

Title: Community Governance review – Burton Green  
Lead Officer: Graham Leach Democratic Services Manager & Deputy  
Monitoring Officer (01926 456114)  
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Day  
Wards of the District directly affected: Kenilworth Abbey & Arden

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### **Summary**

The report informs the Committee of the responses received to the consultation for the review of electoral arrangements within the parish of Burton Green.

### **Recommendation(s)**

- (1) The Committee notes the views received in connection with the consultation.
  - (2) The Committee takes no further action and does not amend the current electoral arrangements of the Parish.
  - (3) The Committee asks officers to inform the Parish Council of the outcome and remind them of the criteria to fill the vacant seats.
  - (4) The Committee asks officers to promote how to become a Parish Councillor, including the relevant criteria for standing for election, in partnership with Warwickshire Association of Local Councils ahead of the elections in May 2023.
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## **1 Background/Information**

- 1.1 Burton Green Parish Council asked Warwick District Council to carry out a Community Governance Review to change the number of councillors representing each Parish ward in Burton Green.
- 1.2 The Parish Council had requested that the allocation of Councillors (Seven for Burton Green Ward and four for the University Ward) be amended to nine Councillors for the Burton Green ward and two Councillors for the University ward. In their view they considered this would be more reflective of the electorate numbers in the Parish.
- 1.3 This proposal was considered by the Audit & Standards Committee in June 2022. The Committee felt that there was logic to Burton Green having a single ward of 11 Councillors and asked officers to liaise with the Parish Council on that proposal. The Committee also delegated authority to officers to confirm any subsequent order if there were no objections.
- 1.4 The Parish Council had no objection to a single Ward of 11 Councillors and therefore an order was drafted and public consultation undertaken. The public consultation was sent to the Parish Council, the District Councillors for the Parish, Warwickshire County Council and Warwick University. It was also advertised in the local press.
- 1.5 The consultation received four responses. Two objections and two in agreement with the proposal and are set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

- 1.6 Officers have considered the responses to the consultation along with the following points:
  - 1.6.1 Parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities, with their own sense of identity. The feelings of the local community are often best defined by local residents in building a sense of local community.
  - 1.6.2 The boundary between Parish wards should take account of community identity and whether any particular ties might be broken by removing such a ward boundary.
  - 1.6.3 An elector living within the Parish or within three miles of the boundary and is qualified, can stand for election or co-option to either ward and represent the Parish as a whole.
- 1.7 With the above in mind and the overall balanced response from the consultation, Officers have proposed that the order is not confirmed and no changes are made.
- 1.8 Officers recognise the importance of all Parish Council's within the local community and will continue to support them. Therefore, it is proposed that officers undertake work as part of the run up to local elections to promote how to become a Parish Councillor.

## **2 Alternative Options**

- 2.1 Councillors could consider adopting the order of removing the Warding for Burton Green Parish Council. However based on the feedback it is not considered appropriate.

## **3 Consultation and Councillor comments**

- 3.1 The response to the consultation are set out at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 3.2 Councillors have not been directly consulted on the report as they were provided the opportunity as part of the wider consultation.

## **4 Implications of the proposal**

### **4.1 Legal/Human Rights Implications**

- 4.1.1 The proposals within the report meet are within the legislative framework and associated guidance.

### **4.2 Financial**

- 4.2.1 There are minimal costs associated with undertaking the Community Governance review and these have been met by the District Council, within the existing allocated budgets for Democratic Services.

### **4.3 Council Plan**

- 4.3.1 The proposal seeks to ensure enhanced local representation for the Burton Green Community.

### **4.4 Environmental/Climate Change Implications**

- 4.4.1 There are no direct environmental implications of the proposal.

### **4.5 Analysis of the effects on Equality**

- 4.5.1 There are no direct impacts on equality matters from the recommendations.

### **4.6 Data Protection**

- 4.6.1 There are no specific data protection issues within the report.

### **4.7 Health and Wellbeing**

4.7.1 There are no Health and Wellbeing implications from the proposals.

## **5 Risk Assessment**

5.1 There are no significant risks associated with the report.

**Background papers:** none

**Supporting documents:** Report and Minutes of the Audit & Standards Committee in June 2022

### Report Information Sheet

Please complete and submit to Democratic Services with draft report

<b>Committee/Date</b>	22 November 2022	
<b>Title of report</b>	Community Governance review – Burton Green	
<b>Consultations undertaken</b>		
<b>Consultee *required</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Details of consultation /comments received</b>
<b>Ward Member(s)</b>		
<b>Portfolio Holder WDC</b>		Day
<b>Financial Services *</b>		
<b>Legal Services</b>		
<b>Other Services</b>		
<b>Deputy Chief Executive</b>	14/11/22	Andrew Jones
<b>Head of Service(s)</b>		
<b>Section 151 Officer</b>		
<b>Monitoring Officer</b>	14/11/22	Andrew Jones
<b>Leadership Co-ordination Group (WDC)</b>		N/A
<b>Other organisations</b>		
<b>Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Ctte/Council?</b>		Yes
<b>Contrary to Policy/Budget framework</b>		No
<b>Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?</b>		No
<b>Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?</b>		No
<b>Accessibility Checked?</b>		Yes

**Response 1 – Agreement:**

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 25 August 2022 12:25

To: Elections <[elections@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:elections@warwickdc.gov.uk)>

Subject: re Burton Green Community Governance Review 2022

Caution: This is an external email. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.  
When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk

This note is to confirm my full support for Burton Green PC becoming one single electoral area with 11 seats.



Red Lane, CV8 1QF

Sent from my iPad

**Response 2 – Agreement:**



Gillian Friar

Re: Burton Green community governance review 2022

You replied to this message on 23/08/2022 13:39.

Hi Gillian

I am more than happy to support these proposals

Thanks



Response 3 – Objection:

HOUSEHOLDERS

[REDACTED]  
KED LANE

KENILWORTH  
CV81PB

1-9-2022

We reply to your letter of 23-8-2022, re Burton Green Community Governance review.

We object in the strongest possible terms to the proposal made by Warwick District Council Audit and Council Committee, to remove the boundary between Burton Green Ward and the University Ward in response to representations from Burton Green Parish Council.

Rather than "strengthening the democratic process" as is claimed, the contrasting demographics of a fairly rural area and an urban one around the university would still further disenfranchise the longer standing residents.

Already with no consultation or debate, around one hundred households were forced to relinquish their unsullied Kenilworth addresses in favour of Burton Green, a so called village of which much of Red Lane had never been a part.

We have reason to believe that this was done as a precursor to our being engulfed by Coventry, a city with a proverbially rapacious attitude to its own expansion, and the establishment of what is termed a buffer zone to insulate Kenilworth.

Far from reinforcing Burton Green Parish Council, some longer term residents feel that this entire process should be re-examined as the Parish Council is viewed by some here as an extra expense on our already exorbitant council tax and a source of unwanted interferences.

[REDACTED] Householder

**Response 4 – Objection:**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 September 2022 11:28  
**To:** Elections <[elections@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:elections@warwickdc.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Burton Green Community Governance Review 2022

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We strongly object to this proposal.

It will never be possible for "elected councillors" to combine what is best for the people of Burton Green with what would be sought by those in the University ward.

Those words, "Before making any final proposal.... will take full account of the views of local people". Really? Seem to recall that is what was said before HS2 was allowed to carve up Burton Green!!

If it is considered that Burton Green Ward should have nine councillors, then we are happy with that and likewise two councillors for the University ward.  
That doesn't show why the boundary between us should be removed for that to be implemented.

It feels very much to us that this is the initial step before a decision is made to move us along into Coventry.