



BCPC/Chair/048

Bishops Cannings Parish Council
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Wiltshire
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14 June 2026

Dear Resident,

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2025/26 - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

I write as a Councillor and Chair of Bishops Cannings Parish Council to invite you to participate in a simple survey, published by Wiltshire Council's Electoral Review Committee as part of the Community Governance Review 2025/26. The result could have significant and positive implications for the future of your parish.

Community Governance Reviews are conducted against two statutory criteria: that governance arrangements continue to be reflective of the identity and interest of local communities, and that they are as efficient and effective in their governance as possible.

Bishops Cannings Parish Council has engaged fully in this review, declaring that it was content with both the existing boundaries and governance arrangements. For its part, Devizes Town Council sought to take control of the entire semi-urban area of the parish. This would have removed 1,200 homes and 2,070 electors from our parish.

That attempted landgrab was successfully defeated by Bishops Cannings Parish Council. The Wiltshire Council Committee accepted our compelling evidence and testimony and congratulated the Parish Council for being '*an exemplar of excellent governance*'.¹

The Committee has published its draft recommendations for public consultation.² This contains even better news for you and your Parish Council. In wishing to settle the matter for the longer term, the Committee has proposed that further properties and land be transferred from the town of Devizes to the parish of Bishops Cannings. This includes the new 200-home development at Lockkeeper Gardens, north of Coate Road.

You can participate in this survey until 22 June with just seven clicks on a computer mouse. An illustrated explanation is set out at the **Enclosure**.

Yours Sincerely,

Darren Bone
Councillor and Chair Bishops Cannings Parish Council

¹ Cllr Gavin Grant, Chair of the Electoral Governance Committee, in summing up at its meeting on 26 March 2026.

² <https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD6257&ID=6257&RPID=84995599> [see pages 23-30]

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2025/26: PUBLIC CONSULTATION SURVEY

1. The link to the short public consultation survey as it affects the parish of Bishops Cannings is here: <https://surveys.wiltshire.gov.uk/Interview/6992f940-1a7f-48df-b79b-4ea27ed86cc0>. The webpage will look the same as shown below. Clicking on the link shown in red will take you to the same document at Footnote 1 above. Pages 23 - 30 of the report refer to the consultation as it relates to the parish of Bishops Cannings.
2. The survey is anonymous. All you need to complete the survey is an email address and the postcode of your property. Clicking on the link above will take you to this screen:

Community Governance Review - Draft Recommendations Consultation
21 May to 22 June 2026

It is important to review the full details and reasoning of the Draft Recommendations at [this link](#) before commenting on the individual proposals in this consultation

The guidance on Community Governance Reviews can be accessed [here](#).

This online survey has not been formatted for mobile devices.

A Community Governance Review must:

Reflect the identities and interests of the communities in that area; and be effective and convenient.

Consequently, a review must take into account:

The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

Issues relating to parish council precept levels cannot be taken into account

1. This consultation will ask for details of your email address and postcode. This is in order to analyse responses by area and to analyse multiple respondents at the same postcode. Unless representing an organisation or group, names of respondents will not be published. Names/Email addresses will be deleted after the conclusion of the review by the end of November 2026.

Click below to consent to participate in the survey and provide the information requested for the purposes listed above. If you do not wish to participate in the survey, please close your browser.

☒ Select
2. What is your email address?
3. What is your postcode?
4. Please select any recommendations which you would like to comment upon:

☐ Recommendation 1 - Purton and Lydiard Milcent
☐ Recommendation 2 - Royal Wootton Bassett
☒ Recommendation 3 - Devizes and Bishops Cannings
☐ Recommendation 4 - Devizes, Rowde, and Potterne



Reset

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3. You will need to click in question 1, answer questions 2 and 3 and click on Recommendation 3 for question 4. Click on 'Next' when complete.

4. This page shows you the Electoral Review Committee's draft recommendations in full as they relate to Bishops Cannings. Areas D denote properties on the western side of the A361 London Road which are proposed to transfer to Bishops Cannings. Area E is the 200-home Lockkeeper Gardens development south of the canal and north of Coate Road, which the Committee also proposes be transferred to Bishops Cannings.

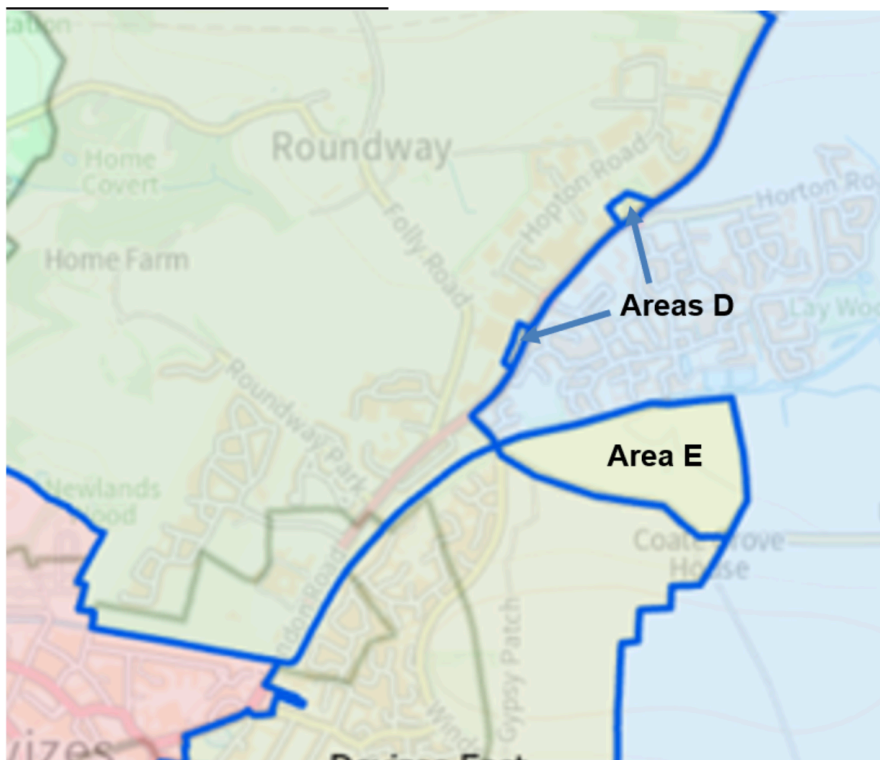
5. Recommendation 3.3 merely notes that the Committee will need to engage with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in light of the proposed changes.

Recommendation 3

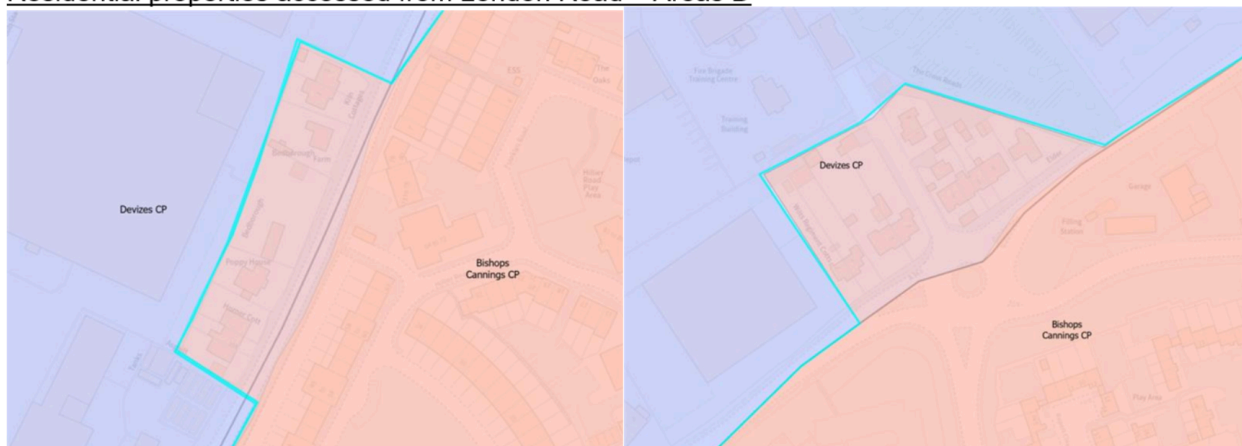
3.1 That the areas marked as D in the map below be transferred from the town of Devizes to the parish of Bishops Cannings.

3.2 That the areas marked as E in the map below be transferred from the town of Devizes to the parish of Bishops Cannings.

3.3 To request that the LGBCE amend the Electoral Divisions of Bromham, Rowde, and Roundway, Devizes East, and Urchfont and Bishops Cannings, to align to the revised parish boundaries.



Residential properties accessed from London Road – Areas D



6. At the bottom of that page you will find the questions shown below. [Aside: you have not missed any questions, the missing numbers relate to the fact that you selected the survey relating to Devizes and Bishops Cannings on the first page.].

7. You simply need to click question 13, as appropriate: the example shows a resident of the parish of Bishops Cannings.

8. Bishops Cannings Parish Council would recommend that residents agree with the Committee's proposals at question 14. This is clearly good news and recognises the Parish Council's ability to deliver excellent governance and services to its residents.

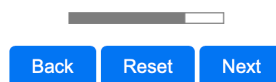
13. Are you responding to Recommendation 3 as:

- ☐ A resident of Areas D
- ☐ A resident of Area E
- ☐ A resident of the town of Devizes not from the areas proposed to be transferred
- ☒ A resident of the parish of Bishops Cannings
- ☐ A representative of the Town Council affected by the proposals, or a unitary representative from the area affected
- ☐ A representative of a Parish Council affected by the proposals, or a unitary representative from the area affected
- ☐ A business or commercial concern in the area affected by the proposals
- ☐ An interested party not necessarily from the area affected by the proposals

14. Having studied Recommendation 3, do you:

- ☒ Agree with the proposals (go to Q16)
- ☐ Disagree with the proposals (go to Q16)
- ☐ Suggest an amended proposal (for example agreement/disagreement with some but not all the recommendations) (go to Q15)

16. Taking account of the criteria of 'Effective and Convenient Local Governance' and 'Community Identity and Interests' please explain the reason you agree or disagree with the recommendation



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9. In question 16, you are invited to explain the reasons for your answer. Please remember the two statutory criteria, which are shown in the question. Anything relating to the level of local Council tax (precept) that a resident might now pay would be discounted. Bishops Cannings Parish Council would point you to the fact that your Council:

- is fully representative of the rural and semi-urban areas of our parish;
- actively promotes the best interests of this unique community;
- provides value for money and high quality services to residents, including: significant new investment in nine play and recreation areas; improvements and investment in road safety; the planting of two orchards and the safe management of all urban trees; the imminent expansion of the village car park at Bishops Cannings; and support to local residents and organisations; and,
- has been acknowledged by the Chair of the Electoral Review Committee as being '*an exemplar of excellent governance*' [see footnote 1 in covering letter.].

10. Clicking 'Next' will take you to the final page where you can simply click on 'submit'. Thank you for taking the trouble to complete the survey.