

Community Governance Review 2017 – Background Information (please retain)

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 5 existing parish councils were asked if they would like explore whether there was support to extend their boundaries. Charlton Kings Parish Council asked us to consult residents in your area as shown in the map overleaf, to see if there is 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 4 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 made by Charlton Kings Parish Council

“Charlton Kings Parish Council was created in 1995 in order to provide local people with a strong voice when decisions about their community are made. Its main statutory duty is the provision of allotments but we also seek to deliver services to local residents that would not otherwise be provided due to lack of funding or competing priorities at higher levels of local government. A further key function of the council is to look after the wellbeing of residents and we have a rolling 4-year work programme to meet this aim. Services provided in recent years include the refurbishment of the Stanton Suite to provide quality venues for hire by local community groups and the provision of public toilets, a service which had been withdrawn by the Borough Council. Several local heritage sites, such as the war memorial and ancient village stocks have been restored and secured for future generations. The Parish Council also responds to local concerns about highways issues, drawing these to the attention of Gloucestershire County Council, where appropriate. A major ongoing initiative undertaken by the Parish Council is the provision of relocatable speed detectors to monitor vehicle speeds at key locations in the parish. The Council also looks after local rights of way, including footpaths and bridleways.

Following consultation with local residents, the Council has recently published a detailed Parish Plan, setting out its objectives for the next 5 – 10 years. These include the creation of a community hub, local transport initiatives, protecting our countryside and developing business opportunities. The full Plan is at: www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk/

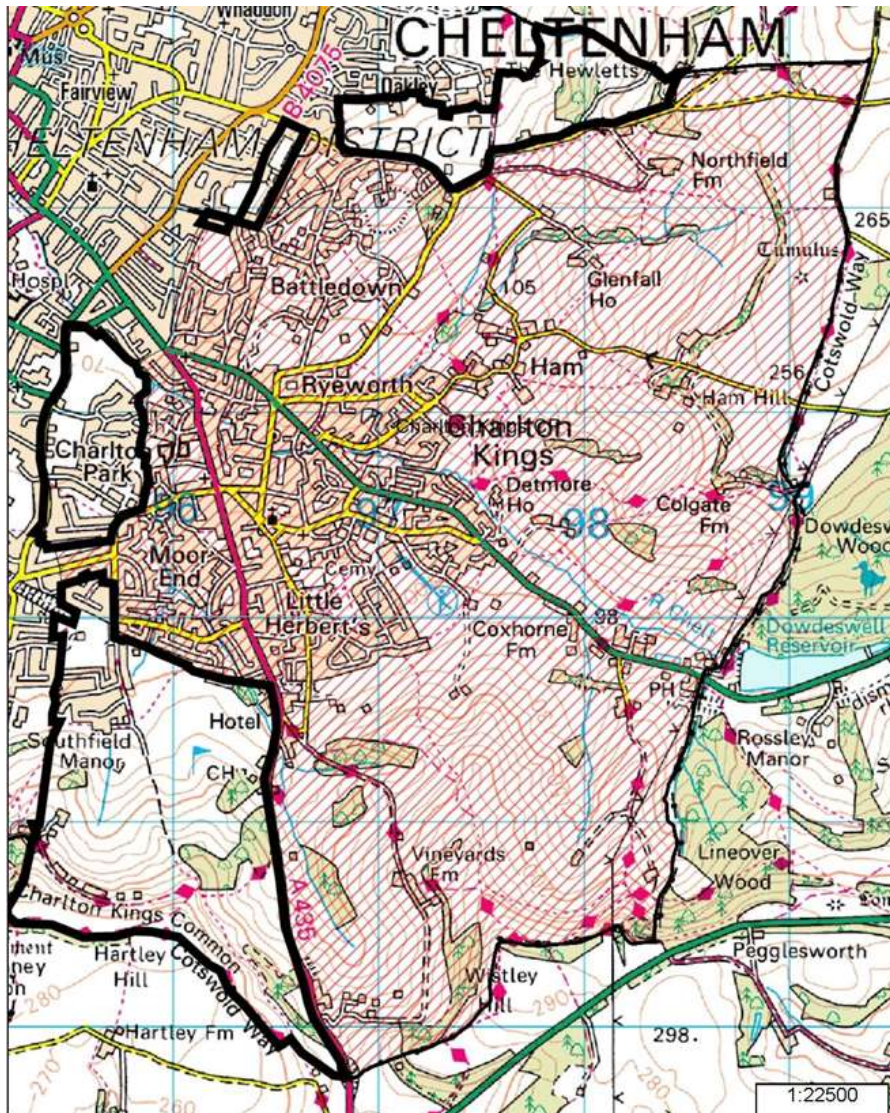
From 1862 to 1974 responsibility for the village was with Charlton Kings Urban District Council. We see this review as an opportunity to restore the full community of old Charlton Kings and a chance to include within our parish people who, either historically or for reasons of service provision, see themselves as part of the Charlton Kings community”.

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 Charlton Kings parish currently is £16.42 per household in a Band D property PER YEAR.

Proposals map

The map below shows the existing parish area (hatched) and the areas being consulted. Within the areas being consulted, Cheltenham Borough Council has written to all local electors to see whether the majority of respondents would like to be represented by a parish council or not. Cheltenham Borough Council will also take into consideration any other representations received, for example from stakeholders, but the responses from residents within the proposed boundary will be the main basis upon which the decision will be made.



The thick black lines indicate the 4 areas being consulted.

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 Charlton Kings 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 using your unique identification code which is provided on the front of this 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 / 01242 262626.