

Parish of Little Ponton and Stroxton

Have your say by Friday 19
April 2024 at
[www.southkesteven.gov.
uk/littlepontonCGR](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/littlepontonCGR)



Introduction

South Kesteven District Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review of the parish of Little Ponton and Stroxton.

You can complete this survey by going online at www.southkesteven.gov.uk/littlepontonCGR, by scanning the QR code on the front cover with your mobile phone camera, or completing this printed version.

What is a Community Governance Review?

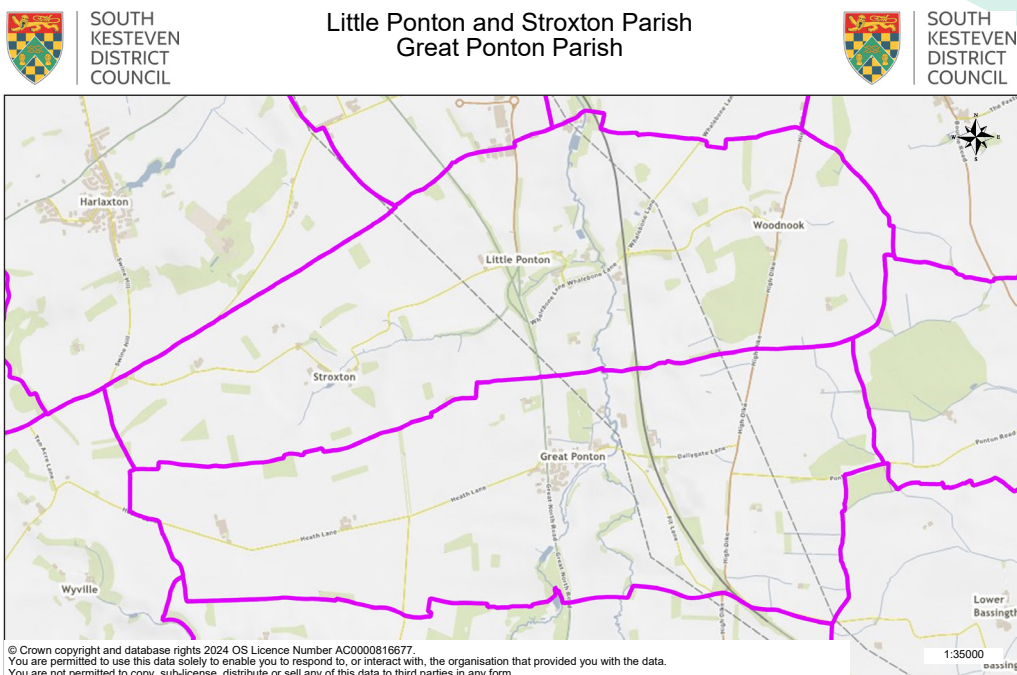
A Community Governance Review is a formal process involving consultation with local electors and other interested parties on potential changes such as creating new parishes, setting up or abolishing town/parish councils, changing their boundaries or electoral arrangements.

What will the Community Governance Review for Little Ponton and Stroxton consider?

The purpose of this community governance review is to consider the future electoral arrangements for the parish of Little Ponton and Stroxton. Three options have been identified. These are:

- a. To abolish the parish council of Little Ponton and Stroxton and re-classify the parish council as a parish meeting. No elections are held to elect councillors and the number of powers available to the parish meeting is limited.
- b. To group Little Ponton and Stroxton parish with Great Ponton parish under a common council (an arrangement where two or more parishes join under a common parish council). Each parish retains its separate identity, electing at least one member onto the representative body but decisions about precepts and spending priorities are made by the common parish council.
- c. To keep things as they are. The parish council of Little Ponton and Stroxton remains separate to the parish council of Great Ponton.

The map below shows the area covered by the review.



What are the current parish arrangements in these areas?

Currently, the areas involved in this review have the following parish arrangements:

- Little Ponton and Stroxton parish has a parish council comprising of 7 councillors. The parish has 141 registered electors.
- Great Ponton parish has a parish council comprising of 7 councillors. The parish has 304 registered electors.

It is perhaps worth noting that parishes with less than 150 electors do not tend to be represented by a separate parish council. They are sometimes grouped with a neighbouring parish to form a common parish council or have the status of a parish meeting without any elected councillors.

What is the difference between a parish council and a parish meeting?

The difference between a parish council and a parish meeting can be summarised as follows:

A parish council is a corporate body with certain powers and responsibilities which can include allotments, bus shelters, community centres, and play areas for example. A parish council is represented by a number of councillors elected every four years.

A parish meeting is not a corporate body, and its powers are not as wide as those of a parish council. Parish meetings do not have elected

councillors and consist of the residents in the parish. They are required to have meetings twice a year.

What else will the Community Governance Review for Little Ponton and Stroxton look at?

The review will also consider the number of councillors and the name of any proposed grouped parish council (if applicable) together with the date of the election of councillors.

Why are you looking at this now?

The Council has been asked to consider the electoral arrangements for Little Ponton and Stroxton parish council following a motion raised by District Councillor Ben Green at a meeting of Full Council on 23 November 2023.

How can I help?

Before the District Council makes any decision about the future electoral arrangements for Little Ponton and Stroxton, we are consulting with residents of both Little Ponton and Stroxton parish and Great Ponton parish.

This is because, depending on which option is chosen, those living in Great Ponton might be affected by the change. Please spare us a few moments to tell us which of the options outlined above you prefer, if any.

You will also have the opportunity to suggest an alternative if you so wish.

This consultation closes on 19 April 2024

Review of parish council in Little Ponton and Stroxton

SKDC has been asked to undertake a Community Governance Review to establish if changes should be made to the way the parish council is established and operates in the villages of Little Ponton and Stroxton.

Before any decisions are made, the Council would like to find out what you think.

Q1. Do you think the current arrangements - separate parish councils for Little Ponton and Stroxton and Great Ponton - should be changed?

- Yes I think the current arrangements should be changed
- No - I think things should stay as they are
- Don't know / not sure

Please use the space below to comment:

Q2. If you think the current parish arrangements should change, please let us know which option you prefer. Please tick one only.

I think

- Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish Council should cease to exist in its current form. It should be reclassified as a parish meeting. I understand this would mean that there would be no elected parish councillors, and its powers would be limited.
- Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish Council should be grouped with Great Ponton Parish Council under a single common parish council. I understand that this would mean that each parish area would continue to elect its own parish councillors but decisions would be made by all councillors representing the common parish council.
- There is another solution. I will provide details in the space below.

If the parishes of Great Ponton and Little Ponton and Stroxton are grouped together to form one common parish council, there are a number of ways the identity of individual parishes can be preserved. These include ensuring that:

- Electors in each of the parishes continue to elect a number of councillors for their area
- The number of councillors representing each of the parish areas is proportionate, reflecting the number of residents in each area
- The name of the new group of parishes is appropriate and recognisable

Q3. Do you think it is important that...?

	Yes	No	Don't know/not sure
Electors in each parish should be able to continue to elect councillors for their area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The number of councillors representing each of the parish areas should be proportionate reflecting the number of residents in each area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The name of the new group of parishes should be appropriate and easy to identify	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please use the space below to comment:

SKDC is keen to establish if electors residing in the parishes of either Little Ponton and Stroxton or Great Ponton have an opinion about when any changes should be implemented. This will depend primarily on which option is chosen.

This will obviously not apply if the option to keep both parish councils operating as separate entities is approved.

Q4. If Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish Council is abolished and reclassified as a parish meeting, when should arrangements for the new body be implemented?

- As soon as possible
- April 2025
- Don't know / not sure
- Other, please specify

Q5. If a new grouped parish council is formed to cover the parishes of both Great Ponton and Little Ponton and Stroxton, when should arrangements for the new joint parish council take effect?

- At the next ordinary parish elections - scheduled for May 2027 (the current arrangements would continue until that time)
- Earlier than May 2027, i.e. May 2025 (the current parish councils would be dissolved and new councillors elected to represent the new single parish council)
- Don't know/not sure
- Other - please specify below

Q6. If you have any questions or would like to comment on anything included in this survey, please use the space below:

Q7. Would you like to be informed of the outcome of the first stage of this Community Governance Review?

If yes, please ensure you answer Q9.

- Yes
- No

About you

To help us make sure we have taken the views of all our stakeholders into account, we would like to know a bit more about you. Please be assured that any information you give us will only be used to measure if the views we have gathered are representative of the communities we serve. They will not be used to identify you in any way or be passed onto anyone else.

Q8. Please tell us if you are...?

- A resident of Little Ponton and Stroxtton parish
- A resident of Great Ponton parish
- A parish, town, district or county councillor
- Representing one of the parish councils (please use the space below to tell us which one)
- A local business
- Representing a group or other organisation (please use the space below to tell us which one)
- Other, please specify:

Q9. To help us check that we have received responses from the areas that would be affected by any changes that may be introduced, please supply your contact details below:

Address Line 1:

Address Line 2:

Address Line 3:

Postcode:

Email:

Please note the Council would prefer to communicate with you by email where possible.

Thank you for taking part.

By letting us know your thoughts, you will help to inform the decision the Council will take on this issue.

South Kesteven District Council is committed to protecting and handling personal data in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation and has set out how it will do this whilst carrying out its duties and obligations, in its Data Protection Policy and its Privacy Notice. They are available online at www.southkesteven.gov.uk/privacynotice

This consultation closes on 19 April 2024

Return your survey to:

**Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish
Community Governance Review**

Legal and Democratic Services
South Kesteven District Council

Council Offices
The Picture House
St Catherine's Road
Grantham
NG31 6TT

This survey is available in alternative formats or other languages on request. These include audio, large print and Braille.

If you have any queries, please contact South Kesteven District Council. You can do this by phone or email.

 Telephone: 01476 406080 (ask for Elections)

 cgr@southkesteven.gov.uk

 [www.southkesteven.gov.uk/
littlepontonCGR](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/littlepontonCGR)



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