



Borough Wide Community Governance Review 2025-26

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – WINDLESHAM PARISH

This document includes FAQs for residents of Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham on what the consultation covers and how it could affect them.



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1. What are we consulting on?

Surrey Heath Borough Council is consulting on whether to create a separate parish council for Windlesham village. This consultation is taking place with Windlesham village residents.

The Council is also consulting residents from Bagshot and Lightwater villages on whether, if Windlesham chooses to request a separate for Windlesham village only, they wish to continue as a joint parish council or separate into two separate parishes for Bagshot and Lightwater villages.

2. Will Windlesham be split into two parish wards (North and South) as at present?

No. This Community Governance Review will recommend a single ward for Windlesham. This will be the recommendation whether or not a separate parish for Windlesham is agreed. It is not dependent upon a new parish council being formed.

3. How will monetary assets owned by the current Windlesham Parish Council be split?

Any balances held by Windlesham Parish Council would be split in line with the population of each area.

Village	Three Separate Parish Councils	Combined Bagshot & Lightwater Parish Council
Bagshot	36%	75% (shared with Lightwater)
Lightwater	39%	75% (shared with Bagshot)
Windlesham	25%	25%

If no changes are made, the full amount will be retained by Windlesham Parish Council.



Legal advice is currently being obtained by Surrey Heath Borough Council to determine how any Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies held by Windlesham Parish Council would be split into new parishes if they are created. An update will be provided at the earliest possible convenience.

4. How will physical assets owned by the current Windlesham Parish Council be split?

Physical assets such as buildings, pieces of land, and allotments will transfer to the ownership of the parish council where they are geographically located.

Examples of assets within the boundaries of Windlesham village, that would transfer to a new parish council for Windlesham village only, include the Kings Lane Playground and the Windlesham War Memorial.

Assets that are currently owned by Windlesham Parish Council which would fall outside the proposed Windlesham village parished area, such as the Hook Mill Lane Allotments, will be transferred to the relevant parish council in that area. That parish council will then take over responsibility for their maintenance and future management.

5. Will a split in the current parish affect access to assets currently held by the combined parish council?

Access to open facilities such as playgrounds and greenspace would not be affected.

It will be for any future parish councils to decide on whether non-residents would be entitled to chargeable services, including burial facilities.

The Hook Mill Lane Allotments would be transferred to the parish council covering the Lightwater area and future decisions on allocation of allotments and



fees, including potentially for existing allotment holders that reside outside this revised parish area, would be made by the new parish council covering the Lightwater area.

6. How will a split in the parish affect the burial authority/ management of cemeteries?

It is expected that the Burial Authority would split and new burial authorities established for each parish.

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

Windlesham Parish Council's offices are located in The Avenue, Lightwater. If the current parish is split, the office will be owned by the parish council covering the Lightwater area.

If Bagshot has a separate parish council, it will need to establish a new parish council office.

If Lightwater has a separate parish council, it is presumed that it will operate from the council offices located in The Avenue, Lightwater.

If Bagshot and Lightwater remains a joined parish council, it is presumed that it will operate from the council offices located in The Avenue, Lightwater.

If Windlesham has a separate parish council, it will need to establish a new parish council office.

8. 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 Council Tax precept for a Band D property in Windlesham parish for 2025/26 is £65.29. 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 this Council would need to set the initial precept for 2027/28 if new parishes are formed.

9. 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.

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

The boundaries of a new parish for Windlesham would be the same as the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan boundary. This would mean that several properties in Guildford Road, Bagshot and Swift Lane, Bagshot, which currently sit within Windlesham (South) parish ward, would move to the parish covering the Bagshot area.

There would be no changes to the current boundaries with Lightwater.

If Bagshot and Lightwater residents indicate a wish for separate parishes for those villages, the boundaries would be based upon the current ward boundaries.

11. Will parish councillors live in the village?

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.

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

There are currently 18 councillors in Windlesham Parish, as set out below. Current levels of representation are below

Village	Current Councillors
Bagshot	6
Lightwater	7
Windlesham	5

The minimum number of councillors a parish council could have is five.

We are also consulting on whether the number of councillors representing the parishes should remain the same.



13. Can residents of Bagshot or Lightwater trigger a separate parish?

This is not part of this consultation. Residents of Bagshot and Lightwater are only being asked what they would like to happen if Windlesham chooses to request a separate parish council for Windlesham village only.

