

County Council

7 December 2022

**Request to Change Name of Parish
Council – Hutton Henry**



Report of Legal and Democratic Services

Helen Lynch, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Blackhall

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present the request submitted by Hutton Henry Parish Council proposing a name change of the Parish Council to Hutton Henry and Station Town Parish Council.

Executive summary

- 2 Under section 75 of the Local Governance Act 1972, a request from a Parish Council which covers only a name change for the parish can be undertaken without the need to conduct a community governance review.
- 3 The justification for the request to change the name of Hutton Henry Parish Council to Hutton Henry and Station Town Parish Council is that it will better reflect the area covered by the Parish Council.

Recommendation(s)

- 4 Council is recommended to approve the request to change the name of Hutton Henry Parish Council to Hutton Henry and Station Town Parish Council
- 5 Subject to the name change being approved by Council, the Head of Legal & Democratic Services will be requested to:
 - (a) Arrange for details of the name change to be published on the Parish Council website and on the County Council's website.
 - (b) Notify the name change to the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the

Director General of the Ordnance Survey, Registrar General and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

- (c) Arrange for the electoral register for the area to be updated and republished with the new name, which will come into effect on 1 February 2023.

Background

- 6 The proposal to change the name of Hutton Henry Parish Council to include Station Town was originally raised at the Hutton Henry Parish Council meeting held on 11 November 2019. Parish councillors agreed that action should be taken to enquire with Durham County Council regarding the necessary procedure to action this name change. The relevant enquiry was made to the County Council on 15 November 2019.
- 7 The purpose of the name change is to recognise Station Town as being an area covered by the Parish Council.
- 8 Under section 75 Local Government Act 1972, if a Parish Council submits a proposal which requests only a change of the Parish Council's name, there is no requirement for a Community Governance review to be undertaken.
- 9 Both the County Councillors for the Blackhall electoral division have been consulted and have confirmed their support for the proposed name change.
- 10 If the County Council agrees to the name change, the formal requirements set out in the recommendations at paragraph 5 will need to be completed. There is no cost to the County Council in relation to the proposed change other than the Officer time incurred in considering the change and (if the change is approved) in completing the formalities referred to above. There may be a cost to the Parish Council in relation to updated signage and stationery referring to the parish name. No costs or fees are accrued during the process of the name change other than officer time.
- 11 Should Council approve the request, it is proposed that the name change shall be implemented from the 1st of February 2023. This is the next practical date which the Electoral Register can be updated and republished with the relevant name change. The Clerk of Hutton Henry Parish Council has confirmed that the Parish Council supports this proposed timescale.
- 12 Whilst the County Council may refuse the name change request it is apparent that amongst those households who responded to the survey there is support for the name change.

Consultation

- 13 The Parish Council undertook a consultation exercise in March 2020 to gain the opinion of local residents. Leaflets regarding the proposed name change were delivered to all houses within the parish. The consultation exercise had a very low response rate of only 23 residents. Due to the distraction of the pandemic, it was agreed that a further consultation exercise should be carried out when the pandemic became under control.
- 14 Accordingly, a second consultation exercise was carried out between 30 August 2022 to 27 September 2022. The method used to conduct the consultation was an electronic survey, with hardcopies being made available in locations across the parish.
- 15 A report written by the Parish Clerk was submitted to the County Council on 30 September 2022 (See Appendix 2). The report titled 'Parish Council Name Change Consultation Review' detailed the findings of the consultation survey. The figures provided within this consultation review have been used to inform this report.
- 16 The survey received 73 responses from a possible 750 (approx.) households. 57 respondents (78.1%) supported the name change proposal.
- 17 Of those responding to the survey, 46 respondents (63%) live within Station Town, with the remaining 27 (37%) living in Hutton Henry.
- 18 Examples of comments made by respondents in support of the name change include:
 - a) 'As it represents two villages the name should represent this'
 - b) 'As we pay council tax element to the Parish Council it should recognise this
 - c) 'It is a firm yes to the name change to include Station Town in the name it is the inclusion and the recognition that will spur residents on to take pride in the village.'
- 19 Examples of comments made by respondents opposing of the name change:
 - a) 'Why change something that works. A lot of paperwork and hassle for no reason.'
 - b) 'Changing the name won't make any difference to the work already done by the Parish Council which is what counts.'

20 Overall, the responses gathered within the consultation were in favour of the name change.

Conclusion

21 The Council is required to consider the request made by Henry Hutton Parish Council to change the name of the Parish Council to Hutton Henry and Station Town Parish Council.

Background papers

Appendix 2 - Parish Council Name Change Consultation Review

Author(s)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The County Council as principal authority is required to consider requests from Parish Council's to change their name. As set out in the report, such requests can be considered without the need for a community governance review.

Finance

Minimal officer time has been spent on the application for a name change and the publication requirements will not incur any costs on behalf of the County Council.

Consultation

The report sets out the consultation which has been undertaken by the Parish Council. The local County Councillors have been consulted and are supportive of the proposals.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

No Implications

Climate Change

No Implications

Human Rights

No Implications

Crime and Disorder

No Implications

Staffing

No Implications

Accommodation

No Implications

Risk

No Implications

Procurement

No Implications

Appendix 2: Parish Council Name Change Consultation Review

Hutton Henry Parish Council

Mrs L Hall, Clerk to the Parish Council
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Report: Parish Council Name Change Consultation Review

Date of Meeting: 29th September 2022

Author: L Hall, Clerk

1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is for Hutton Henry Parish Council to discuss the outcome of a recent public consultation to change the name of the council to Hutton Henry and Station Town Parish Council.

2. Background

As a result of previous consultations, the council formally proposed to Durham County Council that Hutton Henry Parish Council change their name to Hutton Henry and Station Town Parish Council in August 2022. The council have previously established that a simple name change does not require a community governance review (section 75 of the LGA 1972).

3. Research

In 2020 the Council leafleted residents asking for their opinions with regards to changing the name of the PC – of the 25 responses 17 were for and 5 against.

In 2021, Action for Station Town conducted a survey of all residents in Station Town. 90% of those surveyed agreed that the PC should change its name to include Station Town.

At the 2021 PC Meet and Greet, of the 17 people questioned, 6 people agreed that the PC should change its name.

Having debated the matter on several occasions in PC meetings, the council resolved to change their name to include Station Town in July 2022 and made a formal proposal to DCC at which point they were advised to conduct a further 4-week consultation.

The survey produced was made available electronically, via google forms and in hardcopy at The

Plough Inn, St Francis Village Hall, Station Town Cemetery, Milbank Methodist Church, and Gills Fish Shop. The survey was promoted on the Parish noticeboards, website, and Facebook page as well as being shared to several local Facebook groups e.g., Hutton Henry Hub, Action for Station Town etc and information was posted in the local free newspaper, East Durham News. Councillors also attended the local bingo, church, and coffee morning to speak to residents and encourage completion of the survey.

The survey received 73 responses from a possible 750 (approx.) households, with 78.1% agreeing that the council should change their name (see appendix A).

4. Resources and Cost Implications

The Clerk was advised that there are no fees for the name change process and having spoken to the Clerk of a local Parish Council who have recently undergone the process, this was confirmed.

In terms of resources, the Clerk may require additional hours to collate information and make changes to bank mandates, the PC website, PC policies, stationary etc.

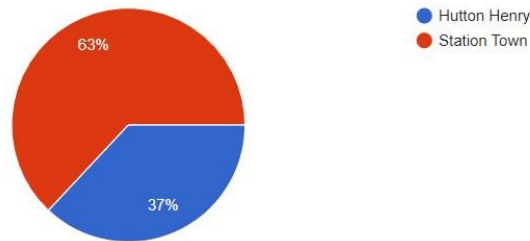
5. Summary

The council have previously resolved and proposed to DCC that their name should be changed to include Station Town. Having conducted further consultation, the residents have shown their support for this proposal.

Appendix A – Results of Name Change Consultant

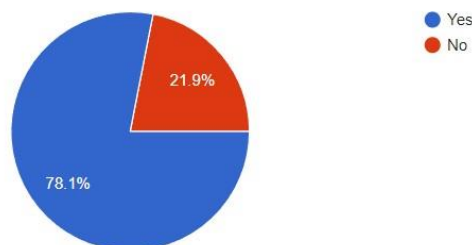
Where do you live?

73 responses



Should Hutton Henry Parish Council change their name to Hutton Henry & Station Town Parish Council?

73 responses



Comments for:

- If the parish council looks after both Hutton Henry and Station Town, then the name should reflect this. Although they seem to be joint, we must remember though, that both villages have their own needs, and treated as such. Trying to assume that the two villages are one, is not true to reality. As long as this is remembered, I see no problem with a name change.
- I didn't know until recently that the parish council was for both areas.
- More projects and funds shared equally between the 2 villages
- Seeing as our council tax bill includes monies for the parish council, Station Town should be recognised as they contribute to the funding.
- As a relatively newcomer to the area who lives halfway between the two villages (but over the ST border) we sometimes feel a bit out on a limb and as though we don't belong anywhere. A name change would help create an inclusive culture and encourage more newbies to contribute and get involved more in the community.
- Should have had the option of Station Town and Hutton Henry Parish Council
- I have lived in station town for over 52 years and the parish council was always known as station town and Hutton Henry parish Council I think the name is of importance to the people of station town as leaving station town off the name is all wrong, it's all changed since Bob Lowes retired he was a stalwart of the parish Council.
- The Pc is for Hutton Henry and station town and therefore the proposed name better represents the function of the pc
- As it represents two villages the name should represent this
- I would like it to be station town and Hutton Henry pc
- As we pay council tax element to parish council it should recognise this
- It is a firm yes to the name change to include Station Town in the name it is the inclusion and the recognition that will spur residents on to take pride in the village.
- *I think it should be HHPC with Station Town part of Wingate*
- *Think theres more pressing matters to worry about other than worrying what your called, sort out the mess in people's gardens and kids ruining the area with stolen bikes and rubbish.*

Comments Against:

- Why go to all the expenses of changing notepaper, bank accounts etc, when it not necessary. If it's not broken don't replace it.
- Why change something that works. A lot of paperwork and hassle for no reason.
- Costs would outweigh the gain.
- Changing the name won't make any difference to the work already done by the parish council which is what counts.
- Money involved would be better spent
- Not worth the money it would cost, rather the money was invested into the village's facilities or community.
- Waste of taxpayers' money
- council should be split into two standalone PCs