

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Monday 25 November 2013

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

- WEST END PARISH WARDS

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (1) The findings of the community governance review in respect of the warding arrangements at West End Parish Council be noted, and residents thanked for their contributions;
 - (2) The warding arrangements be revised as per West End Parish Council's original request and as per paragraph 21 of this report, following no substantially adverse comments received during the consultation; and
 - (3) The revised arrangements be progressed so as to take effect from the next elections for West End Parish Council in May 2015.
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Summary

In February of this year, the Committee approved a request from West End Parish Council to conduct a community governance review, with the aim of reducing the size / increasing the number of wards within West End Parish Council. The review, and related consultation, has now taken place and the Committee can consider the findings.

Statutory Powers

Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Introduction

1. Earlier this year, a request was received from West End Parish Council to conduct a community governance review in respect of its warding arrangements. The Parish Council suggested that it would be more accountable if it had more and smaller wards. The Parish Council was not seeking to change its membership number (14).

2. Chapter 3 of Part 4 of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation of parishes and their electoral arrangements to principal councils such as Eastleigh Borough Council.
3. The Committee, at its meeting on 11 February 2013, agreed that a community governance review around this proposal be conducted.

The proposal in detail

4. Currently, the parish warding arrangement for West End Parish Council is as follows:
 - (a) **Kanes Hill** - a one member ward with 564 electors which consists of one polling district (BD) from the Bursledon and Old Netley EBC ward
 - (b) **West End North** - a six member ward with 4,070 electors which consists of three polling districts (HH, HI and HJ) and which shares the same boundaries as the West End North EBC ward
 - (c) **West End South** - a seven member ward with 4,651 electors which consists of three polling districts (HK, HL and HM) and which shares the same boundaries as the West End South EBC ward
5. West End Parish Council was content that its composition should remain at 14 Members, but that the potential for those members representing geographically smaller parish wards should be investigated.

The reasons for suggesting the review that had been put forward by the Parish Council were that:

- (a) It would be better to have smaller wards which are attended to by a smaller number of councillors
- (b) Smaller wards enable parish councillors to become far more familiar with the issues in their area and to “take ownership” of those issues
- (c) With the transfer of assets it would be positive for councillors to become more involved and aware of issues relating to open spaces in their ward which are managed by the Parish Council
- (d) Open spaces such as Hatch Grange and West End Copse would have a smaller number of councillors representing the specific area they are in (making it easier for residents to know which parish councillors to contact)
- (e) It would be easier for residents to develop relationships with their parish councillors

- (f) Rather than residents having six or seven parish councillors spread across a whole Borough Council ward, they will have two or three representing their polling district
 - (g) It will be easier for residents to get to know their parish councillors and to hold them to account
6. This could be achieved by moving from three Parish Council wards (with two based on the West End Borough wards) to seven Parish Council wards based on each of the polling districts in the parish.
7. If approved, the result would be the following (electorate figures are those of December 2012):
- (a) Kanes Hill – a one member ward with 549 electors which consists of one polling district (BD) from the Bursledon and Old Netley EBC ward (no change)
 - (b) HH - a two member ward with 873 electors which consists of one polling district from the West End North EBC ward
 - (c) HI - a two member ward with 1532 electors which consists of one polling district from the West End North EBC ward
 - (d) HJ - a two member ward with 1,628 electors which consists of one polling district from the West End North EBC ward
 - (e) HK - a three member ward with 2251 electors which consists of one polling district from the West End South EBC ward
 - (f) HL - a two member ward with 1,444 electors which consists of one polling district from the West End South EBC ward
 - (g) HM - a two member ward with 997 electors which consists of one polling district from the West End South ward
8. The Parish Council had also considered the issue of naming the new wards, should the proposal be successful. It was suggested that different areas had certain characteristics which ought to be celebrated. The Parish Council felt that the public should be involved in any naming of new wards but each polling district had open spaces and features which could be put forward. BD has the name Kanes Hill already, HH covers Allington Lane and IVCP, HI covers Hatch Grange, HJ covers the Moorgreen area, HK covers Chartwell Green and West End Copse, HL covers St James's Church and HM covers Telegraph Woods and the Ageas Bowl.
9. Keeping Borough Ward and Parish Ward names different would also help to prevent confusion both for the Councils and for the public, and the Council's Electoral Services Team asked that this be borne in mind with any naming / re-naming that takes place.

The review process

10. Under the 2007 Act principal councils are required to consult both those local government electors in the area when a community governance review takes place, along with any others (including a local authority such as a county council) who appear to the principal council to have an interest in the review. Other bodies might include local businesses, and public and voluntary organisations. The principal council must take into account any representations it receives as part of a community governance review.
11. In reaching conclusions on the boundaries between parish wards, the principal council should take account of community identity and interests in the area, and consider whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries. Principal councils should seek views on such matters during the course of a review. This is unlikely to be an issue here as the Parish Council are proposing boundaries based upon long-standing, easily identifiable polling district boundaries.
12. Consideration to the levels of representation between each ward must also be given; that is, the number of councillors to be elected from each ward and the number of electors they represent.
13. In considering the names of parish wards, the principal council should give some thought to existing local or historic places so that, where appropriate, these are reflected and there should be a presumption in favour of ward names proposed by local interested parties.
14. The principal council must also consider any change in the number or distribution of the electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts.
15. If the Boundary Commission consents to the changes it will inform the principal council which can then implement the proposed changes by local order.
16. A reorganisation order will then need to be prepared confirming the revised arrangements, together with a document setting out the reasons for the decisions it has taken (including where it has decided to make no change following a community governance review) and to publicise these reasons.
17. The principal council must publicise how it has given effect to the review, and that the order and map are available for public inspection. Other means of publicity it may wish to consider are through publication on the council's website, in local newspapers, on notice boards in public places, and in local libraries, and community buildings in the area concerned. In addition, after a principal council has made a reorganisation order, as soon as practicable, it must inform the following organisations that the order has been made:
 - (a) the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
 - (b) the Boundary Commission

- (c) the Office of National Statistics
- (d) the Director General of the Ordnance Survey
- (e) the relevant County Council
- (f) the Audit Commission

The Review itself

18. The review was publicised in the local press in early April; notices were placed on all public notice boards in the parish; and information was placed on the Borough Council's website – all inviting representations from the public.
19. In addition, and as well as letters being sent to the statutory consultees, the Parish Council produced a consultation leaflet which was delivered to every household in the parish in May. This gave full details of the proposal.
20. 35 responses were received from residents to this direct consultation; 29 supported it; 5 did not support it; and one abstained. A summary of the comments has been produced by the Parish Council and are attached as Appendix 1.
21. As such, it was felt that the Parish Council's request should be supported, with the following names for the wards:

Polling District	New Ward Name	Number of Members to serve the ward
BD	Kanes Hill (as at present)	1
HH	Allington	2
HI	Hatch Grange	2
HJ	Moorgreen	2
HK	Chartwell	3
HL	St James	2
HM	Telegraph Woods	2

Financial Implications

22. The costs of the review will continue to be contained within existing resources.

Risk Assessment

23. The Borough Council has a responsibility to ensure that both it, and the parish councils within its area are, in electoral terms, structured and organised appropriately in order that they can serve the public need as effectively as possible.

Equality and Diversity Implications

24. The Parish Council, in requesting this review, recognises the diversity that exists within its area and asked the Borough Council to conduct a review in order to better reflect this. The Borough Council is content that all affected residents were given the opportunity to comment on the review through a variety of ways.

Conclusion

25. The community governance review has received both broad support and no substantial objections to the Parish Council's proposal, and it is therefore agreed that the revised warding arrangements should be made.

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Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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Appendices Attached: One – summary of consultation responses received

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information:

None

Appendix 1

West End Parish Community Governance Review – Comments received.

35 replies

29 - YES

5 - NO

1 - Abstention

COMMENTS:

OTHER	Preferred Telegraph Woods for HM. We think this will raise a number of fiefdoms all seeking attention and increasing bureaucracy.
	Preferred Allington, Hatch Grange, Moorgreen, Chartwell, St. James, Telegraph Woods. Kanes Hill sticks out like an appendix and suggest that this ward is transferred to Bursledon or Southampton.
NO	I do not understand why Parish Council tax is paid to West End (I live in West End Parish) yet we have been dumped in Bursledon/Old Netley.
	West End Councillors should be engaged with their whole community and not in sub divided areas.
	Your dedicated councillor may not support your views and going to another councillor who supports your views would not be an option. Some councillors have more time and/or more dedicated.
YES	Do we need so many councillors? While reconfiguring the wards why not look at reducing the number (and thereby the expense presumably – there must be expenses/stipend associated with being a councillor). Suggest a simple way is that every 1,000 electors or part thereof are represented by one councillor giving us a fair and simple system. Using current numbers this would reduce HH (West End Lodge or Allington, 873 electors) and HM (Telegraph Hill or Woods, 997 electors) wards to one councillor each, enough surely? Reducing the number from 14 to 12 will have no effect on the statistical stability of any vote. I know it seems small, but if this is mirrored across every ward in Eastleigh the result will be significant. Plus reducing total miles travelled to meetings etc.
	Preferred Allington, Chartwell , St James, Telegraph
	Good idea.
	Excellent proposal thank you for your continued good service – much appreciated.
	I am happy with the names suggested and any alternatives should be in keeping with the other ward names and West End related.
	Preferred Kanes Hill, Allington, Hatch Grange, Moorgreen, Chartwell, St. James, Telegraph Woods.

YES	HH Preferred Allington.
	No comment about names for the Wards, but pleased to see that Wessex Vale Crematorium is in West End and not in Hedge End.
	I live in what would be HH and I think it should be called Allington Ward as I believe we should be the hamlet called Allington.
	Allington for HH.
	As Allington Lane is the longest road in the HH Ward I think it should be called Allington Ward. Of course I am prejudiced as I live in Allington Lane.
	I have indicated preferred choice of names for new wards and hope the councillors representing these wards live within the boundaries they will be responsible for.
	I would name HK ward Chartwell Green – the name used by the locals hereabout and estate agents.
	Allington, Chartwell, St. James, Telegraph Woods. I have indicated my preferred names.
	HK - preferred West End Copse.
	Good idea in principle. Would suggest Telegraph Woods for HM Ward.
	I think Chartwell is the best name for HK.
	Ward HM you have two suggestions in your leaflet. Would like to see Telegraph Woods as the ward name. There are two main features in this ward. Telegraph Woods and the Cricket Ground. Rose Bowl ward would have been a good idea, but it would appear the name will change on a regular basis so this would not work.
	I have only one comment to make and that keeping the new crematorium in the boundary of West End. Keep up all the great work you have been doing on behalf of all the residents in our parish.
	I agree with the proposal to split the existing wards into smaller wards, and agree that the reasons given are valid.
	As I live in the polling district HK, I am in favour of the new suggested name of Chartwell.
	It does seem sensible to have councillors more linked to smaller wards.
	I agree with the new proposals as I believe communication with councillors will be so much easier and hopefully residents will get to know them. Preferred Ward Names HL - Chartwell, HL - St. James, HM - Rose Bowl.
We would like our ward to be called Moorgreen which is much more specific than West End North and relates very well to our area. A good idea.	