

Petition for a Community Governance Review of Okehampton Town

We, the undersigned, call on West Devon Borough Council to conduct a community governance review of Okehampton Town as the parish area served by Okehampton Town Council plus the surrounding Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council area that will be impacted. Any changes the review approves to be implemented as soon as possible.

The petition requests that the governance review focuses on the following:

Okehampton Town Parish Boundary – It is requested that a parish boundary review considers the change to the parish boundary to incorporate the urban developments and future potential expansion sites into the town.

Parish Wards – It is requested that the wards that currently make up the Okehampton Town Council parish are removed and all elected members be elected to serve the whole Okehampton Town parish area.

Okehampton Town Councillor Numbers – It is requested that the number of Councillors remain at the existing number of 14 to serve in the single Okehampton Town Council parish area.

It is requested that if the governance review is concluded and a Community Governance Reorganisation Order is issued under the provision made in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the changes are implemented to take effect within 18 months of submission of the petition to West Devon Borough Council.

Why is this important?

Okehampton is served by two grass roots local councils; Okehampton Town Council (OTC) and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council (OHPC). Historically OHPC has consisted of the rural areas with OTC containing the urban housing and commercial businesses.

The greater Okehampton area has and continues to grow significantly with substantial housing and commercial development. This includes a new Primary School, a planned new Special School, a Business Centre and the reinstatement of a regular passenger rail service between Exeter and Okehampton Station, and proposed Parkway.

Recent urban development, both commercial and dwellings, is almost all outside of the Town boundary and encroaching heavily on the rural hamlets. Comments from social media and correspondence suggests many residents of the new developments believe they are part of the Town. They directly benefit from all of the services and facilities that are offered by OTC including, but not limited to:

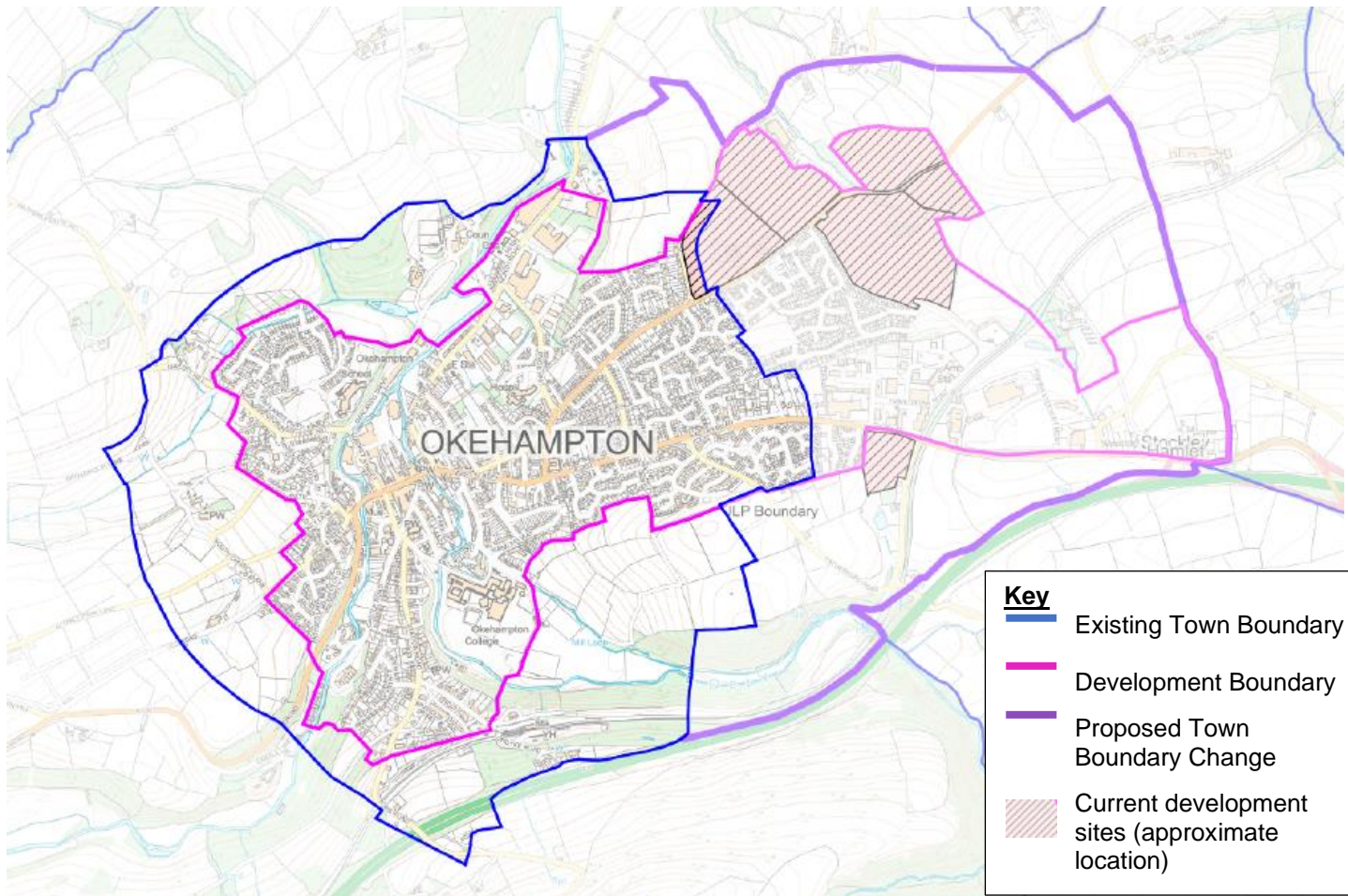
- Public toilets at Fairplace and in Market Street
- Simmons Park recreation facilities
- Skate Park/BMX track
- Cemetery
- CCTV in the town and Simmons Park

Residents of greater Okehampton should be able to feel part of the urban area and have a democratic voice in the community they believe they are part of, bringing a sense of community inclusion and identity.

A change to the boundary would bring the recent urban developments into the town increasing the population. This would give OTC greater opportunity to:

- continue to afford community projects
- continue to provide services for the benefit of all
- give OTC a greater democratic voice within the county and central government
- bring increased opportunities and access to a wider range of funding
- to provide future growth opportunities

The proposed boundary will encompass current development as well as allowing a buffer for future growth that is likely to occur. All of this could lead to the obtaining of more investment in the town for infrastructure including transport and highways improvements.



Okehampton Town Council needs your signature to demonstrate the support of the town residents for the boundary change proposal.
Without this clear support from YOU, West Devon Borough Council do not have to undertake a boundary review and may decide not to do so.

The Town Council feels strongly that residents of greater Okehampton should be able to feel part of the urban area and have a democratic voice to the community they believe they are part of, bringing a sense of community inclusion and identity.

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Sign the Petition to show your support for a review of the Okehampton town boundary:

Name:..... Signed

Address:

Post Code:.....

I confirm that I am over 18 years of age, am an Okehampton town resident and registered to vote.

The information that you provide will be held by Okehampton Town Council and used for the purpose of the administration of this request. We will keep the information for the period of time as set out in the Council's Documentation Retention Policy. The information will be held securely and not be disclosed to anyone or used for any other purpose without your permission. On expiration of the retention period the information will be destroyed in a secure manner. Policies about how the Council will protect your privacy are available at www.okehampton.gov.uk/documents or by contacting the Council on 01837 53179.