



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2015
AT 5.00 P.M.

COMMITTEE ROOM, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BURCOT LANE, BROMSGROVE

MEMBERS: Councillors J. M. L. A. Griffiths (Chairman), P. Lammas (Vice-Chairman), J. M. Boswell, R. A. Clarke, S. R. Colella, K. A. Grant-Pearce, L. C. R. Mallett, R. J. Shannon and C. J. Tidmarsh

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence and notification of substitutes
2. Declarations of Interest

To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests.
3. To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Matters Committee held on 3rd November 2014 (Pages 1 - 4)
4. Community Governance Review for Proposed Boundary Changes to Clent and Hagley Parish Council Areas (Pages 5 - 66)
5. To consider any other business, details of which have been notified to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services prior to the commencement of the meeting and which the Chairman considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting

K. DICKS
Chief Executive

The Council House
Burcot Lane
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

18th March 2015



INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

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- Meeting Agendas
- Meeting Minutes
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Declaration of Interests - Explained

Definition of Interests

A Member has a **PERSONAL INTEREST** if the issue being discussed at a meeting affects the well-being or finances of the Member, the Member's family or a close associate more than most other people who live in the ward affected by the issue.

Personal interests are also things relating to an interest the Member must register, such as any outside bodies to which the Member has been appointed by the Council or membership of certain public bodies.

A personal interest is also a **PREJUDICIAL INTEREST** if it affects:

- The finances, or
- A regulatory function (such as licensing or planning)

Of the Member, the Member's family or a close associate **AND** which a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of the facts would believe likely to harm or impair the Member's ability to judge the public interest.

Declaring Interests

If a Member has an interest they must normally declare it at the start of the meeting or as soon as they realise they have the interest.

EXCEPTION:

If a Member has a **PERSONAL INTEREST** which arises because of membership of another public body the Member only needs to declare it if and when they speak on the matter.

If a Member has both a **PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST** they must not debate or vote on the matter and must leave the room.

EXCEPTION:

If a Member has a prejudicial interest in a matter being discussed at a meeting at which members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter, the Member has the same rights as the public and can also attend the meeting to make representations, give evidence or answer questions **BUT THE MEMBER MUST LEAVE THE ROOM ONCE THEY HAVE FINISHED AND CANNOT DEBATE OR VOTE.**

However, the Member must not use these rights to seek to improperly influence a decision in which they have a prejudicial interest.

For further information please contact Committee Services, Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, Bromsgrove District Council, The Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove, B60 1AA

Tel: 01527 873232 Fax: 01527 881414

Web: www.bromsgrove.gov.uk email: committee@bromsgrove.gov.uk

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 2014 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors J. M. L. A. Griffiths (Chairman), P. Lammas (Vice-Chairman), J. M. Boswell, R. A. Clarke, S. R. Colella, L. C. R. Mallett, R. J. Shannon and C. J. Tidmarsh

Observers: Councillor L. J. Turner

Officers: Mrs. C. Felton, Mrs. L. Tovey, Ms. A. Scarce and Mrs. S. Mould

1/14 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor J. M. L. A. Griffiths be elected Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

2/14 **ELECTION A VICE CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor P. Lammas be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

3/14 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor K. A. Grant-Pearce.

4/14 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

5/14 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Matters Committee held on 11th September 2012 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

6/14 **POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2014**

The Committee were asked to consider a report on the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review 2014. Members were informed that the review followed the earlier Ward Boundary review, by the Boundary Commission for England of the Council's electoral arrangements, which produced a new ward map for the District.

Agenda Item 3

Electoral Matters Committee
3rd November 2014

During the discussions the Review Project Officer brought to the attention of Members two late submissions, which Officer had felt Members should be made aware of; these were in respect of concerns raised by both the Wythall Residents Association and Wythall Parish Council and the use of the Woodrush Centre. It was highlighted that these concerns had been raised at stages 1 and 2 of the process, however in light of the late submissions Officers had revisited the use of this Centre once again and contacted Woodrush High School accordingly. Officers were happy with the response received from Woodrush High School and the use of the Woodrush Centre as a Polling Station.

Officers responded to the following areas raised by Members during the discussion:

- The number of residents affected by the changes.
- The distance that those residents would have to travel.
- The cost of including an additional polling station.

Officers reminded Members that the information provided in the report had been agreed by a cross party working group who had discussed and agreed a number of measures which had been applied when looking at the location of all polling stations. The number of polling stations had not changed significantly and a review of the various premises used as polling station was carried out regularly.

Concerns were raised about the significant amount of change which was taking place at a time when there was parish, local and a general elections being carried out and whether this could have an impact on the overall turn out of electors. Officers assured Members that this had been taken into account and that every effort would be made to ensure that residents were aware of all the changes. A publicity campaign, with the support of the Communications Team, would commence in early January 2015 using various methods of communications, including for example leaflets, advertising in local papers, Parish and Ward Councillors and campaign groups. This would continue in the lead up to the election to ensure that wherever possible problems would be addressed. It was appreciated that people found change difficult in some circumstances and support would be provided wherever necessary.

Councillor L. C. R. Mallett informed Members that he had been a part of the cross party working group and assured them that the contents of the report now brought before the Committee had been discussed in detail and all submissions and options had been considered. He also took the opportunity to thank the Electoral Services team for their support and dedication, with a very difficult task, in order to reach the current position.

After further discussion it was

RESOLVED:

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3rd November 2014

- (a) that the entry 2230 / Alvechurch South, “St Lawrence” be amended to “St Laurence” in Appendices 1 and 2;
- (b) that the final proposals in respect of Polling District Boundaries, as contained in Appendix 1 to this report entitled “Schedule of Electoral Areas” are approved;
- (c) that the final proposals in respect of Polling Places as set out in the final column of Appendix 2 of the report headed “Full Description” are approved; and
- (d) that the decision of the Committee in respect of (b) and (c) as detailed above take effect from the date of publication of the revised Register of Electors on 1st December 2014.

The meeting closed at 6.32 p.m.

Chairman

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Electoral Matters Committee

26 March 2015

Community Governance Review for the proposed boundary changes to Clent and Hagley Parish Council areas

Community Governance Review, Stage Two: Consideration of submissions received and draft recommendations

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Webb (for Cllr Margaret Sherrey)
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
Wards Affected	Hagley West and Belbroughton and Romsley from 1 December 2014
Non-Key Decision	Electoral Matters Committee

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 Members of the Committee are asked to receive the results of the consultation carried out in relation to a proposal to review the boundaries of the Clent and Hagley Parish Council areas and to consider and approve a draft recommendation for further consultation between 1 April 2015 and 30 June 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the results of the consultation undertaken as a result of a valid petition to change the boundaries of Clent Parish Council and Hagley Parish Council.
- 2.2 Members are asked to consider and decide on the draft recommendation to be further consulted upon, either that
- 1) the changes set out in the petition be adopted;
 - 2) the changes proposed by Bromsgrove District Council be adopted;
 - 3) no change be undertaken; or
 - 4) that an alternative proposal to
 - a) amalgamate the Hagley and Clent parish councils; or
 - b) transfer half of area "B" (the eastern only) to Hagley, be adopted.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 A sum of £4,500 was released by the Council to cover the estimated costs of consultation, holding any public meetings and production of public notices.

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- 3.2 At the conclusion of the review there may be financial implications for adjustments in Parish Council precepts, transfer of assets and other associated changes such as, changes to Council Tax management.

Legal Implications

- 3.3 On receipt of a valid petition, the Council has a responsibility to undertake a Community Governance Review in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Part 4) and the associated Dept. of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, the Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) Regulations 2008 and the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The authority must have regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State (s100 (4) of the 2007 Act) and must give consideration to the views of local people in reaching its decision.
- 3.4 The Terms of Reference of the Review are set out in **Appendix 1**
- 3.5 Stage one of the review process was the initial consultation. Stage two is the consideration of submissions received and preparation of a draft recommendation for further consultation.
- 3.6 s93 of the 2007 Act sets out the council's duties in undertaking a community governance review. In relation to deciding what recommendations to make, it provides that the council must have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review:
- a) reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
 - b) is effective and convenient.
- s93 (6) provides that the council must "take into account" any representations received in connection with the review as one element of these considerations.
- 3.7 The DCLG Guidance states that a Community Governance review provides an opportunity for principal authorities to review and consider making changes to community governance within their area, to ensure that it continues to be effective and convenient and reflects the identities and interests of the community.
- 3.8 The guidance on the aims of the review is set out on page 5 of the Terms of Reference, (Appendix 1)

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- 3.9 s2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 states that there is a duty on principal councils to promote understanding among local people, which extends to parish councils.
- 3.10 In 2013 – 2014 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England undertook a review of the electoral arrangements for the whole of the District Council Area and set out new Districts wards and changes to associated Parish Council Ward arrangements in The Bromsgrove (Electoral Changes) Order 2014. This Order came into force on 1 December 2014.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.11 At its meeting on 24 September 2014, the Council noted and received a petition formally requesting a Community Governance Review of Hagley and Clent parish council boundaries. The Council approved the terms of reference for the review and agreed that the consultation process and statutory timetable should commence. Stage One, the initial consultation, took place between Friday 1 November 2014 and Friday 30 January 2015. Council further approved that authority be delegated to the Electoral Matters Committee to deal with all stages of the Review up to and including the making of the Re-organisation Order.
- 3.12 In support of the petition, Hagley Parish Council also submitted a Feasibility Study, which is attached at **Appendix 2**
- 3.13 Members are advised that representation has been received from Clent Parish Council detailing their response to the consultation process and this response can be found at **Appendix 3**.

The Consultation

- 3.14 Consultees were asked to select between the four following options:
- A – to adopt the proposed change as set out in the petition,
 - B – to adopt the change as proposed by Bromsgrove District Council,
 - C – that no change be undertaken, or
 - D – to make an alternative proposal
- 3.15 A map, which illustrates Options 1 and 2, was issued with the consultation. This is attached at **Appendix 4**

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How the consultation was undertaken

- 3.16 Electoral Reform Services (ERS) on behalf of the Council, sent notification of the options to all households within the electoral areas of Clent and Hagley parish councils, along with an opportunity to vote on the proposals. A voting pack was sent to each household on 18 November 2014. Votes could be cast electronically or by posting the ballot paper back to the ERS, by 30 January 2015. If more than one person within a household wished to respond to the consultation, they could do so by responding individually to the Council's consultation.
- 3.17 Bromsgrove District Council established a dedicated web page for the review, issued a press release and information leaflet and invited representations from individual stakeholders and any party which may have an interest in the review.

Results of the consultation:

Electoral Reform Services Ballot

- 3.18 The results of the ERS household ballot are attached at **Appendix 5**.
- 3.19 Alternative proposals (Option 4) submitted to the ERS:
Three parties selected this option, two of whom made relevant alternative proposals:
- a) Amalgamate the two parishes under one council.
 - b) "Half of area B be transferred (i.e. eastern section only).

The third comment did not relate to the governance review but complained about the poor service from the local GP surgery.

Council Consultation

- 3.20 The Council received 375 responses to its consultation. The results are attached at **Appendix 6**.
- 3.21 Ten parties completed the Option 4 (alternative proposal) section and made some comments about the proposals and the process. These are set out in **Appendix 7**. No alternative proposals were included.

Draft recommendations

- 3.22 Option 1 is the proposal included in the petition, to transfer the areas labelled "A" and "B" from Clent to Hagley parish council area, as

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indicated on the consultation plan (Appendix 3)

- 3.23 A consequence of adopting Option 1 would be that two areas labelled “B” would become part of a “new” Hagley parish council area but would remain within the Belbroughton and Romsley District Council Ward.
- 3.24 In this case, after the Council has made its final Order at the conclusion of the Review, Bromsgrove District Council would need to apply to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a related alteration to the District Council’s ward boundaries between Hagley West District Ward and Belbroughton and Romsley District Ward.
- 3.25 Option 2 of the draft recommendations proposed by Bromsgrove District Council, will partly meet the petition proposal, transferring Area “A” to Hagley Parish. However, by not transferring the two areas labelled “B”, the existing District Council Ward boundaries, as settled in the recent LGBCE District Review, would be maintained.
- 3.26 In both cases, Bromsgrove District Council would have to address electoral arrangements for parish warding within the revised parish council areas, determining the number of parish councillors and trier representation.
- 3.27 Option 3 is for no change.
- 3.28 Option 4 sets out the two alternative proposals submitted in the consultation. One is to amalgamate the two parish councils and one to transfer the eastern part of land labelled “B” to Hagley Parish Council.
- 3.29 At the conclusion of the review process, after further consultation has been undertaken on the Council’s adopted draft recommendation, Bromsgrove District Council will be required to make an Order defining the new parish boundaries, set out the new electoral arrangements and address any financial consequences relating to assets precepts, transfer of assets and other associated changes.
- 3.30 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services is responsible for the administration and conduct of the review. Any associated administrative functions are being undertaken by Electoral Services. There may also be an impact on other Council Officers from the Legal Services Team and Revenues and Benefits in implementing any changes required at the conclusion of the process.
- 3.31 The timetable for the review includes the election in 2015 so that careful consideration will need to be given to any publicity and use of officer time during the restricted pre-election period.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.32 In conducting the review the Council will ensure that the affected communities are properly consulted.
- 3.33 In conducting the review the Council will ensure that electoral equality is taken into consideration.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 None identified at this time.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference

Appendix 2 – Hagley Parish Council Feasibility Study

Appendix 3 – Clent Parish Council representation

Appendix 4 – Consultation map

Appendix 5 – Results of Electoral Reform Services ballot

Appendix 6 – Results of BDC consultation

Appendix 7 – Results of BDC consultation

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 References to all legislation and guidance are listed within the Terms of Reference (Appendix A)

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Claire Felton, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
email: c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel.: 01527 881429

Bromsgrove District Council

Terms of Reference

Community Governance Review for Proposed Boundary Changes to
Clent and Hagley Parish Council Areas



Bromsgrove
District Council

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Prepared by Electoral Services Manager – Lizzie Tovey (AEA Cert.)

Date of Publication – 24 September 2014

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TERMS OF REFERENCE
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW FOR PROPOSED BOUNDARY
CHANGE TO CLENT AND HAGLEY PARISH COUNCIL AREAS

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CHANGE TO CLENT AND HAGLEY PARISH COUNCIL AREAS

REVIEW OF PARISHES AND RELATED MATTERS – LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

Introduction

The Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of Clent West Parish Ward. The area to be included in the review is the whole of Hagley Parish Council and the whole of Clent Parish Council.

In undertaking the review, the Council will be guided by Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act); the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972; Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in March 2010; and the following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the Review: Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/625); Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/626). (The 2007 Act has transferred powers to the principal councils which previously, under the Local Government Act 1997, had been shared with the Electoral Commission's Boundary Committee for England.)

Why is the Council undertaking the Review?

Hagley Parish Council has submitted a valid petition which includes:-

- Signatures by the requisite number of local government electors for the area;
- A map, which clearly defines the area to which the review is to relate and;
- Specific recommendations stating what changes the petitioners wish a community governance review to consider.

The petition stated:-

'We, the undersigned, support the proposal for Hagley Parish's boundary to be altered to include the proposed Transfer Area, shown on the plan¹. We formally request that Bromsgrove District Council undertake a Community Governance Review and consider our request'.

The petition meets the legal requirements to be a valid petition and accordingly the Council must undertake a Review in accordance with Section 83(2) of the 2007 Act².

As part of their petition Hagley Parish Council submitted a feasibility study³, part of this study requested that the Community Governance Review be conducted and that changes be implemented in time for the elections scheduled for 7 May 2015. However, it should be noted that these timescales could not be met as the Principal Council is still implementing changes made by the wider review undertaken by the LGBCE and these changes do not come into force until 1 December 2014. In addition, were it to be determined that the boundary changes were appropriate, as the timetable for the 2015

¹ Appendix 1 (Petition Map of The Hagley Parish Council proposed Transfer Area)

² Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

³ Appendix 2 Hagley Parish Council Feasibility Study.

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Electoral process will begin in March 2015, it would not be possible for this review to be completed and implemented by then. It should also be noted that a much wider consultation than proposed in the feasibility study is necessary in order to take account of the wishes of parishioners and stakeholders in both Hagley and Clent Parish Councils. The timetable within the statutory guidance provides for a twelve month period to accommodate all of the steps required to complete a review of this nature.

What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review is a review of the whole or part of the district to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council and parish warding), and;
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

Why undertake a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance review provides an opportunity for principal authorities to review and make changes to community governance within their area. Such reviews can be undertaken when there have been changes in population or in reaction to specific, or new local issues to ensure that the community governance for the area continues to be effective and convenient and it reflects the identities and interests of the community. The government has emphasised that recommendations made in Community Governance Reviews ought to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more efficient delivery of local services.

This Community Governance Review will consider:-

- The proposed transfer of an existing boundary between Clent and Hagley Parish Councils in the area as determined by the Principal Council;
- The contents of the Hagley Parish Council Feasibility Study
- The determination of the division of each Parish Council into Parish Wards;
- The number of members for each Parish Council (per Parish Ward) as a result of the Principal Councils transfer area.

The Community Governance Review will not consider:-

- Changes to any other electoral areas including wards or divisions within the Principal Council Area (Bromsgrove District Council).

General Statement Regarding Parish Governance

Section 2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 states that there is a duty on principal councils to promote understanding among local people, which extends to parish councils and parish meetings.

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Why is the Council undertaking this Review?

Bromsgrove District Council has received a valid petition; accordingly, the Council must undertake a Review in accordance with Section 83(2) of the 2007 Act.

After careful consideration Bromsgrove District Council recommends that the area to be considered should be coterminous with the new ward boundaries which come into force on 1 December 2014. For clarification an overview map showing both areas has been prepared⁴.

It is proposed that the consultation take the form of a letter and questionnaire which will be sent to all stakeholders within the two Parish Council Areas.

Consultees will be asked to select between the following 4 options:-

- A** – To adopt the proposed change as set out in the petition submitted by Hagley Parish Council
- B** – To adopt the proposed change as proposed by Bromsgrove District Council
- C** – That no changes be undertaken
- D** – To make an alternative proposal

In the case of **D** the consultee would have to provide clear reasoning as to what the alternative proposal would be, set out the reason why, and provide a plan.

Any final recommendations must also be noted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Who undertakes the review?

As the principal council, Bromsgrove District Council is responsible for undertaking any Community Governance Review within its area. The Council, at its meeting on 24 September 2014 agreed that a Community Governance Review be undertaken. The Council agreement signals the start of a formal 12 month timetable which will commence with publication of these draft terms of reference and full consultation.

As the review progresses, the Electoral Matters Committee (EMC), who have delegated powers regarding these matters, will meet to discuss recommendations. At the conclusion of the review the EMC will approve and agree any actions as to the outcome. These findings will then be presented in the form of a note to the next available Full Council meeting.

Consultation

How the Council proposes to conduct consultations during the review?

This document lays out the aims of the review, the legislation that guides it and some of the policies that the Council considers important in the review.

⁴ Appendix 3 (BDC Map Review Area which is coterminous with existing electoral arrangements).

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This Community Governance Review will be conducted transparently so that local people and other local stakeholders who may have an interest are made aware of the outcome of the decisions taken and the reasons behind these decisions⁵.

The Act requires the Council to

- Consult the local government electors for the area under review.
- Consult any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review.
- Take into account any representations that are received in connection with the Review by judging them against the criteria in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007⁶.

The Council will have regard to Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government which aims to ensure that:-

- Electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident. The guidance states that this sense of identity and community lends strength and legitimacy to the parish structure, creates a common interest in parish affairs, encourages participation in elections to the parish council, leads to representative and accountable government, engenders visionary leadership and generates a strong, inclusive community with a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.
- Parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest, with their own sense of identity; the feeling of local community and the wishes of local inhabitants are primary considerations in a Review.
- A careful balance to the considerations of changes that have happened over time, through population shifts or additional development for example, and that have led to a different community identity with historic traditions in its area.

Information relating to the Community Governance Review, including a submission template, will be available on the Council's website and key documents will be on deposit at the Council Offices. Full details of these offices can be found towards the end of this document.

Representations regarding this Review should be made in writing (submitted either by letter or email) to Bromsgrove District Council.

Bromsgrove District Council will publish its recommendations as soon as practicable and take such steps as it considers sufficient to ensure that persons who may be interested in the Community Governance Review are informed of the recommendations and the reasons behind them. All representations will be available for public inspection (any personal information will be redacted).

The Council will notify any persons or bodies who have made written representations of the outcome of the review at all stages (where requested) and full details of any recommendations will be available on the Bromsgrove District Council website.

⁵ Appendix 4 – List of those who will be consulted as part of the review.

⁶ S.93, LG&PIHA 2007

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How to Respond to this Review

Representations in response to this review should be submitted within the specified timescales detailed below either by letter or email to:

Clent and Hagley Parish Councils Community Governance Review

Electoral Services Manager
C/O Town Hall
Walter Stranz Square
Redditch
B98 8AH

Email democracy@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Tel: 01527 881 421

Website www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/elections

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A timetable for the Community Governance Review

Stage	What happens?	Timescales
Commencement	Terms of Reference are published	Tuesday 1 October 2014
Preliminary stage	Promotion of public consultation	One month Tuesday 1 October to Thursday 31 October 2014
Stage one	Initial Submissions are invited	Three months Friday 1 November 2014 to Friday 31 January 2015
Stage two	Consideration of submissions received – Draft Recommendations are prepared	Two months Monday 3 February to Monday 31 March 2015
Stage three	Draft Recommendations are published. Public response invited	Three months Tuesday 1 April to Monday 30 June 2015
Stage four	Considerations of submissions received – final recommendations are prepared	Two months Tuesday 1 July to Friday 29 August 2015
Stage five	Final recommendations are published – concluding review	Monday 1 September 2015
Stage six	Electoral Matters Committee resolves to make a Reorganisation Order	One month later Tuesday 7 October 2015 (provisional date)
Stage seven	Report outcome to Full Council	18 November 2015 (provisional date)

Considerations

The final recommendations for this review may include:

- Future boundary area changes for each Parish Council.
- Future electoral arrangements with regard to Parish Warding and names of electoral areas.
- Future number of Councillors for each Parish Council.
- Implementation of any Orders as a result of the Review and arrangements for when the Order comes into force.
- Financial arrangements and division of any assets.
- Any other matter not mentioned here that arises during the consultation period.

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General Information about this review

Electorate forecasts

The Council will use the Register of Electors published on 1 September 2014 in providing the existing parish/parish ward electorate figures at the commencement of the review. A revised set of figures will be necessary due to the implementation of The Bromsgrove (Electoral Changes) Order 2014⁷, which was as a result of a wide-scale Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review of electoral arrangements in Bromsgrove. These revised figures will be published on 1 December 2014.

When the Council comes to consider the electoral arrangements of the parishes in this area, it is required to consider any change in the number or distribution of the electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts. Electorate forecasts have been prepared by using information gathered from various Council sources.

It is the Government's guidance that these forecasts should be made available to all interested parties as early as possible in the review process, ideally before the formal commencement of the review so that they are available to all who may wish to make representations.

Population estimates will be used to apportion assets where significant changes, including the creation of new parishes, are recommended.

The September figures and projected forecasts are presented in Table 1 overleaf.

The present and future structure of Clent and Hagley Parish Councils and their electoral arrangements

Following its review during 2012 – 2013 the LGBCE published its final recommendations in relation to the 'New Electoral Arrangements for Bromsgrove District Council'. The document set out new District Wards and changes to associated Parish Council Ward arrangements. These will come into force as of 1 December 2014 as detailed in The Bromsgrove (Electoral Changes) Order 2014⁸.

The 2014 Electoral Changes Order introduced new Parish Warding arrangements for Clent and Hagley Parish Councils. A comparison between existing and the new arrangements is set out in Table 2 overleaf. It should be noted that prior to this order neither Parish Council had Parish Warding arrangements and these are important considerations to be included in the Review.

⁷ Appendix 5 The Bromsgrove (Electoral Changes) Order 2014

⁸ Appendix 5 The Bromsgrove (Electoral Changes) Order 2014

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Table 1 Electorate Forecasts*

Name of Parish	Electorate as of 1 Sept 2014	Projected Electorate 2018	Ward District (Current)	Polling Districts (Current)	County Division	Notes
Clent	2006	2380	Furlongs	FLB & FLC	Clent Hills	Currently an un-warded Parish - which will become warded on 1 December 2014 as a result of the LGBCE review.
Hagley	3705	3705	Hagley	HAA	Clent Hills	Currently an un-warded Parish - which will become warded on 1 December 2014 as a result of the LGBCE review.

*A new set of figures will be made available as part of the consultation on Publication of the Revised Register of Electors. The new figures will take into account any Parish Warding arrangements.

Table 2 Parish/Parish Warding Arrangements

Parish/Parish Ward - Existing	Existing Register	No. of Seats	Total Cllrs	2015 NEW Arrangements	No of Seats
Clent	FLB FLC	N/A	9	Clent Parish, Clent East Parish Ward	4
				Clent Parish, Clent West Ward	5
Hagley	HAA	N/A	13	Hagley Parish, Hagley East Parish Ward	6
				Hagley Parish, Hagley South Parish Ward	1
				Hagley Parish, Hagley West Parish Ward	6

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Glossary of Terms and explanation of guidance covering this review

What does 'Electoral Arrangements' mean?

An important part of our Review will comprise giving consideration to 'Electoral Arrangements'. The term covers the way in which a council is constituted for the parish. It covers:

- The ordinary year in which elections are held;
- The number of councillors to be elected to the council;
- The division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purpose of electing councillors;
- The number and boundaries of any such wards;
- The number of councillors to be elected for any such ward;
- The name of any such ward

Ordinary year of election

The Local Government Act 1972 states that ordinary election of parish councillors shall take place in 1976, 1979 and every fourth year thereafter. The Government has indicated that it would want the parish council electoral cycle to coincide with the cycle for the district council, so that the costs of elections can be shared. However, any changes which form part of the final recommendation where Council seats are re-distributed, it is possible to reduce the existing term of office to allow mid-term elections and revert thereafter to the 4 year cycle. Any costs associated with mid-term elections are wholly attributable to the Parish Council.

A council for a parish

The legislation lays down the different duties that the Council has with regard to the creation of a council for a parish.

- Where the number of electors is 1,000 or more – a parish council must be created;
- Where the number of electors is between 151 and 999 – a parish council may be created,
- Where the number of electors is 150 or fewer – a parish council cannot be created.

What considerations cover the number of parish councillors?

The Council notes that the number of parish councillors for each parish council shall not be less than five. There is no maximum number. There are no rules relating to the allocations of councillors. However, each parish grouped under a common parish council must have at least one parish councillor.

In its survey, the Aston Business School found that the levels of representation varied and these are included in Table 3.

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Table 3

Electors	Councillors
Less than 500	5 – 8
501 – 2,000	6 – 12
2,501 – 10,000	9 – 16
10,001 – 20,000	13 – 27
Greater than 20,000	13 - 31

The National Association of Local Councils has issued the following guidelines:

Table 4

Electors	Councillors	Electors	Councillors
Up to 900	7	10,400	17
1,400	8	11,900	18
2,000	9	13,500	19
2,700	10	15,200	20
3,500	11	17,000	21
4,400	12	18,900	22
5,400	13	20,900	23
6,500	14	23,000	24
7,700	15	25,000	25
9,000	16		

The Government’s guidance is that ‘each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population geography and pattern of communities’, and therefore the Council is prepared to pay particular attention to existing levels of representation, the broad pattern of existing council sizes which have stood the test of time and the take-up of seats at elections in its consideration of this matter. The government makes the point ‘that the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors’.

Where there has been a history of uncontested elections and/or the need to co-opt members in order to fill vacancies, the Council will give careful consideration to whether the present levels of representation are appropriate or whether there is a ‘democratic surplus’ in a parish.

By law, the Council must have regard to the following factors when considering the number of councillors to be elected for the parish:

- The number of local government electors for the parish;
- Any change in that number which is likely to occur in the five years beginning with the day when the review starts.

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Parish warding

The Act requires that in considering whether a parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of elections of the parish council the Council should consider the following:

- Whether the number, or distribution, of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable;
- Whether it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented on the council.

The Government's advice is that warding of parishes in largely rural areas that are based predominantly on a single centrally-located village may not be justified. Conversely, warding may be appropriate where the parish encompasses a number of villages with separate identities, a village with a large rural hinterland or where on the edges of towns, there has been some urban overspill into the parish.

With regard to urban parishes there is likely to be a stronger case for warding. Urban area community identity tends to focus on a locality, whether this is a housing estate, a shopping centre or community facilities. Each locality is likely to have its own sense of identity.

The Council will be mindful of all this guidance, noting further that each case should be considered on its own merits and on the basis of the information and evidence provided during the course of the review.

Ward arrangements should be clearly and readily understood and should also have relevance for the electorate in a parish. They should reflect clear physical and social differences within a parish. Ward elections should have merit, not only should they meet the two tests laid down in the Act, but they should also be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. They should not be wasteful of a parish's resources.

The number and boundaries of parish wards

In reaching conclusions on the boundaries between parish wards, the Council will take into account community identity and interests in an area. It will consider whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries. Equally, the Council during its consultations in this Review is mindful that proposals which are intended to reflect community identity and local linkages should be justified in terms of sound and demonstrable evidence of those identities and linkages.

The guidance has suggested that a relevant consideration for the Council when undertaking a Review is that district/borough/electoral divisions should not split an unwarded parish and that no parish ward should be split by such a boundary. The relevant legal provisions do not apply to reviews of parish electoral arrangements, but the Local Government Boundary Commission has requested the Council to bear this in mind, which the Council will do.

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The number of councillors to be elected for parish wards

It is an important democratic principle that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimated competing factors, when it comes to the elections of councillors. There is no provision in legislation that each parish councillor should represent, as nearly as may be, the same number of electors. However, the Council considers that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards.

The Council is likewise anxious to avoid a ward being over-represented by councillors as the residents of those wards (and councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the Council. During the process, the Council is committed to consistently showing the ratios of electors to councillors that would result from its proposals.

Naming of parish wards

In the naming of parish wards, the Council will be mindful of existing local or historic place names, and there will be a presumption in favour of ward names proposed by local interested parties.

Reorganisation of Community Governance Orders and Commencement

The Review will be completed when the Council adopts the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order. Copies of this Order, the map(s) that show the effects of the of the order in detail, and the document(s) which set out the reasons for the decisions that the Council has taken (including where it has decided to make no change following a Review) will be deposited at the locations listed at the end of this document.

In accordance with the guidance issued by the government, the Council will issue maps to illustrate each recommendation at a scale that will not normally be smaller than 1:10,000. These maps will be deposited with the Secretary of State at the Department of Communities and Local Government and at the Council Offices listed at the end of this document. Prints will also be supplied, in accordance with regulations to Ordnance Survey, the Registrar General, the Land Registry, the Valuation Agency, the Boundary Commission for England and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The provisions of the Order will be detailed in the Final Recommendations and will take effect for financial and administrative purposes on 1 April 2016.

The new arrangements will come into force at the next ordinary elections to the council which are scheduled to be held in May 2019. However, it is possible to reduce the existing term of office to allow mid-term elections and revert thereafter to the 4 year cycle. Any costs associated with mid-term elections are wholly attributable to the Parish Council.

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Consequential Matters

General Principles

The Council notes that a Reorganisation Order may cover any consequential matters that appear to the Council to be necessary or proper to give effect to the Order.

These may include:

- The transfer and management or custody of property;
- The setting of precepts for new parishes;
- Provision with respect to the transfer of any functions, property, rights and liabilities;
- Provision for the transfer of staff, compensation for loss of office, pensions and other staffing matters.

In these matters, the Council will be guided by Regulations that have been issued following the 2007 Act.

How to contact us

Representations in response to this review should be submitted within the specified timescales detailed above either by letter or email to:

Clent and Hagley Parish Councils Community Governance Review

Electoral Services Manager
C/O Town Hall
Walter Stranz Square
Redditch
B98 8AH

Email democracy@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Tel: 01527 881 421

Website www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/elections

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process, please contact:

Claire Felton
Head of Legal and Democratic Services,
Telephone: 01527 881 429
Email: c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Lizzie Tovey
Electoral Services Manager
Telephone: 01527 881 422
Email: l.tovey@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

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Public Inspection of Documentation

Any documents and associated written representations will be published on the Bromsgrove District Council website www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/elections and will also be available for inspection between the hours of 10:00am and 4:00pm on any normal working day at:

The Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove, B60 1AA	The Customer Service Centre (Dolphin Centre), School Drive, Bromsgrove, B60 1AY
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Details of any representations will also be made available for inspection.

Date of Publication

24 September 2014

Appendices which should be included with this document are:

- Appendix 1 – Petition Map of the Hagley Parish Council proposed Transfer Area
- Appendix 2 – Hagley Parish Council Feasibility Study
- Appendix 3 – BDC Map of Review Area (Coterminous with existing Electoral Arrangements)
- Appendix 4 – List of Stakeholders
- Appendix 5 – The Bromsgrove Electoral Changes Order 2014

Appendix 2

**Hagley Parish Council
Feasibility Study**

FEASIBILITY STUDY

In respect of

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE
REVIEW FOR PROPOSED
BOUNDARY CHANGE TO
HAGLEY AND CLENT
PARISHES**

On behalf of

Hagley Parish Council

Ref: RCA031g

Date: March 2014

rca
REGENERATION

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APPENDICES

Appendix A– Map of Proposed Transfer Area (PTA)

Appendix B – Summary of Community Governance Review (CGR) Process

Appendix C – Hagley Village Strategic Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document objectively assesses the feasibility of a Community Governance Review (CGR) in respect of a proposed boundary change between Hagley and Clent Parishes.

It identifies the background to the proposal and our brief in assessing the feasibility of the proposal. It also analyses the historical development of Hagley as a settlement and the anomalous boundaries that have been created as a consequence of the on-going physical development of the village. Thereafter, it identifies the legislative framework governing proposed boundary changes and explores the factors which are important in the consideration of a CGR. Finally, this document assesses the potential impact which the proposed change in the Parish boundary will have upon the governance of the Proposed Transfer Area (PTA) and the greater community of Hagley.

We conclude that the proposal responds to the current needs of the populous to support strong, recognisable, local governance and demonstrate that the proposal adheres to the guidance set out in the CGR legislation.

On this basis, we recommend on behalf of Hagley Parish Council (HPC) and Hagley Residents Action Group (HRAG) that Bromsgrove District Council undertakes a CGR and that this Review should result in the realignment of the Parish boundaries to include the PTA within Hagley Parish with a target adoption date of 1st April 2015.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Hagley Parish Council (HPC) received a petition from the Hagley Residents Action Group (HRAG) seeking a case to be made by HPC for an amendment to the existing Parish boundary to be presented to Bromsgrove District Council and for the Council to conduct a Community Governance Review (CGR). The amendment sought by HRAG is for the extension of the Parish broadly in line with the Electoral Ward Boundary which would incorporate existing and proposed residential areas to the south east of the A456 Worcester/Kidderminster Road and those around Thicknall Lane. A plan for the proposed boundary change is shown in Appendix A.
- 1.2 HPC considered this request at a Parish Council meeting on 10th February 2014. At this meeting HPC resolved to commission a feasibility study into the impact of transferring that part of Hagley village that is not part of Hagley Parish to the governance of HPC. The area identified in this document as the 'Proposed Transfer Area' (PTA) is currently governed by Clent Parish Council. As such, it was resolved to support HRAG's request on the basis that they believe that the residents of the PTA will be best served from a number of perspectives by the incorporation of their properties within Hagley Parish, thereby coming under the governance of HPC.
- 1.3 This document will assess the feasibility of a CGR and will identify if the Review is in the best interests of the residents in the PTA and Hagley Parish. It will consider whether HPC has the ability to meet the statutory duties of a Parish Council and has capacity to absorb the approximate 1,400 parishioners, meet their needs and address the concerns identified by HRAG in seeking the transfer.
- 1.4 Should this assessment conclude that a Review is warranted, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, HPC will call upon Bromsgrove District Council to conduct a CGR. The Review would, therefore, consider the alteration of the Parish boundaries between Clent and Hagley to add Western Road, Newfield Road and South Road, and the roads leading off them, to Hagley Parish. In addition, the Review would also consider the inclusion of Meadowcroft, Millpool Close, Pinewoods Avenue and parts of Thicknall Lane, Kidderminster Road South and Worcester Road

within Hagley Parish. Finally, the fields surrounding these roads would also be included to ensure that potential future development would not lead to another anomalous boundary and the need for another CGR in the foreseeable future.

1.5 This document will consider, among other things, the following issues:-

- The need for a CGR;
- The basis of the current Parish boundary and the representation of residents within the PTA;
- The relationship of the PTA to Hagley Parish;
- The implications for the residents of the PTA of the Hagley Village Strategic Plan and of HPC's aspirations for a more strategic approach to the sustainable development of the village and to the provision of improved services and facilities; and
- HPC's desire for a more cohesive and dynamic community which embraces the true spirit of Localism, as encouraged through changes in planning and community governance laws.

2.0 CONTEXT

Geographical

- 2.1 The original village of Hagley grew up around St Johns Church. After the construction of the railway in the 19th century, a new settlement (West Hagley) grew up around the Station and along Worcester Road, as a convenient place from which people could commute by rail. This settlement has become larger than the original village and has spread beyond the Parish boundary into the adjacent parish of Clent. In particular, Western Road, Newfield Road and Pinewoods Avenue, together with estate roads leading off them form part of West Hagley but lie in Clent Parish.
- 2.2 The current Parish boundary follows Gallows Brook but this no longer represents an easily identifiable natural break between communities. Gallows Brook flows through the south of Hagley and splits Hagley in two. The continued relevance of the brook as a boundary demarcating two different communities is questionable and, many residents would claim, is no longer relevant. Indeed, the Parish boundary that exists today has been in place since 1888, when Blakedown and Harborough were taken from the Parish and the boundary has hardly been altered otherwise. In fact, the use of Gallows Brook as a Parish boundary in this area can be traced back to the ancient parishes and manors of Hagley and Clent.
- 2.3 HPC supports the view expressed by HRAG that the Parish boundary should encompass the whole of the village of Hagley, including the southern area of west Hagley. They state that this will provide a coherent boundary for a unified village of Hagley removing the anomaly caused by housing development in Hagley in during the 20th century. They also claim that re-alignment of the Parish boundary to encompass the PTA will bring the recently approved application for 70 dwellings on Western Road, the remaining proportion of the Area of Development Restraint and areas identified in Bromsgrove District Council's 2013 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) for possible future expansion within Hagley Parish's demise.

Socio-Economic

2.4 We have considered the socio-economic profile of the PTA in comparison with those of Hagley and Clent. The physical extent of the PTA is broadly the same as the Census Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) Bromsgrove 001a ('the Newfield Road area'). Table 1 highlights that the demographics of the PTA are notably similar to those of Hagley Parish as a whole. The high level of children below 16 years of age and of families and married couples as a whole would suggest that there will be a significant call upon play provision, schools and community facilities from those within the PTA. These similarities are borne out of the fact that the two areas are effectively part of the same community.

Table 1: Demographic comparison between Hagley Parish and the PTA

Table	Hagley Parish	Percentage	Bromsgrove 001a	Percentage
Total Population	4,817		1,419	
16 and over	3,798	79%	1,103	78%
In Employment	2,249	59%	642	58%
Children below 16	1,019	21%	316	29%
All Families	1,427	29%	435	39%
Married Couples	2,218	58%	740	67%
No Qualifications	544	14%	205	19%

Source: Census, 2011.

2.5 Table 2 below concentrates on the economic activity of the LSOAs of Hagley and Clent Village. It highlights the similarities between those living in the PTA, the Haybridge High School catchment area, West Hagley and Hagley as a whole. It also demonstrates the differences between these areas and the Clent & Bell End LSOA.

Table 2: Socio-economic comparison between the PTA and adjacent areas

LSOA code	LSOA name	LSOA no	Claimants Aug-13	Economically Active	%
E01032138	West Hagley, Newfield Road (PTA)	Bromsgrove 001A	11	786	1.4%
E01032139	Haybridge High School Area	Bromsgrove 001B	11	947	1.2%
E01032140	West Hagley	Bromsgrove 001C	10	947	1.1%
E01032141	Hagley	Bromsgrove 001D	10	890	1.1%
E01032136	Clent & Bell End	Bromsgrove 002A	3	852	0.4%

Source: ACORN, 2013.

2.6 This data would appear to support the view that there are marked socio-economic similarities between Hagley and the PTA. The case put forward by HRAG and HPC, therefore, is that the PTA community has similar characteristics to that of the other parts of Hagley Village and is more cohesive with these communities than with those in Clent. This, in their view, provides a clear statistical basis for the transfer of the PTA to the governance of HPC.

3.0 THE ROLE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL AND THE PURPOSE OF THE PRECEPT

- 3.1 Parish councils are the most local form of government. They collect money from Council Tax payers (via the District Council) known as a 'Parish Share' or precept and use this to invest in the area for the improvement of services and facilities. Parish councils take different forms but are usually made up of local people who stand for election as Parish Councillors to represent their area. They can be the voice of the local community and work with other tiers of government and external organisations to co-ordinate and deliver services and work to improve the quality of life in the area.
- 3.2 District councils have a responsibility to ensure that parishes should be viable and should collect a precept that enables them to actively and effectively promote the well-being of their residents and to contribute to the real provision of services in their areas in an economic and efficient manner. Conversely, the precept ought not to be spent on facilities not likely to be used by residents, as applies to the PTA.
- 3.3 Clent Parish Council has no landholdings and there are no other community facilities within the PTA and, therefore, the precept collected within the PTA cannot, as a matter of fact, benefit the PTA. Conversely, there are a wide range of facilities available on the other side of the Kidderminster Road/Worcester Road in Hagley under the governance of HPC and budgeted through the precept raised by Hagley Council Tax payers. Consequently, the use and maintenance of these facilities by residents in the PTA is effectively free of charge at the point of provision and completely subsidised by Hagley Council Tax payers. Indeed, it has been calculated by reference to the precept currently paid, that Hagley Parish residents are paying 120% of the precept that would be payable if the PTA were part of Hagley Parish. This could potentially lead to a situation whereby a funding gap emerges such that HPC would have to ration which amenities are maintained. This, thereby, raises issues over the value for money and effective use of the precept collected by Clent Parish Council in the PTA.
- 3.4 HPC provides a range of services and facilities in the locality, including car parking facilities, a playing field and a cemetery, which are funded from its

precept. These facilities are also used by residents of the PTA, due to their proximity and because there are no equivalent facilities within or in closer proximity to the PTA. Clent Parish Council provides no facilities likely to be used by residents of the PTA other than footpath lighting and notice boards. Instead, it spends funds raised by precept on facilities in Clent and Holy Cross that are unlikely to be used on any consistent basis by the residents of the PTA.

- 3.5 HPC believes that a sustainable community is one which is well run with effective participation, responsibility and leadership. HPC states that it is committed to being representative and accountable with a strategic and visionary leadership that aims for inclusive, active and effective participation by individuals and organisations. On the basis of the current boundary, HPC contends that it is not possible to adequately represent and interact with all those residents of Hagley who rely upon and use the services and facilities which are provided within the village.

4.0 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 A CGR is a review of the whole or part of the Principal Council's (Bromsgrove District Council) area for the purpose of making recommendations with regard to creating, merging or abolishing parishes, the naming of parishes, with electoral arrangements for parishes and grouping arrangements for parishes.
- 4.2 The legislative instrument which governs a CGR is the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007; specifically section 100 of this Act. This Act puts into statute what was proposed in the Government's 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' white paper of 2006. The Act is further supplemented by 'Guidance on Community Governance Reviews' prepared by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in March 2010.
- 4.3 The process of undertaking a CGR is summarised in Table 3 below and in Appendix B.
- 4.4 It has been over 10 years since the last Community Governance Review for Hagley. An electoral review was undertaken by LGBCE in 2013, in which Hagley West's Ward boundary was expanded to include the majority of the PTA. In light of this recent change, it would seem an ideal time to alter the Parish boundary to broadly reflect this, as well as any potential growth as identified in the 2013 SHLAA.
- 4.5 HPC considers it important that electors should be able to identify clearly with the Parish in which they are residents. It considers that this sense of identity and community lends strength and legitimacy to the parish structure, creates a common interest in parish affairs, encourages participation in elections to the parish council, leads to representative and accountable government, engenders visionary leadership and generates a strong inclusive community with a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.
- 4.6 Bromsgrove District Council recently undertook a Community Governance Review to decide whether the Parish of Lickey End should be abolished. The decision for this was undertaken by Bromsgrove District's Full Council who

considered the findings of its Electoral Matters Committee in July 2010. There was no challenge to this as the recommendation followed a request from the community for this course of action to be taken.

4.7 An example timetable for a Hagley Community Governance Review is provided below.

Table 3: Indicative timetable for CGR for Hagley Parish

Stage	Action	Timeline	Outline of Action
1	Report to Full Council	March 2014	Council approves principle of review and its terms of reference
2	Publish terms of reference	April 2014	Council publishes terms of reference and notifies stakeholders of the commencement of the review
3	Invite initial submissions	April 2014 to July 2014	Initial submission invited Consultation/Representation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with parish councils • Consultation with parish and borough councillors • Local groups and interested parties to be consulted • Information pack to be sent as requested Representation/proposals to be sent to District Council
4	Consider Submissions	July/August 2014	Consider Submissions and prepare draft recommendation for report to council
5	Publish draft recommendations	September 2014 to November 2014	Publish draft recommendations for further consultation
6	Make final recommendation	November 2014 to December 2014	Consider further submissions and prepare final recommendations for report to council (26 th November)
7	Publish final recommendations	January 2015	Publish final recommendations and make final order

5.0 ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Issues for Residents

5.1 Whilst a change in a parish boundary may seem unimportant to the layman, in reality it can make a huge difference in respect of which communities residents identify themselves as being part of and community cohesion as a whole; to the quality of service residents receive from their local councillors and parish councils; in respect of the strategic planning of the development of the community; and in terms of the provision of funds towards improving local facilities, amenities and services.

5.2 The Guidance on Community Governance Reviews (para. 52) requires Principal Councils to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:-

- reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- effective and convenient.

5.3 With these requirements in mind, we consider the issues referred to at the beginning of this section in turn.

Identity

5.4 There is significant guidance contained within the aforementioned document that stresses the importance of identity in community governance. Paragraphs 50 and 51 of the Guidance states that:-

"Parish councils continue to have two main roles: community representation and local administration. For both purposes it is desirable that a parish should reflect a distinctive and recognisable community of place, with its own sense of identity. The views of local communities and inhabitants are of central importance.

The identification of a community is not a precise or rigid matter. The pattern of daily life in each of the existing communities, the local centres for education and child care, shopping, community activities, worship, leisure pursuits, transport facilities and means of communication generally will have an influence."

5.5 Further, paragraph 80 states that:-

"The general rule should be that the parish is based on an area which reflects community identity and interest and which is of a size which is viable as an administrative unit of local government. This is generally because of the representative nature of parish councils and the need for them to reflect closely the identity of their communities."

5.6 It is clear that the PTA forms part of the community of Hagley. It is geographically part of Hagley; its residents use the services and facilities within Hagley; and by virtue of the petition which was raised through HRAG, many, and arguably the majority of the residents, consider themselves to be part of Hagley. Therefore, from the perspective of identity, it would appear logical for the Parish boundary to reflect this. Conversely, the residents of the PTA are unlikely to use facilities in Clent and Holy Cross because they are less accessible, as the PTA is separated from Lower Clent by the A491 and from Clent and Holy Cross by an area of fields without any adopted road.

5.7 In geographical terms the paragraph 83 of the Guidance states that:-

"As far as boundaries between parishes are concerned, these should reflect the "no-man's land" between communities represented by areas of low population or barriers such as rivers, roads or railways. They need to be, and be likely to remain, easily identifiable. For instance, factors to consider include parks and recreation grounds which sometimes provide natural breaks between communities but they can equally act as focal points. A single community would be unlikely to straddle a river where there are no crossing points, or a large area of moor land or marshland. Another example might be where a community appeared to be divided by a motorway (unless connected by walkways at each

end). Whatever boundaries are selected they need to be, and be likely to remain, easily identifiable."

- 5.8 Clent Village and the PTA are geographically quite separate and, as such, the issues of one community do not mirror those of the other. The current Clent Parish Councillors reside nearby to Clent village and as such it is likely that they focus their attention on Clent village before the PTA. It would be logical to propose that by transferring the area in question to Hagley Parish, both Clent and Hagley Parish Councils would be better able to concentrate on their own village issues. HPC's aim is to support and enhance a vibrant local community and it considers the community is 'better together' as one rather than split.
- 5.9 It is important to note, given the rumours which accompanied the previous (unsuccessful) attempt to review the boundaries, that the 2007 Act does not provide Bromsgrove District Council with the necessary powers to alter District Boundaries. Therefore, Hagley cannot be absorbed into Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council through a CGR and vice versa, if Dudley MBC were to undertake a CGR, Hagley Parish could not be included in that review.

Representation of Residents

- 5.10 Directly related to this is the issue of resident representation. Again, there is significant text in the Guidance which relates to the need for residents to be adequately represented by their Parish Councils.
- 5.11 Paragraph 15 of the Guidance states:-

"In many cases making changes to the boundaries of existing parishes, rather than creating an entirely new parish, will be sufficient to ensure that community governance arrangements to continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. For example, over time communities may expand with new housing developments. This can often lead to existing parish boundaries becoming anomalous as new houses are built across the boundaries resulting in people being in different parishes from their neighbours.

In such circumstances, the council should consider undertaking a community governance review, the terms of reference of which should include consideration of the boundaries of existing parishes."

5.12 It is because of the expansion of Hagley village into Clent Parish that a boundary change of the kind referred to in paragraph 15 of the Guidance is expedient. With the recent increase in the number of planning applications for residential developments which Hagley and the District as a whole have faced over the past few years, HPC have become proficient in making representations on such applications where they impact upon the local community. With their knowledge of the planning system HPC are, therefore, ideally placed to advise parishioners how best to deal with applications and are able to provide a voice for or against planning applications.

5.13 In the above respect, paragraph 56 of the Guidance continues by saying that:-

"Parish councils can contribute to the creation of successful communities by influencing the quality of planning and design of public spaces and the built environment, as well as improving the management and maintenance of such amenities. Neighbourhood renewal is an important factor to improve the quality of life for those living in the most disadvantaged areas. Parish councils can be well placed to judge what is needed to build cohesion. Other factors such as social exclusion and deprivation may be specific issues in certain areas, and respect is fundamental to the functioning of all places and communities. The Government remains committed to civil renewal, and empowering citizens to work with public bodies, including parish councils, to influence public decisions."

5.14 It is important that local Councillors have a connection with the local area; many of the current Hagley Parish Councillors live or work in Hagley and have a close detailed knowledge of Hagley. This is aided by their personal knowledge about local issues and concerns, exemplified by their close working relationship with HRAG. It is notable that the present HPC has three members living in the PTA, whereas Clent Parish Council has only one.

- 5.15 The Hagley Parish Councillors have a close working relationship with the Hagley Community Association, Hagley Business Association (HBA), self-help and charity groups based in Hagley. HPC are regularly sought as the primary point of public support for issues related to highways works and congestion, policing and planning issues. Many of these representations are made by people living in the Furlongs Ward. HPC is, in particular, working with HBA to improve car parking provision in Hagley.
- 5.16 HPC and its Councillors are apolitical and are free to make decisions based upon merit. This allows the Councillors to concentrate on local issues and frees them from party political battles with other Parish Councillors. Many PTA residents felt that Clent Parish Council and, in particular, certain Clent Parish Councillors did not represent them adequately in respect of recent planning applications which affected them directly. This was looked upon negatively by many of the residents of the PTA and has been the catalyst to bringing the proposed boundary change to its current position.

Funding for Facilities

- 5.17 Paragraph 47 of the Guidance states that:-

"One of the characteristics of a sustainable community is the desire for a community to be well run with effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership. This means:

a) representative, accountable governance systems which both facilitate strategic, visionary leadership and enable inclusive, active and effective participation by individuals and organisations; and

b) effective engagement with the community at neighbourhood level including capacity building to develop the community's skills, knowledge and confidence."

- 5.18 As part of its extensive efforts in producing the Hagley Village Strategic Plan (adopted 2013) (see Appendix C), HPC has identified the main areas of work

that need to be undertaken across Hagley. With this background work, HPC is working towards attaining grant funding for several projects identified in the Strategic Plan. Should the proposed boundary change be granted, HPC will be able to use the increased precept to match fund much larger amounts of grant funding for community facilities thereby increasing the opportunities for development of community facilities. Without such a change, HPC's ability to match fund proposals will be less.

- 5.19 HPC employ the services of a litter picker who has a litter picking routine which incorporates the HPC owned playing fields, Worcester Road, Station Road and Park Road, as well as the alleyways throughout Hagley. The current position is that the litter picking regime is only on a limited schedule. An increased budget would provide for the litter picking regime to be extended to wider public areas and would reduce the costs of litter picking on the existing Hagley residents. Current precept paid by the Furlong residents does not contribute to keeping the playing fields and streets neat and tidy but is spent on Clent Village upkeep.
- 5.20 The majority of community facilities used by residents of the PTA lie in Hagley Parish (see Tables 4 and 5 below). This includes a shoppers' car park and playing fields provided by HPC. The Community Centre, adjoining the car park and playing fields is managed by a separate committee, but receives financial assistance from HPC, as do the Scouts and Guides groups. The use of facilities by the local junior football team, West Hagley Colts FC, and the maintenance of those facilities is also funded by HPC despite the fact that some of the children who play come from the PTA. In addition, most of the residents of the PTA use the doctors' and dentists' surgeries, pharmacies, the post office and other shops, banks and other community facilities in Hagley Parish. There are no similar facilities in the PTA. With the increased precept HPC would be in a position to provide improvements to the community facilities, as envisaged in the Hagley Village Strategic Plan.

Table 4: Distance to Facilities from Pinewood Avenue Area

Area 1 Pinewood Avenue	Hagley	Clent
	Hagley Primary School - 1.369km	Clent Parochial Primary School - 2.925km
	Hagley RC High School - 967m	No viable alternative
	Haybridge High School and Six Form - 1.123km	No viable alternative
	Hagley Train Station - 1.046km	No viable alternative
	Hagley Free Church	No viable alternative
	Hagley Community Centre - 1.036km	Clent Parish Hall - 2.943km
	Post Office - 897m	No viable alternative
	St Saviours Church- 1.218 km	Broome Parish Church - 3.206km
	Car Parking Facilities - 1.052km	No viable alternative

Table 5: Distance to Facilities from Thicknall Rise Area

Area 2 Thicknall Rise	Hagley	Clent
	Hagley Primary School - 714m	Clent Parochial Primary School - 2.234km
	Hagley RC High School - 882m	No viable alternative
	Haybridge High School and Six Form - 974m	No viable alternative
	Hagley Train Station - 769m	No viable alternative
	No viable alternative	Hagley Free Church
	Hagley Community Centre - 654m	Clent Parish Hall - 2.234km
	Post Office - 392m	No viable alternative
	St Saviours Church - 721m	Broome Parish Church - 2.441km
	Car Parking Facilities - 601m	No viable alternative

Increased Parish Council Precept

5.21 The Parish precept helps pay for the Parish Council to undertake many of the activities listed below and more:-

- Xmas lights
- HBA fireworks
- Twice monthly meetings
- Introduced lead councillor for Highways and road safety
- A lead councillor for IT
- Quarterly newsletter
- Hagley Village News monthly report
- Twitter
- Notice Boards
- Support for village fete
- Support for Bromsgrove street theatre
- Playing fields
- Management of Sweetpool Nature Reserve
- Civil cemetery
- Facebook
- Online consultation
- Charities and voluntary groups
- Involvement with Stourbridge news, Stourbridge Chronicle and Express and Star

5.22 HPC consistently positions itself as the community champions, proactively campaigning for the betterment of the community, e.g. the New Homes Bonus being paid to the community at point of impact, and Parish Grant being paid on time as directed by Central Government.

5.23 The difference in precept between Hagley Parish and Clent Parish is negligible. Each Parish Council looks at the cost of running its affairs and then sets the level of required finance. This is the 'Parish precept' – the sum of money, part of the Council Tax, which the District Council collects from households within the Parish and then pays back to the Parish Council. The present annual precept for HPC is

approximately £70,000 (2013/2014). It is predicted that the PTA provides an estimated £25,000 toward Clent Parish Council. With this precept HPC will be able to spend more money on improving the facilities in Hagley and provide a more robust service, centralized around the new community centre, as visualised in the Hagley Village Strategic Plan. It will also be able to improve the funding of the library service, community bus and refurbishment of the West Hagley Colts FC changing rooms.

Issues for Bromsgrove District Council and Worcestershire County Council

- 5.24 District and County Councils have had to make cutbacks and find savings rather than take on more responsibilities. Significant costs have been stripped from budgets resulting in equally significant cuts in services. Increasingly, the emphasis is on different ways of delivering services and this often means that parishes must do more for themselves, often unfunded. By altering the Parish boundary, this would provide HPC with a solid base from which to consider producing a Local Neighbourhood Plan for the enlarged Parish and where to allocate future grant funding, as well as meeting its strategic goals.

Budget Cuts and Protecting Local Facilities

- 5.25 More recent District and County budget cut backs have increased the pressure on the Parish Council to keep services open in Hagley. This is currently reflected in the County Council review of Library Services in Hagley which is considering all options, including its closure. There is increasing pressure upon HPC to support the continuation of the Library Service through funding and management. The Library is the only one on the western side of the M5 in the District and is used by many people, including those from outside Hagley. The following table indicates the type and amount of usage.

Table 6: Library Statistics	
Visits to library Per Annum	43,725
Enquiries Per Annum	7,500
Issues	62,600
Computer Bookings	2,150
New Members Per Annum	380

- 5.26 It has recently been resolved that HPC will work with WCC on an action plan and future operating agreement which will result in HPC funding the maintenance of the library building. This will result in a precept being submitted to take into account the funding required to keep the Library and Information Centre open.
- 5.27 Similarly, there is a Worcestershire County Council consultation on funding subsidies to the bus operators. Following previous consultations, a number of services have either been scaled back or cut altogether. There is nothing to suggest that this will not be the same outcome in this current consultation. Reducing or removing the service leaves communities such as Hagley isolated and dependent on private vehicles or services such as the 'Hagley Help Line'. HPC is under increasing pressure to subsidise any public bus service that comes through Hagley. Therefore, increased funding and wider community support would ensure the service has greater potential to continue being supported fully at the point of use.

Work with Local Groups

- 5.28 HRAG, which includes members from the PTA, are a body that represent the interests of local people in the area. The residents of the area are supported by the Action Group and have shown, by their petition that they want to be included in Hagley Parish and represented by HPC. The effective way to achieve this is to enlarge the Parish boundary to include the PTA.
- 5.29 HPC and HRAG have worked together on several occasions, recently in opposition to the Cala Homes planning application. The strong connection between the two bodies highlights the important work HPC does with and on behalf of the community. With such a close connection to a grass roots group like the Action Group, the Parish Council is able to identify local issues and bring them to the attention of Bromsgrove District Council, providing a voice for the whole of Hagley's community.
- 5.30 By altering the Parish boundary between Hagley and Clent, Bromsgrove District Council will produce a cohesive boundary tied to firm ground detail, removing an anomalous boundary brought about due to housing development undertaken since the boundary was last altered. HPC sees this as an opportunity to deliver a strong, inclusive and voluntary sector that has excellent civic values, responsibility and pride. Sense of place that delivers a positive feeling enhancing local character and local distinctiveness would be formalised. This will lead to improvements in community cohesion brought about by the continued close working relationship between HRAG and HPC.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 As detailed in the document above there are many positive outcomes from including the PTA within HPC's area of administration. From providing assistance to residents' groups to improving and maintaining local facilities in the face of district-wide cuts.

6.2 The parish boundaries between Hagley and Clent have been identified as anomalous by the HRAG. The legislation surrounding CGRs identifies this as an important reason to undertake one in this instance. As such the boundaries must be changed to alter this anomaly and provide a coherent boundary which is easily identifiable. This would encompass the whole of Hagley within the same parish, thus removing the anomaly whereby two neighbours are separated by parish boundaries.

6.3 Paragraph 179 of the Guidance addresses the issue of variations between parish boundaries and District Electoral Wards when it states:-

"In the interests of maintaining coterminosity between the boundaries of principal authority electoral areas and the boundaries of parishes and parish wards, principal councils may wish to consider as part of a community governance review whether to make consequential recommendations to the LGBCE for related alterations to the boundaries of any affected district or London borough wards and/or county divisions."

6.4 By altering the Parish boundary this would also accord with the recent LGBCE district electoral ward boundary change, which will come into force before the 2015 elections. As such, by not altering the parish boundaries to reflect the ward boundaries, this would create confusion amongst local voters. This would result in a loss of community cohesion, as those within the PTA would be included in the Hagley West Ward when it comes to voting for MP's but would not be included when it comes to voting for local councillors in Hagley.

- 6.5 Furthermore, by not altering the Parish boundary, Bromsgrove would create animosity between the PTA residents and the current Hagley residents. The PTA residents receive the benefits of living in Hagley but without any of the cost. This has led to the current Hagley residents precept paying 120% of the cost to maintain local amenities. This will eventually lead to a funding gap due to the increased usage of local facilities, especially with the two new residential developments soon to start construction. As such by including the PTA there would be an increase in funding for local facilities, including keeping the library open.
- 6.6 Pursuant to Section 93 of 2007 Act, the outcomes of this Review should bring about improved community engagement, a more cohesive community and better local democracy and should result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services. Taking into account the original petition, the majority of comments received and the number of residents in support of this proposal, it would appear that the alteration of the Hagley and Clent Parish boundaries would achieve this.
- 6.7 In conclusion, the arguments for change far outweigh the arguments to continue the status quo. The government legislation positively encourages councils to combat these situations, through the 2007 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act and the local residents have come forward identifying this as a key issue they want dealt with. On the basis of the above evidence, it is our conclusion that Hagley Parish Council on the behalf of HRAG should formally request that Bromsgrove District Council publish a Reorganisation Order to alter the Hagley and Clent Parish Boundaries with the 1st April 2015 the target date for adoption.
- 6.8 On the basis of the assessment undertaken as detailed in this document, we would recommend that:-

From the evidence considered there would be tangible benefits to the Parish Council, District Council and, most importantly, the residents of Hagley as a whole for the alteration of the Parish boundary to include the PTA within Hagley Parish.

Appendix A – Map of Proposed Transfer Area

Appendix B - Summary of Community Governance Review (CGR) Process

Appendix C – Hagley Village Strategic Plan

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Lizzie Tovey
Electoral Services Manager

27th January 2015

Dear Lizzie

Community Governance Review

I am replying to your letter 3 November seeking the views of the community regarding the proposed transfer of a parish boundary between Clent and Hagley Parish Councils

Clent Parish Council is a reluctant participant in this review as we have not asked for it to take place and believe the residents who live within the area concerned, Area A / Clent West from May 2015 will receive a level of service which cannot be bettered through a transfer to Hagley Parish Council. This Parish Council is not therefore seeking any change in the boundary.

There have been Boundary reviews in the past, the last one occurring in 2002. On each occasion there has been a significant majority voting in favour of remaining within the Parish of Clent. In the view of the Parish Council nothing has changed to warrant another review. It is argued by some that by transferring to Hagley Parish Council (HPC) the extra parish precept paid to HPC can be spent on community facilities in Hagley. Clent Parish Council counter this by arguing that the precept should be spent on looking after our environment and keeping the parish tidy through maintenance, and safe with good street lighting. The precept that is paid to Clent Parish Council currently funds:

- Hedge cutting and maintenance
- Grass cutting of verges and open spaces
- Keeping footpaths clear
- Street lighting maintenance and renewal
- Grants to local groups or facilities where appropriate.

We ask that you also take into consideration that from the next Parish Council elections in May 2015, Clent Parish Council will have 9 Councillors as now but they will be split into two Wards as follows:

- 5 Councillors to represent Clent West – this is area A on the map.
- 4 Councillors to represent Clent East – this is Clent Village.

Parishioners of Clent Parish who live in Hagley, Area A will therefore be able to elect 5 people to represent their interests on the new Council and this should dispel any sense of disenfranchisement that some may currently feel.

Agenda Item 4

We are aware that not all of our parishioners will agree with the views of their Parish Council expressed in this letter but equally there are many who do and for this reason we understand the requirement to seek views from as many people as possible and especially those people most affected by the change.

We also believe that it is those parishioners who live in Area A whose views are the most important as it is they who will be most affected by any change of boundary. Their collective view should therefore have precedence over the views of other residents in Hagley and Clent and both Parish Councils.

Kind regards

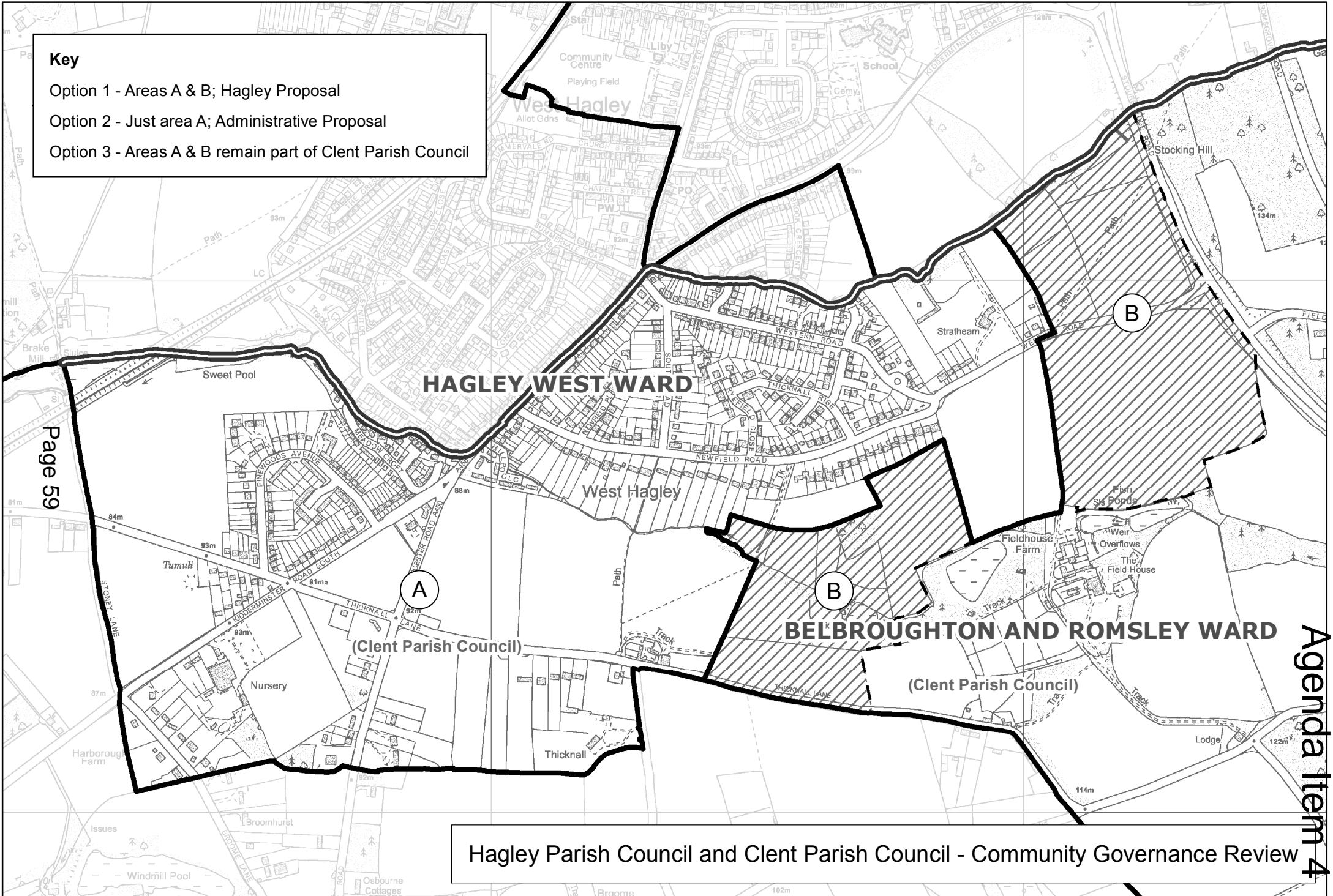
Nick Sugden
Chairman Clent Parish Council

Key

Option 1 - Areas A & B; Hagley Proposal

Option 2 - Just area A; Administrative Proposal

Option 3 - Areas A & B remain part of Clent Parish Council



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Hagley Parish Council and Clent Parish Council - Community Governance Review

Agenda Item 4

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2nd February 2015

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Our report of voting for the above ballot which closed at 5pm on Friday 30th January 2015 is as follows:

Number of eligible voters:		3,087
Votes cast by post:	1,103	
Votes cast online:	213	
Total number of votes cast:		1,316
Turnout:		42.6%
Number of votes found to be invalid:		1
Total number of valid votes to be counted:		1,315

Result

<p>Option 1</p> <p>To adopt the proposed changes set out in the petition submitted by Hagley Parish Council and transfer the areas on the map identified as A & B from Clent Parish Council to Hagley Parish Council.</p>	992	75.4% of the valid vote
<p>Option 2</p> <p>To adopt the administrative proposal and transfer the area on the map identified as area A from Clent Parish Council to Hagley Parish Council. This is an administrative option because it ensures area A remains coterminous with the District Ward Boundary.</p>	60	4.6% of the valid vote
<p>Option 3</p> <p>No changes are undertaken at all which mean that A and B remain part of Clent Parish Council.</p>	260	19.8% of the valid vote
<p>Option 4</p> <p>Something different.</p>	3	0.2% of the valid vote

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Results of Bromsgrove District Council open consultation

<p>Option 1</p> <p>To adopt the proposed changes set out in the petition submitted by Hagley Parish Council and transfer the areas on the map identified as A & B from Clent Parish Council to Hagley Parish Council.</p>	<p>345</p>
<p>Option 2</p> <p>To adopt the administrative proposal and transfer the area on the map identified as area A from Clent Parish Council to Hagley Parish Council. This is an administrative option because it ensures area A remains coterminous with the District Ward Boundary.</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>Option 3</p> <p>No changes are undertaken at all which mean that A and B remain part of Clent Parish Council.</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>Option 4</p> <p>Something different.</p>	<p>0</p>

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Appendix 7

Summary of comments included in responses submitted to B.D.C.

1. The people who should vote should be those in Wards A and B only to decide whether they wish to be part of Hagley as due to the number of houses in Hagley West ward, they are bound to out-vote areas A & B
2. s92 of the Local Government etc Act 2007 provides that the review may make a recommendation to the Electoral commission for consequential changes to district ward boundaries.
3. With 53% of Clent's parishioners living in Hagley West and 80% of their budget spent in Clent village I believe there is a case for the parting of the ways and Clent should be encouraged to support themselves allowing West Hagley residents to financially contribute to Hagley parish Council, whose facilities they use on a daily basis.
4. I live in Clent Parish and I wish to stay in Clent Parish. Had I wished to live in Hagley parish I would have bought a house in Hagley Parish but that is not what I want.

In my opinion the proposal is akin to Russia's interest in the Ukraine, trying to invade land outside its boundary. Hagley, which has almost run out of development land would be better off if the invasion was successful but not the Clent parishioners.

My understanding of the "vote is that all Hagley Parish residents have a vote as do all the residents of Clent Parish and not just those affected by the proposal. As there are substantially more residents /voters in Hagley parish then surely the outcome is a foregone conclusion.

I feel a member of an oppressed minority.

5. [There was a lengthy complaint at how poorly Clent Parish Council had responded to a matter of concern raised by a Clent parish Council resident regarding a road safety issue.]

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