

**HEPSCOTT COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Consultation Responses**

1 *"I am writing as Chairperson for Hepscoth Parish in response to your letter dated 26 August 2022.*

At present we have 7 working Councillors, I would like to propose we increase this to 9.

All of our active Councillors play a vital role in the community.

2 Councillors cover the Southfields Estate which will house around 460/480 houses when complete. Our Councillors have an extensive list working with Barratts, Green Belt and the County Council to ensure that residents requests are listened to and the development is up to building standard. As the estate is so big I am proposing that we recruit another Councillor but from Phase 2.

Our present Councillors all play a key role in the below areas:

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Andrea Ranyard</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>Chairperson and Southfields representative</i> |
| <i>Benjamin Thompson</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>Southfields representative</i> |
| <i>David Kennedy</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>Southfields representative</i> |
| <i>Fred Dye</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>Speed Watch</i> |
| <i>Malcolm Paton</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>Construction and planning</i> |
| <i>David Cowans</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>Heritage and planning</i> |
| <i>Anne Colver</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>Hepscoth and Parish Committee</i> |

Hepscoth Parish covers a vast area that our current Councillors do not reach, therefore proposing 2 new councillors means we can reach out to our community and ask them to join us. We cover Coalburn, Shadfen, Clifton Lane and other areas. It would be great as a parish to reach out and have them on board.

At present we have 2 wards, Hepscoth Stobhill Manor and Hepscoth Hepscoth. In 2025 we will lose Hepscoth Stobhill Manor and just have the one ward. We are proposing to keep the parish as just one ward. I do not feel we need to segregate areas into wards, as this feels like we are neglecting them as a community and not being as one.

As our area continues to grow and flourish it will be key to have the right number of Councillors on board.

I hope that this request is acceptable to Northumberland County Council."

2. *“I am writing as a parishioner of Hepscoth Parish but also as a former Councillor and Chair of HPC (2013 to May 2022) to say I support HPC’s request to increase the number of councillors. Don’t forget that Hepscoth Parish covers a large area and is actually geographically bigger than Morpeth.*

Hepscoth Parish Council has always been a hard-working and enthusiastic Council and our County Councillor, Glen Sanderson, has confirmed this in his evidence to the 2021 CGR.

I support HPC’s request on the grounds that the workload is increasing as the number of properties lost will be far exceeded by the numbers gained; the South Fields estate is a young growing estate that requires greater attention than the more mature areas of the Parish; and there are substantial and growing efforts being made by HPC to involve South Fields and other areas in the wider Parish.

The previous Community Governance Review (January 2021) will transfer less than 120 houses in Stobhill Manor Hepscoth to Morpeth Town Council and confirmed that South Fields estate remains in Hepscoth Parish. Southfields has grown from open fields in 2016 to about 200 dwellings at the time of the previous CGR and is due to reach well over 400 dwellings when complete. I have to say that the workload for Councillors has grown substantially and will continue to grow until the South Fields estate reaches maturity. Stobhill Manor Hepscoth on the other hand is a mature 20+year estate with fewer demands on HPC, and most of the efforts of the current 7 Councillors have concerned matters outside of Stobhill Manor, and that will continue in future. We are already seeing great efforts to engage with the wider Parish and involve the community.

I entirely agree with Andrea’s comments on how key the number of Councillors will be and ask that the Review takes these points into account.”

3 *“I note that the pre existing Hepscoth PC had 5 Members for the 1000 population. With the imminent completion of Southfields, this population of 1000+ has just 2 Members creating an inequitable representation.”*