

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 (CBC) 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. Leckhampton with Warden Hill 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 parish area. 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 Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council

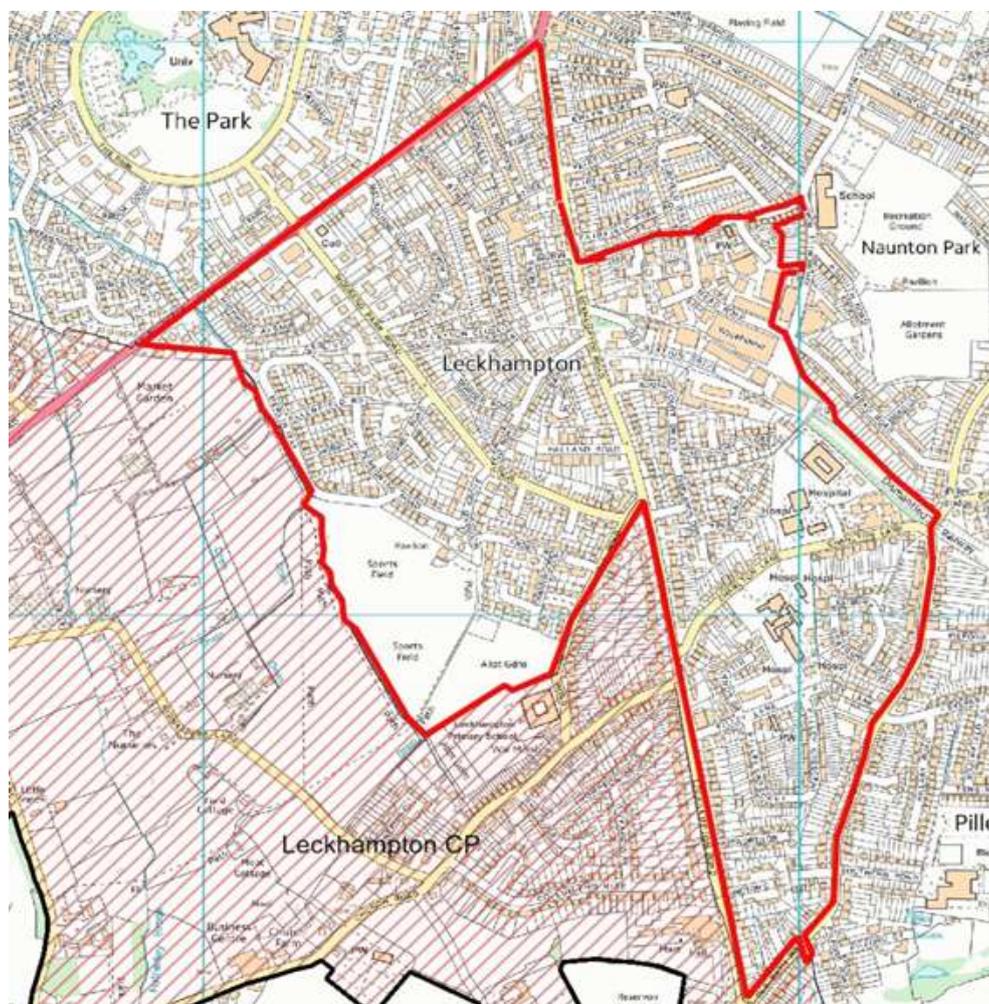
“As a local authority, Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council powerfully represents local people. It uses objective evidence from experts, public consultations, traffic surveys, computer modelling, professional studies and legal advocates. It advises CBC planners on local planning applications and it submits evidence to local and national consultations that affect residents. The Council is currently finalising its Neighbourhood Plan to link into the Cheltenham Local Plan. Begun in 2013, the neighbourhood planning and Local Green Space Application have been crucial in protecting the beauty and amenities of the area, including the views from Leckhampton Hill, and in achieving sustainable development and good quality of life and prosperity. The Council’s vigorous fight against the massive development in Leckhampton originally proposed in the draft JCS has been well vindicated by the findings of the JCS Examiner and the Secretary of State on unacceptable landscape damage and severe traffic congestion. With the precept funds, the Council provides amenities, such as Brizen Young People’s Centre and the Salisbury Avenue games area, often by leveraging other big sources of funding. It supports youth work, schools, local charities, voluntary groups, community development and other community benefit. Councillors help keep the area well maintained and act as voluntary wardens for open spaces, footpaths, transport, flooding, snow and emergencies. The Parish Council already consults all residents in Leckhampton on strategic issues. Bringing all of Leckhampton ward into the Parish will allow joined-up action at community, Borough and County level and is strongly recommended by Borough and County councillors.”

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

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 Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish currently is £18.35 per household in a Band D property PER YEAR.

Proposals map

The map below shows the existing parish area (hatched) 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 included in the Parish. 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 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 Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish. 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 by entering your unique identification code which is provided on 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

For further information: communityservices@cheltenham.gov.uk or 01242 262626.