

Mid Suffolk Community Governance Review

Further consultation responses

and initial consultation responses for Bacton

July 2026

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

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1. Summary

1.1. The Community Governance Review further consultation commenced on Monday 13th

April 2026 and until Friday, 19 June 2026. The areas under review are as follows:

- Coddtenham
- Framsdan and Helmingham
- Palgrave
- Stradbroke

1.2. An initial consultation on a request from Bacton Parish Council was also run in parallel.

1.3. All parish councils, county and district councillors received a consultation poster relevant to their area, to raise awareness. The community governance review webpage on the district website featured the consultation with any further information about the request received.

1.4. In addition, all households within the Framsdan and Helmingham, and Coddtenham areas of the community governance review received consultation posters by post.

1.5. 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.

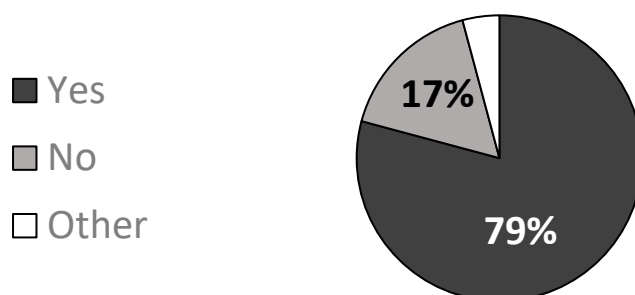
2. Coddendam

2.1.1. How were representations received

Representation channel	Number	Percent
Microsoft forms	13	54.17%
Email	1	4.17%
Phone	0	0.00%
Post	10	41.67%
Total	24	100%

2.1.2. Response to the request

Do you support the draft recommendation to reduce the seats on Coddendam Parish Council from eleven (11) to nine (9)?



2.1.3. Further Comments

Replying as	Further comments
Resident	Amend the Regulations to allow cats to be appointed
Resident	Any further reduction i.e. 7 (Seven) could lead to a 'my view or the highway' dictatorship. That's not what we need. Where are vacancies posted?
Resident	Having been on the parish council in the past I know that 9 is still too many, but reducing from 11 to 9 is a step in the right dy
Resident	I agree that Coddendam Parish council will benefit from a lower quorate requirement and believe by changing the number of parish councillors from 11 to 9 will continue to offer democratic opportunities to anyone interested but will not inhibit the council's ability to continue to be effective in local governance.
Resident	It will save on training councillors who only last 2 minutes!
Resident	No reasons for this change given. A reduction means less choice which means a reduction in democracy. Keep it the same!
Resident	Please advise how many parish councillors are required to be present for parish council meetings to be quorate
Resident	The church yard should be maintained by the church not the council
Resident	The number of representatives should remain to support a growing community
Resident	The situation was explained to me by a village elder
Resident	There was an original request to reduce to 7. There is a national lack of interest in Parish Council work. 7 seats would enable future amalgamation with adjacent Parish Council(s) (Hemingstone currently inquorate). When Coddendam's PWLB 1st debt expires in 2028.
Resident	What difference will it make and how much money has been wasted on this futile exercise

2.1.4. Capacity of response

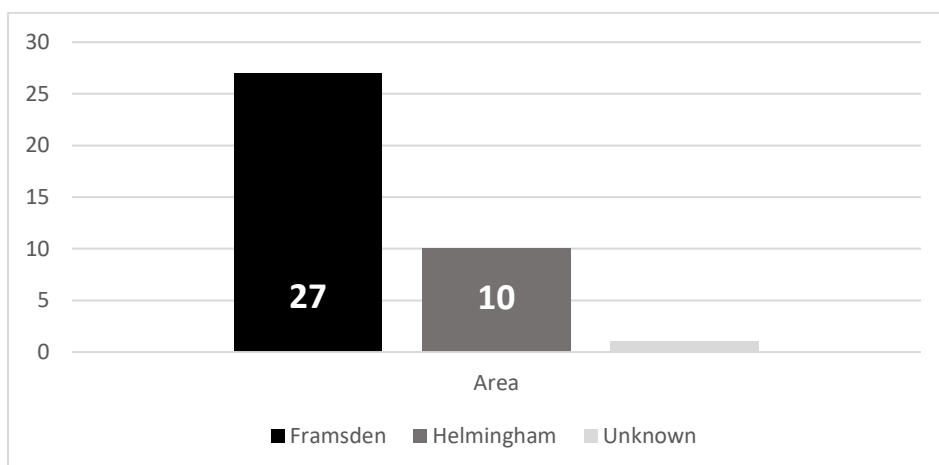
Capacity	Number	Percent
Resident	23	95.83%
Business	0	0.00%
Political	1	4.17%
Other	0	0.00%
Total	24	100%

3. Framsden and Helmingham

3.1.1. How were representations received

Representation channel	Number	Percent
Microsoft forms	23	60.53%
Email	2	5.26%
Phone	0	0.00%
Post	13	34.21%
Total	38	100.00%

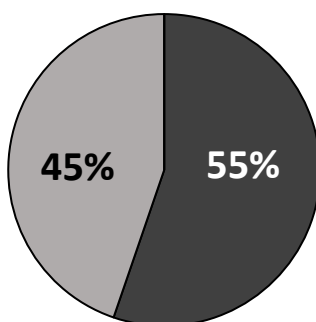
3.1.2. Where responses were received from



3.1.3. Response to the request

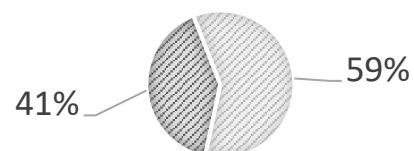
Do you support the draft recommendation to merge both Framsden and Helmingham Parish Councils?

☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Other



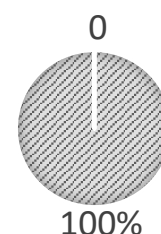
FRAMSDEN

☒ Yes ☐ No



HELMINGHAM

☒ Yes ☐ No



3.1.4. Further comments

Replying as	Further comments
Resident	Combining both parish councils will strengthen decision making and become more practical in all aspects for both communities
Resident	Essential information such as the number of councillors and the level of spend that Helmingham parish has is not available. There is no understanding of how the parishes would work together, what their priorities are etc and how this might change if working jointly. So insufficient information to proceed.
Resident	Helmingham don't have a pub or village hall, I know Helmingham have a school don't know how much longer it will keep on going. Helmingham do have a hall and what every the play park near the hall
Resident	Helmingham is too small a village to run an effective Parish Council by itself, but merging the two would enable effective representation of the interests of Helmingham residents, and also enable more effective use of the two precepts. The villages are also closely linked through their connection to the Helmingham estate.
Resident	I don't believe it is in the interest of either Framdsen or Helmingham to merge parish councils
Resident	I haven't lived here long enough to have any experience of the two village councils. Currently I would say keep separate but only if there is any underlying issues between them. If not, then becoming one would make sense.
Resident	in response to the notification received concerning the changes to governance arrangements in Framdsen and Helmingham and is confirmation that the proposed merge to form Framdsen and Helmingham Parish Council with 7 member seats is approved
Resident	Its bad enough now to get anything done by Framdsen Parish Council. To merge will only make it worse still. No one is interested in what affects the residents ! Only their own little world!
Framdsen Parish Council	Merging the Parish Councils of Framdsen & Helmingham can only benefit the residents of both parishes as it will enable us to work closely together.
Helmingham Parish Council	Merging the Parish Councils of Helmingham & Framdsen can only benefit the residents of both parishes as it will enable us to work closely together.
Resident	Only in as much as I can see that drawing Helmingham and Framdsen together can only be beneficial in respect of strengthening the sense of inclusion, especially in relation to community events and celebrations. Unlike Gosbeck Otley and Framdsen, we have no village hall in Helmingham. With no place to congregate, (other of course, than our lovely church) residents have nowhere to host or to join social events and activities and the hamlet lacks a sense of 'heart'. Joining Framdsen would provide what we are currently lacking.
Resident	Separate
Resident	The advantages to Framdsen of this proposed merger have not been explained. The Chairman of Framdsen Parish Council is currently an employee of the Helmingham estate. It seems likely that the Helmingham estate is likely to be overrepresented if the merger were to take place.
Resident	The two parishes should remain separate
Resident	There seems to be little detail in what the implications of this merger would be. There is no information regarding the present Helmingham precept or how many councillors from Helmingham there would be. It may be administratively more convenient for this merger to take place but not necessarily advantageous for either parish. I would prefer there to be an extraordinary PC meeting to be held before the 19 th June where parishioners can be enlightened further on this issue.

3.1.5. Capacity of response

Capacity	Number	Percent
Resident	34	89.47%
Business	1	2.63%
Political	3	7.89%
Other	0	0.00%
Total	38	100%

4. Palgrave

4.1.1. How were representations received

Representation channel	Number	Percent
Microsoft forms	1	50.00%
Email	1	50.00%
Phone	0	0.00%
Post	0	0.00%
Total	2	100.00%

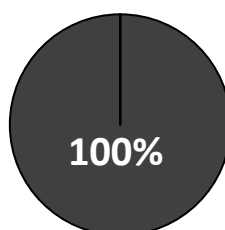
4.1.2. Response to the request

Do you support the draft recommendation to reduce the number of seats on Palgrave Parish Council from eleven (11) to nine (9)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other



4.1.3. Capacity of response

Capacity	Number	Percent
Resident	0	0.00%
Business	0	0.00%
Political	2	100.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total	2	100%

4.1.4. Further comments

Replying as	Further comments
Palgrave Parish Council	This is mainly because in the last 10 years we have seldom had a full complement of Councillors and currently have 4 vacancies which we are struggling to fill. A reduction to 9 will hopefully enable us to recruit a couple of new members and bring the PC back to a full Council which is, of course, our ultimate aim.

5. Stradbroke

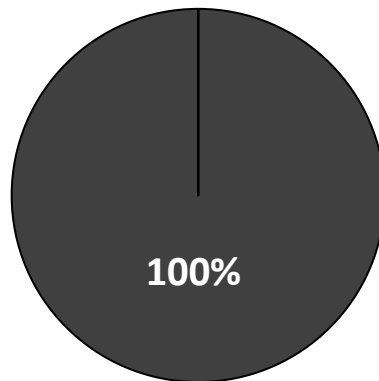
5.1.1. How were representations received

Representation channel	Number	Percent
Microsoft forms	1	50.00%
Email	1	50.00%
Phone	0	0.00%
Post	0	0.00%
Total	1	100.00%

5.1.2. Response to the request

Do you support the draft recommendation to reduce the seats on Stradbroke Parish Council from thirteen (13) to eleven (11)?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other



5.1.3. Further comments

Replying as	Further comments
Stradbroke Parish Council	The Parish Council has proposed this change to enable the Council to operate more efficiently given the number of long-standing vacancies.

5.1.4. Capacity of response

Capacity	Number	Percent
Resident	1	50.00%
Business	0	0.00%
Political	1	50.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total	2	100%

6. Bacton

6.1.1. How were representations received

Representation channel	Number	Percent
Microsoft forms	0	0.00%
Email	0	0.00%
Phone	0	0.00%
Post	0	0.00%
Total	0	100.00%

6.1.2. Response to the request

No responses were received in the duration of the initial consultation asking, 'Do you agree with Bacton Parish Council that the Parish Council member seats be increased from nine (9) to twelve (12)?'.