

Teignbridge District Council
Full Council
Meeting date
Part i / ii

Community Governance Reviews for Ogwell, Coffinswell and Ideford Parishes

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to:

1. Change the position of the current boundary between Ogwell and Newton Abbot parishes; and
2. Increase the number of members on Coffinswell and Ideford Parish Councils by one each.

Recommendation(s)

The Council RESOLVES to:

- (1) Change the position of the current boundary between Ogwell and Newton Abbot parishes; and
- (2) Increase the number of members on Coffinswell and Ideford Parish Councils by one each.

Financial Implications

See section 3, paragraph 3.1 parts i and ii
There are no financial implications for Teignbridge District Council.
Martin Flitcroft, Chief Finance Officer and Head of Corporate Services
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Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report.
Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
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Risk Assessment

See section 3, paragraph 3.3 parts i and ii
Cathy Ruelens, Electoral Services Manager
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Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

There are no environmental or climate change implications.
David Eaton, Environmental Protection Manager
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Report Author

Cathy Ruelens
Electoral Services Manager
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Executive Member

Councillor Alan Connett

Background Papers

Terms of Reference

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/terms-of-reference-community-governance-review/>

Ogwell Further Information

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/ogwell-boundary-changes-review/>

Ogwell Draft Recommendations

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/draft-recommendations-for-ogwell-parish/>

Ogwell map of proposed boundary change

[ogwell-suggested-new-boundary.pdf \(teignbridge.gov.uk\)](#)

Coffinswell Further Information

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/coffinswell-council-size-review/>

Coffinswell Draft Recommendations

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/draft-recommendations-for-coffinswell-parish/>

Ideford Further Information

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/ideford-council-sizes-review/>

Ideford Draft Recommendations

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/draft-recommendations-for-ideford-parish/>

Committee

Date of meeting

1. Introduction/Background

- i. Teignbridge District Council was asked by Ogwell Parish Council to consider changing the position of the parish boundary between Ogwell and Newton Abbot. The request from the Parish Council was supported by a valid petition signed by 62.36% of registered electors that live within the affected area.
- ii. Teignbridge District Council was asked by both Ideford Parish Council (currently 7 councillors) and Coffinswell Parish Council (currently 5 councillors) to consider increasing their number of councillors by one or two for Ideford, and by one for Coffinswell.
- iii. In undertaking these reviews the Electoral Services Manager, in consultation with the Managing Director, was guided by Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972 and guidance issued in 2010 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission.

2. Review process

2.1 Ogwell

- i. The area under review includes 31 properties in Bunting Close, 29 properties in Denbury Road (including 11 flats within Conitor House), 23 properties in Larksmead Way, 4 properties in Larksmead Close, 3 properties in Queen Annes Copse and 7 properties in Redstart Close.
- ii. Ogwell Parish Council and the residents who submitted the petition asked that we review the boundary in the interests of community cohesion within Ogwell. Many of the affected residents stated they have Ogwell addresses, their children attend or attended Ogwell Primary School and they involve themselves with many Ogwell parish events, so they feel it is important to live within the parish area they actively support and contribute to.
- iii. As part of the initial consultation, we contacted the district councillors who may be affected by consequential changes to the relevant ward boundaries; Devon

County Council; the county councillors who may be affected by consequential changes to the relevant division boundaries; residents of Ogwell via the parish newsletter; Newton Abbot Town Council; the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC). In addition, items were also placed in the Teignbridge resident's newsletter and Teignbridge Council Member's Newsletter outlining the review and inviting comments on the proposals.

- iv. During the initial consultation stage thirteen comments were received from members of the public, all in support of the proposed boundary change. In addition, Newton Abbot Town Council resolved to support the proposed change to the boundary. Teignbridge District councillors in the wards which may be affected by subsequent consequential changes to the district boundaries raised no objections, with three of the four district councillors expressing their support for the proposed change. Devon County Council raised no objections, and both affected county councillors expressed their support for the proposed boundary change. To date, we have not received any comments against, or objections to, the proposed boundary change. If this changes between now and when the consultation closes on Friday 8 July, a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

2.2 Coffinswell

- i. The Parish Council believes that an increase to the number of councillors will enable it to function more effectively and to distribute the workload of the parish more fairly and equally.
- ii. The parish of Coffinswell currently has 201 registered electors. The current level of 5 councillors gives a ratio of 1 councillor per 40 electors. The parish councillor to elector ratio within Teignbridge district for the largest parish electoral area is 1 councillor per 1,101 electors and for the smallest parish is 1 councillor per 23 electors. The average parish councillor to elector ratio within Teignbridge district is currently 1 councillor per 256 electors. If the number of councillors on Coffinswell Parish Council was increased by one the councillor to elector ratio would be 1 councillor per 33 electors.
- iii. During the initial consultation stage one comment was received from a member of the public in support of the proposed increase and no objections, or other comments, were received. If this changes between now and when the consultation closes on Friday 8 July, a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

2.3 Ideford

- i. The Parish Council believes that an increase to the number of councillors will enable it to function more effectively and to distribute the workload of the parish more fairly and equally.
- ii. The parish of Ideford currently has 352 registered electors. The current level of 7 councillors gives a ratio of 1 councillor per 50 electors. The parish councillor

to elector ratio within Teignbridge District for the largest parish electoral area is 1 councillor per 1,101 electors and for the smallest parish is 1 councillor per 23 electors. The average parish councillor to elector ratio within Teignbridge District is currently 1 councillor per 256 electors. If the number of councillors on Ideford Parish Council was increased by one the councillor to elector ratio would be 1 councillor per 44 electors. If it was increased by two the councillor to elector ratio would be 1 councillor per 39 electors.

- iii. During the initial consultation stage one comment was received from a member of the public in support of the proposed increase and no objections, or other comments, were received. If this changes between now and when the consultation closes on Friday 8 July, a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

3. Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact

3.1 Financial

- i. There is a financial implication for Newton Abbot Town Council in moving the boundary between Newton Abbot and Ogwell as the Town Council will lose the precept from the 97 affected properties, which Ogwell Parish Council will gain. Newton Abbot Town Council has, however, resolved to support the proposed boundary change.
- ii. There are no financial implications for Coffinswell and Ideford Parish Councils if the number of councillors is increased by one each.

3.2 Risks

- i. If the proposed change to the Ogwell boundary is refused the Parish Council believes the residents seeking this change will feel a lack of cohesion with the community they actively support and feel a natural part of.
- ii. Coffinswell and Ideford Parish Councils believe that if the number of councillors is not increased the effective running of their parishes will be affected and there will be an increase in the number of meetings which are inquorate.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Ogwell

There have been no objections received concerning this proposed change, only comments in support of it. The properties which will be affected by the change all have Ogwell addresses. Ogwell roundabout and the main Totnes Road seems to be a sensible and natural boundary to use, thus moving 97 properties from the parish of Newton Abbot to the parish of Ogwell.

4.2 Coffinswell and Ideford

- i. Guidance issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in 2010 references research conducted by the Aston Business School Parish and Town Councils in England (HMSO, 1992), which found that the typical parish representing less than 500 people had between 5 and 8 councillors.
- ii. The Local Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) states it has no reason to believe this pattern of council size to population has altered significantly since the research was conducted as it broadly reflects the council size range set out in the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Circular 1126: the Circular suggests that the minimum number of councillors for any parish should be 7.
- iii. The current proposals for both Coffinswell and Ideford parishes are in line with these recommendations. Although the recommended number of councillors for Coffinswell falls one short of the minimum number as recommended by NALC, Coffinswell is a very small parish and a larger increase to the number of parish councillors could make it difficult for the Parish Council to fill future vacancies.