



## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2025

### PARISH OF SHERE

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

The civil parish of Shere is located within the Tillingbourne ward of Guildford Borough Council. It is also located within the Shere Division of Surrey County Council and forms part of the Godalming & Ash Parliamentary Constituency.

The civil parish of Shere currently comprises of three parish wards as follows:

Parish Ward	Area covering	Current number of councillors
North Ward	Shere and Gomshall	Six
South-East Ward	Holmbury St. Mary	Three
South-West Ward	Peaslake	Four

#### What do parish councils do?

By way of information, a summary of the general powers and duties of parish councils is attached as **Annex 1**.

#### What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review is a review by the Borough Council of the whole or part of the Borough to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of a parish and the style of a new parish (i.e. whether to call it a “village”, “community” or “neighbourhood” with the council similarly named as a “village council”, “community council” or “neighbourhood council”);
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (including council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding), and
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

The Borough Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:

- reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- is effective and convenient.

In doing so, the Community Governance Review is required to take into account:

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

The government has emphasised that recommendations made in Community Governance Reviews ought to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

### **Why are we carrying out this Community Governance Review?**

Guildford Borough Council has received a valid community governance petition which requires the Council to carry out a community governance review to enable the request in the petition to be considered. This involves consultation with local electors and anyone else with an interest in the review.

The area under review is the area of the borough of Guildford comprising the existing parish of Shere (see map at **Annex 2**).

### **What are we consulting on?**

We would like to receive your views on the proposal contained in the community governance petition referred to above, which is:

Whether a new civil parish of Peaslake and a new Peaslake Parish Council should be established, with the area of that new civil parish comprising the area of the existing South-West parish ward of the parish of Shere.

If this proposal is approved, the parish of Shere would comprise of the remaining two parish wards (North Ward and South-East Ward as shown on the map in Annex 2).

### **Electorate Forecast**

At the time Guildford Borough Council considered the request in the community governance petition, to carry out this community governance review, the Local Government electorate for the parish of Shere was 2,977 (as at 1 April 2025).

For the purpose of this review, we are required to forecast the expected growth in the electorate for the parish of Shere for the next five years from the beginning of this review.

There are currently outstanding planning permissions (permitted but not completed, including those commenced) for 46 homes in the parish. On the basis of the average number of electors per dwelling being 1.7, it is anticipated that this increase in the number of homes in the parish will result approximately in an additional 78 electors.

### **How to let us know your views**

You can do this in the following ways:

- via our online facility: [www.guildford.gov.uk/comgovrev](http://www.guildford.gov.uk/comgovrev), or
- by email to: [committeeservices@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@guildford.gov.uk), or

- by letter addressed to:

Democratic Services and Elections Manager  
Community Governance Review (Shere)  
Guildford Borough Council  
Millmead House  
Millmead  
GUILDFORD  
Surrey GU2 4BB

**by no later than 5pm on MONDAY 7 JULY 2025.**

Please ensure that you state your name and address clearly on any representations submitted. Please note that any submissions received after 7 July 2025, or any representations submitted anonymously, will not be taken into account.

Please also note that the consultation stages of a Community Governance Review are public consultations. We will not publish your personal information; however, in the interests of openness and transparency, Guildford Borough Council will make available for public inspection full copies of all representations it takes into account as part of this review.

All personal information submitted to us during the course of this consultation will be destroyed once the matter has been determined by the Borough Council.

### **What happens next?**

Following the consultation on these terms of reference, the Borough Council will determine, in the light of the consultation response and other statutory considerations, whether to publish draft recommendations as to the future community governance arrangements within the parish of Shere based on the proposal in the petition, including proposed electoral arrangements.

In arriving at its final recommendations following any further consultation on draft proposals, the Council will again take account of the views of local people and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the Review by judging them against the statutory criteria set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and associated government guidance.

The Borough Council will take steps to notify consultees of the outcome of the review by publishing all decisions taken, together with reasons, on the Council's website (and ask Shere Parish Council to publish the same on their website), through general press releases, and by placing key documents on public deposit at Guildford Borough Council's offices and at the office of Shere Parish Council.

If any change to community governance arrangements for the existing parish of Shere is approved, a Community Governance Reorganisation Order will be made to give effect to the changes.

## **A timetable for the Community Governance Review**

A Community Governance Review must, by law, be concluded within a 12-month period from the day on which the Borough Council receives a valid community governance petition (18 February 2025). The proposed timetable for this Community Governance Review is set out below:

16 April 2025	Terms of Reference and Timetable for Review approved by Guildford Borough Council.
12 May 2025	Guildford Borough Council to publish approved Terms of Reference. Eight-week consultation period begins with local people and interested parties.
7 July 2025 (5pm)	Closing date for consultation period.
29 July 2025	Guildford Borough Council to consider consultation submissions and to determine whether to publish draft recommendations as to the future community governance arrangements within the parish of Shere based on the proposal in the petition, including proposed electoral arrangements.
18 August 2025	Subject to approval above, Guildford Borough Council to publish draft recommendations, including proposed electoral arrangements. Eight-week consultation period begins with local people and interested parties.
13 October 2025 (5pm)	Closing date for consultation period.
9 December 2025	Subject to consultation submissions and statutory considerations, Guildford Borough Council to determine whether to publish final recommendations and authorise the making of a community governance reorganisation order.

**Date of Publication of Terms of Reference:** 12 May 2025

### Powers and Duties of Parish Councils

The role played by parish councils varies considerably. Smaller parish councils have only limited resources and generally play only a minor role, while some larger parish councils have a role similar to that of a small district council. Parish councils receive funding by levying a "precept" on the council tax paid by the residents of the parish.

The list below is intended as a summary of the main functions of parish councils. It is not intended to be a definitive list of such functions. Where a function is marked with an asterisk a parish council also has the power to give financial assistance to another person or body performing the same function.

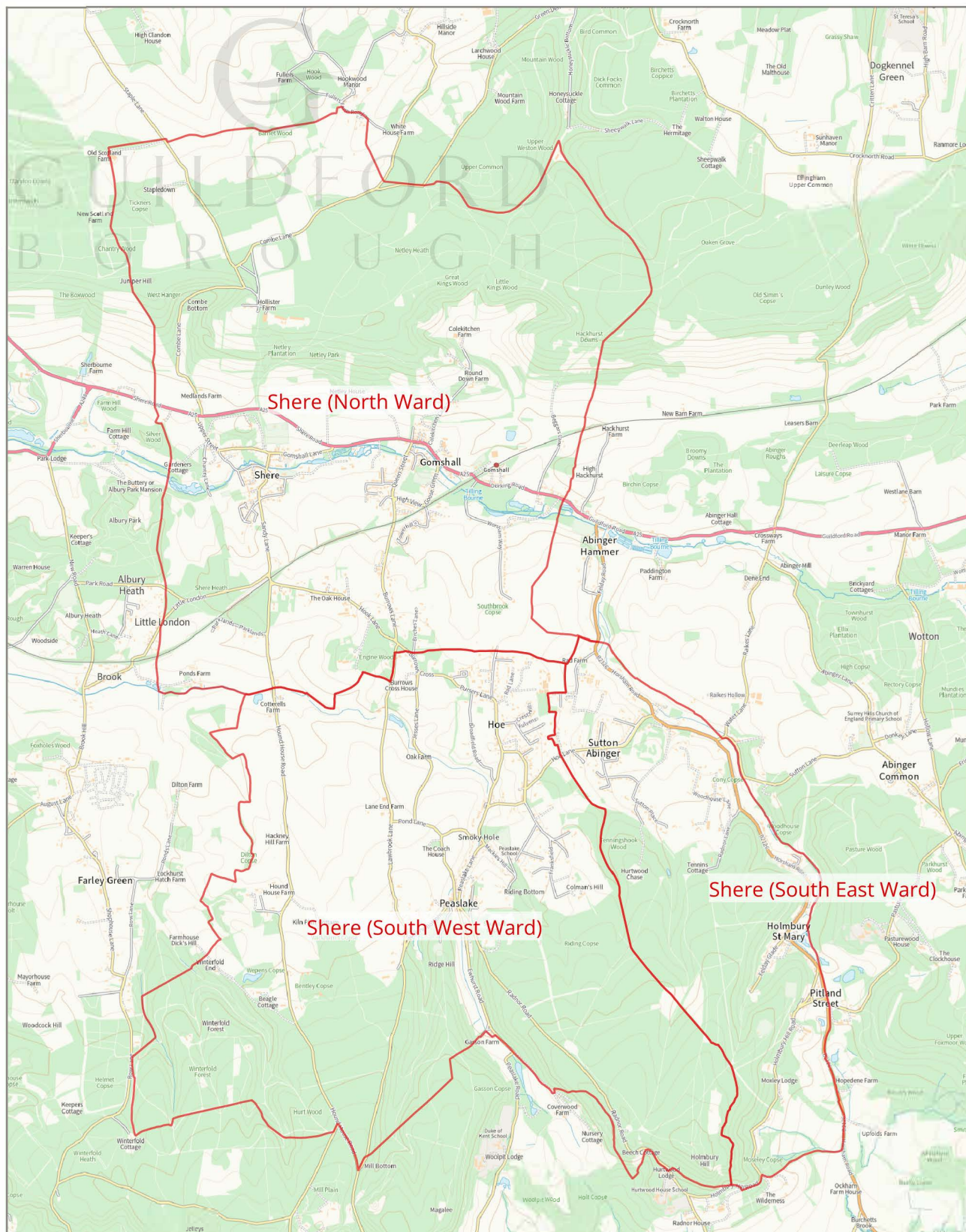
Functions	Powers And Duties
<b>Allotments</b>	Powers to provide allotments Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied
<b>Bus Shelters and roadside seats</b>	Power to provide and maintain
<b>Bye Laws</b>	Power to make byelaws for public walks and pleasure grounds
<b>Clocks*</b>	Power to provide public clocks
<b>Closed Churchyards</b>	Powers (and sometimes duty) as to maintain
<b>Commons Land and Common Pastures</b>	Powers in relation to enclosure as to regulation and management and as to providing common pasture
<b>Community Centres and Village Halls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to provide and equip premises for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives</li> <li>• Power to provide buildings for offices and for public meetings and assemblies</li> </ul>
<b>Conference facilities*</b>	Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities
<b>Crime Prevention*</b>	Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures including
<b>Drainage</b>	Power to deal with ponds/ditches
<b>Education</b>	Right to appoint governors of primary schools
<b>Entertainment and the Arts*</b>	Provision of entertainment and support of the arts
<b>Environment</b>	Power to act for the benefit of the community by tackling and promoting awareness of environmental issues
<b>Flagpoles</b>	Power to erect flagpoles in highways
<b>Highways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to repair and maintain footpaths and bridleways</li> <li>• Power to provide lighting of roads and public places</li> </ul>

<b>Functions</b>	<b>Powers And Duties</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to provide parking places for vehicles, bicycles and motorcycles</li> <li>• Power to enter into an agreement as to dedication and widening</li> <li>• Power to provide traffic signs and other notices</li> <li>• Power to plant trees, etc., and to maintain roadside verges</li> <li>• Power to prosecute for unlawful ploughing of a footpath or bridleway</li> <li>• Power to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes</li> </ul>
<b>Investments</b>	Power to participate in schemes of collective investment
<b>Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to acquire land by agreement or compulsory purchase,</li> <li>• Power to appropriate land</li> <li>• Power to dispose of land</li> <li>• Power to accept gifts of land</li> <li>• Power to obtain particulars of persons interested in land</li> </ul>
<b>Litter bins</b>	Power to provide litter bins including receptacles for dog faeces
<b>Lotteries</b>	Power to promote lotteries
<b>Monuments and Memorials</b>	Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials
<b>Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms</b>	Powers to provide mortuaries and post-mortem rooms
<b>Nature Reserves</b>	Power to designate statutory to the nature reserves and marine nature reserves - English Nature can designate sites of specific scientific interest
<b>Nuisances</b>	Power to deal with offensive ditches, ponds and gutters
<b>Open Spaces, Burial Grounds, Cemeteries and crematoria*</b>	Power to acquire, maintain or contribute towards expenses
<b>Parish Property and Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powers to direct as to their custody</li> <li>• Power to collect, exhibit and purchase local records</li> </ul>
<b>Parks and pleasure grounds</b>	Power to hire pleasure boats in parks and pleasure grounds
<b>Parochial charities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to appoint trustees of parochial charities</li> </ul>

Functions	Powers And Duties
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duty to receive accounts of parochial charities</li> </ul>
<b>Planning</b>	Right to be notified of and power to respond to planning applications
<b>Postal and telecommunications facilities</b>	Power to pay the Post Office, British Telecommunications or any other public telecommunications operator any loss sustained in providing post or telegraph office or telecommunications facilities
<b>Public Conveniences</b>	Power to provide public conveniences
<b>Raising of Finances</b>	Power to raise money through the parish precept
<b>Recreation*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds, and open spaces and to manage and control them.</li> <li>Power to provide gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps</li> </ul>
<b>Swimming pools, bathing places, baths and washhouses</b>	Power to provide
<b>Tourism*</b>	Power to contribute to the encouragement of tourism
<b>Town Status</b>	Power to adopt town status
<b>Transport*</b>	Power to (a) establish car sharing schemes (b) make grants for bus services, (c) provide taxi-fare concessions; (d) investigate public transport, road use and needs; (e) provide information about public transport services Community Transport Schemes
<b>Village greens</b>	Power to maintain, to make bylaws for and to prosecute for interference with village greens
<b>Water Supply</b>	Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water therefrom.



## Parish of Shere - Area under Review



### Legend

 Parish Ward Boundary

Publication Date: 2024-06-25



Scale at A4:  
1:40,000

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