

Community Governance Review

**2nd Stage Consultation -
Lucas Close, Queenborough
(Sheerness Town Council area)**

Why are changes being proposed?

Residents and Borough Councillors have made Swale Borough Council aware of a town council boundary anomaly, which affects Lucas Close, Queenborough. Lucas Close is currently part of the Sheerness Town Council area and Sheerness Borough ward, but geographically is part of Queenborough, as all access in and out of the street is via Queenborough. Currently, residents of Lucas Close can only vote for councillors in Sheerness Town Council and Sheerness Borough ward. In addition, residents of Lucas Close can only vote at a polling station at West Minster Primary School in Sheerness, which is over 3 miles away.

Initial consultation results

An initial consultation, asking whether residents and other interested parties, wanted the town council boundary reviewed, was carried out during May and June 2022. Booklets and questionnaires were sent to all residents of Lucas Close, Sheerness and Queenborough Town Councils, and Borough Councillors for both Queenborough & Halfway and Sheerness borough wards. The results of the initial consultation were:

8 were in favour of reviewing the boundary

4 were against the reviewing the boundary

Next steps

At their full council meeting on 27 July 2022, Swale Borough Council agreed to launch a 2nd stage consultation for Lucas Close. Full details of the council report, recommendations and responses to the initial consultation can be viewed on our website at:

www.swale.gov.uk/2022-cgr

Proposal

This consultation proposes to move the current Queenborough Town Council boundary north, from Moat Way to Brielle Way (A249), so that Lucas Close will become part of the Queenborough Town Council area – see map in centre pages of this booklet.

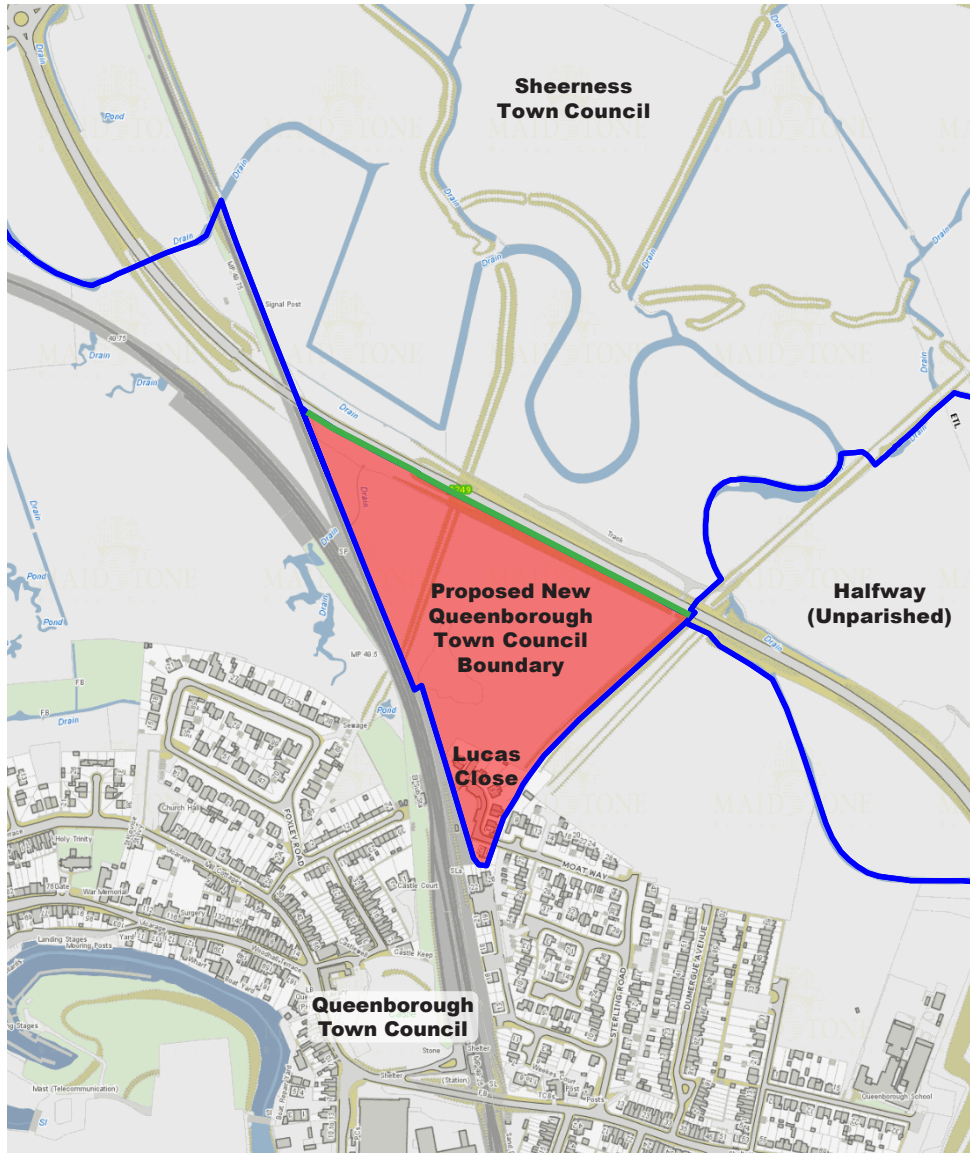
What impact will this have?




If changes were made to the town council boundary, as a result of the review, your property would come into the Queenborough Town Council area. You can find out more about Queenborough Town Council at www.queenborough-tc.gov.uk

This would mean that

- ◆ You would be represented by and vote for councillors on Queenborough Town Council, instead of Sheerness Town Council
- ◆ Your polling station would be much closer at Castle Connections, Well Road, Queenborough (0.4 miles away), instead of West Minster Primary School in Sheerness (3.5 miles away).
- ◆ You would pay your parish precept to Queenborough Town Council, instead of Sheerness Town Council. For a band D property for the year 2022-2023 this is £76.64 per annum for Queenborough Town Council and £49.38 per annum for Sheerness Town Council

We would also ask the Local Government Boundary Commission to review the borough ward boundary at the same time, so if approved, Lucas Close would also become part of the Queenborough and Halfway borough ward, so you would be represented by and be able to vote for Queenborough and Halfway borough councillors instead of Sheerness borough councillors.



-  Area in orange to be removed from Sheerness Town Council and added to Queenborough Town Council
-  Current town council boundary
-  Proposed new Queenborough Town Council boundary

How to respond to the Community Governance Review.

Swale Borough Council welcomes any comments and representations during the specified consultation stages, from any person or body who may wish to comment or make proposals on any aspect of the matters detailed in the review. Enclosed with this booklet is a questionnaire asking whether you support or oppose the boundary change proposal and there is space to provide additional comments. Send your completed questionnaire back in the enclosed pre-paid business reply envelope (no stamp required), as soon as possible and no later than 16 September 2022. Alternatively, you can email your comments to: cgrconsultations@swale.gov.uk

What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review is a review of the whole or part of the district to consider one or more of the following:

- ◆ Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes/town councils;
- ◆ Amending the names and styles of parishes/town councils;
- ◆ Amending the boundaries and/or electoral arrangements of parishes/town councils;
- ◆ Grouping parishes/town councils under a common parish/town council or de-grouping parishes/town councils

For the purpose of this review, the proposal is to only review the town council boundary in the specified area.

What is a parish/town council and what do they do?

A parish/town council is a statutory body with certain duties and legal powers. It is the first tier of local government closest to its community. A parish/town council is an elected representative body of the local community and their role is to represent the local community, provide services to meet local needs and improve quality of life and community well-being.

Parish/town councils have the power to provide some facilities themselves, or they can contribute to their provision by others. There are large variations in the services provided by parish/town councils, but they can provide, maintain or contribute to services in their community. For example:

- Providing allotments
- Providing bus shelters
- Supporting local crime prevention initiatives
- Local highway matters such as street lighting and maintenance of roadside verges
- Village halls/community centres
- Local youth projects
- Car parks
- Community safety schemes
- Litter bins
- Parks and open spaces
- Street cleaning
- Provision of community transport schemes
- Sport and recreation facilities
- Tourism

Who undertakes the review?

Swale Borough Council will be undertaking the review where the decision to proceed was made at the meeting of Full Council on 27 April 2022. The council will have 12 months to complete the review. This will be led by the Electoral Services Department at Swale Borough Council.

What will happen next?

Swale Borough Council will consider all responses to the 2nd stage of the consultation and will report to the full Council meeting in October 2022. The outcomes of the 2nd stage review will be published on our website at www.swale.gov.uk/2022-cgr If it is clear that interested parties would support a change to the boundary, we will make final recommendations to change the boundary. If this is not the case, the Community Governance Review would end at this point and the boundaries would stay as they are.

Have your say – complete and return the questionnaire by 16 September 2022

Or email cgrconsultations@swale.gov.uk

More information about the Community Governance Review can be found at www.swale.gov.uk/2022-cgr

