

 Regulatory Committee Tuesday 28 January 2014		Agenda Item No. 4
Title	Warwick District Community Governance Review 2013/2014	
For further information about this report please contact	Chris Elliott (01926 456000) chris.elliott@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	Regulatory Committee 15 July 2013 – minute 18 and Regulatory Working Party 12 November 2013	
Background Papers		

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No (If No state why below)
The process is about ensuring electoral equality so there is no further need to undertake an equalities impact assessment.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		Chris Elliott
Head of Service		
CMT		Andrew Jones; Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer		Andrew Jones/Graham Leach
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)		Group Leaders & Deputy Leader
Consultation & Community Engagement		
The commencement of the Community Governance Review in July 2013 invited submissions from interested persons up to the deadline of Friday 4 October 2013. During November 2013 electors and Parish Councils have been consulted on boundary changes affecting their Parish areas.		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To consider the submissions received from interested persons and to make up a set of final recommendations.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To agree a set of Draft recommendations for further public consultation.
- 2.2 To agree revised dates for public consultation on the Draft recommendations to be held between 29 January 2014 and noon 30 April 2014.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (LGPIH) 2007 devolved the power to take decisions relating to the creation and abolition of parishes, the boundaries of parishes and the electoral arrangements of parish councils from the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission to principal councils.

Since February 2008, District Councils have had the responsibility for undertaking Community Governance Reviews and have been able to decide whether to give effect to recommendations made in those Reviews. In making that decision, Councils need to take account of the views of local people and are required to have regard to guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

- 3.2 Any changes in parish boundaries that affect the boundaries of District Council wards and/or Warwickshire County Council Electoral Divisions will be referred to the Local Government Boundary Commission England (LGBCE) with a recommendation to change all boundaries affected. Amendments to Parliamentary constituency boundaries will be referred to the Boundary Commission for England with a recommendation to change affected boundaries.
- 3.3 The Community Governance Review Terms of Reference published in July 2013, stated the public consultation period for consideration of the Draft proposals was to be held between 17 December 2013 and noon 17 March 2014. With the delay of the Regulatory Committee meeting from 16 December 2013 to 28 January 2014 a new period of time now needs to be agreed for consultation.

4. **ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA TOWN COUNCIL**

- 4.1 **Member's instructions are sought in making the decision should it be recommended to realign the Manor Town ward with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England recommended Manor District ward and include the New Cubbington area currently within Cubbington Parish Council North ward.** (map reference A)

Following the Committee meeting held on 12 November 2013, further consultation with electors within the New Cubbington area took place to seek their views on this proposal. The following responses have been received from electors and Cubbington Parish Council:

Details	Number
Number of properties	615
Agree with recommendation	79
Disagree with recommendation	109
Do not mind	2
Comments noted:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal makes sense geographically. • Have always felt we live in Leamington Spa & New Cubbington is left off our address. • Electors would no longer be members of the Acorns OAP Club. • There would be a change in MP. • There is already a Kenilworth Road and Rugby Road in different part of Leamington Spa. Major issues with Royal Mail delivering wrong mail to these 2 roads – it will increase the confusion. Cubbington in our address helps prevent an amount of our mail going to the wrong address. • Kenilworth Road & Rugby Road, Cubbington would have to be renamed or our houses renumbered to take in to account the two Roads with the same name/address/house numbers. • Purchased property to reside in Cubbington not Leamington. • Proposal does not take account of the strong feeling and affinity for the village and church and this area of land has always been part of Cubbington. With the age and apathy of the other households involved my reply will count for little. • No need to change anything. The Parish Council do a great job.

4.2 **Member’s instructions are sought in making the decision should it be recommended to realign the Manor Town ward and include the properties numbered 2 to 86 Rugby Road currently within Cubbington Parish Council South ward.** (map reference A)

Following the Committee meeting held on 12 November 2013, further consultation with electors within this area of Cubbington took place to seek their views. The following responses have been received from electors and Cubbington Parish Council:

Details	Number
Number of properties	41
Agree with recommendation	5
Disagree with recommendation	12
Do not mind	0
Comments noted:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is already a Rugby Road in a different part of Leamington Spa and

	<p>two houses with the same house number.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We identify with Cubbington community and moved here for that reason.
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- 4.3 **To recommend aligning the Town Council ward boundaries with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England recommended District wards of Brunswick, Clarendon, Crown, Leam and Newbold in the town of Royal Leamington Spa.**
- 4.4 **Member’s instructions are sought in making the decision, dependant on the outcome of the decision made in 4.1, should it be recommended to increase the number of Royal Leamington Spa Town Councillors from 16 members to 24 members, with 3 members per ward.**
- 4.5 **To recommend including the land of the former North Leamington School site and the new school site currently within Old Milverton Parish Council in to the Royal Leamington Spa Manor Town ward.** (map reference B)
- 4.6 **To recommend realigning the Milverton Town ward with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England recommended Milverton District ward and include Range Meadow Close, Hopton Crofts and Guy’s Cliffe Avenue currently within Old Milverton Parish.** (map reference C)
- 4.7 **To recommend warding Old Milverton and Blackdown joint Parish Council, each parish area being a separate parish ward.** (map reference G)

With the new District warding arrangements for Royal Leamington Spa, the joint Parish Council of Old Milverton and Blackdown is divided between two District wards. The parished area of Old Milverton will now sit within the Milverton District ward and the parished area of Blackdown will now sit within the Manor District ward.

Parish Area	Ward Name	No. of Cllrs
Old Milverton	Old Milverton	3
Blackdown	Blackdown	2

- 4.8 **To recommend realigning the Sydenham Town ward with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England recommended Sydenham District ward and include the Whitnash Town Council East ward.** (map reference D)

5. KENILWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

- 5.1 **To recommend realigning the Abbey and Park Hill Town Council ward boundaries with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England recommended District wards of Abbey and Park Hill in the town of Kenilworth.**

5.2 **To recommend realigning the St. John's Town ward with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England recommended St. John's District ward and include the Kenilworth Town Council Queen's ward.** (see map reference E)

5.3 **Member's instructions are sought in making the decision should it be recommended to realign the south eastern boundary of Kenilworth St John's town ward and the northern parish boundary of Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe.** (map reference 1)

From a point along the A46 where the current eastern boundary meets the A452, then in a southerly direction along the western side of the A46 to Cattle Brook, then in a westerly direction along the said Brook until it meets the current existing southern town boundary of Kenilworth St. John's town ward and the northern parish boundary of Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe at Little Woodcote.

Following the Committee meeting held on 12 November 2013, further consultation with Kenilworth Town Council and Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe Parish Council took place to seek their views on this proposal to straighten out this boundary between the 2 Councils. The following responses have been received:

Town/Parish Council	Comments
Kenilworth	Agree with the proposal
Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe	Object strongly, boundary change removes all the land within the buffer zone between village of Leek Wootton and Kenilworth within the Parish Council responsibility.

5.4 **To recommend realigning the northern town boundary of the Kenilworth Abbey town ward, the Kenilworth Park Hill town ward and the southern parish boundary of parish of Burton Green.** (map reference 6)

In a north westerly direction along the Coventry Way/Green Way (dismantled railway) from the point where the northern Kenilworth Park Hill town ward meets the Coventry Way/Green Way (dismantled railway) opposite Princes Drive to the junction with Blind Lane and Hollis Lane. Then in south westerly direction along Hollis Lane to the point where the current eastern boundary of Kenilworth Abbey town ward meets the northern boundary of Dunns Pitts Farm, then in a westerly direction along the northern boundary of the said farm to where it meets the original northern boundary of the Kenilworth Abbey town ward at the and the southern parish boundary of parish of Burton Green at the junction of the footpath.

Following the Committee meeting held on 12 November 2013, further consultation with Kenilworth Town Council and Burton Green Parish Council took place to seek their views on this proposal. The following response was received:

Town/Parish Council	Comments
Kenilworth	Agree with the proposal
Burton Green	No comments received

6. BURTON GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

- 6.1 **Member's instructions are sought in making the decision should it be recommended to separate the University ward from Ashow and Stoneleigh joint Parish Council to become a ward of Burton Green Parish Council.** (map reference 7)
- 6.2 **Member's instructions are sought in making the decision dependant on the outcome of the decision made in 6.1, should it be recommended to ward the Parish of Burton Green, with one ward taking in the village of Burton Green and one ward taking in the University:**

Parish Area	Ward Name	No. of Cllrs
Burton Green	Burton Green	7
Burton Green	University	4

- 6.3 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England recommended District Abbey ward in Kenilworth includes both the Parish of Burton Green and the University ward of Ashow and Stoneleigh joint Parish Council. Ashow and Stoneleigh joint Parish Council is within the Local Government Boundary Commission for England recommended Stoneleigh and Cubbington District ward.

Following the Committee meeting held on 12 November 2013, further consultation with Ashow and Stoneleigh joint Parish Council, Burton Green Parish Council, Kenilworth Town Council and the University of Warwick took place to seek their views on this proposal. The following responses have been received:

Town/Parish Council	Comments
Ashow and Stoneleigh	the inclusion of the University lands within Stoneleigh Parish follows historical tradition as the land is part of the Stoneleigh Estate since mid C16. It is of great importance that this historical & cultural link is preserved & the University land remains part of the Stoneleigh Parish
Burton Green	Supports the proposal
Kenilworth	Members considered & noted the proposals to be most interesting, but felt that the decisions rested with the appropriate parishes
Warwick University	recognise that this is an issue which is of most relevance to the people living in the various areas & the parish councillors representing them. They will continue to maintain positive relationships with all neighbours

7. WARWICK TOWN COUNCIL

- 7.1 **To recommend aligning the Town Council ward boundaries with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England recommended District wards of Aylesford, Emscote, Myton & Heathcote, Saltisford and Woodloes in the town of Warwick. Each ward allocated 3 members.**

7.2 To recommend realigning the northern boundary of the Warwick North town ward (proposed Woodloes town ward), the northern parish boundary of Budbrooke and the southern parish boundary of Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe. (map reference 2)

From a point along the A46 where the current northern Warwick North town ward (proposed Woodloes town ward) meets the A46, then in a south western direction along the said road to the roundabout at its junction with the A425 and the A4177 Birmingham Road. Then in a westerly direction along the A4177 Birmingham Road until it meets the eastern boundary of the parish of Hatton.

Following the Committee meeting held on 12 November 2013, further consultation with Warwick Town Council, Budbrooke Parish Council and Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe Parish Council took place to seek their views on this proposal. The following responses have been received:

Town/Parish Council	Comments
Warwick	No comments received
Budbrooke	Agree
Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe	Have no objection

7.3 Member’s instructions are sought in making the decision should it be recommended to move the following properties currently in the parish of Guy’s Cliffe from Leek Wootton and Guy’s Cliffe joint Parish Council into the Emscote ward of Warwick Town Council (map reference 2):

Guy’s Cliffe House
 The Cottage, The Saxon Mill
 The Flat, The Saxon Mill
 Heron House

(To extend the eastern boundary of proposed Emscote town ward and the western boundary of proposed Woodloes town ward in a northerly direction along the A429 to its junction with the slip road on to the A46 opposite where it meets the original boundary of Milverton ward of the town of Royal Leamington Spa along the centre of the River Avon)

Following the Committee meeting held on 12 November 2013, further consultation took place with Warwick Town Council and Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe Parish Council to seek their views on this proposal. The following response was received:

Town/Parish Council	Comments
Warwick	No comments received
Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe	Object strongly, this community forms part of the parish and wish to retain it within the rural parish of Guy’s Cliffe. When it existed as a separate entity composed of Guy’s Cliffe House & the ruins, the Saxon Mill and Heron House.

7.4 To recommend realigning the northern parish boundary of Barford, the north western parish boundary of Bishop’s Tachbrook and the current south eastern Warwick West town boundary (proposed Aylesford town ward) along the M40. (map reference 3)

From the point where the current southern town boundary of the current Warwick South town boundary (proposed Aylesford town ward) meets the Bishop's Tachbrook parish boundary at the A425, following the A425 in southerly direction until its junction at The Asps Cottage with Barford Road. Then in a south west direction along Barford Road until it meets the M40 at Junction 14 and the proposed northern parish boundary of Barford.

Following the Committee meeting held on 12 November 2013, further consultation with Warwick Town Council, Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton joint Parish Council and Bishop's Tachbrook Parish Council took place to seek their views on this proposal. The following response was received:

Town/Parish Council	Comments
Warwick	No comments received
Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton	No comments received
Bishop's Tachbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes sense to realign the boundary with Barford to the M40 and Barford Lane. • Makes sense to move the boundary to the Banbury Road, so allowing the Castle Park to be brought together in Warwick Town.

- 7.5 **Member's instructions are sought in making the decision should it be recommended to realign the Bishop's Tachbrook north western boundary and Warwick South town ward (proposed Myton & Heathcote town ward) southern boundary along Harbury Lane and Europa Way.** (map reference H):

During the further consultation held in November 2013 with Parish and Town Councils regarding 7.4, the following response was received from Bishop's Tachbrook Parish Council:

As part of this tidying up, and to be consistent with the reasoning, we would ask that our NW boundary be extended to Europa Way/ Harbury Lane thereby taking into our parish Lower Heathcote Farm and Heathcote Park. The residents of the latter have repeatedly requested to be included in Bishop's Tachbrook.

- 7.6 **To recommend realigning the Budbrooke eastern parish boundary and the current western and the current southern Warwick West town boundary (proposed Aylesford town ward) along the A46 and the M40.** (map reference 4)

Following the Committee meeting held on 12 November 2013, further consultation with Warwick Town Council, Budbrooke Parish Council took place to seek their views on this proposal. The following response was received:

Town/Parish Council	Comments
Warwick	No comments received
Budbrooke	Agree

8. **MYTON & HEATHCOTE WARD** (map reference F):

8.1 **Member's instructions are sought in making the decision should it be recommended to align the northern parish boundary between the Town of Whitnash West ward and the current Town of Warwick South ward (Myton & Heathcote Ward), the south eastern parish boundary of the current Town of Warwick South ward (recommended ward Myton & Heathcote) between the Town of Whitnash West ward and the north eastern boundary of the Parish of Bishop's Tachbrook.**

In a westerly direction from a point in the centre of Heathcote Lane where the Whitnash Town western boundary crosses said Lane to its junction with Othello Avenue. Then in a south easterly direction along the centre of Othello Avenue until it meets the current north eastern boundary of the Parish of Bishop's Tachbrook at a point on the centre of the B4087 Tachbrook Road.

In a westerly direction along the centre of Bolingbroke Drive from a point in the centre of Othello Avenue on the Whitnash Town western boundary to the junction with Miranda Drive. Then in a south westerly direction along the centre of Miranda Drive until it meets the original western Bishop's Tachbrook Parish boundary at a point on Harbury Lane.

Following the Committee meeting held on 12 November 2013, further consultation with Warwick Town Council, Whitnash Town Council and Bishop's Tachbrook Parish Council took place to seek their views on this proposal. The following responses have been received:

Town/Parish Council	Comments
Warwick	Very pleased to endorse proposal
Whitnash	Welcome and support
Bishop's Tachbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree to logic of straightening the boundary line along Miranda Drive and Othello Avenue.• Disagree with the change to Bolingbroke Drive. The boundary along gardens from No. 2 to No. 36 is already straight; and more importantly the residents on that side of the road interact with their neighbours opposite and see no reason why they should be shifted out of the parish.

9. **WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL** (map reference 5):

9.1 **Member's instructions are sought in making the decision should it be recommended to realign the south western Whitnash West town ward, the current Whitnash East town ward boundary (proposed South town ward) and the Bishop's Tachbrook north eastern parish boundary along Tachbrook Road and Harbury Lane.**

From the point where the boundary currently joins Tachbrook Road below the house numbered 495 Tachbrook Road in a southerly direction, to the junction of Harbury Lane. Then in a south easterly direction along centre

of Harbury Lane to the point where it meets the current south western boundary of the current Whitnash East town ward boundary (proposed South town ward).

Following the Committee meeting held on 12 November 2013, further consultation with Whitnash Town Council and Bishop’s Tachbrook Parish Council took place to seek their views on this proposal. The following responses have been received:

Town/Parish Council	Comments
Whitnash	Welcome and support
Bishop’s Tachbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="849 510 1437 1182">• Neighbourhood Plan Designated Area. The Bishop’s Tachbrook area was the first to be approved by the WDC Executive in October 2012. <li data-bbox="849 651 1437 1182">• We have obtained grants and have part spent the funds. The Aims & Objectives have been consulted throughout parish. Residents are increasingly involved in the process. We don’t want to have to take a backward step with our NP or confuse the community. So our strong preference is that there should be no change to the Parish boundary (other than the housekeeping proposals for Warwick Gates) on the grounds that it is coincident with the Designated Area. <li data-bbox="849 1223 1437 1749">• Woodside Farm and the Harbury Lane Recreation Field. This land has been for many centuries part of our parish. Its northern boundary rises from the Boundary Oak on Tachbrook Road up along the ridge. This topographical feature is strongly reinforced by the line of the back gardens of the houses on Ashmore and Landor Roads. It makes sense to retain this boundary. The Recreation Field has been identified in our Neighbourhood Plan as a “Community Asset”. <p data-bbox="896 1789 1437 2067">The proposed estate on Woodside Farm has no easy connection with Whitnash; the only road access will be onto Tachbrook Road opposite Othello Drive. With the site being south facing residents will, like those in the Bishop’s Tachbrook part of Warwick Gates, look out and be</p>

	<p>oriented towards activities in Bishop's Tachbrook village. Over the past 15 years our Parish has successfully integrated our part of the Warwick Gates estate into our community life. We will welcome these new residents of Woodside Farm and make sure they have every opportunity to establish strong links with our strong parish community. For these reasons we urge the committee not to remove this land from our parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harbury Lane playing field & adjacent woodland were created with s106 funding from building Warwick Gates. By placing these facilities in Whitnash removes them from Warwick Gates residents' care who funded the development. Parish footpath team maintain footpath W117 across Woodside Farm. • Changes do not respect historical Parish settlements. The agricultural hamlet of Tachbrook Mallory is centred on Harbury Lane cross roads & covers the land around.
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10. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 10.1 **Policy Framework** – The report does not have impact on the Council's Policy Framework but is consistent with its priority regarding community involvement.
- 10.2 **Fit for the Future** – The recommendation has no impact on the Council's Fit for the Future programmer but will contribute to the vision of making Warwick District a great place to live work and visit as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

11. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 11.1 On 19 June 2013 Executive agreed the earmarked reserve request of £18,500 remaining from the completed District electoral arrangements review to be transferred to the Community Governance Review. Expenditure to date:

Date 2013	Details	Amount
July	information sent out to all households in the Warwick Gates area	£431
August	Training – Community Governance	£333
September	Electoral Review Advertising	£359
October	Software upgrade purchased for the Xpress elections management system to automate the boundary	£500

	maintenance of the electoral register	
November	information sent out to all households in the Cubbington Parish area	£64(+ postage costs TBC)
TOTAL		£1687

12. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

- 12.1 There is no alternative as the Council has already agreed to undertake the community governance review following completion of the Boundary Commission review for District electoral arrangements, in order to bring in line Parish and Town boundaries with new District ward boundaries.