
Community Governance Considerations Report

**This report explains the details given by Hertsmere Borough Council to the public, prior to the initial consultation. Therefore, the information following will be in more detail and relate to information needed to understand the background of the community governance review.
Plus, maps relating to the areas listed are at the end of the report.**

What has the review considered?

Aldenham Parish Council

Aldenham Parish Council requested a Community Governance Review (CGR) to consider the case for re-aligning the parish and borough ward boundaries. This would bring polling districts EE and EF into the Aldenham parish area.

The parish has also requested that consideration is given in the CGR to removing the properties in Falcon Way, Osprey Close, Kestrel Close and Peregrine Close, Watford from the parish area (known as polling district EA).

Ridge Parish Council

In 2011, following a request from Ridge Parish to abolish the parish council, Hertsmere Borough Council concluded that, "the recommendation to terminate Ridge Parish Council be deferred to allow efforts to be made locally to assess the level of interest in Ridge Parish Council continuing."

We recognise that efforts of such have not been met and therefore, the review will consider the future prospects of the parish.

Consideration will be given to possible alternatives, including but not limited to;

- Removing the parish council and replacing with a parish meeting
- Merging the parish of Ridge with South Mimms
- Merging the parish of Ridge with Shenley
- Creating a parish area including Shenley, South Mimms and Ridge – which will be coterminous* with the borough boundary ward of Shenley.

*meaning to have the same boundary lines.

Shenley Parish Council

The review will consider the existing community governance arrangements across the parish of Shenley focussing on the benefits of warding arrangements.

Also it will consider the possibility of merging the parishes of Shenley and Ridge, or merging Shenley, Ridge and South Mimms parish, creating a new parish area.

South Mimms Parish Council

The review will consider the possibility of merging South Mimms and Ridge, or merging Shenley, South Mimms and Ridge, creating a new parish area.

What is a Parish Council?

Parish councils are the level of government closest to the local community. They are a local authority with various duties and powers with an overall responsibility for the wellbeing of the community.

Parish councils are funded through a precept meaning, an amount of money calculated as part of the local council tax. These funds are budgeted and allocated to improve facilities and services within the community.

Parish councils also qualify for funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This is money that local authorities can set on new development in order to raise funds to help fund the infrastructure, facilities and services - such as schools or transport improvements - needed to support new homes and businesses.

For parish areas with an approved neighbourhood plan, parish councils would receive 25 per cent of CIL money. However, for parish areas without a neighbourhood plan, parish councils would only receive 15 per cent of CIL money.

A large benefit of having a parish council is that the community has their voice heard. As elected members of the local area, parish councillors will often hold regular parish meetings to ensure they are doing what is asked of them for the benefit of the residents.

How does this review affect my area?

Aldenham

The proposed options are examples of some available options. The purpose of this initial consultation is for residents to inform us of their thoughts and feelings on this review whilst knowing the proposed implications.

Option 1 – Remove polling district EA from the Parish and create a Parish Meeting. This option proposes that residents of polling district EA may not identify with Aldenham Parish Council due to the clear divide of the M1, separating the area from the parish. Creating a parish meeting would mean that residents of polling district EA would have an annual meeting for the residents held by Hertsmeres Borough Council. However, any business that the residents may want to address within this time, would need to be sent to Hertsmeres directly.

advantages	disadvantages
• Would no longer have to pay a precept to Aldenham Parish Council • Would give the area its own identity	• Will lose their first tier representation. • Would not benefit from any services that Aldenham Parish Council may provide. • Would not benefit from CIL money. • Aldenham Parish Council will no longer be consulted on planning applications for polling district EA.

Option 2 – align all boundaries of the Hertsmeres borough ward and the Aldenham Parish Council to include polling districts EE and EF

This option proposes that residents of polling districts EE and EF may identify with Aldenham Parish Council but do not necessarily benefit from them as of yet. Prior to May 2019, these polling districts voted in Bushey wards. Due to boundary changes, these polling districts are now part of Aldenham West Borough Ward.

advantages	disadvantages
• Restoring Aldenham Parish Council to its original historic boundaries. • Less confusion at polling stations. • Access to all services - Aldenham Parish Council provides (e.g. grass cutting). • Inclusion to any amendments to the neighbourhood plan. • Consultations and representations on planning applications that could affect your area. • Could benefit from CIL money being spent in the area.	• Would have to pay a precept to Aldenham Parish Council.

Ridge, Shenley and South Mimms

The proposed options are examples of some available options. The purpose of this initial consultation is for residents to inform us of their thoughts and feelings on this review whilst knowing the proposed implications.

Option 1 - Remove the Ridge Parish Council and create a Parish Meeting.

This option recognises that the residents of Ridge have not had a functioning Parish Council and may not wish to have one going forward. Creating a parish meeting would mean that the residents of Ridge would have an annual meeting held by Hertsmere Borough Council. However, any business that the residents may want to address within this time, would need to be sent to Hertsmere directly.

advantages	disadvantages
• Won't have to pay a parish precept. • No impact on neighbouring parishes.	• Will lose their first tier representation. • No parish consultation on planning applications or influence on a neighbourhood plan.

Option 2 – Merge Ridge Parish with South Mimms Parish

This option proposes that residents of Ridge may identify with South Mimms Parish Council given the close proximity of the parishes. This would in turn create a merger of the residents whereby they will be able to elect members of their local area to the council for representation. However, this option does not mean the parish of Ridge would be taken under South Mimms Parish Council. It would be an equal combination of both areas.

advantages	disadvantages
• Representation for Ridge. • Functioning Parish Council. • Any CIL money awarded to the parish area could benefit all areas within the parish. • Consultation and consideration to any potential neighbourhood plan.	• If Ridge has no parish/representation they will have no direct say in CIL funding applications. • Ridge residents may feel a loss of their individual identity.

Option 3 – Merge Ridge Parish with Shenley Parish

This option proposes that residents of Ridge may identify with Shenley Parish Council given the close proximity of the parishes. This would in turn create a merger of the residents whereby they will be able to elect members of their local area to the council for representation. However, this option does not mean the parish of Ridge would be taken under Shenley Parish Council. It would be an equal combination of both areas.

advantages	disadvantages
• Representation for Ridge. • Functioning Parish Council. • Any CIL money awarded to the parish area could benefit all areas within the parish. • Consultation and consideration to any potential neighbourhood plan.	• If Ridge has no parish/representation they will have no direct say in CIL funding applications. • Ridge residents may feel a loss of their individual identity.

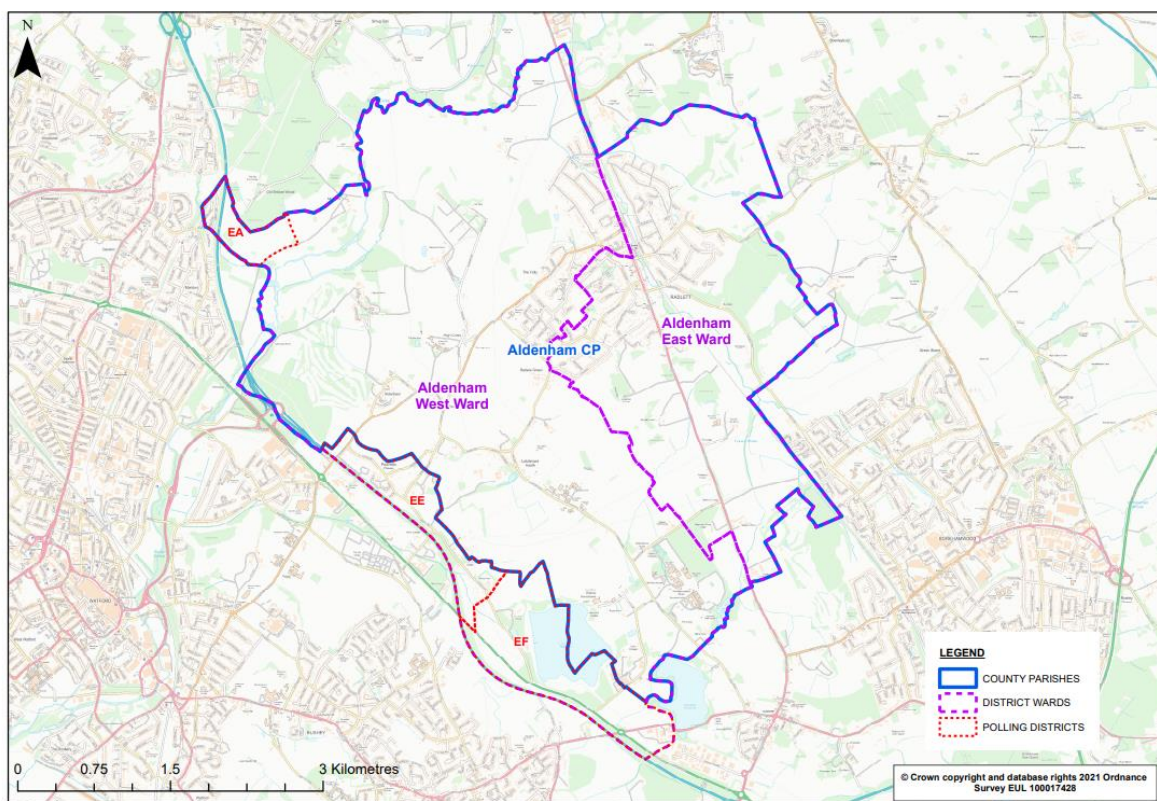
Option 4 – Merge Ridge Parish with Shenley Parish and South Mimms Parish, to create one parish, which will be coterminous with the borough boundary ward of Shenley.

This option proposes that residents of Ridge, Shenley and South Mimms may benefit from bringing the rural communities all together. The divide of these areas could be warded to ensure the distribution of the local government electors are practical and convenient for the individual areas. However, this option does not mean the any parish area would be taken over by any particular council as it would be an equal combination of all three areas.

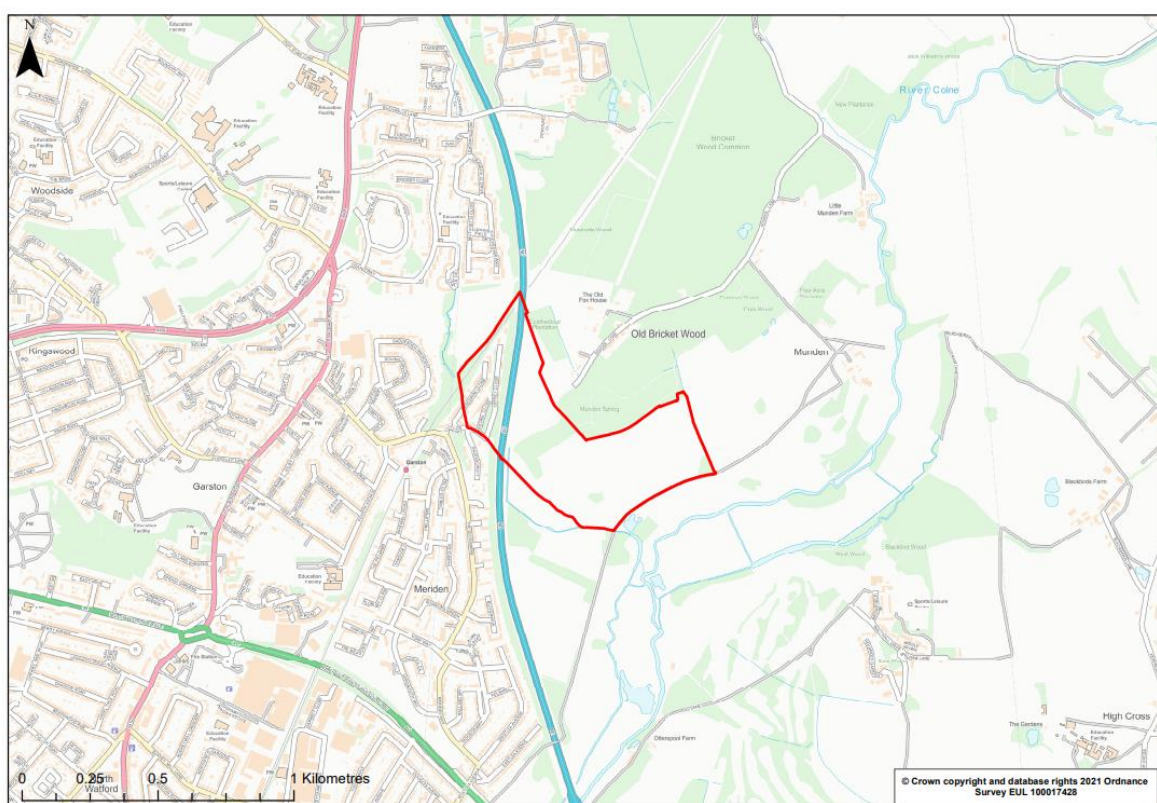
advantages	disadvantages
• A tri-parish merger warded to maintain historic individual identities. • Better communication within the parish area that would reflect the borough ward. • Shenley has an approved neighbourhood plan which could be amended to the entire parish area, generating more CIL money. • Potential decrease in the parish precept for Shenley and South Mimms.	• Residents may feel a loss of their individual parish identity. • Ridge will have to pay a parish precept. • There is no guarantee that Shenley and South Mimms precepts would decrease.

Maps

Aldenham

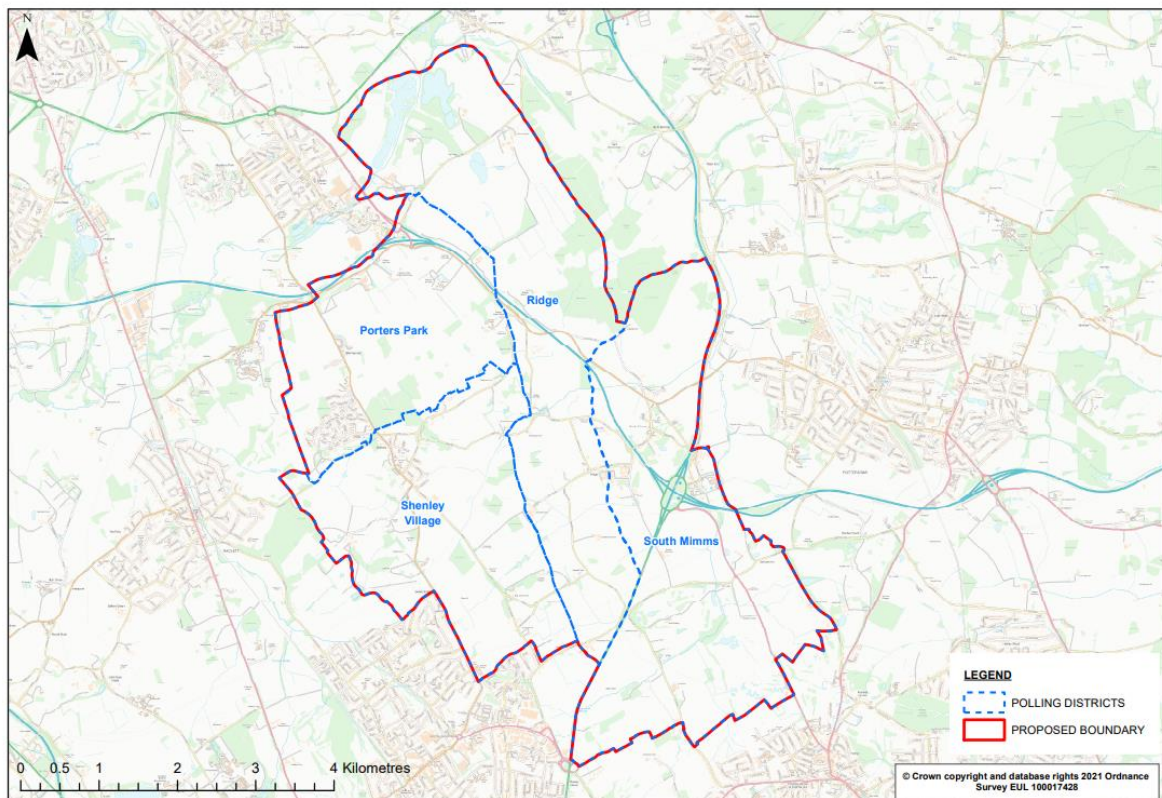


Proposed Aldenham Parish Council

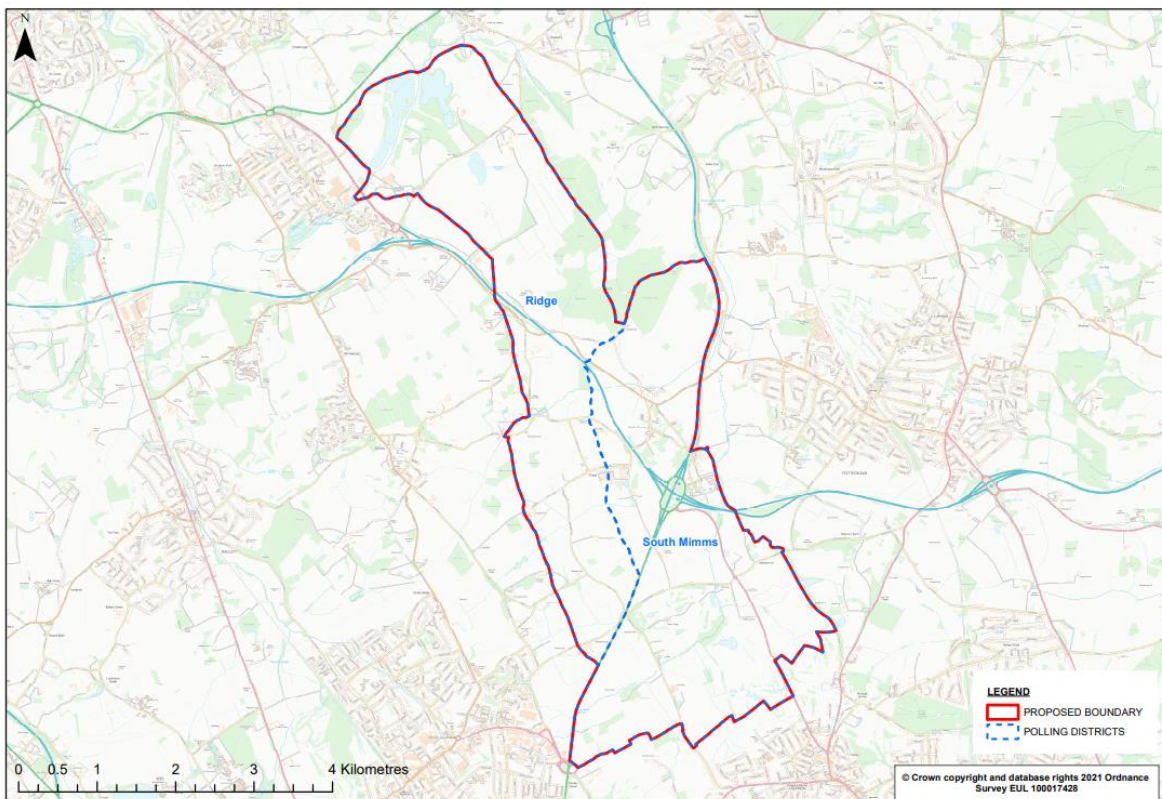


Polling District EA
Falcon Way, Osprey Close, Kestrel Close and
Peregrine Close - Watford

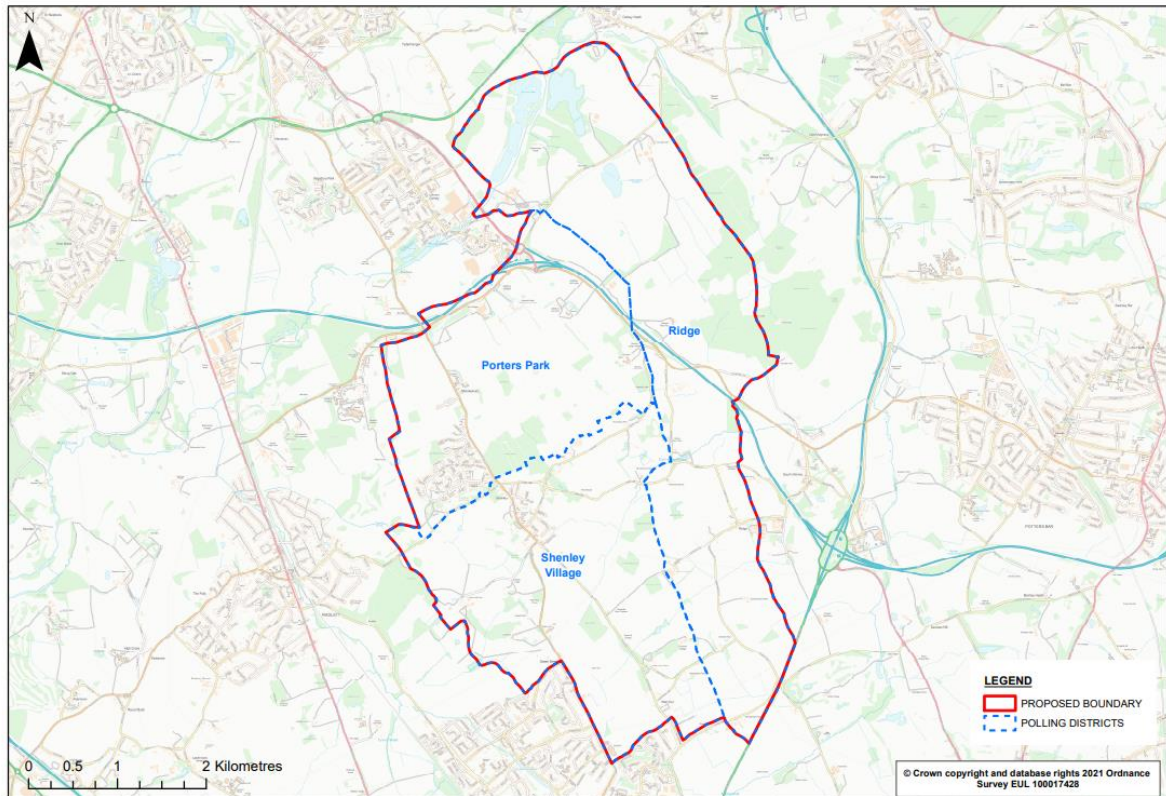
Ridge, Shenley and South Mimms



Hertsmere Parish Areas - South Mimms, Ridge and Shenley

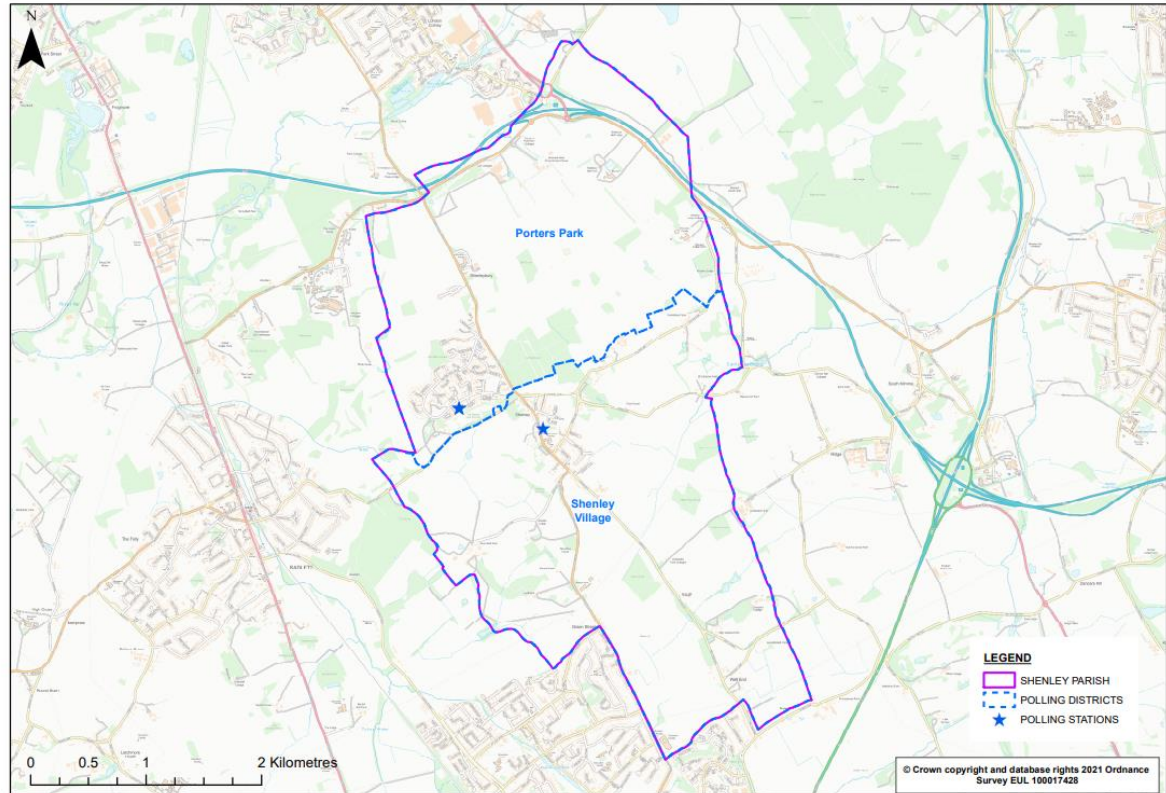


Hertsmere Parish Areas - South Mimms and Ridge



Hertsmere Parish Areas - Shenley and Ridge

Shenley Ward



Shenley Parish