

Outcome of Community Governance Review Consultation

On 27 February 2018, Elmbridge Borough Council received a valid petition from the Hersham Community Council Steering Group, signed by 731 local government electors, requesting that a CGR is conducted to consider the establishment of a parish council for Hersham, to be called the 'Hersham Community Council'.

When undertaking a Review, the Council is required to consult the local government electors for the area under review as well as any other person or body which appear to have an interest in the Review.

The most effective and efficient way of capturing the views of the local government electors and "other bodies" was to undertake a consultation over a 12 week period, conveying the Terms of Reference of the Community Governance Review (as agreed at the Meeting of the Council held on 18 July 2018) along with a survey which could be completed on-line, by email or by letter.

In addition to the question 'whether or not you support the creation of a parish council for Hersham', the survey included questions to ascertain consultees' views on various aspects of community governance arrangements in the area. Responses to these questions were received by all channels ie via web; e-mail and letter.

The Terms of Reference and consultation information were delivered to all consultees in paper or electronic form encouraging responses via the Council's website or by e-mail or letter. A dedicated web page on the Borough Council's website was set up that contained the background information and map of the proposed area under Review. The Council's social media accounts were also used to raise awareness of the consultation.

The consultation took place over a 12 week period and ended on 23 October 2018.

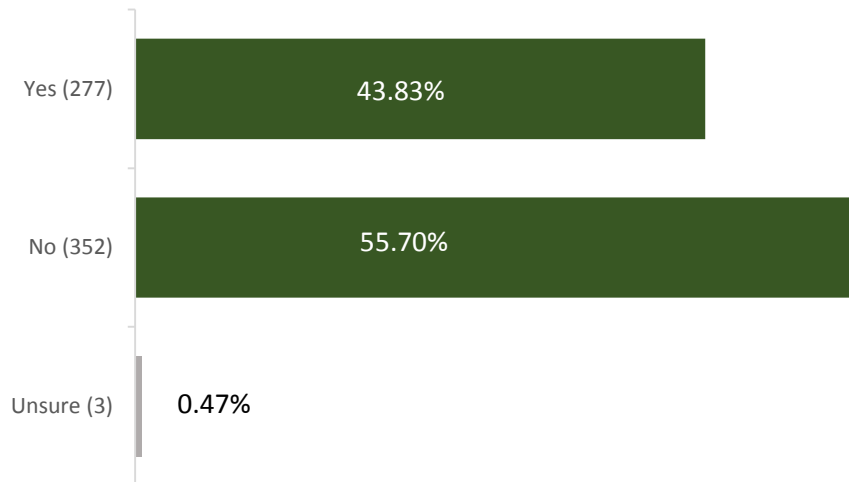
In total, 10,067 electors / interested individuals / businesses / groups were sent the Terms of Reference of the Community Governance Review and invited to give their views by way of the consultation.

After validating the responses and discounting anonymous or duplicate responses, the total number of responses was 632, which represents a response rate of 6.46%

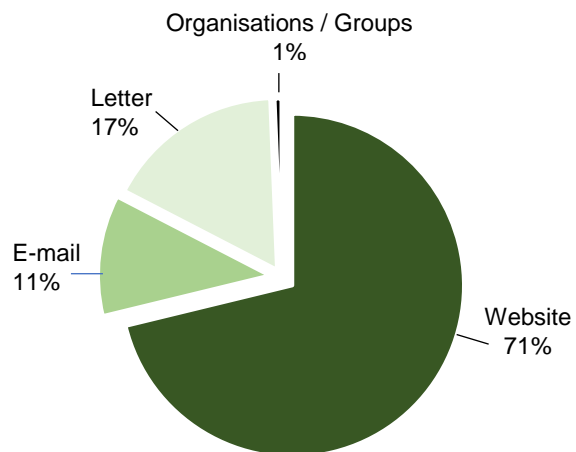
QUESTION ONE: Whether or not you support the creation of a Parish Council for Hersham?

- 43.83 % of respondents were in favour of the creation of a Parish Council with 55.70% who were not in agreement and 0.47 % who were unsure.

Outcome from the Overall responses received



How the Consultees Responded to the Consultation



2. Analysis of Key Themes

Overall Key Themes for saying 'Yes' to the creation of a 'Hersham Community Council'

Positive impact on local residents & businesses

Greater representation

Funding to solely benefit Hersham

Residents to have an input into future of Hersham

Creation of Council would reunite the 'old' Hersham (prior to boundary changes)

Overall Key Themes for saying 'No' to the creation of a 'Hersham Community Council'

Increased Bureaucracy

Satisfied with how local services are run by the Borough Council

Satisfied with how local issues dealt with by local Borough Councillors

Against increase in Council Tax

Concern with proposed boundaries for proposed Council

Fear of inequalities and inefficiencies if 'smaller' councils break away

3. Further Questions asked

Please note that the three 'unsure' respondents have not been included for in this section.

QUESTION TWO: If a Parish Council for Hersham is created, the petition proposes that it be called 'Hersham Community Council' – what do you think?

The Respondents in support of the proposal to create a 'Hersham Community Council' responded to this question as follows:

	Web Response	Letters	Organisations	E-Mail
Supported the proposed name	170	1	1	0
Commented with alternative name	21	0	0	0
Did not support proposed name	0	8	2	0
No Specific Comment	7	60	0	7

Alternative Names Suggested:

- Hersham Parish Council
- To protect and enhance Hersham
- Hersham Council
- Hersham Village Community Council
- Hersham Village Parish Council
- Hersham Village Council

Respondents against the proposal to create a 'Hersham Community Council' responded to this question as follows:

	Web Response	Letters	Organisations	E-Mail
Supported the proposed name	16	1	0	0
Commented with alternative name	19	0	1	0
Did not support proposed name	37	0	0	0
No Specific Comment	180	35	0	63

Alternative Names Suggested:

- Hersham Parish Council
- Hersham Community Representatives
- Hersham Village Council
- The Minority Self-Interested Group of Hersham

The literal comments received in respect of this question are attached at Annex 1 for Members update.

QUESTION THREE: If a Parish Council is created, do you agree that there should be a total of 12 (Parish) Councillors elected to represent it?

The Respondents in support of the proposal to create a 'Hersham Community Council' responded to this question as follows:

	Web Response	Letters	Organisations	E-Mail
Supported the number proposed	170	1	1	0
Commented with alternative number	20	0	0	0
Did not support proposed number	0	8	2	0
No Specific Comment	8	60	0	7

Alternative Number of (Parish) Councillors Suggested:

- Would support up to 15
- 11-13 for a majority
- 8-12 councillors
- 10-12 Councillors
- 10 or less
- 10 councillors
- 8 councillors
- 6 Councillors
- 5 Councillors
- Less than 12
- An odd number for majority

Respondents against the proposal to create a 'Hersham Community Council' responded to this question as follows:

	Web Response	Letters	Organisations	E-Mail
Supported the number proposed	12	1	0	0
Commented with alternative number	19	0	0	0
Did not support proposed number	119	2	0	10
No Specific Comment	102	33	1	53

Alternative Number of (Parish) Councillors Suggested:

- An odd number such as 15
- 10
- 8
- 6
- 7
- 5
- keep to a minimum

The literal comments received in respect of this question are attached at Annex 1 for Members update.

QUESTION FOUR: If a Parish Council is created, it would receive funding by levying a 'precept' on the Council Tax paid by the residents within its boundary - what do you think?

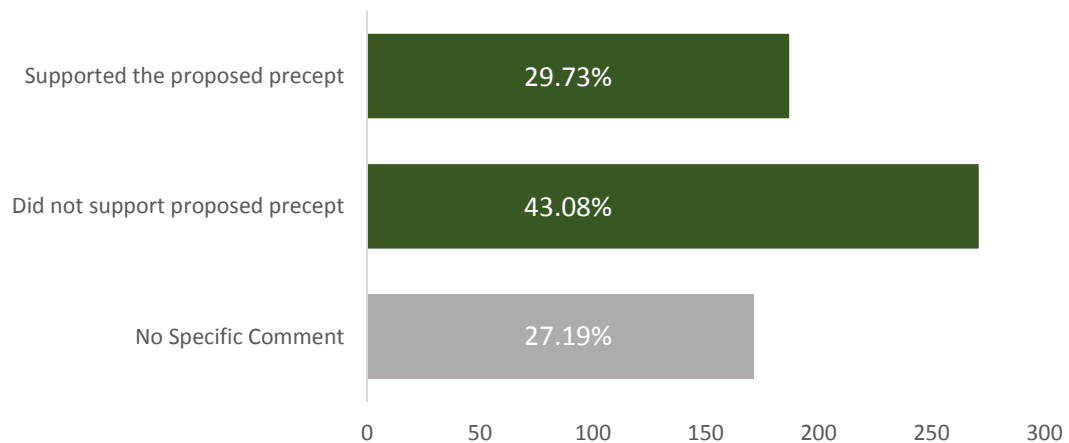
The Respondents in support of the proposal to create a 'Hersham Community Council' responded to this question as follows:

	Web Response	Letters	Organisations	E-Mail
Supported the proposed precept	176	2	2	1
Did not support proposed precept	13	1	0	0
No Specific Comment	9	66	1	6

Respondents against the proposal to create a 'Hersham Community Council' responded to this question as follows:

	Web Response	Letters	Organisations	E-Mail
Supported the proposed precept	6	0	0	0
Did not support proposed precept	179	24	0	54
No Specific Comment	67	12	1	9

Overall outcome of whether a precept was supported



The literal comments received in respect of this question are attached at Annex 1 for Members update.

QUESTION FIVE: It is proposed that no other changes be made to the electoral arrangements in respect of those areas of Elmbridge not covered by the area of the Review - what do you think?

The Respondents in support of the proposal to create a 'Hersham Community Council' responded to this question as follows:

	Web Response	Letters	Organisations	E-Mail
Supported this question	143	1	1	0
Did not support this question	0	0	0	0
General comments received in response to this this question	32	0	0	0
No Specific Comment	23	68	2	7

Respondents against the proposal to create a 'Hersham Community Council' responded to this question as follows:

	Web Response	Letters	Organisations	E-Mail
Supported this question	76	1	0	0
Did not support this question	9	0	0	
General comments received in response to this this question	35	0	0	0
No Specific Comment	132	35	1	63

The literal comments received in respect of this question are attached at Annex 1 for Members update.