



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our Ref: NA/CGR2018

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17th July 2018

Dear Resident

Community Governance Review - Upper Rissington Parish Council
Proposed Increase in Councillor Numbers and Possible Introduction of Warding Arrangements

A request has been received from Upper Rissington Parish Council for a Community Governance Review (CGR) to be undertaken by Cotswold District Council (CDC) in relation to the current electoral arrangements for the parish; with a view to increasing the overall number of councillors on the Parish Council and, possibly, the introduction of parish wards.

The following rationale has been provided by the Parish Council in support of an increase in numbers:-

- The size of the village has increased substantially over the past four years as a result of the development at Victory Fields; and the 'scale' adopted by District Council would allow for a larger number of councillors based on the size of the electorate.
- An increase in the Council size will permit the Council to reflect a wider cross section of the Parish - promoting better community cohesion.
- A larger number of councillors will allow the greater workload to be shared more easily, reducing the burden on a small group of councillors.
- A larger pool of councillors will facilitate the creation a committees (e.g. Finance, Staffing and Planning), which will lead to more effective management of the Council.
- The request reflects the request of a large number of electors, actively supported by the County Councillor, for the review.

The advisory 'scale' referred to above can be seen in the attached Information Sheet. At present, Upper Rissington Parish Council is represented by seven councillors. However, a body of eleven councillors could be appropriate based on its current (and growing) electorate.

The creation of wards is seen as a mechanism to ensure representation from distinct community areas within the parish (although the legislation cannot actually guarantee this - see Information Sheet).

It is important for local residents and others to submit their comments on the proposals, and for those comments to have regard to the statutory criteria and other considerations that CDC must take into account when reaching a final Review outcome, and avoid issues/arguments that do not carry weight - the attached Information Sheet will hopefully help in this regard; and further information relating to the Review can also be found on the CDC website - www.cotswold.gov.uk

A Consultation Comments Form is also attached. You can use this form to submit your views, or you can write to me or e-mail me. The closing date for the submission of representations is **20th September 2018**.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nigel Adams', written over a horizontal line.

Nigel Adams
Electoral Registration Officer
Cotswold District Council