

Community Governance Review letter to Parish Councils

From Herefordshire Council and HALC

August 10th 2015

RE: Proposal to carry out a Community Governance Review

Dear Parish Clerk

Over the last few years a number of parish/town councils have been asking whether they can either increase or decrease their allocated number of councillors or change their parish boundaries. You may be aware that Ross-on-Wye Town Council combined with Ross Rural Parish Council to form a new, enlarged single authority/parish council on 1st April this year. The process that enabled this to happen is called a Community Governance Review (see attached guidance from Government on this).

Herefordshire Council, is responsible for carrying out Community Governance Reviews (CGRs) within its area and it is recommended that area-wide CGRs are carried out every 10 years or so.

In view of the number of informal requests we have received over the years and the number of enquiries received by HALC, Herefordshire Council, working with HALC, parish/town councils and communities, is looking into the possibility of carrying out a full county wide CGR in 2016/17.

We are proposing to cover the following aspects:-

- Grouping or de-grouping of parishes/parish councils.
- Splitting off an area of an existing parish council and establishing a new separate parish council.
- Altering boundaries of existing parishes/parish councils.
- Amending the number of parish councillors per parish council.

To begin this project and ensure your full participation, it would be helpful if you could put the matter on the agenda for your September parish/town

council meeting to enable your councillors to raise their initial thoughts and in particular, any issues you would wish a CGR to address in relation to your own parish council, prior to receiving further information on the CGR process.

We would be grateful if you would send in the response from your parish council by the 30th September, to either abush@herefordshire.gov.uk or lynda@halchereford.gov.uk .

Also, if you would like to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Anthony on 01432 260611 or Lynda on 01432 353492.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Bush
Parish Liaison and Rural Services Officer
Herefordshire Council

Lynda Wilcox
Chief Executive
Herefordshire Association of Local
Councils (HALC)

FACTS - 2015

1. Herefordshire is 100% parished
2. Herefordshire has 235 parishes and 4 parish meetings.
3. Herefordshire has 133 parish councils.
4. Herefordshire has 1229 parish councillors