



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Community Governance Review Consultation
November/December 2022
Consultation with Parishes



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Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to update members of South Kesteven District Council's Community Governance Review Working Group (CGRWG) and Council with the results of an additional consultation exercise in respect of the Community Governance Review for Grantham.
2. This consultation was undertaken to establish the views of specific stakeholders in parish areas identified by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) review in 2015 as being areas included within the boundary of a parish; but part of a continuous estate predominantly situated in the unparished area of Grantham. Feedback from this consultation exercise will inform the recommendations that will be made by the Community Governance Review Working Group and assist the decisions SKDC will take in respect of arrangements for a potential parish/town council for Grantham. In particular, the results of this consultation will inform decisions regarding the setting of the administrative external boundary for Grantham for three of the parishes directly adjacent to the town – Belton & Manthorpe, Great Gonerby and Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without.

Scope

3. The scope of work for this consultation was determined by the Community Governance Review Working Group (CGRWG) at its meeting on 12 July 2022¹. The Working Group resolved to focus on the areas adjacent to the unparished area identified by the Boundary Commission in 2015 (as identified in Map A during the first stage of the review), and not the areas where planning permission has been given, or land is allocated for development (as illustrated in Map B during the first stage of the consultation).
4. This meant further engagement was not undertaken with those living in the parishes of Barrowby, Harlaxton or Little Ponton & Stroxtan. There were no areas where planning permission has been given or land allocated for development in either Harlaxton or Little Ponton & Stroxtan. There were areas allocated for development and areas where permission has been granted in Barrowby, but the CGRWG was not convinced occupation of these areas was at a significant enough level currently to be able to conduct meaningful consultation with those living in these areas.
5. Further engagement did however take place with households located in three areas within three parishes - Belton & Manthorpe, Great Gonerby and Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without. All have a boundary with the currently unparished area of Grantham town and following the 2015 review became part of district wards within Grantham. However, because parish boundaries are not within the remit of the LGBCE these areas were retained within each of the respective parishes for administrative purposes.

¹ [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Community Governance Review Working Group, 12/07/2022 10:00](#)

6. Representatives from each of the parish councils in these areas were contacted and asked for their views. They were also invited to a Q and A session. Their feedback is included in the covering report prepared by the Council's Assistant Director of Governance.

Objectives

7. This is an additional phase of consultation in respect of the formation of a parish/town council for Grantham. The objectives of the consultation were to:
 - Ensure those who may be affected by the introduction of a parish/town council for the unparished area of Grantham and who live in one of the parish areas adjacent, and are within one of the Grantham District Wards, are aware of the community governance review and are given the opportunity to participate. This included both the households in these areas and also the parish councils where these properties are situated.
 - Communicate the support received for the proposal to create a parish/town council for Grantham during the first phase of consultation
 - Detail the choices that those living in each of the three affected parishes have
 - Outline the changes that will happen as a result of this decision, and the choices that exist with respect to each of the three parish boundaries (which could be different for each of the parishes)
 - Ensure that the views from each of the respective stakeholder groups is reflected in any recommendations that are made
 - Enable respondents to ask questions/seek clarification on any of the issues raised in the consultation

Timescales

8. Preparatory work for this additional stage of consultation was undertaken during the months of September and October. Parish Council representatives from the three areas – Belton & Manthorpe, Great Gonerby and Loundthorpe & Harrowby Without – were invited to attend a Q and A session on 18 October and informed of the working group's intention to consult with some of the households in their parish areas during November and December 2022. The survey sent to households during the second stage of the consultation was open for three weeks – from 28 November till the 19 December 2022. Two drop-in sessions were also held during the consultation window at convenient locations on the 7 and 8 December.
9. The results of this consultation will be considered by the CGRWG at its meeting on 18 January 2023. Any draft recommendations they make will then be submitted to Full Council for approval in 2023.

Stakeholders

10. The stakeholders were identified as follows:

- Residents in three of the parished areas adjacent to the unparished area of Grantham. These are Belton and Manthorpe, Great Gonerby, and Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without. Residents in the parishes of Barrowby, Harlaxton, Little Ponton & Stroxtan were not included.
- Parish Councils with the areas included within a Grantham district ward by the LGBCE review in 2015 neighbouring the Grantham unparished area. These are Belton and Manthorpe, Great Gonerby, and Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without.

Methodology

11. Different methods of engagement were used for the two types of stakeholders. The table below identifies the method(s) used for each:

Stakeholders	Method(s)	Details
Householders in three of the parish areas adjacent to the area under review (identified and included in a Grantham Town District Ward by the LGBCE in 2015).	<p>Dedicated page on SKDC 's website www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR</p> <p>Direct mail to all affected households</p> <p>Two drop-in sessions held during the consultation window.</p>	<p>Page dedicated to the consultation went live on 23 November 2022. Contained information about the purpose of the consultation as well as maps showing in detail the areas identified as being an anomaly by the LGBCE.</p> <p>Copies of letter, survey and pre-paid envelope hand-delivered to 378 households by members of Democratic Services on Monday 28 November.</p> <p>Drop-in sessions at the Community Room at St Johns Church, Manthorpe on 7 December from 2pm till 7pm and the Communal Room at Witham Place Sheltered Housing Complex on 8 December from 2pm till 7pm.</p>
Parish Councils with households in areas identified and included in a Grantham Town District Ward by the LGBCE in 2015	<p>Q and A session</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>Parish Council representatives invited to a Q and A session on 18 October 2022. Informed of the CGRWG's intention to consult with households in areas identified as an anomaly by the LGBCE's review.</p> <p>Email sent to the three parish councils to inform them that the consultation was commencing on 28 November. Parishes contacted were Belton and Manthorpe, Great Gonerby and Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without.</p>

Details

12. Following the decision taken by South Kesteven District Council on 26 May 2022 to agree, in principle, to the creation of a parish or town council for Grantham, the Community Governance Review Working Group was tasked with establishing if those living in properties in specific areas of three of the adjacent parishes (identified as an anomaly by the Boundary Commission and included in a Grantham District Ward) had a preference as to where their household should sit for administrative purposes. The working group instructed the Assistant Director of Governance, along with the Electoral Services Manager and the Council's Consultation Officer to consult 378 households, located in parts of Belton & Manthorpe parish, Great Gonerby and Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without parish. Actions undertaken included:
 - a. Preparation and printing of a letter and survey outlining the reasons for the consultation.
 - b. Updating the webpage for the Community Governance Review for Grantham. This information included maps showing the areas identified as anomalies by the Boundary Commission in 2015
 - c. Preparing, designing and setting up the on- line survey
 - d. Inputting and analysing feedback from 85 respondents
 - e. Preparing a report

13. The letter was hand-delivered to all households in the identified areas in three of the six parishes adjacent to the currently unparished area of Grantham. It outlined the purpose of the consultation and contained instructions on how households could participate – including a weblink and QR code to access the survey on-line, should they wish to. Potential participants were also given a printed copy of the survey and a pre-paid envelope to return the survey in the post if preferred.

14. The web page included the following:
 - a. An introduction
 - b. Context about the Community Governance Review – what it is, why it is being undertaken and what stage of the process has been reached
 - c. Timescale of the process and three maps. Each showing the unparished area of Grantham, with the areas identified as urban by the Boundary Commission but currently in a parish area for administrative purposes.

15. Three surveys were set up – one for each of the parish areas². Each contained the following sections:
 - a. An introduction. This included the purpose of the consultation, why their help was needed, why they have been contacted and what it would mean for their household and for the parish council if a decision was taken to re-draw the boundary between the parish and the new parish/town council of Grantham.

² Example copy of consultation document attached at Appendix 2

- b. A question asking respondents which option they would prefer. To remain part of the parish they are currently part of, or to become part of the new parish/town council of Grantham.
- c. A space for respondents to detail any questions they might have
- d. A section asking respondents to supply their contact details if they wanted to be informed about the outcome of the second stage of the consultation or required a response to their question
- e. A question to capture their postcode
- f. A thank you and closing date for the consultation

16. Parish Councils for the three areas identified by the Boundary Commission as being part of a continuous estate predominantly situated in the unparished area of Grantham, but also included within the boundary of a neighbouring parish; were contacted by email on 28 November at the start of the consultation period and informed about the consultation. They had previously also been invited to a Q and A session on the 18 October at which the Assistant Director of Governance and the Council’s Electoral Services Manager were available to answer any questions they had. Their comments and feedback is included in the covering report prepared by the Assistant Director of Governance.

17. The consultation closed on 19 December 2022. 85 responses were received. 17 of these were completed on-line. 68 respondents chose to complete the printed survey, which were input manually by the Council’s Consultation Officer.

18. The overall response rate to the Community Governance Review Consultation was 22.5%. This was calculated by dividing the total number of responses received by the total number of households/individuals contacted. The response rates for each of the parish areas are detailed in the table below:

Parish area	No of responses	No of households	%
Belton & Manthorpe	24	111	21.6
Great Gonerby	14	78	17.9
Londonthorpe & Harrowby without	47	189	24.9
Total (for all three parish areas)	85	378	22.5

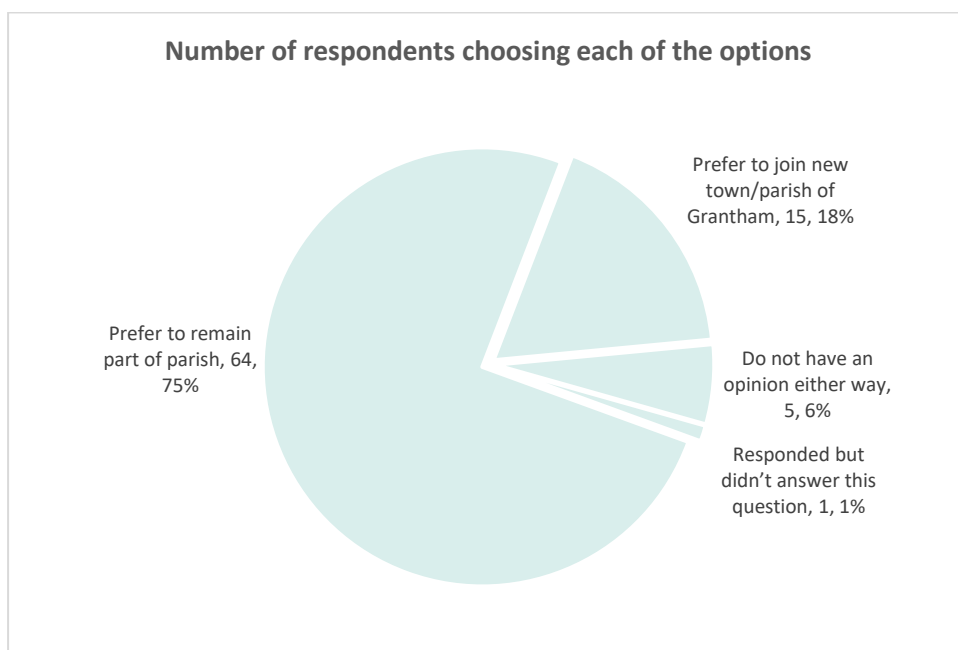
19. A higher number of responses and the highest proportion of responses were received from households in the Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without parish. Whilst this might be because there are more households in this area, it could also be because they received additional communication from their parish council, which may have encouraged them to participate.

The results

Setting an administrative boundary between each of the three parishes and the unparished area of Grantham

20. The first question respondents were asked was to specify which of the following options they would choose:
- To remain part of the parish their household belongs to currently or
 - To join the new town/parish council of Grantham or
 - Does not have an opinion either way

Three quarters of respondents (64 or 75.3%) stated that they would prefer to remain part of the parish their household belongs to currently, as illustrated in the chart below:



21. This was also the case for each of the areas. The proportion of respondents who were in favour varied from just over two thirds (Londonthorpe & Harrowby without) to nine out of ten (Belton & Manthorpe) as illustrated in the table below:

Respondents in favour of remaining part of parish		
	No of respondents	% of respondents
Belton & Manthorpe	22	91.7
Great Gonerby	10	71.4
Londonthorpe & Harrowby without	32	68.1
Total (for all three parish areas)	64	75.3

22. The table below shows the number and proportion of respondents who would prefer to be part of the area covered by the new town/parish council of Grantham. Less than one in ten of the respondents from Belton & Manthorpe were in favour of this option, with just over one in five of the respondents from both Great Gonerby and Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without choosing this option:

Respondents in favour of becoming part of new parish of Grantham		
	No of respondents	% of respondents
Belton & Manthorpe	2	8.3
Great Gonerby	3	21.4
Londonthorpe & Harrowby without	10	21.3
Total (for all three parish areas)	15	17.6

23. This table shows the number and proportion of respondents who did not have an opinion either way.

Respondents who did not have an opinion		
	No of respondents	% of respondents
Belton & Manthorpe	0	0
Great Gonerby	1	7.1
Londonthorpe & Harrowby without	4	8.5
Total (for all three parish areas)	5	5.9

Anything else

24. The second question on the survey asked respondents if they had any queries or would like to comment on anything that had been included within the survey. Most of those commenting used it as an opportunity to provide context to their choice. Respondents supporting the proposal to stay as they are stressed how important it was to identify with the local area and were not keen for the boundary to change. Comments made included:

“I most definitely identify with Great Gonerby. I use the Post Office. I attend the church. I volunteer at St Sebastian’s School...”

“I really wish to continue to reside in Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without.”

“Keep the boundary where it is.”

25. It is also likely that some households were worried about the potential cost implications of becoming part of the new parish/town council of Grantham, and did not want to commit to an alternative because they didn't know what the costs may be as illustrated in the comments below:

"...Furthermore, there are costs associated with a new town/ parish (council) but no information relating to what those costs are..."

"If we joined the new town council of Grantham, would we pay more than we do now as part of Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without?"

26. A few respondents thought there may be some merit in re-drawing the boundary, as illustrated in the comments below:

"It seems to be madness to stay geographically separated from any ward we are not part of. Our home is a significant distance from Londonthorpe and Harrowby."

"The current boundary placing Pennine Way, Grampian Way, Brecon Close & Brendon Close (plus a couple of other houses) in Great Gonerby makes no sense, as the majority of this estate (Cotswold Drive, Malvern Drive etc) falls within Grantham. It is logical to have local decisions affecting the estate made by one authority, not two, and I therefore support joining the new parish/town council of Grantham."

A full list of comments received as part of the consultation is attached at Appendix 4.

27. Respondents were then asked to supply their contact details if they wanted to be informed of the outcome of the second stage of the Community Governance Review, or if they had any questions about the process. 63 respondents supplied details so will be contacted with an update as soon as the next steps have been finalised and approved.

About you

Postcode

28. Respondents were asked to specify their postcode. The purpose of this was to check that only the areas which could be affected by any boundary changes were represented in the consultation. All but four respondents provided a full postcode. Checking the responses received against the list of postcodes for each of the areas revealed that responses were only received from the specific areas include in the consultation.

Feedback from the drop-in sessions

29. To enable households that had been contacted to ask questions or seek clarification prior to completion of the survey, two drop-in sessions were held during the second stage of the Community Governance Review consultation. These were at convenient locations - the Community Room at St

John's Church Manthorpe, and the communal room at Witham Place Sheltered Housing Complex. Attended by the Assistant Director of Governance, the Electoral Services Manager and the Consultation Officer, both ran from 2pm till 7pm on consecutive days – the 7 and 8 December 2022.

30. About a dozen people attended the second drop-in session – held in Witham Place on the 8 December. Most were seeking clarification on the costs and benefits/drawbacks of becoming part of the new town/parish council - referencing the additional communication that had been distributed by Londonthorpe & Harrowby without Parish Council. This was provided where possible.

Conclusion

31. Just under 400 households (378) were contacted and asked for their opinion on where the boundary should be drawn between the parish where their household is currently located and the currently unparished area of Grantham. 85 responses were received, a response rate of 22.5%. Of those responding, three quarters (64 or 75.3%) wished to remain part of the parish where their household is currently located for administrative purposes.
32. Less than a fifth of respondents (15 or 17.6%) were in favour of the boundary being re-drawn to include their household in the new parish or town council for Grantham. A handful of respondents (5 or 5.9%) did not have an opinion either way.
33. The results of this consultation should now be used to inform the next stage of the Community Governance Review for Grantham.

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