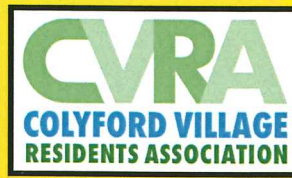


**PETITION BY**  
**COLYFORD REGISTERED VOTERS**  
**TO TRIGGER A**  
**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**  
**FOR A NEW VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**SEPTEMBER 2021**



SPECIMEN



FOR  
EDDC

## For All Colyford Residents

### Introduction

The CVRA Committee have been asked recently why Colyford doesn't have its own parish or village council. At our AGM held last weekend there was good support for this idea, so we have prepared this information sheet to inform everyone in the village the process we have to follow, the advantages and disadvantages of having our own council, the area that it is likely to cover and a projection of how the costs would work out for our own precept (from the Council Tax)

### The Process of Going Independent

Under English law there is a requirement for a minimum of 187 signatures (the number required for our size of village) to be collected in a petition for forming a new parish council. If this is achieved then East Devon District Council must hold a "Community Governance Review" (CGR) on the matter, which by law must be concluded within 12 months. EDDC bear all the costs of this review.

During this Review EDDC will run a consultation by gathering opinions from all electors in the parish of Colyton to gauge whether it would be appropriate to have a separate council for Colyford. If there is clear evidence that there is good support for a separate council, especially within the village; that Colyford is clearly a separate settlement with its own identity and facilities; and there are no overriding legal reasons why a separate council should not be formed; under the law EDDC have to give it serious consideration.

After the consultation has concluded, EDDC Cabinet will debate the opinions expressed by electors, review the recommendation by the EDDC Returning Officer from his assessment of the consultation and will come to a final decision. If they decide in favour, the new council will be set up and councillors elected at the next elections. (May 2023 if we start the process this autumn)

CVRA will facilitate the Petition process, but once that has been achieved and a Community Governance Review has started, a separate village based group will be formed to take the process forward with EDDC.

We would propose calling a new council "Colyford Village Council" (CVC). EDDC liked this name, but the final decision rests with them.

We plan to hold a village meeting for everyone resident in Colyford to allow discussions and questions in the near future. The date and venue to be decided.



### **Advantages for Colyford:-**

1. Colyford village is around 800 in number and plenty big enough for our own council. Colyford is a separate thriving community with its own sense of identity. We are one of the largest settlements in East Devon without its own council. There are several thriving businesses here.
2. We have different issues to Colyton, like an A road and associated crossings and speeding and traffic issues, We also have a much older population with different needs. Our own council would concentrate on these.
3. Colyford contributes 1/3 of the total parish precept (amounting to over £17000 in 2021), but the village gets hardly anything back. We would be able to spend our council tax money as we wish.
4. We could influence better planning and provide better amenities with our own council.
5. We could control the look of our village by having regular maintenance of the public areas rather than a begrudged twice a year grass verge cut. This will give the village some pride in itself.
6. We are always outvoted on financial and other matters in Colyton Parish Council. With our own council we would have control of our own destiny and how the precept is spent.
7. Colyford electors want to see council meetings recorded and broadcast on social media so it's easy to follow council business and get involved. Colyton Parish Council have refused to do this, but we could ensure our own council would.

### **Advantages For Colyton:-**

1. If Colyford leaves it will reduce the work load of Colyton Parish Council. Colyton parish meetings would be less fractious with no arguing from residents in Colyford wanting things done and fewer planning applications to comment on, thus saving them time and heartache.
2. Colyton Parish Council will have more time to discuss their own problems and set their own policies leading to them being more efficient and effective. They would also need fewer councillors.
3. Colyton can focus on managing their own portfolio in a better way and more efficiently, so the precept wouldn't need to be increased. Currently they pay for things they don't need to.
4. Separation is likely to have a positive impact on both local economies and electors' wellbeing.

### **Disadvantages for Colyford:-**

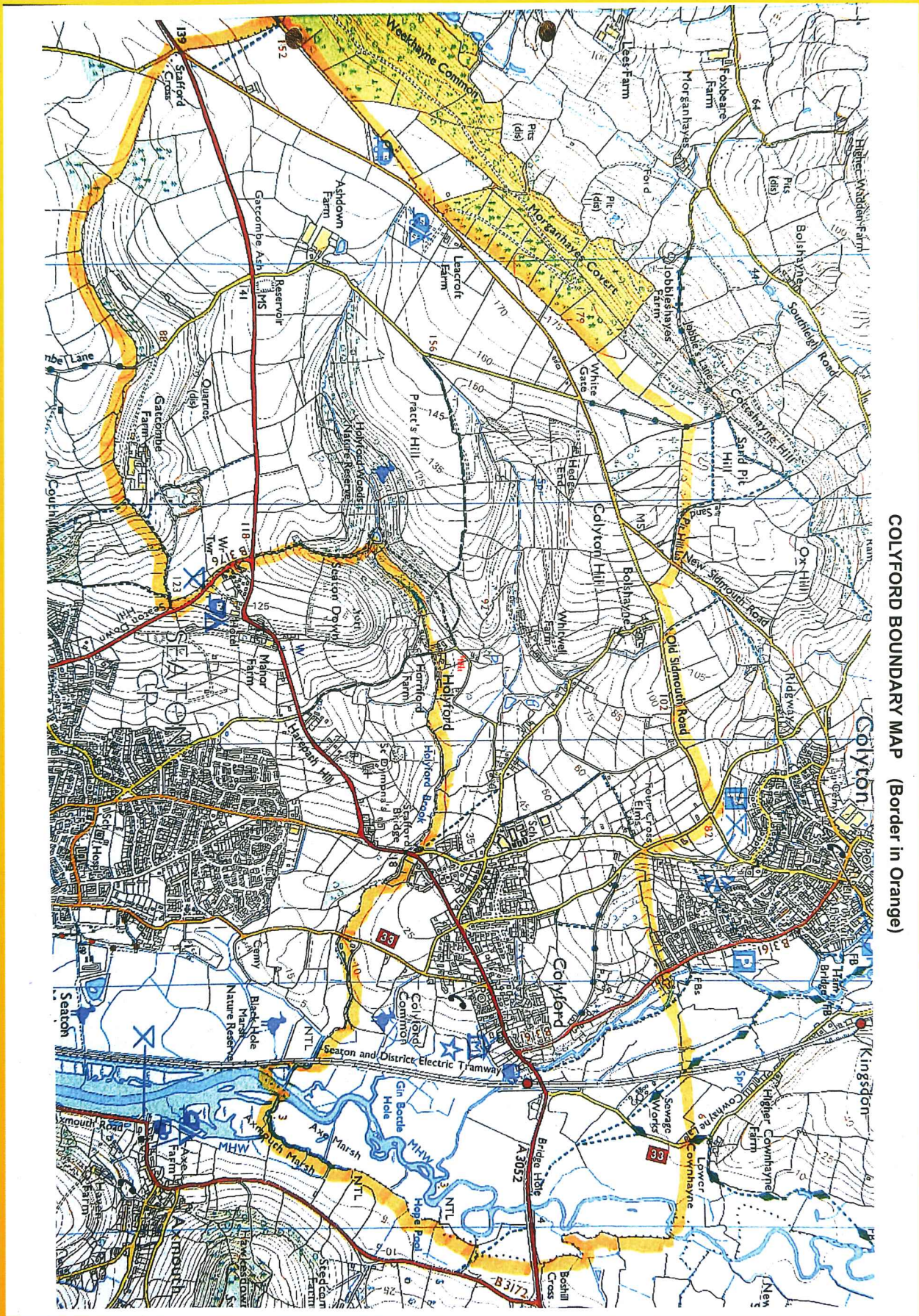
1. We would need to fund the employment of a Clerk, however in other smaller councils locally their Clerk is usually shared with other parish councils, so the cost would easily be covered within the precept (see projected budget below).
2. We would have to find our own councillors to stand for election, however there are more than enough local people, some ex-councillors, who have indicated they would be willing to serve on our own council.

### **Disadvantages for Colyton:-**

1. They would need to reassess their funding from the precept, however this could be achieved by efficiency savings and a review of unnecessary spending within their parish.



## Proposed Boundary of Colyford Village Council





## Projected Annual Budget for a Colyford Village Council

This projection is based on 2021 budgets of other similar size local parish or village councils with a population, layout, road system and facilities similar to Colyford who currently contribute in excess of £17,000 in precept to Colyton. Note that we would almost certainly need a higher precept than shown below to cover unexpected items and to build a contingency fund:-

	Projected Annual Budget for a Colyford Village Council	
Staff Costs (part time Clerk)		£5500.00
General Admin		£250.00
Training		£200.00
Audit		£400.00
Hall Hire		£175.00
Insurance		£550.00
Playground Inspection		£90.00
Website		£180.00
General Maintenance		£800.00
Elections		£250.00
Emergency Plan		£500.00
Footpaths		£500.00
Data Protection		£40.00
DALC		£105.00
SLCC (Clerk Training)		£110.00
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL PRECEPT</b>		<b>£9150.00</b>



***If you are registered to vote, are resident in Colyford and would like to sign the Petition for a Colyford Village Council straightaway, please fill in your details here and post this sheet in the Colyford Memorial Hall Post Box, or in the Petition Boxes at the Colyford Post Office and the porch of St Michael's Chapel of Ease:-***

**We the undersigned are local government electors for the Colyford village area of Colyton Parish. We request that East Devon District Council undertakes a Community Governance Review in accordance with the Local Act and constitute a village council for Colyford. Such new village council to be called Colyford Village Council.**

Name	Address	Postcode	Signature
Surname - Forename			

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