

Draft recommendations for Holbeach Parish Council.

We have been asked by Holbeach Parish Council to consider reducing the number of councillors on the parish council from 18 to 16. The request from the Parish Council was made because they have not had a full complement of Councillors for a number of years.

Full Council recommended that a Community Governance Review be carried out as per the below timetable. The initial consultation period ran for a period of six weeks and seven responses were received in that time, as follows:

4 members of public – all against

- Town is growing so fast so not a good idea to reduce numbers. Keep them the same to give people a chance to join and make a difference.
- Not having a full complement of councillors is not sufficient grounds to reduce the numbers; reducing the numbers will reduce the councils capability to represent the constituents in what is one of the largest parishes in England; making it easier to be quorate in meetings by reducing numbers is a challenge given the number of current vacancies; Risk reduction exercise nothing to do with representation proportionality; does not improve representation as significantly more councillors represent town ward.
- Changes need to be made in the council but certainly not by this reduction, especially with all the new developments approved for housing which will see a big increase of parishioners with less representation.
- Strongly object to anything that may allow the current Parish Council to continue in its current form. As it stands the Parish Council is not reflective of the identity of Holbeach nor does it have the best interests of the local community as its priority.

1 parish councillor - against – Holbeach rapidly growing so reducing numbers makes no sense. More representation needed on the village ward, not less. Reducing numbers is not the way forward when managing a large amount of money.

1 district councillor – against – Holbeach is growing and seems unnecessary cost and process given the numbers would need to go back up to accommodate the rise in electorate. Ultimate aim is to deliver better services and reducing numbers will not achieve this. Reducing a member from a village ward that is already under represented gives out a negative message to villagers.

1 county councillor – no objections to make

CURRENT RECOMMENDATION: Having considered the above, with the majority of responses not being in favour of the proposal, the draft recommendation is to not make any changes and leave the number of councillors at 18.

Consultations will be taken on this draft recommendation from 5 September 2022 until 8 October 2022. Contact can be made by email to elections@sholland.gov.uk If you would prefer, you can write to us at Electoral Services, South Holland District Council, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding Lincs PE11 2XE.

A final recommendation then will be put forward to the Full Council in January with any changes having effect from the May 2023 elections.

Timetable for Review

| Action | Relevant Date |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Terms of reference are published and District Council notifies stakeholders. Publicity and engagement with stakeholders and individual submissions invited. | 23 May 2022 – 27 June 2022 |
| Consideration of submissions received | 28 June 2022 – 18 July 2022 |
| Draft recommendations and proposals prepared. | 19 July 2022 – 2 September 2022 |
| Publish draft recommendations and go out for second consultation. | 5 September 2022 – 8 October 2022 |
| Consideration of submissions received and final proposals prepared. | 8 October 2022 to 7 November 2022 |
| Final recommendations published | 8 November 2022 to 31 December 2022 |
| Full Council Approval | 18 January 2023 |
| Council to Make Order | Thereafter |