



Community Governance Review Proposals that could affect residents and businesses in Wootton and Hardingstone

What could it mean?

During the first phase of consultation it was suggested that an area of land to the north of the Newport Pagnell Road, presently in Hardingstone Parish, could be incorporated within Wootton Parish. This would incorporate the total area of the new development of The Green (LAA1098), incorporating some 800 new homes and uses natural boundaries such as streams, roads, lanes, footpaths and hedgerows. This suggestion is on the basis that Wootton is the closest urban settlement to the new development. There is no proposal to increase the number of councillors on Wootton Parish Council as a result of this proposal.

A few things could change if this ward is moved from Hardingstone Parish to Wootton Parish. Residents in the affected areas could:

- Go to a polling station in Wootton
- Elect parish councillors to Wootton Parish Council
- Pay the Wootton rate of Council Tax. Parish Councils are funded by a 'precept' which is the parish council's share of your council tax.
- For areas in Northampton, pay special expenses, which are levied to cover grounds maintenance charges on which fall within the parish boundary and which would normally be the responsibility of the parish council. Once the central maintenance contract ends, this will become part of the parish precept. The charge to residents in Wootton Parish is £4.28 per year.

If residents commented on the consultation that they wished Landimore to remain part of Hardingstone, residents in the affected are could:

- Go to a polling station in Hardingstone
- Elect parish councillors to Hardingstone Parish Council
- Pay the Hardingstone rate of Council Tax. Parish Councils are funded by a 'precept' which is the parish council's share of your council tax.
- As explained above for areas in Northampton, pay special expenses, which are levied to cover grounds maintenance charges on which fall within the parish boundary and which would normally be the responsibility of the parish council. Once the central maintenance contract ends, this could become part of the Hardingstone parish precept.

The changing of boundaries should not have an impact on the doctor's surgeries, dentists or schools that residents can attend.

Some members of Hardingstone village and the Parish Council feel that Landimore's closest urban settlement is Hardingstone and that the inclusion of Landimore in Hardingstone could help improve the area with new families to the area. These residents are of the view that the expansion of Hardingstone that the Landimore development brings is a benefit to the village.

WNC would like to know if you feel the proposal to move Landimore into Wootton would better reflect local identities and interests. This can relate to a number of factors that make a local area unique and detail that plays into communities' patterns of daily life. They could include local centres for childcare, education, places of worship, places for activities, leisure locations or facilities. It could also include historical or the geography of an area, the make-up of the local community, sense of identity, and whether people live in a rural, suburban, or urban area.

WNC would also like to know if you feel that the proposal will provide effective and convenient local government. This means that parish councils should be able to provide at least some local services, and if they are to be convenient, they need to be easy to reach and accessible to local people. It can also mean that parish (and town) councils are well managed and good at representing their local communities' views, which helps to work closely with partner authorities to take more responsibility for shaping their area's development and running of local services.

At present Wootton Parish Council are a larger Parish Council with the resources to run the new development and buildings such as a community centre that could come with it. Some residents and Parish Councillors in Hardingstone are of the view that Hardingstone can work towards building up their Parish Council to a position where they can also manage such buildings and the increase in residents and services in the future.

The online survey to respond can be found here:

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/community-governance-review-phase2/consultation/>

You can also access the survey using this code:

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey.

If more than one person in your household would like to reply, that's not a problem as you're not limited to one reply per household.



If you prefer, you can email West Northants Council at cgrconsultation@westnorthants.gov.uk Please note that they will not reply to individual emails, but every message will be included in the consultation.