



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our Ref: NA/CGR2018/19

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14th January 2019

Dear Resident

Community Governance Review - Upper Rissington Parish Council
Proposed Increase in Councillor Numbers and Possible Introduction of Warding Arrangements

You may recall that I wrote to all Upper Rissington households last year in connection with a request that had been received from Upper Rissington Parish Council for a Community Governance Review (CGR) to be undertaken by Cotswold District Council (CDC) in relation to the current electoral arrangements for the parish; with a view to increasing the overall number of councillors on the Parish Council and, possibly, the introduction of parish wards.

The following rationale had been provided by the Parish Council in support of an increase in numbers:-

- The size of the village has increased substantially over the past four years as a result of the development at Victory Fields; and the 'scale' adopted by District Council would allow for a larger number of councillors based on the size of the electorate.
- An increase in the Council size will permit the Council to reflect a wider cross section of the Parish - promoting better community cohesion.
- A larger number of councillors will allow the greater workload to be shared more easily, reducing the burden on a small group of councillors.
- A larger pool of councillors will facilitate the creation of committees (e.g. Finance, Staffing and Planning), which will lead to more effective management of the Council.
- The request reflects the request of a large number of electors, actively supported by the County Councillor, for the review.

The creation of wards is seen as a mechanism to ensure representation from distinct community areas within the parish - although the legislation cannot actually guarantee this.

The initial consultation did not lead to any clear view from residents on either future councillor numbers or the introduction of parish warding. In the circumstances, and before presenting the matter to CDC Members for decision, I have decided to re-open the consultation for a further period. In addition, I will hold **an exhibition/drop-in session between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesday 30th January 2019** in the Community Room at Upper Rissington Village Hall. If you would like any further information on the proposals, or have questions, please come along.

As I previously indicated, it is important for local residents and others to submit their comments on the proposals, and for those comments to have regard to the statutory criteria and other considerations that CDC must take into account when reaching a final Review outcome, and avoid issues/arguments that do not carry weight - in this connection, I have attached a further copy of the Information Sheet that was circulated with my previous letter and which will hopefully help in this regard. I have updated this document to reflect more recent events in terms of councillor vacancies.

A Consultation Comments Form is also attached (copies will also be available at the exhibition/drop-in session). You can use this form to submit your views, or you can write to me or e-mail me.

The new closing date for the submission of representations is **Monday 18th February 2019**.

If you have already submitted representations relating to this review, and your views have not changed, you do not need to do anything further as your original submission will remain valid and will be taken into account by CDC when arriving at a decision on the review.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nigel Adams', written over a horizontal line.

Nigel Adams
Electoral Registration Officer
Cotswold District Council