parishes formed in your area, please ensure you complete the consultation stating this.



Map of Option One: 4 Parish Councils



Map of Option Two: 2 Parish Councils

