

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – HEYBRIDGE BASIN**

**Summary of responses to public consultation**

SUPPORT (70 letters/emails signed by individuals or those in the household)

- Significant cultural heritage and strong community spirit.
- Local assets best protected by those who live there.
- Strong sense of pride, space and identity.
- Rural amenity dominated by riverside position – little in common with the expansion and development of Heybridge.
- Ability to focus on local issues and responsibilities.
- Unique rural and special character.
- ‘Centre of gravity’ has moved to accommodate new Garden Suburb.
- Distinct separate character and needs – as demonstrated through the Village Design Statement.
- Individual community with many local groups and activities.
- Will be able to focus solely on local issues and responsibilities and sustain village identity.
- As Heybridge grows the needs and characters of the two communities widens.
- Healthy sense of community cohesion – local people feel they have a stake in Heybridge Basin.
- Basin community was not consulted by Parish Council over Daisy Meadow Car Park operational issues. Some Councillors have displayed an insufficient knowledge of Basin matters.
- Sense of remoteness from what goes on in the remainder of Heybridge.
- Parish Council will increasingly be unable to give the required focus on Heybridge Basin and will therefore be able to concentrate on more central Heybridge issues.
- Different economic, social and demographic footprints. Heybridge for the most part is an urban-like commuter belt. The Basin is like one large family.
- The character and existence of Heybridge Basin would not be consistent with being part of a Town Council.
- Divergence in priorities – Heybridge is naturally extending towards Langford and Great Totham.
- Should be fairly cost-neutral.
- Management of local assets by the community for the community.
- Proposal is consistent with Localism and local democracy.
- Petition supported by the majority of Basin residents, and follows Government guidance.
- Heybridge Basin is a village in its own right and has natural barriers with sufficient areas of ‘no mans land’ to separate it from Heybridge.
- The work of the local referendum team indicates the willingness of people to get involved.

- Basin issues will be dealt with in a more relevant and sympathetic way.
- Basin residents contributing to the wider expenses of Heybridge Parish.
- Distinct maritime, cultural and social identity
- Natural evolution off the political process since the time when the current Parish arrangements were established.
- Bigger say on issues such flooding, flood defences, and footpath maintenance key to Heybridge Basin.

### OBJECTION (3 individual representations)

- Additional expense.
- Existing Parish Council adequate – a Sub-Committee could be created to deal with Basin matters.
- Proposal founded entirely on an issue relating to the operation of Daisy Meadow Car Park.
- Scepticism as to the motives behind the proposal.
- A Council just for the Basin would be too small to make a difference – Council Tax would increase without any real benefit.

### COMMENT (2 individual representations)

- Extension of boundary to include Blackwater Sailing Club (physical boundary of the Ballast Hole)
- Extension of boundary to include more of Heybridge East to provide a larger area of separation ('no mans land') – local consultation too restricted.
- Limited information provided – nothing in common with Heybridge Parish Council and the centre of Heybridge. Current needs different. Concern at how a small Parish Council would operate.

**Officer comment** – the area the subject of the Review is precisely that the subject of the Petition which is the prescribed Basin Ward of the Parish of Heybridge. Any alteration to the area of the Review would require at least fresh consultation. Although letters were sent to all households within that precise area, the consultation was not confined to that area. The Review was widely published.