

Appendix 1: Swale Community Governance Review-Stage One Consultation Summary

The Stage One consultation launched on 18 December 2025 and closed on 9 February 2026, equating to a 7.5-week consultation period. The consultation consisted of one form split into three areas to ensure residents felt it was relevant to them but not time-consuming to complete. The areas under review and responses are as follows:

Isle of Sheppey –3 questions were asked

Should Warden Parish Council change it's name to Warden Bay Parish Council?	
Yes-change the name	14
No-keep it as it is	1
TOTAL	15
Should the unparished area of Halfway have its own parish council or merge with an existing?	
New parish	18
Merge with an existing	20
No change	4
TOTAL	42
Should the Isle of Sheppey have its own whole Island Council?	
Yes-whole island council	43
No-keep it as it is	81
Other	10
TOTAL	134

Sittingbourne-2 Questions asked

Should the currently unparished areas of Sittingbourne have it's own town council or a local parish council?	
Yes-whole town council	55
No-a local council	70
No-keep it as is	20
Other	19
TOTAL	184
Should Iwade boundary be changed?	
Yes-move the boundary	37
No-keep it as is	20
Not resident of the area	125
TOTAL	182

Faversham-4 questions asked

Should Watling Ward be split and increase the councillor numbers?	
Yes-split and increase	25
No-keep as it	12
TOTAL	37

Should Watling Ward boundary be extended to include part of Ospringle PC	
Yes-extend the boundary	17
No-keep as it	17
Not resident	27
TOTAL	61
Should Watling Ward boundary be extended to Brenley Corner area	
Yes-extend the boundary	22
No-keep as it	25
Not resident	14
TOTAL	61
Should the number of Councillors be increased in Priory Ward	
Yes-increase the number	23
No-keep as it	13
Not resident	25
TOTAL	61

Consultation engagement

Following agreement of a robust engagement plan to ensure the consultation was promoted widely across the borough, promotion began before the consultation formally opened. This included press releases, social media updates, and attendance at meetings such as area committees and local community networking groups.

The table below details the engagement reach during the consultation period:

Engagement-in person	Numbers
Warden Parish council meeting	10
Island forum meeting	58
One Swale Roadshow-Gateway	4
The Forum public engagement	15
Iwade parish council meeting	11
Queenborough town council meeting	15
Engagement-online	
Online meeting for Sittingbourne review	3
Email to stakeholder list	85
Email to KCC and SBC members	54
Email to parish/town councils	38
Social media posts	Facebook 5 posts 59,664 views Instagram 4 posts 970 views
CGR video views	5373
CGR webpage clicks	3249 views News item 233 views

2 x newsletter emails	5400
Inside Swale	All of Swale

Other promotional activity included posters in high-footfall areas across the borough, leaflet distribution, and door-knocking by individual members, parish/town councils, or community groups — particularly the Milton Regis Society, who distributed a significant number of leaflets and consultation forms and radio broadcasts.

Consultation responses breakdown

The consultation has received 644 responses:

Isle of Sheppey 300

Sittingbourne and surrounding 257

Faversham and surrounding 79

Breakdown of responses:

52 paper consultations

584 online submissions

4 email responses

4 written responses

Summary of written responses	
Borden Parish Council response	Swale Borough Council is best placed to cascade official Community Governance Review updates and information/ communications are issued directly by Swale Borough Council and distributed through appropriate channels, and not just by social media, to ensure residents receive clear, consistent, and authoritative information.
Bredgar Parish Council	We do not request any changes to the Bredgar parish boundary as part of this review. Should any changes be proposed to neighbouring parishes that may impact Bredgar, we request that BPC is consulted and given the opportunity to comment. We believe that Sittingbourne should have its own town council to represent all currently unparished areas.
Selling Parish Council	Selling Parish Council wishes to object to 'To extend the Watling ward (town council ward) boundary to the M2 and A2 London Road at Brenley Corner (map 1).' If this proposal were approved it would see a portion of land currently within the parish transferred to Faversham TC. Should the planning application from the Duchy of Cornwall go ahead, this would change. As such, we feel this is an attempt to maximise potential electors and s106 funding.
Dunkirk Parish Council	Dunkirk Parish Council agreed to support the Boughton and Dunkirk Neighbourhood Plan comments on the Community Governance Review. The Parish Council does not wish to see the Neighbourhood Plan, a legally made document being undermined by a change in the boundary for Boughton-Under-Blean.

Faversham Town Council	Faversham TC request the steering group consider a boundary change so that the entirety of Perry Court land in the TC's ownership falls within FTC's boundary.
Ospringle Parish Council	Ospringle PC considered parts of the review that both directly and indirectly impact the PC. Ospringle PC refer in detail to the potential detrimental impacts of the proposals to the council, including detailing out financial implications through loss of precept. Ospringle note concerns from residents, and advise there is an overwhelming wish for boundaries not to be moved.
Boughton and Dunkirk Neighbourhood Plan	Response includes detail on the consultation process, the terms of reference and the proposals being consulted on. They note some proposals are based on not yet determined planning applications, and with no reasonable justification for the proposals.

Residents comments for new proposals in stage 2

There were two proposals put forward by residents within the stage 1 consultation questions that hadn't previously been considered. These are for the two areas shown below.

Extension of Watling Ward to include School Farm:

- I both live and have my scientific instrumentation business Cairn Research Ltd at School Farm on the Graveney Road. We all feel very much part of Faversham rather than Graveney, so I think it would make very good sense to extend the eastern boundary of the town so as to include us the town
- Faversham should also expand to include School Farm which was historically part of Faversham Abbey. When splitting the ward the boundary should be looked at to ensure whole areas are grouped together, currently 12 houses on Tettenhall way are in watling east while the rest of Perry court is in watling west.

Proposal for Great Easthall Parish:

- Personally think Sittingbourne Town Council should include the Meads and Grove Park, and go up to Snipeshill, and include Murston South polling district. Murston North and Great East Hall should have their own parish. Kemsley should have its own parish. Chalkwell Ward north of the railway line (except Regent Quay which should be in Sittingbourne) should join Milton in their own parish council.
- Great Easthall is a unique estate, whilst you can walk from it to Murston, you can't drive. It has its own entry and exit road via Swale Way making it effectively its own entity. We have our own unique challenges and often feel forgotten with no shops or amenities of any kind within a sensible walking distance.

Additionally, it was identified by one of the Members of the Member Steering Group that as part of the map drawn for the proposal to split Watling Ward (Faversham Town Council ward), this would actually split Tettenhall Way. It has been proposed that the map for this proposal be slightly re-drawn.