

Electoral Services

To: Electoral Services
Subject: Request for a COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW Ten Mile Bank

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Dear Elections Team

Ten Mile Bank is a ward of Hilgay Parish and as such has been represented by up to 4 councillors elected from the village to join with the Hilgay Village Councillors, to form Hilgay Parish Council.

Ten Mile Bank originally was a very small community made up mainly of a few farm workers, under the umbrella of Hilgay Parish, but has grown over the years to a larger community with currently 353 registered electors, with approx 170 dwellings. The village has a natural separation from Hilgay Village, this being the River Great Ouse and the A10.

Over the years many residents feel the needs of our community are potentially at a disadvantage under the current Parish Council, owing to the uneven split of councillors, being 9 allocated for Hilgay and only 4 for Ten Mile Bank, especially bearing in mind the very different nature of the villages, Hilgay having multiple amenities, by way of School, Shop, Allotments, Pub, etc, compared with Ten Mile Bank being a much quieter village with no amenities, especially since the closure of TMB School.

It has become apparent over the past year or two that in our opinion the combined Parish of Hilgay has come to the end of its effectiveness to properly service both villages equally, and that TMB needs to have its own Independent Parish Council served by a team of councillors elected by the village and to work exclusively for the village.

Following our email to you on 10th September and your subsequent reply 17th September from Anthony, we have read the information you recommended, and hereby formally ask for you to undertake a **Community Governance Review**

Following the guidelines we have so far -:

Researched the Ward boundary and established location of properties which fall within the Proposed Ten Mile bank parish, we can provide the map we have used to do this research.

We have carried out a Poll of the village by way of letter to every household explaining the proposal and inviting all registered electors at each address to sign their approval, (the letters can be given to you for verification as originals, or by scanned copy).

We currently have approx 46% in favour, which is over the required 37.5% you stated in your email .

We have made a start on costs for TMB to operate independently, by way of comparison of the current precept needed for both villages, and the division of those costs according to the requirement of both villages, showing the vastly reduced operating costs for TMB, (copy of this information can be forwarded to you if required). We appreciate this has further research to be done, but it is useful as a first step to see where the two villages differ in their financial needs.

We have held an open evening in the village hall to which all residents were invited, during which we were able to explain in more detail the plan and answer questions, which was very well attended by the village, and in fact we were asked to hold more such events going forward.

In addition, we have moved forward with an application to have the School playing field here in the village designated as a village green, this work was started while we were serving as councillors on the Hllgay PC, and which we have continued as residents of TMB, and this proposal has already been lodged at county hall, and is currently under review by them.

The village also has a community events group which have had great success in putting together a village fun day, plus several social evenings, with further plans for both adults and children's events, all of which are well attended by the village.

TMB is a close knit community despite many of its residents being quite isolated due to occupying farm properties, but having a community group is ensuring they can all stay connected, and we feel that connection and sense of belonging can only be enhanced by our own Parish Council, giving the community a real say in how it is maintained.

We hope the work undertaken so far is sufficient for you to agree to undertake the review and we look forward to your reply.

