



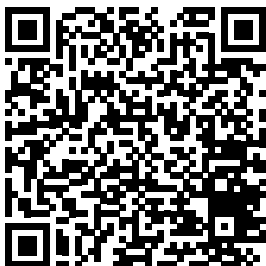
BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community Governance Review Consultation (Stage 2)

Kempston Town and Kempston Rural

Bedford Borough Council's proposal for a boundary realignment

have
your
say...



SCAN ME

www.bedford.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/community-governance-review

Introduction

Following a request from Kempston Town Council, Bedford Borough Council is conducting a Community Governance Review which focuses on the parish boundary between Kempston Rural Parish and the Kempston West Ward of Kempston Town Council.

Bedford Borough Council, at a meeting of Full Council, has agreed to consult on a proposal to realign the parish boundaries which makes them coterminous (matching) with the existing Kempston West Borough Ward boundary. The objective is to ensure local governance arrangements are properly aligned so that residents are represented by the appropriate Town Council and parish structures.

The Borough Council is now seeking your views on these proposals before a final decision is taken later this year.

How to respond:



Online: Complete this survey directly at Bedford Borough Council Consultation Portal www.bedford.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/community-governance-review



Paper copy: Return this completed form to: Electoral Services, Bedford Borough Council, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP



Closing Date: All responses must be received by **Friday 11 September 2026**.

What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review is a legal process conducted by Councils in England to evaluate and update the structure, boundaries and electoral arrangements for Town and Parish Councils. These reviews help ensure that the most local tier of government accurately reflects community identity, is effective and provides fair representation.

What is the specific change being proposed?

Kempston Town Council instigated this Community Governance Review as the current boundary between Kempston Town Council and Kempston Rural Parish Council is not aligned with the existing Borough Council boundary lines.

In considering Kempston Town Council's request, and taking into account results of the first stage of public consultation into this matter, Bedford Borough Council is now proposing a re-alignment of the boundary so that part of Kempston Rural Parish Council forms part of Kempston Town Council. This means that the Parish and Town Council boundary will be coterminous and exactly match the Borough Council Ward boundary.

The following streets are impacted by the proposed change:

Austin Gardens	Clover Way	Hilton Close	The Bower
Baker Drive	Crouch Gardens	Keech Grove	The Green
Baldwin Walk	Eagles Heath	Manley Way	Townsend Walk
Bird Grove	Fletcher Road	Noah Walk	Walford Grove
Braybrook	Fovargue Mead	Riddy Walk	Walker Close
Brocklehurst Road	Griffin Way	Saunders Field	Wilkinson Road
Carding Way	Handley Walk	Smith Mews	

Maps appended to this consultation document illustrate the existing boundary and the new boundary that is being proposed as part of the Community Governance Review.

You can view a digital copy of the exact line changes on at [Bedford Borough Council Interactive Boundary Map](https://tinyurl.com/yshebnur). (<https://tinyurl.com/yshebnur>)

Why is this change being proposed?

Clearer representation: The proposal removes potential administrative and electoral confusion. Affected residents will no longer have their locality, or in some cases individual streets, split between two different Parish/Town Councils within the same Borough Council Ward.

Logical boundaries: The proposed boundary uses strong, easily identifiable modern physical features (like main roads) to mark the edge of the town boundary which is consistent with the Community Governance Review Regulations, guidance and good practice.

Democratic Fairness: The proposal ensures residents living in urban extensions of Kempston Town are actively represented by the Town Council that manages town-wide services.

How will this affect me as a resident?

Voting at Parish/Town Council elections: If the proposals are approved by the Borough Council, those residents currently living in the area affected will vote for candidates running for Kempston Town Council instead of Kempston Rural Parish Council. The Borough Ward and Borough Councillor will remain exactly the same.

Home address: Postal addresses, post codes and school catchment areas will not change as a result of these proposals. This is strictly an electoral and administrative boundary adjustment.

Council Tax: Your Council Tax bill includes a small charge (a precept) that goes to your local Parish or Town Council. Kempston Town Council and Kempston Rural Parish Council set different precepts. Those residents impacted by the boundary change may see a slight change in the precept included in their Council Tax bills as a consequence of being governed by a different Parish/Town Council, which is illustrated below over the last four years:

Band D Equivalent for 2026/27		
Financial year	Kempston Town Council	Kempston Rural Parish Council
2026/27	£53.34	£39.92
2025/26	£56.48	£41.99
2024/25	£33.38	£34.11
2023/24	£32.13	£34.15

Why have I been contacted?

The Borough Council is required to undertake a public consultation on its proposals before making a final decision. As a resident who lives in one of the affected Parish/Town Council areas, or a key stakeholder, you are invited to submit your views as part of the public consultation which will inform the Council's final decision.

Next Steps in the Process

Public Consultation: The public consultation is now live and responses must be submitted by 12 noon on Friday 11 September 2026. Please use the survey included as part of this document or via the online consultation portal to submit your response.

Final Decision: A final decision on the proposal will be made by the Council in October 2026. The Council's General Purposes Committee will consider the responses from this consultation process and make a recommendation to Full Council on 7 October 2026, where a final decision will be made.

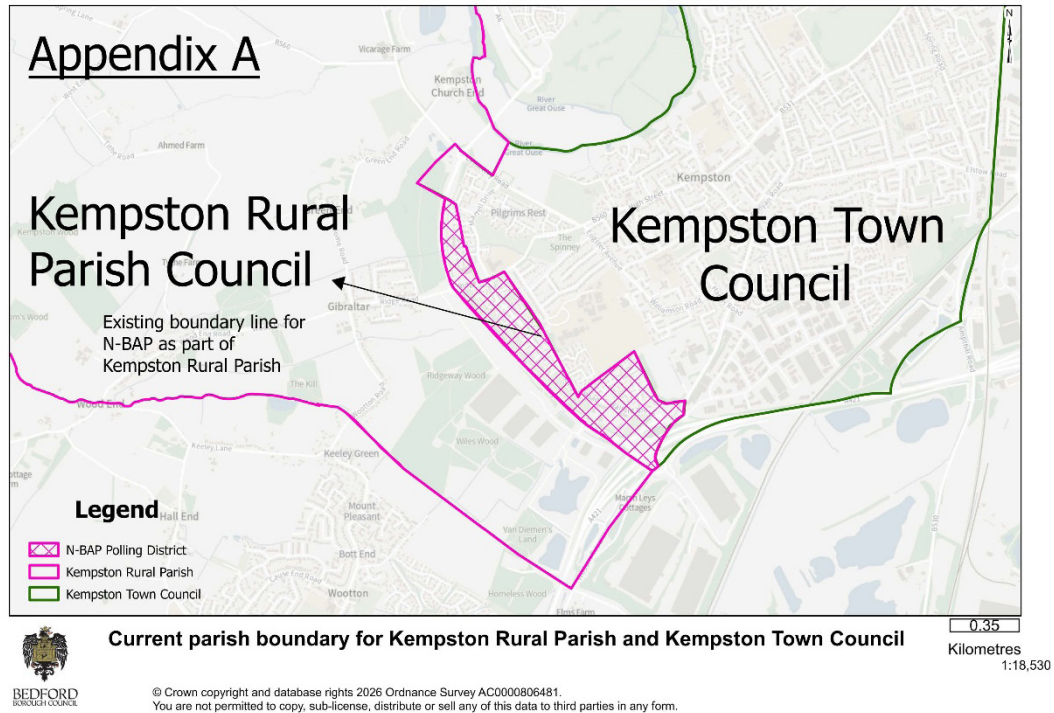
Implementation: If approved a Reorganisation Order will be adopted and signed, coming into effect for Council Tax billing in March 2023 and the local council elections scheduled to be held on 6 May 2027.

How to find out more

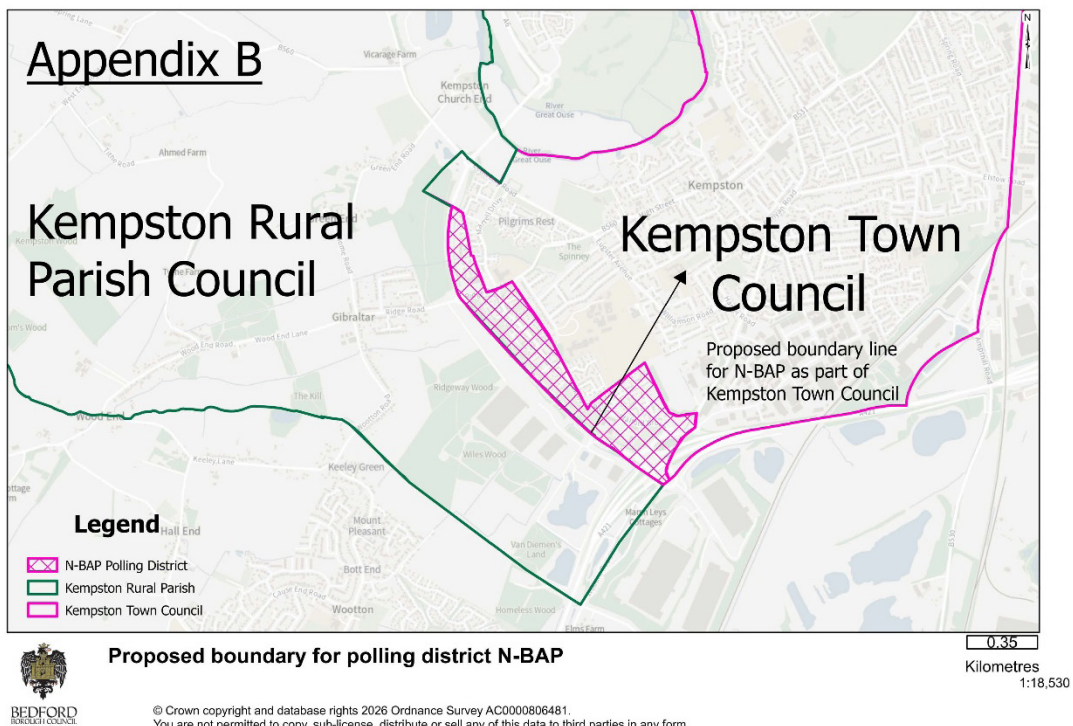
Full information regarding the Community Governance Review, including the terms of reference, consultation documents and reports relating to the responses received to the consultation exercises undertaken can be viewed on the Council's website at: www.bedford.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/community-governance-review

Maps

Appendix A – current boundary and area under review



Appendix B – proposed change to boundary and impact on area under review





Please tell us what you think about the Council's final recommendation to realign boundaries in Kempston and Kempston Rural Parish Wards within Bedford Borough by 12 noon on Friday 11 September 2026.

Bedford Borough Council will consider all submissions received before coming to its final decision.

You can complete this survey by going online to or by completing a printed version and returning to Bedford Borough Council.



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Questionnaire

Q1. What is your full postcode? (eg. MK42 7XX)

Q2. Are you a resident in the affected area?

- ☐ Yes, I live in Kempston Town (Kempston West Ward)
- ☐ Yes, I live in Kempston Rural Parish
- ☐ No, but I own a business or represent an organisation here
- ☐ No, I live elsewhere in Bedford Borough

Q3. In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

- ☐ Local Resident
- ☐ Parish / Town Councillor or Officer
- ☐ Borough Councillor
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Q4. Based on the information provided as part of this consultation document, to what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish boundary should be adjusted to be coterminous (aligned) with the Borough Ward boundary, as is proposed by the Borough Council?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

- Q5. Please provide any comments or reasoning to support your choice:
(For example: considerations around local identity, service delivery,
clarity of representation, impact of change.)**

Q6. Do you believe these proposed changes will help provide effective and convenient local government for the residents of Kempston?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

Q7. If you have any questions or would like to comment further regarding the Community Governance Review process for Kempston, please use the space below.

- Q8. If you wish to be kept informed of progress relating to this Community Governance Review, or if you are content with being contacted regarding any comments or questions you may have submitted in your response, please supply your contact details. These will only be used to contact you in relation to this Community Governance Review and will not be used for any other purpose or passed onto anyone else.**

Contact Details

Name:

Address:

Email address:

The Council would prefer to communicate with you by email where possible.

Thank you for responding.

This consultation closes on Friday 11 September 2026

Please note:

Bedford Borough Council is committed to protecting and handling personal data in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation and has set out how it will do this whilst carrying out its duties and obligations, in its Data Protection Policy and its Privacy Notice.

Finding out more

If you would like further copies, a large-print copy or information about us and our services, please email or write to us at our address below.

Për Informacion

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Za Informacije

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তথ্যের জন্য



Bedford Borough Council

Borough Hall

Cauldwell Street

Bedford

MK42 9AP



Electoral.Registration@bedford.gov.uk



www.bedford.gov.uk