BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2021
AT 6.00 P.M.

MICROSOFT TEAMS - VIRTUAL

MEMBERS: Councillors M. Glass (Chairman), R. J. Hunter (Vice-Chairman), S. R. Colella, R. J. Deeming, S. G. Hession, L. C. R. Mallett and M. Middleton

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 29th September 2020 (Pages 1 - 2)

4. Community Governance Review for Proposed new Parish within the current Stoke Parish Area (Pages 3 - 34)

5. Polling Station Changes - Verbal Update

6. 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

Parkside
Market Street
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B61 8DA

25th January 2021

If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
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GUIDANCE ON VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic Bromsgrove District Council will be holding this meeting in accordance with the relevant legislative arrangements for remote meetings of a local authority. For more information please refer to the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police Crime Panels meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

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Notes:

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B R O M S G R O V E D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

MEETING OF THE ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

29TH SEPTEMBER 2020, AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors R. J. Hunter (Vice-Chairman), S. R. Colella, R. J. Deeming, S. G. Hession and M. Middleton

Officers: Mrs. C. Felton, Mr D. Whitney and Ms. A. Scarce

6/20 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were received form Councillor M. Glass and L. Mallett.

7/20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

8/20 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Matters Committee held on 3rd September 2020 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Matters Committee held on 3rd September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

9/20 **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW FOR A PROPOSED NEW PARISH WITHIN THE CURRENT STOKE PARISH AREA**

The Electoral Services Manager presented the report and reminded Members that they had requested sight of the covering letter and questionnaire prior to it being sent out to residents.

It was noted that the covering letter provided would include a map showing where the parish would split and details of the precept. It was also hoped that the questionnaire would be available online. A question had also been included to show which Ward the people returning the questionnaire were from.

Members commented that both the letter and questionnaire were clear and concise. The explanation of the process within the letter was also useful in order to understand why residents were being consulted and the process that would be followed.

It was also confirmed that a pre-paid envelope would be provided for the return of the questionnaires.

Following a further brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that the letter and questionnaire for the Community Governance Review consultation (as attached at appendix 1 to the report) be approved.

The meeting closed at 6.12 p.m.

Chairman

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

2 February 2021

Community Governance Review for proposed new parish within the current Stoke Parish Area

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Denaro Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
Ward(s) Affected	Avoncroft, Rock Hill
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	Yes
Not a Key Decision	(Electoral Matters Committee has full devolved powers)

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

1.1 Members are asked to review the results of the consultation regarding a valid petition from Residents of the Stoke Heath Parish Ward (polling district RHA) of Stoke Parish Council, requesting that a Community Governance Review (CGR) be carried out on 'Making that area known as Stoke Heath Ward (RHA) a civil parish separate from Stoke Parish Council' and produce draft recommendations to be further consulted on in stage three of the CGR to be held 15 February to 17 May 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are asked to note the results of the consultation undertaken as a result of a valid petition regarding a parish separate from Stoke Parish Council consisting of polling district RHA.

2.2 Members are asked to consider and decide on the draft recommendations to be further consulted upon, either that

1) **the changes in the petition be adopted;**
2) **no change be undertaken; or**
3) **that an alternative proposal from the Committee be adopted.**

2.3 Members are asked to consider how the consultation on the draft recommendations be carried out.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

3.1 There will be a cost for the second consultation exercise, but this can be met from existing budgets.

Legal Implications

3.2 On receipt of a valid petition, the Council has a responsibility to undertake a CGR 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

3.3 Section 93 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.

Section 93 (6) provides that the council must "take into account" any representations received in connection with the review as one element of these considerations.

3.4 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

Service/Operational Implications

3.5 At the meeting of this Committee on 29 September a letter and questionnaire were agreed for the households within the Stoke Parish area. This questionnaire was also made available electronically via the District Council webpage dedicated to the review. In addition responses where invited from any other interested parties.

3.6 The consultation was due to be open from 14 October until 14 December but this was extended until 28 December because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Consultation Results

3.7 Consultees were asked the following questions:

- Do you think that there should be a new Parish created from the current Stoke Heath Ward?

- Do you think Stoke Parish creates a feeling of local community including for electors in Stoke Heath? (Consultees were further asked why they had given their particular answer)
- If a new parish were created would you be interested in standing to become a Parish Councillor?
- If the changes happen would you like to suggest names for the Parishes?
- Would you like to make any further comments?

3.8 There were 265 paper forms returned and 53 returns were made electronically through the website. This represents a 15% return from all households. In addition, there were submissions from the Parish Council and from a resident of the parish.

3.9 Returns were recorded so that Members of the Committee can appreciate which parish ward the answers relate to. RHA being Stoke Heath Ward and AVA/AVB being Stoke Prior Ward. Whereas the letters had the household polling district recorded on them, it was up to the person completing the questionnaire online to complete which Parish Ward they were in.

3.10 Question one asked:

Do you think that there should be a new Parish created from the current Stoke Heath Ward?

Answer	Post Reply		Website Reply			Total	Ward Split	
	RHA	AVA/AVB	RHA	AVA/AVB	None Recorded		RHA	AVA/AVB
Yes	40	42	20	4	10	116	60	46
No	49	130	12	3	3	197	61	133

The results show that there was a considerable trend not to create a new Parish. In Stoke Heath Ward the result was almost 50:50 regarding creating a new Parish.

3.11 The second question was:

Do you think Stoke Parish creates a feeling of local community including for electors in Stoke Heath?

Answer	Post Reply		Website Reply			Total	Ward Split	
	RHA	AVA/AVB	RHA	AVA/AVB	None Recorded		RHA	AVA/AVB
Yes	34	101	10	5	4	154	44	106
No	46	59	22	2	9	138	68	61

Things were less clear cut regarding the feeling of local community; with those in Stoke Heath Ward feeling less included. The reasoning for and against a feeling of local community is recorded in appendix 1 (those who said there was a feeling of local community) and appendix 2 (those who thought there is not one).

The main arguments put up in appendix 1 were:

- The central use of the recreation ground
- The Parish newsletter/magazine
- The Events held in the Parish such as fetes and film nights.

In appendix 2 the following subjects, amongst others, were named:

- The Parish Council concentrates on Stoke Prior
- The newsletter puts Stoke Prior first
- Stoke Heath residents feel ignored
- The two areas are different environments

3.12 The third question asked 'If a new parish were created would you be interested in standing to become a Parish Councillor?' This was a clear negative with 277 saying no and only 20 replying in the positive.

3.13 Households were then asked 'If the changes happen would you like to suggest names for the Parishes?' The current ward names were supported by 77% of the respondents. Other suggestions were:

- Stoke Works/Stoke Prior
- Charford South/Stoke
- Avoncroft/Stoke Heath
- Upper Stoke/Lower Stoke
- Stoke Heath North/Stoke Heath South
- South Charford/Avoncroft
- Grafton/Stoke Prior and Avoncroft
- West Stoke/East Stoke

3.14 Consultees were finally asked for any other comments, these can be found in Appendix 3. There were many different remarks included within this question but three items came up a number of times:

- Concerns about costs of Council Tax if a new parish were to be created
- That the area polling district RHA being considered for a new parish does not contain all of Stoke Heath (several consultees suggested in should contain polling district AVB as well as RHA)
- That the number of councillors representing each current ward should be reviewed.

3.15 There were a number of returns that used the questionnaire to comment on unrelated items which are not included in the appendices.

3.16 The letter from the Parish Council is attached in appendix 4. They are supportive of the status quo for several reasons that are listed in the letter.

3.17 The correspondence from a resident is in appendix 5 who is for the creation of a new parish and addresses, amongst other items, community identity.

Draft Recommendations

3.18 Option 1 is the proposal in the petition: to create a new parish from the Polling District RHA.

3.19 A consequence of option 1 is that Stoke Parish would then become the area encompassed by Polling Districts AVA and AVB. Electoral arrangements for parish any warding within the revised parish council areas, parish names and determining the number of parish councillors would have to be considered.

3.20 Option 2 is for no change.

3.21 Option 3 is for the Committee to make an alternative recommendation based on the results of the initial consultation.

Second Consultation

3.22 The agreed timetable states the second consultation on draft recommendations is due to commence on 15 February until 17 May 2021. Members of the Committee are required to decide how the consultation should be carried out bearing in mind this part of the review covers the election period for 2021.

Customer/Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.23 In conducting the review the Council will ensure that electoral equality is taken into consideration.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 The Act requires that the CGR must be completed within 12 months of the validation of the petition. No amendments of the act have been made due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation so the CGR still needs to be completed within the statutory timeframe.

4.2 It is not anticipated that the current situation will impact on the completion of the review. Meetings of the Committee can be held remotely. All other aspects of the review will be able to take place as they would do for any other CGR, as the

process is based on consultation.

4.3 In terms of Human Resources risks, the timetable for the review is concurrent with the election period in 2021 and use of officer time during the election period needs to be considered.

5. APPENDICES

1 Reasons for households having a feeling of local community
2 Reasons for households not having a feeling of local community
3 Other Comments Received from the consultation
4 Stoke Parish Council submission
5 Resident submission

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- DCLG Guidance
- Relevant Statutory provisions

7. KEY

N/A

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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Appendix 1

Number	Q2 Creates a feeling of local community		Polling District
SP2	Yes	The input from all parishes has beneficial effects. It would dilute the benefits for both parishes	AVA
SP9	Yes	We have our own church and village hall and we would lose use of.	AVB
SP16	Yes	The present parish is not unduly large and with the right governance should be able to include the needs of the whole community.	AVB
SP17	Yes	Amenities for Stoke Heath residents	AVB
SP18	Yes	Having moved to Stoke Prior 4 years ago the feeling of local community was excellent compared to large suburb.	AVA
SP19	Yes	They use the facilities of the whole parish even if they are not situated in that ward. There is a play area really close by and flower boxes across the whole parish, have the back up of a parish council for back up in issues.	AVA
SP22	Yes	Regular newsletters and in previous years events for the public, plant tubs across the parish.	AVB
SP24	Yes	Costs of services spread out over higher number of households.	AVA
SP26	Yes	Over the last few years we have had a fete, films in the park and carol singing all at Stoke Heath each year. We also get the community link each month with more local information.	AVB
SP27	Yes	Community magazine	AVB
SP32	Yes	We have our regular communications for the P.C including some personal discussions where applicable.	AVA
SP33	Yes	As I attend doctors in parish and use shops etc. Also some elected members live in Stoke Heath.	AVB
SP36	Yes	Our current Parish council works across all the community to provide excellent services and projects for all.	AVA
SP39	Yes	Considering their limited powers they are ok	AVB
SP45	Yes	The two parishes are very different one rural, one more urban so needs are different.	AVA
SP46	Yes	I would hope Stoke Parish looks after the whole community equally	AVA
SP48	Yes	There has always been the feeling of community in Stoke Prior, people are friendly and look out for each other.	AVA
SP53	Yes	Community events	AVB
SP56	Yes	Local notice board, Local publication	AVA

SP58	Yes	Prior to COVID-19, the various events (films, tai chi, summer fetes, Christmas celebrations etc)were excellent and well received and attended by Stoke Heath residents.	AVB
SP59	Yes	Events are held opposite Hanbury Turn	AVA
SP60	Yes	Regular parish council news letters	AVB
SP63	Yes	Helps support local community groups covering whole parish. As a former parish councillor I very much doubt Stoke Heath would attract enough candidates. Those promoting separation are very much influenced by personal issues. Most issues cover whole of existing parish e.g. footpaths and presenting common view to BDC and WCC	AVB
SP68	Yes	Lots of amenities and social events are arranged and placed in Stoke Heath	AVA
SP69	Yes	A connection with both as an extension of facilities shared. Economic benefits and more economical.	AVA
SP73	Yes	Because we talk to each other and keep each other informed of what is happening in the Parish	AVA
SP77	Yes	Events are held opposite Hanbury turn which is centre of the parish.	AVA
SP79	Yes	We are regularly informed as a parish	AVA
SP81	Yes	The parish council promote all events/activities across all the parish and many residents of Stoke Heath attend these.	AVA
SP85	Yes	The present parish council appear to be very fair in the way that they offer amenities and services throughout the parish.	AVA
SP101	Yes	Past history of the area helps to bind the area together. Catchment area of The First School.	AVA
SP102	Yes	The needs of Stoke Heath are entirely different from those of Stoke Prior/Stoke Works. As long as this does not incur more cost to Stoke Prior Parish.	AVA
SP107	Yes	Because it represents both Parishes	AVA
SP109	Yes	Film nights, litter picking, Community News	AVB
SP110	Yes	In 26 years in the Parish I think general services & facilities have improved.	AVA
SP111	Yes	Always been happy with living in Stoke Heath	AVB
SP117	Yes	Only recently moved but can already sense the community feel	AVA
SP118	Yes	All residents of the 2 Stokes are one community and even events are centralised at Stoke Heath recreation ground. There is no conflict at all.	AVA
SP123	Yes	They get a better deal than we do out here in Stoke Works, but still yes	AVA
SP125	Yes	We are all part of the Stokes. That said there maybe small factions who do not like our aims and ideas.	AVA
SP127	Yes	Shared events, recreation ground central to both and used by people from both areas.	AVA

SP131	Yes	Feel the Stokes is one family, one area	AVA
SP133	Yes	Local events and locations for these events centred at a central point in the parish.	AVA
SP134	Yes	We have lived here for 26 years and are happy with the way things are run by the local Parish Council	AVB
SP139	Yes	We have lived here for sixteen months and community spirit is good for all.	AVA
SP147	Yes	Since moving to the area we have enjoyed the community.	AVA
SP149	Yes	Local Community paper and welcome down at church. Events publicised for local community	AVB
SP150	Yes	They maintain play area and park at Stoke turn for residents to use. They also put on events such as open air films etc when not in COVID-19. For residents parish also maintain right of way	AVB
SP154	Yes	Funding for the Hanbury/Redditch Rd Rec area creates a focus for the parish which is in the Stoke Heath area and they would certainly like to continue to participate in forthcoming events there.	AVA
SP155	Yes	Contact through the parish magazine keeping us informed	AVB
SP157	Yes	Following up concerns of local people	AVA
SP158	Yes	Yes but I feel that there could be more investment over wider areas of the community.	AVA
SP160	Yes	The current Parish has councillors from Stoke Heath	AVA
SP164	Yes	Due to the close proximity Stoke Heath residents can equally enjoy/use facilities that are in the Stoke Parish.	AVA
SP171	Yes	It provides the ability to assess local community requirements.	AVB
SP172	Yes	Many facilities provided by The Parish Council for residents of Stoke Heath -i.e. the park, outdoor gym and play area for children-all regularly maintained. Film night provided at no cost at all to residents many of whom come from Stoke Heath area. Would the 'new' parish take on the cost of maintaining the park? I think not!	AVA
SP175	Yes	Unable to answer this as we are fairly new to the area although the Parish Council newsletter does provide some information	AVA
SH6	Yes	So closely connected and all part of one community-waste of effort/time/money.	RHA
SH10	Yes	The parish council has always strived to create a feeling of community. They have an annual open air cinema card service etc. The notice boards are kept up to date.	RHA
SH14	Yes	Local information available when required.	RHA

SH17	Yes	Current topical issues are advised by parish newsletter	RHA
SH19	Yes	The more local the issues the more a PC can do	RHA
SH23	Yes	Local discussions made by local people discussed locally	RHA
SH28	Yes	Festivals and outdoor film screening in park by Hanbury turn. Local people could attend local parish meetings (precovid 19) To engage councillors re local issues - some people don't bother but moan.	RHA
SH34	Yes	Unites us against the people who want to split the Parish	RHA
SH41	Yes	Issue of magazine to keep us informed.	RHA
SH45	Yes	Feel parish is well kept which allows a community feel to it.	RHA
SH49	Yes	As a disabled 90 year old widow everyone is very helpful. Both offers of help.	RHA
SH54	Yes	Always has done	RHA
SH55	Yes	We are a large community	RHA
SH60	Yes	There is always information in leaflets sent, so feel could get involved if wanted to.	RHA
SH64	Yes	We have a place where parish councillors congregate so we are to put suggestions etc to the councillors at several times in a week.	RHA
SH67	Yes	The community events that happen are nice	RHA
SH74	Yes	Enough to be getting on with. This is not the time for change.	RHA
SH76	Yes	We have plenty of news about Stoke Parish!	RHA
SH80	Yes	Newsletters from The Parish providing info.	RHA
SH81	Yes	We do get the newsletter, but most of the content is in respect of Stoke Prior.	RHA
SH82	Yes	More focus on the very local parish of the area. Could do with a bit more communications though.	RHA
SH86	Yes	Where we an we look out for our neighbours and offer help and support	RHA
W SH1	Yes	There are playparks in Stoke Heath as well as Stoke Prior	RHA

W SH2	Yes	Looking at the whole of the Stoke Heath community (not the arbitrary ward element under discussion) then the existing parish council does create a feeling of local community. The Stoke Heath recreation ground is managed by the PC. As well as the play areas and outdoor gym it hosts events such as Thai-chi, carols in the park and film nights. It has taken action on speeding complaints in the area and serviced requests for additional waste bins. There is also a best Christmas lights competition.	RHA
W SH7	Yes	We have an occasional update via leaflet/booklet drop	RHA
W SH13	Yes	in so far as Parish councils ever truly reach there electors Stoke Parish is no worse than average based on the evidence of works carried out in the community.	RHA
W SH29	Yes	Well maintained Stoke Heath Park: outdoor gym: children's play park: memorial garden: free summer Tai Chi sessions: free film showings: community Christmas carol singing with free refreshments: Christmas Lights competition: notice boards: floral planters: Neighbourhood Watch: free Smart Water kit.	RHA
W SP4	Yes	It is a very local area - Stoke Heath is just a part of Stoke Prior	

A 'W' in front of the number is a return from the website rather than a paper return.

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Appendix 2

Number	Q2 Creates a feeling of local community		Polling District
SP31	No	The only thing that they have done is to give out smart water kits. Excellent. I have not seen any other benefit.	AVA
SP3	No	It is too large at present. A new parish would give a greater feeling of community	AVB
SP4	No	A waste of time and money	AVB
SP6	No	Never heard anything from them and they don't support the arts	AVB
SP7	No	Different environment. Stoke Heath more built up and more in common with Bromsgrove wards Stoke Prior more rural, different game and amenities	AVB
SP11	No	Local community for most people means their immediate neighbours	AVB
SP21	No	My perception is that the existing Stoke Prior PC concentrates on behalf of Stoke Prior, Stoke Works and south of the parish boundary.	AVA
SP30	No	Stoke Heath feels slightly ignored	AVB
SP34	No	I suppose that people making decisions for their own neighbourhood are more focussed and knowledgeable about their environment.	AVB
SP37	No	Geographically Stoke Heath identifies more closely with Bromsgrove town. Most of Stoke Prior is semi rural and priorities for services may differ as a result.	AVA
SP40	No	The area is too socio-economically and culturally diverse to have a cohesive community. Britain in microcosm!	AVB
SP42	No	Every parish meeting or event is done at Avoncroft Stoke Heath so let them have their own parish.	AVA
SP55	No	It is efficient as it is	AVA
SP66	No	We are not aware of the local community	AVA
SP72	No	There is no need to change the present system which is working well.	AVA
SP87	No	No facilities in Stoke Heath - Church, Village Hall, School etc.	AVB
SP94	No	Never feel like Stoke Heath is included but that maybe because of where we live.	AVA
SP95	No	We feel Stoke Prior & Stoke Heath are two separate entities.	AVB
SP98	No	It seems to always be Stoke Prior based information that we receive- not usually much relates to Stoke Heath	AVA
SP103	No	Little communications from Parish Council	AVA
SP104	No	Not representative of community	AVB
SP108	No	The Stoke Heath area always feels left out although many events take place in the are of the playing field by The Cricket Club.	AVA
SP113	No	Stoke Heath less rural feel	AVA
SP115	No	Because when the PC complained about an extension we tried to contact	AVA
SP119	No	Because we never hear anything from them	AVB
SP121	No	Too much emphasis on separate issues "them and "us"	AVA
SP122	No	They see it as Stoke Prior	AVB

SP124	No	I feel the needs of Stoke Heath are more part of the town rather than the village.	AVA
SP132	No	Definitely different areas. Different people different expectations	AVA
SP136	No	Too spread out with pockets of housing	AVB
SP141	No	Stoke Prior needs to stay independent.	AVA
SP146	No	A lot of the newsletter content seems to relate to Stoke Prior and not so much Stoke Heath.	AVB
SP148	No	We are a housing estate rather than a village.	AVB
SP153	No	No communication except at election time.	AVA
SP156	No	To create a feeling of local community you need to get involved and be active in your community. People are too busy, have other interests and family commitments and far less time for others. Our likes and dislikes have changed.	AVA
SP168	No	The parish council do not make enough effort to inform what services they provide	AVB
SP169	No	I feel there is a good community spirit, happy with all events and the parish has worked well for all concerned	AVB
SP174	No	I have only lived here since May and we have mostly been restricted to our homes during that time, so its impossible for me to comment.	AVA
SH1	No	We have no idea what is going on in Stoke Heath	RHA
SH2	No	Don't see the need for any parish council. Never received any communication from them.	RHA
SH3	No	No benefits from the first one & added pressure from raised C Tax would push people over the edge in unprecedented times	RHA
SH4	No	All focus on Stoke Prior	RHA
SH5	No	Never hear anything from them apart from parish letter, they put Stoke Prior first.	RHA
SH7	No	Clearly if people wish to split off they don't feel included.	RHA
SH11	No	I do not think we should not have a PC at all. We have councillors at	RHA
SH12	No	There is it seems a feeling of difference between the Stoke Prior area and the new Stoke Heath area.	RHA
SH13	No	Village atmosphere in Stoke Prior and that is different to Stoke Heath a newest housing development.	RHA
SH20	No	Rarely hear from them	RHA
SH22	No	I prefer our local Stoke Heath parish.	RHA
SH25	No	The only information I recall receiving that helps create a feeling of local community is the "Stoke" Publication which is good. Other than this,	RHA
SH26	No	Lack of community engagement	RHA
SH27	No	It's just another ineffective tier of Local Govt, creating unnecessary extra expense	RHA
SH29	No	It creates a name that neither Stoke Prior nor Stoke Heath actually recognise or feel part of.	RHA
SH30	No	Stoke Parish have kept most of the monies for services in Stoke Parish.	RHA
SH32	No	Every time the parish council magazine arrives through the door, its all about Stoke Prior. You don't hear much about Stoke Heath. It’s a complete	RHA
SH35	No	Because Stoke Heath and Stoke Prior are largely separate from one	RHA
SH38	No	Waste of money	RHA

SH42	No	All we hear is about Stoke Prior, we here in Stoke Heath get nothing. Stoke Heath needs to be heard.	RHA
SH44	No	What has happened to the parish news? Why the 8/4 split	RHA
SH47	No	Stoke Heath has a substantial amount of residents and appears to be left out compared to the rest of the parish.	RHA
SH48	No	Seems to work as it is.	RHA
SH50	No	This is a diverse area and has greater synergy with Bromsgrove than the more rural areas of Stoke Prior. We see no benefit of being part of the parish other than a flower pot	RHA
SH51	No	The community has grown so much we need extra councillors	RHA
SH61	No	The current ward is too big.	RHA
SH62	No	Hard to quantify but I have always felt that many issues highlighted in Stoke Parish news etc. generally does not relate to Stoke Heath	RHA
SH65	No	Why should we be part of Stoke Parish when we live on Stoke Heath and our Ctax goes towards a place that has no connection to Stoke	RHA
SH69	No	Where I live I am closer to Charford and their amenities and make use of those.	RHA
SH70	No	As a resident of Stoke Heath Estate I feel a part of urban Bromsgrove town rather than connected to villages such as Stoke Prior and surrounding	RHA
SH71	No	I think Stoke Heath isn't big enough to need to be on it's own. We are ok to be kept as part of Stoke Prior and keep a balance	RHA
SH72	No	Two communities are different	RHA
SH75	No	We would be better as a separate Parish	RHA
SH77	No	I have no communication from anywhere or anyone. I do not know what is going on.	RHA
SH78	No	Little local engagement	RHA
SH79	No	Too biased towards other areas within the parish	RHA
SH84	No	The demographics of Stoke Heath are so very different we don't feel a sense of community in Stoke Heath. It's been hard enough to get anyone interested in supporting a neighbourhood watch group.	RHA
SH85	No	The bias seems to be towards Stoke Prior	RHA
SH87	No	It's too remote but in terms of the basic local jobs, dog bins grass cutting, planting boxes it seems to work ok.	RHA
SH88	No	There are few opportunities to be involved. More information could be made available mailer, e-letter, mailer	RHA
SH89	No	The current parish does seem to focus on the areas of Stoke Heath. There does seem to be a bias toward Stoke Prior.	RHA
W2	No	Work of the parish council not visible in stoke prior. No consultation with parishioners - e.g. vast sums spent on smart water without consultation. Ideas of parishioners not listened to - e.g. ideas to deter dog fouling. Considering it is a small community, I would say that community spirit is quite lacking and what there is nothing to do with	RHA
W13	No	I don't think a fair consideration is given to this area of Bromsgrove	RHA
W SH4	No	I think Bromsgrove as a whole creates a feeling of community - this depends on the people we come into contact on a regular basis.	RHA
W SH5	No	There is resentment among Stoke Heath residents that an unfair proportion of the budget is spent in other areas of the parish. Stoke Parish is mainly rural but Stoke Heath is urban and has fewer needs,	RHA

W SH6	No	Stoke Parish is too large and fairly remote from the Stoke Heath area.	RHA
W SH8	No	There doesn't appear to be much of a community spirit in Stoke or Bromsgrove from what I can see.	RHA
W SH9	No	No information sent regarding expenditure of the precept and where it is spent, no general local Stoke prior/Stoke Heath information provided	RHA
W SH10	No	They have virtually never been in contact I think they are just a waste of Money. It would be better spend on the Bromsgrove face book community group who honestly do a much better job.	RHA
W SH11	No	Stoke Heath areas AVB and RHA together are a (mainly owner-occupied) housing estate, geographically separate from the rest of Stoke Parish. The rest of Stoke Parish consists of a village and satellite hamlets. Residents in areas AVB and RHA have some social contact with each other in the natural course of events and use the recreation grounds and Avoncroft Arts Centre located at the northern end of Stoke Parish but this socialising does not extend to the larger but less	RHA
W SH12	No	Majority of Parish Councillors are from Stoke Prior and at times must put their Parish interests first.	RHA
W SH13	No	Unfortunately my experience of PCs is that they are generally pretty passive and unable to galvanise much community interest. Not so much a criticism of the PCs but the residents.	RHA
W SH14	No	Not seen any activities organised by the Stoke Parish council that are of benefit to Stoke Heath residents	RHA
W SH15	No	Not made aware of any community events or information that is going on in the parish	RHA
W SH18	No	I don't feel part of a community within the current ward - I have no ties to local schools etc and Stoke Heath is just the part of Bromsgrove	RHA
W SH19	No	I never hear of anything to do with Stoke parish council	RHA
W SH21	No	it may be that their communication is poor but all the correspondence we get is manly about the rural part of the parish.	RHA
W SH22	No	I don't see any evidence of the Parish Council in Stoke heath , any activities always seem to be in stoke prior	RHA
W SH23	No	The newsletter is the only form of communication used with electors. There is no encouragement for electors to attend meetings of the Parish Council or to submit items for consideration at the meetings. Minutes of meetings are not circulated or means of access to them well	RHA
W SH24	No	I really think because the size of Stoke Heath, should have its own personality.	RHA
W SH25	No	We have very little interaction with the Parish except via the Newsletter. I was unable to vote for the Councillors as there was no information available about them. How can I vote when I do not know what /who I am voting for?	RHA
W SH26	No	The focus always seems to be Stoke Prior	RHA
W SH28	No	It seems that the parish is spread out and has different needs.	RHA
W SH32	No	In Stoke parish the 2 communities separate	RHA

W SP2	No	Work of parish council not visible, communication very poor. Parish council money spent without consultation with parishioners - e.g. vast sums spent on smart water without consultation. Ideas of parishioners not listened to - e.g. ideas to deter dog fouling. The mode of communication from parish councillors seems to be the stoke prior network Facebook page (which is actually completely independent of the parish council) and so stoke heath are excluded from this. Considering it is a small community, community spirit is lacking and what there is does not come from the parish council.	
W SP3	No	Because apart from the outdoor cinema held at Avoncroft there are no events that bring the community together. In geographical terms, the parish is also quite disparate, being split between the two major population centres - Stoke Prior and Stoke Heath - which are quite some distance from either other (in parish terms) and then outlying	

A 'W' in front of the number is a return from the website rather than a paper return.

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Appendix 3

Number	Q5 Further Comments	Polling District
SP2	It would seem that increasing the number of Stoke Heath Councillors on the Council would be a way forward	AVA
SP4	Get rid of existing PC as it doesn't do anything for the vast majority of people	AVB
SP5	Seems a waste of resources in these exceptional times. I suggest leave it as it is. I cannot see any benefit just expense	AVA
SP6	Should become less political.	AVB
SP9	We don't need another group of Councillors.	AVB
SP10	We don't wish to pay any more Council tax and if the PC is working why change it. I would imagine it is hard enough to get parish councillors for 1 council let alone 2 The PC office has to close due to circumstances in Stoke Prior probably funding so now is there going to be enough for 2 councils without putting Ctax up.	AVA
SP11	The case that the "petitioners feel that a disproportionate amount of the precept money is spent in the Stoke Prior ward" is simply not made out on the information presented in their communication. The maps which accompany it is quite the most indistinct that I have ever seen. I would like to know how many petitioners there might be. I suspect this may well be a case of tiny minority, causing expenditure and getting excited about something which in reality is trivial. As I have said: Case not made out	AVB
SP14	I think our Ctax could be put to better use than sending out all these letters	AVB
SP15	Happy with the way it currently works	AVA
SP18	My initial feeling is " why is it necessary to create another level of bureaucracy which would cost the ratepayers more and is unnecessary at these difficult times. We do not know why the petition has been raised so very difficult to judge. If residents feel left out then get involved"	AVA
SP19	Regarding the precept not being spent in Stoke Heath that's how administration of my taxes to the government are not always spent locally. Bare in mind a large proportion of Stoke Heath would remain in Stoke parish as historically it went that far unless no parish council was formed costs would rise due to administration.	AVA
SP20	I see no benefit to increase bureaucracy and in particular costs in the community.	AVA

SP21	The" suggested"(shaded green) of the proposed Stoke Heath Parish is NOT representative of Stoke Heath by any stretch of the imagination! Where are the 000'S of properties to the east and west of Hanbury Rd(from the Hanbury Turn to Rock Hill) you cannot call Stoke Heath PC if it is not representing the residents living there! Other properties along Redditch Rd are also seemingly " MISSING"	AVA
SP22	I think the current PC does a good job and I can't see how splitting the budget further and yet having more people involved will make any further difference to services other than spread the budget more thinly.	AVB
SP24	Where as creating a new parish could reflect individual needs more it just introduces more bureaucracy for a small area and means that services could be restricted due to some households making contributions for the same services	AVA
SP31	It should be kept as one parish. Two parish's would cause duplication and unnecessary expense when tendering for services.	AVA
SP32	A waste of public money	AVA
SP33	I do not see the need for creating two parishes when the current one is working very efficiently. Also the cost of doing this paying two lots of councillors/election officers etc.	AVB
SP35	I think that creating extra, smaller parish councils makes no sense. It will create inefficiencies due to its tiny size and end up costing the ratepayers more. If Stoke Heath really feel that they have to create Stoke Parish, then I suggest it makes more sense for them to join an adjoining parish instead, Charford for example.	AVA
SP36	I feel the current Parish serves all the community fairly at the moment. It is a waste of time, money and resources to create another parish. It's not really necessary. Our current council is doing a great job.	AVA
SP41	More dog poo bins are needed in the Stoke pound area-it's a real problem.	AVA
SP42	Why are the homes on Weston Hall Rd called under Stoke Prior when they are in Stoke Works. Stoke Prior was before the railway bridges in Shaw Lane. After was Stoke Works. I have lived in Stoke Works 85 yrs.	AVA
SP46	I think we have a strong voice together rather than fragmented.	AVA
SP47	Local parishes are a waste of time. I asked for the street lights to be repaired and was told the parish had no money. Westenhall Road development money has not been spent around Stoke Prior because PC didn't fight for it.	AVA
SP48	We are going through difficult times with COVID-19. Jobs and businesses all affected. This is not the time to be raising Ctax where this is already high even if it is just the precept.	AVA
SP49	What an awful waste of time and effort. Surely, there are more important things to be focused on.	AVA
SP50	A collective voice is more powerful and I also suspect a split would lead to higher council taxes.	AVA
SP51	By making an additional ward- surely this creates duplication, admin etc. leading to additional costs. Many other businesses etc are merging to make efficiencies and cost savings.	AVA

SP54	Leave it the same	AVB
SP56	Would need further budget information to find out if disproportionate amount of money is spent on Stoke Prior Ward	AVA
SP57	Really feel that whilst we are dealing with a global pandemic there are better things that LG should be dealing with.	AVA
SP58	Rather than a split would it not make more sense to even up the number of councillors from each ward within the existing parish council. I e 6 for Stoke Prior and 6 for Stoke Heath Ward. We feel sure that this would be much fairer and cost effective.	AVB
SP59	I think this is a pointless and costly exercise there is no need a spilt and the proposed boundary makes no sense. It should be larger including all Stoke Heath or not at all.	AVA
SP60	The area shaded green on the map does not include all of Stoke Heath It appears to exclude significant areas of Stoke Heath housing and indeed this property. No evidence has been provided of the current split of expenditure. The claim that expenditure is disproportionate maybe true but has not been substantiated. There is no financial forecast for the proposed Stoke Heath parish. In short insufficient information is provided to reach a decision at this stage.	AVB
SP62	I am against this as there is already a struggle to find people willing to be parish councillors; additionally in these difficult times people do not need the possibility of increased taxes to fund additional needs of councillors.	AVA
SP63	Stoke can support a parish clerk, assistant and web site. Splitting would double admin costs. It is a strategic nonsense on matters like consultation about roads etc to separate the parish e.g. A38 improvements which is the boundary line. It would be unfair for Stoke Prior to finance a playing field largely used by Stoke Heath residents. I was one of the Forelands estate who supports the northern extension of the parish. As said before this petition is basically for a few people with their own agenda and without the ability to deliver on their points.	AVB
SP64	This is a complete waste of time and money!	AVB
SP65	I feel it is unnecessary to create an additional ward. The area is not that large in its entirety and can remain as one parish. It will create 2 wards that will not agree so why complicate this issue.	AVA
SP66	We think this is all a waste of money, leave as it is.	AVA
SP67	Good idea	AVB
SP68	The area proposed on the map is only part of Stoke Heath so it will make a 2 tier system and could cause problems in the future as well as increasing costs when there is no need as the existing parish works well.	AVA
SP69	The separation will lead to more bureaucracy. Delaying procedures and improvements that affect both areas.	AVA
SP72	There is no need to change and incur the costs of any change.	AVA
SP74	Stoke Parish Council do a good job in our opinion	AVA
SP77	Concerned on two counts 1) may have to pay more Ctax and 2) proposed new parish doesn't seem to contain all of Stoke Heath (or may be I have misinterpreted the map)	AVA

SP81	I do not think by splitting the parish will help build a strong community. Many residents of Stoke Heath use public rights of way, recreational space and fields within the Stoke Prior area as well as attend planned activities. Surely by splitting the parish, Stoke Prior will still have to foot the bill for the cleaning/maintenance of dog mess, dog bins, footpaths etc., social space.	AVA
SP82	Pointless bureaucracy. Splitting things up always adds to the operational costs of running things.	AVA
SP84	Unnecessary extra financial burden. Volunteers to stand for Councillor even harder to find from a smaller pool of population. No viable case for any changes has been brought to my attention.	AVA
SP85	The creation of another parish would be a waste of public money, involving payment of a clerk etc. It is often difficult to find enough people to become councillors.	AVA
SP89	Why change something that works fine as it is.	AVB
SP90	We don't think another parish will make any difference to us.	AVA
SP91	From my understanding of your letter, the new Stoke Heath parish is significantly smaller with more concentrated residencies - leaving Stoke Prior with a greater area and less residencies - higher cost to maintain - increase in Ctax.	AVA
SP97	The Parish has spent a lot of money enlarging the Stoke Heath playing field for Stoke Heath residents. If it's split, would it mean they use it but don't pay money to it's upkeep?	AVA
SP101	I disagree with the idea of paying more in my Ctax to pay for the creation of a new parish when the current system works well. This will also add additional layers into Bromsgrove council democratic process which is already confusing!	AVA
SP103	Seems unnecessary change with little ??? Likely increase in cost/household clerks remuneration, premises here for parish council meetings, possible increased election costs. Such issues related to the allocation of spending across the existing parish can be discussed and resolved by the existing PC	AVA
SP105	No. We can see no reason to change things from the current situation and are happy with the current Parish Council.	AVA
SP106	If it's not broken. Don't fix it..	AVA
SP107	Creating two Parishes would only cost More Money, Which is unacceptable.	AVA
SP110	I see no benefit to anybody for a split in the Parish areas. The people in the proposed RHA area would still expect to benefit and use facilities in the AVA & AVB areas.	AVA
SP111	Fragmenting the services could result in a loss of services/benefit to one or both of the parishes.	AVB
SP114	What is the point of PCs at all. I got the same service from Bromsgrove Council as I do from the PC. The only difference is I get charged extra money on my Ctax. Scrap all PCs is my opinion	AVB
SP115	The PC will only work with people who are committed to help local residents, to return calls and to see people face to face not ignoring people!!	AVA

SP118	I believe that any changes would create division and competition between 2 areas that are perfectly happy as one. I also believe that Stoke Prior precept would increase as the new parish would have to support itself leaving Stoke Prior underfunded.	AVA
SP121	The Stoke Heath parish should include AVB area as well. The "Stoke Heath estate" cannot be split in two. It should include the whole estate up to and including Puddle Wharf island, to Hanbury turn and all of Avoncroft. The "needs" and focus of this area are very different to the Stoke Prior village.	AVA
SP125	I would suggest this is down to personalities who do not like living in a big rural met and also think that their community charge will go DOWN!	AVA
SP127	I feel strongly that we should be promoting togetherness and all work together, creating another parish just creates more division, cost and complexity that is not needed.	AVA
SP129	Stoke Heath is amply catered for by Stoke Prior. There is NO need for these proposed changes.	AVB
SP133	I find it quite astounding that this is being considered during the middle of a global pandemic! I would of thought local Councils had more important duties to focus on at this time. I feel money could be spent better elsewhere within the parish. For example the introduction of traffic calming measures along Shaw Lane.	AVA
SP136	Stoke Heath Parish to be extended to include all the properties in Stoke Heath	AVB
SP139	We are not sure from the information given how splitting them would benefit anyone.	AVA
SP142	It appears from the map included not all of Stoke Heath will be covered by the new parish? I have always assumed Stoke Heath starts from the new houses just past The Hanbury Turn pub.	AVA
SP144	I very much feel that we have a county council and a district council, why do we need another layer of bureaucracy with one parish council let alone two.	AVB
SP150	I don’t want money wasted on setting up another parish council when already parished. Not necessary!	AVB
SP156	If there is a feeling of neglect or inconsideration at the council by Stoke Prior representatives against this from Stoke Heath why not introduce equal representation i.e. 6 from each parish.	AVA
SP159	It works well the way it is It's just a few trying to rule the rest.	AVA
SP162	There is no reason given for change! What is the benefit?	AVA
SP163	Do not feel it is necessary or required to create a second parish	AVA
SP164	It would be interesting to see the income and outgoings to establish what is/has been spent in a year.	AVA
SP166	Seems quite a small parish. Surely its better to keep it larger from a cost point of view.	AVA
SP168	Establishing 2 parishes from 1 will incur extra costs in establishing 2 bureaucracies meaning less money will be available for providing services.	AVB
SP169	Feel there is no need for a new parish. Happy with existing persons and they have done a fine job over the years; parting of the 2 would break the community spirit, and what is everyone gaining? For what people pay we all get good value	AVB

SP170	I have listened to the argument from the potential Stoke Heath split campaign. They say they are so different as Stoke Prior is not rural, no rural needs, but to me they are just like Charford i.e. a housing estate-so MAKE THEM PART OF CHARFORD PARISH. I can't see the advantage of making another small parish, parish council etc.	AVA
SP172	I cannot see how the residents of Stoke Heath would benefit from forming a new parish.	AVA
SP173	I believe the parish council would prefer to see the parish remain as it is and I agree. The area I understand is closer to Rock Hill and Charford	AVA
SP175	Stoke Heath proposed council area represents a very small part of the total parish, it doesn't appear to have any great parks or areas to maintain. It is difficult to understand what they feel they would need to make them feel more part of a community. We all cannot be near to local amenities and cost to maintain these are always a large part of the Parish Precept. Any further devolvement of costs would inevitably require the residents to pay more for the services.	AVA
SP176	I am perplexed why its deemed necessary to create a new parish. It has hundreds of years history. They say change improves things for the better but in my experiences its not so.	AVA
SH2	We voted against having a pc originally & have not changed our view that we gain nothing. I have no idea what the current pc does in my area. If the new council is going to cost more we would not be interested in the change. We would like someone to tell us exactly what the current pc actually does.	RHA
SH3	A Very bad idea in my opinion I can't see why this would be even considered in 2020 Surely a waste of paper. Ctax is high enough and many are on furlough and will be for months.	RHA
SH5	I don't want to be in a parish they are just a waste of money BDC should cover everything there are too many layers of government.	RHA
SH6	Think this is not suitable at all especially with COVID-19 19 going on-better things to work on.	RHA
SH7	Creating another PC must inevitably increase admin costs and therefore add to the burden on all rate payers effected. This cannot be right in this time of struggling public finances. Stop whinging and make the council we have work for all.	RHA
SH9	I have only lived in Stoke Heath for 18 months and so far as I can see everything seems to run quite smoothly.	RHA
SH10	Why create two separate parishes with the expenses that will incur-2 debts etc It will also create a divisive community by splitting Stoke Heath in 2 parts. It is not always easy to get people willing to be councillors. It works very well as it is-leave it	RHA
SH11	I think the PC is not needed. We have a councillor at main council.	RHA
SH15	I believe the people who are active in this might have the objective of getting rid of the PC in Stoke Heath area.	RHA
SH16	As pensioners we need to control expenses. Any change would not be in our control	RHA
SH17	This split could be avoided if there is a more equitable split of allegiance on Stoke PC. I.e. 6 for Stoke Prior ward and 6 for Stoke Heath ward	RHA

SH22	Its about time to make the changes and I am looking forward to represent our NEW STOKE HEATH PARISH	RHA
SH25	I think this is a good item to be considered. I would however like to highlight that if Stoke Prior/Works area were unable to "stand on their own 2 feet" when considering the funding they may require - then this option should not be approved as it would cause detriment to the area and residents. I would be happy to pay more to support my local area - get grass cut more often, etc. If you drive around Barnt Green you will see a noticeable difference in regards to how the area is presented when compared to the Stoke parish.	RHA
SH27	No. Already speechless that this suggestion (i.e. for a new "Stoke Heath PC") has been made	RHA
SH28	I personally am happy to remain as we are. The only proviso would be to have 6 parish councillors for Stoke Heath instead of 4. thus an equal division between the two. It would also be beneficial for Stoke Heath residents to be aware of what locally the parish council is responsible for. i.e. roads, paths, hedges etc. As at the moment this is unclear.	RHA
SH30	Stoke parish have dominated Stoke Heath for many years now. The alleyways and hedgerows desperately need attention, and repairs to the footpaths. This could be achieved through our own parish using our own money.	RHA
SH32	If this comes to fruition, I would absolutely object to my Ctax going up and it should never be based on Ctax bands. I am mortgage free but what I pay in Ctax now, I have never paid when paying a mortgage. In this present climate of covid19 I think there re more important things to think about and Ctax rises are the least people want when there are so many people losing their jobs. No-one wants more salt rubbing in the wounds !!	RHA
SH36	I very much doubt if this would increase a feeling of local democracy in Stoke Heath. I do suspect the cost would go up.	RHA
SH38	Just more money to pay out for little or no return.	RHA
SH41	We have elected councillors to voice our opinions for Stoke Heath. If new parish created are those proposing it willing to stand? Depends on increase/decrease in Ctax. Would they provide same services etc as Stoke Heath have?	RHA
SH42	Stoke Heath is an area that needs recognition in it's own right. We have no amenities and very little children's areas. SPEEDING TRAFFIC on Wheatridge Rd NEEDS ADDRESSING NOW. The same for Hanbury Rd and Austin Rd. It's a joke.	RHA
SH46	I have concerns you are looking at this during a time of COVID-19. If this does happen it is obvious tax will increase to cover the extra costs & now is not the time to do this with people struggling and job losses. Please consider the people in the ward and impacts of this decision.	RHA
SH47	Stoke Heath should have a greater say. They have a large community compared to the rest of the parish. Stoke Heath provide more to the coffers of the parish, yet has less councillors. What are the others bringing to the party? I feel that Stoke Heath are subsidising the rural community. They should provide an equal amount -fairness for all.	RHA

SH50	We do not agree with being a parish in the 1st instance and see no benefit from the Ctax we pay for it.	RHA
SH53	Happy with things as they are	RHA
SH54	A waste of time & effort, it's ok as it is. Just another excuse to raise our already extortionate Ctax !!	RHA
SH60	I don't have any problem with staying in the Stoke Prior Parish but can understand why keeping the two combined can be problematic, and therefore happy to go with any changes that enable the parish to work well, providing the best community care possible.	RHA
SH63	At this present time we have more pressing matters with COVID-19. This should be discussed at a later date.	RHA
SH64	We have enough parish councillors to adequately deal with any problems in the parish. We have enough bureaucracy in the present set up in County council, district council etc. We have enough ego seekers we don't need anymore.	RHA
SH66	We were asked our opinion on Stoke Heath being included in the Stoke Prior parish years ago and we and many others said that we didn't feel that Stoke Heath would benefit. WE WERE IGNORED! It went ahead and we pay into a parish that does not include us in anything. Our opinions clearly don't count anyway! We live directly behind the A38 and have also shown our great concern about the widening of the road and air pollution. We will again be IGNORED AND THIS WILL GO AHEAD!!! We have NO FAITH IN BDC!	RHA
SH70	I found this consultation very unclear. Though an educated person, I don't understand the difference between ward, parish and parish ward and looking online including on the map, I'm none the wiser now! There is no before and after map. Is the green area RHA to be split from AVB to the west? Or from AVA and AVB combined? No boundary key. Either way I see no logic in splitting half of the urban Stoke Heath estate (as I see it) from the rest i.e. Cornfield\Furrows\Ploughmans etc are similar in nature to Tythe Barn, Barley Croft, Granary etc. If any logical split were to be made then town and country would be more sensible. Please keep the Worcester Rd\A38\Stoke Heath triangle as 1 entity. Is this proposal undoing the change(Stoke Council combining Stoke Heath & Stoke Prior) made a few years ago? Is Stoke Prior village part of Stoke currently? Perhaps a more fair distribution of the 12 councillors should be considered.	RHA
SH71	I studied the map enclosed and the other wards in Bromsgrove are much bigger. We don't need to be split up and have small wards	RHA
SH73	On the map the green area proposed as Stoke Heath Parish Council does not include the area on the map which is titled Stoke Heath-surely this area should be in the Stoke Heath Parish.	RHA
SH74	This is not the time for distraction in politics; There is enough going on at the moment with days from Brexit and The Pandemic etc. . .	RHA
SH75	We could do with a community in Stoke Heath.	RHA
SH76	£30 It is not a large sum of money to pay for our services as they stand. Why change anything? Stoke Heath would gain nothing by changing it.	RHA

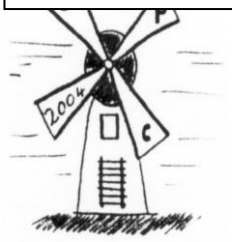
SH77	I pay for too much C/Tax now, I do not regard my council or parish as value for money.	RHA
SH84	We would be intrigued to know what proposals/ideas those promoting the creation of a separate P.C for Stoke Heath have. What benefits do they envisage and of course costings for a proposed new P.C for Stoke Heath. We are unconvinced of the need for Stoke Heath to be included in a Parish Council.	RHA
SH86	I think the Stoke Parish Council as it stands has the knowledge, expertise and resources to benefit its residents	RHA
SH87	It would make more sense if a new parish is considered to be needed to include the properties to include Avoncroft Road down towards the A38 big island. On balance it seems in its current proposed form like a waste of time.	RHA
SH89	I am not in favour of two separate parishes. I would just like to see more considerations given to Stoke Heath and its residents. There is clearly some bias for Stoke Prior otherwise this idea would not have been suggested. Lets keep one Stoke Parish and see all the areas of Stoke treated equally and fairly.	RHA
W SH1	Seems silly to create a parish for such as small area	RHA
W SH2	This proposal seems to make no sense. It is splitting the existing Stoke Heath community in two, along an arbitrary ward boundary which was drawn up purely for electoral reasons. If the proposal was to annex the whole of the Stoke Heath community (i.e. anything north of say the Ewe & Lamb) would make some sort of sense.	RHA
W SH3	I think the review/consultation letter could have been more explicit about the reasons as to this was being proposed. It would have been helpful to have had clarity around the issues so that an informed opinion could be shared. Broad examples for consideration are noted but no confirmed specifics. I would like to know what is meant by a “disproportional amount”.	RHA
W SH4	I would be concerned about any increases in payments from us.	RHA
W SH5	Stoke Heath area contributes towards things like street lighting and lengthsman but receives little benefit from these	RHA
W SH8	Can't anyone in the Bromsgrove area find something more beneficial and sensible to do with tax payers money during a pandemic. This is another ridiculous and unimportant thing to spend money on, which I'm constantly being told is in short supply! Does anyone ever bother to find the cost of this so far?	RHA
W SH11	We appreciate the facilities at the recreation ground provided by Stoke Parish; also the well-maintained flower planters placed on the estate. The establishment of the John Corbett Way has proved a pleasant asset. Stoke Parish has also put on various events at the recreation ground for the whole parish. We don't know whether this has brought the separate communities closer but the councillors deserve credit for their efforts.	RHA
W SH13	Creating new PCs spreads the limited finances ever thinner. I don't see the logic in creating another set of costly administration for a smaller area (with less money). Make the existing PCs work instead of running away?	RHA

W SH14	The nature and needs of Stoke Prior and its surrounding areas is totally different to the Stoke Heath area as such these needs can only be met by a separate Stoke Heath Parish council; that can focus on the area.	RHA
W SH18	I object to the idea that one sector of society should not pay a tax or precept because they do not benefit as much as others. If Stoke Prior has greater need then that should be met and people with less need should be prepared to pay for the benefit of the wider community	RHA
W SH19	Anything completely local has to be a good thing	RHA
W SH22	I think parish Councils are just a waste of parishioners money anyway as I already pay the district council and county council to do everything	RHA
W SH25	The proposed parish of Stoke Heath does not seem to make a lot of sense, as there are areas designated as Stoke Heath outside the parish. If this proposal included the AVB area it would include more of Stoke Heath in the Parish of Stoke Heath. If the status quo were maintained, it may avoid the requirement for another parish hall and the additional expense required.	RHA
W SH27	The separation can’t be soon enough	RHA
W SH28	Dividing Stoke Heath into two sections seems illogical - both two small and part of the same estate	RHA
W SH29	The creation of a new Parish would be an unnecessary expense.	RHA
W SP4	Seems like a waste of money unless savings can be proved for both potential Parishes. We already have more than enough local layers of government without a further split	
W SP6	I find it difficult to understand the rational behind the boundary for the new parish. As I understand it Stoke Heath has historically been the area between Avoncroft and the Worcester Road, why then has much of this area (around the Hanbury Turn Pub) been excluded from the proposed Stoke Heath parish? At the moment I have no real opinion around the splitting of the Parish although I suspect it will do little to help the' us and them' feeling that exists between a minority of urban and rural residence.	

A 'W' in front of the number is a return from the website rather than a paper return.

Appendix 4

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



Neil Gulliver
Clerk to the Council

Email: [redacted]

9 December 2020

Dear Sir

Community Governance Review for Proposed New Parish within the current Stoke Parish Area

The Parish Council wishes to make the following comments in response to the initial stage of the Review:-

1. There would appear to be no logical reason for splitting the current Parish as suggested under the petition which has been submitted.

2. Stoke Heath is a relatively new estate that currently has no community facilities or recreation areas other than one very small play area. Equally it does not have any building in which to hold meetings should a new parish be formed as a result of the Review.

3. It is difficult to see how any new Parish Council could function without a meeting venue within its parish boundary.

4. It is almost inconceivable for a housing estate to form its own Parish Council without any facilities to offer to its parishioners. It is highly likely that the residents of Stoke Heath Parish Ward would continue to make use of the current facilities provided by Stoke Parish Council ie Stoke Heath Recreation Area with its large field, children's play area and the outdoor gym. They would also continue to have access to such events as the Annual Film Night and Carols in the Park.

5. Have the residents in support of the petition thought about the prospect that Stoke Heath Parish Ward could be absorbed in the Bromsgrove District Council area and become a District Ward such as Charford?

6. If Stoke Heath was able to set up its own Parish Council residents would still be required to pay a parish precept. The real question would be what would a Parish Council spend that precept on?

7. If the residents of Stoke Heath Parish Ward are so unhappy with the Parish Council why have they not expressed their concerns directly to the Council. The Parish Council would question the aims of this Review given that a separate Council for Stoke Heath would have nothing to offer its parishioners.

8. The current boundaries between Stoke Prior and Stoke Heath include some streets which, if the 2 areas were split, would mean that streets such as Harvest Close would be part of 2 Parish Councils. How would that work?

9. Stoke Parish Council has worked hard over the years to provide as much support it possibly can to Stoke Heath Parish Ward but given the nature of that part of the parish it is very difficult to provide material support in that area. Hence the level of facilities provided at Stoke Heath Recreation Area for all. A good example of how the Parish Council has supported Stoke Heath Parish Ward has been the distribution of smartwater kits to 90% of homes in the area at no cost to residents.

10. Reference has been made that certain residents in Stoke Heath Parish Ward object to contributing towards the cost of street lighting in Stoke Prior Parish Ward. It should be pointed out that parish councils have legal responsibilities and statutory duties associated with the ownership of their streetlights. The Parish Lighting Initiative as far as Stoke Prior is concerned has been in operation since 2004. As Stoke Heath was expanded from its original status by housing developers it is likely that the street lighting was installed by them and adopted by the local authority. It should be pointed out that all the street lights in Stoke Prior Parish Ward are maintained by the Parish Council under the above scheme. No street lights are provided by the County Council despite certain assertions to that effect.

11. Reference has also been made to the lack of support given to the area by the Parish Lengthsman. Support is given wherever necessary including litter picking as the District Council does not have the resources to always carry out this work. Maintenance of the Vehicle Activation System which monitors traffic speeds through the area is also carried by the Lengthsman.

Yours faithfully

Neil Gulliver
Parish Clerk

Appendix 5

Sent: 18 December 2020 3:25 PM
To: Elections Mailbox <Elections@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk>
Subject: Stoke Heath Stoke Community Governance Review

Electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident. This is not the case as proposed. Harvest Close and Harrow Close are an anomaly created by the Boundary Commission. It would be best to look at any responses from Harvest Close residents and decide whether to put **all** of this road in one area. This would create a more defined area for residents to identify with.

Parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest, with their own sense of identity. This is certainly not the case at present. Residents in RHA area feel resentment. They are paying an unfair proportion towards amenities and services they are not/cannot use.

1) They pay their full contribution towards the Stoke Heath Recreation Area yet half of the residents find Charford Recreation area more convenient if. It is equipped to as good a standard, but differently.

2) Stoke Heath residents contribute towards a Parish lengthsman but have very little use for his services. Last year his services cost £2400 approx. net after a grant from Worcestershire C C. Almost none of this expense went towards any needs in RHA.

3) Street lighting cost Stoke Parish £4,257.11. RHA has already paid for its own Street Lighting

4) Churchyard maintenance, Tree works, Picnic site, etc

Stoke parish does try to involve all areas equally in projects but the two areas are 'chalk and cheese'. Stoke is mainly a rural area while RHA is part of an urban development. A good recent example is the defibrillator. Two were bought. It was easy to site the first one. In the middle of Stoke Prior shopping area in Stoke Parish. The siting of the second was problematic. Nowhere suitable in Stoke Heath. A site was eventually found in Avoncroft arts centre. This is two hundred yards from a public road. The staff of Avoncroft Arts Centre know it's there but few others do. Another example of RHA paying for amenities it will not benefit from.

The parish council recently decided to give prizes for the best seasonal lights. One for Stoke and one for Stoke Heath. Not a first and second for Stoke Parish. This is the sort of thing that Stoke Parish does in recognition that the two areas cannot 'gel'.

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. I have little comment to make on this point. I have looked at historical maps an can only find reference to a farm known as Forland's Farm and some cottages known as St Michael's Cottages. Neither of these would be suitable for the name of a new Parish Council. Stoke Heath would be the most suitable name.