

Notice of Community Governance Review

Sevenoaks District Council has decided to undertake a review of parish councils in it's area; this is called a community governance review.

The District Council believes that parish councils play an important role at the local level and is keen to ensure that parishes continue to be robust, representative and able to meet the challenges ahead.

Central government recommends a review every 10-15 years. The last review in Sevenoaks was completed in 1999.

What is a Community Governance Review?

Community governance reviews are an opportunity for interested persons to consider how their local communities are run. Proposals may be made to create new parishes, to merge or group parishes or to alter the boundaries of parishes or ward boundaries within parishes. Suggestions may also be made for the alteration of parish names and the changing of representation on the parish council, i.e. the number of councillors.

Anyone may make representations to the District Council and those views will be put before Members of the Council at meetings of the Electoral Arrangements Committee. The District Council will be guided by the relevant legislation and guidance, in particular the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Guidance on Community Governance Reviews (published jointly by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission).

The timetable for the review

The review commences on Wednesday, 30th November 2011 and the deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, 24th February 2012. The District Council will publish it's draft recommendations for change in April 2012 and will invite comments over the following 12 weeks. Final recommendations will be published by the District Council in August 2012. Any changes to be made to parishes will come into effect at the next full elections of parish councillors in May 2015.

How to submit your views

In writing to	Ian Bigwood, Electoral Services Manager, Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1HG
By e-mail to	elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Please go to the District Council website at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk for more information.

30th November 2011