Report to Aldbury Parish Council

Meeting on 4th November 2024

Agenda Item 24/144 **Dacorum’s Electoral Review - Consultation on warding patterns**

An independent body, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is carrying out an electoral review for Dacorum as it has not been reviewed since 2006.

The electoral review will recommend new electoral arrangements for **Dacorum Borough Council (DBC)**. The LGBCE will propose:

* the total number of councillors elected to the council in the future;
* the number of wards;
* the number of councillors representing each ward;
* ward boundaries; and
* the names of wards.

There are 4 phases:

* Phase 1 Councillor numbers
* Phase 2 Warding arrangements
* Phase 3 Parliament
* Phase 4 implementation.

Phase 1 & 2 consultations finished on **9th September 2024** and there will be another opportunity for people to put their views forward with a further consultation between the 3/12/24 - 14/2/25.

**The outcome of Phase 1 & 2 consultation:**

Phase 1- the LGBCE recommended that the total number of DBC councillors remains at 51.

Phase 2 - The current position is warding arrangements the LGBCE are inviting proposals to help them draw up a pattern of wards to accommodate the 51 councillors.

In drawing up new electoral wards, they must balance three legal criteria, namely:

* to deliver electoral equality: where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the borough; (there is data on their website The Local Government Boundary Commission for England | LGBCE that can be used to calculate this and this is also attached it to this report for ease - it's the forecasted figures they will focus on)
* that the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and

identities of local communities

* that the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

They will treat all submissions equally and judge each case on its merits and against the legal criteria.

**Important note to APC:**

During the 2006 proposal, Tring Town Council said that ‘Tring East and Aldbury & Wigginton wards are intertwined and listed three areas, affecting eight properties and farm buildings where this can be said. It also noted that transport links would remain as they are under the proposed ward 55 and that a combined ward would not detract away from the ‘distinct communities that these areas enjoy’. Tring Town Council supported the idea to merge the wards, however this was met with almost total opposition from the villages.

At the September 2024 meeting, Tring Town Council discussed their response to the 2024 consultation.

It appears to be a real possibility, based on the projected numbers, that there could be a proposal put forward that Tring East and Aldbury and Wigginton should form one ward potentially with less members.

Tring Town Council proposed that all that part of Tring East ward south of the A41 is transferred to our ward. This has the advantage of not giving us any urban territory but only Chiltern countryside with scattered housing and the hamlet of Hastoe. The Tring East numbers are most likely to be affected by new housing such as the Marshcroft development, should this go ahead.

**Actions for APC:**

To provide any examples - evidence- of why, in terms of interests and identities of the local communities, councillors feel that Tring and Aldbury/Wigginton should not be merged. This will need to be submitted as part of second consultation.

**More information can be found on www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/dacorum**