

**Helen O'Connor**

---

**From:** Alison Stevens [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 October 2025 09:38  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** RE: LGR Consultation from TWBC. Response requested by Ben Chapelard.

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

**--Email From External Account--**

Thank you for letting us know.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]  
**Alison Stevens (FSLCC)**

Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to Rusthall Parish Council  
[REDACTED]

**\*Please note my email address has changed - please amend to [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] in your address book.**

**My working days are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.**



*You have received this email from Rusthall Parish Council. The content of this email is confidential and may be legally privileged and intended for the recipient specified in message only. It is strictly forbidden to share any part of this message with any third party, without a written consent of the sender. If you received this message by mistake, please reply to this message and follow with its deletion, so that we can ensure such a mistake does not happen again.*

*Rusthall Parish Council, ensures that email security is a high priority. Therefore, we have put efforts into ensuring that the message is error and virus-free. Unfortunately, full security of the email cannot be ensured as, despite our efforts, the data included in emails could be infected, intercepted, or corrupted. Therefore, the recipient should check the email for threats with proper software, as the sender does not accept liability for any damage inflicted by viewing the content of this email.*

*By contacting Rusthall Parish Council you agree that your contact details may be held and processed for the purpose of corresponding.*

---

**From:** Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 07 October 2025 16:17  
**To:** Alison Stevens [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: LGR Consultation from TWBC. Response requested by Ben Chapelard.

Thank you for your response to the proposed Local Government Reorganisation 2025.

We confirm that your feedback has been recorded and will be considered in the next stage of the consultation process.

Kind Regards,  
Consultations Team  
Canterbury City Council

---

**From:** Alison Stevens [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 01 October 2025 09:51  
**To:** Consultations <[Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** LGR Consultation from TWBC. Response requested by Ben Chapelard.

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)  
**--Email From External Account--**

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your letter dated the 22nd September 2025 regarding the proposed Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Kent and Medway. Rusthall Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to provide views at this stage for consideration.

We would like the following to be taken into account

- **Local identity and accountability:** Any new unitary structure must ensure that the voice of local communities, particularly parishes, is not diminished within a larger governance framework.
- **Accessibility of services:** Residents value ease of contact with their council. Larger authorities risk creating distance between the decision-makers and communities. Maintaining local presence and responsiveness must be a priority.
- **Financial sustainability:** Whilst efficiency is ultimately an aim, the costs of transition and ongoing viability of unitary councils must be transparently assessed.
- **Partnership working:** The role of parish and town councils as the first tier of local government must be safeguarded and strengthened.

Opportunities that reorganisation could realise

- Simplification of structures may improve public understanding of where responsibility lies.
- Efficiencies of scale could free resources for reinvestment in frontline services.
- Reorganisation offers an opportunity to formalise stronger collaborative frameworks with parish and town councils.

Problems that could be fixed by reorganisation

- The current two-tier system causes confusion for residents because they are unsure which authority is responsible for particular services.
- Duplication of back-office functions may possibly be reduced, delivering potential savings.

Problems that could be created or may not be fixed by reorganisation

- **Loss of local focus:** Larger unitary councils could be perceived as remote, making it harder for residents to influence decisions affecting their community.
- **Transitional disruption:** The process of dismantling existing structures risks diverting resources and attention from service delivery in the short to medium term.
- **Efficiency assumptions:** Promised savings may not fully materialise, particularly if local access points and community engagement mechanisms need to be retained.

In Conclusion:

Rusthall Parish Council believes that while there are potential benefits to reorganisation, these must be

balanced against the risk of weakening local accountability and connection. We urge that any new arrangements should:

1. Place community voice at the heart of governance.
2. Preserve the role of parish and town councils.
3. Guarantee accessible, high-quality local services.

We thank you for including us in this consultation and look forward to continued engagement as plans develop.

Best wishes,



**Alison Stevens (FSLCC)**

Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to Rusthall Parish Council



**\*Please note my email address has changed - please amend to [redacted] in your address book.**

**My working days are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.**



*You have received this email from Rusthall Parish Council. The content of this email is confidential and may be legally privileged and intended for the recipient specified in message only. It is strictly forbidden to share any part of this message with any third party, without a written consent of the sender. If you received this message by mistake, please reply to this message and follow with its deletion, so that we can ensure such a mistake does not happen again.*

*Rusthall Parish Council, ensures that email security is a high priority. Therefore, we have put efforts into ensuring that the message is error and virus-free. Unfortunately, full security of the email cannot be ensured as, despite our efforts, the data included in emails could be infected, intercepted, or corrupted. Therefore, the recipient should check the email for threats with proper software, as the sender does not accept liability for any damage inflicted by viewing the content of this email.*

*By contacting Rusthall Parish Council you agree that your contact details may be held and processed for the purpose of corresponding.*



---

This email, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain privileged or confidential information. Any unauthorised review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, immediately contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of this message.

---

This email has been scanned for spam & viruses. If you believe this email should have been stopped by our filters, [click here](#) to report it.