

# COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Highfield Park Visitor Centre

Hill End Lane

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13<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## Response to St Albans District Council (SADC) Community Governance Review (CGR) recommendations consultation Sent on behalf of Councillor Cook, Councillor Solts, Councillor Barnes and Councillor Mulrone

SADC Policy Committee of 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 recommended the urban part of Colney Heath Parish is taken in to the unparished area of St Albans increasing the unparished area by 2,500 electorate from its current 46,000 to 48,500.

We require the formation of Highfield Parish Council for the following reasons”

It meets the requirements in “Guidance on community governance reviews dated March 2010 from Department for Communities and Local Government Local Government Boundary Commission for England” in the following ways

### **Highfield has been established for over 20 years. It is**

- a distinctive and recognisable community of place,
- with its own sense of identity.“

### **Highfield would be**

“based on a small but discrete housing estate rather than on the town within which the estate lies.”

### **Highfield “boundaries will remain easily identifiable.”**

- Hixberry Lane to the east
- Alban Way to the north
- Hill End lane to the west
- Ward boundary to the south

### **Highfield will be viable as an administrative unit as it**

“reflects community identity and interest”

The guidance states “Parish councils are set apart from other governance because they are

- A democratically elected tier of local government
- Independent of other council tiers and budgets and
- Possess specific powers”

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Highfield being represented by SADC CNC prevents Highfield having a democratically elected tier of government because as the guidance says “Parish councillors are directly elected to represent local communities in a way other bodies, however worthy, cannot since such organisations do not have representatives directly elected”

**CNC is not directly elected.** CNC is formed by St Albans Council Ward members being chosen by the District Council.

Highfield being ‘represented’ by City Neighbourhoods Committee (CNC) results in a democratic deficit for the area as Residents’ Associations (if invited) have no vote. They are co-optees only.

We note no Hill End Ward District Cllrs attended SADC Policy Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 as Cllr Day sent his apologies.

We are disappointed to have had no engagement from them since then.

Highfield has subsidised Colney Heath since being built.

Neither District Councillor Day or Brazier has ever sought to rectify this

It is now proposed we ‘subsidise’ all of St Albans

All four Parish Councillors have lived in Highfield since it was created over 20 years ago by the redevelopment of the former Cell Barnes and Hill End hospital sites.

We demand the formation of Highfield Parish Council to ensure this part of St Albans does not have a democratic deficit

**Councillor Peter Cook**

**Highfield Ward**

**Chair of Council**

**Councillor Russell Solts**

**Highfield Ward**

**Chair of Finance & Governance Committee and HR Committee**

**Councillor Kevin Barnes**

**Highfield Ward**

**Member of Council, Environment Committee & HR Committee**

**Councillor Judy Mulroney**

**Highfield Ward**

**Member of Council, Environment Committee & HR Committee**