

What is a Parish Council

Parish councils are the first tier of local government. Roughly 40% of the population of England lives in an area with a parish council. They are one way a community has a collective voice on planning matters, developers, local police and health services, and the government.

Parish councils run some local services - such as allotments, car parks, celebrations and festivals, community buses, community and leisure centres, litter bins, parks and open spaces, public toilets and street lights. They are responsible for community hubs, neighbourhood plans, setting up dementia-friendly groups,

How do you set up a parish council?

The process to set up a new parish council takes about one year. The procedure is set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

New parish councils are created via a 'community governance review' that is carried out by Broxtowe Borough council (our "Principal council"). The review must ensure that the pattern of local government is 'effective and convenient' and 'reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area' (see section 93 of the 2007 Act). A parish council cannot disregard the boundaries of Broxtowe Borough council.

Guidance on community governance reviews, published in March 2010, says that it is for Broxtowe Borough council to decide whether to implement the recommendations of the reviews having taken account of the views of local people. The guidance recommends that a community governance review should take place every 10-15 years. Broxtowe's last review in 2024 focused on the north of the borough. One of the proposals was to dissolve Greasley Parish Council, formed in 1894, – the Parish council opposed its dissolution, and it is still in existence today.

Broxtowe would have to carry out a community governance review of say Bramcote if it receives a valid community governance petition for our area signed by at least 7.5% of the residents of the area of the proposed Parish council. In the 2023 local elections, the turnout was 50% and a total of 8349 votes were cast for the three councillors – suggesting the number of electors is about 5566. So a petition would need more than about 420 signatures to be valid.

The petition should define the area of the proposed Parish council and refer to identifiable fixed boundaries.