

Community Governance Review Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review enables a principal council such as West Suffolk Council to review, put in place or make changes to parish and town council arrangements; for example, by creating, merging, abolishing or changing parish or town council boundaries.

2. When would any changes come into force?

Any changes to parish or town council arrangements will come into force on the same day as the next scheduled normal parish and town council elections. For West Suffolk that will be Thursday 4 May 2023.

3. How can residents have their say?

All interested groups and residents will be invited to give their views. Where changes to existing parish arrangements or new parish arrangements are proposed, we will consult with local residents. To respond to the consultation, visit [Community governance review West Suffolk District 2021-22](#)

4. What is a town or parish council?

Town and parish councils are not run by West Suffolk Council. They are separate elected bodies made up of local people representing the interests of their community.

5. Is there a difference between a town and a parish council?

No, they both have the same statutory powers and can provide the same services. The only differences are that a town council has decided that it should be known as a town council instead of a parish council, and a town council usually has a Mayor.

6. What does a town or parish council do?

Town and parish councils can be responsible for local issues such as allotments, bus shelters, footpaths, open spaces and community centres, although this varies depending on the council. More details on the responsibilities of different types of council in West Suffolk are available at: [How your council works \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/how-your-council-works)

7. How are town and parish councils funded?

Town and parish councils are funded through a sum of money called a 'precept' – this is a separate charge which is added to, and collected along with, your existing Council Tax. The town or parish council sets its own precept depending on what services and facilities are needed by the local community.

8. Are town or parish councillors paid an allowance?

Parish and Town councillors are not usually paid an allowance but may incur costs which can be reimbursed.

If you have any other questions, please email cgr@westsuffolk.gov.uk.