

Appendix 1 - Summary of Trunch Community Governance Review consultation responses

Total responses Received	183
For	179
Against	4

Comments received from Trunch residents (For proposals)	
1	As two other members appear to be unobtainable due to pressure no doubt, then pragmatically the parish council is better to function than not at all
2	There appears to be a lack of interest, also people who are unable to see others points of view. A big point... a lack of real local people. The present chairman is unable to pronounce adjacent villages!
3	It does not really matter how many are on as nothing much ever gets done, that is the main reason no one wants to join
4	Good idea
5	It is a sensible course of action e.g. vacancies cannot be filled
6	I would like to see the parish council removed completely. In my view it is a complete waste of time. I pay £60.78 for them to decide nothing. Anything they do want to do has to go through NNDC so why don't we just get rid of them. It's just another layer of unnecessary bureaucracy. Let's have a vote on getting rid of the Parish Council. That money could be better spent on social care. Thank you.
7	The problem is one faced by many organisations at present. People are reluctant to become involved for many reasons. If the Parish Council can function with fewer members, I wish them well. (at 86 I do not feel able to help)
8	It's not important about the numbers, it's about the effectiveness and competency of the individuals
9	I think 9 is enough people to make decisions about our village
10	The Parish Council do a good service for our village
11	Let's hope they will stop wasting money
12	I am happy with it
13	For all the good that they do, get rid of the lot of them
14	I am aware that it has been difficult to recruit volunteers to form the Parish Council in recent years and the current reduced compliment addresses the needs of the parish very well
15	Reduction in numbers of seats make decisions much easier! 11 seats to me always seem too many and may encourage Trunch people more willing to put their names forward to join the parish council
16	I strongly favour this proposal. I served on the Parish Council for four years and we really always had a vacancy - or several. Sturminster Newton (Dorset) where I grew up has a town council of 11, for a population four times the size of Trunch. Trunch PC should be reduced to a size that enables it to have a full complement of members all the time
17	As the population of the village is generally elderly - I can understand why there are not many people willing or able to be councillors
18	The Council needs to function therefore it is necessary to reduce the number. Others will still be able to join as and when
19	Currently there are six councillors serving on Trunch Parish Council leaving five vacancies. Eleven seats in total. I note the proposal to reduce to nine councillor seats. For the Council to be eligible to hold the General Power of Competence the Clerk must hold a qualification which she does (Cilca) and two thirds of the Council must be elected. Currently four of the six (eleven) are elected. As there has been difficulties in recruiting residents of Trunch to fill the current vacancies, I can foresee there will be problems in getting nine nominees at next year's elections. There would have to be at least six out of nine councillors elected to meet the two thirds requirement. Would it be better to reduce the number of seats on the Council to size, only four then need to be elected, thus ensuring the Council can have GPC restored. (Population of Trunch circa 1000)
20	I have no problems with the changes
21	Is there a need for a Parish Council, when NNDC have the final say on everything?? Various planning applications (inc. retrospective) have been passed by NNDC although the Parish tried to stop them!!
22	Village is mostly elderly people who are unable, mainly due to mobility issues to take on the role of parish councillor. The younger generation do not seem to be interested in keeping this lovely village in good shape
23	Being an ex-member of the Council myself I know how difficult it is to encourage new members. Good hearted village VOLUNTEERS should not have to grapple with the laws of this land! A tangled WEB!!

24	I have every confidence the Parish Council will operate a good service even with a reduced number of councillors
25	This must be a need for the Trunch Parish Council proposal. I support their request yes.
26	My only opinion on this matter is that if reducing the number of councillors leads to reducing the time taken to make decisions then I'm for it!
27	Good Idea
28	As long as those chosen have the village's long term interest at heart and are prepared to say 'yes' to positive ideas then it doesn't matter how many numbers are on the PC
29	As long as we have a committee in Trunch. That's the most important issue
30	I think one of the reasons that councillors cannot be recruited is because the Parish Council has no clout, whatever their decision on matters of planning
31	Agree entirely with reasons
32	I have thought about becoming a Councillor but I feel it has no powers to get things done and any ability to challenge district council powers to overrule. What the point of getting the frustration.
33	I think nine Councillors will be fine but I hope NNDC will listen to their thoughts
34	It would be helpful if it was a bit clearer who the members of the Parish Council actually are, such as if it was made clear in the Trunch Mardle. It would also be nice to see at least one young person as a member of the Parish Council as then the Parish Council would be more representative of the different age groups in the area and it would allow the next generation to have more of a say that reflects the interests of young people and families.

Comments received from Trunch residents (Against proposals)	
1	We moved into Trunch in December 2006 at which point I had 20 years' experience in L.B Redbridge, Aylesbury D.C and L.B Richmond variously as Head of Mgt Services, and 12 years Head of Admin, including Electoral Svcs. I offered to fill a Trunch vacancy and the Deputy Chair made it very clear at the meeting that an incomer with experience was unwelcome, and the vote was not in my favour. Why offer to assist a closed shop?
2	Needs more spread of individuals
3	There is not much difference between 9 and 11
4	Never will I give any support to our <u>useless</u> Parish Council!! Dogs living in the village are now banned from exercising in their local park, but have to be driven to another location. This is not environmentally friendly, however non-villagers frequently drive to our park to let their dogs exercise off the lead. The park is still littered with dog poo and the poo bag dispenser conveniently, constantly empty!!

Comments from other consultees			
1	Cllr. Ed Maxfield	County Councillor for Mundesley Division	Was aware the Parish Council were thinking of this. I have no specific questions or comments
2	Caroline Clarke	Asst. Director of Governance, Norfolk County Council	Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on the proposed reduction in the number of Parish Councillors in Trunch. I asked all the Political Group Leaders for any comments and sent them your letter with the contact information so they may come back to you direct. I have no other response to send to you on this matter from that group. I do know that Councillor Maxfield responded as a consultee, as Trunch is in his division, and he has informed all Group Leaders he has no objection to the proposed change.
3	Cllr. Greg Hayman	District Councillor for Trunch Ward	Thanks for your message. I spoke in favour of this proposal at the last full council meeting. I would have preferred the lower number of councillors as did the parish because of the difficulty attracting sufficient members.