

Review of Parish Arrangements in Buckshaw

The Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review for the area of Buckshaw in Chorley Borough. This is to look at current parish council arrangements and whether there should be a parish council created for Buckshaw.

A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a legal process whereby Councils can create parish councils, review and change parish boundaries. The Council has been asked to look at this by residents, but can choose to undertake a review at any time.

What area is under review?

The review is looking at the area of Buckshaw within Chorley Council boundaries. This area is currently served by either Euxton Parish Council or Whittle le Woods Parish Council but only forms a small part of each of those parishes. Buckshaw Village is partly in Chorley Council area and partly in South Ribble Council. A parish council cannot be created across two District Council boundaries so we can only look at the Chorley part of Buckshaw. The attached map shows the areas being looked at.

What does a Parish Council do?

Parish Councils are the most local form of government. They collect money from Council tax payers known as a “precept” and this is used to invest in the area to improve services or facilities. Parish Councils can take different forms but usually are 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.

What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a legal process whereby Councils can create parish councils, review and change parish boundaries and in extreme cases, abolish parishes. The Local Government and Involvement in Health Act 2007 gave District Councils the right to do this in 2008 so it's a relatively new power. Previously boundary changes needed to be agreed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) – and this is still the case for other Council boundaries. Chorley Council has previously asked that the LGBCE to look at the boundary which cuts through Buckshaw dividing responsibility for the area between Chorley and South Ribble Councils – however we have been told it could be some years before this is looked at.

What is the review process and who will have a say?

The Council has published a detailed Terms of Reference document which sets out the review process and provides detailed factual information about precept levels, electorate figures both now and future forecasts, parish budgets and assets. It also contains a number of consultation questions about different aspects of the review. There is a 2 month consultation period (7 February to 7 April 2011) where key organisations and individuals can make submissions about what changes they would like to see. These are organisations like Buckshaw Village Community Association, Euxton and Whittle le Woods Parish Councils, the major developers and RMG Management Company for Buckshaw. Any interested member of the public can also contribute.

The next stage is for the Council to draw up Draft Recommendations which they will consult upon – and this will include information going to every household in the Buckshaw area affected. Following two further months of consultation the Council will produce Final Proposals which will be consulted on for one month before a final decision is made and implemented by April 2012.

The process of a CGR and what issues it should consider are set out in Government guidance. The review is a legal process and as such may seem very formal and drawn out. The Council will endeavour to keep the website updated, will issue press releases and is open to receive comments or queries from any person throughout the review. **Formal responses should be by email or letter and include the respondents name and address contact information is below.**

What will the Council consider in making recommendations on the review?

There are a range of issues the Council has to consider in drawing up recommendations. The Guidance refers to:

- communities of identity
- effective and convenient local government
- other arrangements that promote representation and engagement for residents

The views received from residents of the Buckshaw area; those received from other residents in the Euxton and Whittle le Woods Parish Councils who are not affected and representations from organisations and individuals who have an interest in the area will all be considered by the Council and a view formed on a recommended way forward.

What could be the outcomes of this review?

At this stage the outcomes cannot be predicted but there are a number of clear options which the Council will have.

1. To create a Parish Council for Buckshaw (the Chorley Council area only).
2. No change - leaving arrangements as they are now
3. To unparish the areas of Buckshaw currently in Euxton or Whittle le Woods Parish. This could be either with or without a recommendation to reconsider the matter if the District Council boundary is changed to put all of Buckshaw within one local authority area.
4. Any other parish governance arrangements suggested by consultees and receiving significant support. The Council is open to suggestions.

If a Parish Council was to be created for Buckshaw would this have any impact on the Management Plan that has been agreed for the estate?

No. The Management Plan for Buckshaw which has been agreed between the developers, residents and local councils will not be affected by the outcome of this review. Residents will still continue to pay an annual estate fee.

If you have any queries about the review process please contact Carol Russell or Phil Davies on 01257 515196/515131

If you want to submit a response or make comments on this Community Governance Review then please do so in writing either by letter or email to

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