

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Record of Decision by Council

Thursday 28 July 2016

Subject: Funtley Community Governance Review

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Summary:

On 30 July 2015 Fareham Borough Council agreed to undertake a Community Governance Review in response to a petition signed by residents of Funtley, which requested that a specific area be designated as a parished area and that a Parish Council be established.

The terms of reference for the Review were published on the 3 August 2015 along with a timetable setting out key dates. These key dates included the first phase consultation which ran from 21 September 2015 to 14 December 2015, questionnaire delivery to each registered elector, businesses and community organisations within the area defined, which amounted to 565 being distributed and a Community Action Team meeting was also held in Funtley on 24 November 2015. Analysis of the initial consultation period was published along with draft recommendations for further comments to be considered before a final decisions being made in respect of the creation of a Parish Council.

The second phase consultation was extended at the request of Funtley Village Society, running between 23 May and 20 June 2016.

The report considered the responses to the first and second stages of public consultation carried out as part of the review, having regard to the law and the guidance on Community Governance Reviews, as outlined in the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended) issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

In reaching its decision, Members gave due regard to the 2007 Act, the criteria set out within it and considered these points whilst debating.

The rationale for the decision made was there was no clear and sustained level of local support although acknowledgement was given to the achievements undertaken by the existing Funtley Village Society and this was supported by the relatively low

response to the consultation compared to the overall size of the electorate and the decreasing support for the parish council proposal over the 12 month period of consultation and low turnout at the public Community Action Team Meeting held by the Council to engage with the community on the issue during the consultation period.

Given the relatively small size of Funtley and the close ties with neighbouring villages and communities, the creation of a parish in a vacuum of other like arrangements would not adequately reflect the identities and social cohesion of the wider conurbation. Whilst Funtley is geographically definable, it is not sufficiently distinct to avoid the risk of creating unnecessary social barriers with neighbouring communities.

Having regard to the small size of the Funtley electorate, a parish council would not constitute the most effective or convenient way of engaging the community and empowering it in relation to its contribution to wider Fareham Borough issues which can be achieved through its status as a consultee for planning and other local function issues which this Council is committed to continue to support. The perceived benefits of a parish council would, in this case, be outweighed by the added layer of bureaucracy and cost associated with the set up and running of an additional layer of Governance.

Options Considered:

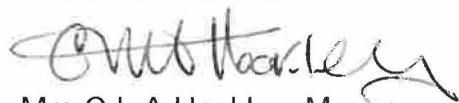
- (a) note the results of the consultations and consider the representations received; and
- (b) consider the contents of the report and resolve to approve one of the following options:
 - (i) make no change to the existing governance arrangements;
 - (ii) establish a parish and form a parish council; or
 - (iii) establish a parish and form a parish meeting.

Decision:

RESOLVED that Council:

- (a) notes the results of the consultations and take into consideration the representations received; and
- (b) agrees to make no change to the existing governance arrangements.

Confirmed as a true record:



Councillor Mrs C L A Hockley, Mayor

Thursday 28 July 2016