

CAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

Council Meeting 5th March 2019

CAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL.

It has been requested that Cambourne Parish Council considers changing from a Parish to a Town Council. This was last considered on the 7th February 2012

Cambourne was designed and was marketed as a settlement of three villages Lower Cambourne, Great Cambourne and Upper Cambourne aimed to have 3,000 (+or-10%) this was subsequently added to by the addition of 950 dwellings in Upper Cambourne. In 2018 Planning Consent was granted for a fourth Village West Cambourne with a further 2,350 dwellings. There has also been additional infill within the villages on areas that were not part of the original master plan.

When construction first started in 1998 (First occupation 1999) and until recently there was a strong community spirit in certain areas of Cambourne unfortunately some of this has been diluted as Cambourne has grown in size.

For some time there has been a confusion of identity caused by the size of Cambourne as a whole with a growing number of people seeing Cambourne as a Town (of three Villages) rather than a Village. This needs to be resolved to give Cambourne an identity. In the eyes of some of the community the identity "is vague and confused". Due to this Cambourne is often described as a settlement.

It is considered that it is time to stand back and take a look at Cambourne and how it has grown and will grow over the next fifteen years. Cambourne currently has 4,284 homes (over 11,824 residents) Once the current consents have been completed in 2033 Cambourne is planned to have 7,120 homes (approx 19,650 residents)

Many in and around Cambourne already see Cambourne as a Town.

In June 2018 the House of Commons Library published a Briefing Paper Number 8322 City & Town Classification of Constituencies & Local Authorities.

The briefing paper was prepared because there was concern how communities could be compared so they established a new classification so similar communities can be compared. Extract below (Full copy attached).

1.2 How does the classification work?

At its simplest, the classification categorises each constituency and local authority area according to the type of settlement in which the largest proportion of its population lives. To achieve this, settlements are classified according to an adjusted version of the taxonomy recently developed by the [Centre for Towns](#):

12 Core Cities: twelve major population and economic centres (e.g. *London, Glasgow, Sheffield*)

• **24 Other Cities:** other settlements with a population of more than

175,000 (e.g. Leicester, Portsmouth, Aberdeen)

- **119 Large Towns:** settlements with a population between 60,000 and 174,999 (e.g. Warrington, Hemel Hempstead, Farnborough)

- **270 Medium Towns:** settlements with a population between 25,000 and 59,999 (e.g. Gravesend, Jarrow, Exmouth)

- **674 Small Towns:** settlements with a population between 7,500 and 24,999 (e.g. Falmouth, New Romney, Holbeach)

- **6,116 Villages and small communities:** settlements with a population of less than 7,500 (e.g. Chapel-en-le-Frith, Cottenham, Menai Bridge)

As part of the briefing they have produced a map indicating where the City and towns are located which includes Cambourne as a small town (enlarged extract below).



THE CLASSIFICATION

- Core City
- Other City
- Large Town
- Medium Town
- Small Town
- Village or smaller

The Parish Council can resolve under Section 245 of the LGA1972 Part IV, Section 75 to call itself a Town Council.

Town status.

Disadvantages:

- No additional Powers
- Potential cost of Civic Regalia (but this is not required).

Advantages:

- Establishes Cambourne's Identity and gives an overall community identity linking the four Villages.
- No cost implications to the residents.
- The Council would be seen more positively and get more respect within the County and surrounding Districts.
- There aren't any increased responsibilities by becoming a Town Council.
- There is a genuine debate which could be had about the potential economic benefit, if any, of calling yourself a Town and having a visible role for the Mayor as ceremonial representative, for instance, meeting with Mayors of other Towns and strengthening partnership and business links to bring more opportunities to the town.
- Assists in marketing of the shops on the High Street. Nearly all professionals that come to Cambourne to give presentations see Cambourne as a Town. Part of the problem in marketing Cambourne is that larger companies won't go into villages. The village name discourages some companies from committing to Cambourne.
- Assist in marketing of the Business Park

Changes:

- The Title of the Council Changes.
- The Chairman can be called Town Mayor.
- The Vice Chairman can be called Deputy Town Mayor.

Cost:

- Mayoral Chain (There is a potential benefactor who would donate the Chain) this is not essential
- The precept would not be raised directly by the change in status.
- The staff costs will not be increased directly by the change in status.
- There will be a minor cost in updating the web site (but this can be done largely in-house.
- A hold has been put on orders involving branding while this issue has been on the cards including Notice boards, permanent signs, replacement uniform etc to avoid cost if a change was made. Therefore, this would not have an additional cost.

Process:

If we are considering changing the status of the Parish Council, the route would be:

- Consideration is given by the Parish Council as to changing the status of Cambourne from a Parish to a Town Council under section 245 of the LGA 1972 Part IV, Section 75.
- Notify the District Council of its decision to change the name.
- The District Council then has to notify the Secretary of State, the Director General of the Ordnance Survey and the Registrar General and must publish notice within the parish and anywhere else the District Council considered appropriate.
- The Council can then choose to rename the Chairman as Mayor
- Promote Cambourne as a Town to further develop its identity.

Identity/structure:

The suggestion is that the structure would be the Town of Cambourne made up of the four villages each with its own electoral ward. It is important to maintain the three existing and the new villages as separate parts of the whole as each has its own individual character.

In simple terms Cambourne changes from a settlement of three/four villages to a town of three/four villages.

Role of SCDC:

Other than giving notice of a name change, the only further involvement of SCDC would be if there were a boundary change sought or a change to the electoral arrangements Cambourne could at any time request a community governance review (Local Government & Housing Act 2007) to create separate wards for Great, Lower, Upper and West Cambourne, with, say five seats each on the Parish (or Town) Council. This method supports the opportunity for guaranteed representation for different areas within an existing authority. The warding of Cambourne with a proportion of Councillors to each village based on the electorate. The benefit of this would be the potential reduction in election costs caused by the large ballot papers required for a whole village election.

Requests for community governance reviews generally come from the parish council with the reasons and evidence it has collected, the recommendations it proposes and, ideally, evidence of public support. Residents themselves can also petition the District Council for a review, giving the same information; in the case of Cambourne, the petition must be signed by a minimum of 10% of electors. The District Council then must undertake a formal consultation exercise, writing to all parishioners and placing notices in public areas, with responses to be received by a set deadline. The information is then considered by the Electoral Arrangements Committee at a public meeting, often with residents attending to give evidence for and against during the public speaking session, and a recommendation is made to full Council.

There's some more detailed information in the Parish Council Toolkit (http://www.scamb.gov.uk/documents/retrieve.htm?pk_document=908153) and the legislation is at www.legislation.gov.uk.

Correspondence received in early 2018 from Jason Clerk Programme Manager / Development Officer South West

Hi John

I came across this guidance the other day. It clearly states says that a Parish can choose to be known as a Town if they wish, and it states that this is just a name, and has no impact with regards to planning or anything else (confirmed with Ed Durrant).

Happy to have a conversation around this, but thought it worth passing on as seems pretty clear cut.

Thanks

Jay

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf

Section 4: Other aspects of community governance reviews

Parish names and alternative styles for parishes

1. Prior to the 2007 Act, a parish could be given the status of a town under section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972. "Town" status continues to be available to a parish. In addition, the 2007 Act inserted sections 12A and 12B into the 1972 Act to offer a further choice of alternative styles for a parish: community, neighbourhood and village. However, for as long as the parish has an alternative style, it will not also be able to have the status of a town and vice versa.
2. The 'name' of a parish refers to the geographical name of the area concerned and can be changed independent of a review by a principal council at the request of a parish council or parish meeting (where there is no parish council)⁶. A change in the status or 'style' of a parish allows for that area to be known as a town, community neighbourhood or village, rather than as a parish. The status or style of the parish will be reflected in the name of any council of the parish, the parish meeting, any parish trustees, and the chairman or vice-chairman of the parish meeting or of any parish council. So, for example, the council of a parish which uses the style 'village' will be known as the 'village council' and its councillors as the 'village councillors', etc.
3. References in legislation to a 'parish' should be taken to include a parish which has an alternative style, as is the case in relation to a parish which has the status of a town. The same applies in relation to references in legislation to a 'parish

meeting', 'parish council', 'parish councillor', 'parish trustees', etc in connection with a parish which has an alternative style.

4. The Government recognises that in long established parishes, particularly in rural areas, local people may wish to retain the name of their parish and the existing style of their parish councils, - although others may prefer "village" or another style. Following a community governance review, in areas previously unparished where a new parish is being created, people living there may wish for the style of their parish council to reflect the local community in a different way and may prefer one of the alternative styles. This may well be the case for those living in urban areas. Local authorities will wish to take account of these preferences in deciding the name of the parish and the chosen style.
- 5.

Section 245 of the 1972 Act:

245 Status of certain districts, parishes and communities. **E+W**

(1) If, on a petition presented to Her Majesty by the council of a district praying for the grant of a charter under this subsection, Her Majesty by the advice of Her Privy Council thinks fit so to do, She may by the charter confer on that district the status of a borough, and thereupon—

(a) the council of the district shall bear the name of the council of the borough;

(b) the chairman and vice-chairman of the council shall respectively be entitled to the style of mayor and deputy mayor of the borough.

[F1(1A) Subsection (1)(b) above does not apply where the council are operating executive arrangements which involve a mayor and cabinet executive or a mayor and council manager executive. **]**

(2) A petition for a charter under subsection (1) above shall not be presented except on a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object.

(3) No charter under subsection (1) above shall take effect before 1st April 1974.

(4) Where a petition is presented to Her Majesty before 1st April 1974 by the council of a district praying for the grant of a charter under subsection (1) above and it is signified on behalf of Her Majesty before that date that She proposes to accede to the petition and that She approves—

(a) the use for the district of any style previously belonging to an existing borough which on that date will become wholly or partly comprised in the district; and

(b) the use for the chairman and vice-chairman of the council of the district of any style previously belonging to the mayor or deputy mayor of that borough;

those styles may be so used as from 1st April 1974.

[F2(4A) Where—

(a) a council are operating executive arrangements which involve a mayor and cabinet executive or a mayor and council manager executive; and

(b) the chairman or vice-chairman of the council has previously used the style of mayor or deputy mayor by virtue of subsection (4)(b), the chairman or vice-chairman, as the case may be, shall no longer use that style.]

(5) A district which has the status of a borough, or for which the style of borough may be used, by virtue of the foregoing provisions of this section and the council of any such district shall not be treated as a borough or the council of a borough for the purposes of any Act passed before 1st April 1974.

(6) The council of a parish **F3** . . . which is not grouped with any other parish **F3** . . . may resolve that the parish **F3** . . . shall have the status of a town and thereupon—

(a) the council of the parish **F3** . . . shall bear the name of the council of the town;

(b) the chairman and vice-chairman of the council shall be respectively entitled to the style of town mayor and deputy town mayor;

(c) the parish meeting **F4** . . . shall have the style of town meeting.

(7) A resolution under subsection (6) above shall cease to have effect if the parish **F3** . . . to which it relates ceases to exist.

[F5(7A) A resolution under subsection (6) shall cease to have effect if the parish has an alternative style (within the meaning of section 17A) by virtue of any of the following—

(a) an order under section 11;

(b) a resolution under section 12A;

(c) an order under section 86 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.]

(8) If a parish **F3** . . . council which has passed a resolution under subsection (6) above is dissolved without the parish **F3** . . . ceasing to exist, the dissolution shall not affect the status of the parish **F3** . . . or the application to it of paragraph (c) of that subsection and in England the parish trustees shall have the style of town trustees.

(9) A parish **F3** . . . council by whom a resolution under subsection (6) above has been passed or, if the council has been dissolved, the parish meeting in England **F6** . . . may resolve that the parish **F3** . . . shall cease to have the status of a town and thereupon subsection (6)(a) to (c) above and subsection (8) above shall cease to apply to the parish **F3** . . .

(10) The foregoing provisions of this section shall have effect subject to any provision made by a grant under Her Majesty's prerogative and, in particular, to any such provision granting the status of a city or royal borough or conferring the style of lord mayor, deputy lord mayor or right honourable.

Annotations: 



Annotations are used to give authority for changes and other effects on the legislation you are viewing and to convey editorial information. They appear at the foot of the relevant provision or under the associated heading. Annotations are categorised by annotation type, such as F-notes for textual amendments and I-notes for commencement information (a full list can be found in the Editorial Practice Guide). Each annotation is identified by a sequential reference number. For F-notes, M-notes and X-notes, the number also appears in bold superscript at the relevant location in the text. All annotations contain links to the affecting legislation.

Amendments (Textual)

F1S. 245(1A) inserted (26.10.2000 (E.) and 28.7.2001 (W.)) by [2000 c. 22, ss. 46, 108\(4\)](#), [Sch. 3 para. 11\(1\)\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2000/2849, art. 2\(e\)](#)

F2S. 245(4A) inserted (E.) (6.5.2002) by [The Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Modification of Enactments\) \(England\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/1057\)](#), [art. 5](#)

F3Words in [s. 245\(6\)-\(9\)](#) repealed (1.4.1996) by [1994 c. 19, s. 66\(5\)\(8\)](#), [Sch. 15 para. 51\(a\)](#), [Sch. 18](#) (with [ss. 54\(5\)\(7\)](#), [55\(5\)](#), [Sch. 17 paras. 22\(1\)](#), [23\(2\)](#)); [S.I. 1996/396, art. 4](#), [Sch. 2](#)

F4Words in [s. 245\(6\)\(c\)](#) repealed (1.4.1996) by [1994 c. 19, s. 66\(5\)\(8\)](#), [Sch. 15 para. 51\(b\)](#), [Sch. 18](#) (with [ss. 54\(5\)\(7\)](#), [55\(5\)](#), [Sch. 17 paras. 22\(1\)](#), [23\(2\)](#)); [S.I. 1996/396, art. 4](#), [Sch. 2](#)

F5S. 245(7A) inserted (13.2.2008) by Local Government and Public Involvement in [Health Act 2007 \(c. 28\)](#), [ss. 101, 245](#), [Sch. 5 para. 8\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2008/337, art. 2\(c\)](#)

F6Words in [s. 245\(9\)](#) repealed (1.4.1996) by [1994 c. 19, s. 66\(5\)\(8\)](#), [Sch. 15 para. 51\(c\)](#), [Sch. 18](#) (with [ss. 54\(5\)\(7\)](#), [55\(5\)](#), [Sch. 17 paras. 22\(1\)](#), [23\(2\)](#)); [S.I. 1996/396, art. 4](#), [Sch. 2](#)

Jay Clarke | Development Officer South West

