

Meeting of the Community Governance Review Working Group

Tuesday, 12 July 2022, 10.00 am



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Committee Members present

Councillor Louise Clack (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Graham Jeal (Chairman)
Councillor Nikki Manterfield
Councillor Charmaine Morgan
Councillor Kaffy Rice-Oxley
Councillor Adam Stokes
Councillor Hilary Westropp
Councillor Mark Whittington

Officers

Assistant Director of Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer, Graham Watts
Electoral Services Manager, Julie Edwards
Consultation and Engagement Officer, Deb Wyles
Democratic Officer, Lucy Bonshor

32. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence have been received from Councillors Manterfield, Jacky Smith, Steptoe and Ray Wootten.

33. Disclosure of Interests

Councillor Whittington declared that he was a Member of Barrowby Parish Council.

34. Notes from the meeting held on 29 April 2022

The notes from the meeting held on 29 April 2022 were proposed, seconded and **AGREED**.

35. Community Governance Review for Grantham

The Assistant Director of Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report which asked the Working Group to confirm the scope for the next stage of

the consultation in respect of the proposed boundary for Grantham Town Council. The Full Council meeting held on 26 May 2022 agreed in principle to establish a Parish Council for Grantham, subject to further consultation being undertaken with residents of neighbouring parishes and Parish Councils in respect of the boundary for the Parish.

The outcome of the first consultation did not give a clear direction of where the boundary for the new Town Council should be located, further consultation needed to take place with Parish Council's and residents to seek their views on where the boundary should be located and it was for the Working Group to confirm the scope of the consultation.

One Member stated that consultation should take place with all residents on the boundary of the unparished area of Grantham to seek residents' views and consultation should continue with residents as new houses were built. The Member felt it was for residents to decide where they felt the boundary of the Town Council should be located, not the Working Group or Council and they needed to be fully informed as to the consequences of any decision made.

Another Member made reference to the proposed Southern Quadrant application which would be a large area once built, would this be included within the Grantham Town Council boundary as once built residents in that area would be using the services within the Town.

It was stated that when the Southern Quadrant area of the town was built it was likely that this would be subject to a separate Community Governance Review and would become a separate parish in its own right.

Discussion on Parish Council involvement followed, particularly in respect of Barrowby Parish Council and it was stated that any proposed extension of the Grantham town boundary into other parishes needed to be consulted on, but the Member felt that he couldn't support any boundary extension in to Barrowby Parish.

The Assistant Director of Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer referred the Working Group to the recommendation on page 6 of the agenda. It was for the Working Group to agree a scope for the next round of consultation and who would be consulted.

Reference was made to Appendix 1 and the map which showed the unparished area of Grantham together with three hatched areas, that although fell within the Grantham boundary, were part of separate parishes. It was stated that the three parishes together with those residents who lived within the hatched areas needed to be consulted with, which amounted to 378 dwellings.

Further discussion followed in respect of parish boundaries, particularly Barrowby and issues around precepts, finance and identity. It was felt that some areas had clear demarcations of where the boundary should be.

The time scale for the consultation was raised and it was proposed that the consultation should take place during October/November 2022. The responses from the consultation could then be collated and would help to inform the Working Group of where the boundary for Grantham Town Council should be. It was noted that the Boundary Commission had set the current District Ward boundaries. To enable the necessary consultations to take place, it was suggested that the timescale for when Grantham Town Council would take effect would be towards the end of 2023 with elections happening in May 2024, this would give three years for the Town Council to be established before the next elections in 2027. It was felt that 2025 would be too late to hold elections.

The scope of who should be consulted was discussed and it was proposed that houses which had not been built would not be part of the scope for this consultation. Those dwellings within the hatched areas on Appendix 1 and the associated parishes would form the scope of the consultation.

A comment was made about those houses that weren't yet built, particularly the Southern Quadrant area and which parish they would be part of. It was stated that they would be subject to a separate Community Governance Review which would be implemented through either the receipt of a community petition from the residents in that area or through the District Council, it would not be through the Grantham Town Council.

It was proposed, seconded and **AGREED** not to include those houses which had not yet been built in the scope of the consultation.

Decision

That those houses not yet built particularly in the Southern Quadrant area and outside the unparished area of Grantham were not part of the scope for this consultation.

Further discussion followed on the developments taking place as shown on Appendix 2. Planning applications S14/3571 and S14/2935 were discussed and it was stated that some of the dwellings had been built but they were not occupied, some were occupied and some were not built. These developments fell within Barrowby Parish and Belvoir Ward and were outside of the unparished area of Grantham.

It was recommended that until the majority were completed and occupied, the dwellings that fell in these two areas would be consulted, but at a later date.

Reference was made to S14/3260 which was located to the north of the unparished area of Grantham. Planning Permission had been granted for the site but no construction had started and it was suggested that this area was taken off the list for consultation.

S08/1231 was located within the unparished area of Grantham and 673 had been completed to date.

Scope of consultation

It was proposed and agreed that the scope of the consultation should include the areas hatched on Appendix 1 (Map A) 378 dwellings and the 673 listed in respect of Appendix 2 (Map B) 673 plus consultation should take place with the Ward and County Councillors for the areas as well as the relevant Parish Councils. Each dwelling should be sent a prepaid envelope to respond to the consultation and face-to-face events should take place where possible in the areas or near to the hatched areas on Appendix 1.

It was confirmed that there was enough budget to accommodate the proposal.

A question was asked about where the new Town Council would meet and it was stated that this was not part of the Community Governance Review, it was an operational detail and it was for the Town Council to decide once it had been established.

Meeting closed at 11:04.