

Menheniot Parish Council

Summary of its governance review submission delivered by Cllr Jerry Tucker at the Electoral Review Panel public meeting 23 September 2019.

Since notice of the review was announced in December 2018, this council has maintained a continuous dialogue of consultation with its residents, and our submission reflects both their concerns and aspirations.

At a Special Meeting of the council in July, councillors resolved to accept the advice of its own Working Group and find that there is no case for a change in the parish boundary, the parish name or the number of parish councillors.

This decision accurately reflects the views of the parish's residents, who in their recent opinion survey were 92% against any changes in the historic boundary.

We believe our submission demonstrated and evidenced how the parish council's governance reflects the identities and interests of its community.

We examined the issue of electoral equality.

In our survey, a clear 83% of respondents felt that their council acted on their behalf (the national figure of 56%).

This council believes that any growth in the electorate will be properly and effectively represented by the current number of councillors, working as they do alongside our residents.

The council noted the electoral forecasts provided by the Panel and included its own forecast for the five year period to 2024 which we believe provides a better basis for measuring growth in the number of voters.

So, across Cornwall, there are an average of 206 electors for each councillor.

In Menheniot, the ratio is 1 for every 127 electors

Our future estimate (which includes the Tencreek development) would be 1 councillor for every 173 electors.

This is still below the county average, and better than the ratio for Liskeard East where we forecast 849 electors will have just 1 councillor to represent them.

We provide effective local government

Our residents' survey clearly evidenced that the people of Menheniot have high levels of satisfaction about where they live;

They trust their parish council

They believe that it provides value for money and

Represents their best interests to a high degree.

We're not complacent about this.

Menheniot councillors are mindful that consultation raises expectations of how their performance needs to improve. We have already agreed a new engagement policy that is being rolled out across the parish.

We are proud of our community identity

This entire governance review has demonstrated where the community is in Menheniot: it's everywhere.

The response from our residents, the engagement we have had with them, the letters we have received and the results of our survey is evidence enough that the parish of Menheniot is a broad, cohesive and proud community.

At our Annual Parish Meeting, the town clerk made it very clear that moving residents out of Menheniot and into Liskeard would not give them any extra benefits, and he gave no reassurance that the benefits they currently enjoy in Menheniot parish would be maintained, if the boundary was changed.

We provide play and leisure facilities. We work with our people in an open and transparent way. And we are very proud of the outstanding playgroup and primary school that we support.

Our schools form the heart of our community identity. Not only do they deliver an education for our children, but their very existence brings people together and generates a genuine community spirit.