

**Governance
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The Occupier

Dear Sir or Madam

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF LITTLE STANNEY AND DISTRICT
(Little Stanney, Croughton, Stoak and Wervin)**

**Have your say on whether the existing area of Little Stanney parish should be
extended to be governed by Little Stanney and District Parish Council**

Cheshire West and Chester Council is currently undertaking a Community Governance Review, looking at the way local decisions are made on local issues in your community.

Why are we undertaking this review?

Cheshire West and Chester Council has received a request from Little Stanney and District Parish Council to review and extend the boundary of Little Stanney parish.

A map showing the current boundary of Little Stanney parish and a map showing the boundary extension proposed by Little Stanney and District Parish Council can be viewed on the Council's website at:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/communitygovernance

The Parish Council's proposals are to incorporate:

- a) parts of the unparished area of Ellesmere Port (areas B, C, and D indicated on the map)
- b) part of the parish of Stoak (area A)
- c) part of the existing parish of Backford (*see overleaf), currently governed by Backford Parish Council, comprising of 4 properties (area E).

* In 2014, Cheshire West and Chester Council consulted residents of the 4 affected properties in Backford parish as part of its previous Community Governance Review and made no recommendations to change the governance arrangements at that time.

Why am I receiving this letter?

This letter is being sent to:

- residents of the parishes of Little Stanney, Croughton, Wervin and Stoak (falling within Little Stanney and District Parish Council's area); and
- those residents of the unparished area of Ellesmere Port and Backford parish and other stakeholders who may be affected by the proposals to extend Little Stanney parish.

You are being consulted for your views at the first stage of the Community Governance Review.

What is a Community Governance Review?

Community governance is the way in which local communities are represented and governed at a local level. The aim of a Community Governance Review is to consider any improvements to community engagement and representation, ensure a stronger local voice, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

A Community Governance Review will not change any village name, its identity or Cheshire West and Chester Council's ward boundaries. The issues it considers include:

- how local areas are governed, managed or run;
- whether to alter the boundary of an existing parish or amalgamate existing parishes;
- what changes, if any, should be made to the electoral arrangements that apply to an existing Parish Council.

Cheshire West and Chester Council has the authority to change any existing parish boundaries, constitute a new parish by amalgamating two or more parishes and to change electoral arrangements. In making its decision, the Council must take account of public views and comments and ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the communities in the area under review and is effective and convenient. Any changes would come into effect from 1 April 2019.

What is a Parish Council?

Little Stanney parish is currently locally governed by Little Stanney and District Parish Council which is the common Parish Council for the group of parishes comprising of Croughton, Little Stanney, Stoak and Wervin.

Parish Councils are the most local tier of local government in England with specific powers and budgets for which they are democratically accountable. They have a wide range of powers to provide services to meet local needs, including managing

community centres, liaising with the Police, maintenance of public open spaces and children's play area equipment and environmental projects such as landscaping. They are notified by Cheshire West and Chester Council of planning applications and consulted on local traffic management and highways issues. Parish Councils meet the cost of providing services by raising a precept from their residents each year which is collected as part of the Council Tax bill.

What could any changes mean?

Properties in the unparished area becoming part of Little Stanney parish

If the boundary of Little Stanney parish is extended to include part of the unparished area, residents coming into the extended area would be locally governed by Little Stanney and District Parish Council and be liable to pay an annual precept. The Parish Council projects that the precept could be around £25-£30 per year for the average Band D property (based on 2017/18 figures) if the parish were to be extended. This would be collected as part of the Council Tax bill.

Properties in Backford parish becoming part of Little Stanney parish

If the boundary of Little Stanney parish is extended to include properties currently within Backford parish, those residents would be locally governed by and pay their precept to Little Stanney and District Parish Council instead of Backford Parish Council. In 2017/18 residents of Backford parish paid a precept of £16.27 per year (Band D Property) to Backford Parish Council which is collected as part of the Council Tax bill. Little Stanney and District Parish Council projects that its precept could be around £25-£30 per year for the average Band D property (based on 2017/18 figures) if the parish were to be extended as above.

Properties currently within Croughton, Little Stanney, Stoak and Wervin parishes

If the electorate of Little Stanney parish is increased by extending the parish boundary, consideration may be given to changing the Parish Council's electoral arrangements and the number of Parish Councillors, to ensure residents are effectively represented. Parish Councillors are all voluntary representatives. There should be no additional cost to the residents in the existing parishes of Croughton, Little Stanney, Stoak and Wervin if there is a change in the size of the Parish Council.

Little Stanney and District Parish Council has undertaken its own initial independent consultation regarding its proposals, how they could affect residents, what are the benefits to being locally governed by the Parish Council and how much it will cost those residents affected. For more information about the work of Little Stanney and District Parish Council, contact the Parish Council Clerk, Pauline English on Tel: 0151 339 1405, Mobile: 07890 140412, E-mail: engy02@ntlworld.com

Have your say

This is your chance to have your say and let us know your views on how your local community is currently represented and whether you would like to see any changes.

Following this consultation, responses will be analysed and draft recommendations will be produced. A second consultation will then take place on the draft

recommendations. The closing date for giving your views in this first consultation is **Friday 8 June 2018**.

There are various ways you can have your say:

- Complete the on-line questionnaire by visiting the Council's website at: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/communitygovernance
- Email your views to: democraticservices@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- Telephone 01244 972283 and request a paper copy of the questionnaire.

All information regarding the Community Governance Review process can be viewed on the Council's website at:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/communitygovernance

The review is being conducted in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Council must have regard to Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

If you have any questions or queries relating to the Community Governance Review, or if you would like a paper copy of any of the documentation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Andrea Thwaite
Democracy Programme Manager