



For immediate release

Dumbleton, 08 December 2022

Two new parishes coming in 2023 to help local communities

Residents in three north Cotswold villages are going to benefit from two new parishes that will give villagers a local voice.

An extensive Community Governance Review (CGR) carried out by Tewkesbury Borough Council looked at current governance structures across the borough and examined how well they serve local democracy.

Residents were given the chance to have their say with a consultation between June and September 2021.

The proposals and feedback were presented to the Borough Council in February 2022 before the final agreement was made in May.

One of the CGR proposals, developed with input from residents and Dumbleton Parish Council, was the formation of two new parishes – Dumbleton and Wormington. They will be set up from the existing Dumbleton parish that includes the villages of Great Washbourne and Wormington.

The changes will also create a new Parish Council for Dumbleton and Great Washbourne and a parish meeting for Wormington. A parish meeting, run by a Chairman, is open to every elector in the parish and allows them to speak and vote. A Parish Council has elected representatives that make decisions based on residents' views.

Commenting on the changes, Dumbleton Parish Council Chairman, Jim Harmsworth Cowles, said, "The new parishes will help representation in the community and let local voices have a say on local priorities."

"The new Dumbleton Parish Council can focus on Dumbleton and Great Washbourne and ensure both villages are properly represented. It will continue to listen to all residents, develop policies for the next few years, including its proposed Neighbourhood Plan, and aim to give everyone the best value for money."

– continues –



“Wormington has been very well represented on the Council over the last 25 years and, until 2019, had the majority. The new Wormington parish meeting, while not having the same powers as a Parish Council, will give residents a chance to vote directly on matters in the village.”

“Some may say it’s disappointing to see one parish becoming two, but this is the whole point of the CGR. It lets the people who elect us and whom we work for tell us what they want. It’s real democracy in action at the most important level – locally.”

The two new parishes will be formed in April 2023.

– Ends –

Notes to Editors

Dumbleton Parish Council operates in accordance with rules and procedures as laid down by the Local Government Act 1972 and falls within Tewkesbury Borough Council’s administrative area.

The Parish Council currently comprises seven elected councillors with the assistance of a Parish Clerk. A parish election is held every four years.

The Clerk provides advice and administrative support to councillors and takes action to implement council decisions.

Parish councillors are not paid and receive no financial reward, but the Parish Clerk is a salaried position due to the professional standing of their office.

Dumbleton parish currently incorporates the villages of Dumbleton, Wormington and Great Washbourne in the north of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).