

Have your say on how your area is run

**WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?**

Canterbury City Council is running a review about how your neighbourhood is looked after and how decisions are made. Working with residents and community groups, we have put together some proposals. These may affect you and your household and we want to hear from you.

Public meetings

14 October, 6pm to 7.30pm, online

(for joining info visit the website below)

11 November, 6pm to 7.30pm

The Whitstable School, Bellevue Road, Whitstable CT5 1PX

12 November, 6pm to 7.30pm

Herne Bay Baptist Church, High Street CT6 5LA

Have your say

Online: haveyoursay.canterbury.gov.uk

In writing: **Policy team, 14 Rose Lane,**

Canterbury CT1 2UR

Email: consultations@canterbury.gov.uk



We want to hear from you

These are the proposals for your area:

- Barham parish and Kingston parish to become a group, called Barham and Kingston. Barham will have five parish councillors and Kingston will have two councillors.
- A group is where two parish councils work closely together and share some resources such as administration.
- They remain separate councils for other things such as representing people in their area.



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Why we are running a review

There are a number of very good reasons to carry out a Community Governance Review (CGR).

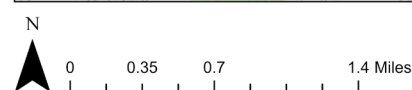
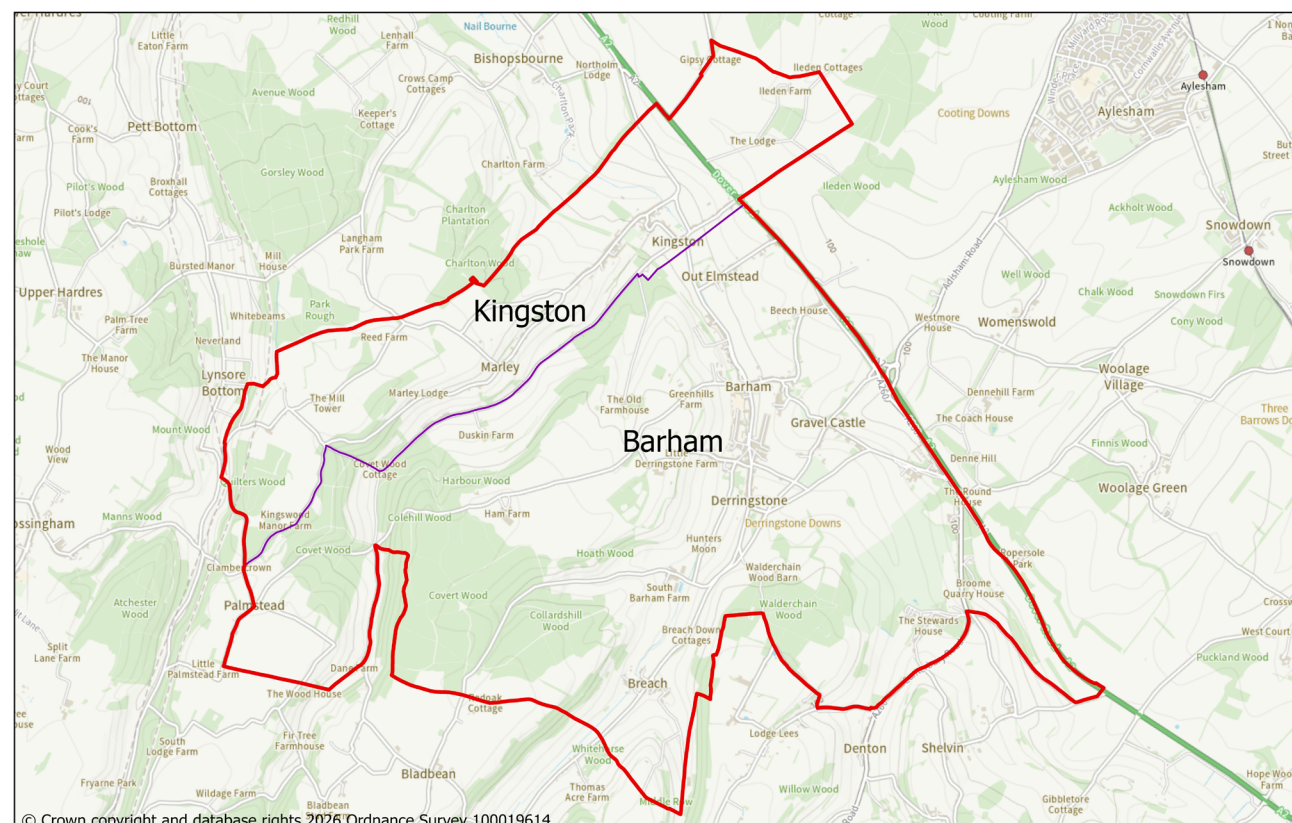
It's best practice to check that local decision-making arrangements like parish and town councils are working well and are able to reflect the identity and interests of the community they serve every 10 to 15 years. So a CGR was almost due.

Plus, councillors felt the government's decision to abolish district and borough councils like Canterbury City Council, and Kent County Council, and replace them with four unitary councils across the county that would deliver all services in their area under one roof, meant it would be wise to

explore whether people living in areas in the district without a parish or town council would also like a more local voice.

Ministers recently announced they were pausing that process, known as local government reorganisation (LGR), and are reviewing their previous decisions but that does not mean it will not be resumed at some point soon.

As well as working out whether an area needs a town or parish council, a CGR also looks at existing parish or town boundaries, the governance arrangements of each parish and town council and whether they have the right number of councillors.



Barham and Kingston



What is a parish council?

Parish councils, which can also be named town, village or community councils, provide a voice on issues. They are run by local people who are elected by the community.

These parish councillors are usually unpaid and elected every four years. Parish councils provide some very local services, but it is up to each council to make its own decisions for their area. Some do much more than others.

Typically, parish councils:

- provide a community voice on things that matter, for example as a statutory consultee on planning issues
- manage some very local services – such as allotments, parks and play areas
- support community events and local facilities
- seek to improve quality of life in the parish area
- represent communities in democratic decisions

When we consider the arrangements for parish councils, we have to consider whether they reflect the identities and interests of the community and are effective and convenient.

How much does a parish/town council cost?

Parish and town councils are mainly paid for through a small part of your Council Tax plus grants they receive and fees they charge for facilities. This part of your Council Tax is set by each parish council, depending on what services and facilities it wants to provide.

Changes are also proposed in other areas and you can read about them on our website
haveyoursay.canterbury.gov.uk

