

Community Consultation Guide

Community Governance Review – Market Harborough

This consultation matters to us because we believe that the decisions that follow will help shape the future of Market Harborough, not just for those of us who live and work here today, but for future generations who will grow up, settle, and build their lives in our town.

We've written this guide to help explain the questions being asked and to support you in deciding how you might want to respond.

There are no right or wrong answers. You don't need expert knowledge or technical experience. What matters most is your own lived experience of Market Harborough and what you believe will best support the town now and in the years ahead.

What is this consultation about?

The council is reviewing how Market Harborough is governed at a local level. As part of this, residents are being asked whether:

- The current arrangements work well
- A parish (or town) council should be created
- A different form of local governance should be considered
- Any change would make a meaningful difference

Your responses will help inform future decisions, but filling in the form does not automatically create or block any change.

Multiple Choice Questions

For each statement, you can select:

- Agree
- Disagree
- Maybe
- Don't know

We've tried to clarify what the questions are asking and what you might consider in your answer here.

1. *“There is no change needed to the arrangements in place in Market Harborough”*

This is asking:

Are you satisfied with how Market Harborough is currently governed, or do you think something should change?

You might:

- Agree if things work well as they are
 - Disagree if you feel local representation could be improved
 - Choose Maybe or Don't know if you're unsure
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2. “I believe a parish council should be created in Market Harborough”

This is asking:

Do you support the idea of creating a parish or town council specifically for Market Harborough?

You do not need to know how parish councils work in detail to answer this. Respond based on whether you feel it *could* be beneficial or not.

3. “I believe an alternative style of governance should be created in Market Harborough”

This is asking:

If a parish council is not the right option, should the council explore another way of giving Market Harborough local representation?

You can agree, disagree, or say you are unsure.

4. “I believe a parish council would give Market Harborough Town a say in the governance of the area”

This is asking:

Do you think a parish council would:

- Improve local voice?
- Make decision-making feel closer to the community?
- Strengthen the town's identity?

You can answer based on what you think *might* happen, even if you're not certain.

5. ***“I don’t think a parish council will change anything”***

This is asking:

Do you think creating a parish council would:

- **Be mostly symbolic, or**
- **Lead to real, noticeable changes?**

This question helps the council understand whether residents expect practical benefits.

The Written Comment Section

The written comments section is most important

“Please provide further information to support your views”

This is your opportunity to explain why you answered the way you did.

You can:

- Write just a few sentences
- Mention what you value about Market Harborough
- Share concerns about costs, representation, or community identity
- Say you want more information before supporting change

Some example comments

- **“I would like decisions about the town to feel more locally informed.”**
- **“I am concerned about additional costs for residents.”**
- **“Market Harborough has a strong identity and should have a stronger local voice.”**
- **“I am open-minded but need more clarity before supporting changes.”**

You can adapt this to reflect your own views.

Short, honest comments are absolutely fine.

Uploading documents (optional)

You can upload supporting documents if you want (for example, a group statement or letter), but most residents do not need to upload anything. This section is optional.

Key things to remember

- You do not have to answer every question confidently
 - “Maybe” and “Don’t know” are valid responses
 - You are not voting – you are sharing your view
 - Every response helps build a clearer picture of community opinion
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Need help?

If you are unsure how to respond, talk with neighbours, community groups, or family members, or reflect on what you feel would best support Market Harborough now and in the future.