

Town and parish councils

Town, parish and community councils are the same in terms of their powers and responsibilities, but a town council also elects a town mayor. They are democratically-elected bodies that have powers to do a number of things, including providing allotments, providing bus shelters, supporting local crime prevention initiatives and local highway matters such as street lighting and maintenance of roadside verges. They can be involved in provision of community transport schemes, sport and recreation facilities and tourism and events. They can provide a focus for representing local issues and identity, and are also consulted on planning applications in their area.

Have your say!

We want to know your views on Community Governance in your area.

You will find the link to the consultations and further information on the review here www.swale.gov.uk/cgr

If you would like a paper copy of the consultation or require assistance completing the form please email cgr@swale.gov.uk

What happens next?

We will consider responses received on this second consultation and make a decision on what to do next based on those responses. This will involve setting out final recommendations for future Governance arrangements. Details of the outcome of the consultation will be published on the website www.swale.gov.uk/cgr

Have your say

Town and Parish Councils proposals for your area



To find out more and complete the consultation please scan the QR code or visit www.swale.gov.uk/cgr

Introduction

We would like to know your opinion on current arrangements or if you would like to change them. This is known as a Community Governance Review. Over the next 12 months, we will be consulting with residents, businesses, community groups, voluntary organisations and other public services.

Aim of the review

- To consider and bring about improved community engagement
- To improve local democracy and
- Ensure that electors and other interested groups have a say in how local services are delivered

Now is a good time to engage communities and parish councils to review their current arrangements and community governance more widely. With Local Government Reorganisation also being undertaken, its potential impacts to the Borough need to be considered. The review offers the chance to look again at Borough Governance, with a committed focus on the needs of its residents and communities.

The Terms of Reference agreed on 19th November 2025 set out how the review will be undertaken. Further details on the review and to view the terms of reference please visit www.swale.gov.uk/CGR

How will it affect you?

If you live in an area of the Borough which is currently unparished, a new parish might be created or one of the existing parishes may expand to include the area in which you live. If you live in an area which is already parished, the council may change in size or there may be some changes to its boundaries. Parish councils may also wish to combine, or pool resource, ensuring resilience for future governance arrangements. The option of no change will be included in the consultations.

What are the current arrangements?

Kent County Council is the county council that governs Kent, excluding Medway Unitary Authority area.

Swale Borough Council provides the main services for the Borough, and its role and obligations will not change whatever the outcome of this review.

Below the level of the Borough Council, there are 34 parish councils in existence across the borough and three town councils in Faversham, Sheerness and Queenborough.

A new town or parish council could provide extra services, the cost of which would depend on the range and level of services it provides. Although the Borough Council would set up any new council, the town or parish council itself would then be responsible for meeting all its expenditure. Town and parish councils are funded through a charge added to your council tax, known as a precept. The precept charge is something that the town or parish council has to decide for itself and depends on what services and facilities it wants to provide. The precept depends on a number of factors such as; size of the town or parish council, the services it provides and the number of properties across which it is spread and as such it is not possible to say how much a precept would be for any new council.

However, we have set out below are some examples for existing parish councils in Swale. Additional charge (over and above the charge for areas without a town or parish council) on council tax for band D properties for the financial year 2025/26.

Additional precept charges

- Boughton under Blean £127.97
- Faversham Town 90.25
- Newington 56.03
- Leysdown 31.25
- Tunstall 10.71