

Update regarding the *Community Governance Review*.

Briefing Notes

This item is to bring members up to date with the CGR consultation process. Please find below the Steyning Council's agreements to the phase one consultation (as a reminder). The Clerk subsequently informed HDC via consultation form and this letter which Cllrs later received for their information. Bramber Parish Council were contacted, and the suggestion to discuss moving Clays Field into Steyning Parish was strongly rejected by them.

HDC responded to the initial response from the Clerk by asking STC for more information for its reasoning for the possible Clay's Field transfer, based upon the CGR criteria. The Clerk asked STC Cllrs for their reasoning in an email but only one Cllr responded with any substantive reasoning (not necessarily based upon the criteria), and this was not backed by other members.

The second consultation period concludes on the 7th September, and this item is to update members, in respect to the Council's official current position, as the Clerk has responded to the second consultation by restating as per, what was previously agreed in the June Full Council meeting and noted below, and further stated that the Clays field transfer suggestion is withdrawn due to a lack of support. The two maps which follow the letter depict the new proposed boundary. A final decision by HDC will be forthcoming after any other responses by residents are taken on board.

Lauren Kelly
Monitoring Officer
Horsham District Council

22nd June 2026

Re. Local Governance Review – A Joint Response

Dear Lauren

As part of the Local Governance Review process we at Steyning Town Council convened a meeting with our neighbouring Parish Councils, to ensure we understood collectively what each parish was thinking in terms of this important procedure, and that we could work together as we have often done in the past, to present a joint response.

The meeting was convened on the 1st June to discuss the LGR involving Councillor and Clerk representatives from STC and Wiston, Ashurst, Bramber and Upper Beeding Parish Councils.

There was discussion about potential boundary changes involving Henfield and Upper Beeding, with the Clerk of Upper Beeding writing to you on this matter separately. There was also some discussion about some small boundary changes concerning Bramber and Steyning, more of which below.

However, most important to all those present was that we convey a united response to the main questions put forward as part of this review, and these are noted below in **bold type**.

This joint response has been taken to each parish Full Council meeting for their subsequent agreement.

The joint parishes wanted to convey to you the following submission and hence the reason for this letter.

Members stated the joint submission should include the following:

- **the 5 councils support retaining the current parish/town council structure and identities;**

- *No change of Parish names (Steypning had already changed its name to a Town Council); No merging of Councils; No change in numbers of Councillors for each Council; No sub division into smaller Parish Wards, nor Ward boundary changes being required.*
- *the councils value existing collaborative working and wished to continue with this;*
- *the area covered by the 5 Parishes should be recognised as 'Rural, and as a gateway to the South Downs';*
- *the council representatives wished to ensure that parish and town councils have clear routes to influence any future unitary authority arrangements.*
- *Members agreed that individual councils should also submit their own separate responses, which reflected the agreement of this joint working party.*

Subsequent to the meeting, Bramber Councillors further considered 3 potential boundary change amendments – all involving land bordering Steypning.

At their last Full Council meeting, they decided that two out of the three although seemingly reasonable small amendments to the line of the boundary to for example avoid cutting properties in half, were considered potentially too controversial. They did however agree to propose one amendment, and this was to extend the line of their boundary into the Steypning Parish so that it would fully encapsulate the Bramber Brooks nature reserve.

Some Councillors started to consider whether it might be prudent for STC to support a boundary change involving the grassed area known as *Clays Field* potentially being transferred from Bramber Parish to Steypning Parish. Steypning Town Council then agreed the following motions.

Cllr Johnson **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Young that STC supports Bramber Parish Council's suggestion that Bramber Brooks becomes part of Bramber Parish. **Agreed**

Cllr Sharp **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Johnson that Steypning Town Council approach Bramber to discuss the possibility of assigning responsibility for Clays Field to Steypning Town Council by moving the boundary to encompass that part of *Clays Field* which is open space/ grassland. **Agreed**

It should be said that there was only one chance within the online consultation response to articulate our joint message and we were restricted to 100 words.

This is what was said in response to the question –

Do you believe that the current parish boundary reflects your community's identity and interests?

The Steypning Town Council (STC) Councillors have met with Councillors and Clerks from adjoining Parishes' (Wiston, Ashurst, Upper Beeding and Bramber) to give this matter full consideration. A joint statement is provided later in this consultation, and via a letter to the monitoring office separately, however, in answer to this question STC has agreed to a proposal from Bramber Parish Council (BPC), to extend their boundary to encapsulate the entirety of Bramber Brooks nature reserve. STC also agreed to a proposal to approach BPC to discuss the possibility of assigning responsibility for Clays Field open space/ grassland to STC.

We hope this letter communicates our joint message appropriately, and we look forward to discussing these matters more fully as the consultation process continues.

Yours Sincerely

John

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Steypning Town Council
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On behalf of Ashurst Parish, Bramber Parish, Steypning Town, Upper Beeding and Wiston Parish Councils



