



Questions to raise at the Annual Parish Meeting.....

What difference will this Local government Reorganisation make ti Beckingham Parish Council?



None what's so ever.....



Possibly a great deal. For example we will loose the close contact s we currently have with District and County Councillors when they coe to our Parish Meetings.

Will Beckingham Parish Council still exist?



Yesit has been around for some 100 odd years



Who knows!. Government sources have been ominously quiet on this.

Will the Parish precept increase?



Not because of the reorganisation itself.



But there is a good chance that some of the lesser important functions currently carried out by NKDC might devolve down to the Parish council because the new Unitary authorities are all about strategic priorities. And if so that will cost the Parish Council.

The new Unitary authority will be much more efficient than NKDC?



Of course because it will embrace new procedures possibly involving AI

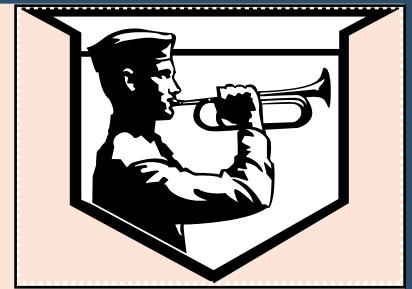


Since when.....??

The Beckingham & Sutton Bugle

May 2025

Beckingham and Sutton Village News and Information



LGR

Devolution

Mayors

Are we bothered??

Parishioners.....whether you like or not you are about to see the biggest change to local government arrangements in Lincolnshire for over 50 years.

Devolution will see the creation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority with mayor elections this coming in May 1st and holding devolved funding and powers over strategic policy areas like transport infrastructure, health improvement and blue light services.

Local government reorganisation (LGR) would see the abolition of the county, districts and borough councils and replacement with a single (or multiple) unitary councils.

Whilst town and parish council structures would not change as part of LGR in it is unrealistic to expect these not to be affected in some way.

The story so far

On 16 December 2024, the Government published the English Devolution White Paper that set out its policy direction for devolution and local government reorganisation. It sets a preference “to see all of England benefit from devolution” This would be devolution of powers and funding to mayors of strategic authorities over an assumed “combined population of 1.5million or above” Areas that would be devolved include new powers to mayors over health improvement, net zero, nature recovery, skills, infrastructure, transport and economic development..

The White Paper also states that government “will expect all two-tier areas to develop proposals for reorganisation.”

It also highlights “for most areas this will mean creating councils with a population of 500,000 or more,

Along with the publication of the White Paper, the minister for local government sent letters to council leaders inviting commitment and interest to being included in the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) that government is establishing.

The DPP offers a fast-track timeline to securing devolution and LGR. In addition to requests to be included in the DPP, the minister’s letter signalled his “intention is to formally invite unitary proposals in January 2025 from all councils in two tier areas

What is an Annual Parish Meeting?

The Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting.

The Local Government Act states that every parish must hold Parish Meeting a year. This meeting must be held between 1st March and 1st June and proceedings must not begin before 6pm.

If there is a Parish Council the Chairman of the Parish Council (or vice-chair if the Chairman is unable to attend) must preside. If there is not a Parish Council then a Chairman is elected by the meeting itself.

The Agenda is a standard agenda, to give reports on the business of the last 12 months. The Parish Council reports to its electorate on its activities over the last year and there are usually reports from County and District Councillors and perhaps from any voluntary or local community group.

It is also an opportunity for parishioners to question people and organisations on any issues relating to the village.

As the Annual Parish Meeting is not a parish council meeting it is not conducted in the same way or governed by the same rules as a parish council meeting. Members of the public are permitted to make statements on relevant matters during the meeting. Any resolutions passed do not bind the Parish Council.

So what is the future of Beckingham Parish Council??

“ Effective devolution must recognise the role of England's 10,000 parish and town councils as the community tier of local government. They can be a strong voice for our most local neighbourhoods and help address fears of remote government resulting from any larger unitaries set up. By strengthening their role, the government can ensure that devolution delivers tangible benefits for communities nationwide.”

Come along to the Annual Parish Meeting to voice your opinions and concerns

The history of Parish Councils

In Norman times villages and small towns were generally ruled by the local Lord of the Manor because at that time with poor communications and the distance from the Sovereign's jurisdiction, there was little national control. Over time Parish Priests and sometimes Schoolmasters and other literate men joined the Lord of the Manor to form a kind of ruling body. These groups were the first effective local councils and their meetings became known as Vestry Meetings.

By the Year 1601, Church Vestry Meetings were so organised and workable that it was quite natural for legislators to give them the responsibility of levying the poor rate. These were the first effective local taxes. Everyone in the parish was entitled to attend Church Vestry Meetings but in practice the work fell to a few individuals, rather like Parish Councils today.

Although the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act removed from Parish Vestries the responsibility for poor relief and handed it to Poor Law Unions, parishes had naturally accumulated responsibility for administering local charities, managing commons and other land as a consequence of the 18th Century Enclosure Acts.

Up until 1894 the affairs of the parishes continued to be administered by the vestry meeting dominated as they were by the squire, the parson and the principal landowners. Although theoretically open to all inhabitants these meetings were in effect open mainly to those deemed suitable to serve.

In 1894 for a variety of reasons, including better education, a general movement towards greater 'democracy' and a desire to break the power of the Church of England over the lives of nonconformists and non-believers, a Bill was promoted to create Parish Councils.

What this means for Lincolnshire

A Mayor for Lincolnshire

Voters across Lincolnshire will have the chance to vote for their county councillor and a new Mayor for Greater Lincolnshire on 1 May.

Lincolnshire County Council has 70 councillors who advocate for local residents, address community issues, and keep people informed about council matters. They also serve on committees to scrutinise council work and set policies

For the first time, residents across Greater Lincolnshire will vote for a Mayor to lead the new Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA). The GLCCA will manage funding and decision-making for services previously handled by central government, including the adult education budget and economic investment.

The Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority held its first meeting on March 6th at Lincoln Cathedral, This new authority, which will be led by a mayor following the May 1st election, has been created after years of negotiations, aiming to bring more powers and decision-making authority closer to the local level. The devolution deal, formally approved by the government in September, will bring £24 million annually for the next 30 years, alongside increased local control over key areas like transport and public services. Cllr Martin Hill was elected Chair of the Greater Lincolnshire Combine Authority until the election of the new Mayor.

All contributions for the next Beckingham Bugle welcome. The deadline for the next September 2025 issue is August 19th 2025

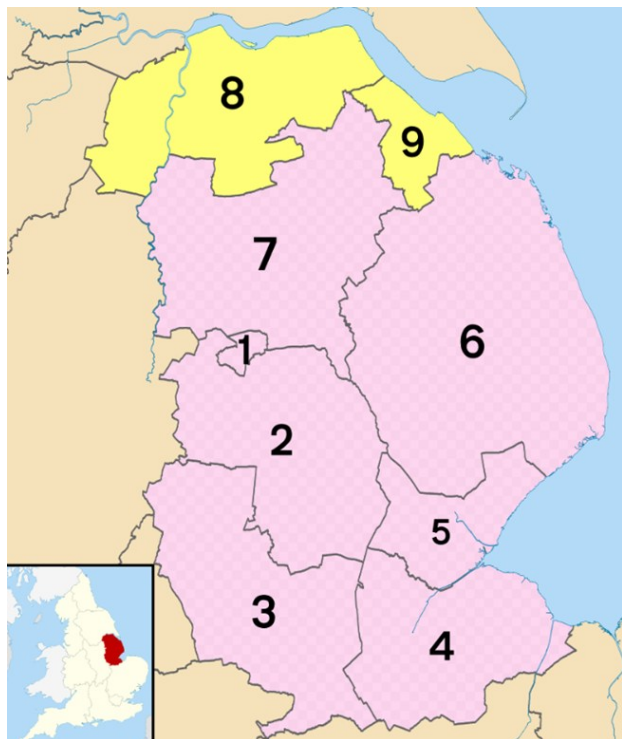
What is meant by local government reorganisation (LGR)?

Where county and district/borough councils provide local government functions between them, unitary councils remove that arrangement and create a single-council that provides all local government functions in an area. Sometimes this is a single council across a county area

There is to be no change to existing parish and town councils' boundaries or structures.

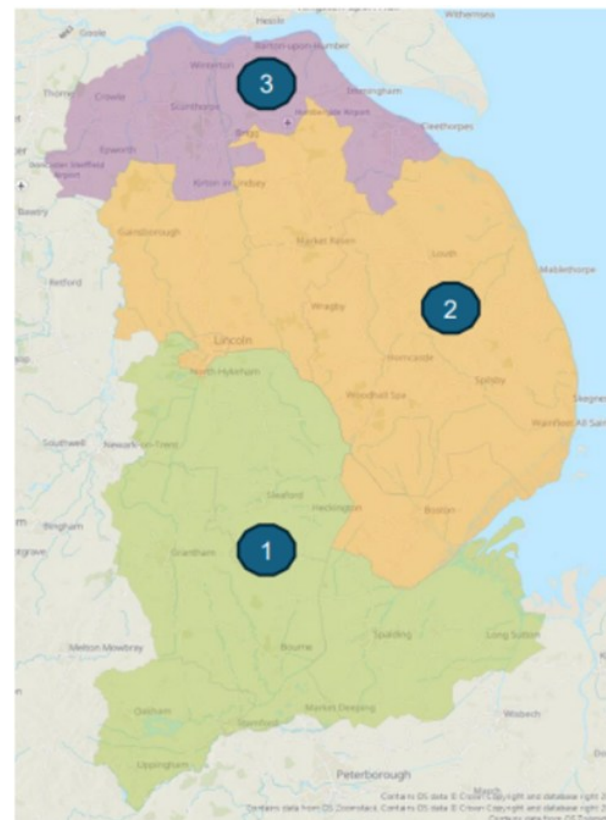
the Lincolnshire starting point starting point

Boston Borough Council
City of Lincoln Council
East Lindsey District Council
Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council
South Holland District Council
South Kesteven District Council
West Lindsey District Council



North Kesteven: Seeking to include Rutland

Finally, as reported in the LGC earlier this week, North Kesteven District Council proposes a merger of North and South Kesteven councils, South Holland DC, and unitary Rutland, which is in between Lincolnshire and Leicestershire and unlike the other three councils is not within the boundaries of the new mayoral combined authority for Greater Lincolnshire.



For more village news and to stay up to date with the latest Parish Council business visit the Village website at: www.beckinghamvillage.co.uk