

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
Community Governance Review
Consultation 2 Responses

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Local Residents Submissions

The findings look eminently sensible to me.

Terry, I have read the summary responses and can advise that I am content to leave matters as currently exist.

My wife, REDACTED, also replied to the previous request for views but as she has subsequently been diagnosed with mild dementia she will not be submitting views on the update.

Kind regards

REDACTED

Sent from my iPad

Taking your draft recommendations in turn, my comments are as follows:

1. I do not think it is helpful delaying a decision in order to allow for future developments which may or may not happen. In any case in 2025 or 2029, there are just as likely to be yet more future developments on the horizon. If such developments do progress, I think local residents should be allowed the strongest possible representation at the earliest opportunity.

2. The population of Sayers Common is about 884, that of Albourne about 600, and that of Twineham about 306. Albourne and Twineham successfully operate Parish Councils. Your argument that the number of electors is not sufficient to support a financially sustainable parish council does not appear to be supported by the evidence coming from even smaller local communities.

3. Just about every local organisation, be it Parish Council, Scout Group, or Trade Organisation has difficulty recruiting officers. This point is irrelevant. I would, however, argue that it might be somewhat easier to recruit Sayers Common residents to serve on a Sayers Common Parish Council than onto one serving the bigger neighbour of Hurstpierpoint as well. I think Sayers Common residents would be attracted by the idea that their efforts would principally benefit the local community.

4. I think this sense of community has been present for some considerable time and is not a recent thing. It is well evidenced by the time and effort put into setting up and running the Community shop.

5. Agreed, but not necessary if Sayers Common had its own Parish Council.

6. and 7. From my comments you will appreciate that I do not agree with your recommendations. I think Sayers Common should have its own Parish Council now.

Two general points. From my address you will note that I am a Hurstpierpoint resident and have been for some 30 years. I have always been impressed by the community spirit present in Sayers Common. It is equal to or stronger than that of Hurstpierpoint. They deserve their own Parish Council and I see nothing of merit in your reasons for denying this.

Secondly, it is not clear from your communications who is putting these recommendations together. Is it Mr Stanley, or are there other people involved? Presumably, the Scrutiny Committee is made up of Councillors. May we know who these are, please.

I support the draft recommendations.

It is particularly important to act on recommendation 5, as well as actually being numerically fairly represented (as they are) they must feel fairly represented. Perhaps an agreed independent external review would help.

The Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish should remain as one body. Any perceived issues regarding priorities and procedures should be addressed and acted upon accordingly to the satisfaction of the parties involved. There should be no change to the area boundaries, residents who have chosen to live in the village of Hurstpierpoint should absolutely not be put in the position of finding themselves living in a different village! If Sayers Common does not feel that they have enough land, they need to expand into the countryside, and not attempt to land grab from a neighbouring village where people live. Hurstpierpoint has a strong identity and sense of community. To find yourself not part of that anymore, against your wishes, would be awful! Not to mention the potential damage to the value of your house. The reasons behind the request to extend their reach is not clear and seems completely unnecessary in terms of upheaval and potential distress for Hurst residents.

I believe that the sense of responsibility fostered by a dedicated Parish Council (PC) for Sayers Common is a great idea. I feel that for some time the Sayers Common community has seen itself as under represented within the current local government structure. Something like the creation of a four or six seat PC for Sayers Common (with Clerk and office resources shared) would be a great start and would become ever more meaningful as the population of the parish continues to grow. It could also result in a smaller more focussed Hurstpierpoint PC.

In respect to the draft recommendations resulting from the initial Community Governance Review, my further contribution to this debate is:

1. Agree – the future size and shape of housing in this area means that it is premature to be reviewing governance arrangements as future requirements are unknown.
2. Agree – any additional cost in precept to residents would be unwelcome in the current cost of living crisis. There has been no evidence of the financial viability of splitting the parish in two and common sense suggests there would be in fact increased cost to residents as any economies of scale would be lost.
3. Agree – it is extremely hard to get people to volunteer to be a councillor.
4. Agree – this is likely to increase along with housing numbers over time.
5. Neutral –there was only anecdotal evidence in the submissions, and many obvious errors eg complaints about assets owned / managed by MSDC not the parish and responsiveness of West Sussex CC. It would be unreasonable to 'blame' the parish for these issues.
6. Agree – However, a further review should happen only after housing (potentially 3,803 new homes) has been built and occupied so that these new residents can have their say about their community. This review should indeed incorporate a wider area BUT ALSO the geographical boundaries such as the A23 that physically separate Sayers Common from the wider Hurstpierpoint community – as someone on the other side of the A23 to Sayers Common yet within the original proposed area of that new parish I do not identify with that village, rather I visit, shop in, identify with Hurstpierpoint village.
7. Agree

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Further to the draft recommendations:

1. Agree – future requirements are unknown ahead of plans / agreement / building of over 3,800 new homes proposed. This will double the size of the village and significantly change its character and the community needs.
2. Agree – There has been no proposed budget submitted therefore the financial viability of this original proposal is unproven. There will be an inevitable loss of any existing economies of scale plus duplication of offices / roles to run an additional organisation in the area.
3. Agree
4. Agree
5. Neutral –it would be helpful to publish any such complaints in a reviewable format with an opportunity for response from the existing parish council before condemning them. There is no quantifiable evidence in the submissions – rather some qualitative / anecdotal suggestions that appear to be incorrect. For example, Sayers Common did not have to pay for its own village gates!
6. Agree – Buy only after the new homes have been developed and new residents engaged in the review process - so the dates proposed are likely too early ie the homes will not be built and occupied by then.
7. Agree

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
Community Governance Review
Consultation 2 Responses:
Councillors Submissions

team - team email	communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk
team - team name	the Democratic Services team
Reference number	REDACTED
Your representation	Councillor
Council name	HURSTPIERPOINT AND SAYERS COMMON PARISH COUNCIL
Your name	Bob Sampson
Contact email address	REDACTED
Confirm email	REDACTED
Phone	REDACTED
Postcode	REDACTED
Address	REDACTED
Which review are you responding to?	Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
Would you like to enter your response below, or upload it?	Write
Your submission to the community governance review	<p>I wish to reiterate my previous objection to the formation of a separate parish council for Sayers Common.</p> <p>I have been a Ward Councillor for Sayers Common since the Ward was created, as part of Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council and during that time the Parish Council has invested a lot into Sayers Common. When Malcolm Heather, at that time my co-Ward Councillor, and myself were helped by the Parish Council to create a Community Shop in the village. When the Sayers Common Village Hall Trustees offered to have the shop located on its site, the Parish Council took out a £30,000 loan to make a grant to the shop and the village hall committees to help towards the cost of refurbishing the premises.</p> <p>One of the supporting letters to the first consultation said the village had to pay for the Village Gateways erected on the entrances to the village - this was untrue. The Parish Council paid for all the gateway signs for Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common.</p> <p>A few years ago I headed a working party to look at replacement of the play equipment on the Reeds Lane play area. The council was ready to put money in the budget to finance this. Then the 'Sayers Meadow' development was allowed by the Secretary of State, meaning there was an opportunity to have this financed by S106 money, so the replacement was put on hold and phase one of that replacement has now been completed, with phase two awaiting completion of drainage work on the often waterlogged site.</p> <p>The Council also had a bus shelter erected for the very few North-bound bus services that run through Sayers Common.</p> <p>Last year the Parish Council's Community Engagement Committee suggested that Sayers Common should have Christmas Lights along London Road, where the Community Shop is located. They agreed to finance six lamppost lights at a cost of £9,000 and when the</p>

shop committee were told about this they offered to add a £3,000 grant to increase the number of lights. The Parish Council has undertaken the maintenance of these lights in future years. If Sayers Common were to be granted its own Parish Council this would be an extra expense to be added to the costs of running their Parish Council, because the residents would not countenance the Christmas Lights not being an annual event.e Parish Council.

As a councillor with over 30 years experience, I cannot see a Sayers Common Parish Council being a viable proposition.

I would like to emphasise that the ONLY complaints I have received over the years from local residents refer to things that are not in the remit of the Parish Council, but are the responsibility of either Mid Sussex District Council (the Ponds at Berylands) or West Sussex County Council (the disgraceful and dangerous condition of pavements

team - team email	communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk
team - team name	the Democratic Services team
Reference number	REDACTED
Your representation	Local Resident
Your name	Malcolm Llewellyn
Contact email address	REDACTED
Confirm email	REDACTED
Phone	REDACTED
Postcode	REDACTED
Address	REDACTED
Which review are you responding to?	Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
Would you like to enter your response below, or upload it?	Write
Your submission to the community governance review	<p>Responding to your draft recommendations each in turn:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. With development under the Northern Arc around Burgess Hill and the potential under the draft District Plan Review for a significant development of additional housing in the Albourne/Sayers Common village areas it would appear to be premature to make any change in governance arrangements at this time. 2. Noted. Given the extant Parish Council liabilities within Sayers Common Village, any separation at this time would result in the loss of the existing economies of scale and place a new Sayers Common Parish Council in a potentially financially challenged position as liabilities are very likely to exceed projected income. 3. Noted. An existing vacancy within the Hurstpierpoint parish ward has been open to all within the Parish. It was filled for a short period by a resident from Sayers Common, but that individual resigned shortly after being co-opted as they realised the commitment that was required exceeded the time that they had available. The Parish Council is still advertising that vacancy. 4. Noted. As Sayers Common continues to be subject to significant development, the community is developing its own identity. There is no reason to believe that this will not continue over time. 5. Noted. This recommendation made would appear to be outside of the scope of the CGR as published. The statistically insignificant number of responses received by MSDC to the 1st public consultation that may relate to this recommendation do not stand scrutiny, or support the recommendation that has been made. Indeed, the evidence would suggest the opposite is true, and even that some of the supposed failings flagged relate to MSDC and WSCC liabilities and not even H&SC PC. 6a. This CGR has been hanging over H&SC PC since 2019. As such, in the interim period, it has deliberately curtailed staff numbers and therefore by default this has reduced the planned programme of change and services for the residents. Another review in 2025, or even 2029, does not give the certainty that is required for the Parish

Council to invest in its staff and the consequent services that are required. It would also suggest that the 3803 houses flagged in the draft District Plan Review for the period 2031 to 2038 within LAB and Albourne, will in fact be delivered in this decade.

6b. Any subsequent review must take account of the fact that the current parish wards are constructs put in place in 2000 to support the provision of 2 Councillors to represent Sayers Common village. The boundaries of LAA and LAB do not reflect how the residents relate to Sayers Common village and Hurstpierpoint village. The A23, A2300 and the Jane Murray Way more appropriately define the boundaries of any Hurstpierpoint ward. This must addressed and not set as stated in the current report.

7. Noted. However, it is most unfortunate that the recent Boundary Commission recommendation has effectively lumped the existing LAB into the new MSDC Downlands Villages ward. This will provide considerable incoherence for the representation of the residents of H&SC PC at MSDC. Furthermore, it has the potential to provide conflicting positions when trying to represent those residents, especially those who live east of the A23, and who are clearly not "Downlands Villages", or have the perspective and needs that those communities enjoy.

From Michael Avery

REDACTED

RECEIVED

29 JUL 20??

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Dear M.S.D.C.

Re Sagers Common Parish Ward.

I have a few friends living in Sagers Common,

I have asked them about having their own Council
none of them are in favour of it, as they think they are
too small a unit to do that, big is better, and more say
and I agree with that, and think things are best
left as they are

Yours Sincerely

M. Avery Cllr

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
Community Governance Review
Consultation 2 Responses:
Parish Council Submission

Cllr Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Leader
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands, Oaklands Road,
HAYWARDS HEATH
West Sussex, RH16 1SS

29 July 2022

Dear Cllr Ash-Edwards,

Thank you for considering the response the Parish Council made to the first round of consultation to “consider whether a new parish and parish council should be created for Sayers Common” (*Ref: MSDC Terms of Reference Paragraph 1.2*)

On 17 May 2022, MSDC issued its report for its Scrutiny Committee at the time called “Community, Customer Services and Service Delivery”, containing draft recommendations as to whether a new Parish Council should be created for Sayers Common.

A community governance review is not and never had been a review of the existing Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council. You may argue this is minor semantics but there is an important implied difference. MSDC’s recommendations seem to have extended beyond the agreed brief set out in the terms of reference. It is the Parish Council’s view that recommendation 5 should never have been included or published.

Scrutiny Committee Report 25 May 2022

The Parish Council was disappointed with the content of the report and the ensuing discussion at the MSDC Scrutiny Committee meeting on 25 May 2022. The Parish Council was surprised by a number of the critical statements made in submissions and the language used. The Parish Council’s detailed review has found no evidence to support the issues raised. Given that the draft recommendation 5 made to the Scrutiny Committee appeared to give credit to these somewhat erroneous statements, the Parish Council would have hoped that the Scrutiny Committee did not find the Parish Council guilty by default, based upon the information provided by a small number of respondents containing factual errors. One strong criticism was actually of Mid Sussex District Council and not the Parish Council but that was not corrected. Sadly, the Scrutiny Committee agreed to accept the Recommendation 5 (although we believe it was outside their remit), took the criticisms as read, and asked its officers to work with the Parish Council to help the Parish Council “examine dissatisfaction by residents of Sayers Common with the Parish Council”.

Of course, where there are areas that we can continue to improve upon, we have taken them on board whole-heartedly and have done so through our existing well tested and tried internal governance process.

The Parish Council’s Strategic Policy & Resources Panel met on 27 June 2022 to consider the outcome of the first stage of the CGR set out in the letter issued by MSDC dated 6 June 2022 to electors. Sadly, as a Statutory Consultee, the Parish Council was not formally advised of the outcome of the Scrutiny Committee meeting or sent a copy of the letter sent to electors, but can see from the Minutes of the meeting that:

The Scrutiny Committee for Community, Customer Services and Service Delivery agreed to:

(i) Note the findings of the first public consultation.

(ii) To provide advice upon, and further to that advice, to agree the principal electoral authority's draft recommendations for Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council, upon which a second public consultation would be conducted.

(iii) To note that following the second public consultation, further findings and the final recommendations of the principal electoral authority will be presented to this committee on 14 September 2022.

(iv) To note the final decision will be taken by Council in the light of the consultation responses received through the Community Governance Review.

The seven draft recommendations were discussed in detail by the Panel and the deadline for responses of 1 August 2022 was noted. The Panel agreed that the matter go on the 30 June 2022 Parish Council meeting agenda for discussion and that a final response would be agreed at the 28 July 2022 Parish Council meeting.

Response to Draft Recommendations:

On 30 June 2022 the Parish Council met and ran through the seven final recommendations:

Point 1 – Noted. MSDC feel the change of Governance arrangements seems premature due to the potential development of 3,803 new homes in the local area.

Point 2 – Noted. A proposed budget for a new Parish Council is the responsibility of the petitioners, however, the current economies of scale for staffing, room hire and operational costs would be lost by separating into two parish councils.

Point 3 – Noted. It is a challenge to recruit new councillors from across the parish indeed the one councillor appointed to the existing vacancy resigned within a week as they felt the role would take up too much time.

Point 4 – Noted. There is an evolving community identity for Sayers Common.

Point 5 – Firstly, the Parish Council believe this recommendation strayed from the Terms of Reference and should not have been included, however, if there were matters to be corrected then the Parish Council wished to address them. Naturally we have reviewed every submission to identify any areas that the Parish Council could collectively improve upon in the way that it operates and engages with the Parish, in particular Sayers Common.

The Parish Council has found that the communications and engagement with residents has never been higher. Cllr Sampson, who with Cllr Jee is one of the two Parish Council Councilors currently representing Sayers Common, had not received any complaints from residents of Sayers Common. The Chairman had also always had a positive dialogue with residents of Sayers Common. It was noted MSDC had not corrected factual errors such as MSDC owning the land at Berrylands Pond. Also, the complaint implying residents of Sayers Common having to fund their own Village Gateway was incorrect. Cllr Jee did not recognise the issues raised and confirmed he will defend the Parish Council if he ever meets people who do not feel updated. The Chairman confirmed there was no differentiation between Sayers Common and the rest of the parish in governance terms. The Parish Council must operate within legislative boundaries however the outputs for residents across the entire parish have increased significantly. Residents do not always understand which local authority is responsible for what and the Parish Council is often blamed for delays by WSCC and MSDC.

Point 6 – Current arrangement to continue with a further review in 2025 or 2029. Disagree. Dates for a further review in 2025 or 2029 will result in short time scales leaving too much uncertainty for the Parish Council. The Parish Council has held back on recruiting extra staff so it wouldn't need to make any employees redundant. The Parish Council needs more certainty to invest in the community. The former date would not give us sufficient time and certainty to make further changes and investments within our current services. With the CGR hanging over the Parish Council for the last 2+ years the Parish Council have deliberately held back from addressing the current shortfall in staff capacity, and therefore the ability to deliver projects and change across the estate and at the tempo that the Parish Council want to achieve. The earlier date, whilst probably of advantage to other Councils as significant parts of the Northern Arc will have been delivered, could also perhaps suggest to local residents that the 3800+ houses stated for Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common and Albourne parishes will have been delivered early. Therefore, Sayers Common village could be a viable parish council at that point. The Parish Council is not sure that making the connection with the District Plan Review and the possible impact upon the Parish in this decade would be helpful at this stage of the review.

The Parish Council does not underestimate the strength of feeling expressed by many living to the east of the A23, and south of the A2300, that they align themselves with Hurstpierpoint village and not Sayers Common village. This matter will need to be addressed in any future CGR and not set aside as stated in the current report. LAA and LAB were polling station boundaries established in 2000 and specifically created to enable two ward councillors to be apportioned to and represent Sayers Common. The CGR review should acknowledge the new geographical features and boundaries.

Point 7 – Noted. The Parish Council await the challenges that will arise in this area on the back of it being incorporated by default into the new “Downland Villages” ward for MSDC. You will recall that we flagged this incoherence and the implications therein, in our submissions to the Boundary Commission.

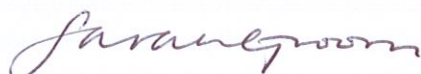
Further Summary Statements

- The Parish Council notes that MSDC feels the change of Governance arrangements seems premature due to the potential development of 3,803 new homes in the local area
- There is an evolving community identity for Sayers Common which may warrant a separate parish council in future once a significant number of new homes are built
- It is a challenge to recruit new councillors from across the parish
- Recommendation 5 strayed from the Terms of Reference and should not have been included
- Dates for a further review in 2025 or 2029 leave too much uncertainty which does not allow the Parish Council to move forward and invest accordingly
- Any future reviews must take account of residents' views on appropriate new boundaries.

We note the deadline for the second consultation period ends on 1 August 2022, when you will evaluate further and prepare your final recommendations for the MSDC Scrutiny Committee now called “Community, Leisure & Parking”, on 14 September 2022, with a decision being made by MSDC on presumably, 28 September 2022.

We would be grateful for an official notification of the outcome.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Sarah Groom
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL