



Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

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Please ask for:	Democratic and Elections Team	Direct Dial:	01295 221534
Email:	democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk	Our Ref:	CGR – Parish Councillor Numbers PCNO

4 July 2022

Second consultation – Cherwell District Council are continuing the review of the number of parish councillors for Begbroke, Chesterton and Somerton Parish Councils.

Between November 2021 and January 2022 we (Cherwell District Council) held a consultation to ask views on the possibility of increasing the number of parish councillors for Begbroke Parish Council, Chesterton Parish Council and Somerton Parish Council.

What were the results of the consultation?

Consultation letters were available via our website and the Let's Talk Cherwell online consultation platform for people to respond to. We also invited the three parish councils to respond to the consultation. Chesterton and Somerton Parish Councils responded to the consultation.

Chesterton Parish Council stated that they would like an increase of two parish councillors, taking them from seven to nine. The increase was requested as the responsibilities of the parish council have increased since the last election held for the parish in 2019.

Somerton Parish Council stated that they would like an increase of one parish councillor, taking them from five to six. The increase was requested as the workload for the parish council has increased, and an additional councillor would help to spread the load and make the parish council more efficient.

Recommendations

The working group of Cherwell District Councillors considered the consultation responses and had regard to guidance on Community Governance Reviews. The group agreed that all three parish councils should have an increase in the number of parish councillors:

- Chesterton Parish Council should have an increase of two parish councillors, from seven to nine.
- Begbroke Parish Council should have an increase of one parish councillor, from six to seven.

- Somerton Parish Council should have an increase of one parish councillor, from five to six.

The recommendations were considered and agreed by Full Council on 18 May 2022.

What happens now?

A second consultation is running from Monday 4 July to Friday 9 September 2022, to find out what people think of the recommendations to increase the number of parish councillors. The working group will then consider all responses received to the second consultation, and make final recommendations to Full Council in October 2022.

If the final recommendation is to increase the number of parish councillors as detailed above, the changes would take effect from the next scheduled election for each parish which is May 2023.

Anyone who wants to can take part in the consultation. A copy of this letter is available from our website www.cherwell.gov.uk/communitygovernance.

How do I have my say on these recommendations?

On pages 3 and 4 you will find a short reply slip. Please take a few minutes to fill this in and return it using the envelope supplied. You don't need to use a stamp as we will pay the postage.

If more than one person in your household would like to reply, that's not a problem as you're not limited to one reply per household. You can:

- photocopy the reply slip
- download extra copies from our website www.cherwell.gov.uk/communitygovernance
- send us an email democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk.
- reply online via the Let's Talk Cherwell pages - <https://letstalk.cherwell.gov.uk/community-governance-2021>. You will need to create an account if you want to use Let's Talk, this will only take a few minutes.

All written or emailed responses should reach us by Friday 9 September 2022 to be taken into consideration. The online survey will close at 11:59pm on the same date.

If you have any questions about this letter, or the review in general, please contact us by email: democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or telephone: 01295 221534

Yours sincerely,

Democratic and Elections Team
Cherwell District Council

If you require this document in a different format (such as a large print version or special access facilities) please contact the Democratic and Elections Team, democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

All information collected through this consultation will be treated appropriately to conform with data protection legislation. The Council has to publish all comments received in connection with a community governance review. If we receive a comment on behalf of a group, such as a parish council, political party or disability access group, we will name the group, but we will not publish the names of individuals who have commented.

Tell us what you think

Name:

Address:

We will not share your name and address with anyone, we have only asked for these details so that we can see which areas have replied. If you would prefer, you can just tell us the street or village you live in.

Question 1.

Do you agree with the recommendation to increase the number of parish councillors on Begbroke Parish Council from six to seven?

Yes ☐

No ☐

I have no view on this ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

Question 2.

Do you agree with the recommendation to increase the number of parish councillors on Chesterton Parish Council from seven to nine?

Yes ☐

No ☐

I have no view on this ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

Question 3.

Do you agree with the recommendation to increase the number of parish councillors on Somerton Parish Council from five to six?

Yes ☐

No ☐

I have no view on this ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

General comments

Do you have any other comments to make on any of these proposals?
