

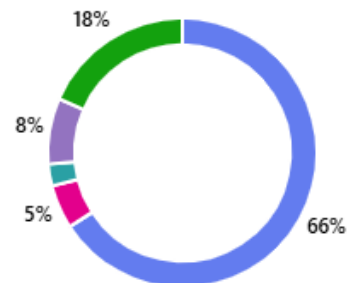
Summary of stage 2 consultation comments on the St Albans Community Governance Review (CGR)

We had 49 responses within the consultation window (21 February – 2 May 2025); 38 responded using the MS teams form and 11 were sent in via email.

The MS teams form asked four key questions, an overview of the responses to which are below:

- 1) Gedling Borough Council has recommended that the current parish is abolished, and two separate parish councils are formed - one for the Deer Park and Bestwood Lodge area to be named "The Parish Council of Deer Park" and one for the Top Valley and Emmanuel Church area to be named "The Parish of St Albans". Do you agree with the recommendation?

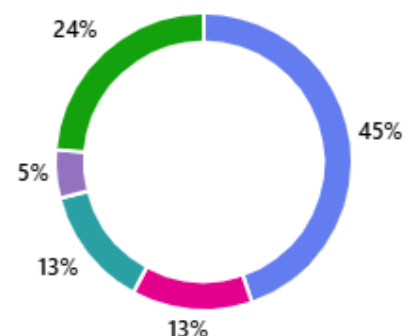
● Strongly agree	25
● Somewhat agree	2
● Neutral	1
● Somewhat disagree	3
● Strongly disagree	7



- Those that disagreed with the split noted they thought it was a waste of time and money.

- 2) Gedling Borough Council has recommended that the names of the new parishes should be "The Parish Council of Deer Park" - for the Deer Park and Bestwood Lodge area and "The Parish Council of St Albans" - for the Top Valley and Emmanuel Church area. Do you agree with the recommendation?

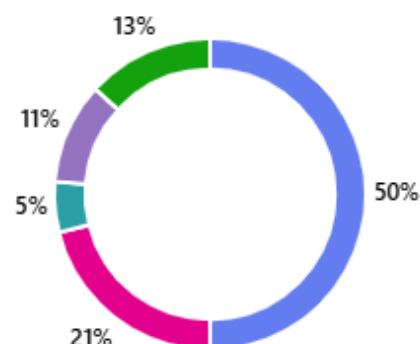
● Strongly agree	17
● Somewhat agree	5
● Neutral	5
● Somewhat disagree	2
● Strongly disagree	9



- Those that disagreed with the names of the parishes gave historical connection as a reasoning.

3) Gedling Borough Council has recommended that the number of councillors for the parishes should be five for the Parish Council of Deer Park and seven for the Parish Council of St Albans. Do you agree with the recommendation?

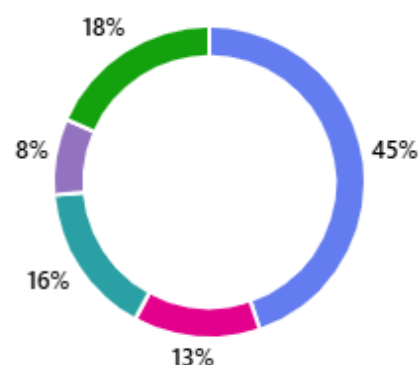
Strongly agree	19
Somewhat agree	8
Neutral	2
Somewhat disagree	4
Strongly disagree	5



- Those that disagreed with the numbers thought they should be reduced for both areas.

4) Gedling Borough Council has slightly altered the boundary to the one in the original proposal. Do you agree with the proposed boundary?

Strongly agree	17
Somewhat agree	5
Neutral	6
Somewhat disagree	3
Strongly disagree	7



- Those that disagreed with the boundary thought the church should be in the Deer Park parish due to historical links.

Respondents were then given a chance to give any other comment/views on the CGR, the themes of which are below:

- Financial split of the parishes
- Frustrations that the CGR was a waste of time and money
- Comments on the need for the split due to current administration of the parish

The 11 email responses we received varied in their comments but generally can be summarised as below:

1) Question - Should St Albans parish split?

For: 2/11 Against: 5/11 Abstained: 4/11

Comments – Generally, the email respondents were against the proposed split due to boundaries issues, lack of community cohesion and how outreach projects will continue in these areas due to the proposed changes.

2) Question - Do you support the renaming to Deer Park Parish?

Against: 1/11 Abstained: 10/11

Comments – One person was notably clear that they did not support the renaming to Deer Park, preferring the name Bestwood Lodge. The rest of the responses did not comment on the names of the parishes.

3) Question - Do you agree with the recommended number of Councillors for the split Parishes?

For: 1/11 Abstained: 10/11

Comments - One person confirmed they did support the number of proposed councillors; the rest of the responses did not comment on the number of councillors per parish.

Number	Comment
1	<p>For the purposes of this comment, I'll call the areas Warren Hill and Dear Park I strongly believe that the proposed 20% financial allocation to the remaining parish is unjustified and does not accurately reflect the financial contributions of residents. A 40% allocation is a fairer and more reasonable distribution, ensuring both areas remain financially sustainable after the split.</p> <p>1. Council Tax Contributions and Financial Responsibility</p> <p>A split based purely on population size does not take into account financial contributions from each area. The dear park parish includes a higher proportion of higher-band properties, meaning that residents contribute more in council tax revenue than those in the warren parish.</p> <p>A fair financial distribution should be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The total number of properties contributing to council tax.• The average council tax banding in each area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of local revenue generated by each section of the parish. <p>If the dear park parish is paying more into the system, then it is only fair that it retains a larger share of the reserves to support its community services and infrastructure.</p> <p>2. Ongoing Costs and Community Assets</p> <p>The financial reserves directly fund essential services, maintenance, and local assets. If the split goes ahead, the dear park parish will still need to maintain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public spaces and infrastructure. • Local community initiatives and facilities. • Essential services that were funded under the unified parish. <p>With fewer residents but a higher financial responsibility per household, a 20% allocation is insufficient to ensure the long-term financial health of the remaining parish. A 40% share is a balanced figure that reflects both population and financial contribution.</p> <p>3. Lack of Justification for the 20% Allocation</p> <p>The 20% figure appears to be arbitrary, without clear justification based on actual financial data. In contrast, a 40% allocation is based on logical and fair reasoning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It acknowledges the financial contributions of residents in the dear park parish. • It ensures fairness in distributing assets. • It prevents financial instability in the remaining parish post-split. <p>Without a clear rationale behind the proposed 20%, it raises concerns about fairness and transparency in decision-making.</p> <p>Conclusion: A Fair and Sustainable Split</p> <p>In my personal opinion, a 40% financial allocation for the dear park parish is the only fair solution. This figure is not randomly chosen—it is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The higher financial contributions of residents in the remaining parish. • The need to fairly distribute funds for ongoing services and infrastructure. • The importance of ensuring financial sustainability for both parishes after the split. <p>A 20% allocation is unfair and unsustainable. A 40% share is a fair and logical solution that better reflects the financial realities of the area. I urge Gedling Borough Council to reassess the financial allocation with full transparency and fairness before making a final decision.</p>
2	I will email my full response.

3	I think the danger here is that very few people can make a decision for the whole of the Parish.
4	It's a waste of time and money brought about by the inability of a few of the incumbent parish councillors' to behave like adults and get on with business for the benefit of the residents they have been elected to serve.
5	Emmanuel church and and the hall / Emmanuel avenue should remain within the warren area as the church hall was built for the estate and did not exist pre 1970s, and without it the warren area which already lacks community facilities would lose out, while deer park have bestwood lodge which does allow groups to book out meeting rooms as the friends of bestwood country park have done in the best.
6	If feels like GBC have listened to the actual residents responding and not to the rabble roused by the two Deer Park councillors who have hidden their work behind a closed facebook group. Letting the church stay in Warren Hill is common sense, as is the rest of the proposal.
7	none
8	The management of Bestwood Country Park arguably is of real concern. At the moment parts of the park are managed well and the area falling into Deer Park parish have been neglected for years. The boundary change does not address this. A boundary giving one council responsibility for the whole park should be considered. Anything that operates against this is not in the best interests of residents bordering the Gedling side of the park.
9	Your all conning innocent people, your all are just joke!
10	Thank you for the time taken to undertake such a review Best wishes with the implentation of the new arrangements
11	Considering the much smaller population of the suggested 'new' area (which I'll call the Deer Park Area), as a resident of the Emmanuel Church & Top Valley area, I think the reserves should be split 35/65, with 35 going to the new Deer Park Parish. Although this new area has less houses, many more are in a higher council tax bracket (D or higher), so they will raise more money.
12	I have been a resident at this address for 39 years and during that time have not been aware of any activities carried out by the parish council. Having read all of the submissions received by the Borough Council it is apparent that the existing arrangement is not working satisfactorily for the benefit of all residents. The proposal to split the council into two separate councils will better support and promote community cohesion rather than undermining it. The name of the smaller parish council is not important. In the event of the Borough Council deciding that the present parish council should be split to create two parish councils, whilst accepting that the bigger entity should be granted the larger financial settlement it is important that the smaller one should have an amount of money that enables it to operate properly and therefore the 60/40 split is sensible.
13	i hope that by splitting the parish council into 2 smaller councils each area will feel as though they are being served better and having their interests promoted. I therefore support the proposal.
14	All residents should be equal

15	<p>To what extent will any future local government re-organisation. make this chang irrelevant?</p> <p>Is aboloshing both an option?</p>
16	<p>I do believe that the reserves be split 80/20 to the St Albans Parish Council, as there are more residents within the new parish of St Albans Parish Council. From what I understand of both areas, the Top Valley and Emmanuel Church area is certainly a more deprived area. Therefore more residents could benefit from activities, such as the afternoon tea that the Warren Action Group endeavour to organise at Christmas time.</p> <p>Having attended some of the recent current Parish Council meetings, I am relieved that it looks spike the split may be a reality. The treatment of certain Parish Councillors has been shocking and presumably must account for three councillors stepping down. The bullying and arguing is relentless, and because of this behaviour no decisions are made for the whole parish.</p>
17	<p>I do not see the point in splintering of parish councils. If Deer Park residents believe they have been poorly served by current PC they have the option of lobbying the PC or standing for PC. I suspect the majority did not even vote in PC elections.</p>
18	<p>None</p>
19	<p>Where can I find out any information regarding the reasons to suggest a split. What would be the main benefit for me, personally in a split as opposed to not ?</p>
20	<p>The division of the two parishes is essential for the local areas to progress. There is a clear and fundamental difference between the needs and priorities of the Deer Park area and the Warren area. This divide has been exacerbated by the domineering behavior of certain councillors and community group members. A look back at the issues surrounding the parish during the review that led to the creation of Bestwood Parish highlights these tensions.</p> <p>I am particularly disappointed to see the involvement of the [REDACTED] on an individual level. During the review, [REDACTED] declared in a Parish Council meeting that the situation was "take it or leave it." Such statements, which I consider to be misleading and unhealthy, only deepen the divide. The current Parish Council has been overwhelmed with issues, and financial resources are continually wasted on elections for new councillors instead of opting for co-option. For instance, I raised concerns at a previous Parish Council meeting about the £9,000 spent on an election for councillors who had previously been invited to be co-opted but refused.</p> <p>In the Warren area, a few key individuals have created, with evidence, a toxic environment. If the council believes that a co-option policy is undemocratic and prioritises spending on elections, then such a policy should not be implemented. However, as a parishioner, I see this as fuelling personal political agendas and egos. At a recent Parish Council meeting, when the necessity of another election was questioned,</p>

	<p>democracy was cited as the justification. Yet, I feel the representative failed to grasp that the nearly 300 residents of Deer Park hold the same democratic rights as the 300 who voted across the entire parish in the most recent election. This election, based on a 10-signature petition, costing £900 per signature—a figure I do not believe represents good value for money. This councillor, [REDACTED] was the one said that it was democratic right to hold an election based on a 10 person signature, yet when the Parish council went to vote to agree payment for Gedling Borough, [REDACTED] was against the motion. Furthermore, the same councillor, doesn't even live within the three miles radius!</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>If Gedling truly understands democracy and is committed to addressing the needs of the 300 residents of Deer Park—who are tired of the games and bullying from councillors residing outside the parish or affiliated with Warren community groups—it will make the right decision and split the council. While retaining the name of the Duke of St Albans Council for three Deer Park Area, committing to the historical links.</p>
21	<p>I agree entirely with the proposals made (especially the inclusion of the Church and Church View Close within the St Albans Parish boundary) with the exception of the proposed split of reserves.</p> <p>The financial split of reserves should be done along the lines of the current percentage of precept paid from each area. While Deer Park has properties that are on average in a higher tax band, the significant population difference does not warrant an automatic 40/60 split. I am not sure of the percentage of the current precept that is paid by Deer Park, but, even if it is greater than 40%, I feel this is the most equitable way to divide the significant reserves held by the current parish council.</p>
22	None
23	None. your forms don't work properly. If I have agreed with a question WHY am I then forced to complete the 'if you disagree' box ?
24	this is not in the best intrest of the people covered by the parish its wasting time resources and is effectively biotry of the highest order
25	The financial assets of the current St Albans Parish Council should be split on the basis of 80% to the new Parish covering the Warren and Top Valley Gardens area, and 20% to the new Parish covering the Deer Park area. An 80%/20% split aligns with current precept contributions data by areas and volume of electorate, so is a fair and reasonable split.
26	<p>The financial assets of the current St Albans Parish Council should be split on the basis of 80% to the new Parish covering the Warren and Top Valley Gardens area, and 20% to the new Parish covering the Deer Park area.</p> <p>Such an 80%/20% split aligns with current precept contributions data by areas and volume of electorate, so is a fair and reasonable split.</p>

27	I think by separating these areas and creating two Parish councils so long as the precept is split fairly both Parish councils would be able to concentrate on providing the best services to their residents without the hinderence of conflicting opinions which are affecting current Parish Council decisions.
28	This consultation does not address the issue of the financial split. This should be on a 60/40 basis, given the precept and how the funding has been previously disproportionally spent.
29	I would be happy to discuss anything further so feel free to contact me if necessary, by e-mail
30	Very much makes sense & should go ahead
31	Please make it be known that I fully support the petition to split Deer Park parish from the current parish. The residents of pavilion and Woodchurch and deer park never receive any help or funding for our community or support either.
32	Thank you for the response and the map. I can see the church and Church View Close within the boundary for St Albans's Parish. However, there is an issue with the 2 houses on Bewcastle Road which are at the corner with Church View Close (I think the numbers are 201 and 203). There is also an issue of Parklands Close, nos. 1 -9, which is off Bewcastle Road just before the Duke of St Albans pub. If these 2 houses and Parklands Close sit within Deer Park Parish Council they will be completely separate to and isolated from the rest of that Parish. There is no direct road access from those homes to that parish. They will also sit just outside the boundary of the St Albans Parish whilst they have always been included in WAG publicity distribution and some have attended WAG events and meetings. The solution would be for the St Albans Parish boundary not to be drawn along Bewcastle Road as it is currently shown on the map but to instead be drawn along the rear of the properties on Woodchurch Road and Pavilion Road. It would mean the St Albans Boundary being drawn from Church View Close to the rear of 201 and 203 Bewcastle Road and behind Parklands Close (possibly around Church Plantations) and then back along Bewcastle Road towards Emmanuel Close and the rest of the estate. If the boundary was drawn in this way it would ensure that all of the homes would have direct road access to the Parish which they are part of. Hope that makes sense.
33	Dear Sir/Madam I have enlarged the online parish map, but it is not clear if Emmanuel Church and Church View Close will remain in St Albans Parish. Please could you clarify this for me. There will be implications for the church's outreach project (St Albans Community Kitchen) if we are no longer in St Albans Parish. I sincerely hope we will remain a part of St Albans Parish.
34	I am a local resident responding to the recommendations. I fully support the creation of two parishes, the proposed number of councillors and the reserve split.

	<p>I have been resident in the area for 40+ years and do NOT support the name of Deer Park for the new parish.</p> <p>Deer Park is a relatively new development, and this name has not existed for very long. The Parish would be better named Bestwood Lodge, as this is the more historic name for this area. When I moved into the area Deer Park was a horse field with no specific name.</p> <p>All other recommendations are fine.</p>
35	<p>I would like to respond to the request for input to the governance review of the St Albans Parish but for me to make an informed response, I need some information. Having asked on the online chat on your website, I am advised that you may be able to provide the information I need. I would be very grateful if you could either send me the information or direct me to where I can find it.</p> <p>Q1.</p> <p>In the information sent to residents, it states that 266 responses were sent to the first stage consultation, 96% from residents. What percentage of the respondents were from the proposed new Deer Park parish, and what percentage were from the proposed new St Albans parish?</p> <p>Q2.</p> <p>What is the total number of properties and or residents in each of the two proposed new parishes, together with a breakdown of their council tax bands?</p> <p>Q3.</p> <p>What was the total of the parish precept received in 23/24 from each of the two new proposed parishes (i.e. what was the split in the current parish) ?</p> <p>Q4. The information sent to residents states that the suggested number of parish councillors for the proposed new parishes of Deer Park and St Albans would be five and seven respectively. I would be very grateful if you could enlighten me as to the basis on which these numbers were reached - respective populations, respective precept incomes, respective properties, respective council tax incomes, respective area, arbitrary number, statutory number or some other basis (what?).</p> <p>Q5.</p> <p>I would be grateful if you could confirm (or otherwise) that councillors had the above information and took it into account, when making a decision at the first stage.</p>
36	<p>Thank you for sharing the final recommendations for your Community Governance Review, which we understand are currently subject to consultation. When you are reaching your final decision, we ask that you give due consideration to any comments or concerns raised by members of the public, local organisations and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Nottinghamshire County Council notes the proposal to abolish the current Parish of St Albans and to establish the Parish Council of St Albans and the Parish Council of Deer Park and the positive initial consultation responses. Having shared the final recommendations with relevant County Councillors, no concerns have been raised about this proposal.</p>

	Based on the final recommendations, should they proceed, Nottinghamshire County Council therefore supports you asking the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make the related alterations to county boundaries where necessary.
37	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to break up St Alban's Parish Council to form a second, smaller Parish Council, to be called Deer Park Parish. I believe this approach is fundamentally flawed and counterproductive for several reasons.</p> <p>Firstly, the current St Alban's Parish Council has consistently demonstrated a lack of transparency and accountability. It has been divisive and self-serving, failing to support community cohesion or improve services for its residents. The local community remains largely unaware or apathetic towards the Parish Council, as evidenced by the low voter turnout and minimal public attendance at meetings.</p> <p>Creating a second Parish Council will only exacerbate these issues, further diluting the already weak engagement and interest from the community. This fragmentation contradicts the government's efforts to streamline decision-making processes and enhance efficiency in local governance.</p> <p>Given these concerns, I urge the abolishment of the current St Alban's Parish Council. Instead, I propose that Gedling Borough Council take over its responsibilities. This would ensure a more unified and effective approach to local governance, better serving the needs of our community.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my views on this matter.</p>