LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

THE WEST SUFFOLK (REORGANISATION OF COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE) ORDER 2026 – FORNHAMS GROUPING

Made 15 October 2026

Coming into force in accordance with Article 1(2)

West Suffolk Council ("the Council"), in accordance with Section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the Act"), has undertaken a community governance review and made recommendations in respect of the parishes of Fornham All Saints, Fornham St Martin and Fornham St Genevieve.

The Council has decided to give effect to those recommendations and, in accordance with Section 93 of the Act, has consulted with the local government electors and other interested persons and has had regard to the need to secure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community and is effective and convenient.

The Council, in accordance with Section 100 of the Act, has had regard to guidance issued under that Section.

The Council makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 86, 89, 90 and 240(10) of the Act.

1. Citation and commencement

1) This Order may be cited as the West Suffolk (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2026 (The Fornhams).
2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), this Order shall come into force on 1 April 2027.
3) Articles 7, 8 and 9 (electoral and transitional arrangements) shall come into force on the day after the Order is made insofar as is necessary to facilitate the ordinary elections of parish councillors in May 2027.
4) The changes to the composition of the grouped parish council shall take effect for the ordinary elections of parish councillors held in May 2027.

2. Interpretation

In this Order –

"the Act" means the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;

"District" means the District of West Suffolk;
"existing council" means the existing Parish Council of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve;
"grouped parish council" means the parish council established by Article 4;
"order date" means 1 April 2027;
"registration officer" means an officer appointed in accordance with Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

3. Effect of Order

This Order has effect subject to any agreement under Section 99 of the Act (agreements about incidental matters) relevant to any provision of this Order.

4. Grouping of Parishes

(1) The parish of Fornham All Saints shall be grouped with the parishes of Fornham St Martin and Fornham St Genevieve.

(2) From 1 April 2027 the grouped parish arrangement previously known as Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve shall comprise the parishes of:

(a) Fornham All Saints;

(b) Fornham St Martin; and

(c) Fornham St Genevieve.

5. Dissolution of Fornham All Saints Parish Council

(1) The Parish Council of Fornham All Saints shall be dissolved with effect from 1 April 2027.

(2) On that date all functions previously exercisable by that council shall be exercisable by the grouped parish council constituted under this Order.

6. Name of the Grouped Parish Council

The Parish Council of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve shall be renamed "The Fornhams Parish Council" with effect from 1 April 2027.

7. Number of Councillors

(1) The grouped parish council known as The Fornhams Parish Council shall comprise 12 councillors.

(2) The number of councillors allocated to each parish within the grouped arrangement shall be:

Parish	Number of Councillors
Fornham All Saints	5
Fornham St Martin	5
Fornham St Genevieve	2

8. Transitional Electoral Arrangements

(1) The ordinary election of councillors to The Fornhams Parish Council in May 2027 shall be conducted on the basis of the councillor allocation specified in Article 7.

(2) Any person elected at the May 2027 ordinary elections shall hold office in accordance with the ordinary cycle of parish council elections.

(3) Until the councillors elected to The Fornhams Parish Council at the ordinary elections in May 2027 come into office, the parishes comprised in the grouped parish arrangement and The Fornhams Parish Council shall be represented by those persons who, immediately before 1 April 2027, were elected councillors for the parishes of Fornham All Saints, Fornham St Martin and Fornham St Genevieve.
(4) Those persons shall be deemed to be councillors of The Fornhams Parish Council and shall hold office until the councillors elected at the ordinary elections in May 2027 take office."
(5) Nothing in this Order shall require a separate election for the parish of Fornham All Saints prior to the ordinary parish elections in May 2027.

9. Transfer of Property, Rights and Liabilities

(1) On 1 April 2027 all land, property, contracts, rights, obligations, liabilities, balances, reserves, records and other assets held by or vested in the Parish Council of Fornham All Saints shall transfer to and vest in The Fornhams Parish Council.

(2) Any legal proceedings commenced by or against the Parish Council of Fornham All Saints and subsisting immediately before 1 April 2027 may be continued by or against The Fornhams Parish Council.

(3) All books, documents, records and archives belonging to or held by the Parish Council of Fornham All Saints shall transfer to The Fornhams Parish Council.

(4) Any act, matter or thing in the process of being done by, to or in relation to the Parish Council of Fornham All Saints immediately before 1 April 2027 may be continued by, to or in relation to The Fornhams Parish Council.

10 Electoral Register

The registration officer for the District shall make such rearrangement of, or adaptation to, the register of local government electors as may be necessary for the purposes of, and in consequence of, this Order.

11. Order Date

1 April 2027 is the order date for the purposes of the Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008.

Sealed with the seal of the Council on 15 day of October 2026.

THE COMMON SEAL of)
WEST SUFFOLK COUNCIL)
was hereunto affixed to this deed)
in the presence of:)

Authorised Signatory:

Name of Authorised Signatory: CHRISTINE FELTNER

Position of Authorised Signatory: SERVICE MANAGER - LEGAL