

## **Community Governance Review**

A community governance review for Broadclyst Parish would agree with the council's new strategy "to support community development and cohesion across all areas, especially Westclyst and Tithebarn." To hold this review shares the values and visions of the strategy to represent and support proportionally across all parish population centers based on their need. It also mentions considering a ward system if a representation gap persists. A CGR needs to consider what is the best governance arrangements for the new populations of Tithebarn and Westclyst. Is that warding the Parish or establishing a new Parish.

## **Community Governance Review: Pros and Cons Summary**

Broadclyst Parish is experiencing substantial growth due to the new developments at **Tithebarn** and **Westclyst**. Current representation includes **15 parish councillors**, of whom **2 are from Tithebarn, 1 from Westclyst**, and the remainder of filled positions are predominantly from Broadclyst village and the more rural parts of the parish. A Community Governance Review (CGR) would assess whether current governance arrangements remain fair, effective, and reflective of the parish's changing population.

### **Advantages**

#### **1. Fairer Representation**

- Balances councillor representation with actual population distribution.
- Helps ensure Tithebarn and Westclyst residents have an appropriate democratic voice. The new developments have different governance arrangements to the old village resulting in a perceived double taxation.

#### **2. Strengthens Local Democracy**

- Modernises governance to match community growth.
- Improves transparency and can increase resident engagement in newer neighbourhoods.

#### **3. Reflects Community Identity**

- Acknowledges the emerging identities of Tithebarn and Westclyst.
- May introduce warding or boundary options that better reflect local communities.

#### **4. Supports Effective Service Delivery**

- Aligns governance with updated service needs, including public spaces, facilities, and infrastructure.
- Ensures structures are fit for handling increased demand.

#### **5. Future-Proofs the Parish**

- Anticipates ongoing development in the wider area.
- Reduces the likelihood of needing multiple reviews in the near future.

#### **6. Enhances Community Cohesion**

- Ensures all residents feel fairly represented and included in parish decision-making.

### **Disadvantages**

#### **1. Takes time**

- Includes consultation, data analysis, meetings, and reporting. The majority of this is done by East Devon. Parish officer time will be required. It takes a year from being triggered.

#### **2. Sensitive**

- Changes to boundaries or representation can be sensitive issues.
- Risk of perceived “winners and losers”.

#### **4. Financial Costs**

- Though generally modest, costs may include consultation materials, mapping, and administrative support.
- The precept could change dramatically depending on what the conclusion is.

#### **5. Final Decision Rests with the District Council**

- Broadclyst Parish Council can recommend changes, but **East Devon District Council** makes the final determination.
- Outcomes may not fully align with parish preferences.

#### **6. Disruption During Implementation**

- Changes to warding, may require changes to internal structures.
- Short-term disruption before new arrangements settle.