

### Consultation Responses and Recommendations

<b>Bittesby</b>	
Councillor R Page	It would be prudent for the very small parish of Bittesby to be included with Bitteswell.
	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>Bittesby has an electorate of 8 and the parish meeting has no identified chair. Magna Park straddles the parish boundary between Bitteswell and Bittesby and there is therefore a logical affinity between these two parishes.</p> <p>As Bittesby only has an electorate of 8 people it is not appropriate to consider grouping the parishes (as it would require 1 councillor to represent Bittesby on the grouped council). It is proposed that amalgamation would be the better option keeping the same number of councillors as existing in the Bitteswell Parish.</p>
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>That further consultation be undertaken with Bitteswell Parish Council and the electorate of the parish of Bittesby regarding the option of amalgamation.</b>

<b>Billesdon</b>	
Billesdon Parish Council	The parish council considers that no changes are currently necessary or required to the parish council

<b>Broughton Astley</b>	
Broughton Astley Parish Council	<p>The Members of Broughton Astley Parish Council debated this issue at its meeting on 24 May 2012.</p> <p>They noted that at present Broughton Astley is divided into four wards, and although the number of electors in each ward does vary quite considerably, it would appear to little benefit in a large restructure of the wards at this point in time, particularly when proposed future development in the village may alter the balance significantly over the next 15 years or so.</p> <p>They observed that there are however, some fairly obvious anomalies which it may be prudent to consider during the</p>

	<p>review. The parish Council's recommendations were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Move Berford Close and Richardson Close from Broughton Ward to Astley Ward</li><li>2. Move Willowbrook Close, Brookside Close and Green Road from Sutton Ward to Primethorpe Ward</li><li>3. Move the properties numbered 67-101 Dunton Road currently in Dunton Bassett Ward to Broughton Ward.</li></ol>
	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>The Boundary Commission for England has included Harborough district in its electoral review programme for 2013 – 2014. As part of that review the Commission will review the ward boundaries for the district council, which are coterminous with the parish ward boundaries. Any proposals to alter the parish ward boundaries should logically be made following the outcome of the electoral review.</p> <p>The proposal to alter the parish boundary with Dunton Bassett can be progressed in advance of the electoral review.</p> <p>The following comments on the proposals put forward by the parish council are based on the existing arrangements and it is proposed that these be submitted to the Boundary Commission in order that they can be taken into account in the electoral review process:</p> <p>Richardson Close is an anomaly in that the combined cartilage of the properties on Richardson Close currently falls within Broughton ward but is surrounded by Astley ward. Based on the existing ward boundaries, this proposal is supported.</p> <p>Berford Close falls within Broughton ward and is surrounded by other properties within Broughton ward. There is no reason to alter the ward boundary at this point (which logically follows the road). Based on the existing ward boundaries, this proposal is not supported.</p> <p>Willowbrook Close falls within Sutton ward and for the most part is surrounded by other properties and land within Sutton ward. There is no reason to alter the ward boundary at this point. Based on the existing ward boundaries, this proposal is supported.</p>

	<p>Brooklands Close (there is no Brookside Close) is already located within Primethorpe ward and Green Road is split between Sutton and Primethorpe wards. It may be possible to look at bringing Green Road within a single ward as part of the electoral review due to take place in 2013/14.</p> <p>67B to 101 Dunton Road currently fall within the parish of Dunton Bassett but are clearly associated more with the village of Broughton Astley, being located at the entrance to the village. There is no break between the properties located within Broughton Astley and those within Dunton Bassett and the properties share a Broughton Astley postal address and post code with other properties on Dunton Road. This proposal is supported subject to further consultation with the residents of 67B – 101 Dunton Road and Dunton Bassett Parish Council.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>(i) That further consultation be undertaken with the parish councils of Broughton Astley and Dunton Bassett and the residents directly affected in respect of the following proposal:</b></p> <p><b>Alteration of the parish boundary between Broughton Astley and Dunton Bassett to incorporate 67B – 101 Dunton Road within the Broughton Astley (Broughton) ward as shown on the attached plan (Appendix C)</b></p> <p><b>(ii) That the comments in respect of alterations to ward boundaries be submitted to the Boundary Commission for England for consideration during the electoral review.</b></p>

<p><b>Kibworth Beauchamp Kibworth Harcourt</b></p>	
<p>Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council</p>	<p>Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council discussed the documentation received from Harborough District Council regarding Community Governance Review 2012 and adopted the following motion which I have been directed to forward to you:</p>

	<p>“For the purposes of the Community Governance Review, the Council proposes that the parish Councils of Kibworth Beauchamp and Kibworth Harcourt be amalgamated.”</p> <p>Proposer: Cllr Holyoak          Secunder: Cllr Munro          Votes: 7 in favour. None against and no abstentions.</p> <p>(Minute 252, Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> march 2012)</p>
<p>Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council</p>	<p>Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council was established under the Local Government Act in 1894. Although adjacent to Kibworth Beauchamp Parish, the parishes have historically had distinct characters and development and this was recognised in 1894 with the creation of two separate parish councils. In the past Kibworth Harcourt was mainly residential with services such as doctors, retail and industrial premises being located in Kibworth Beauchamp. Kibworth Harcourt retains a sense of place with the older historically important part of the village, which is a conservation area, being complimented by new housing and employment opportunities. The parish council, which currently has 6 places, has consistently worked to maintain and improve the physical environment for the benefit of parishioners, such as the creation of Jubilee Green play area, and ensuring parishioners have a voice both locally and more widely. There are established joint working arrangements with Kibworth Beauchamp in respect of the management of the cemetery and recreational facilities and on other matters of mutual interest.</p> <p>In the last 30 years there has been some change. Kibworth Harcourt has lost one or two small shops and the nature of the remaining shops has altered in line with countryside changes in shopping habits and expectations. The main changes have been 2 sizeable housing developments at New Road/Marriott Drive and Warwick Road/Wistow Road, and the establishment of business/industrial facilities at the Kibworth Business Park and Priory Business Park. In this respect Kibworth Harcourt has seen proportionally great development both in respect of housing and employment opportunities that the neighbouring area.</p> <p>Proposal</p> <p>The area now under development at Warwick Road/Wistow Road KB/1 currently straddles the boundary between Harcourt and Beauchamp. As a result 3 areas will become isolated from any direct relationships with the parish to which it currently belongs. These areas are KB/1, parcel 3 currently under construction and KB/1 parcels 4 and 5 where</p>

	<p>work has yet to begin.</p> <p>As can be seen on the attached map</p> <p>KB/1 parcel 3 is bordered by Hillcrest Avenue, Primary School fields and Warwick Road recreation area, and KB/1 parcels 4 and 5 are bordered by the railway, Warwick Road, the Warwick Road recreation area and the housing development.</p> <p>It would seem important that this area, created by the development, retains coherence as an entity, has a relevance to place and democratic representation and this would be as part of Kibworth Harcourt where it is predominantly located. This would establish clear representation and accountability at local level.</p> <p>In line with previous boundary changes as a result of development on Greenfield sites we propose the following change:</p> <p>“That the boundary should be adjusted so that the development at KB/1 is wholly within the parish of Kibworth Harcourt preferably as illustrated in option 1 or as in Option 2 “</p> <p>The plans referred to are appended to this report (Appendix C)</p>
<p>Local resident (John Hooley)</p>	<p>I would urge that Kibworth Beauchamp and Kibworth Harcourt are joined together as a combined council. Both Councils are running at around half strength currently. Neither Council were able to hold an election. It seems likely to me that a combined Council might attract sufficient interest to make a proper elected assembly possible. Many of our activities are run jointly in any case, we have a Joint Recreation Committee and a Joint Burial Committee and both Councils are collaborating over the Jubilee celebrations. Amalgamating would free Cllrs time immediately by reducing the need for joint this and joint that membership. This would allow us to fully engage with the Community. Kibworth has been growing for some time and a single strong voice speaking for a community of around 5000 residents is essential. I think there would be obvious time and financial benefits to this change. It cannot be efficient for two such closely entwined councils to be debating separately the myriad of new Government and LA initiatives or for the Clerks to each Council and to the JBC and JRC to be duplicating their efforts.</p>

	<p>Without this change there is absolutely no chance that the Parish Councils could cope with the implications of the Governments localism ideas.</p>
<p>Local Resident (Norman Harrison)</p>	<p>Kibworth has a long tradition of having separate parish councils for Beauchamp and Harcourt and that practice has had much to commend it over the past 118 years. Joint working on subjects like recreation grounds and cemetery management has, on the other hand, shown the advantages of operating together.</p> <p>My own view is that the two parish councils should merge. I know that would be vigorously opposed by a minority, especially by some Harcourt residents desirous of retaining the distinctive character of their area, but if a local referendum was held, I'm confident that the majority of parishioners would favour a single council.</p>
<p>Local Resident (Bryan Porteous)</p>	<p>I have lived in Kibworth for the past 44 years and greatly enjoyed it because of the great community spirit that my wife and I have found here. I have also tried to play my part in supporting the community. I served on the Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council for 10 years, was Village Hall Treasurer, served as a school governor, organised many village carnivals and concerts as well as the Kibworth Festival of 1976. I was also founder member 34 years ago of our community newspaper, the 'Kibworth Chronicle', with which I am still involved. In 2005 I was presented with The Richard Darke Community Award.</p> <p>I recite all this <u>purely</u> because I feel that I know the village very well and am qualified to comment on its future governance. Kibworth Beauchamp and Kibworth Harcourt may be different 'parishes' but they are definitely <u>one village</u> as emphasised in Michael Wood's recent TV series 'The Story of England'. And following that series the 'Kibworth Improvement Team' which includes representatives of <i>both</i> 'parishes' has been doing much to emphasise this unity and have received a substantial grant to help them promote the <u>whole</u> village.</p> <p>I feel strongly, therefore, that it is long overdue that, even the two 'parishes' may continue, we should have just a single <u>Kibworth Village Council</u> to carry out the responsibilities delegated. This idea has been raised several times over the past 30 years and I think I am right in believing that all the Beauchamp Council members are in favour of it. But there are just a few residents of Harcourt who feel that for <i>historical</i> reasons they should continue to have a separate council. This is despite the fact that <u>all</u> the facilities of the village lie in Beauchamp – the church, the chapel, the Post Office, the shops, the library, the bank and</p>

	<p>building society, both schools, the scout hut, the Fire Station, Tennis, Cricket and Bowls Clubs, both village halls and all the public car parks. As residents of <u>both</u> 'parishes' use all these facilities it only seems reasonable on the one hand both should have a say in their 'management' and on the other hand both should share equally any costs involved. Some time ago it used to be claimed that Harcourt paid lower 'rates' than Beauchamp but I understand that now the opposite is the case. In fact very few residents <i>know</i> exactly where the boundary between the two lies! And for many years there has been at least one Beauchamp resident on the Harcourt Council, including its present Chairman! Certain functions are already carried out jointly, there being Joint Committees for Recreation Grounds and the Burial Ground but otherwise much of the work of the two councils seems to be duplicated. And in addition there are <u>two</u> salaried Parish Clerks so that a cost saving could be made by amalgamation.</p> <p>But perhaps the over-riding <i>need</i> for a single Village Council is demonstrated by what happened last may at the time of parish Council elections; we had <u>no</u> elections because so few candidates came forward to serve on either council. In Beauchamp, which has 13 seats, there were only <u>five</u> who offered to serve, narrowly avoiding there being no quorum. In Harcourt which has 6 seats there were only <u>three</u> names put forward. Since then there have been some co-options but the Beauchamp Council is still well under full strength which means that a greater load is put on the shoulders of each of those who do serve. And none of our councillors have the satisfaction of knowing that they are there because the villagers have voted for them and want them to represent us all.</p> <p>In the past, thanks partly to publicity given at election time by the Kibworth Chronicle, we had healthy elections, with in one year as many as 19 candidates standing for 13 seats in Beauchamp. I feel sure that with a joint Council, fewer seats and a single Clerk the village would be better and more efficiently served with Councillors appointed by democratic election as in the past. I do urge, therefore, that following your review one of the changes that your Council should make is the amalgamation of the two councils in Kibworth.</p>
<p>County Councillor Dr K Feltham</p>	<p>Neither (Kibworth Harcourt or Kibworth Beauchamp) have had a full complement of councillors since 2011, although Kibworth Harcourt now has four out of a complement of six and would have five, but for a newly co-opted member had chosen to resign due to conflicting work interests. Kibworth Beauchamp PC has never come close to recruiting 13 councillors, and currently has just seven (although at the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June, additional volunteers did come</p>

	<p>forward); their meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> May was non-quorate as only four councillors turned up. Both parish councils have advertised in the <i>Kibworth &amp; District Chronicle</i>, the free monthly community newspaper, with limited response. The two Kibworths have joint committees for Burials and Recreation with representatives from both councils, and separate clerks for each committee. Both parish councils have also recently advertised for new parish clerks, due to resignations of previous clerks, and a sizeable number of qualified candidates applied.</p> <p>I understand that Kibworth Beauchamp PC is proposing an amalgamation of the two parish councils, such that Kibworth Harcourt forms a sub division. Kibworth Harcourt PC does not agree and wish to remain independent. I am unsure as to the exact reasons behind this proposal, but removing the need for joint burial and recreation committees and their clerking, and having a lack of councillors on both councils are insufficient reasons in my opinion. Kibworth Harcourt PC has an excellent record for focussing on parish issues and supporting Jubilee Green, and subsuming it into an enlarged Kibworth parish council would dilute the effectiveness of their role.</p> <p>Some twenty years ago the Royal Mail decided to merge the two Kibworths into a single delivery locality – Kibworth. In 2006. residents of Kibworth Harcourt successfully met the Royal Mail criteria to have Kibworth Harcourt recognised as an unique locality for postal purposes. This means that Royal Mail official addresses for properties in Kibworth Harcourt acknowledge this as a specific locality. Kibworth Harcourt properties therefore have distinct postal codes from those in Kibworth Beauchamp.</p> <p>Kibworth Harcourt PC is proposing that three parcels (3, 4 and 5) of the KB/1 development off Warwick Road, which currently lie within the Kibworth Beauchamp parish, should be moved into Kibworth Harcourt parish. There is much merit in this suggestion which I support, as the whole new development would then retain its own identity within the enlarged Kibworth Harcourt parish.</p>
	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p><u>Single Council</u></p> <p>There are arguments for and against the grouping of the two parish councils into a single village council, as have been set out in the responses to public consultation detailed above.</p> <p>As neither parish council received sufficient nominations at the 2011 elections to force a contested election and neither</p>



council has subsequently been able to co-opt enough people to fill the vacant seats there are questions over the viability of the existing structure and how representative it is of the electorate.

The arguments for a joint council relate to reducing bureaucracy, eliminating duplication and by reducing the number of councillors allowing for a democratically elected body which can represent the views of all residents. The arguments against relate in the main to loss of local identity.

Guidance from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England states:

'The identification of a community is not a precise or rigid matter. The pattern of daily life in each of the existing communities, the local centres for education and child care, shopping, community activities, worship, leisure pursuits, transport facilities and means of communication generally will have an influence. However, the focus of people's day to day activities may not be reflected in their feeling of community identity. For instance, historic loyalty may be to a town but local community of interest and social focus may lie within a part of the town with its own separate identity'

'Parish Councils continue to have two main roles: community representation and local administration. For both purposes it is desirable that a parish should reflect a distinctive and recognisable community of place, with its own sense of identity. The views of local communities and inhabitants are of central importance'

It is proposed that the best way of gauging the views of the electorate within the two parishes is to hold a parish poll in each parish and that a majority vote in both parishes be required in order for the proposal to group the two parishes under a single council to be progressed.

The cost of running such a poll are estimated at:

Parish Poll – Kibworth Beauchamp costs - £1720

Parish Poll – Kibworth Harcourt costs - £1210

Both Councils should have made provision in their budgets for running contested elections in 2011 (which did not take place) and each parish could therefore be asked to contribute to such a poll.

The proposal is to group the parishes of Kibworth Harcourt

and Kibworth Beauchamp under a single council, not to amalgamate them. This would retain the parish boundaries and recognise the historic division between the two villages but provide for a more efficient and less costly arrangement for their administration.

### Boundary Changes

According to guidance from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England the boundaries between parishes should reflect the 'no man's land' between communities represented by areas of low population or barriers such as rivers, roads or railways. They need to be, and likely to remain, easily identifiable. For instance factors to consider include parks and recreation grounds which sometimes provide natural breaks between communities.

The nature of the two parishes of Kibworth Harcourt and Kibworth Beauchamp, either being viewed on the one hand as a single settlement or as separate but co-joined settlements poses particular problems in identifying a natural boundary between the two parishes and gives some weight to the argument that the village should be viewed as a whole.

The reasoning behind the proposals put forward by Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council for changes to the parish boundary in the KB/1 area could just as easily be applied to the New Road area of the settlement. This village plan has changed considerably since the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and open areas that once formed that 'no man's land' have now been developed resulting in a situation where there is no clear dividing line between the two parishes, save for the section of the A6 in the centre of the settlement. Minor changes to the parish boundaries were last made in the 1980's.

Without effecting major changes to the parish boundaries it is not possible to make any easily identifiable break (for example by following the A6 or railway line) which leaves the option of making small amendments to the existing boundary to take account of new developments.

Looking at the KB/1 site the proposal to include parcel 3 within the parish of Kibworth Harcourt is supported. This section of the development is served by Dairy Way which originates within Kibworth Harcourt and all properties will share the same post code. It is logical that Dairy Way is entirely within the parish of Kibworth Harcourt.

However, there is no such justification to incorporate parcels

	<p>4 and 5 into Kibworth Harcourt. The spine road, Barnards Way, forms the northern boundary of parcel 4 (with parcel 5 accessed via parcel 4). The centre point of this road forms a clear dividing line between the two parishes and this is further supported by the playing fields to the eastern boundary which are within the parish of Kibworth Beauchamp. The roads accessing this area of the development (off Barnards Way) will lie entirely within the parish of Kibworth Beauchamp.</p> <p>A proposal which incorporates parcel 3 into Kibworth Harcourt but leaves parcels 4 and 5 in Kibworth Beauchamp provides a logical flowing boundary between the two parishes.</p> <p>The proposals put forward by Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council are shown at Appendix A but it is the modified proposal shown at Appendix B which it is recommended is taken forward for further consultation.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>(i) That a parish poll be organised to take place in each parish to determine public support for the grouping of the two parishes and that a majority vote in both polls be required to take forward the proposal.</b></p> <p><b>(ii) That further public consultation takes place on the proposed parish boundary change indicated on the attached plan (Appendix B)</b></p>

<p><b>Market Harborough</b></p>	
<p>Market Harborough Civic Society</p>	<p>The Civic Society considers that the opportunity afforded by the above (the review) should not be taken in that the possibility of a Town Council for Market Harborough should be researched pursuant to the Localism Bill whereby Power and Finance are to be handed down to parishes. Cf. Lutterworth. This would relieve this Society of its role in commenting on varied and voluminous Planning applications, Local Plans, The Core Strategy, Neighbourhood Plans, and NAPPF. Currently we work closely with Steven Pointer and Adrian Eastwood concerning the complexities of Planning which require high standards of knowledge and expertise. We are in need of a room with computer facilities in the Council Offices. We have other Objects e.g. protecting and preserving local important Historic Buildings of Public Interest including</p>

	<p>Architecture. A Town Council was not possible on LG reorganisation in 1974 but is now more important following the increase in population of both Town and District since then.</p> <p><u>Points in favour of a parish council</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local Councils act as a sounding board for local opinion and have important rights of consultation. With emphasis on Localism and the Big Society there is even more consultation required. Local organisations need advice and funds which the District Council cannot provide.</li> <li>2. Market Harborough has a population of over 25,000 and this is planned to rise to over 30,000 in the next decade. This is more than a third of the District population; the District Council is too remote to provide and enhance the facilities.</li> <li>3. Input to planning applications will continue to increase.</li> <li>4. A whole range of services will require maintenance and enhancement.</li> <li>5. A Town Council for Market Harborough will be capable of acquiring handling and enhancing local facilities including car parks, litter, recreational games and open spaces, allotments, war memorials, cemeteries, public conveniences, bus shelters, street lighting, dog control, planning and licensing as consultees etc. The Leisure Centre and adjoining fields in N'pton Rd. should remain with HDC.</li> <li>6. A Town Council could be housed in the Council offices.</li> </ol> <p>We are mindful of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We have no Preliminary Reports to go on locally but have researched nationally.</li> <li>2. We are not aware of the views of your Council or indeed individual Cllrs. Who no doubt will have mixed views. We realise some existing councillors might feel aggrieved but not all on the Executive live in the town.</li> <li>3. There seems to be paucity for P/Cllrs in the District and therefore recruitment might be problematical.</li> <li>4. There may be apathy within the Electorate depending on locality.</li> <li>5. Recession and cost.</li> </ol>
	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>Market Harborough is the only area in the district which does not have a local council. Although residents of the town are well represented at district and county council level the lack of a third tier council can make it more difficult for the views</p>

	<p>of local residents to be heard through traditional consultation mechanisms, which often include the parish or town councils. It also prevents the town from providing local services independently of the district and county councils and will be a barrier to local provision of services which is being encouraged by the Localism Act.</p> <p>It is essential that local opinion is sought and that a majority of the electorate would support any proposal to create a parish (town) council for Market Harborough before any decision is made. It is therefore recommended that a separate Community Governance Review is carried out on just this one issue. The first stage of the review process would be inviting public debate and comment on the proposal before Council considers the viability of the proposal and how public opinion may be more formally and accurately assessed prior to any decision being taken to create a parish (town) council for Market Harborough.</p> <p>It is proposed that a review be timetabled to follow on from the conclusion of the current district wide review.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>(i) That a separate Community Governance Review be undertaken on a specific proposal for the creation of a separate parish (town) council for Market Harborough</b></p> <p><b>(ii) That a detailed report be brought back to a future meeting for Council to agree the terms of reference and timetable for such a review.</b></p>

<p><b>North Kilworth</b></p>	
<p>Resident (Rachael Root)</p>	<p>For the North Kilworth Parish Council, may I suggest the need for extra councillors with experience and knowledge of the village and Parish Council work. I have asked Edward Garnier, our M.P., to investigate the possibility of putting stronger guidance, rules and regulations in the Localism Bill, to assist new clerks and councillors in the task they have undertaken. You may care to endorse this aspect of Community Governance.</p>
	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>There is no justification for increasing the number of parish councillors. At the last parish elections (2011) only 1 valid nomination was received for a total of 5 seats resulting in the election process having to be re-run. As a result of the re-run</p>

	although a quorum was reached there were still insufficient nominations to force an election taking place.
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<b>Shangton</b>	
County Councillor Dr K Feltham	Shangton (parish meeting) currently has no chairman or clerk. Planning applications are sent to Mr Barry Ellwood at the Manor House, but he has no official role. I am not sure if he has been approached to formally accept the chairmanship of the parish meeting, but it would seem a possible option.
	<u>Officer Comment</u>  A Parish Meeting may be called by the Chair of the Parish Meeting, by any representative of the parish upon the district council or by 6 electors for the area.
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>That a District Councillor for the Kibworth Ward calls for a Parish Meeting to be convened to elect a parish chairman and that if no appointment can be made options for grouping Shangton with another local council be considered.</b>

<b>Shawell</b>	
Shawell Parish Meeting	No change is needed to the parish of Shawell

<b>General Comments</b>	
County Councillor Dr K Feltham	<p>The Gartree county council division covers 25 parishes from within the Harborough Wards of Billesdon, Glen and Kibworth. I have represented this division since 2005, and the former East Gartree division between 2001 and 2005. I am only going to comment on parishes within the Gartree division.</p> <p>I regularly attend a number of parish council meetings across the division, and more irregular parish meetings from time to time when invited. This has given me an objective viewpoint about some advantages and disadvantages of the current arrangements.</p> <p>I have also discussed alternative parish governance arrangements with county council colleagues from different boroughs/districts to see if there is anything that could be</p>

investigated in the Harborough District to improve democratic accountability.

### Parish Meetings

In many cases, the autonomous parish meetings manage very well, but they sometimes struggle with some projects because of limited funding due to a lack of precept. Melton Borough, for example, has examples of parish meetings who have come together to form quasi parish councils – each parish meeting represented by one person, so with four, five or six parishes they can have a 4, 5 or 6 quasi parish council.

I haven't discussed this suggestion with any parishes in the Gartree division, as this is but one option that could be considered as part of the review.

#### Options for quasi-parish councils

1. Kings Norton/Gaulby/Frisby and possibly Little Stretton
2. Rolleston/Noseley, Goadby plus Glooston and Stonton Wyville, or
3. Glooston/Stonton Wyville, Cranoe, Slawston and Welham plus Thorpe Langton possibly.

There are other combinations which could form part of a review if this option of quasi parish councils were to be taken forward. Clearly all parish meetings should be appraised and be asked to consider their own circumstances, with no compulsion if one or more parish meetings decide not to participate.

#### Options for smaller parish meetings:

1. Carlton Curlieu could possibly be added as a sub-division with Burton Overy PC.
2. Shangton could possible be added as a sub-division with Tur Langton PC
3. West Langton could possibly be added as a sub division with East Langton PC
4. Wistow and Newton Harcourt could possibly be added as a sub division with Great Glen PC.

### Parish Councils

Although Billesdon, Burton Overy, East Langton, Great Glen, Illston on the Hill, Smeeton Westerby and Tur Langton had no contested elections in 2011 their meetings are quorate usually, and personal experience of Billesdon and

	<p>Great Glen PCs has shown a willingness for volunteers to come forward and be co-opted from the village to ensure the parish councils have a full number of representatives.</p>
	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>No proposals for grouping of parish meetings have been received during the consultation period.</p> <p>Such arrangements can work well and there are examples elsewhere in the district. However, they need to be compatible with the retention of community interests and should not be used to build artificially large units under a single council.</p> <p>The Council will continue to consider any requests from parish meetings for grouping arrangements as they may arise.</p>
<p>Councillor R Page</p>	<p>In times of financial hardship I wonder if there is a sustainable justification of having a 5 member parish council for very small communities under a certain number of electors. If you look there are some parish meetings with more electors than some parish councils</p> <p>Are PC actually value for money, do they effectively exercise their duties and responsibilities, do they work in partnership with other stakeholders and do they effectively represent and communicate with their communities. How is this demonstrated. But most of all do they comply with policies. What checks are there?</p>
	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>Parishes with an electorate of 150 or less cannot have a parish council. Between 151 and 999 electors a principal council can recommend creation of a parish council or a parish meeting. Local circumstance will determine if a parish council or meeting is most appropriate to a particular parish.</p> <p>5 parish councillors is the minimum number of councillors for a parish council. In 1992 research by the Aston Business School, Parish and Town Councils in England, found that typical parish councils representing less than 500 people had between 5 and 8 councillors and those between 501 and 2,500 had 6 to 12 councillors.</p>