

Potters Bar Community Governance Review

Second Consultation Responses

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We asked:

Do you agree that the parish council for Potters Bar should be divided in eleven parish wards as described above?

299 yes

85 no

Comments added for the above question:

We pay enough

Don't keep wasting our money

I do not believe a Parish Council is required

Don't set up a Parish Council, it's a waste of money.

Too many areas just go to 4

I do, no Parish Council. I see no advantage, just extra cost, which I know from talking with residents who want a Parish Council, they do not realise.

I don't believe that the problems in (for example) oakmere east are significantly different to those around the walk. To me it seems silly to have different representation through such small areas. I'd be in favour of a more diverse and proportional representation of (for example) 3 representatives that cover the entire "Potters Bar Oakmere" area, giving residents more choice in who may be able to solve their problems.

The parishes are very uneven. 2 councillors for each ward would be fairer.

Each Ward should have the same number of representatives. Under the proposal Parkfield is disadvantaged in having only two representatives, compared with three for each of the other Wards. This creates an inherent imbalance. All areas of the town should have equivalent representation.

Not necessary for a parish council at all.

Add one more.

Don't see the point of a parish council

The dividing lines for the proposed parishes seem mostly to go down the middle of roads, dividing neighbours into different parishes (as is the case where I live). I would prefer to see parishes based on community areas, grouping neighbours together.

Do not agree

My proposal is that we abandon and no longer pursue the plans for a parish council in Potters Bar.

No Parish council

No

Would prefer not to have a Parish Council.

The ward should be of approximately equal electorates

I do not understand why none of the propose wards include where I live

Stay together

4 wards seems sufficient

Divide it into the four main blocks as described, that will make it easier to find people for the various roles.

None

I think the Causeway should be included with little Heath

It too many to have any meaningful say over Potters Bar. Basically it would mean very small parish councils

Parish Council not required

Stop establishment of Parish Council

Perhaps some of the wards could be combined. It is possible to combine a few wards whilst maintaining the identity of each area.

Shrink it down to 4 wards

yes leave it as it is

Leave it as it is - it works fine as is

I don't think there should be a parish council, our Council tax bills are high enough, people are struggling and cannot afford any more bills.

Yes, there are 16,780 residents in all the wards according to your data. This must include people of many different income levels and ability to pay. Have you done any assessment of residents ability to pay?

Some will be homeowners, some pay rent e.g. occupants of a House of Multiple Occupancy, some may pay a mortgage. What is your assessment of relative abilities to pay in the different wards? What effect will any changes have on the present assessments of Council Tax? Until you answer these questions the voting figures for local elections will not improve and the elections remarkably undemocratic-you will not have a mandate for the changes you propose.

Leave as it is

I do not want a parish council to be established

Do not want a Parish Council

Existing arrangements are fine. Absolutely makes no sense to have more bureaucracy

No parish

I am a home owner living on the Cherrywood Estate. Why is this area not included?

Please keep council tax as low as possible

The four wards should be sufficient localisation.

No proposals no parish council

The proposal does not equitably divide the electorate between Councillors. Cranborne is elected by only 678 people (approx 16% of the ward) compared with Mimms Hall, 2722 people (approx 15.7% of 63.1% of the ward), a difference of 4 times. A more equitable division would be to divide the total

electorate by 11, giving approx 1525 people per Councillor. Whilst you propose dividing by Polling District, this is for your convenience, not for an equitable division.

Looking at the other Parish Councils in the Borough, a split by Polling District is not given, but the number of electorate per Councillor varies widely. You do not give any reason for this discrepancy.

You're only creating more waste of money and time. You have locally elected councillors. Parishes are outdated and just complicate things. How much money would be saved if parish councils were abolished?

I'm against parish wards as it will add extra costs to my council tax

Scrap the requested council as a waste of public money. How will this change with the changes the government published on council set up

Don't want a parish council at all

Little Heath is NOT in Potters Bar! Potters Bar Parkfield should be as in the current Hertsmere Borough Council elections.

The number of residents in each Polling District are strikingly unequal. One could merge Cranborne with Wyllotts, however, as I do not believe there should be a Potters Bar Parish this is irrelevant

I do not agree with the formation of a Parish Council

I think it should be divided into the 4 borough wards instead.

We want our own parish to make decisions

I am not in favour of creating a parish council.

Less wards, the better

Parkfield Ward gets 2 councillors for 3738 electors i.e. 1869 per councillor, others get approx 1450 per councillor, therefore parkfield is under representative and should get 3 councillors.

It is unacceptable that Little Heath is not included in the proposals. You cannot run a parish council for the town without including all of the constituent parts of the town. The fact that Little Heath is not in Hertsmere is an irrelevant result of typical planning errors, on the part of the councils concerned. In this circumstance, Hertsmere should be running this consultation in conjunction with Welhat. and the fact that you are not doing this, strikes me as wholly incompetent. You need another ward to those listed, with perhaps 2 additional councillors, to represent Little Heath.

My proposal is we should keep the system we already have, a further layer of bureaucracy is unwarranted

Don't fully understand current and proposed plans.

I do not want a parish council. This is an unnecessary cost. Services that this Parish Council will carry out should already be carried out by the existing council. Why do we want to pay more tax and have more layers of bureaucracy

Separate district/ward for Ridge

My preference is that no parish council is created

Dear Sir, you list 16780 electorate in Potters Bar but those in favour of the proposed parish totalling just 435 (i.e. 72%) of the returns, indicating a total lack of interest by this majority amid an increase in financial burden to those on minimum state pensions and who have no interest in the proposal hence, NO.

To many 11. Some very unequal population. Should be no more than 8 each with roughly similar number. Look particularly at mimms hall and cranbourne.

How many parish councillors will there be? Would it be just 5? One for each ward. Would they be aligned to a particular political party?

I don't think Bentley Heath/Wrotham Park has the same issues as The Royds/the rest of Potters Bar. IMO it doesn't belong to any of the groups proposed, so I don't know where you would put it.

Is a parish council necessary? My opinion is, that a parish council is another layer of bureaucracy that will cost more money. Maybe we will need one in the future, but with the cost of living crisis, now is not the time to implement this

Having 11 councillors seems reasonable for the town size but polling in groups rather than 11 wards would enable a more meaningful say from the electors. This could allow several votes for example, with several councillors being elected in the same polling group, a more balanced outcome in terms of minorities, etc. A method that would enable electors to express lack of support for a candidate could also counter tendencies to campaign on a negative basis.

Increasing council tax to fund additional councillors is not sustainable, especially when the cost of living continues to rise and households are already under financial strain.

There should be the minimum number necessary to comply with the law and to minimise costs.

Can Causeway and Mimms Hall be separated.

Whilst I support entirely the use of Wards to provide focused local representation, there is a vast discrepancy in terms of the sizes of some of the Wards. Cranborne, for instance, has an electorate a quarter as large as Mimms Hall. This seems profoundly anti-democratic to me (even though I would live in a ward with the smallest electorate per member!) I recognise that the proposed Wards have been split along specific lines (e.g. north and south of Mutton Lane) but such a "neat" division does not justify the difference in Ward sizes. It would be "fairer" to split Furzefield into two Wards - north and south of Mutton Lane - rather than the current proposal for three.

I think it actually leave Parkfield under represented.

A single council

We asked:

Do you agree with the proposed number of councillors? *(proposal of 11)*

306 yes

78 no

Comments added for the above question:

The population split is not even - so giving undue bias to some councillors where one represents 900 people another 2600. The councillor numbers should align to people evenly. So consolidate small ones to a target size or divide bigger to have two. Ideally consolidate.

More wasted money

stop wasting our money

A parish council is not required

Don't set up a Parish Council, it's a waste of money.

5

0

As the parishes are so uneven , 2 Councillors for each ward would be fairer making 8 councillors total
8 or 12 (Wards should have equal representation)

5

Don't see the point of a parish council

None

Moving forward with a parish council needs to stop.

0

0

Would prefer at least 2 Councillors per ward

7

I think the whole scheme is a waste of money

0

4

I agree eleven councillors but Using just the four areas gives greater scope for appointing people.

If you intend to have 11 wards there should be at least one councillor from each ward

I don't believe that there should be a parish council

Zero

Not establish a parish council

5. As too many cooks spoil the broth!

no need for them

Zero - We have enough councillors, more money will be needed to pay which I can ill afford, this is just for the sake of it. I don't think anyone will be better off for it. I think it will create more division. More arguments. Everything will go backwards and forwards, nothing will be achieved.

None, we already have local Councillors.

Councillors should be allocated in relation to the populations represented. The higher the population the more councillors. Could 1 councillor adequately represent 500 residents ? Could one councillor represent

100 residents ? This is a question of adequate representation which requires more research and support from central government if it is to be taken seriously.

11

I support having 11 councillors for Potters Bar.

However, I do not support having one councillor elected from each ward regardless of the size of the electorate. Representation should be broadly proportionate so that residents across Potters Bar have an equal voice. If the existing parish wards are adopted, I believe the allocation of councillors should reflect the number of electors in each ward rather than automatically assigning one councillor to every ward.

Get rid of some - They are a waste of space.

I do not want a parish council to be established

None

None, current situation is fine

Same as previous

None

As few as possible due to Cost. Council Tax is already outrageous for a Single Pensioner on less than £20,000.

I said the 4 wards should be sufficient localisation. I'd suggest 2 per ward giving a total of 8.

We have too many councillors no parish council required

11 is acceptable, but not the division you offer.

See previous answer:

The proposal does not equitably divide the electorate between Councillors. Cranborne is elected by only 678 people (approx 16% of the ward) compared with Mimms Hall, 2722 people (approx 15.7% of 63.1% of the ward), a difference of 4 times. A more equitable division would be to divide the total electorate by 11, giving approx 1525 people per Councillor. Whilst you propose dividing by Polling District, this is for your convenience, not for an equitable division.

Looking at the other Parish Councils in the Borough, a split by Polling District is not given, but the number of electorate per Councillor varies widely. You do not give any reason for this discrepancy.

Same as b4, why do we need so many councillors

Zero to avoid extra council tax costs

Waste of money will this go out to people as a formal ballot

None for the Parish council as I believe it is a waste of resource

9 at most

We don't need a Parish council

5

None. I am not in favour of creating a parish council.

Maximum of 2

See above

5

13 to include representation from Little Heath

We/I don't need them

Don't fully understand current and proposed plans.

Same as before. Who is to pay for these councillors? More Ciara to the local residents when really we should be looking at ways of saving money

Separate ward/district for Ridge

My suggestion is that no parish council should be created.

See previous statement

Are you proposing 11 parish councillors? That seems too many.

As already exists

I cannot answer this question objectively as I do not have sufficient information. How much would 11 Councillors cost? Are 11 councillors really necessary?

See my previous message.

I believe the parish council should have the minimum number of councillors required, in order to keep council tax costs as low as possible for residents during a time of rising living expenses. So maybe if the suggester Parish are 11 I would say 5 Councillors would be fair

Elector answered yes but ticked not if PB3 is passed. 12 if not, 13 otherwise

5 councillors. There should be no more than absolutely necessary to comply with the law. There is no need for a Parish Council.

As mentioned above, there should be a closer alignment in terms of Ward sizes. Therefore, having ten councillors (with Furzefield divided into two rather than three Wards) would be fairer if the Wards have to be split along clear geographical lines. This would lead to a council with ten members.

I think Parkfield is underrepresented for number of residents

5

We asked:

Do you agree with the proposed division of Councillors? (1 per ward)

312 yes

72 no

Comments added for the above question:

The population split is not even - so giving undue bias to some councillors where one represents 900 people another 2600. The councillor numbers should align to people evenly. So consolidate small ones to a target size or divide bigger to have two. Ideally consolidate.

Refer to previous answer

stop wasting our money

See above response

Don't set up a Parish Council, it's a waste of money.

Again, no Parish Council

I think 2 Councillors each ward would be fairer due to uneven wards.

Each Ward should have the same number of representatives to avoid inbuilt bias. With four Wards, eight would be a good number to ensure that business gets done fairly and efficiently.

No

Don't see the point of a parish council

No

Moving forward with a parish council needs to stop.

No parish council

We are fine as we are

See answer above

see above

4 seems sufficient

No

Do not create a Parish Council that would increase bureaucracy and Council Tax

Not establish a parish council

Agree that each ward should be represented but feel that the wards could be combined to be fewer.

no

Leave it as it is. Another tier of government will make it even worse.

as above

You need a public survey of how many residents a local councillor should serve.

I support the creation of 11 parish wards using the existing polling district boundaries.

However, I do not support allocating one councillor to every ward regardless of its electorate. Councillor representation should be broadly proportional to the number of electors in each ward so that residents have an equal voice.

Larger wards should therefore elect more councillors than smaller wards where appropriate, while keeping the overall number of councillors at around 11 if possible.

Too many - Reduce Council Tax

I do not want a parish council to be established

Leave it the way it is and save us money

As existing

The number of votes for each councillor to be elected should be close to each other.

Same request as previous 2 questions

Keep local taxes as low as possible

Keep Costs down for Pensioners.

I said the 4 wards should be sufficient localisation. I'd suggest 2 per ward giving a total of 8.

The question did not describe what was 'the division' so unable to answer or provide an alternative.

No alternative proposal no parish council

As before, to provide an equitable distribution divide the total electorate by 11, giving approx 1525 people per Councillor. Whilst you propose dividing by Polling District, this is for your convenience.

Looking at the other Parish Councils in the Borough, a split by Polling District is not given, but the number of electorate per Councillor varies widely. You do not give any reason for this discrepancy.

Don't need so many people

I'm against anything that will cause my council tax to rise

See above

Parish council not necessary

Maintain the current council representation arrangements

We don't need a parish council

I am not in favour of creating a parish council.

Sorry I don't

The ward is quite small compared to parkfield and little heath therefore better. The ward is own councillors and item 2 for parkfield and little heath.

Again, you need to include councillors for Little Heath

We/I don't need them

Don't fully understand current and proposed plans.

I strongly do not believe that the local resident understands that there will be an additional cost to them as a council tax payer. A parish council is a vanity project

Separate ward/district for Ridge

My suggestion is that no parish council should be created.

See previous statement

Prefer as current arrangement

It appears that not all councillors have the same (approx) number of voters to represent. I would suggest making this more equitable for work load reasons.

We do not need a parish council. Just a council that will put residents first and look after their interests. le no more development until infrastructure has been built first, no more HMOs as the town is too small for ant more

Wards could be grouped as per the 4 current groups. Alternatively, if the intention is to enable a different arrangement, the polling districts could be grouped in a different grouping of geographically adjacent wards, with a total of 3 or 4 polling groups.

as I stated in my previous answer half of the proposed counsellors would be enough

Parkfield seems underrepresented. Especially as we have proposed large developments. Canada Life, metropolitan house and Old golf course. We need to future proof arrangements.

We asked:

Do you have any comments on the parish precept and funding arrangements?

£10 per month seems reasonable per household.

I live on my own & struggle. Why should I be forced to pay more.

Am happy for this to be added

I think a Parish Council is essential with the new unitary authorities proposed for Hertfordshire, which proposed Potters Bar, already an outpost in Hertsmere, in with Watford and Three Rivers. Those worried about an increase in Council tax, who oppose this are being small minded, when they should be considering the benefits to the residents. Those organisations that oppose it for fear of losing their own clout should be held to account

it should be less than £100 and very tight control on the ability to increase the precept without local people agreeing it

I mean that tax is not ideal but okay

Council tax is already very high. The parish precept should come from this fund not an additional fee to residents

The funding should be kept to a minimum. The Parish Council should push the new "Administrative" Council to cover the costs wherever feasible.

parish council do nothing group of time and money

This additional charge is unwelcome

if it improves support for local people , I am all for it

Don't set up a Parish Council, it's a waste of money.

We pay enough council tax as is with hardly any services, the parish should be funded through the council tax we already pay.

Too expensive

There should be no increase in any tax or extra cost to residents, if this goes ahead, it should be funded from existing revenue streams.

It is imperative that Parish Council should be autonomous hence it will be funded by Hertsmere Borough Council through tax payers in Potters Bar.

Extra cost for no benefit, unnecessary

I agree

The sum should be fixed for 10 yrs or run with inflation or just below the rate

I am in Favour of parish precepts and funding arrangements.

Seems like a lot for something we don't obviously need. I know I missed the previous round of consultation but the extra cost seems high to provide services when in my view the council already does a good job at providing what I need.

I agree with the proposals

That seems reasonable

I would need to know more about the finances and what it would be used for. Also would we have a say on what the money would be used for.

Need to maximise the budget and start with a small amount

All good

Council tax should be reduced or frozen to take into account this additional charge

A new parish should start with a small funding precept and prove its value before further funding is injected.

The current climate with household essentials and bills are already extremely expensive and affordability for an additional bill is not possible for myself and many other residents of Potters Bar. All for a role/remit that the local council should be fulfilling and is already incorporated in council tax that is paid. This really doesn't make sense to impact residents in such a negative way financial and all very hierarchical this is not affordable to the families of Potters Bar.

I support this.

£2 per week for each property seems ok but would this generate enough. The figures given in an earlier question were the number of electors for each of the eleven areas not the number of properties, so how much would this actually generate?

The figure of £104.17/pa seems reasonable and I would not expect future levels to increase significantly from this guide figure. However, there needs to be a robust mechanism to prevent over bureaucracy leading to any unjustified increase.

Council tax should be reduced per household to accommodate precept charge

Parish Council may do better job in running all the services we need and reduce wastage of funds on wrong things.

Rather it was at no cost to residents

This should all stay with new Parish council

It's yet another layer of government, and will be a drain on already stretched resources

Would welcome the parish as we are neglected by Hertsmere

how much will go on unelected staff

The cost of any services no longer undertaken by Hertsmere BC and newly charged by the Parish Council should be reflected as a reduction in the Council Tax. I.e. NOT charged twice.

As it is based on the parish precepts for other emparished areas it would be the right level

With the change in County. District council government this will likely need to be changed upwards

Should be funded out of current council tax. Don't want to have another, separate tax.

Local in the best interests

Do not agree

Abandon this idea immediately. This council's incompetence and mismanagement of funds has caused huge rises in tax and introduced new fees while neglecting expected duties and responsibilities. Offloading responsibilities to a parish and milking the taxpayer further is not a viable plan.

Agree with parish precept and funding arrangements

Seems sensible

Do not need more expense

We pay enough for our present council we don't need more expense

Will there be a reduction in Council Tax, if the residents pay £104.17 Per year for the Parish Council .

Full breakdown of these costs will need to be shown in CTB

I do not wish to have this expense. The council tax is high enough.

Other Hertsmere areas have parish councils, so if council tax for Potters Bar will have to be raised for parish council funding, then this be in line with other areas

I do not agree with additional funding, any charges should come out of the existing Council Tax fees

I think the whole thing is a waste of time and money - life in Potters Bar is comfortable and quiet and there is no need for another body and additional taxation.

Should be funded from the existing council tax

I do not want to pay for something I don't want and consider a waste of money

We need a Parish council to speak for the people

I don't agree with any extra cost to residents based on such a small engagement with the review compared to the population of Potters Bar. Especially during a cost of living crisis.

No parish council required, allow the council do it all

I think residents want a say in how the borough/wards are run, but I don't think they will be happy to pay an extra £100 just to have their say.

I don't know

Our council tax is already high when compared to other areas. It would be preferable for the money to be raised some other way.

The funding must be used for the benefit of the people living in POTTERS BAR. Forget about all these extra new builds and bringing people in from far wide and causing damage to our environment with the proposed build near Dame Alice Owen School

No, that is the normal method.

We are happy to agree with this to start first year parish

A maximum of £100 for a Band D property in the first year

Yes, escalating increases year on year (not dissimilar to service charges imposed on some leaseholders) A licence to print money?!

Given the cost of living crisis it would be unfair to expect residents to fund the parish council especially as we on the "outskirts " of Potters Bar see very little road maintenance etc for the amount of council tax we pay. Additional cost would make existence hard to impossible

Funding should be provided by Hertsmere as there will be less decisions needed from Hertsmere and accordingly less paid employees required

Will the funding be varied according to the Banding as per the present council tax system.

It seems a lot of money, but as long as every household contributes and the services are provided, then I would be happy to pay the charge.

I do not want a parish council

Will residents get an itemised breakdown of the spend and how much influence will residents have over any proposals?

We already pay enough

Not keen on an increase in council tax. The fact that some properties have been extended/improved in recent times but where the council tax does not reflect the true value until the property has new owners is fundamentally wrong. For this reason I do not accept that we need an increase in council tax.

£104.17 is unlikely to support the parish and have limitations on the parish and what it stands for. Bind by financial limitations is a gagging notice

Do not increase Council Tax for services that should already be provided

Not establish a parish council

Happy with a small fee as above

Do not agree that it should be an addition charge.

Agree proposal

Yes an awful waste of money and an additional cost to the council tax payer , Very kind

Fine

How are we going to benefit from this charge? You are opening pandoras box with this.

Sounds OK

I don't want to pay more

You state: "Once established, the parish council would set its own precept for each financial year". What are the controls and limits of this? Will Hertsmere Borough Council have any say in whether the precept is reasonable?

No that is ok

This is a considerable amount for Officers/Councillors to organise the Christmas lights. If the duties were expanded to encompass planning matters etc then the amount would be acceptable. However

for the current proposed duties this is not acceptable. The Council Tax charges are high enough as they are and efficiencies should be sought in the current budget.

As I said before, we pay high council tax and cannot afford any higher.

What services does the above figure finance?

I agree with the funding and parish precept arrangements

I think a Parish Council would just add another layer of bureaucracy and expense and therefore not required.

Seems sensible

I support a parish council having sufficient funding to deliver local services effectively. However, the parish precept should be kept as low as reasonably possible, with clear transparency over how public money is spent. Any increases should be fully justified, proportionate and subject to public consultation. The parish council should focus on providing clear value for money and avoid unnecessary administrative costs.

Sounds like yet another stealth tax

IT IS WORTH PAYING A PRECEPT TO HAVE A LOCAL PERSON SPEAK UP FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

I agree to the Precept

The charge to households should NOT be linked to their Council Tax banding - everyone should be charged the same amount.

The portion of money each resident pays should be fair and proportionate to the benefits we see for having our own parish council

It is what it is

We really don't need or want a parish council. There would be no improvements in Potters Bar with one

Funding should be provided out if the current council tax or current council tax appropriately reduced to account for the Parish Precept

Do not adopt any system that adds more bureaucracy or increases Council Tax

I totally disagree with the parish funding being based on the Council Tax Band. The Parish Council Funding SHOULD NOT BE based on or have any bearing whatsoever on the Council Tax Band that a household pays. This is for a proposed 'Parish Fund' and should be an equal amount levied on each household across the board. Otherwise, the Parish Council Funding is immediately 'wrong footed' and unfair.

The amount should be in proportion to the number of adults in a property

I do not want a parish council to be established

Funding arrangements seem fair as long as use of funding is clear and transparent

I think its a waste of money

My council tax is high enough as it is and way highrr than neighbouring Boroughs, like for like. Why employ more costly governance

No parish

The precept should be kept as low as possible whilst sustaining the services required, great thought should be given to ensuring residents aren't placed under even greater financial burden during an already challenging period.

depends on whether it is enforceable and what about people on benefits?

Hertsmere should transfer the total amount of precept which is being collected from Potters Bar resident to the new council.

Keep costs as low as possible while being effective

Please don't do anything that adds further tax

Pensioners should be exempt as already paying OTT amount for Council Tax Services not used.

understand that a parish council requires funding through a parish precept. I would support this provided it delivers clear local benefits, improves local services and gives residents better

representation and value for money. It would be helpful for a detailed first-year budget and examples of expected annual costs should be published. Residents should understand exactly what services their money would fund. Any parish council should operate with strong financial transparency, publish detailed annual accounts, consult residents on major spending decisions and regularly demonstrate value for money.

Request Part of funding from central goventmmet

Each council member must be personally responsible for all spending and must be held accountable personally for any and every financial indiscretion.

I believe the cost could be reduced by reducing to 4 wards, 2 elected reps per ward. Fundamentally, without seeing the budget and associated plan, it is difficult to provide any useful feedback or concerns.

This seems to be an acceptable arrangement

No. A Parish Council would have to be funded. These arrangements appear reasonable.

The breakdown of the budget should have been given. Total income and the major expense headings. It is not possible to comment with so little specific information.

Why should we have to pay

We don't want this. Find a way to lower taxes not raise them.

Happy to pay a little extra if our vice can be heard within Hertsmere

It needs to be carefully monitored

In a cost of living crisis the last thing residents need is an additional tax that will just go to cover the cost of bureaucracy. If the Parish council is to be created it should be funded from some for of sponsorship or something that does NOT impact the residents

Cost should be kept as low as reasonable

I understand

I don't agree with the idea of a parish council. I believe it is another layer of bureaucracy and an uncalled for extra expense.

I accept that if Potters Bar had a Town/Parish Council, there will be a cost. You do not provide figures for this, and it must vary according to the responsibilities of the Council. However, some of those responsibilities would no longer by a Borough cost, reducing the precept taken by Hertsmere (or their successor).

Stop wasting money

No adverse comment, it seems fair to me

I support having a parish council, but I am concerned about residents having to pay an additional parish precept. I would like to see greater transparency on the expected costs and whether alternative funding arrangements could reduce the impact on Council Tax payers. Any additional charge should be proportionate and clearly linked to tangible benefits for the community.

I agree

I'm against extra admin and therefore additional costs added to my already high council tax

Every effort should taken to keep the parish precept and funding at their most affordable levels.

Presentation always comes with a cost. Just don't want PB not having a voice.

Make sure they do not build on the golf course at the bottom of Cranborne. And do not let them build data centres in the area. Ruining the area. Make sure the funding protects the area.

This should go out to every member for a formal vote and not be dictated by a few people who just want to make a name for themselves

Unnecessary extra cost for very little benefit.

Average precept seems reasonable

This would be another administration charge that is not necessary

Some funding should come from govt sources

In 2008 a proposed parish council was voted down by 4,446 against with 2,807 for because they did not want to pay extra on their Council Tax. Why revisit this proposal?

I would welcome it

This seems fine for the precept. The council will then have money to act on issues local to us.

The figure quoted is average which means the precept and funding might be more or less. £104 per annum is already £2 per week. People's expectations is that "things" will improve but I wonder how much more people will wish to pay as a precept. For some people £2 a week is a lot of money. Also some residents have concessions under Council Tax rules. Would there be such concessions that could be applied by a Parish Council. I think this needs more clarity so that residents know what they are signing up for..

I am not clear on what the precept would be used to fund, so am unsure whether I agree or not

If the cost means Potters Bar has a voice in the new unitary council it will be worth it.

The proposal to create a Parish Council for Potters Bar is unaffordable. It would create another level of governance which would cost more than the derived benefits. Local residents would bear the burden of this.

Bo

I do not see why should we pay more into the council tax, when parish council does not deal with any of the real issues, just the low key topics

Would need more information, is this an annual cost for each Council tax payer?

I do not want it, unnecessary

Do not agree to a parish council for potters bar

I do not want a parish council

Yes we need a potters bar parish council

I am not in favour of creating a parish council.

Anything to reduce costs

As previously stated, I remain opposed at the creation of parish councils and remain concerned at the costs to residents if the proposals are implemented.

This is a Duty, do it for free.

the cost outweighs any envisaged benefits

This doesn't seem to offer value for money to me.

There is no indication as to how much will be the reduction in basic council tax, to allow for activities now provided by Hertsmere, instead being provided by the new parish council.

I do not have the information as to what these are

This sounds a reasonable proposal and cost. Disappointed to see a typo in the text.

We are so heavily taxed locally and centrally we/I don't need another layer of tax

Don't fully understand current and proposed plans.

this must be well controlled as not to cause undue charges

Not at this time.

No, I agree with that figure

Yes I do not want to pay more or have a parish council

Accept.

The precept should be a reasonable amount depending on their duties and responsibilities, with fair maximum caps in place to ensure households are not over burdened

No - as no details have been available as yet

No because the information has not been available

It is not clear there will be sufficient additional benefit to residents.

How much will this increase by?

We need a Parish Council.

There might be residents who can't afford the additional fee.

Nothing known about funding or understand what a Parish precept is! No information given.

The Parish council and the areas they take responsibility for would no longer need to be funded by the county authority therefore the funds for these areas should be allocated to the parish council from the county authority budget, any additional costs should be a minimal addition to the council tax paid by the residents of Potters Bar.

I think I was initially asked about a town council for Potters Bar. Is this the same as a parish council? There was no mention of increasing council tax

Once again, I am unable to give a considered answer as I do not have all the facts. Who provides the parish precept currently and exactly how much is it for Potters Bar? Who will oversee the setting of amount for the parish precept? Who oversees expenditure of Town Council? etc.

£104.17 is this a month or year? Once again, not enough transparency, you just know the £104.17 is a starting point

I think the above proposal is about right

Local areas who have a parish council do not feel that they are effective and they are expensive for a limited benefit. The cost is often more than quoted and seems to be increased without the agreement of residents

I am surprised that, if the parish council is taking responsibilities that the borough currently has, their budget could not be partially created with an allocation from the Borough. The goal of a parish council would be to have a more local and more effective management of services and assets but there are some arguments this would be more efficient and so would not automatically result in increased costs to the residents.

I do not agree with establishing a parish council, as the additional annual charge is very high on top of an already expensive council tax. With the rising cost of living and wages not keeping pace, adding further financial pressure on residents is not reasonable.

It is not clear how the sum of £104.17 as the average parish precept has been calculated.

Precept to be calculated for each household and share of community infrastructure Levy CIL for local developments.

It's too expensive to operate. In addition to this, there doesn't appear to be any governance around how these funds are expended and how these are controlled. This is a huge concern.

My initial thought is that the charge is high when in addition to Council Tax but I understand it would be needed to operate during the first year.

Only a small amount of essential staff should be employed. Hopefully office costs will be sensible

I am opposed to the formation of a parish council. I don't want to pay any more council tax than I do already.

Can the funding be lower

It provide a voice to represent residents regarding excessive building

NN 1 . It adjoins council areas which are eager to build homes encroaching on our town.

This sounds fair

I recognise that residents pay for what they get! Therefore, better local services will cost money and a precept will be necessary. Compared with the council tax going to HCC/HBC (and its successor), the precept is likely to a small addition to the overall Council Tax.

The precept should be kept to a minimum necessary to run the administration only. it is to be avoided for the Unitary authority to pass over functions and not corresponding budgets. Any activities such as managing allotments and open spaces, parks etc which transfer should not save the UA money but cost more for the Parish Council.s precept

Seems reasonable to me

Not happy with the formation of a parish council.

This seem reasonable but should not be exceeded

Funding should be just a set amount for all

The budget should be as low as possible.

Each year there should be a parish council meeting, open to the electorate, to discuss the proposed precept in order to assess the support or objections to any proposed increases.

As long as it's not a vast amount above the £104.17

I don't think residents understand enough about this. We need to give examples of how much a clerk would cost and elections. What are the outgoings before any money from precept is spent on residents' wants

This sounds entirely fair

Agree that it needs funding

Yes, it needs funding.

Yes it needs funding

Yes it needs funding.

A maximum levy should be imposed to restrict overspending.

My opinion is that this amount stated above is just about acceptable. It should not be any more.

I do not want to pay for this, we already pay far too much

We asked:

In relation to the proposals set out above, please explain how you consider they may affect you, your neighbourhood or the area as a whole.

Better localism. With LGR having councillors to represent people in small neighbourhood wards, such as Sunnybank or Oakmere, can only be good for local democracy.

Better as Potters Bar gets a voice for the town and its direct impact locally.

I don't think they will, it's just another money grabbing scheme.

I think the benefits of having our own representation and the parish council's ability to deal with the areas for which you have said they would be responsible is very important to boost community spirits.

I hope the focus will be very narrow, eg litter picking and cutting grass verges

Hopefully more focus on local issues

Hopefully improve it

The many positive reasons that were raised in the first round of consultation.

will increase cost of council tax and achieve nothing

Encourage people to become more interested/involved in local matters

I do not see much value in creating this Parish Council

Bring us together as community

Protection of our green belt. No more HMO.

We've never felt connected politically or to have local representation and this feels appropriate

Please do not set this up. What a waste of money and Council Officers' time.

The Parish should be funded by the council tax we already pay. Don't want to pay extra council tax.

This would increase council tax

Give me better local representation

More local representation

No

Providing high-quality governance especially large family members like mine and neighbours at the area.

At a time when budgets for all people and organisations are under pressure, this misguided proposal adds even more pressure. This proposal is supported by a well off section of the population I believe, and those of us on fixed income are under represented because the added burden of cost is not understood. As stated, I have this experience through conversations with supporters of the proposal.

I believe that local parish councillors will be better placed and care more for the town rather than hertsmere which is too large and decisions taken by individuals spread over too large an area ie more local

Pensioners with limited income. Would like parish council to have say on hmo planning applications

Hopefully if elected candidates are local residents they will have a vested interest in

My concern is that based on the comments from the last survey a lot of people expect this new body to deal with things that would not be within their control, for example HMOs, green belt development, "unregulated shops", and a mandate to create a body that couldn't handle the issues these people raise seems misguided; whether or not you think those issues are serious. The case for it is a promise they cannot keep.

By allowing residents to look after our own neighborhoods, and have a say in how our town is looked after.

If the areas were more balanced all Councillors would represent a more equal number of residents and be able to gather views fairly.

Would we had residents have a say in what is developed in our area.

As a resident I am directly impacted

Better local governance. Faster response to very local issues eg inconsistencies of rubbish collection or anti social behaviours

I would like to think that there will be local representation of the issues that residents are faced with ie the number of hmo properties and the proposed amount of building work that has no infrastructure to support it .If something is not done then potters bar will be unrecognisable.the representatives need to live here to know what is going on

Stronger voice for the neighbourhood

As a resident of Parkfield Ward, I only wish to see this Parish Council created if it fairly represents all voices in Potters Bar. It should be strictly non political like Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council. That is the only way to avoid national political dogma causing local conflict.

I don't have a crystal ball to know how these proposals will affect me & my neighbourhood. This will depend on the actions of those who are elected, what they decide to achieve & whether or not they are successful.

I hope the proposals will lead to better understanding of what the community needs and the ability to make positive changes.

I don't find a parish is needed, it will negatively impact when raising issues in a more intermit setting and to be able to discuss concerns in confidence I also have concerns about diversity within potters bar parish and representation of those from an ethnic minority. Concerns in corruption and agenda driven by certain narratives in parish as a whole and as wards. We need equality across in view points and concerns- what happens in one part of potters bar Will usual occur in another and this needs everyone to be on the same strategic scope and plan of action which the council itself have better resources to carry out.

Can't afford additional costs and this will only increase.

Why not have a voluntary team that work in collaboration with the local council to showcase what they wish to achieve and demonstrate the success of this before attempting a parish if that is possible.

It gives residents a say in what happens in Potters Bar

An effective and appropriately funded Parish Council is long overdue for Potters Bar and essential to have more local representation for the issues that it can address with the advent of wider unitary authorities on the horizon. I needs to be totally non party political with all potential councillors having no party affiliations.

For the better I hope I

Will help to look after the area more efficiently and improve the services.

Hopefully better control over local requirements

I think the proposals set out above may help the residents of Potters Bar get better deals in dealing and listening to the residents enquiries at a more cost effective manner and manage all the services more effectively and hoping Councillors elected will run all the Parish services which will provide residents and businesses alike better value in the long run and not waste money on wrong things.

Won't

We would have greater control on our neighbourhoods.

Council tax will rise to pay for the parish council

We will at last have someone to speak up for us. Since we became Hertsmere the town is split in half, the remainder being in Hatfield/ Welwyn.

Hertsmere has destroyed 7,500 jobs as parking restrictions and limited buses were introduced with none on Sundays. No one disagreed with the county council removing cycle lanes or London Transport removing our buses which now run from our LT bus garage to Barnet empty.

Even our Covid injections were hours away by public transport. We then realised to cancel and go local to St Albans or Hatfield maximum 20 minutes away saving 3 hours.

There will be an increase in council tax and I would like to see what benefit this would give to Potters Bar

Not sure.

I would hope that the appointment of a Parish Council would improve overall 'services' within the area

I believe going into a unitary authority would mean Potters Bar residents would be more widely consulted on the unitary authorities policies and give greater opportunity for their views to be heard.

Hopefully will provide a much needed link between residents and theri local Town Council councillors on the one hand and the new county/distrcky set-up

I think a Parish Council would have local interests at heart

I think it should bring people together more.

More local accountability

Hopefully more control over expenditure & decisions taken

More control over local events

For the better

I might have A better day in what happens in my area

It will cost me more per month but should mean that it needs are better met by the council

I think this is going to spiral out of control, taxes will be raised faster and more frequently to keep up a failing idea and by the time the rest of the town realises it was a waste of time and money it'll be too late. We do not need a parish, we need a competent council that manages effectively and optimises how they spend money. Why aren't you forming partnerships with the surrounding boroughs to bring down costs? Why does everything you do have to recklessly increase tax? Why are you introducing new fees for services covered by the tax we already pay? Why are you not looking into how to reduce the council tax while bringing better quality service to the local people? This is a joke.

Unsure

Greater visibility & local influence on direct community issue.

Hopefully consultations would take place that would include all ages and residents.

The impact depends entirely upon the attitudes and abilities of the people serving on the new parish council. As a former employee and town planner of Hertsmere Borough Council I was always pleased (and welcomed) times when the committee tried to balance local interests with town planning policies and procedures.

Cause more expense when rates are already high

It will cost much more for no improvement to services

I am hoping that the area as a whole will improve with the Local voice and the Parish councillors will have to abide by the wishes of the Locals.

Especially if the locals have to pay extra council/Parish tax.

None.

If it helps Potters Bar to be more represented then it will be a good thing.

Provide voices and funding directly into neighbourhoods, that may otherwise be allowed to slip unnoticed into further decline

As stated one councillor per ward is not enough

I think it will cost money for little benefit

Currently Potters Bar doesn't have any voice. All Hertsmere priorities are directed towards Borehamwood and Elstree. Hopefully with a parish council we will have representation that can voice our concern

They may be able to look with more scrutiny at issues in each area

Hopefully It will make services in our area better.

Hopefully they will help with HMO

In my area there are a lot of people that are already struggling with the cost of living, unfortunately most of them are not likely to be engaged with this process and it is a shame as they will be disadvantaged by yet more cost for no real benefit to them and without their voice being heard, what a shame.

Worried it will cost the residents more

I've no idea because I don't understand how where I live fits into this proposal

Potters Bar has a wide range of parks and community centres and events. I fail to see how a parish Council will add anything different.

Why should the parish council run the area, not every one goes to church and are not interest in what the church does

Will increase resident's already high costs

Better representation at lower cost.

I don't know

Its a bit early to say yet but hopefully it will enable the residents to have great control over what happens in our community

I don't know

I don't think that we need another layer of governance, resulting in additional costings.

Good local representation

I am not sure this will directly affect us in our day to day lives but it makes sense that we have some say and representation.

Any large new builds in the area will adversely impact parking, schools and generally the neighbourhood

I think the parish council will give local matters greater visibility and attention and hopefully impact the wider Hertsmere decisions.

I hope the parish council provides services that is value add and not just token protest.

I hope it challenges all relevant agencies in the proper maintenance of services provided, esp. pot holes which are of a real concern and nothing gets done until so late in the day

I hope that oakmere wards would be better looked after as at the moment I feel the ward is quite neglected.

This will give better controls of handling of local issues and spending.

For the better

Hopefully better services and communications

Possibility of greater control or influence in planning matters in our area.

Hopefully, the parish council will consider benefits for the local community rather than Hertsmere as a whole.

Having people that live in the area make decision decisions is the best idea

Unsure. If local authority is functioning correctly then parish council should be unnecessary.

Very little would be done for our neighbourhood. We would suffer financially while the more affluent areas of Potters Bar would flourish

Decisions should be made faster to reflect the wishes of the local community

Hopefully it might improve things for Potters Bar which is going downhill fast under present system though it may be too late

I am hoping that HMOs can be prohibited in this urban town. Also more considerate building for local residents who are being priced out of the market for buying their own home.

I would hope that if a problem arose it would be dealt with quickly and efficiently.

I believe the residents of Potters Bar should have a bigger say in what happens in the town

I do not think that a parish council would offer any benefit and would add to my council tax

Hopefully will create a platform for local residents voices to be heard

I am hoping it will have an positive impact for neighbourhood and help it remain relevant.

I have no idea - what are the powers of this parish council ?

In principal the proposal is a good thing where the residents of Potters Bar would have a greater so on the neighborhood. However, the funding of the parish council is the biggest issue for me.

Hopefully our kneads would be listened too and improve the local community as a whole

Increase in taxation. No other benefit as Parish Councils are ineffective and have little to no power to change or do anything except provide a bench or a town sign with responses to planning consultation for example carrying little if no weight, increase bureaucracy, no service improvement and raise costs to the individual

I hope that it will increase representation for local issues and have more residents involved

Additional cost and bureaucracy.

The current volunteer and charity organisations should still be encouraged and supported.

I would love initiatives to make Potters Bar greener eg the initiative in Barnet. There used to be free trees given out, there are several areas within Potters Bar that would benefit from more trees. If smaller trees are provided, residents could contribute to this initiative.

No idea!

I strongly object to the solar farm being built and taking away farm land, for my area, I am extremely disappointed about this and don't see it as a good investment for the area.

More accountability.

Enough for now, don't need anymore

Local knowledge of need for - activities for children/ youth

- action on litter , parking , maintenance of public areas

- planning proposals

I think we will be better represented than at present. This is important if the proposed County Council changes take place later this year.

More localised decision making.

An additional layer of bureaucracy , that will deliver tiny results for large amounts of extra money that the council tax payer will have to pay . And as usual the first year will start nice and cheap , ten pound

a month perhaps, for the precept, but within a couple of years that cost will have risen to twenty pounds or more on top of a minimum of 5% increases in council tax. Green bin collection started at 50 pound , this year 55 within a couple of years we will be paying a hundred. Thanks so kind of you! We already said no to a parish council about ten years back. The people that you claim want a parish council , over 70% you claim , I think will be surprised how much extra they will have to pay plus how limited if any powers it will have to influence building plans etc.

Improve

I can't really answer that as I don't understand what you intend to do. You should close all the HMO's around Potters Bar - it's making properties alongside them unsaleable.

I'm not sure

I dont want to be in a situation when we are owing another tax and nothing is being done to benefit us as residents

I appreciate local democracy, even for the relatively minor areas of responsibility the Parish Council will have. They will also potentially be a good vehicle for residents to ask the Parish Council to air concerns about wider matters with Hertsmere Borough Council or the Unitary authority that might replace it.

Give us a voice and so Borehamwood does not dominate.potters bar

Minimal impact as the brief for the Parish Council needs to be wider. If that does not happen then the local Councillors at the Parish level should be able to make valid representation on all aspects of the wider Council portfolio, particularly as the re-organisation will take decision making further away from the local community.

I'm afraid more committees will just be more red tape to cut through to get anything done. For example we are told that the potholes are the County Council responsibility, but Hertsmere collect the Council tax, so Hertsmere should be putting pressure on County Council get these fixed. Same old story, two many cooks!!!!

could help with local issues including the green belt issue and local parking issues.

The burden of expenses will fall unfairly on smaller areas.

I have no issue with the additional costs but how will we contact and interact with the parish councillors?

More power to decide on housing and h m o's and planning

There will be observations and understanding about exactly how these smaller divisions of our large town can work.

It should bring locality in for the wardd

I think local volunteers would make a better job of overseeing how things are run than Councillors.

more control by residents over decisions that affect us

Potters Bar will be better represented. It will have a cost. I hope it will be worth it.

I believe a parish council has the potential to improve local representation and give residents a stronger voice in decisions affecting Potters Bar.

I support using the existing polling district boundaries as the basis for parish wards, provided representation remains fair and reflects the size of each ward's electorate.

If established, I hope the parish council will focus on practical local priorities such as maintaining green spaces, improving the local environment, supporting community facilities and ensuring residents receive good value for money. Transparency, accountability and responsible use of public funds will be essential in building public confidence and ensuring the council delivers real benefits for the community.

I would expect that local community and environmental issues would be prioritised and handled at a local level.

HAVING A LOCAL PERSON WHO KNOWS THE AREA COULD BE USEFUL

Better accountability and representation to Potters Bar Residents

A Parish Council would greatly benefit Potters Bar as a whole - but only if it is fairly funded.

I generally feel it may be more beneficial to have one than continue without one, however it shouldn't just be a way of increasing revenue without clear benefits to the area and residents who live here

More local focused, relevant

A parish council will give us both a forum in which local views can be discussed and funds to enable local wishes to be executed

A Parish Council would give us a voice to put our points of view and funds to implement our causes

Better local representation, and someone who is actually impacted by local matters who can take action quicker and more effectively.

It wouldn't. Nothing positive can come out of it. No new powers to protect the green belt

Hopefully provide more say and control of how budget is spent in the parish.

Should give focus to local issues

Why make changes at all?

I think once the Parish Council is established and up-and-running it will be extremely good for the town of Potters Bar. Potters Bar has totally lost the feeling of community over the past forty years that I have been resident here and has become very disjointed. The demographic has changed completely and many of the originally inhabitants have moved well out of the area - thereby losing that community feeling. The setting up of its own Parish Council is long overdue!

A parish council will better reflect the wishes of the local community.

They will create an additional layer of governance which I do not think is needed and at a cost which I have no wish to pay

I feel that a more localised representation would benefit the community as politics generally these days feels like it alienates voters

It's going to cost us more money via our council tax.

Proposals are not transparent

help with the HMO problem

I think it will lead to greater community representation

I do not know what is going to happen, since there seem to be plans to restructure Hertfordshire and Hertsmere. Residents need to be informed fully of the wider implications of all the proposed changes before any take place.

We are already overrun with HMO's and building on the area next to Baker St and the M25 will make the traffic issue worse, public facilities are already at peak

Potters Bar people do not have a single unifying body to represent them. Especially with the dreadful process coming up of merging Hertsmere into a super-sized council body.

Will give the people who live here a voice

I would hope for more representation of local views, keep potters bar community distinct and restrict building developments locally and no more HMOs in Potters Bar

Cost of living

Nothing to add

As a Pensioner, on small Income, would not be involved or interested.

One of the main reasons I would support the establishment of a parish council is to give Potters Bar a stronger and more unified voice on planning and future development. It could provide more effective local representation, better reflect residents' views and help influence decisions affecting the future character of the town. Additionally, I would not want all local decisions to be outsourced to Watford. It should represent the whole community rather than becoming dominated by a small group of individuals or particular interests. What we don't want is a Parish Council to become an arena of small politics, factions and personal interests. It should be about openness, transparency and inclusivity that fairly represents Potters Bar as a whole.

I expect only positive impact to be seen and felt

I think the lack of attention to certain elements of the public service have not been addressed carefully enough at a local level. There are concerns about crime and serious crime, planning (especially for the potential re-development of the golf course), and road planning and quality. It is unclear to me whether the construction of the parish council will be able to seriously tackle any of these. If they can, then I would be in favour. If they can't, then I am unsure whether this will be a sensible use of public and local money.

Better smaller parish that can be monitored more in depth

A parish Council would be able to collate and further the opinions of local residents more accurately than at present to the higher authority. For the past few years , Potters Bar seems to have been neglected by Hertsmere as it is on the extremity of the area.

I hope that we would have a greater say in matters affecting our immediate area.

Better local control.

I hope it will stop more housing in potters bar and improve what we already have here

Negatively, the only way for this to happen is for taxes to keep rising. We do not want this.

We will know who to contact on problems within the town and hope they can get to the correct depts in Hertsmere for answers

I feel that having a Parish Council might mean that Potters Bar has a voice as we are almost completely ignored by Hertsmere.

I believe the only outcome I will see from a Parish council is an additional cost on my council tax bill

Potters Bar often feels like a neglected part of Hertsmere without its own character and identity. I hope this helps develop it

It will enable greater local democracy for Potters Bar

local residents deciding on things that affect them

They may take more interest in local issues such as building regulations (esp. HMOs, etc.) traffic measures, state of roads and pavements (potholes, unevenness), looking after green belt land, local businesses, etc.

I think it will improve things - but there would have to be safeguards to avoid the Parish Council levy (as part of the Hertsmere Council Tax) being increased too much annually.

I imagine some people will recoil at the extra cost to each household.

I don't see any merit in this scheme and am opposed to it.

Without knowing the powers of the Town/Parish Council, this is difficult to say One trusts that the petty Party politics demonstrated recently at Borough level would not be present, indeed Party should not be involved in any way.

It would give people in Potters Bar a voice when matters relating to the area are considered by the Borough Council

Parish Council would give the residents more say.

I hope it will improve the relationships between residents and the council as it seems that decisions affecting Potters Bar are made without due regard to residents.

Better facilities & amenities for the local Potters Bar community.

We are a place to put our concerns.

local views should be taken more notice of

I think a parish council could be beneficial for Potters Bar by improving local representation and accountability. My main concern is the additional cost to residents through a parish precept. I would support the proposal provided that the costs are kept reasonable and the benefits to the community are clearly demonstrated.

Top priority would be the preservation of the Green Belt

A Parish Council will give a greater voice to the people of Potters Bar and hopefully give the residents of Potters Bar a fairer share of available money for local needs.

Great say for local people, fairer allocation of available funds

Great say for local people and fairer allocations of available funding for the community.

You haven't explained how a parish ward will help me. So all I can see is an extra cost added to my council tax to pay and support more bureaucracy.

I shall expect that there will be greater oversight of building developments in the community, together with better policing and environmental care.

By providing a more local involvement in decision-making regarding certain local issues.

Proper representation should provide PB with a voice and enable things to be put right quicker once an issue arises.

They should be relevant to each area with better community information & action

Just extra cost to our council tax bill and hardly any benefits

A say on local matters

The direct impact is there is one more layer of bureaucracy and cost

Enable local input by local people on local issues to an apparently vast new local authority with a base in Watford.

In the current economic situation (cost of living crisis), how can hard-up local taxpayers be expected to pay more on their household bills? Another tier of government is not necessary particularly as they will have no real powers.

A parish Council would initiate and coordinate local community projects, encourage volunteering, develop community cohesion and become a focus for coordinating the work of local statutory, commercial and charity organisations for everybody's wellbeing

I hope that the new council will provide a "local voice" when Hertsmere becomes part of a larger district under reorganisation proposals.

I agree with many comments already made about Potters Bar being out on a limb and forgotten territory by Hertsmere Borough Council. I also agree that Potters Bar residents don't get listened to whilst Hertsmere Borough Council seem to ride roughshod over any voice of dissent that is raised about proposed developments, data centre etc.. I am not happy with the "westernisation" of all services which means that Potters Bar residents are having to travel further and further away. This is particularly relevant to NHS services where clinics and outpatient appointments are being directed to Watford, Hemel and other long distance journeys from Potters Bar. When people are very ill, and require treatment, they don't need to be hauled around the County, sometimes at great financial cost (taxis). I realise this is not part of the Potters Bar governance review, but who else is giving consideration to these matters? I think there is a conflict about the geographical location of Potters Bar being a border town and situated closer to the London Boroughs of Enfield and Barnet. Being part of Hertsmere doesn't seem like a good fit.

A better way of solving local problems.

No affect

Potters Bar has for years felt like the poor relation to Borehamwood. The creation of a parish council to fight for Potters Bars needs and interests will be necessary. Otherwise we will be overlooked or treated as a convenient place to build all the houses the government decrees the new unitary council needs. There is enough pressure on the town already from developers, but no thought appears to be given to all the necessary infrastructure required, or the provision of doctors, dentists and amenities for the existing local population.

It will benefit the Residents of Potters Bar. It will increase Council Tax.

We must put a stop to hmo s and if being a parish helps then it must be good

First of all, it would cost us more money and the parish council would not really deal with the real issues like HMOs or other important issues

Hopefully, any concerns we may have regarding our neighbourhood and ward will have more chance of being taken into consideration and we will be better represented

Better representation

Will benefit local residents

The parish council will improve the neighbourhood by supporting community services, maintaining local amenities, and representing the interests of local residents."

A parish council would increase council tax with no tangible benefit to residents

I hope that this would mean a more bespoke approach to the immediate areas that we live in, listening to and taking on board residents wants and needs for an improved community and living experience. For example, pot holes being repaired in a more timely manner rather than having to wait for this to be picked up by local authorities etc, a closer eye on antisocial behaviour etc

Potters bar will be able to make their own decisions

More focus on local Potters Bar issues.

Quicker response to local urgent issues

Residents to have more voice

Local Councillors more accountable

Apart from additional costs it is hoped that by introducing parish councils the area would receive more targeted support

I am not in favour of creating a parish council. It is an unnecessary addition cost on the council tax payer.

Local Cllrs best for local issues

A local council would have the best understanding of how to address issues that are within its remit, practical issues dealt by local - not remote - councillors.

I do not believe a parish council is necessary or wanted and that if the proposals go through, parkfield could be under representative compared to other wards.

this is just another proposed layer of cost with very limited responsibilities

It gives a space for a focused space for Potters bar

Overall cost of council services is likely to increase as a parish clerk will be needed as a minimum, although considering the other relatively large areas in Hertsmere that have parish councils, in fact it seems that additional staff to this will be needed. Also, what is the situation regarding expenses for the many proposed councillors? It's unfortunate that your survey has not indicated this, or the likely overall cost of these overhead charges. Equally you have not indicated what savings on the Hertsmere part of the council tax will be passed back to the residents to compensate to some extent the parish council precept.

That said a parish council should ensure that Potters Bar has a council that is dedicated to looking after the interests of its residents, which is something that cannot be said for Hertsmere. It would be nice to think we might have non political representatives whose interest is to maintain and improve the environment of Potters Bar!

No answer given - blank

I consider the proposals would give me a greater say on what is proposed for my local area.

More relevance to local issues

I hope to receive local information which concerns my local area. Governed locally rather than from afar. Making my voice heard.

I think it will improve the neighbourhood to feel that we have increased autonomy over local issues.

They will affect me by having an additional tax levy on my already tax burden

Hopefully the extra level of council will give residents another level of control on decisions made on our behalf

will enable the people to have a say on local issues

As has been stated, the establishment of a parish council would give residents an opportunity to voice concerns that affect their local area (planning consultations and the like) which could then be forwarded to the next responsible authority to be acted upon on their behalf. Ordinary people need to be listened to.

I think having a Parish Council will give residents more control over what happens locally, especially with the creation of a larger governance body for Hertfordshire and the absorption of the borough council of Hertsmere into a larger body. I am totally in favour of having a Parish Council as outlined above.

More local and accessible representation

It is another expense that people cannot afford we do not need an additional layer of cost, we already pay a significant amount in council tax to look after the areas if they were doing their job we would not need a parish council I am against this!

Hopefully having a parish council representing Potters Bar will mitigate the the extra-large Council area we are to be moved to. As Potters Bar we already feel that as part of Hertsmere we are a forgotten outlier, when combined with Three Rivers and Watford we will feel even more remote from having a voice.

Planning control must be more vigorous in new housing developments and HMOs

The key to the proposals is that 'local voices' and specific interests have a forum in which they will be heard. There's much less chance of them being overlooked, as councils turn into 'super councils' and local voices and issues may get drowned out where bigger strategic issues dominate. It will cost money from residents, but there's inevitably a price to pay to be heard nowadays. It's democracy in action.

I believe that it will give residents in Potters Bar more of a day in their own community, especially because of the reorganization of the Hertfordshire council areas

I feel I would be better represented by a Parish Council for local issues

No answer supplied

N A

I feel that a Parish Council will listen more to what our town needs and represent our community better.

We do not feel the concerns of the residents of Ridge are taken into consideration.

Hopefully, we will be able to receive more localised information on matters concerning our town, rather than be governed from a distance. This would make us feel more involved as a community.

The potential confusion of which level is responsible for different services has the potential to detract rather than add to local choice and accountability

Hopefully we get some help here with important life changing issues and actually have a voice for the people

The Parish Council will give us a local voice especially with the new Council arrangements that have just been announced.

There could be greater and more specific focus on this immediate area to improve aspects of community life and to allow members to feel they have a voice in expressing their ideas and desires with regard to incentives and developments.

Waste of money, let existing councillors do their job

This is impossible to say until more detail is known!!

A parish council would provide and enable the residents and community of Potters Bar to express opinions, concerns and requirements best suited to their needs to the county authority. A parish council would provide the opportunity to be recognised and represented in a non political and centralised format.

Parish council is able to make decisions which reflect the residents in their area

Isn't this just covering council matters that the council would normally cover? We are paying extra for something that already happens?

Old system better for local residents

Hopefully, a Town Council would bring decision-making closer to the electorate, regenerate interest in local politics and lead to more accountable decision making.

More bureaucracy, more money, we have not had a parish council in the 56 yrs my husband has lived here. Why now?

A local parish council will be able to give the views of that area far better than a distant office. The cost would be worth it.

Will this parish council be able to resolve local issues :

eg. :

create a bike friendly path in Oakmere park

address what will happen to the golf course land on Darkes Lane - 500 properties is too many on an already busy road

rise in HMO properties

potholes

Unknown

I believe they can be positive and enable more local decision-making including minorities that are under represented.

It will face opposition from some established players that are currently able to have their views heard and are not particularly representative of the whole community, for example, the Potters Bar Society. Many people comment that the lack of public transport between Borehamwood and Potters Bar contributes to a view that Potters Bar issues and priorities are not being considered.

Hopefully the town will become a nicer place to live and work

Unless it can be clearly demonstrated that establishing a parish council will deliver meaningful improvements for residents, including better access to NHS services within the parish, improved waste collection, highways management, housing support, and other essential services , I do not see the justification for adding an extra financial burden to households that are already managing very tight budgets.

I have lived here since the local authority was Potters Bar Urban District Council. Hopefully we may be able to have a more distinctive local voice.

It would be helpful to have a parish councillor living in one's locality to whom issues could be addressed.

Establishing parish council would allow a fairer system and looking after street scene in terms of street lights, cleaning roads and footpaths plus on street parking control.

Not provided

We feel that not only residing in Potters Bar but also owning a business here too it is important to have local representation. The needs and requirements are too diverse to be met by 4 authorities covering such a large area.

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The cost is an obvious concern.

Potentially focusing on the wards in isolation can encourage the area as a whole to be ignored i.e the good of all in the area not specific wards. I accept the practical benefits of this.

The governance around how this operates and transparency of costs, spending, decision making, conflicts of interest etc are all concerns.

I believe that a Parish Council will be well placed to deal with issues that matter to local residents. The Councillors, should be drawn from the local resident population, and will have a vested interest in the area.

I would hope the neighbourhood would be a better place to live and that all residents abide by any rules and regulations passed.

When Hertsmere is part of a larger organisation in 2028 a parish council could deal with some issues and look after the area more efficiently than larger concern. They could monitor issues which need to be dealt with by main body.

So far as I can see all I will end up with is a larger council tax bill. I do not agree with the formation of a parish council in Potters Bar.

I very much hope that a parish council would be able to make a stand for what is right for Potters Bar. Central Government's poorly thought-out housing policy is currently threatening the Green Belt (and, incredibly, this includes active farmland). Should this be allowed to happen, it would be disastrous for Potters Bar.

Destruction of the Green Belt must be prevented, and I hope and believe that the formation of a parish council would be beneficial in this respect.

To give Potters Bar a voice.

Potters Bar will be a very small unit in the proposed Unitary authority and far from the centre. I feel it needs some local representation to raise matters which maybe specific to Potters Bar and not relevant to rest of the Authority.

Costs involved

The make decision round school, cleaning the streets, parks, parking, community events, road safety, highway and more

A sense of community spirit

Local authorities are being enlarged . Potters Bar is not even named on the map showing changes. Other districts in Hertsmere have parishes which look after their interests.

I am strongly opposed to the new central council with Watford and Three Rivers and feel that the only way that Potters Bar can keep some sort of control over what happens in the area is to have a Town/Parish Council to represent the residents

Being much more focused on Potters Bar, rather than a wider area, I feel the councillors would be able to make decisions that are more in line with the local population's views and be able to represent us more accurately than is currently the case.

Closer representation can only be a good thing for Potters Bar. There is a feeling (whether justified or not!) that we are the forgotten corner of Hertsmere. This feeling will only get worse once we move to a Unitary Authority. Therefore, I think it's essential that certain local services (parks maintenance) and amenities (Christmas lights etc) are brought under local control. Having a dedicated Ward councillor as a focal point for a community can only be a good thing (assuming that they do their job!)

The centralisation of the UA,s administration and management is assumed to be at Watford at a greater distance for most residents. The creation of a local parish council to supercede the borough council is therefore essential for providing a communication channel and it should be capable of representing the residents on all local authority matters not just those limited functions which Hertsmere previously performed. The new arrangements must not be limited with residents being told that they would need to contact the UA on certain matters eg highway defects. ie not our responsibility and buck passing. It needs to have a customer service facility.

I think if the Parish Council is run effectively it will benefit the community and will hopefully preserve some of the service standards that may be dropped as a result of the introduction of a Unitary authority

I agree with the points cited in favour of establishing a Parish Council, perhaps especially the fact that the existence of an official body will carry more weight if making representations about local needs, compared with a purely voluntary group doing this.

The residents of Potters Bar would have representation of what is going on or going to happen in Potters Bar. Also a Parish Council might organise events and take care of certain areas in Potters Bar for the benefit of its' residents.

It would at least give us a voice.

Very local issues could be better addressed.

Hopefully Potters Bar would then have more control over governance

Too much meddling, an additional layer of government that we haven't needed until now and still don't need.

Fear they will be necessary following LGR

Concerns about HMOs In Chace Avenue

The proposed council wards should provide a more local representation of the views of the people of Potters Bar. I would hope that each councillor would be sufficiently accessible to take on the views and concerns of their particular electorate and pursue them as appropriate. I also hope that the proposed parish council will work with The Potters Bar Society, who already provided good support for the town.

As long as the views of the community is met and not influenced by any one else or used politically

More direct link to those making decisions

I think the process has been too rushed. From attending both in person events residents do not understand what this all means for them.

I feel the role and responsibility of a parish councillor and costs and not understood.

To find from scratch 11 new volunteer councillors will disadvantage local independent people who may not know how to run for election.

We need to be clear, and ensure every resident has had an opportunity to have a say. I dont think we are there yet.

I think a Parish council for Potters Bar would be good given the restructuring of local councils and how Potters bar has been aligned with Watford - nowhere near us. All decisions should be made locally and hopefully a Parish council will let us have a voice!

Good to have this especially when moving to unitary. We need strong local Voice

It would be good to be able to contact someone in the very local area about an issue which is localised and who understands the context

We need a parish council and a town council

Hopefully it will give Potters Bar residents a voice.

We need a parish council and a town council

I feel that this arrangement should support the provision of services to put local area, which could be endangered by the reorganisation of local government.

I don't see that this will do anything useful for my neighbourhood. I also don't think there is anything particularly deficient about the status quo.

Final Further Comments

Having truly local representation from a Town Council is something all residents should enjoy in the Borough. Not just across certain settlements.

This is needed and necessary as part of the wider local government reorganisation of Hertfordshire to ensure potters bar has its identity and voice for local needs

Please don't let the penny pinching residents and organisations, who fear for their own loss of influence, like the PB Society seem to be doing, win the day.

Stop destroying this area by overdevelopment and especially selling off green belt.

Necessary to give Potters Bar residents more say in how the town is run

A Council of 11 councillors with one Clerk should be the maximum created.

this is the third time you have wasted money on this money wasting idea

I do not support the creation of this council which is expected to cost residents more for not much additional benefit

Not sure how a Parish will help the local area if it is not funded by the high council tax we already pay. Not sure if they have any powers to change the things that really matter is the increase in crime in Potters Bar, the poor road maintenance, increased HMO issues etc

How can a parish council be set up on the basis of 600 votes when THOUSANDS of people live on Potters Bar. The vote is not representative of the community due to it's small turn out and on that basis this should not go ahead

Thank you very much for given us this opportunity to hear from the locals of Potters Bar residents. I will appreciate if I'm eligible for councillor in the new Parish Council please.

I have no wish for this additional layer of bureaucracy. Please rethink and re submit this with estimates of additional cost clearly stated upfront of the proposal.

A parish council is required in potters bar

It seems a pity that our council tax will be increased by this proposal but I assume it is necessary

If all elected candidates are local residents they will have a vested interest in all matters concerning our local communities.

Don't we have Local Government Reorganisation on the way? Is this in response to that? Is this a part of that? These questions remain unanswered. Can they put apple trees in parks? Free food; the tree does the work

Parish councils are always agood idea.

Hertsmere should consider restricting candidacy to prospective candidates that declare they have no political affiliation. That way there is more chance that it will represent the real interests of the people of Potters Bar.

Please be mindful of the number of cons in regards to this as much as the pros. Families on benefits, number of families /children/ older adults/vulnerable adults, average household income before impacting these individuals with more cost,

There are a number of Facebook groups that do voluntary work on hot topics of potters bar issue and crowdfunding to support those agendas. This is possible to achieve what a parish can without imposing costs of those who cannot afford it.

I hope this goes ahead before changes proposed to county councils

What time scale is being considered, what is the earliest that a Parish Council could be put in place?

Would there be any remuneration/expenses payments made to councillors?

Would there be any paid 'Clerk to the Council' ?

How would it link/report its concerns and actions into Hertsmere or the wider unitary authority and would it be listened to?

This initiative will be a waste of time and money unless the new Parish Councillors are listened to and their views acted on. This is not the same as giving them carte blanche for anything they want. But in general, local residents are far more concerned regarding the protection of the local environment than higher bureaucracies which historically have often sought to despoil neighbourhoods "for the common good". So all parties, including local and central Government, must work to make parish councils a success, accepting that grandiose schemes for re-engineering local communities must be subject to democratic local representation.

In the main, the Parish Councilors look after everything properly for whole of Potters Bar and quickly. Thanks.

This whole exercise is a waste of time and money.

We need an organisation to support our traditions like our Carnival that used to have over 100 floats. Thankfully through Facebook we had a carnival again this year. Hertsmere even closed its office in Potters Bar, it does not want to know. One of their employees smashed a drain cover leaving a 4 meter hole next to a footpath. This was a storm drain with PBUDC on the cover but the call centre kept saying Potters Bar Urban District Council was nothing to do with Hertsmere. Is infuriating that any call takes a lot of explanation that Potters Bar is actually in Hertsmere

I don't feel this will benefit Potters Bar

I hope the establishment of a parish/town council will go ahead as I believe it is important for the future of the town and its community.

Hertsmere Council is not considering the residents when making decisions about our community

If we try it for a few years, is there an opportunity to reverse it if we find it ineffective?

It's time to be honest with the people of this town, I've read the responses and you are misleading people into believing they'll be getting something that they won't. What they will in fact be getting is an infinite black hole that swallows tax faster than even you can raise it.

By the way, if you are fully funding this privately, through sponsors or other methods, I'm still against it because then it means others with investment will have full and final say on all matters.

As I said before, this town doesn't need a parish, it needs a competent council.

Reiterate DO NOT want Parish council

We voted on this a few years ago and rejected it. Can't you take no for an answer .

Increases proposed to the taxpayers in addition to CTB will require further oversight for parish funding arrangements.

Why is this survey going out. It reads like the decision has already been made.

I am against having a Parish Council

In my area there are a lot of people that are already struggling with the cost of living, unfortunately most of them are not likely to be engaged with this process and it is a shame as they will be disadvantaged by yet more cost for no real benefit to them and without their voice being heard, what a shame.

Can not see any benefits in making these changes

Some explanations would be helpful see above

I think that such a small response to the initial review (compared to the population) indicates there is no real desire for a parish Council except within a small minority.

the council should be in control of Potters Bar

This new scheme is not detailed enough to comment on at this stage.

I don't know

I am against this proposal.

Seriously rethink destroying a lovely area through greed

For me the value add point is the main objective as explained in my answer above

A parish council would be of little benefit to our area which is largely ignored by the council and would not benefit from additional financial pressures which would not benefit us in the leadt

I would suggest that the new arrangements be limited to five years to enable residents to decide if the changes are to be permanent

We would hope that anti social behaviour in the town would be eliminated as the influx of undesirable persons will be reduced.

It all sounds a good idea as long as it is run properly.

I have nothing to add.

It is imperative that each individual ward member be made up off residents who have lived in the ward for 20 years or more, who have first hand knowledge and experience.

Implementation of unitary authorities across Hertfordshire is driving this proposal and this is an attempt to maintain inefficient and costly multi tier local govt. The proposal will not improve services, will increase local taxation and will be ineffective. Moving this proposal forward on the basis of a 3% consultation response rate is not democratic or representative

So not think a parish council should be established

It is also hoped that there would be additional support in protecting PB from over development whilst encouraging beneficial developments.

I feel that this will be another level of bureaucracy that will be as useless as Hertsmere council.

I think this is a good idea.

Yes I believe you have already made up your mind and you plan to introduce a parish council anyway. That's why you ask me to have an opinion on what name to call the parish council before even any decision has been made if we are even going to have one and of course the carefully prepared loaded questions in favour of a yes vote.

Help to offset move to unitary large council

This all comes down to money for people not doing a lot and I can't see what benefit it will have on Potters Bar. The households will loose out. It doesn't add up to me.

I have two concerns. One is the Parish Council being ineffective, possibly spending its time as a talking shop rather than addressing meaningful business. The second is that it takes on a political nature with representatives fighting each other along party lines rather than working together in the interests of the community, as I have seen happen at Hertsmere Council meetings

Potters bar is improving and we need more of a say. about what impacts us

Until I have answers to the questions I posed I cannot consider this survey to be an adequate public consultation!

Thank you for undertaking this consultation and giving residents the opportunity to contribute.

Overall, I support the creation of a parish council for Potters Bar, provided it delivers genuine local representation, remains financially responsible and focuses on issues that matter most to residents.

My main concern is that representation should be fair. If parish wards are based on the existing polling districts, the number of councillors representing each ward should reflect the size of its electorate rather than automatically allocating one councillor per ward.

I also believe the parish council should operate transparently, engage regularly with residents and demonstrate clear value for money. A well run parish council has the potential to strengthen the local community and improve accountability for decisions affecting Potters Bar.

I HAVE LIVED IN PB SINCE 1970 AND WE NEED A RESIDENT WHO CARES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

Little heath shoulkd be the WHOLE Village

It will give local potters bar residents an opportunity to express their views publicly when any DRAFT LOCAL PLAN is being drawn up. Currently the Potters Bar Society with its ageing membership of around 400 is the only source of local views that HBC consult

if we have a Parish Council, it would enable residents to have the opportunity to express their views publicly when any Draft Local Plan is being drawn up. Currently the Potters Bar Society, with its aging membership of approximately four hundred, is the only source that HBC consult

We don't need a parish council

Parish Councillors should have some say i. The services and the way they are provided to represent the people in their ward.

Seems like a waste of public resources.

I am very concerned that Hertsmere will NOT be fair when collecting the 'first year's levy' and base it on a very unfair and undemocratic system being what council tax band a household falls into. This would be totally unjust and penalize, yet again, many senior members of the town.

Parish councillors will be better aware of local concerns and conditions with regard to traffic congestion, schools provisions, doctors surgeries, and anti-social behaviour.

In current times where District Councils are merging together for efficiency. This makes no sense

As above, Potters Bar has been increasingly neglected as part of Hertsmere, however the proposed restructuring of the county means lots of changes and this is just one part, so it could be beneficial or

it could have no impact whatsoever on the residents ability to be heard. More information is needed with regard to all the plans for the county and to put this one in context.

Hertsmere Council makes decisions without considering the opinions of Potters Bar residents. A new council will be better for the region in terms of critical decision-making.

Less bureaucracy not more tax

Please don't ADD unnecessary costs to a struggling Pensioner. Those who want to resurrect Parish Councils should pay separately or volunteer.

Members must be available to do the will of the people, not like the rest who just rinse us for money with no return of any value.

I am hoping that Hertsmere as a whole will not be "tagged on" to an area of the County restructuring which will reduce the input of our elected representatives.

I support the creation of a Parish Council for Potters Bar as I feel that, currently, we are under represented. I do not like the Government's proposed reorganisation of Local Government as the proposals currently under consideration would place Potters Bar very much at the fringes of whatever new Unitary Authority is imposed on us.

Same as above answer

No parish council is needed in this town. We need the current council to do better while reducing taxes.

72% were in favour but the 28% must be remembered (although this was a democratic decision!)

The option to save and return to the form later would be appreciated, as would being able to see the whole form before completing any of the questions.

The 1st public session was not clearly communicated as a Q&A starting at 12.30. I expected (false assumption) it to follow similar sessions such as the Local Plan, where the proposals were presented and staff on hand to explain and assist.

The 2nd one gives little time for anyone to consider their responses before the cut-off date.

Very little factual information, apart from the breakdown of electorate has been provided.

Outside of local community groups Potters Bar residents have been unable to feedback their concerns by a responsible body such as a parish council to the Borough Council. The other areas of the Borough have Parish Councils (Shenley, Aldenham, Elstree and Borehamwood) a Potters Bar Parish Council would give residents an opportunity to involve themselves on a more local level.

I hope that the Parish or Town Council will make things tangibly better for Potters Bar

In Potters Bar felt no one was listening to us,

I believe Potters Bar would benefit from having its own parish council and stronger local representation. However, I am concerned that residents are being asked to fund an additional layer of local government through a parish precept. If a parish council is established, I would like to see strong financial oversight, a clear explanation of how residents' money will be spent, and a commitment to keeping the precept as low as possible while delivering real benefits to the community.

Our roads are mostly narrow and excessive building would make it difficult to drive almost anywhere in the town.

As you haven't explained the benefits of a parish ward it seems that you are just trying to justify extra people to do the work already undertaken by existing council staff. Presumably they don't intend to take a pay cut to pay for the parish ward overheads?

The residents of Potters Bar don't want data centre and we don't want anything built on the golf course at the bottom of Cranbourne.

What will we be paying for that we do not have already. Will these groups impact planning requests

At the moment I feel I have no say in local matters that are important, i.e. data centres, solar farms..I may be mistaken but feel a parish council may be used as a mouthpiece for local residents to voice their opinions more effectively.

I don't agree with the proposal to create parish councils

In view of the rearrangements of local authorities it is essential that there is a conduit on matters of local concern to this new leithian authority.

The response rate to the current proposal was only 604 compared with the 2008 referendum which was over 7,000. Did these 604 people understand that the proposal would cost everyone over £100 each year? Also, once a parish council has been established, there is no mechanism to get rid of it in the future.

I am in favour of this plan and hope that the new council will be "visible" by its actions locally to the people of Potters Bar in the same way that other Parish Councils are.

I believe it is important that residents of Potters Bar are very clear about Parish Councils and the difference they might make. Parish Councils have a wide range of powers, but few duties. There is a difference. Their ability to meet residents' expectations may be limited not just to powers but to cost and this may limit what a Parish Council can do in contrast to what some people may expect. And the precept cost may be more than the average quoted in this document. With a Parish Council, it might become a question of: if you want us to use our powers to do "this", you are going to have to pay more! Furthermore, representatives elected for the Parish Council would have to have a very strong, determined voice to influence planning matters at District/Borough level. And will their voice be robust enough when making demands about local bylaws and their enforcement by? These are the things that matter to residents and I am concerned that perhaps people will have an expectation of their Parish Council that won't be met.

when will the results be known /

Potters Bar suffers from a very poor public transport network. You cannot get a direct bus to Welwyn Garden City, another local town, However we are always being told that the proposed new builds will be sustainable and people will not need to drive. This is total rubbish. People will continue to use their cars on increasingly congested roads, which are suffering from under investment in their maintenance. The addition of regular closures of the M25 force large numbers of cars and Lorries to use the towns roads as cut throughs which have a detrimental effect on air quality and the roads themselves, as well as making it more difficult to get anywhere quickly. This is a problem parents trying to get children from school to after school clubs regularly face.

The new data centre currently under construction will, I believe, also result in an increase to the local air temperature of a number of degrees, which was not mentioned at the events hosted to promote it. As this lies to the west of the town, and this is the direction of the prevailing wind, it could in due course result in some parts of the town becoming uninhabitable especially if global warming continues to increase.

A parish council might have been able to push for more suitable ways to cool the data centre that wouldn't have an impact on the town and its population.

I am not in favour of creating a Parish Council for Potters Bar because:

- 1) It would require an increase in Council Tax to Fund it, with little or no benefit
- 2) It would not provide the Residents of Potters Bar any addition control of vital local matters such as Civic Vision, infrastructure, planning (commercial and residential), waste, control of parking, roads etc. These will still be controlled at a higher level under a bigger authority far from Potters Bar by people disinterested in our town.
- 3) Elections for a Parish Council would no doubt operate on a party political basis which does not serve the Community particularly when it will be left with the potential responsibility for Christmas lights, allotments, cemeteries and parks, clock and war memorials, local events and activities for you/older people (with no money to spend)

The lack of response from the first survey arose because there was a consultation underway regarding a Local plan, plus a variety of planning issues such as the 900 house alongside the M25 and the old Golf Club, at the same time.

This second consultation should have required Feedback forms and return envelopes being sent to every household. The process has not been carried out democratically.

I am firmly against the establishing of a parish council, as it will just create another lever of bureaucracy and it is a burden on a taxpayer with the cost of living crisis which is unwelcome

A parish council is a waste of rate payers money

I think some further explanation on what exactly residents can expect would be good. I work with a large community in Harlow where there's a residents management company for 2,000 plus homes and budget each financial year for the estate amenities taking into consideration what residents would like to see in the coming years ahead. I imagine this would be something similar which I am 100% for and would be willing to pay extra for the privilege if it means living in a more community focused and better kept area.

Concerns regarding whether these proposals will be affected/changed/reconsidered in light of a)
proposed Hertfordshire Council structural changes
b) new Prime Minister and policy changes

I am not in favour of creating a parish council.

Local Cllrs should influence decisions to be made by a more remote large Boro council.

I consider a local forum for even limited issues would benefit residents particularly following Potters Bar being swallowed into an even larger Borough than it is now in. A local council could make powerful representatives on issues outside its own remit.

we do not want a parish council . We would be happy if the current County Council & Hertsmere actually performed their allocated functions efficiently & completely.

As local government merges, a voice for Potters bar representing potters bar would be valuable. I worry that it could become politicised and ultimately that local voice isn't effective

Work out how to get Little Heath included!

On an historical note, it has felt that Potters Bar is remote from Borehamwood and features only weakly in Hertsmere planning. In Grangewood, we are on the cusp between Hertsmere and Welwyn Hatfield and has always been a bit of an anomaly. It would be nice to have a bit more local influence.

Do not go ahead with this proposal

Not knowing the full extent of the responsibilities of the proposed parish council I have nothing further at present.

We already pay the council enough why do we need more costs that we cannot afford nor should we need!

Please help organize and vote against the data center being built it will ruin all of our lives and create unsafe living conditions

It is essential that we retain a local voice for our residents. A Parish Council will provide this particularly with the new Council arrangements. With the new Council we will be out on an edge and probably won't be considered very much at all but we hope the new Parish Council will provide us with a voice.

As a resident of potters bar I am in support of a parish council. A parish council would provide a point of contact within the local community to deal with and help regarding local issues. I support having a parish council of potters bar.

I'm still not clear on why we need a parish council. Is this because of the changes to the county council?

Unless you provide a plan that set out in greater detail what the Town Council will have responsibility for, how much it will cost to run, what the duties of councillors might be, how much they might cost, whether Potters Bar will have a Mayor etc. I cannot give you a full and considered response.

I do not agree to a parish council, and if there was a vote, it would be NO

The use of the word parish for a town has a few disadvantages:

- it can contribute to an impression of a religious link
- it may be perceived as a demotion of Potters Bar

I believe the parish council could be useful to enable more local follow-up of use of CIL for infrastructure developments that are expected.

Namely when a park or playing area is promised as part of a development like PB3, there is potential for an (established) parish council to help manage the delivery more effectively and to potentially better engage the community for a better outcome (both in terms of the output as well as likelihood of use)

Hope the Parish Council will be able to stop all Eating Places & Barber shop?Nail Bars opening and make our Town pleasant again.

Having a parish council it would bring grass root democracy and pride for residents and allow greater say including stopping HMO's.

I just hope it all goes to give us a strong voice

Once this is created it would be next to impossible to go back to not having it. Therefore costs will rise, it will remain in place and the general public may feel unrepresented. There needs to be a trial period without a full commitment, for example for a year could be an option.

With relation to the charge per household, I assume different councils will collaborate and not duplicate spending, in fact savings should be achieved.

Can we say no

This may help with littering & provide cohesion.

Several district councils which border Potters Bar are eager to build on green belt land around Oakmere. Parish members could help local people appeal against future development. We need a voice -maybe a newsletter to keep us informed.

I feel that we should have had some sort of say in the creation of the new, combined council. I am fed up with Central Government deciding things when they have no idea of the area.

I am thoroughly in favour of this proposal. I am aware that there are concerns that the previous consultation only resulted in a relatively small number of responses. However, people were given the opportunity to share their thoughts and the vast majority who did were in favour of a Town Council. Therefore I think it's entirely valid that the question of whether or not we should have a Council has not been asked on this phase of the consultation. Having local communities decide how they wish to support local services and amenities is the very essence of subsidiarity and is democracy in action. Inevitably there will be a cost involved in providing a higher level of services and amenities, but it is a price worth paying for community cohesion. My only hope is that the process of agreeing to a council is not hijacked as part of the political games played by opposition parties in Hertsmere and that the will of the people (72% of those responded) is honoured by a Town Council being established.

The Creation of a parish council gives an opportunity for local residents to become more involved in local matters and I would support its introduction The parish and UA must however portray a unified local government service. If the parish council role is limited to 'swings and roundabouts' and one of its key roles of commenting on planning applications is not respected by the U A, then it will wither and loose any support

We hate to think that POTTERS BAR could disappear.

I am not in favour of establishing a parish council.

Strongly opposed to LGR - would prefer to keep the status quo

Would like to be put in touch with someone who can help.

I hope that the proposed parish council will have sufficient influence over Hertsmere Council, or the proposed unitary authority, to justify its existence. In particular I hope it will be able to influence decisions on planning applications, and any local plan, and make the case for maintaining, or increasing, funding for Potters Bar.

All decisions should be made locally and hopefully a Parish council will let us have a voice in Potters Bar. Residents have not been listed to at all with all planning HMOS, destruction of Greenbelt land, thousands of housing, data centre being examples. Maybe a parish would be something

It seems like a better means of ensuring our town is functioning for the local people.

We need a parish council and a town council

Stop treating us like idiots and please just get on with it. Thank you.

We definitely need a parish council and a town council

Funding must be spent correctly and for the purpose for which it is meant.

I have no desire for a parish council, and certainly not one that requires me to pay more money