Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils

Bacton Community Governance Review

Further consultation responses

October 2026

We are committed to the principles of fairness and respect at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils

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Summary

1.1. The Community Governance Review further consultation for Bacton commenced on Monday 17th August 2026 and was extended until Friday, 9 October 2026, to allow for a higher response turnout.

1.2. The parish council, county and district councillors received a consultation poster to raise awareness. The community governance review webpage on the district website featured the consultation with any further information about the request received.

1.3. Representations during the consultation could be received by Microsoft forms, email, phone, or post.

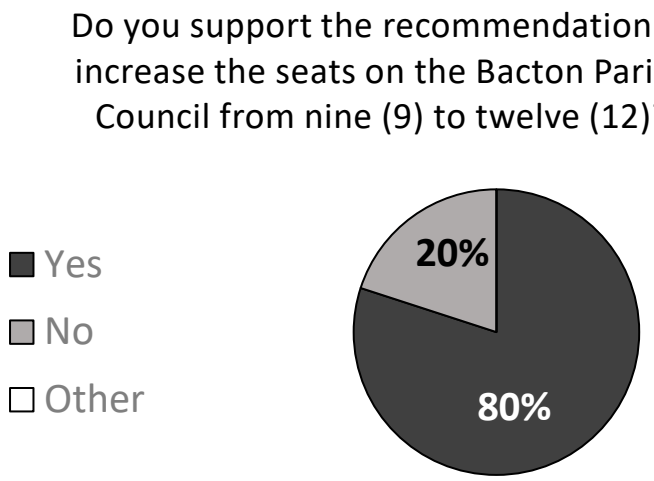
A breakdown of the representations received by area are displayed in the subsequent sections.

2. Bacton

2.1.1. How were representations received

Representation channel	Number	Percent
Microsoft forms	4	80.00%
Email	1	20.00%
Phone	0	0.00%
Post	0	0.00%
Total	5	100%

2.1.2. Response to the request



2.1.3. Further Comments

Replying as	Further comments
Resident	The seats should remain at nine, there is no material evidence that supports the claim that three additional seats would help to improve Bacton for its residents. Three additional seats would only serve to increase Parish Council costs, pushing up the Council Tax Precept and increasing the financial burden on Bacton's residents. Further more, I propose we go one step further and abolish the parish council completely
Works in the area	They are a good council and we feel very supported by them
Resident	The councillors represent us very well and we appreciate their effort
Resident	With the increase in development I fully support the increase in number of counsellors to fully represent all electorate
Bacton Parish Council	Bacton Parish Council respectfully requests that, as part of the current Community Governance Review, consideration be given to increasing the number of parish councillors for Bacton from nine to twelve. The Parish Council has considered the appropriate size of the Council for some time, taking into account changes in the electorate, significant residential development within the parish, the changing pattern of settlement, the need for effective representation across the parish and the increasing responsibilities and workload placed upon the Council. Following this consideration, all current members of Bacton Parish Council support an increase in the number of councillors from nine to twelve. **Electorate and residential growth** The most recent electoral count for Bacton Parish is 1,211 electors. This compares with an electorate of approximately 1,049 in 2020, representing an increase of approximately 162 electors, or 15.4%, over that period. In addition, approximately 416 new dwellings have been added to the parish in recent years. The growth in the number of dwellings has contributed to a significant change in the size and composition of the community served by the Parish Council. The Council recognises that the number of dwellings does not directly equate to the number of registered electors. Nevertheless, the scale of residential development, together with the recorded increase in the electorate, demonstrates that Bacton has experienced measurable growth and that the community represented by the Parish Council is changing. Further development is anticipated. The Council therefore considers it appropriate to review the number of councillors now, so that local governance arrangements remain appropriate as the parish continues to grow. An increase from nine to twelve councillors would provide three additional elected representatives and greater capacity to ensure that residents throughout the parish, including those living within newer residential areas, have appropriate opportunities for representation. **Evidence of community interest** The Council has also considered the availability of residents willing to stand for election. Historically, casual vacancies have generally attracted only the minimum number of applicants required to fill the available positions. However, there has been evidence of increased interest more recently; the most recent casual vacancies attracted five applicants for two positions. The Parish Council also holds monthly Open Door events, providing residents with an opportunity to meet councillors, raise concerns and discuss matters affecting the parish. During recent events, councillors have sought residents' views regarding the proposed increase in the number of councillors. These discussions have generated interest from a number of newer residents, including residents who have indicated that they would consider standing for election to the Parish Council. The Council considers this to be evidence of a growing willingness among residents to participate in parish governance.

	Capacity and effective governance The growth of the parish has increased the range of matters requiring the attention of the Parish Council. Residential development and the associated growth of the community have created additional demands for engagement, representation and consideration of local issues. Increasing the number of councillors would provide additional capacity and allow Council responsibilities and workload to be distributed among a larger number of elected members. It would also provide greater resilience when individual councillors are unavailable and enable more members to participate in community engagement, planning matters, projects and other Council activities. The proposal would therefore support the Council's ability to continue operating effectively while responding to the needs of a growing community. **Representation across the parish** The Council considers that effective parish governance is supported by representation from different parts of the parish and by councillors who have knowledge of the communities and neighbourhoods they represent. The increase in residential development has changed the size and distribution of the parish population. Increasing the number of councillors would provide greater opportunity for residents from across Bacton, including residents of newer developments, to become involved in local decision-making. The proposed increase is therefore intended to ensure that the Council's elected membership remains appropriate to the size, geographical spread and changing circumstances of the parish. **Conclusion** Bacton Parish Council considers that there is a clear basis for reviewing the existing allocation of nine councillors. The parish electorate has increased from approximately 1,049 in 2020 to 1,211 currently, an increase of approximately 15.4%. During the same period, approximately 416 new dwellings have been added to the parish, with further development anticipated. There is also evidence of increasing community interest in parish representation. The most recent casual vacancies attracted five applicants for two positions, while discussions at the Council's monthly Open Door events have generated interest from newer residents in becoming involved in the Parish Council. Taking these factors together, all current members of Bacton Parish Council support an increase in the number of parish councillors from 9 to 12. The Council considers that twelve councillors would provide additional capacity, support broader representation across the parish and enable the Council to respond effectively to the demands associated with continued residential and community growth. Bacton Parish Council therefore respectfully requests that the Community Governance Review recommends that the number of parish councillors for Bacton be increased from 9 to 12.

2.1.4. Capacity of response

Capacity	Number	Percent
Resident	3	60.00%
Business	0	0.00%
Political	1	20.00%
Other	1	20.00%
Total	5	100%