WHAT DOES WINDLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL DO AT THE MOMENT?

Windlesham Parish Council established in 1894 provides a range of services across the villages of Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham. Functions of the Council include, but are not limited to, acting as an independent Burial Authority, which owns and maintains cemeteries in each village; considering all planning applications within the Parish area and making representations to the relevant authorities; administering a grant process which supports local sports and recreational facilities within the Parish and provides financial assistance to local voluntary and charitable organisations; providing and managing 52 allotments; maintaining Council owned buildings, a public clock and Jubilee Lamp in Bagshot, three village war memorials and its own public amenity areas, open spaces, recreation grounds, play spaces, and play equipment. For further information go to www.windleshampc.gov.uk

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR?

In May 2019, Surrey Heath Borough Council received a petition requesting that a separate parish council be created for the village of Windlesham. The petition triggered a Community Governance Review and in the autumn of last year the Borough Council invited local electors and other interested parties to submit their views on the current parish arrangements, together with their views on any proposals for change.

Full details of the review can be viewed on the Borough Council’s website www.surreyheath.gov.uk/cgrwindlesham
OUTCOME OF INITIAL CONSULTATION

The Borough Council has acknowledged that submissions received with regard to the current parish arrangements contained conflicting views on the values of the services that the current Windlesham Parish Council provided and whether the Parish benefited all residents across the three villages (Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham) it covered or if it gave Windlesham residents equal representation.

There was evidence from the initial consultation that there is an impression that Windlesham Parish Council’s main focus and activities served only a small part of the parish area and there was a lack of representation for Windlesham residents at parish level under the current arrangements.

In response to this perception, the Parish Council is proposing to review the structure of its governance and committees so that there can be a greater focus on the decisions that affect each village being considered by local councillors.

In April 2020, a decision was taken to pause the review because it was felt impractical to carry out further consultation during the Covid-19 pandemic.

WHAT ARE THE BOROUGH COUNCIL’S PROPOSALS?

Currently the split of parish councillors across the three villages is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward Area</th>
<th>Councillors</th>
<th>Electorate</th>
<th>Councillor:Elector ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bagshot*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5,675</td>
<td>1:709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightwater</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5,466</td>
<td>1:781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windlesham</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,464</td>
<td>1:821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,605</strong></td>
<td><strong>1:756</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Bagshot ward covers the village of Bagshot as well as the Snows Ride area of Windlesham village

So that decision making is robust across the whole parish area, the Borough Council is proposing to remove the Snows Ride area from the Bagshot ward of Windlesham Parish Council and make it a standalone parish ward called Windlesham (North) and then rename the current Windlesham ward of Windlesham Parish Council, Windlesham (South). The Bagshot ward would then just cover the village of Bagshot; making each Parish Ward coterminous with its respective village area, as illustrated on the second map.

It is also proposed that rather than increase the overall number of parish councillors, the current arrangements be changed to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward Area</th>
<th>Councillors</th>
<th>Electorate</th>
<th>Councillor:Elector ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bagshot</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4,611</td>
<td>1:769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightwater</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5,466</td>
<td>1:781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windlesham (North)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,064</td>
<td>1:532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windlesham (South)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,464</td>
<td>1:821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,605</strong></td>
<td><strong>1:756</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If approved these changes would be brought in at the May 2023 elections.
WHY CAN’T WINDLESHAM JUST HAVE ONE WARD?

Government legislation states that a parish council ward must lie wholly within a single borough electoral ward or county electoral division. The current parish ward of Bagshot is coterminous with the Borough Council ward of Bagshot. Combining the Snows Ride area of Windlesham and the Windlesham ward of Windlesham Parish into a single ward would cross this Borough boundary.

WHY CAN’T THE VILLAGE AREAS HAVE THE SAME NUMBER OF WARD COUNCILLORS?

This was the case up until 2019, when the Boundary Commission for England redrew the boundaries of both the parish and borough council and changed the number of councillors to ensure that each councillor represented a broadly equal number of voters. If there were six councillors for each village then each Lightwater councillor would represent 911 voters while each Windlesham councillor would represent 588 voters.

WILL THE NAME OF THE PARISH COUNCIL CHANGE?

We are considering the possibility of changing the name of Windlesham Parish Council to make it more representative of the area that it covers. There are currently no fixed ideas about what the new name could be and we would welcome your ideas.

HOW CAN I RESPOND?

We would welcome your views on the following:

1. The proposed changes to the Parish Council ward boundaries.
2. The proposed allocation of councillors to each ward.
3. Any thoughts on a possible new name for the Parish Council.

Feedback can either be emailed to vote@surreyheath.gov.uk or written representations can be sent to:

Electoral Services
Surrey Heath Borough Council
Knoll Road
Camberley
GU15 3HD

Any feedback should be received by 8th September 2020 at the latest. Thank you.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Any feedback received will be used to inform final recommendations to the Borough Council before any proposed changes are sent to the Local Boundary Commission for England for consideration.