

# COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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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 Slaughter and Councillor Llewelin**

In the event that St Albans District Council decides that there should be an urban/rural split of the Colney Heath Parish Council, St Albans District Council should be made aware that such a split could potentially have a significant negative financial impact not only on the proposed rural parish but also for the parishioners of this smaller parish.

As councillors representing Colney Heath ward, we understand why many of the residents of this ward may support a split from a community and geographical perspective. However, as councillors we recognise the Parish Council's responsibility to ensure that services within the parish are maintained. An urban/rural split will significantly reduce the income received by the precept as there will no longer be any contribution from the urban area. It is recognised that the majority of the budget of the current Parish is spent within Colney Heath ward, as this contains those parish owned areas of The Common, parks and recreation grounds which require regular maintenance. In order to maintain the current level of services, a split would require St Albans District Council to increase the level of precept, payable by residents within the newly defined rural parish, at the request of the Parish Council. At a time when residents may be struggling to meet current expenditure demands, such an increase may be extremely difficult to justify. If St Albans District Council decide on a rural/urban split then any financial assistance which the District Council could provide would certainly aid the rural parish in an effort to continue to provide those services necessary.

**Councillor Kate Slaughter  
Colney Heath Ward  
Chair of the Environment Committee, Finance & Governance Committee and  
Vice-Chair of Council**

**Councillor Jane Llewelin  
Colney Heath Ward  
Member of Council and Environment Committee**