



Committee	Full Council
Month	February 2023
Report Title	Community Governance Review – Parish Border
Report Author	Georgia Arnold Committee Clerk & Office Administrator
Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full Council Minutes July 2021 and October 2021• Reports issued previously as additional context to the request – July and October 2021 reports

Agenda item: 10

Summary

SWTC previously considered whether to conduct a Community Governance Review (CGR) to incorporate the land known as north Shire Hill, which geographically sits in Seward End Parish. (For reference see Full Council minutes July 2021 and October 2021.)

The land has since been granted outline permission for development of 233 dwellings (planning application UTT/21/2509/OP). Outline approval was granted at appeal and SWTC and Seward's End Parish Council (SEPC) formed a joint Rule 6 representation.

The S106 for this planning application¹ details the appropriate management procedure for the public open space (POS) which includes the sustainable drainage systems (SUDS), the S106 details that:

1. The owner (currently Rosconn) will offer the POS to SEPC with a monetary contribution of £1,400 per dwelling, amounting to £326,000.
2. Should SEPC decline the POS, the POS responsibility will lie with a management company – leaving residents with an additional management charge.
3. The owner must offer the POS to SEPC BEFORE occupation of any dwellings.
4. Once SEPC receive the POS offer (item 3 above) they must decide within 3 months and a formal agreement must be completed.

Whilst the development currently geographically sits in Seward's End Parish, it is fair to presume that the residents will use Saffron Walden's services, utilising the town's shops, community venues and events, increasing the demand and pressure on the Town Council's assets. In this event, the cost of running Town Council services will increase and can only be offset if there is a boundary change to incorporate the new development into SW. Should there not be any boundary change, the financial impact will need to be met directly by existing residents and the Town Council.

¹ The application documentation and S106 can be viewed online at <https://publicaccess.uttlesford.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=QXCX8MQN01000>

Recommendation

To request UDC to initiate a Community Governance Review, amending the boundary of current Town Council border to incorporate the land known as North Shire Hill, along Radwinter Road, which forms planning application UTT/21/2509/OP.

UDC has previously issued guidance setting out situations when a CGR may be legitimately requested and this includes *“To re-align the parish boundary to accommodate housing development – need mutual agreement – this does have an impact on other boundaries as the District Ward and the County Division boundary would need to be formally revised too. The District Council then seeks a Consequential Amendment Order from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to change any District ward or County division boundaries.”*

This request, aligning with the above, has the full support of Swards End Parish Council, as confirmed within their February Full Council minutes extract below:

SEWARDS END PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 07/02/2023

14/23 *PLANNING*

a) Applications for discussion: None

b) Decisions: None

c) Community Governance Review – Parish Border

The Parish Council agreed to request UDC to initiate a Community Governance Review (CGR) to incorporate the land known as north Shire Hill, which now forms part of planning application UTT/21/2509/OP. The land currently sits in Seward’s End Parish.

Initial conversations have been conducted between SWTC and SEPC who agree that whilst the land currently sits in Seward’s End, residents of the development would be more likely to associate with Saffron Walden. Should the development remain in Seward’s End village it would double the number of residents.

Should the CGR be successful and the boundaries redrawn, the developer will be asked to amend the S106, offering the POS to SWTC (not SEPC), explaining SWTC is minded to adopt the POS.

Should the S106 not be amended and/or the parish border review is not complete then it is likely SEPC will adopt the POS and subcontract SWTC to carry out the maintenance works until the parish border is complete.