

What are Parish Councils?

This short guide should help answer any questions you have about Parish Councils.

What is a parish council?

A parish council is an elected body made up of local people. The creation of a new parish council would be in addition to and not instead of Fareham Borough Council.

What can Parish Councils do?

Parish Councils can:

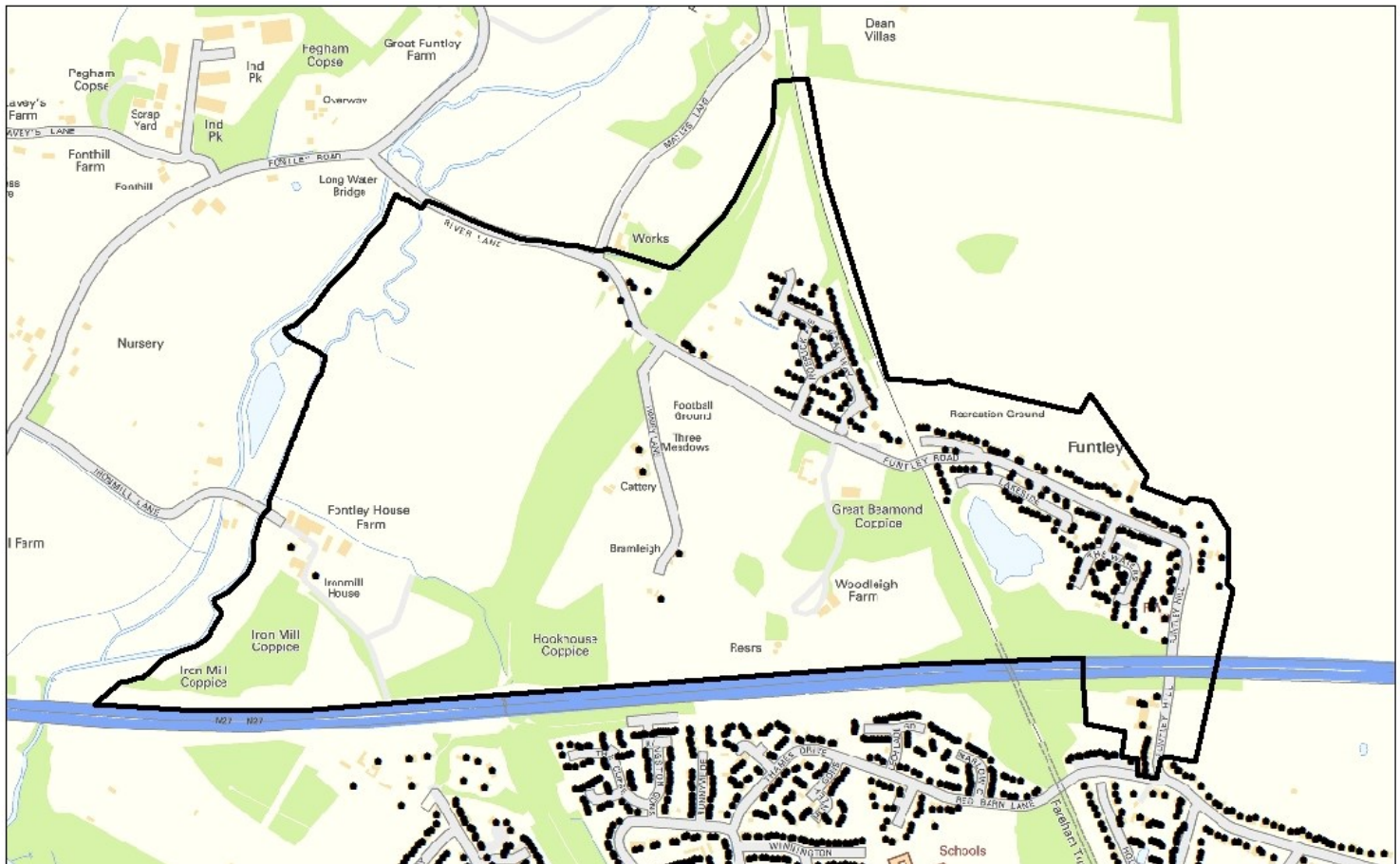
- Maintain green spaces, parks, play areas, burial grounds and allotments
- Repair and maintain footpaths and cyclepaths
- Provide and equip community centres
- Spend money on crime prevention and traffic calming
- Provide public toilets, bins, bus shelters and parking spaces
- Be asked for comments on planning applications in their Parish but not decide them

These functions can only be carried out if they are delegated to the parish by the Borough Council.

You see a full list of possible responsibilities at www.fareham.gov.uk/funtleygovernance

What area will the possible Funtley Parish cover?

The black line in the map below is the boundary for the proposed parish.



How are Parish Councillors elected?

Parish Councillors are elected every four years. Fareham Borough Council would run the elections alongside the normal Council elections.

Who can be a Parish Councillor?

Any British, Commonwealth or EU citizen who is registered to vote and has been resident, either in the parish or within 3 miles of the boundary, for 12 months prior to the day of election.

Are Parish Councillors paid an allowance?

Parish councillors are not usually paid an allowance, but may incur expenses, which can be reimbursed.

How are Parish Councils funded?

Through a sum of money called a precept. This is on top of what is charged by the Borough Council, County Council, police and fire services. It is added to and collected along with your Council Tax Bill.

How much extra a year would having a Parish Council cost Funtley residents?

Funtley Village Society has proposed a precept of 77p a week (£40.04 a year) for a Band D property. This is on top of your normal Council Tax Bill and a 28.5% increase on Fareham's part of the bill.

Please note, the precept will be charged even if the services you receive are the same as those you currently receive from the Council.

How much would this raise as a whole?

Taking into account the number of properties in Funtley, the proposed precept would raise £12,832.82 a year for the Parish Council.

Will the cost stay the same every year?

Whilst Council Tax increases are currently capped by the government, there are no such restrictions on Parish Council precepts.

What could the precept be used to pay for?

The precept will be used to pay for the normal running costs of the Parish Council e.g. administration, elections, paying for a clerk. Additional costs will depend on the responsibilities the Parish Council agrees to take on. Below are examples of the costs for some of the responsibilities that the Parish could take over:

- Maintaining Funtley recreation ground. Ongoing cost of £1,640 per year.
- Replacing worn out outdoor items e.g. seating or bins. Occasional cost of e.g. £500 for seating.
- Replacing and updating children's play area. One off cost of around £70,000.

Our examples are based on the Council's estimated costs for providing these services in Funtley.

How can I find out more?

You can find out more about Parish Councils and the Funtley Governance Review at www.fareham.gov.uk/funtleygovernance