

## **DRAFT LEAFLET DESIGN**

### **LICKEY END PARISH COUNCIL REVIEW**

#### **'Have Your Say' - we want to hear your views**

##### **Introduction**

Bromsgrove District Council is conducting a community governance review to decide whether or not to abolish the parish of Lickey End Parish and dissolve Lickey End Parish Council.

These questions have already been considered in 2003 and in 2005 but on both occasions the Secretary of State did not agree. Bromsgrove District Council is now carrying out a further community governance review of Lickey End.

Local government needs to reflect the identity and interests of a local community. Bromsgrove District Council provides services and represents the interests of all local communities within the District including Lickey End. The Council wants to improve community engagement in all areas in the District and the purpose of this review is to find out what role, if any, the parish of Lickey End and Lickey End Parish Council will play in the future.

##### **What is a Parish Council?**

Parish Councils are statutory bodies which are separate from District Councils and County Councils. They can provide a voice for local issues, deliver some local services and some carry out functions on behalf of larger authorities. Each parish council decides what services it will deliver to its community and practice varies throughout the country. Parish councils may need staff and offices and these costs plus the costs of any services they deliver are recovered by an additional charge to council taxpayers known as a precept.

##### **The history of Lickey End Parish Council**

Following a request from local residents, the parish of Lickey End and Lickey End Parish Council were created in 2001. The Parish Council is divided into two parish wards and is represented by ten parish councillors.

The parish held its first elections in May 2001. In June 2001 Lickey End Parish Council submitted a formal request to Bromsgrove District Council for its dissolution. Following a consultation with local residents, Bromsgrove District Council recommended to the Government that the Parish Council should be dissolved but the Government decided that no decision would be made until after the elections in May 2003.

At the elections in May 2003, 10 anti-parish candidates were elected. Following those elections the Parish Council submitted a further formal request for the dissolution of Lickey End Parish Council.

Bromsgrove District Council conducted a further review and again recommended dissolution of the Parish Council. The Government concluded that the case for abolition was insufficiently robust and at odds with the Government's general commitment towards parish councils and decided that a continued strong local support for dissolution needed to be established for a period of two council terms of office covering an eight year period.

### **What is the position now?**

At the last elections held in May 2007, 10 anti-parish parish candidates were again elected uncontested to Lickey End Parish Council.

The Parish Council operates at the minimum legal requirements. It holds meetings, appoints a Chairman and Clerk and publishes minutes and accounts. It has not requested a parish precept and does not deliver discretionary local services.

### **What happens next?**

Bromsgrove District Council is contacting all electors in the parish of Lickey End to find out what their views are. It will also consult with Lickey End Parish Council, Worcestershire County Council, local Councillors representing the area and the public.

A copy of the full consultation document is available for public inspection at the Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove B60 1AA.

When all the responses have been received and the final proposals have been published, Bromsgrove District Council will make a decision about the future of Lickey End Parish Council.

### **We want to hear your views**

It is important that the Council receives the views of as many electors with the parish of Lickey End as possible. Please indicate your favoured option below, tear off this form and return it via freepost to the address shown by **31 May 2010** at the latest. Alternatively, responses can be made on the consultation portal at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk)

Electoral Services  
Bromsgrove District Council  
Freepost 0000000  
Council House  
Burcot Lane  
Bromsgrove B60 1AA

Helpline: 01527 881 421

Preferred Option

**Should the present Parish of Lickey End be abolished and the Parish Council dissolved?**

(Please circle 'Yes' or 'No')

**YES                  NO**

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_