

THE FUTURE OF YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

St. Albans District Council (SADC) is carrying out a review of local government structures within its area. There are currently 8 parish councils and one town council in the area and the review aims to determine whether any changes to the existing arrangements would benefit residents.

Colney Heath Parish Council (CHPC) falls within the scope of the review. At the present time the area covered by CHPC consists of the rural parts (Colney Heath village, Sleepshyde, Smallford and Tyttenhanger) and the urban parts (Highfield and Hill End). The rural and urban parts are roughly equal in numbers of residents and are represented on CHPC by 5 councillors from the urban areas and 4 from the rural areas.

One of the changes which may result from the SADC review is the separation of the rural and urban areas to leave a smaller CHPC, with new arrangements to be made for the urban areas. A map showing the revised boundaries is overleaf.

This leaflet has been prepared by 3 councillors for the rural areas who wish to inform residents of this possible change and of what they consider to be its principal benefits and drawbacks. These can be stated simply, as follows:

- the decisions of the newly constituted CHPC, including those relating to the management of its assets, would be made by councillors who better understand local priorities
- there would be an initial increase in the precept (the part of council tax which supports the parish council); a preliminary budget would suggest an increase of around £5 per month - lower than the annual increase levied by SADC

The three rural ward councillors will be informing SADC that they support this possible change. Residents can make their views known by emailing elections@stalbans.gov.uk or by writing to Electoral Services (CGR) at SADC in St. Albans. The deadline for submissions is 16th September.

Leaflet contents written by Councillors Burns, Llewellyn and Shaw
Colney Heath Parish Council is publisher only

