

## **Community Governance Review 2017 – Background Information**

### **Please retain for your records**

#### **Why is Cheltenham Borough Council carrying out a community governance review?**

A campaign group in Pittville submitted a valid petition to Cheltenham Borough Council in January 2017, calling for the creation of a new civil parish and parish council for Pittville. This means Cheltenham Borough Council is required under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to carry out a community governance review to decide whether or not it should be created.

As part of the review, the five existing parish councils were asked if they would like explore whether there was support to extend their boundaries. Up Hatherley Parish Council has asked us to consult residents in your area as shown in the map overleaf, to see whether there is enough support to include your area in the parish.

#### **What does a parish council do?**

Parish councils are the most local form of government. Parish councils are usually made up of local people who stand for election as (unpaid) parish councillors to represent their area, usually for a four year term. They are the democratic voice of the local community and work with other tiers of government and external organisations to support the community and co-ordinate and to deliver services.

#### **Statement from Up Hatherley Parish Council**

“Up Hatherley Parish Council has a part time paid clerk and offices in Up Hatherley Village Hall. Council business is conducted by working groups which work on planning and development control; open spaces and environmental services; highways; leisure and culture and finance. The council works closely with the borough and county council and is represented on various outside bodies. Council members also sit on local school management boards. The council has produced a yearly magazine, The Record, for nearly 40 years.

The recent parish survey revealed the ten top issues for the area, which the parish council now has plans to address. These are: lack of sports facilities; litter, particularly around Hillview Community Centre; road surfaces; traffic speed; designated cycle routes; security of the Greenbelt and green spaces; better bus services to the shops; lack of community events; hedges overhanging the pavement and a greater and more visible police presence.

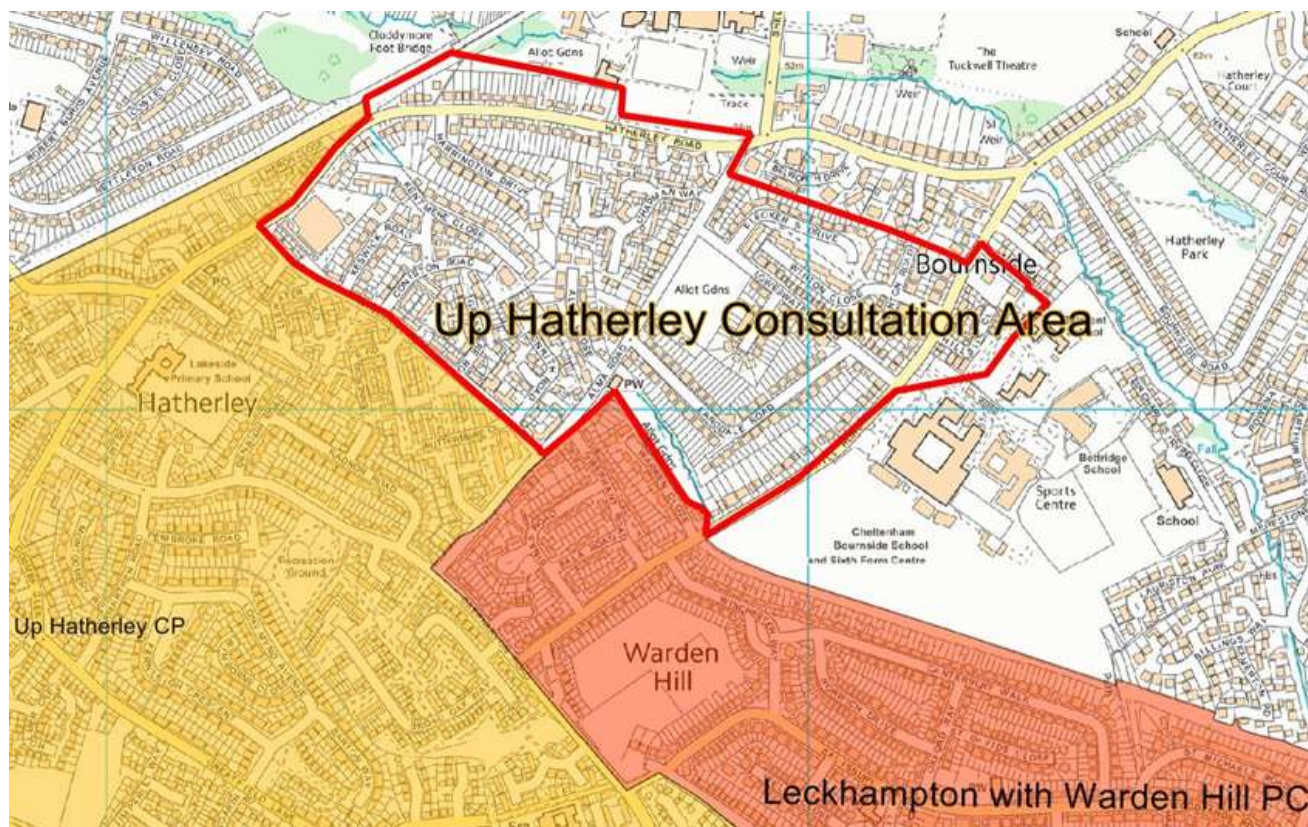
This consultation is taking place because Up Hatherley Parish Council believes it can successfully represent your area at community level because of the historical identity as well as commonality of issues and geographical similarities with other parts of Up Hatherley Parish.”

#### **How much would my council tax bill increase by if my area becomes part of the parish council area?**

Households within a parish are subject to what is known as a ‘precept’, which is the amount of council tax added to the bill per household and can only be used by the parish council to run itself and to invest in the area to deliver or improve services or facilities for which they have the legal powers. The amount is based on the number of households within the parish, and the cost of the services the council provides. The precept in Up Hatherley parish currently is £9.98 per household in a Band D property PER YEAR. This equates to £0.19 per household per week and in Up Hatherley this precept has not increased since 2002.

## Proposals map

The map below shows the existing parish areas (shaded – Up Hatherley Parish Council to the left and Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council to the right) and the area being consulted. Within the area being consulted, Cheltenham Borough Council has written to all local electors to see whether the majority of respondents would like to be represented by Up Hatherley Parish Council or not. Cheltenham Borough Council will also take into consideration any other representations received, for example from stakeholders, businesses and public sector organisations in the area and residents from adjacent areas, but the responses from residents within the consultation area boundary will be the main basis upon which the decision will be made.



## How to respond to this consultation

Cheltenham Borough Council will use the responses received to decide whether there is sufficient support for your area becoming part of the Up Hatherley Parish Council area. Please take the time to have your say by completing the response slip and returning it in the freepost envelope provided.

Alternatively, you can respond online at [www.cheltenham.gov.uk/community-governance-review](http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/community-governance-review) using your unique identification code which is provided on the front of the attached letter.

## **All responses must be received by 8 October 2017.**

Many thanks for taking the time to respond to this consultation. Further details about the review and the results of this consultation (once completed) will be published at [www.cheltenham.gov.uk/community-governance-review](http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/community-governance-review)

**For further information please contact:** [communityservices@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:communityservices@cheltenham.gov.uk) or 01242 262626.