


# Community Governance Review 2026

## Your Parish

**Which parish would you like to provide a response for?**

## About you

**What is your interest in the parish you have selected?**

(select all that apply)

- I work in the parish
- I live in the parish
- I represent an organisation based or operating in the parish
- Other (please specify)

**If you represent an organisation, please provide the name of the organisation:**

**Please provide the first 5 characters of your postcode to enable us to map responses**

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## Parish boundaries

### **Do you believe that the current parish boundary reflects your community's identity and interests?**

Please consider whether the current boundary includes the places your community uses and identifies with, and whether it still makes sense given local development or changes in how the community functions



Yes



No



Unsure

#### Rationale:

From a top down view of our boundaries, Thakeham may look odd – but this is due to centuries old traditions and settlement lines.

Thakeham's boundaries have a very rich and cultured history dating back to the Quakers in the 16th Century. Thakeham, as a Parish is long because of these historic ties with the Penn Stone (relating to William Penn and the founding of Pennsylvania in the USA) and the Blue Idol Church that sits in the north, along with other historic buildings.

Smoothing out edges runs the risk of damaging our history and Councillors at Thakeham Parish Council – representing the wishes of our populace - does not wish to see this change. Furthermore, this heritage, landmarks and identity is internationally known – attracting many groups and visitors from all over to walk and explore Thakeham.

Thakeham Parish Council has works very hard to be inclusive to all residents within the Parish and many have expressed concerns that they may no longer be part of the community if boundaries are needlessly implemented.

Thakeham Parish is old and as such, new housing have pushed up and out to neighbouring Parishes. However, we feel that this does not mean other Parishes should then envelope our residents. Likewise, we do not feel that we should expand our identity out into other areas.

This is one of the fundamental issues with new housing development and the encroachment on other settlements that we (and others) push back on HDC.

Thakeham Parish Council have expressed these concerns to our neighbours in other Parishes as well.

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## Parish name

### **Do you believe that the name of the parish is appropriate?**

The name of the parish should reflect the area it represents, and should identify the parish's geographical area and identity



Yes



No



Unsure

Rationale:

Thakeham Parish Council believe there should be no change.

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## Parish councillors

### How do you feel about the current number of parish councillors for your area?

This is an opportunity to review the number of councillors, and consider whether to reduce or increase the number of councillors to better reflect the local population. The number of councillors for each parish is available on the [Community Governance Review webpage](#).

- Too many
- About right
- Too few

#### Rationale:

Thakeham Parish Council feel the number is right.

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## Parish wards

### Should the parish be divided into wards?

Parish wards may be used where a parish area is large, and/or has diverse populations.

Warding a parish can enable better representation of the varied communities in the parish, as each ward would have its own councillors

Yes

No

Unsure

### Rationale:

Thakeham Parish Council does not consider itself to big too big or populated that it warrants multiple wards.

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## Grouping of parishes

### **Do you think the parish should be grouped with one or more neighbouring parishes under a common parish council?**

In many rural areas, small parishes are joined together and share one parish council. This allows each parish to stay separate and keep its own parish meeting. This kind of grouping is different from dividing a parish into wards.

Each parish in the group chooses a certain number of councillors to sit on the shared parish council. Every parish must have at least one councillor on the shared council. Some parishes in the group may also be divided into wards, and each ward then elects its share of councillors as part of the parish's total number on the shared council.



Yes



No



Unsure

#### Rationale:

Thakeham Parish Council does not wish to group with any other Parishes. Over the last few years – Thakeham has seen high levels of development. The Parish have absorbed this and has put in plans to develop local infrastructure and facilities as a consequence which would directly benefit the residents.

Therefore, Thakeham Parish Council would consider any merging or grouping to be detrimental to our community as we have funds and plans to invest and these would then be spread around and the Thakeham residents would then not see the benefits of the development they have had to take.

Thakeham Parish Council is proud to be able to 'punch above its weight' due to careful planning and financial management. The Council feel that any restructure would effectively undo Community plans and finances that have taken years of careful negotiation and planning, just before the projects come to fruition.

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## Further involvement

**If you would like us to contact you when the draft recommendations are published, along with a link to the consultation taking place this summer, please provide your email address:**

clerk@thakehamparish.gov.uk

