

Siddington Parish Council

Chairman: Mr John Hayward

Clerk: Mr Robert Cowley

3 Broadway Lane, South Cerney, Cirencester, Glos, GL7 5UH

Telephone: (07498) 282290 Email: siddingtonclerk@gmail.com

Community Governance Review 2025

Proposed changes from Siddington Parish Council – 29th September 2025

1). The ward map, substantially based on the traditional church parish boundary, shows the residential areas of Wildwood Park and Spire View, along with the housing in North Hill Road, Cherry Tree Drive and parts of Southmead and Siddington Road as being in the Parish of Siddington (some 254 dwellings in these areas) whilst housing to the north - numbering some 370 dwellings - (in the remaining parts of Southmead and Siddington Road, the entirety of Ermin Place, Nursery Close, Bridge Close, Bridge Road, Melmore Gardens, Kingsmead and Rose Way) is an isolated outlier of Cirencester Town. (Isolated by the A429 Ring Road to the north; the Cirencester Retail Park, the Love Lane industrial area with its complex and congested traffic management system to the west; and the Premier Inn, McDonalds, Aldi and Tesco development to the east). For ease of reference, we will call the two areas **North Siddington** (i.e. that area currently within Siddington Parish) and **Siddington Without**.

2). We consider that it is appropriate and important that the needs of a residential area are met in a holistic, joined up and effective way and is reflected by real connectivity considerations rather than by smooth lines on a map.

3). We further consider that the interests of those living in Siddington Without would be better served by being part of Siddington Parish. They are at present part of the Watermoor Ward of Cirencester Town Council (CTC) and are represented by two councillors on CTC. With a population of about 20,000, each of the 18 CTC councillors represents about 1,100 people. By contrast, Siddington Parish Council (SPC) has 11 councillors representing the interests of about 1500 people. The capacity of SPC councillors to address the needs of those in Siddington Without is self-evidently greater than that of CTC's councillors.

4). CTC state that the current arrangements lack cohesion and make governance arrangements more complex (Agenda Item No.13, CTC meeting 9th September 2025, Para. 2.1.4). Adding Siddington Without to SPC would resolve those issues for residents of Siddington Without and resolve the difficulty that CTC states that it has in representing the needs of local people (Para 2.1.5).

5). As proposed, the residents of Siddington Without and North Siddington would be served by a single local authority run entirely by non-aligned councillors who voluntarily undertake those tasks typically delegated in larger councils to employed staff, resulting in an attractively low-cost base.

5). The centre of Siddington, with its shop/post office and Village Hall, is just two minutes bus ride to the south of Siddington Without. Easy access on foot, by car, cycle or bus to Siddington Village Hall for voting purposes will help address the democratic disengagement identified by CTC which we consider must be in part due to Siddington Without's isolation from its current ward polling station at Watermoor Church Hall. An adjustment as proposed would provide democratic clarity, resolving the issues of confusion and disengagement identified by CTC.

6). As part of Siddington parish, Siddington Without residents could vote in Siddington Village Hall and access the amenities of that facility at the discount rate afforded to parish residents. The allotments would also be open to them.