

GIVE YOUR VIEWS ON A TOWN COUNCIL

At the end of last year, petitions were submitted to the council calling for parish councils for Totteridge and Micklefield wards, these were followed by a petition for a parish council in Sands and then for a town council in High Wycombe. These petitions triggered off a legal process called a community governance review to see if these demands have popular support. This means that that Wycombe District Council will be consulting on whether there should be parish councils or a town council in High Wycombe or whether things should stay the same.

There are three main issues that are fundamental in making a decision about whether a Town Council would provide a benefit for residents of the town. These are whether it would improve democracy; whether it is likely to increase the amount of Council Tax residents would have to pay and what would happen to the Mayor and related traditions.

Democracy: At the moment responsibilities that would normally be carried out by a Town Council are looked after by the High Wycombe Town Committee. This is a committee of Wycombe District Council and is made up of all 23 district councillors for the unparished area. It is likely that this arrangement could continue in the new unitary authority. As a full committee of the Council it means that it can make recommendations directly to the Cabinet on any issues that affect the town, not just areas within the remit of a Town Council. This means that it has direct influence on District Council projects that affect the town, not just be a consultee as a Town Council would.

Cost: A Town Council would have to have a budget that enabled them to pay for staff, offices and any services that they provided. In Aylesbury this costs residents an additional £104 a year; in Amersham £96.84, in Marlow £51.24 and in Princes Risborough £99.87. This compares to the current cost to High Wycombe residents of £19.50 which is the cost of special expenses and the Mayoralty.

The Mayoralty: There are claims that not having a Town Council will rob High Wycombe of its ancient Mayoralty. In fact, the current situation of having the Mayor and Charter Trustees would continue as these are enshrined in law. They would only be at risk if the town was parished. If there was fragmentation of the town into a number of parishes, it is likely that the Mayoralty would not be able to continue. If a Town Council was created then the Mayor could continue in a different form, as the Chairman of the Council could be called Mayor. This would make it a political appointment.

The Conservative Party believe that any change to the governance of High Wycombe should be looked at after the creation of the new unitary council and that the current proposals are premature.

Please take part in the consultation, but please check the validity of statements that people are making. You can participate in the consultation that is taking place until 30th September by going to www.wycombe.gov.uk/highwycombecgr or emailing highwycombecgr@wycombe.gov.uk.



Councillors Tony Green and Sarfaraz Raja both former Mayors of High Wycombe

Any change to how the town is run has to be paid for by residents!

NEW BUNDS PROTECT TERRIERS COMMON FROM TRAVELLERS

■ For weeks this summer, High Wycombe has been plagued by a large group of travellers that have arrived in the area. Groups of travellers were first seen on Kingsmead Recreation Ground on July 6, before moving onto The Rye, Hughenden Park, Desborough Recreation Ground and Booker Common and playing fields in Hazlemere. Each time they have to be moved on by a court order, leaving behind mess and litter that has to be cleared by the Council. However, it appears that the bunds that were built early last year around Terriers Common along Totteridge Lane and Amersham Road have successfully deterred travellers from camping on the common this summer.

The Council has now been granted an injunction by the High Court to protect 100 local sites from unlawful encampments. This includes all their car parks, development sites, open spaces and service roads.



DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

Don't miss out on your opportunity to vote in any elections that may be coming up. There will be elections for the new Buckinghamshire Council next May as well as an election for the Police and Crime Commissioner. If you are not registered to vote, you can apply to be on the voting register at any time. Just visit <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> and follow the instructions on line.



YOUR CONSERVATIVE TEAM FOR TERRIERS AND AMERSHAM HILL



Tony Green represents you on Wycombe District Council



Arif Hussain represents you on Wycombe District Council and Bucks County Council



Sarfaraz Raja represents you on Wycombe District Council

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