



It is an interesting word, having specific local and current relevance.

The secondary Dictionary definition being = a principle in social organisation holding that functions which are performed effectively by subordinate or local organisations belong more properly to them than to a dominant central organisation.

The principle of subsidiarity is that it promotes efficiency and effectiveness in decision making and governance. By decentralising decision-making to the lowest competent level it allows for issues to be addressed at the most appropriate and local level. It can lead to more tailored and responsive solutions as well as greater accountability and transparency in governance. It can also help prevent unnecessary bureaucracy and reduce the risk of distant authorities making decisions which may not align with the needs and priorities of local communities. It emphasises that higher levels of authority should only intervene when lower levels cannot adequately handle a matter – it should prevent excessive centralisation of power and ensure that decisions are made with proper consideration of local needs and circumstances.

The current and local relevance is the Borough council initiative to conduct a Community Governance Review (CGR), of both the Parished and Unparished areas, to consider their future role when the Borough and County councils will, essentially, be combined into Unitary Authorities as part of the governments Local Government Review including elements of devolution and the introduction of a Mayoral arrangement for the county.

At our Parish level the current arrangements have existed since the last Local Government reorganisation in 1974. The CGR will include consideration of a CGR request made in March 2024 to review Windlesham Parish Council with a view to create an individual Windlesham Village Parish Council, fully devolved from the existing 3 villages arrangement.

You will recognise the significance of the subsidiary principles in this respect. Windlesham is a well defined community of more than sufficient scale of population, with significant increases coming from current and future development, to warrant its own Parish Council. Its distinct nature and capability is demonstrated in its Neighbourhood Plan - these are well recognised and supported in principle by the current government. We have the people resources and the financial capability to manage our local affairs.



It remains to be seen what elements of the UA's responsibility will be devolved to the local level and how that will be managed, especially the higher levels of items which form the greater part of Council/Borough budgets – Social Care being the greatest and having a specialist need operating at the local level. It may be that consideration will be given to cooperation between a wider range of Parish Councils combined with specialist organisations but yet to be advised.

The SHBC Consultation provides an opportunity to have your say on the CGR and to support in principle a Windlesham Village Parish Council.

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