

Community Governance Review 2021 – Romsey Town Second Consultation

Responses received

ID1

Romsey Boundary Review Second Stage

Having provided substantive comment to the First Consultation stage of the boundary review of Romsey Town Council I, would like to support the Draft Recommendation by Andy Ferrier dated 6th April 2022.

1. That the area of land shown coloured blue on Map 4 be transferred to Awbridge Parish Council from Romsey Extra Parish Council.
2. That with the exception of the area of land shown coloured blue on Map 4, the whole of Romsey Extra Parish be transferred to Romsey Town Council from Romsey Extra Parish Council.
3. That Romsey Extra Parish Council be abolished.
4. That Romsey Town be warded in four wards, and the number of councillors to be elected for each ward, be as follows:-

Ward Name	Extent	Number of Councillors
Abbey	The same boundaries as Romsey Abbey Borough Ward	4
Cupernham	The same boundaries as Romsey Cupernham Borough Ward	6
Tadburn	The same boundaries as Romsey Tadburn Borough Ward	4
Romsey Extra	The remainder of Romsey Town	1

5. That the year in which ordinary elections of councillors are to be held for Romsey Town Council be 2023 and every fourth year thereafter.

6. That the consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England be sought to the proposed changes where this is required.

ID2

I am writing to support the recommendation of the member panel for option 2A to merge Romsey Town and Romsey Extra Parish (excluding the part recommended to be transferred to Awbridge).

ID3

We have received a letter concerning draft recommendations for boundary changes which mean transferring Stanbridge Earls to Awbridge PC. We currently reside in the Stanbridge Earls retirement village at 7 Hansard Place.

We fully support the proposal. It has always seemed to us to be illogical for Stanbridge Earls to be outside the Awbridge boundary. It is closely connected to the Awbridge settlement and disconnected from Romsey Town.

Councillor Adams King

I'm not sure whether it's appropriate for me to comment on the proposal given I'm a Panel member, so do please take this as a query if necessary.

Our map showing the transfer of land from Romsey Extra to Awbridge shows the new boundary running along Old Salisbury Lane. Most of the properties along the lane are actually on its south side, at Roke Manor Farm Cottages, Roke Manor Farm (it's a small development of barn conversions) and at Roke Manor itself. For completeness I would recommend that the boundary of the area moving be extended to include those properties on the south side of the road, their inhabitants being part of the community that in any event considers itself part of Awbridge.

ID5

I am in support of the Draft recommendations to extend the area of Romsey Town Council and to abolish Romsey Extra Parish Council.

Chair of Romsey & District u3a

With regard to the Draft Recommendations for changes to the Romsey Town Council boundaries, I would like it to be known that the Trustees of Romsey & District u3a support the proposals.

Awbridge Parish Council

Awbridge Parish Council (APC) further discussed the CGR at its meeting on 19 May 2022 and is broadly supportive of the review proposals.

Further to its response submitted on 27 January 2022, APC wishes to add the following points:

- The New Awbridge Parish Boundary should be behind the properties situated on the south side of Old Salisbury Lane and not the lane itself, bringing these properties within Awbridge parish.
- The expanded Awbridge parish should not be warded, and there should be no addition to the number of councillors, which currently stands at seven.
- It is suggested that any assets of Romsey Extra PC be apportioned to the remaining councils based upon populations.

Wellow Parish Council

Re: Community Governance Review – Romsey Town, Romsey Extra and Awbridge Parish Councils

I am writing to confirm that Wellow Parish Council is in agreement with the Member Panel's recommended Option 2A to merge Romsey Town and Romsey Extra Parish (excluding the part recommended to be transferred to Awbridge) as agreed at its meeting on the 6th April 2022.

Wellow Parish Council has no further comments to make at this time. We look forward to hearing the outcome of the Second Stage of Consultations and the final recommendations.

Romsey Labour Party

Response by Romsey Labour

1. We welcome the opportunity to respond to the Options Paper put forward in the Governance Review and set out our comments below.
2. The historic and current configuration of Romsey Extra Parish Council does not lend itself to any form of community cohesion. This was recognised in the Local Government Boundary Review of 2015, when it was proposed that Romsey Extra ward be removed and spread between neighbouring wards.
3. We do not believe that the current boundaries between Romsey Town and Romsey Extra are easily identifiable nor, in the case of Romsey Extra, reflective of the community it serves. Neither does the ward of Romsey Extra allow for effective and convenient governance, as councillors have to travel greater distances to cover their ward compared to those in neighbouring wards. It is also more difficult to find people willing to stand for election in such a disparate parish.
4. The expansion of housing development in the last decade has meant that large estates, such as Abbotswood, Kings Chase and that planned at Whitenap all lie close to the town centre and should therefore ideally be represented by one council.

Proposed Options

Option 1A Against We do not support the proposal that a much reduced Romsey Extra be retained as a separate parish. We would suggest that this would be both inefficient and ineffective for the residents.

Option 1B For We support the proposal that those parts of Romsey Extra which are not merged with Romsey Town be transferred to adjoining parishes, split along Borough ward boundaries.

Option 1C Against We believe that all residents should have the opportunity to elect councillors at all levels of local government. Residents 'left behind' in Romsey Extra would consider themselves disadvantaged when not fully represented in a formal parish council.

Option 1D Against for the same reason as above.

Option 2/3 Against We believe that merging the two parishes would create a rather unwieldy area. Added to this, most of the current Romsey Extra is in more of a rural location, where residents might consider they have slightly different priorities to those of Romsey Town and wish those views to be represented separately.

Option 4 Against We believe that the benefits of Option B outweigh the option of no change.

ID8

The proposal to extend the Romsey Town boundaries to include the parish of Romsey Extra (with the exclusion north of Old Salisbury Lane as noted) makes a lot of sense and will benefit the whole of the 'Romsey Area' administratively and to some extent economically.

I support.

02/06/22 – Romsey Extra Parish Council

ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2021/2022

ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL AND ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL

RESPONSE TO DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

ADOPTED BY ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL 31 MAY 2022

PROPOSAL

Romsey Extra Parish Council (REPC) was formed in 1894 based on the built area of Romsey being in the Borough of Romsey and the rural surrounding land forming Romsey Extra Parish Council. Over time, as parts of Romsey Extra have been built up, they have been transferred to the Borough and its successor Romsey Town Council (RTC).

This Community Governance Review (CGR) is about carrying on this process, transferring the more recently built and soon-to-be built areas of Romsey Extra to the Town.

The driving logic of this CGR is to make the Town wards of Abbey, Cupernham and Tadburn co-terminous with the corresponding Test Valley Borough wards.

The final recommendation of the TVBC CGR Panel is that the Town wards should expand to reflect the TVBC wards but that leaves a proportion of Romsey Extra remaining. The previous recommendation of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England was that the remaining parts of Romsey Extra should transfer to neighbouring parishes ensuring that co-terminosity would be achieved across the area surrounding Romsey Town. However, two of the adjacent parishes have shown an unwillingness to accept new areas. As a consequence, the CGR

Panel has proposed a hybrid solution transferring a small part of Romsey Extra to Awbridge Parish Council and leaving the balance to form a new rural ward of RTC.

RESPONSE OF ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL

Firstly, REPC would like to thank the CGR Panel for exploring many options and proposing a reasonable compromise.

REPC is disappointed that the objective of parish/borough co-terminosity cannot be achieved across all of the area in question. However, given the constraints, REPC believes the draft recommendations to be the best compromise and, therefore, gives these proposals its full support.

ID12

Supports proposed merger,

ID13

I wish to confirm wholehearted SUPPORT for this proposal. The two parish councils are set in history but time and population density in particular has moved on which makes having one combined council to replace Infra and Extra the most enormous sense. As a Test Valley Borough councillor when this was proposed some years ago I argued and campaigned strongly for this to happen.

The disappearance of the TVBC ward of Romsey Extra provides addition weight to this proposal. It is a nonsense that part of Abbey Ward sits in Romsey Extra rather than being part of Romsey Infra. A merger would remove this and other anomalies.

Responses to consultation from additional properties proposed to transfer to Awbridge Parish Council

ID14

We understand from your recent letter, that it is proposed that our house (2 Roke Farm Cottages, Old Salisbury Lane) is now moved into the parish of Awbridge but we note that the enclosed map does not reflect this new proposal and is dated the 21 March 2022.

We have no objections to this new proposal but wondered if you intend to publish a new map at some stage to clarify the boundaries?

ID15

We were recently notified of the amended proposal for the boundary review, specifically that "those properties in the vicinity of Roke Manor Farm to the south of Old Salisbury Lane be included in the proposed area to be transferred to Awbridge Parish Council".

We have lived in this location for more than 8 years and through this time have had strong connections with the Awbridge community, specifically via school and church links.

Our household therefore fully supports this proposal.