

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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15th September 2022

Response to St Albans District Council (SADC) Community Governance Review (CGR) recommendations consultation Sent on behalf of Councillor Brazier

As councillors representing the Colney Heath ward, we support the proposed change to the Colney Heath Parish boundary as this would better reflect the community identity of those living in the rural area. Consequently, Councillors in the new Parish Council would be better able to prioritise the concerns of the rural area.

We recognise that initially there will be budget challenges, causing a likely increase to the precept, in order to maintain the level of services to which the electorate have become accustomed. However, it is anticipated that this rise would be small in comparison to the wider council tax. Nevertheless, we consider it paramount that the parish boundary aligns with the community identities. In the future, the electorate will be able debate whether to increase/maintain the level of precept or reduce the level of services.

Given that Colney Heath Common is frequently used by many from outside the Parish, and is a jewel within St Albans District, some financial assistance from the District Council would greatly assist the rural Parish Council in the maintenance of this treasured asset.

Councillor Hilary Brazier

Hill End Ward

Member of Council, Environment Committee and Finance & Governance Committee