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Extraordinary Meeting of the Council

Agenda

Date:	**Monday, 25th January, 2010**
Time:	**2.00 pm**
Venue:	**Main Hall - Congleton Town Hall**

The agenda is divided into two parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Prayers**

2. **Apologies for Absence**

3. **Minutes of Previous meeting** (Pages 1 - 26)

4. **Mayor's Announcements**

   To receive such announcements as may be made by the Mayor.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

   To provide an opportunity for Members to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests in any item on the agenda

Please contact Julie North on 01270 686460
E-Mail: julie.north@cheshireeast.gov.uk with any apologies or requests for further information or to give notice of a question to be asked by a member of the public

6. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 35 and Appendix 7 to the rules, a total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to speak at Council meetings.

Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes, but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned, where there are a number of speakers.

Members of the public must provide 3 clear working days notice, in writing, if they wish to ask a question at the meeting. It is not a requirement to give notice of the intention to make use of public speaking provision. However, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours notice is encouraged.

7. **Electoral Review - Submission on Warding Arrangements** (Pages 27 - 40)

To consider and approve the attached submission, prepared by the Electoral Review Task Group, which sets out the Authority's proposals for Warding Arrangements under the Electoral Review of the Cheshire East area and to authorise the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to make any necessary technical and detailed amendments to finalise the document, to ensure that it complies fully with the wishes of the Council and is delivered by the Boundary Committee's deadline of 15 February 2010.

8. **Crewe Community Governance Review** (Pages 41 - 126)

To consider the recommendation from the meeting of the Governance and Constitution Committee held on 21st January 2010, to be reported at the meeting.

9. **Council Tax Base 2010/11** (Pages 127 - 132)

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, to set the amount to be calculated by Cheshire East Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2010/11 as:-
for the whole area – 145,171.05
for each Parish area, as set out in Appendix A to the attached report.

10. **Notification to Council by the Leader under Executive Procedure Rule 40.1**

11. **Questions**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, opportunity is provided for Members of the Council to ask the Chairman, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Chairman of a Committee any question about a matter which the Council, the Cabinet or the Committee has powers, duties or responsibilities.

Questions must be sent in writing to the Monitoring Officer, at least 3 clear working days before the meeting. (Calculated from midnight to midnight).

12. **Urgent items of Business**

Agenda Item 3

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council**
held on Thursday, 17th December, 2009 at The Assembly Room - Town Hall, Macclesfield SK10 1DX

PRESENT

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)
Councillor G Baxendale (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors C Andrew, A Arnold, M Asquith, Rachel Bailey, Rhoda Bailey, A Barratt, G Barton, C Beard, T Beard, D Bebbington, D Beckford, S Bentley, D Brickhill, S Broadhurst, D Brown, R Cartlidge, J Crockatt, H Davenport, M Davies, Davies, B Dykes, P Edwards, P Findlow, W Fitzgerald, R Fletcher, D Flude, S Furlong, H Gaddum, L Gilbert, E Gilliland, J Hammond, M Hardy, M Hollins, D Hough, O Hunter, T Jackson, J Jones, S Jones, F Keegan, A Knowles, W Livesley, J Macrae, A Martin, M Martin, P Mason, S McGrory, R Menlove, G Merry, A Moran, B Moran, H Murray, J Narraway, D Neilson, R Parker, M Parsons, A Ranfield, L Smetham, D Stockton, D Thompson, C Thorley, A Thwaite, C Tomlinson, D Topping, R Walker, G M Walton, J Weatherill, R West, R Westwood, P Whiteley, S Wilkinson and J Wray

Apologies

Councillors E Alcock, D Cannon, S Conquest, R Domleo, J Goddard, B Howell and B Silvester

PART 1

146 **PRAYERS**

The Reverend Charles Razzall said prayers, at the request of the Mayor.

(The Mayor reported that she had been advised that the item relating to the Leader's report should be taken in Part 2 of the agenda and that, subject to the agreement of Council, and in accordance with Procedure Rule No. 5, she intended to vary the order of business to take it after the item relating to urgent items of business. Council so agreed.)

147 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2009**

RESOLVED

That the minutes be approved as a correct record, subject to an amendment to minute 132 – Declarations of Interest, to add Councillor Fletcher to the list of Members who had declared personal interests by virtue of membership of the Cheshire Fire Authority.

148 **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor:-

1. Referred to the recent sad death of the former Macclesfield Borough Councillor, Tom Scanlon, who was Mayor of the Borough from 1998-1999. Mr. Scanlon had worked as an employee of Wilmslow Urban District Council and completed 21 years' service as a Macclesfield Borough Councillor. He was also honoured with the title of Honorary Alderman, in March 2009, in recognition of eminent services rendered to Macclesfield Borough Council. He would be greatly missed.

2. Announced the sad death of former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council Councillor Malcolm Rowley, who would also be greatly missed.

3. Announced that an annual Ofsted inspection had rated Children's Services in Cheshire East as level 3 or 'Performs Well'. This meant the overall effectiveness of inspected services were good or better. Childcare, nursery education and primary schools were better than similar areas and that found nationally. Inspectors also found that there was adequate provision from the Council's secondary schools, but this could be improved, compared with others nationally. All the Council's special schools were good and their performance was above that found in similar areas and that seen nationally.

4. Announced that, in their daily fight against crime and anti-social behaviour, Community Wardens had been given new powers to obtain names and addresses of offenders and to deal with issues arising from drinking in public places. The powers followed their achievement of the Community Safety Accredited Persons Certificate NCFE Level 2. To obtain these qualifications a high level of commitment and dedication was required. The Mayor congratulated all Community Wardens in the Authority.

5. Announced that she was delighted to report that the Council had received a very positive first Comprehensive Area Assessment report after only eight months as a Council. The Comprehensive Area Assessment was carried out by six Inspectorates and outlined how effectively Cheshire East Council, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Cheshire Police and the Primary Care Trust were catering for local people and the likelihood of improvements in the future.

   The Council had been praised for its work so far and assessed as good and indeed better than many other parts of England, in most services. While there was much work to do, this was a remarkable achievement in such a short space of time.

6. Announced that she and her Consort had undertaken a wide and varied selection of official engagements since the last Council meeting and had particularly enjoyed the Christmas festivities at the schools.

149 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A Arnold declared a personal interest in the item relating to Police Authority Representatives on the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee, by virtue of being a member of the Police Authority.

150 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

1. Mr I Knowlson used public speaking time to make a statement, on behalf of the residents and traders of the former Congleton Borough, in respect of the introduction of car parking control and parking charges in that area. He considered that proper consultation had not taken place in respect of the scheme and that insufficient consideration had been given to objections to the scheme in respect of: the effect on the local economy; the environment for residents; locations where people chose to park,; health and safety impact on children playing; and additional costs to businesses in the town centre.

   Mr Knowlson requested that the Council work with local residents and traders, in order to get a fairer car parking charging scheme across the Borough.

2. Mr K Edwards used public speaking time to request that the Council consider whether it could put in place a structure to consider local highway issues in local towns. Mr Edwards stated that he was a member of the Macclesfield Local Area Partnership and had seen a genuine commitment amongst partners to come together to work towards improving the area of the Local Area Partnership, in this regard. However the Local Area Partnership did not deal with all aspects of local working that Town and Parish Councils were concerned with and highways issues had been overlooked.

151 NOTICE OF MOTION

Consideration was given to the following Notice of Motion moved by Councillor A Moran and seconded by Cllr Flude:-

This Council calls upon the Executive to recognise the need to improve the conduct of decision-making and consultation in relation to all matters relating to the Council's responsibilities as a Highways Authority and its responsibilities through its Transport Policies.

In particular, the Council calls upon the Executive Members with responsibility for Strategic Planning and the Environment to recommend the establishment of bodies, which would effectively carry out the public functions which were previously the responsibility of the three Joint Highways Committees and the Public Transport Liaison Committees, within the area now governed by Cheshire East.

These responsibilities should include the public consideration of decisions in relation to parking, Traffic Regulation Orders, Speed limits and engineering

improvements and all other matters where effective transparent consultation and decision making is required.

The Council asks for Committees of local Councillors to be established in each of the previous areas covered by Macclesfield, Congleton and Crewe and Nantwich Borough Councils and provision to be made for the involvement of the police and where relevant town and Parish Councils. The Committees to be empowered to receive and consider representations by the public where these are appropriate.

The motion stood referred to Cabinet.

152 **SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES APPROVALS**

Consideration was given to a report requesting approval of Supplementary Capital Estimate and virement requests of over £1.0m, or which required funding from later years, or which needed to be funded from reserves, as detailed in Section 11 and Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

RESOLVED

1. That the following Supplementary Capital Estimates (SCE) and Virement requests of over £1.0m, or which required funding from later years, or which are funded from reserves, as detailed in Section 11 and Appendix 1 of the report be approved:-

    a. Christ the King Catholic & C of E Primary School £3,039,000
    b. Stapeley Broad Lane Primary School £906,000
    c. Offley Primary School £845,000
    d. Energy Efficiency – Invest to Save £75,000

2. That, subject to grant approval, an SCE of £2.2m, to be fully funded by Connected for Health grant, for the Common Assessment Framework Demonstrator Bid, as detailed in Section 11 of the report submitted, be approved.

3. That the use of General Reserves to fund the following items, as detailed in Section 11 of the report be approved :-

    a. £75,000 in 2009-10 for energy efficiency measures to reduce Carbon Emissions.

    b. Round 2 Voluntary Redundancy costs of up to £5m, together with the additional future payment of actuarial costs.

4. That the use of General Reserves to create the following new earmarked reserves as detailed in Section 11 of the report, be approved :-

    a. Invest-to-Save Projects (£2m)

    b. Enabling Local Working (£625,000)

153 **REFERRAL TO COUNCIL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the recommendations to Council from the Governance and Constitution Committee in respect of the following matters:

(a) Police Authority Representation on the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

The Governance and Constitution Committee, at its meeting on 19 November 2009 had considered proposals for Police Authority representation on the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

The Council had designated the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee as the Committee to discharge the Council's responsibilities for crime and disorder functions, in accordance with Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. The Home Office had issued guidance in connection with Sections 19 and 20 of the Act which stated that 'Local Authorities should, in all cases, presume that the Police Authority should play an active part at committee when community safety matters were being discussed and particularly when the Police were to be present'.

The guidance contained three options for ensuring Police Authority involvement in community safety matters. The Governance and Constitution Committee had considered the merits of each in relation to the circumstances of Cheshire East Council and its representation on the Police Authority. Option 2, which involved issuing the Police Authority with a standing invitation to attend the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee as an 'expert adviser', appeared to give the Police Authority flexibility to send different representatives to individual meetings of the Scrutiny Committee, depending on the subject matter before the Committee.

The guidance also recommended developing a protocol between partners.

RESOLVED

1. That Cheshire Police Authority be informed that the Council supports the appointment of a Police Authority representative to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with option 2 as contained in the Home Office Guidance on Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

2. That the Borough Solicitor be authorised to make such changes to the Council's Constitution as he considers necessary to give effect to the wishes of Council to recognise that Cheshire Police Authority receives a standing invitation to attend meetings of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee, in order for the Police Authority representative to act as an 'expert adviser' in respect of Community Safety matters.

3. That the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee be requested to develop a Protocol which sets out the mutual expectations of Scrutiny Members and partners in connection with the involvement of the Committee in the Community Safety Scrutiny Process.

(b) Cabinet Support Members

The Governance and Constitution Committee, at its meeting on 19 November 2009, considered proposed changes to the arrangements for Cabinet Support Members in relation to Scrutiny committees.

All four Cabinet Support Members had been appointed as members of overview and scrutiny committees.

It was felt, for reasons set out in the report, that there was potential for conflict between the role of the four Cabinet Support Members and their membership of overview and scrutiny committees, due to the executive nature of their role, albeit without direct responsibility for executive decision-making.

RESOLVED

1. That Cabinet Support Members should not be permitted to be members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and accordingly, the following Members should not take their place(s) on Overview and Scrutiny Committees:

Children and Families	-	Councillors Rhoda Bailey, Olivia Hunter, Lesley Smetham
Health and Adult Social Care	-	Councillor Olivia Hunter
Environment and Prosperity	-	Councillors Rod Menlove, Lesley Smetham

2. That nominations be sought from the Conservative Group to fill the vacancies on each of the above Overview and Scrutiny committees;.

3. That the Borough Solicitor be authorised to make such changes to the Constitution as he considers necessary to give effect to the wishes of Council.

(c) Questions at Council

At its Chairman's request, the Governance and Constitution Committee, at its meeting on 19 November 2009 had reviewed the current arrangements with regard to questions by Members at Council meetings.

The current Rules provided for Members to ask questions at Council of the Mayor, the appropriate Cabinet Member, or the Chairman of a Committee, about a matter for which the Council, the Cabinet or the Committee had powers, duties or responsibilities (Council Procedure Rule 11.1). Questions had to be provided in writing at least three clear working days before the meeting (Council Procedure Rule 11.3).

The Rules provided for the questioner to ask a supplementary question which related to the initial answer.

The Governance and Constitution Committee resolved:-

That Council be recommended to agree that the provision giving Members the right to ask supplementary questions at Council meetings be removed from the Constitution.

The above recommendation was moved and seconded.

An amendment to the motion to refer this matter back to the Governance and Constitution Committee, so that an agenda item could be prepared to give an analysis as to why this motion had come forward, with reasons, was then moved and seconded.

(The Mayor accepted a point of order, which questioned the appropriateness of this motion being moved as an amendment and the matter was, therefore, put as a Motion without Notice under Appendix 1, Rule 4, Council Procedure Rule 10 of the Constitution).

A request for a recorded vote was submitted and duly supported, in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 15.2 of the Constitution.

The amendment was put to the meeting with the following results:-

For	**Against**	**Not voting**
A Arnold	C M Andrew	
T Beard	Rachel Bailey	M Asquith-not present when vote taken
S Broadhurst	Rhoda Bailey	W Livesley-not present when vote taken
R Cartlidge	G Barton	
P Edwards	G Baxendale	
R Fletcher	C Beard	
D Flude	D Bebbington	
D Hough	D Beckford	
S Jones	S Bentley	
M Martin	D Brickhill	
S McGrory	D Brown	
A Moran	J Crockatt	
J Narraway	H Davenport	
M Parsons	M Davies	
C Thorley	S Davies	
C Tomlinson	B Dykes	
	P Findlow	
	R W J Fitzgerald	
	S Furlong	
	H Gaddum	
	L Gilbert	
	E Gilliland	
	J Hammond	
	C Hardy	
	M Hollins	
	O Hunter	
	T Jackson	
	J Jones	
	F Keegan	

	A Knowles	
	J Macrae	
	A Martin	
	P Mason	
	R Menlove	
	G Merry	
	B Moran	
	H Murray	
	T Ranfield	
	M Simon	
	L Smetham	
	D Stockton	
	D Thompson	
	A Thwaite	
	D Topping	
	R Walker	
	G Walton	
	J Weatherill	
	R West	
	R Westwood	
	P Whiteley	
	S Wilkinson	
	J Wray	

The motion was declared not carried, with 16 votes for and 52 against.

The recommendation of the Governance and Constitution Committee was then voted upon.

RESOLVED

That the provision giving Members the right to ask supplementary questions at Council meetings be removed from the Constitution.

154 **QUESTIONS**

The questions submitted, together with a summary of the responses are set out below:-

Question 1 – Submitted by Cllr R Walker CBE

How many (serving and ex-service) Service personnel who have been (seriously) injured in the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are currently living in Cheshire East? What is the Council and its partners doing to assist them in their recovery and to support them in their futures?"

The Leader of the Council responded:-

“Unfortunately the Council is not party to the information on the numbers of seriously injured Service personnel from these particular conflicts who are now living in Cheshire East. The information regarding each individual is out of necessity kept confidentially, for personal medical and security reasons.

We are checking to establish if any such individuals have been referred to the Adults Social Care Physical Disabilities Team and if this provides some information it will be conveyed to Councillor Walker in writing. We are also checking with colleagues in the Health service to establish if they have any database of such patients that might provide an indication of numbers, and again this will be passed on if available. This includes those who may have been referred to the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust that deals with those with mental health issues.

I can assure the Councillor that Cheshire East is committed to providing the best services it can for all people with physical or mental disabilities, and those who might be recovering from injuries, sustained through active service or other incidents or accidents. This includes concessionary use of leisure facilities for example. We will also do all we can working with our health partners to help with the rehabilitation of any such personnel who are made known to us".

Question 2 – Submitted by Cllr D Flude

Council Publications

Recent articles in the national press have highlighted local authorities where services have been cut. In one authority the first action of the new Leader was to close down the local Council run newspaper because, in his opinion, it was "publishing politics on the rates". He stated that he wanted to pass on the savings for the things that really mattered to the residents, like Children's Services.

Will the Executive Member confirm that the budget for this department is £1.45m, with an extra £300,000 from transition costs and will the transition cost be rolled over into 2010/2011?

What is the production cost of one edition of Cheshire East News, including staff time and the cost of delivery?

This Council has recently published a Scrutiny Bulletin.
How much has this publication cost to produce and distribute including staff time?

The Performance and Capacity Portfolio Holder responded:-

"Yes,Yes and no.

The cost per issue of printing and distribution of Cheshire East News is £32,000. We now have an established brand, which is all done in-house and we should commend the Communications team for this.

The Council is at the stage of developing a Scrutiny newsletter with the Scrutiny team. We have drafted and produced artwork for a 1/3 folding A4 leaflet. The leaflet explains the role of Overview and Scrutiny and encourages them to submit their views about the Council and its services - both online and through the reply form included within the leaflet.

The following quote to print 1000 copies is £163, to be distributed via CSPs, libraries, other council buildings".

Question 3 – Submitted by Cllr D Flude

Child Care

We understand that there is pressure on the budget for Child Care, as many more children than expected have been taken into care in Cheshire East. Will the Cabinet Member responsible call for a report on the reasons for this increase in the need for care, will he further produce a report on the long term budgetary implications of the need for increased child care and will he put in place a plan to meet the necessary resource requirement and report to this Council as soon as possible, on how those resources will be allocated?

The Children and Family Services Portfolio Holder responded:-

"The number of Cared for Children has risen from 316 in January 2009 to 405 in November 2009.

When comparing with other North West LA, the number of Cared for children per 10,000 of children under 18 is at the lowest end. The average for the region is 74 children compared to Cheshire East at 53.

The unit cost of providing care for these children is estimated at £900 per child per week. (Data on costs is no longer required as a Government return; therefore the figure is still estimated unit costs whilst more detailed work is completed in assessing costs.)

The service is addressing issues concerning the Cared for Children population through the service re-design. Development of targeted services will assist in early interventions to prevent the need for children to be looked after. This will include a new assessment of need for placements and resources to accommodate Cared for Children.

Within the budget challenge sessions, the Service has bid for growth in this area".

Question 4 – Submitted by Cllr D Flude

Cost of Re Branding this Council

A resident of Wilmslow has contacted me with his concerns about the cost of rebranding all of Cheshire East buildings, leisure facilities and vehicles, as well as the signage for the borders of our new authority.

Will the appropriate Cabinet member provide the detailed costings for this rebranding exercise? Will he further assure me that the appropriate number of quotations were received for the work and can he assure me that where possible the work went to local business in Cheshire East?

The Performance and Capacity Portfolio Holder responded:-

"In respect of internal re-branding I can confirm that three quotations were received and evaluated. The Contract was subjected to a full procurement tender exercise under the European Procurement Directives . The contracts were advertised both in the European Journal and in the trade press . Applicants were selected following the satisfactory completion of a pre qualification questionnaire. From the 46 completed questionnaires 26 companies were sent an invitation to

tender. 17 companies submitted bids . The contract was awarded to the company that offered the most economically advantageous bid. This was not a Cheshire East based business. Cheshire East supports local business, however EU procurement Directives govern Public sector procurement and ensure that all procurement is fair, open and transparent. As such we cannot award business on the basis of location alone. We are currently developing a training programme to support local businesses in securing Public sector business".

Question 5 – Submitted by Cllr D Flude

Helping Local Businesses.

This Council has quite rightly set out a policy for supporting local businesses in Cheshire East. Will the Cabinet member responsible for procurement assure me that, wherever possible, contracts for Council work are let to local businesses, that local businesses are made aware of all work available and will the Cabinet Member arrange to publish each year the proportion of the procurement budget that is spent with businesses located in Cheshire East?

The Procurement, Assets and Shared Services Portfolio Holder responded:-

"EU procurement Directives govern Public sector procurement and ensure that all procurement is fair, open and transparent. As such we cannot award business on the basis of location alone. We are currently developing a training programme to support local businesses in securing Public sector business in partnership with local Chambers of Commerce & Business Link. This was conveyed to over 100 businesses at a successful business breakfast held earlier this autumn.

As part of the procurement process, for each contract that is above the European Procurement Threshold, these procurements are advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union. Procurement opportunities are also on our Council web site pages under the tender opportunities section of the procurement pages.

Within the first half of 2010, Cheshire East Council intends to introduce an e-tendering portal, this is currently used by the majority of West Authorities, sponsored by North West Improvement & Efficiency Partnership. This will detail all of the Council's tendering opportunities, therefore making it easier for suppliers to gain information on and be included in the procurements being undertaken by the Council.

This will allow suppliers to register to receive electronic alerts notifying them of opportunities in there category of work &/or geographical region.

Cheshire East will gather and Publish on an annual basis the level of spend that the Council spend with Suppliers based in the Borough as part of the procurement performance indicators being developed".

Question 6 – Submitted Cllr D Flude

Traffic Regulation Orders

A basic responsibility of Cheshire East Council is to consult on and implement, where appropriate, Traffic Regulation Orders. There have been serious delays in the implementation of a number of such orders, due to this Authority being unable

to create an appropriate process. Can the Cabinet member responsible assure me that every effort is being made to resolve this difficulty and that he has taken advice from other authorities who appear to manage this process with little or no difficulty?

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder responded:-

"I do not believe that Cllr Flude can substantiate her allegation that there have been serious delays in implementing Traffic Regulation orders. This Council has been in existence for less than nine months. By law - Traffic regulation orders have to be advertised and consulted upon as well as being checked by engineers and lawyers taking at least three and up to six months.

However Cheshire East's procedure for the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders has been implemented and several traffic regulation orders have been approved by this process which gives delegated authority to the Strategic Director. This removes the requirement for committee approvals that were needed in the former authority and will greatly speed up the processing of those Orders".

Question 7 – Submitted by Cllr D Flude

Car Parking Income

Councillors will be aware of the considerable public disquiet over the policy adopted by this administration in relation to charging for car parking. Given this deep public concern, the utmost transparency is required as to the use of surplus revenue arising from these charges.

Responsible officers, the Cheshire East Cabinet Member for the Environment will be clearly aware of the legal obligations on Cheshire East Council to use car parking income for the benefit of road users. This obligation, as set out in the Department of Transports Operational Guidance to Local Authorities section 14.7.

Will the Cabinet Member responsible bring forward, as soon as possible, two reports to the Council? The first detailing the revenue raised and the surplus revenue achieved in 2009/2010 together, how that surplus revenue will be allocated on expenditure designed to benefit road users in Cheshire East. Will he further bring forward a report, as soon as possible, on the revenue planned to be achieved in 2010/2011, together with the surplus revenue expected and how he expects that surplus revenue to be allocated to expenditure heads that will benefit road users in Cheshire East.
The public are entitled to be fully informed of how the revenue from these charges is to be spent.

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder responded:-

"Section 14.7 of the DfT Guidance for Local Authorities only refers to On-Street parking fine income. It does 'constrain' a Local Authority in the use of its Pay & Display or Off-Street Parking Income. However, separate Financial Accounts for On and Off Street Parking are maintained by the Council.

On-Street Fine Income is expected to raise about half a million during 2009/10. This is entirely spent covering the half million costs of the Patrol and Notice Processing Staff and maintaining the 'lines and signs' to ensure the public are

fully aware of the Regulations in force (estimated to be a further £200,000 this year)

Raising Income is not the primary purpose of this team – their role is to maintain traffic flow, reduce the local environmental impact of inconsiderate and illegal parking and ensure road safety.

Off-Street Income was budgeted at £6.45 million and is estimated to be £5.65M for 2009/10 which is a recessionary impact. You will remember the recession was exacerbated by the incompetent Labour Government.

The budgeted net 'surplus' of £3.7 M is thus reduced this year to below £3M

Central services costs were budgeted at 1.15M giving a net surplus of £2.5M budgeted The forecast for these costs is now £0.9M giving an out turn of £2M

The Council spends many more millions of pounds each year on the maintenance and improvement of its' highway network for the benefit of our towns and villages, road users and pedestrians alike.

The 2009/10 report will be produced (as usual) as part of the Closedown of Accounts from April 2010. The detail of the 'notional' surplus revenue from all parking activity will be included in this.

The 2010/11 Budget-setting process is underway now. Again, the final budget report planned for Council in February 2010 will include the income and expenditure estimates for car parking and highways. At this time we are not proposing any parking income increase above the 2009/10 budget".

Question 8 – Submitted by Cllr D Flude

Libraries

The recent LAA Performance Indicators for Cheshire East indicate that our Library Service has a 76% public satisfaction level well above the nation average of 69%.

Will this Council congratulate the staff in our libraries for their excellent performance?

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder responded:-

"Cheshire East libraries are an outstanding success. There are18 Libraries open a total of 599.5 hours per week as well as 3 Mobile libraries. The Place survey shows that their performance is consistently amongst the best when compared to other councils in the North West and the rest of England. Resident satisfaction levels (76%) are in the top quartile with user satisfaction rates even higer - 89% for children and 94% for adults.

Cheshire East has continued to invest in and improve its library services. Of particular note this year is the investment in Self Service technology which gives users the option to issue and return books for themselves. This will enable staff to spend more time providing advice and information to customers. Macclesfield Library is the 1st to have this installed and Nantwich, Bollington, Sandbach and

Holmes Chapel will follow suit in the New Year. All being well this will be introduced in the remaining libraries over the following 12 months.

There were more than 1.5 million books, cds, dvds, computer games borrowed in the first six months of Cheshire East. There are nearly 300,000 registered members. We gained nearly 7,000 new members in the first six months

There were nearly 104,000 individual computer sessions in the first six months, using People's Network computers.

929 community activities took place in libraries in the first quarter of 2009-10. Many of these were lifelong learning or health and wellbeing activities. Libraries have formed a range of partnerships to deliver activities and services, including Age Concern, schools and the PCT.

Libraries run Relish bibliotherapy reading groups for people with mental health problems in conjunction with health workers; provide Books on Prescription, provide access to and help with NHS Choices through a programme of staff training; deliver a Books on Wheels service to older people with WRVS volunteers; promote and host activities for Change4Life.

Libraries support Bookstart and Bookcrawl, holding regular rhyme and story times for pre-school children and their families. They run the summer reading challenge for children every summer, putting on related special events. This was very successful this year with 38% more children taking part. It was particularly pleasing to note that 44% more boys took part and boys now make up 43% of those taking part.

The Virtual Reference Library provides our members with one of the most comprehensive collections of information material in the UK which is available to members from any computer 24/7".

Question 9 – Submitted by Cllr D Flude

Staff Survey

The recent MORI survey that has taken place looking at staff satisfaction within this Council has not been published.

When will the survey be made available to all of this Council's Members?

When it is made available, will that information be in its original form as received from MORI?

The Resources Portfolio Holder responded:-

"A summary of the employee survey findings will be shared with all Council Members via the Member Bulletin scheduled to go out on 16th December. This balanced summary has been produced by Ipsos Mori for staff in a narrative format which summarises key areas of strength and key areas for improvement and then goes on to explain these findings further. A copy of the full reports are also available to Members, the contact details for which will be included in the article in the Member Bulletin on 16th December".

Question 10 – Submitted by Cllr R Cartlidge

Crewe Gateway

Hansard Thursday 25th June 2009
"Mr Khan I thank the hon. Gentleman for the interest he shows in the regeneration of that important part of the country. The Crewe railway gateway scheme was confirmed as a regional priority for investment in February. The Department officials are ready to discuss with Cheshire the way forward on this scheme once the major scheme business case has been submitted".

Can it be confirmed that contact has been made, by this Council, with the Department of Transport to discuss the way forward and that a major business case had been submitted?

Is this Council aware that Network Rails report HS2 shows
3.1 Crewe in the top 20 travel to London Stations
3.2 Shows Crewe as having the potential to be 6th with a massive increase in business.
3.11 Highlights the potential of Crewe, with a veiled warning that Warrington might be possible.
4.1 Shows Crewe as one of only 7 target cities /towns.

Will the residents of Crewe have the opportunity to comment on the Vision for Crewe Report through a public meeting or a display in our excellent public library?

This Council will be judged by the residents of Crewe town, if this Council gets its view of the future for the town wrong.

The Prosperity Portfolio Holder responded:-

"On Tuesday 17th November the Department for Transport (DFT) issued a press release stating that 10 stations including Crewe will benefit from £ 50million of investment. Access to the funding is dependent on the development and approval of a business case for the investment. It is anticipated that any funding will be supplemented by commercial and third party contributions. It has been suggested that the Crewe Rail Gateway Business Plan should be immediately submitted to take advantage of the announced funding. However, work halted on the project four years ago and both the business plan and the business case are no longer valid.

However, Cheshire East Council, with support from the Northwest Development Agency is leading a high level master-planning/visioning process for the Crewe area. The aim is to determine a clear strategy for public and private sector investment and to influence future regional and national policy.

Discussions with NWDA have highlighted the significance of Crewe in the region, and the opportunity for Cheshire East Council to demonstrate leadership by exploring its true potential in relation to the Northwest economy.

We believe the future of Crewe will have a major role to play in the continued growth of the Northwest as key decisions are made nationally with regards to investment in the rail network. In order to build a strong evidence base for future

public sector investment it is essential that we stand together as stakeholders behind a common vision which has been built together.

Key partners, including Network Rail, have participated in 'Visioning' workshops that are helping us to develop our thinking and an overall vision for the future. This cannot be a long drawn-out process as we have a short window of opportunity to influence the development of the Single Regional Strategy for the Northwest. We are also building on the large amount of detailed master-planning work that has already taken place on the specific sites and development areas so we are not starting from a nil base.

In parallel with the development of the long-term vision, the Council is also developing a short-term investment strategy which, subject to availability of public sector funding, will provide the case for much needed funding in the short-term. In the interim we are working hard to progress key schemes such as Crewe Green Link Road which will be vital to any future vision.

We will deliver a Strategic Framework document very early in the New Year and the final full Vision in February or early March, which will be made public and will then be used to inform the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework, which will provide the focus for fuller public consultation.

Our visioning work will provide clear advice about the benefits of either investing in the station's current location or relocating to another site. In view of their imminent report and in the absence of a valid business case it is premature to act on the DFT announcement.

The final stage of the visioning work during Jan-Mar next year will develop an investment strategy for Crewe that will identify the key projects to deliver the vision. The investment strategy needs to tie in closely with the DFT announcement so Cheshire East maximises potential for future funding but linked to a strong evidence-based strategy and vision for the medium-long term.

Senior Officers met with Corovest International Ltd last week and agreed the following:

i) The redevelopment of Crewe Town Centre remains a priority for the Council and Corovest.
ii) The current development scheme is no longer viable due to the economic downturn.
iii) A short, medium and long-term plan will be drawn up by Corovest and the Council to ensure a new scheme is brought forward within the parameters of our procurement legislation.
iv) A package of short-term investment will be identified for the next 18 months which will address the immediate issues in the town centre and kick start an incremental programme of development. The bus station remains a priority and options for investment in the short and medium term will be looked at early in the process.
v) To alleviate unnecessary pressure in the town, the Council intends to write to Government Office for the Northwest to withdraw the CPO application.
vi) A press statement will be issued before Christmas on all of the above".

Question 11 – Submitted by Cllr T Beard

Rough Sleeping Count and Service Provision

After a recent Committee meeting at Macclesfield Town Hall I was somewhat dismayed to see a young woman seated by a heating grating. When I inquired if she needed help she informed me that she was homeless. I returned to the Town Hall reception desk to request help for the woman.

The last street counts that this Authority reported on there were, on the 27/03/2008, in Macclesfield Borough, two rough sleepers, in Crewe & Nantwich on the 27/03/2008, there were two rough sleepers. There were no rough sleepers in Congleton Borough.

The legislation states that if a Local Authority has less then ten, but more than zero rough sleepers, a further count is not necessary, although one may be carried out at the Local Authority's discretion. It is recommended that the occasional hotspot count take place to keep track of the situation.

Does this Council intend to carry out a discretionary hot spot count?
What service is offered to homeless young people?

Recent reports have highlighted that young people who are in or have been in the care system are particularly vulnerable to becoming homeless. Should this Council have any cause for concern in relation to young people who have recently left the or who are in the its care?

The Prosperity Portfolio Holder responded:-

"Even though we do not have to carry out a formal rough sleepers count due to the numbers found in 2008, we usually hold a count every other year across the whole of Cheshire as good practice. We have been praised by Communities and Local Government in the past for taking this approach especially as it is in conjunction with Cheshire West and Chester because it ensures consistency and there is no double counting of anyone who might otherwise "border hop". We have scheduled in a Rough Sleepers Count for the whole borough on March 24th 2010 and this will include a focus on known hot spots. We will be liaising with partners, stakeholders and relevant organisations prior to the event to ensure that we aware of known hot spots for rough sleepers. We will be monitored by Communities and Local Government on the night of the Count to ensure that we are meeting the requirements for the count. Members are welcome to join us on the night to help with the Count.

Young people are treated exactly the same as any other homeless person during assessment although 16 and 17 year olds are automatically categorised as in a "priority need" which means we need to accommodate them for a period of time regardless of whether they are intentionally homeless or not. In terms of accommodation available to young people, there are a number of options for them. The Housing Options Teams provide low level mediation to help young people return home; they also refer 16 to 24 year olds to the Nightstop scheme which provides emergency accommodation with host volunteer families throughout the area (for between 1 and 3 nights) whilst other accommodation or a return home is organised; there are also supported housing schemes

throughout the whole of Cheshire East which young people can be referred to for more long term accommodation – these are: Hungerford Road in Crewe, YMCA in Crewe, Adullam Homes in Congleton and Macclesfield Accommodation Care and Concern in Macclesfield. There is also a Vulnerable Young Persons Scheme in operation in the Congleton area. This is a partnership with Plus Dane Housing, Adullam Homes and Cheshire East Council where young people are nominated to a panel (Social Services and Housing representatives are on this panel) to assess which young people are capable of maintaining their own tenancy with Plus Dane Housing but need some support, provided by Adullam Homes. The support is offered for two years at the end of which, the young person gets their own tenancy with Plus Dane Housing. Furthermore, there is also a dedicated young persons housing advice worker in Macclesfield who works at "Just Drop In". Currently we provide talks in some schools, predominantly in the Congleton area, which are aimed at 15/16 year old to talk about the realities of becoming homeless and the costs involved with moving into their own accommodation.

The results from the homeless approaches for the last two financial years does not show that we have a problem with homeless approaches from young people in or leaving care in this area. We have strong relationships with the Care Leavers Team and the officers to ensure that young people in care/leaving care who are at risk of becoming homeless have their housing situation resolved as soon as possible. Early notification between teams has been key to resolving these issues."

Question 12 – Submitted by Cllr C Thorley

Crewe Town Centre Redevelopment

Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council made a Compulsory Purchase Order to enable land in the town centre to be compulsorily acquired for the redevelopment of Crewe town centre. A Public Inquiry was held into objections against the CPO and the redevelopment scheme. That Public Inquiry was concluded in March 2008 and it was anticipated that there would have been a recommendation from the Inspector and a decision by the Secretary of State, by autumn – or at the latest winter, 2008. We are now at the end of 2009 and there is still no decision as to whether the CPO will be confirmed. The uncertainty has left property owners and retailers in a difficult position. They are unable to sell their property, because no one would want to buy with a CPO hanging over it and they are unwilling to invest in refurbishment as they might not recoup the cost in any CPO compensation. This has led to planning blight and the poor appearance of the town centre. Of particular concern is the bus station, that all will agree is in a very poor first impression of the town for bus travellers.

This Council should not leave town centre shopkeepers in a position of uncertainty, in the current difficult economic climate.

It has been well publicised in the press that the proposed town centre developer has financial difficulties.

If there is eventually some other financially viable scheme to redevelop the town centre, then the Council should ask for another planning application for it and consider a CPO that is tailored to that scheme.

If the proposed developer is not able to progress the existing scheme then will the Council consider withdrawing the CPO, so that it cannot be confirmed?

The Prosperity Portfolio Holder responded:-

"The Cabinet reviewed a report on the procurement and legal issues regarding the inherited Crewe Town Centre Redevelopment Agreement on 1 December 2009. Following advice, Senior Officers met with Corovest International Ltd subsequently agreed the following:

vii) The redevelopment of Crewe Town Centre remains a priority for the Council and Corovest.
viii) The current development scheme is no longer viable due to the economic downturn.
ix) A short, medium and long-term plan will be drawn up by Corovest and the Council to ensure a new scheme is brought forward within the parameters of our procurement legislation.
x) A package of short-term investment will be identified for the next 18 months which will address the immediate issues in the town centre and kick start an incremental programme of development. The bus station remains a priority and options for investment in the short and medium term will be looked at early in the process.
xi) To alleviate unnecessary pressure in the town, the Council intends to write to Government Office for the Northwest to withdraw the CPO application.
xii) A press statement will be issued before Christmas on all of the above".

Question 13 – Submitted by Cllr D Flude

Budget 2009/2010

This Council recognises the need to act with honesty and transparency in relation to its financial affairs. Will the Cabinet member for Finance deny strongly, the rumour that is circulating with regard to the Budget for this authority for 2009/10? That rumour is that, whereas on the one hand budget heads were agreed with Budget holders and finance allocated so far so good. However the rumour is that direct orders were then issued that only 80% of the allocated budget was to be spent. Will he agree with me that if such an underhand method of providing services or indeed cutting services was to have been used, that this would be dishonest and be liable to bring Cheshire East into disrepute. Will he, therefore, publicly deny this rumour and state that all allocated funds are available to be spent by Departments?

The Resources Portfolio Holder responded to the follow effect:

I can confirm that no explicit corporate direction along the line described has been issued.

The 2009/10 approved budget is available in full for spending in-year, as this Council and Cheshire East council-tax payers would expect.

Colleagues will recall, however, that in both the first quarter and mid-year financial update, services projected significant overspending in a number of areas, and officers were asked to put in place appropriate remedial action to address this.

This is in line with their duty, set out in the Council's Finance Procedure Rules.

To ensure that spending remains within the services overall cash limit and that individual budget heads are not overspent, by monitoring the budget and taking appropriate corrective action where significant variations from the approved budget are forecast FPR B19(c).

The Rules go on to state that such action may be undertaken provided that there is no detrimental impact on service delivery FPR 25

'Corrective action' in this context, may include managed underspending in areas of the budget where expenditure can be scaled back or deferred, to offset overspending elsewhere.

It is therefore, possible that managers locally, may have adopted this approach as part of their overall outturn management, but this would be at their discretion, and subject to the conditions previously stated, not as a result of any indiscriminate, corporate directive.

Question 14 – Submitted by Cllr M Hardy

1) **What has the Recession Task Group been dealing with and how/where have the monies been allocated to help the businesses and residents of Cheshire East?**

The Prosperity Portfolio Holder responded:-

"The Council continues to deliver a wide range of initiatives to support businesses and communities across Cheshire East, based upon an Action Plan agreed with Cabinet in May. The delivery of the Action Plan has taken place across a range of service areas, and is detailed more fully in the attached Action Plan update. Successes include:

The Recession Task Group has continued to engage with businesses to provide support through these difficult economic times, with a very successful Business breakfast event being held on the 10th September at Tatton Hall, with over 150 businesses attending. A key initiative of the event was a step-by-step guide to ensure that local businesses have open access to public sector procurement opportunities. This was supported by the hosting of a business village to enable direct business contacts to be made and developed.

Direct support to promote business development is being provided through programme of business start-up advice sessions which are being held in conjunction with the three Cheshire East Chambers of Commerce.

Support for vulnerable businesses and individuals has been a key consideration and over £1M pounds has been retained in the Cheshire East economy though the promotion of business rate relief and benefit take-up

A successful bid has been made to DWP for £1.3M of Future Job Fund monies to create 200 jobs in Cheshire East area. The jobs will be available to 18 to 24 year olds who have been claiming unemployment benefit for over 6 months.

Production and distribution of 5,000 'Think Local, Buy Local' bags, to promote local purchasing within Cheshire East's shops and businesses.

There has been other ranges of activity and I would be happy to make the detailed reports and facts available to any Member who requires them. Thanks to the Comms team for their work in getting the message across".

2) **What is the current situation with the Macclesfield Town Centre re-development?**

The Prosperity Portfolio Holder responded:-

"Cheshire East Council remains fully committed to the redevelopment of Macclesfield town centre. Discussions are currently underway with our Wilson Bowden, our development partner, to bring in much needed investment. The credit crunch has clearly had an impact on the timescales as all other areas across the country but both the Council and Wilson Bowden remain committed to bringing in new investment and we believe Macclesfield Town Centre has fantastic potential.

Members will be aware that on 22nd December, Cabinet will be asked to support the development of a delivery plan for Macclesfield over to next 5-10 years, focusing specifically on opportunities in the town centre and the South Macclesfield Development Area.

Whilst the economic conditions have put a brake on major development schemes in the town, particularly in the town centre, the Council is keen to ensure that we're using the lull in the market to position the town ready for the up-turn.

In order to ensure that the needs and ambitions of communities in Macclesfield, and of the Council itself, are addressed as holistically, effectively and promptly as possible, the Council needs to take a pro-active approach with commercial development partners to the planning of new schemes. Whilst this does not presuppose that implementation will commence immediately, it will position the town and Council much more strongly in this respect, both in relation to its current position and the position of other towns".

3) **There has been much anger from a number of residents within Cheshire East, against the harmonisation/introduction of car parking charges across the Borough.**

What consultations have there been with these residents and have they been fully made aware of the need for these charges?

Also, are all the funds raised from car parking charges re-invested within the car parks and roads within Cheshire East?

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder responded:-

"An extensive consultation process was undertaken with all former Congleton Borough area residents and businesses.

Quite apart from individual meetings with Town Councils and Traders Associations, FIVE full public meetings were held (one in each town involved).This was not required by law but was carried out in order to hear the views of those who wished to attend. These were recorded and were taken into account in the decision making process.

In addition, the Statutory 21 Day Period was extended to 35 Days to ensure as many people as possible were able to comment.

Modifications to the original Order were made following this and a further 21 Day Period allowed for representations on these.

The Reasons for making the Car Parking Order, the link with On-Street Powers expected from DfT in March next year and the proposed environmental and economic benefits were discussed at great length during this time. All information was made available through our website.

For information, Cheshire East's net spending on highways operations, repairs and maintenance is £10m per year and annual capital investment in highways is in the order of £15m.I have already given the figures in a previous answer."

4) **How is a Cheshire East building relationship with the residents and businesses of the Borough?**

The Performance and Capacity Portfolio Holder responded:-

"The Council is building relationships with residents and businesses through a variety of means. For example, through Cheshire East News, through our many customer access points, and through our website. Our strategy for customer services "Closer to Customers" will further develop our engagement with residents in particular.

Our Local Strategic Partnership held its first Assembly in October which included representatives from public, private, community and voluntary sectors across Cheshire East. At this event partners identified what our priorities should be and how we should work together to achieve them. Our Sustainable Community Strategy will set out our vision and priorities for Cheshire East – we will engage residents and businesses in shaping this vision over the next 4-5 months.

We have also set up our 7 local area partnerships which will continue to develop as a key route for engaging and empowering our communities. Alongside this we are also continuing to support a range of community and voluntary groups across Cheshire East through our community engagement team, and also to work with town and parish councils as a key voice of the community.

Our budget consultation process is also a good example of how we are listening to our residents and businesses.
Through the Places directorate we provide an extensive range of business support services including the highly successful business breakfasts, women in business events, and the targeted business support during the recession."

5) **How is Cheshire East supporting the local communities at this Christmas time, and will these supports continue?**

The Performance and Capacity Portfolio Holder responded:-

"In addition to Christmas lights and decorations in our town centres, the recession task group has provided a programme of support to local communities this Christmas. The Christmas edition of Cheshire East News was a one stop guide to Christmas in Cheshire East, encouraging people to think local and buy local. It included information on events, shopping and travel across Cheshire East. We will continue our support to business, our support to town centres, and our engagement with communities through the Local Area Partnerships".

6) **How are the Cheshire East Wardens working with Cheshire Police and other agencies to the benefit of all residents within Cheshire East?**

The Leader of the Council responded:-

"Cheshire East Wardens carry out a broad range of duties including tackling anti-social behaviour and dealing with environmental problems of littering and graffiti.

They are tasked based on shared intelligence between all partner agencies (including the Police and Fire Services and local Housing Associations) to ensure that together we deploy the right person, with the right powers to the right place at the right time. Tasking & Co-ordination meetings take place on a regular basis to agree local priorities and action. A recent success of this partnership approach includes the joint Halloween and Bonfire Night initiative which helped reduce reports of ASB during this problematic time by 23%.

The Council's Wardens have recently received 'Accreditation' from Cheshire Constabulary granting them additional policing powers to tackle issues such as 'drinking in designated areas', 'the confiscation of alcohol and tobacco from minors' etc. These powers will enable our wardens to make an even greater contribution to help resolve the sort of problems which can seriously affect peoples' quality of life.

We are currently working with the Police to 'authorise' the PCSO's working across Cheshire East with our Local Authority environmental powers to help address local environmental quality problems.

We are exploring further opportunities with all our community safety partners on how we can continue to improve our services to residents as part of the broader 'policing family' ."

Question 15 – Submitted by Cllr S Jones

I am fully aware that Cheshire East charges £4.50 to issue a key for disabled toilets. I am also aware that this figure has been chosen arbitrally, because it was the figure charged in the former Macclesfield Borough Area. This does not appear to me to be an acceptable reason for arriving at a fair charge. Why does it cost Cheshire East Council such a high price for issuing this key to disabled residents, when charitable organisations and other Local Authorities manage to issue the key for a much lower charge? Are they more efficient or simply more caring of their vulnerable residents?

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder responded:-

"These keys admit people to disabled toilets throughout the UK most of which are fitted with a standard lock. The keys are available from many sources. Councils

supply them as a convenience to local disabled residents, who find it both convenient and cheap to obtain them from us, rather than elsewhere, so we cannot be overcharging.

In harmonising the charge for providing keys, the Council had regard to the cost of the key and the costs in administrating their sale across the new borough.

Administration costs at about £1 relate to procurement, distribution and point of sale verification of appropriate issue. The present charge therefore tries to represent nothing more than the overall cost to the Council, whereas the previous charge in Crewe and Nantwich represented the cost of the key only and in Congleton, a "free" key was provided at the entire expense of the local taxpayers.

In preparing the Schedule of Fees and Charges for this year's budget there is an opportunity to consider again the extent to which the Council may wish to support the provision of disabled toilet keys".

Question 16 – Submitted by Cllr D Hough

1. If the task group of the Environment Committee, which is reviewing the charging criteria finds that individual car parks do not meet the criteria for charging set out in the Car Parking Strategy, will the charges be removed or not imposed?
2. Last year the budget was set to give a net surplus of £3.745,000 on Car Parking. Earlier this year I received an estimated income for 20010/11 for Fairview car park Alsager. What are the figures being used across the whole of Cheshire East in 20010/11 budget setting exercise?
3. Charging on Fairview Car Park Alsager was due to be discussed at the planning stage with Coop/Kimberley who are developing a Supermarket on site. This application is now at an advanced state. Has any negotiation taken place?

If supplementary questions are not to be allowed I hope that the responses should include references to the Cheshire East Car Parking Strategy.

a) section 1.0

Bullet point 1 asks that economic vitality of Town Centre is taken into account and Bullet point 3 asks that parking needs of local residents, shops and businesses be considered.

b) Section 5.1

This lays out the policy that this Authority will in principle impose charges for parking at levels reflecting local pressures and needs. That these may vary as between different Towns and smaller centres.

The reference for Question 3 is Appendix 3, section 10 presented to Cabinet on 10th November 2009.

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder responded:-

The advice from the Scrutiny Committee on setting the Tariff framework for 2010/11 and beyond will be considered by Cabinet in February next year when the 'Task & Finish' Group have completed their work. The Group have agreed the scope of their work and will be seeking to reflect all the criteria for charging as set out in the Council's Car Parking Strategy and Local Pricing Policy.

1) All charges in all car parks will then be revised to reflect the final decision of Cabinet taking into account the advice of Scrutiny.

2) The current budget-setting process for 2010/11 is seeking to maintain the Original Estimate for 2009/10.

3) Cabinet will be considering a report on this site from the Borough Treasurer in January 2010. A planning application could then be received from the Developers in March 2010 for consideration by Planning in June 2010. Car Park staff will be involved in detailed discussions at this time."

155 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

156 EXCLUSION RESOLUTION

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

PART 2

157 LEADER'S REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

Council having agreed that this item should be taken after the Exclusion Resolution; the Leader of the Council reported the following Key Decision, which had been taken under the urgency provisions contained within Council Procedure Rule 44:

Sale of County Hall, Chester and associated land.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 4.40 pm

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date of Meeting:	25 January 2010
Report of:	Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Subject/Title:	Electoral Review - Submission on Warding Arrangements

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 To report to the Council the work of the Electoral Review Task Group concerning the preparation of a submission to the Boundary Committee for England, in response to the Boundary Committee's draft recommendations for Electoral Arrangements for Cheshire East Council.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 a) That the Council consider and approve the attached submission prepared by the Task Group, which sets out the Authority's proposals for Warding Arrangements under the Electoral Review of the Cheshire East area

b) That the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any necessary technical and detailed amendments to finalise the document to ensure that it complies fully with the wishes of the Council and is delivered by the Boundary Committee's deadline of 15 February 2010.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 To enable the Council to make a considered submission proposing Warding Arrangements for the whole of the Council's area, and to comply with the Boundary Committee's deadline of 15 February 2010.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change
- Health

6.1 The Council is invited to decide its policy in particular on the number of Wards, their boundaries and the number of Members to represent each Ward, so that the Boundary Committee can take the Council's views into account in

recommending the electoral arrangements to apply to the next elections to Cheshire East Council in 2011. Impact on climate change is not a specific criterion used by the Boundary Committee in considering Warding proposals. However a few consultees at the earlier stages of consultation have suggested that some Warding patterns have lesser climate change impacts than others.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

8.1 None, given that the Boundary Committee has already agreed that it is minded to accept a Council size of 82 Members.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 Legislation requires the Boundary Committee to follow specific procedures when conducting an Electoral Review, and sets out the statutory criteria which the Committee must apply and take into account in making its recommendations.

9.2 A Petition under the Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007 was received on 31 March 2009 which requires the Council to conduct a Community Governance Review (CGR) of the unparished area of Crewe Town during the Electoral review period. Although this is a separate legal process from the Electoral review, work has been done to ensure that outcome from the CGR are notified to the Boundary Committee before its final recommendations are made. A separate report concerning the Crewe Community Governance Review appears elsewhere on the agenda for this Council meeting.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 Failure to comply with the Boundary Committee's deadline of 15 February 2010 would mean that the Council's views would not be taken into account by the Boundary Committee in formulating its final recommendations. The Committee has also advised that all submissions should as far as possible be based on evidence relating to the statutory review criteria, in order to maximise their inclusion in the Committee's final recommendations.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 The Electoral Review of Cheshire East Council commenced on 24 February 2009, with an initial focus on Council size. On 2 April the Council agreed a submission proposing a Council of 82 Members, which in early May the Boundary Committee formally confirmed it was minded to accept. On 12 May the Review proceeded to the next stage which is the initial consultation on the Warding Arrangements to apply in the area. This covered the number of Wards

and their specific boundaries, the number of Councillors to serve in each Ward and the proposed Ward names. Submissions on these issues were required by the Committee's deadline of 4 August. A Task Group of Members led the work and consultations undertaken to arrive at the proposals which were approved by the Council on 23 July 2009.

11.2 In responding to the Boundary Committee's draft recommendations, regard must be paid to the criteria which the Committee will apply in determining their final recommendations. The first of these is to achieve as far as possible electoral equality across the Wards, so that each Councillor has ideally more or less the same number of electors. With a Council of 82, the theoretical target figure is currently 3499 electors per Councillor, but a tolerance of +/-10% is applied by the Committee to allow the other statutory criteria to be taken into account. This tolerance is also applied to the five year electoral projections for 2013.

11.3 The other statutory criteria cover the need to ensure that the Wards reflect local community identities and the links between communities, and also that the Wards will help to provide convenient and effective local government. The Committee is willing to consider proposals which include one, two or three Member Wards, provided the proposals address the foregoing criteria. All of these considerations have been taken into account as far as possible in preparing the attached submission.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

12.1 There will be an ongoing need to respond to and influence the Boundary Committee's conduct of the Electoral Review during year one, so that new electoral arrangements can be decided during term one for the elections in 2011.

13.0 *Access to Information*

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Chris Chapman
Designation: Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Tel No: 01270 686637
Email: chris.chapman@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL
UNITARY AUTHORITY ELECTORAL REVIEW 2009/2010

Submission to the Boundary Committee on Electoral Arrangements

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Electoral Review of Cheshire East Council commenced on 24th February 2009, and has previously involved two stages of public consultation on (1) Council size and (2) the warding arrangements for the Authority. Cheshire East Council made detailed submissions at both of these earlier stages, taking into account, wherever possible, the views of Town and Parish Councils and other interested bodies. The Boundary Committee (BC) has indicated that it is minded to adopt a Council size of 82 Members (in line with the Council's proposals), and has now published Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for the Council.

2. TIMETABLE

2.1. The Draft Recommendations were published by the BC on 10th November 2009, for a ten weeks period of public consultation. However, due to the need for a number of numerical and mapping errors to be corrected, the deadline for responses was extended to 15th February 2010. The Recommendations make provision for six 3 Member Wards, eighteen 2 Member Wards, and twenty-eight single Member Wards (52 Wards in total). Interested parties are now invited to comment on any aspects of these electoral proposals, including the proposed Ward boundaries, the number of Councillors, Ward names, and consequential Parish and Town Council electoral arrangements.

2.2. The final stage of the Review will follow the consultation deadline of 15th February, when the BC will review these draft Recommendations in the light of representations received, and decide whether or not they should be altered. Final Proposals will be published by the BC in May 2010. They will then be subject to Parliamentary process, and formally brought into force by Statutory Order.

3. THE COUNCIL'S SUBMISSION

3.1. As at previous stages of the Review, the Council's response has been guided by an all-Party Members Task Group. The Group has given careful consideration to the Draft Recommendations, and has overseen the production of this submission, which sets out the Authority's response for determination by the full Council. The views and responses of other interested parties have been taken into consideration where known, recognising that they may make their own comments directly to the BC as part of the public consultation process.

3.2. Whilst the BC's recommendations on the number of Wards and the number of Councillors for each vary to a degree from the Council's earlier submission, the Council is minded broadly to support the BC's proposals. However, there are a

number of areas where the Council does not agree, and wishes to make further representations as set out in this document. The areas and Wards concerned are dealt with in detail in the following sections, but may be summarised as:-

(a) Wilmslow – Dean Row and Handforth
(b) Poynton – relating to Adlington, Lyme Handley and Kettleshulme
(c) Crewe Town
(d) Willaston, Rope and Wistaston
(e) Nantwich and Wybunbury Wards
(f) Haslington and Sandbach
(g) Macclesfield Town

3.3. Reference was made in the Council's last submission to the requirement to conduct a Community Governance Review (CGR) of the unparished area of Crewe Town. The CGR is now nearing completion, following 2 stages of public consultation locally. The Council will make its decision on the CGR at a Special Meeting on 25th January. This means that the outcome of the CGR will be known in time for the BC to take account of any implications for this Electoral Review.

4. WILMSLOW – DEAN ROW AND HANDFORTH

4.1. The Council's original proposal for this area was for a single Wilmslow North Ward, covering the communities of Dean Row and Handforth, represented by 3 Councillors, which achieved good electoral equality of +0.1% from the average.

4.2. The difficulty with this area in electoral equality terms is that both communities have similar electorates of 5000 – 5500 which indicates that they should each be represented by 1.5 Councillors. The BC proposal seeks to address this problem by transferring a substantial number of electors from one community to the other (in this case Dean Row to Handforth) in order to create one 2 Member Ward and one single Member ward and thereby achieve electoral equality. The Council believes that this would be at the expense of the community identities in the area.

4.3. Whichever way around the transfer of electors is carried out, it will be harmful to one of the communities. The Council's submission is that it is better to reflect the local community identities and avoid artificial boundaries by approving a single 3 Member Ward for the whole area, which would also bring with it good electoral equality. This proposal is made on the following basis:

(a) The natural boundary between the 2 communities is well recognised locally as the river Dean. To the north of the river lies Handforth, and to the south is Wilmslow, of which Dean Row is part. This is evidenced by the fact that main road names change as they cross the river, ie. Wilmslow Road in Handforth (former A34) becomes Manchester Road in Dean Row; and Dean Road (Handforth) becomes Handforth Road in Dean Row (B5358) at this point.

(b) The BC proposal places the Colshaw Farm and Finney Green areas of Wilmslow (Dean Row) all of which are located south of the river Dean into Handforth to the north. This means that Wilmslow's cemetery, the Dean Row Community Centre and the local Dean Row Shopping Centre (Summerfields) would be located out of the town and in the Handforth Ward, which is not consistent with local community identities. It would mean that representation of Dean Row residents would lie in the hands of Handforth Councillors.

(c) To achieve the BC's proposal requires the transfer of the whole of Polling District 8EE1 (1291 electors) and the major part of PD 8EA (595 electors), a total of 1886 electors from Wilmslow (Dean Row) to Handforth in order to arrive at electoral equality within the tolerance. This would continue the decision made in the 2001 Macclesfield Borough Review when PD 8EE1 was moved to Handforth. This outcome generated a good deal of local opposition in the community, many regard it as having been an error and there is now the opportunity to correct the position in line with the community's preferences. In addition, the Council would also wish to see the whole of PD8EA (rather than part) included in the Dean Row and Handforth Ward, in line with our previous submission, as this conforms with previous electoral arrangements and is familiar to local residents.

(d) There is a large degree of affinity between these distinct but linked communities, evidenced by:-

- The excellent major road and rail links between Wilmslow and Handforth
- Secondary school transfer by Handforth pupils is normally to Wilmslow High School
- Both Dean Row (Colshaw Farm) and Handforth (Spath Lane) contain substantial Manchester "overspill" housing from the 1950's
- The major "out of town" shopping centre serving the area is named "Handforth Dean"

(e) The Council's proposal for a single 3 Member Ward would render irrelevant and overcome the difficult issue of the transfer of a part of Dean Row to Handforth. It would achieve good electoral equality for the Ward of 3400 electors per Councillor in 2013.

(f) A Petition has been received requiring a Community Governance Review of Wilmslow and Handforth. Although the outcome cannot be anticipated, should there be a decision to create Parish or Town Councils in the area, the Polling Districts within both Dean Row and Handforth would lend themselves well to forming Parish Wards, without any need for further Ward boundary changes. There could, for example, readily be Parish Wards based on Colshaw Farm and Spath Lane

housing estates, which would further enhance local governance and community identities in the area.

4.4. Accordingly, the Council remains strongly of the view that a single 3 Member Ward for the Handforth and Dean Row areas is the solution which best reflects local community wishes, avoids causing damage to any of these community identities, and achieves very good electoral equality. The Council would also now propose that the 3 Member Ward is named "Dean Row and Handforth" rather than "Wilmslow North" as previously suggested.

5. POYNTON AREA

5.1. The Council's proposal for this area was for two 2 Member Wards, namely Poynton West and Poynton East and Adlington. Whilst the BC have accepted the principle of two Poynton Wards each returning 2 Councillors and requiring some linkage with adjoining communities, their preference is for Adlington to be joined with Poynton West, citing better transport links and accessibility as the main reasons. The Council would wish to make further submissions in support of the initial proposal that Adlington should be warded with Poynton East. The Council understands that this is also the strong view of Poynton with Worth Town Council. Cheshire East is also aware that Adlington Parish Council (bearing in mind their express preference to be warded with Prestbury and Mottram St Andrew) would rather be warded with Poynton East should they have to be joined with Poynton at all.

5.2. It would appear that the BC have accepted the general evidence of economic, transport, educational and other links between Poynton and Adlington. However, the Council feels that, in particular, local transport links most used by the community are the rural buses linking Adlington more with Poynton East. The bus services connect up the small hamlets within Adlington, and give access to the eastern and more rural part of Poynton, which has more affinity with the rural character of Adlington. The Council also accepts that Pott Shrigley should be included with Poynton East and Adlington, which would reinforce the generally rural character of the whole area. These links are more relevant to the local communities, than the more commuter orientated road and rail connections through Adlington and Poynton West.

5.3. Although the Poynton Business Park lies within Adlington (which also has its own Business Park), the workforce and customers found at both of these Parks came from both Poynton and Adlington (and beyond) so any direct link with Poynton West is not critical. Many Poynton residents use Adlington businesses on Wood Lane and Moggie Lane, both of which are nearer to Poynton East.

5.4. With regard to the boundary line between Poynton East and West Wards, the Council supports the proposed change advocated by the Town Council, that the centre line of Dickens Lane provides the strongest and most locally identifiable boundary between the 2 Wards, with all of Vernon Road and Spring road being in Poynton West.

5.5. Looking a little further afield, the Council is unable to understand the BC's proposed inclusion of Kettleshulme in Poynton East, as it is several miles from the town and the road links are poor. The better road links are with Rainow, which is also well served by the local buses. The Council would therefore want to argue again for its initial submission that Kettleshulme has much greater affinity with Rainow, and that it should therefore be in the Sutton Ward together with Rainow Parish. Should the proposal below concerning Lyme Handley be accepted, there would in fact be no link at all between Kettleshulme and Poynton.

5.6. The Council also proposes a minor adjustment to its original submission so that the whole of Rainow Parish is within the Sutton Ward, rather than a very small area (Rainow PD4FE1) being located within Poynton East.

5.7. The Council would also wish to press again for its initial proposal for Lyme Handley to be included in the Disley Ward. Lyme Handley has no direct connection by road with Poynton, the only access being by footpath. Previously. Lyme Handley and Disley formed a single ward for Macclesfield Borough Council, and all of the polling places for Lyme Handley are in Disley. Accordingly, the community of Lyme Handley is much more closely identified with Disley than Poynton.

5.8. In summary, the Council is making representations on the basis of:-

- A Poynton West Ward.
- A Poynton East and Adlington Ward (including Pott Shrigley but not including Kettleshulme or Lyme Handley which should be in Sutton or Disley Wards respectively).
- Adjustment to the boundary between the East and West Wards in the Dickens Lane area, as proposed by the Town Council.

6. CREWE TOWN

6.1. The Council recognises the virtue of having clear and distinct boundaries formed by the railway lines in the urban part of Crewe. With regard to the proposed Crewe East Ward, the Council reluctantly accepts the difficulty of splitting the area into individual wards and therefore does not propose any change to the draft recommendations.

6.2. The BC Draft Recommendations split the North Western Area of Crewe into four single member wards – Central, North, Leighton and St Barnabas. The Council proposes only one small change to this arrangement. This involves a redrawing of the line between the Leighton and St Barnabas Wards so that James Atkinson Way and a number of small Closes off the way are fully included in the Leighton Ward. This area forms a small estate which is currently split by the Draft Recommendation; a proposal which would involve two separate Councillors being involved in any problems or consultations involving this small community. The revised boundary would run to the rear of Skylark Close and join the BC's recommended boundary adjacent to the top of Wheelman Road.

The change would not split the parish of Leighton nor would it involve splitting the electoral district FJH. There is a strong measure of community support for this proposal, as a petition containing 185 signatures strongly objecting to the proposal of the BC and asking that the whole of the estate remain within the Leighton Ward has been submitted to the Council.

6.3. The BC draft recommendations split the South Western Area of Crewe into two two member wards – West and South. The Council proposes several changes to this arrangement.

6.4. First the Council believes there is a better line that can be drawn between the two wards. It proposes two changes to the line. At the south end the small polling district BD2 should move into the West Ward, where it has traditionally been, moving the boundary line to Nantwich Road, making it a stronger and much more simple line. This is the current boundary line between the existing Crewe West and South Wards. At the north end of the line, the current proposal cuts diagonally west to east in a series of steps. A better line would be the west extremity of polling district DD1 which would run along Franklin Avenue (to the rear of the houses) and then along Jubilee Avenue and Stewart Street to the railway. DD1 is currently in the existing South Ward and mainly consists of terraced housing very similar to the rest of the ward.

6.5. Second the Council believes polling district GM2 (Gresty Brook Parish Ward of Shavington Parish Council) has little in common with the rest of South Ward and should be instead incorporated into Shavington Ward. This would have the added advantage of creating a single ward fully co-terminous with the local Parish of Shavington.

The effect of the changes to the three wards involved would result in an evening up of the variances in the West and South Wards and a similar absolute variance in Shavington, but plus instead of negative:-

	2008 Electors				2013 Electors			
Ward	**BC Proposal**	**Variance**	**Revised (CE Council) proposal**	**Variance**	**BC Proposal**	**Variance**	**Revised (CE Council) Proposal**	**Variance**
Crewe West	7536	+8%	7536 Plus BD2 541 Less DD1 -764 Less Part DB3 -150 Less Part DE1 -28 7135	+2%	7698	+8%	7323	+3%
Crewe South	6985	0%	6985 Plus DD1 764 Less BD2 -541 Less GM2 -557 Plus Part BD3 150 Plus Part DE1 28 6829	-3%	7112	0%	6937	-2%
Shavington	3249	-7%	3249	+9%	3250	-8%	3800	+7%

			Plus GM2 551 3806					

6.6. Third, dependant on the foregoing changes being made in Crewe West, the Council believes there is a further opportunity to create two single member Wards in the area (rather than the 2 member single Wards as proposed by the BC). One Ward would comprise the area to the north of Queen's Park (Hughes Drive area), the former Hospital site to the north-east, and the housing estate on the south side. This would continue as the West Ward comprising PD's BF1, BB1 and BA1. The remaining PD's (BC1, BD1, BD2 and BB2) covering the area to the north of Gainsborough Infants School would form a new King's Grove Ward. These arrangements would be well understood by the local communities, as they are based on the former Crewe & Nantwich Borough Ward of Ruskin Park. Good electoral equality would be retained in the two single member Wards.

7. WILLASTON, ROPE AND WISTASTON

7.1. Currently called Rope Ward, the draft recommendations split the area with three wards, a 2 member Wistaston Ward, a single member Willaston and Rope Ward and a single member Shavington Ward.

7.2. Subject to the addition of Gresty Brook Parish Ward (PD GM2) to the Shavington Ward as detailed in the Crewe Area changes, the Council is happy with the Shavington Ward proposal. The Council also accepts the changes proposed which extend the Wistaston Ward into the Wistaston Green area thus enabling a common ward and civil parish boundary. This means the whole of Wistaston Parish is now within the same Council Ward. The Council is however most unhappy about the thoroughly artificial Willaston and Rope Ward. These two parishes have no significant community links (indeed they are completely separate communities) and the only road link (Eastern Road) is an inadequate country lane which is mainly used as a rat-run to access the Shavington Bypass. The Council also notes that Willaston Parish is split into two parts by the proposals with the northern part of the Parish in the Wistaston Ward.

7.3. The Council believes a better solution would be to combine the proposed Wistaston and Willaston and Rope Wards into 3 member single ward (retaining the name Rope). This Ward would then neatly and totally encompass the full parishes of Wistaston, Willaston and Rope. It is a good example of how a single three member Ward would be better understood and supported by the communities concerned, and would better reflect convenient local governance with the Ward and Parish arrangements being clearly defined with each other. The new Ward would have a variation of +9% in 2008 and +8% in 2013. This compares favourably with +11% and +10% for Willaston and Rope and +8% and +7% for Wistaston Ward in the draft recommendations.

8. NANTWICH AND WYBUNBURY

8.1. With regard to the recommendations on a future Wybunbury Ward, the Council continues to contend that Stapeley Rural (including Batherton) is not part of Nantwich and has much more in common with the conjoining Parishes of Wybunbury and Hatherton & Walgherton (all in the Wybunbury Ward). Whilst this might see the division of Stapeley Parish Council we strongly believe that these areas are rural – the housing is ribbon development on Wybunbury Lane, London Road and Broad Lane and not part of Nantwich. The ribbon housing on these roads is no more part of the Nantwich community than Hatherton & Walgtherton, Hough, Shavington or Wybunbury. For example, most young children go to Wybunbury Sir John Delves and Stapeley Broad Lane Primary Schools and not Nantwich Primary Schools. The boundary between the Nantwich South and Wybunbury Wards would run along Peter Destapleigh Way.

8.2. If the BC accepts the proposal to include Stapeley Rural and Batherton in Wybunbury, there would be a need to review the boundary line between the Nantwich South and Nantwich North and West Wards, in order to ensure good electoral equality is maintained. The revised boundary should run along Beam Street and Millstone Lane (rather than South Crofts), both of which are main roads, providing a strong boundary line in the Town Centre. This would result in a different balance between electors in Nantwich North and West, and electors in Nantwich South representing good electoral equality.

8.3. The Council is pleased that the BC has accepted that the whole of the gated community of Wychwood Park should be in Wybunbury Ward. Over two thirds of the housing has been part of Chorlton (which forms with Hough a first class Parish Council) since it was built and it makes total sense that the remaining two small enclaves should be included in the Ward. Furthermore, the inclusion of the Hotel and the Golf Course gives Hough and Chorlton Parish the basis of some infrastructure which it has been sorely missing to date. Wychwood Park is included in the Nantwich Area Partnership and is policed from Nantwich as is the rest of the Wybunbury Ward.

8.4. The Council contends that Wychwood Village, which is normal housing development unlike the very different gated Wychwood Park community, should remain part of Weston Village and hence in the recommended Haslington Ward. Wychwood Village which is still under construction has since its inception had a close affinity with Weston and has been totally within Weston's parish boundaries. It is close to Oakhanger Village (part of Weston's bailiwick) and is most definitely a separate community to the self-contained gated community of Wychwood Park. Wychwood Village has its own amenities which are important to Weston – golf course and a major community centre. The latter is vitally significant to Weston as it has only a very small and dilapidated facility of its own. Wychwood Village is included in the Crewe Local Area Partnership and is policed from Crewe as is the rest of the Haslington Ward. Accordingly, the revised boundary between the Wybunbury and Haslington Wards in this area

would follow the A531 Newcastle Road rather than along Snape Lane and across country.

9. HASLINGTON AND SANDBACH

9.1. Both Cheshire East Council and Haslington Parish Council are strongly in favour of the whole of Winterley and Wheelock Heath being included in the Haslington Ward and not in Sandbach. Paragraph 121 of the Draft Recommendations incorrectly attributes the contrary view to the Parish Council. Since the opening of the Haslington/Wheelock Bypasses the natural division of Haslington and the Wheelock area of Sandbach is without doubt the Bypass roundabout at the end of the village. The current arrangement is an unnatural division of the Community which has traditionally looked towards Haslington for its focus and identity as it is isolated from Wheelock/Sandbach. This will then avoid the current situation whereby the Ward Boundaries of certain minor roads go straight down the middle of the road.

9.2. The entire area north of the Holly Bush Inn up to the Haslington/Wheelock Bypasses share a common settlement boundary and has strong Community links with the rest of the Haslington Ward. Examples of this include common education provision and the use of local facilities including shops and public houses. Residents in this area also tend to contact Haslington Parish Council should they have any concerns for example on planning matters. Everyone, both residents and visitors alike, regard this area as logically being within the Haslington Ward and there is now the opportunity to correct this anomaly of the Community being unnaturally divided. Accordingly the BC's proposal is endorsed by this Council.

9.3. The Council also proposes an adjustment to the boundary line between Sandbach Town Ward and the Sandbach Elworth Ward. The Sandbach Town Ward's boundary line on Middlewich Road needs a slight adjustment to move the line closer to the Elworth village sign ['Elworth'] on Middlewich Road, which is located on the footway in front of house number 206, just past Grange Way, heading towards Middlewich. However, to relocate the boundary line to just beyond Grange Way would probably be difficult to achieve, as it would result in the division of houses on the estates/developments off Grange Way. Consequently, it is proposed that the boundary line is relocated to align with, and to incorporate, Rowan Close, off Middlewich Road. It should be noted that Elworth Village does not have a boundary, it is considered to be a locality and also only about 24 houses would be affected by this proposed adjustment.

10. MACCLESFIELD TOWN

10.1. The Council proposes that the Lyme Green area (PD 4CC1) should not be part of the Sutton Ward as recommended by the BC, but that it should be in the proposed Macclesfield Moss Ward. The entry road signs for Macclesfield Town are located in Lyme Green, and the Lyme Green Business Park is adjacent within the Town. The PD has been located in the existing Macclesfield South Ward since 1999, and therefore the ties between Lyme Green and the Urban

approaches to Macclesfield are stronger than to the predominantly rural Sutton area.

10.2. The proposal would also improve electoral equality, particularly if Kettleshulme is included in Sutton (as recommended earlier in this submission), given that Sutton is currently +3% without Kettleshulme, and Macclesfield Moss is -6%.

10.3. The Council also submits that the proposed Ward name of Macclesfield Moss is not appropriate, as the “Moss” concerns only one part of the area, which also includes “Ryles” and “Ivy” within its boundaries. The Council proposes the Ward name “Macclesfield South” which is more representative of the character of the area, and will be more readily understood by local communitiies.

10.4. The Council recommends that the Broken Cross and Upton Priory Ward should be named simply “Broken Cross and Upton”. Upton is the more historical name for this area, (it may have been an historical parish) which extends well beyond the Upton Priory housing estate.

10.5. It is also proposed that Macclesfield Weston and Ivy Ward should be named Macclesfield West and Ivy, as Weston is a housing estate which is only one feature of a much wider area.

Agenda Item 8

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Community Governance Review Member Group

Date of Meeting:	19th January 2010
Report of:	Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title:	Crewe Community Governance Review

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 This report provides the background in relation to the Crewe Community Governance Review under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, following receipt of a valid petition from electors in Crewe on 30th March 2009. The report provides details of the outcome of stage two of the public consultation on the Council's draft recommendation for the review, as made by the Council on 15th October 2009.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 To consider the responses from the Stage 2 consultation and to recommend to the Governance and Constitution Committee on 21st January 2010 that it make an appropriate recommendation to Council, having regard to the results of consultation on the draft proposal formulated by Council on 15th October 2009.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The second stage of Consultation for the Crewe Community Governance review took place from 30 November 2009 to 8 January 2010 and following this meeting the results will be considered by the Governance and Constitution Committee on 21st January 2010. The recommendation of the Governance and Constitution Committee for the final outcome of the Review will then be reported to the Special Council meeting for approval on 25th January 2010.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All the Wards in the unparished areas of Crewe

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 As above

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change
- Health

6.1 None

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 A bid has been made to the Borough Treasurer for transitional funding to meet the costs of the conduct of the review.

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

8.1 In the event that a Town Council was established there would be costs associated with the administration of elections which would fall to the Council when these were held at the same time as elections for Cheshire East Councillors. The cost of any by-elections would be met by the Town Council.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 With effect from April 2008 the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation of parishes and their electoral arrangements was devolved from the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission under the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 to local authorities under Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 The Council has followed the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews published by the Electoral Commission and the Department of Communities and Local Government. There are no other risk management issues.

11.0 Background

11.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 permits the Council to undertake a community governance review of the whole or part of the Borough Council area.

11.2 <u>The Review</u>

Cheshire East Council in accordance with Section 83(2) of the Act has undertaken a community governance review following receipt of a valid petition on 30 March 2009 which called for a community governance review and identified three recommendations arising from a Review:

1) That a new parish be constituted under section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
2) That the new parish should have a Council to be known as Crewe Town Council.
3) That the area to which the review is to relate is the whole of the Electoral wards of Coppenhall, Delamere, Grosvenor, Maw Green, St Johns, Valley and Waldron; and those parts of the following Electoral wards which do not already fall into an

existing parish: Alexandra, Leighton, St Barnabas, Wistaston Green.

In conducting the Review, the Council has responded to the proposal contained in the petition, but in accordance with the guidance, has also considered other viable options for other forms of community governance including Area committees, Neighbourhood Management, Tenant Management organisations, Area/ Community forums, Residents and Tenants Associations, Community Associations and whether people would prefer four Parish councils to be created.

An explanatory leaflet about the community governance review was prepared and used as a basis for the first phase of consultation which ran from 1 - 30 September 2009.

This community governance review has provided the Council with an opportunity to examine and review existing community governance arrangements and to consider whether or not new arrangements were required to best meet the needs of local people.

The first stage of consultation sought views from all electors by way of a voting paper delivered to each elector with an explanatory leaflet. A questionnaire and similar explanatory leaflet about the review was sent to various stakeholders including local public and voluntary organisations, schools, health bodies and resident and community groups. Two public meetings were held on 1 September 2009. The website was also used to allow people to record their views online.

Consideration was given to the comments and representations received from the first phase of consultation and on the basis of those representations the Council's draft recommendation was published on 30th November 2009.

11.3 Criteria and aim of the Review

Section 93 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires councils to ensure that community governance in the area under review will be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. In considering this criteria the Council is required to take account of a number of influential factors including the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion.

The Guidance on community governance reviews published by the Department of Communities and Local Government in April 2008 sets out in detail the factors for consideration to help inform the Council's judgement against the statutory criteria.

11.4 Previously Unparished Areas

The Council is required by law to consider other forms of community governance as alternatives or as stages towards establishing parish councils. The Council has noted the existing arrangements in place in the area for community representation and community engagement, including the Crewe Local Area Partnership, Neighbourhood Management, Tenant Management organisations, Area/ Community forums, Residents and Tenants Associations and Community Associations and the extent to which they are already creating opportunities for engagement, empowerment and co-ordination in local communities. The Crewe Local Area Partnership was formed following the creation of the new Cheshire East Council on 1 April 2009 and these arrangements are still in their infancy and continually developing; further time being required to see these arrangements develop to their full potential.

11.5 Consultation

The Council, in reaching its draft recommendation in this review on 15th October 2009, took into account of the representations received from the Stage 1 of consultation, having regard to the criteria in the Local Government and Public Improvement in Health Act 2007.

11.6 Result of Stage 1 consultation with electors

Just under 35,000 voting papers were issued and 8056 were returned (23%). Electors were invited to respond to two questions on the voting paper and the results were as follows:-

Question 1
1. I want a parish council for my area
2. I want no change to the current arrangements (no parish council)
Question 2: You can still vote for your preference even if you have voted above for no change
A. A single Town Council for the whole of the unparished area of Crewe
B. Four parish councils for the unparished area of Crewe

In relation to Question 1 – the results were:

3655 electors indicated that they wanted a parish council.
4059 electors indicated that they wanted no change to the current arrangements (no parish council).

In relation to Question 2 – the results were:

5617 electors expressed a view for a single town council for the whole of the unparished area of Crewe

1475 electors expressed a view for four parish councils for the unparished area of Crewe.

11.7 Submissions received to Stage 1 consultation

The Council received 41 representations in total. These comprised:

Form of Representation	Number received	Views expressed
Questionnaires Returned	20	17 preferred a single town council 2 preferred more than one local council 1 preferred area/ community/ neighbourhood forums with real powers
Letters/ emails	21	11 were in favour of a single town council 4 expressed no clear view (1 felt that the form was poorly written) 4 supported no change (1 felt that the voting paper was ambiguous and bias towards setting up a Town or Parish Council) 1 was in favour of 4 parish councils 1 was in favour of local representation, but no view expressed as to whether 1 single town council or 4 Parish councils should be created.
Form of Representation	Number received	Views expressed
Charter Trustees (where not included in results above)	6	3 supported a Single Town Council 1 supported no change 1 supported the outcome of the consultation exercise 1 supported whatever the people of Crewe wanted

11.8 Stage 2 consultation

The Second Stage of Consultation ran from 30th November 2009 to 8 January 2010 and sought views on the Council's draft recommendation "To accept the vote from the people of Crewe and to reject the notion of a town council for Crewe at this time." Representations were invited from all interested persons,

organisations, stakeholders and the public. Interested parties were encouraged to submit their views, together with any relevant supporting evidence, in writing, by email or via a feedback form on the Council's website.

11.9 Summary of Submissions received to Stage 2 consultation

Those who agree with the Council's Draft Recommendation "To accept the vote from the people of Crewe and to reject the notion of a town council for Crewe at this time"	
Councillors	5 (+ 1 spouse)
Individuals	8
Total	**14**
Those who disagree with the Council's Draft Recommendation "To accept the vote from the people of Crewe and to reject the notion of a town council for Crewe at this time"	
Councillors	8
Individuals	25
Organisations	13
Total	**46**
Those who have made other representations	
Edward Timpson MP	1
Northern Pensioners Association	1

Copies of all responses received to the Second Stage of consultation are attached as an Appendix to this report.

11.10 Key Issues

In making its final decision on the outcome of the Community Governance Review for Crewe, the Council must take into account representations received. The Council is also required to have regard to the need to ensure that community governance within the area reflects the identities and interests of the community and is effective and convenient.

As soon as practical after the Council has decided to what extent it will give effect to the recommendation made in the review, it must publish the decision and the reasons for making that decision. The Council must also take steps to ensure that people who are interested in the review are informed.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

12.1 Should the decision be taken to establish a Town Council for Crewe, electoral arrangements would need be put in place and a formal Order made to give effect to the new arrangements which would then enable elections to take place in May 2011.

13.0 Background Documents

The background papers relating to this report are listed below and can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Lindsey Parton
Designation: Elections and Registration Team Manager
Tel No: 01270 686477
Email: lindsey.parton@cheshireeast.gov.uk

- Guidance on Community Governance Reviews published by the Electoral Commission and the DCLG
- Explanatory Leaflet and Notice of Publication for the first stage of consultation
- Notice of Publication of Draft Recommendations arising from the first stage of consultation

Appendices

Representations received from the Stage 2 consultation ending on 8 January 2010.

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CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

RESPONSES TO STAGE 2 CONSULTATION

REPRESENTATIONS FROM **COUNCILLORS IN SUPPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

Cheshire East Council

208 MIDDLEWICH ST
CREWE
CW1 4DL
23/12/09.
581978

TO LINDSEY PARTON.
ELECTION TEAM MANAGER.

GOVERNANCE TEAM REVIEW.

Dear Lindsey

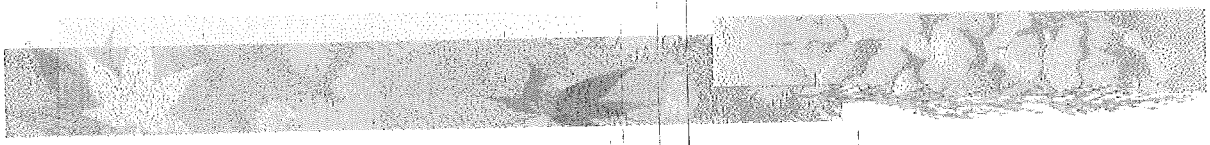
I accept the vote for NO CHANGE.
I therefore do not support a Town Council but support the Charter Trustee's and Ward Forums.
Over the last 12 months not one person has contacted me to support a Town Council quite the opposite infact.

Regards.

Cllr. Chris Thorley.
Margaret Thorley

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: BEBBINGTON, Derek (Councillor)
Sent: 29 November 2009 16:25
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW



I would like formally to submit my response to the second stage of the governance review of Crewe.

My belief is that the people of Crewe, would be best served by having no change in the current arrangement and the keeping of the Crewe Charter Trustee's.

It is also my belief that the people have voted for no change and that Cheshire East council should respect that vote.

Yours

Derek Bebbington

Cllr Derek Bebbington
Crewe North Ward
Cheshire East Council
Crewe Charter Trustee
Tel: 01270 522902
Email: cllr.derek.bebbington@cheshireeast.gov.uk

FW: Re Town Council for Crewe

REED, Brian

Sent: 07 January 2010 08:34

To: Parton, Lindsey

Brian Reed
Democratic Services Manager
Cheshire East Council
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ
Tel: 01270 686670
Fax: 01270 529891
email: brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----
From: DYKES, Brian (Councillor)
Sent: 06 January 2010 17:42
To: REED, Brian
Subject: Re Town Council for Crewe

Good Evening Brian

Will you please Note that I am NOT in favour of A Town Council for Crewe and support the wishes of the residents.

Regards

Brian

Cllr Brian Dykes

Cheshire East Council

FW: Crewe Governance Review

REED, Brian

Sent: 07 January 2010 08:28

To: Parton, Lindsey

Brian Reed
Democratic Services Manager
Cheshire East Council
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ
Tel: 01270 686670
Fax: 01270 529891
email: brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----
From: JONES, John (Councillor)
Sent: 07 January 2010 07:41
To: REED, Brian
Subject: Crewe Governance Review

Mr B Reed

I would like to place on record my support for the democratic decision by the people of Crewe to maintain the Charter Trustees' and not to have a Crewe Town Council.

John Jones Cllr Crewe North, Cheshire East Council.

-----Original Message-----
From: SILVESTER, Brian (Councillor)
Sent: 06 January 2010 15:58
To: REED, Brian
Cc: FITZGERALD, Wesley (Councillor)
Subject: Crewe Governance Review Further Consultation

Brian,

There was a ballot last year of Crewe residents and a majority voted not to have a town council. The Cheshire East Council then resolved to accept the views of the Crewe people that there should not be a Town Council. I think that the Cheshire East Council was right to accept the views of Crewe residents that there should not be a town council at the present time.

With best wishes,

Brian Silvester

CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

RESPONSES TO STAGE 2 CONSULTATION

REPRESENTATIONS FROM **INDIVIDUALS IN SUPPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: info@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Sent: 03 December 2009 12:40
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW; ARGENT, Katherine
Subject: crewe_community_governance_review_2009 - form submission

Email Result For Form :
Name : Philip Broadhurst

Address : 37 Hazel Grove, Crewe

Your Feedback : Although not in favour of the original concept of the 'Cheshire East Council' as dictated by the Government of the day, we are where we are and all areas are adequately represented on the 'new council'. To introduce another layer of governance is, I feel, futile and unnecessary. We have the 'Charter Trustees' to protect our heritage and perform the ceremonial and who are more than adequate to make representations to the full Cheshire East council in their capacity as councillors for the Town.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: info@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Sent: 15 December 2009 14:10
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW; ARGENT, Katherine
Subject: crewe_community_governance_review_2009 - form submission

Email Result For Form :
Name : Bob Squirrell

Address : 31, Whirlow Road, Crewe, CW2 6SR

Your Feedback : To me the questions were clear and the result is also clear, that a majority of those that voted want no change.

It is being said that the questions were not clear. The only possible confusion would be if people did not understand in question 1 that it meant parish council OR town council.

The low response also suggests that there is not much enthusiasm for any change.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Clive Lane [clive_lane_cgs@hotmail.com]
Sent: 09 December 2009 14:36
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

With regard to the proposed draft recommendation of Cheshire East Council 'to accept the vote from the people of Crewe to reject the notion of a Town Council for Crewe at this time' may I say I find it both insulting and patronising for those in favour of a Town Council to suggest that Crewe people rejected the notion of a Town Council for Crewe because they did not fully understand a perfectly worded, simple question - do you want a Town Council for Crewe of not.

Crewe people new EXACTLY what they were voting for. They were voting against another unnecessary layer of beaucracy and expence, and a rejection of a return of Peter Kent and his labour cronies who over the years have inflicted so much damage on this once great town.

Stick to the result. It was clear enough. No Town Council for Crewe.

C. Lane

FW: Crewe Town Council

REED, Brian

Sent: 07 January 2010 12:27

To: Parton, Lindsey

Brian Reed
Democratic Services Manager
Cheshire East Council
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ
Tel: 01270 686670
Fax: 01270 529891
email: brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----
From: joanduffy06@aol.com [mailto:joanduffy06@aol.com]
Sent: 07 January 2010 12:06
To: REED, Brian
Subject: Crewe Town Council

Sir. I agree the people of Crewe have spoken and therefore there should not be a Crewe Town Council

Regards Joan Duffy.

FW: Crewe Town Council

REED, Brian

Sent: 07 January 2010 15:44

To: Parton, Lindsey

Brian Reed
Democratic Services Manager
Cheshire East Council
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ
Tel: 01270 686670
Fax: 01270 529891
email: brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----
From: Cath [mailto:cathtuppence60@btinternet.com]
Sent: 07 January 2010 15:03
To: REED, Brian
Subject: Fw: Crewe Town Council

----- Original Message -----
From: Cath
To: brian.reed@cheshireest.gov.uk
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 6:00 PM
Subject: Crewe Town Counsil

Please note that as a Crewe resident I feel that it is most important and correct that Cheshire East Council respects the views of Crewe residents that there should not be a town council at the present time.

From: REED, Brian
Sent: 08 January 2010 10:53
To: Parton, Lindsey
Subject: FW: Crewe Governance Review

Brian Reed
Democratic Services Manager
Cheshire East Council
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ
Tel: 01270 686670
Fax: 01270 529891
email: brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----
From: SILVESTER, Brian (Councillor)
Sent: 07 January 2010 18:35
To: REED, Brian
Cc: 'ian.hughes1@homecall.co.uk'
Subject: FW: Crewe Governance Review

Brian,
Ian Hughes has asked me to pass the e-mail below onto you as part of the Crewe Governance Review.

With best wishes,

Brian Silvester

-----Original Message-----
From: Ian Hughes [mailto:ian.hughes1@homecall.co.uk]
Sent: 07 January 2010 16:10
To: SILVESTER, Brian (Councillor)
Subject: RE: Crewe Governance Review

Dear Brian

I have to support the views of Crewe People that there should not be a Crewe Town Council. The reorganisation of the Local Authority and the creation of two Unitary Councils in Cheshire should have brought economies of scale to the Council Tax Payers of Cheshire. It is time to question the value that the Nantwich Town Council brings to its residents and whether the potential limited benefits represents value for money from the Council Tax Payers.

I would welcome feedback on what savings have been made and whether the Council Tax Payers of Cheshire East are going to see a reduction in their Council Tax Bills in the coming Tax year.

It is time that the Management of Local Authorities was more accountable to voters.

As a separate issue the gritting of the roads particularly the minor roads seems to have been very poor. I wonder just how many admissions have been made into local Accident and Emergency Hospitals due to the lack of gritting.

Yet again it appears to be a lack of joined up planning in dealing with the conditions created by this winter weather.

The voters want to see value for money from their taxes.

Ian

Ian Hughes

Parton, Lindsey

From: REED, Brian
Sent: 08 January 2010 12:32
To: Parton, Lindsey
Subject: FW:

Brian Reed
Democratic Services Manager
Cheshire East Council
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ
Tel: 01270 686670
Fax: 01270 529891
email: brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----
From: beverleyshenton@aol.com [mailto:beverleyshenton@aol.com]
Sent: 08 January 2010 03:40
To: REED, Brian
Subject:

At the ballot last year of Crewe residents the majority voted not to have a Town Council.
Cheshire East accepted this view and I think they were right to accept the views of the residents that there should not be a Town Council at present.

Regards.
Kirk and Beverley Shenton

CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

RESPONSES TO STAGE 2 CONSULTATION

REPRESENTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AGAINST THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Parton, Lindsey [lindsey.parton@cheshireeast.gov.uk]
Sent: 01 December 2009 11:06
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Cc: BASON, Ralph
Subject: FW: Crewe Community Governance Review - Stage 2 consultation

From: Roland Domleo [mailto:domleor@btinternet.com]
Sent: 30 November 2009 21:05
To: HAWTHORNTHWAITE, Gaynor
Subject: Re: Crewe Community Governance Review - Stage 2 consultation

30th November 2009

I do wish to make a representation.

a) I believe that the people of Crewe were misinformed by those that claimed a Town Council "could " cost £9 million over four years. That is patently not true. Had they not been so misinformed then they may have voted differently.

b) Part of the "People and Places" bid which led to the formation of Cheshire East is based on the premise of devolving service delivery down to the lowest level practical, which is in effect Town and Parish Councils. That means we need to be fully parished.However we face the prospect of all of Cheshire East being parished with the exception of Crewe.

We cannot have local Town and Parish Councils paying for and providing services in their local areas whilst those services in Crewe are paid for by all the tax payers in Cheshire East.

We must press ahead with a single Town Council for Crewe.

Best Regards
Roland Domleo

Cllr. Roland M. Domleo, Congleton Town West Ward, Cheshire East Council, Cabinet Member For Adult Services, 9 Kirkstone Court, Congleton. CW12 4JW tel 01260 278745. Mobile 07710 126406 e- mail roland.domleo@cheshireeast.gov.uk

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Cllr Howard Murray [howard.murray@ntlworld.com]
Sent: 26 November 2009 15:59
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: A Council for Crewe

I strongly believe that Crewe deserves a Town Council:

- It will increase the numbers of Cllrs available to represent the views of the local people – better democratic accountability and greater community involvement;
- It will ensure a better political balance;
- It will ensure that services that should be delivered locally will be delivered locally and in a more cost effective manner;

To not give Crewe a Council will seriously disadvantage its residents in terms of representation and ensuring that they get the services that they deserve. The cost per household is tiny compared to the benefit of better service delivery and Cllr representation.

hm

Cllr Howard Murray
Representing:
Poynton Ward - Cheshire East Council;
Central Ward - Poynton Town Council.
(T) +44 (0)1625 878367
(M) +44 (0)77 3971 6111
howard.murray@cheshireeast.gov.uk

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: MORAN, Arthur (Councillor)
Sent: 02 December 2009 14:14
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe Town Council

As a Nantwich Town Councillor for 23 years I believe that Town and Parish Councils are a very important level of Local Government and have a vital role to play in the new two tire system since Cheshire East was formed.

I therefore support the formation of a Town Council for Crewe a Town with a very important industrial history and it is vital that Crewe as a voice and local representation at this level.

Regards
Councillor Arthur Moran.
Cheshire East
Nantwich

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: info@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Sent: 08 December 2009 20:40
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW; ARGENT, Katherine
Subject: crewe_community_governance_review_2009 - form submission

Email Result For Form :
Name : Cllr Terry Beard

Address : 1 Tollemache Drive Crewe

Your Feedback : I do not agree with the councils draft resolution because I do not believe that the people of Crewe did reject the notion of a town council.As representative of unparished areas of Crewe I am being constantly asked when will a town council come into effect,its widely believed that the vote was flawed and a straight vote of yes or no vote is required and it would be overwhelming for a town council for Crewe.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: CONQUEST, Steve (Councillor)
Sent: 03 January 2010 17:21
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe Community Governance Review - stage Two Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam

I have been asked to provide a contribution to the second stage of the Consultation process in my capacity as Charter Trustee.

At October`s Full council meeting I explained the reasons why the Council`s draft recommendation to reject the notion of a Town council is based upon a fundamentally flawed public consultation. The details will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which I proposed an amendment to the draft recommendation.

I still hold firmly to this view and believe that the majority of Crewe residents are in favour of a Town council. A single Town council represents an opportunity to have a single, democratically elected body to represent the people of Crewe and in doing so provide the unity of purpose to help drive the regeneration of Crewe forward at a critical time within the current economic cycle.

Should the draft recommendation be approved then I believe that Cheshire East council will have missed a real opportunity to respond positively to the challenges that Crewe faces and the contribution that a Town council could have made towards this.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Steve Conquest

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: FLUDE, Dorothy (Councillor)
Sent: 04 January 2010 09:10
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe Town Council

I am in full support of a single town council for the un-parished part of Crewe Town
Dorothy Flude
Labour Group Leader Cheshire East

Response to the Crewe Governance Review: Date 6th of January 2010.

I would like respond to this review not only because I am an elected representative for Crewe West Ward but for the whole of Cheshire East Borough Council Area and feel its important to enhance local representation and democracy and in that regard feel that large areas in this borough which because of Local Government Reorganisation are without this means of Governance which I believe to be a fundamental right to have Town Council. We must as a principal council ensure that a fair means of addressing that issue of democratic disadvantage in areas like Macclesfield, Wilmslow. Handforth and Crewe which have no local Town Council but elsewhere in the Borough the area is dominated by Town and Parish Councils:

Alsager, Bollington. Congleton, Knutsford, Middlewich, Nantwich, Poynton, Sandbach.
Acton,Edleston & Henhull, Adlington, Agden, Alderley Edge, Alpraham, Arclid, Ashley, Aston-by-Budworth, Audlem, Barthomley, Betchton, Bickerton & Egerton, Bosley, Bradwall, Brereton, Brindley & Faddiley, Buerton, Bulkeley & Ridley,
Bunbury, Burland, Calveley, Chelford, Cholmondeley & Chorley,
Cholmondeston & Wettenhall. Chorley, Church Lawton, Church Minshull, Cranage, Crewe Green, Disley, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, Doddington & District, Eaton, Gawsworth, Goostrey, Great Warford, Hankelow, Haslington,Hassall, Hatherton & Walgherton, Haughton, Henbury, Higher Hurdsfield,
High Legh, Holmes Chapel, Hough & Chorlton,
Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths, Kettleshulme,Little Bollington, Little Warford, Lower Withington, Lyme Handley, Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough,Marbury & District, Marton, Mere, Millington,
Minshull Vernon & District, Mobberley, Moston, Mottram St Andrew,
Nether Alderley, Newbold Astbury-cum-Moreton, Newhall, North Rode,
Odd Rode, Ollerton & Marthall, Over Alderley, Peckforton Peover Inferior,
Peover Superior, Pickmere, Plumley with Toft & Bexton, Pott Shrigley,Prestbury,
Rainow, Rope, Rostherne, Shavington-cum Gresty, Siddington, Smallwood,
Snelson, Somerford, Sound & District, Spurstow, Stapeley & District,
Stoke & Hurleston, Sutton, Swettenham, Tabley, Tatton, Twemlow, Wardle,
Warmingham, Weston & Basford, Willaston, Wilmslow, Wistaston,
Worleston & District, Wrenbury-cum-Frith, Wybunbury,Wincle.

Then why do I ask for a town council for the unparished area of Crewe well because that is what the people want.
This has been expressed via a petition, ballot result, and debate and a consensus amongst the local residents who do not understand why they cannot have a town council for Crewe they have definitely rejected the notion of multiple councils for Crewe and the argument for them has diminished.

Many Parish Councils have warding arrangements which in effect means that there are multiple parishes under a parent or governing body which has the final say on how the council directs itself and allocates funds and sets a preset, so the difference between the two options on the first Stage Consultation Ballot is a fine line between them but the fundamental difference is the numbers of electors that have asked for a whole Town Council for the unparished areas of Crewe.

This overwhelming Majority must be the deciding factor for deliberations whether they have a one town council for the unparished area Crewe or the status quo still applies.

If the decision is no to a town council then the democratic disadvantage will continue and the implications for the principal council this will bring.
This I believe will only engender mistrust and resentment towards Cheshire East Borough Council for years to come and will disenfranchised a large area of the Borough which in effect will not feel part of the newly fledged Council.

Throughout this consultation I can not see any other viable alternative to one town council this has been bourn out of many groups' organisations and individual residents who have asked for a town council, one voice to help Crewe to regenerate and improve the Town for the good of the its people that is what people expect to happen throughout Cheshire East Borough Council area if they are in a parish.
So why Crewe should be treated any differently than anywhere else like the list above? please give us a town council.

Councillor Roy Cartlidge
Crewe West Ward
Cheshire East Borough Council
8 Coppenhall Lane
Crewe
CW2 8TT

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: D CANNON [cannon380@btinternet.com]
Sent: 05 January 2010 15:23
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

from Cllr David Cannon/ Crewe South Ward.

I make this submission primarily as a Charter Trustee of Crewe.

Towards the end of 2009, Cheshire East's Head of Democratic Services issued guidance notes to the Trustees, prepared by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Included in these notes is the passage: "the sole purpose of creating Charter Trustees is to maintain and preserve the historic rights, privileges (including ceremonial rights and privileges) and traditions ("historic rights") associated with those local authority districts which were subsumed into a larger local government area as part of local government reorganisation and where a suitable parish does not exist to preserve those rights; ... their creation is a temporary and caretaker arrangement to preserve historic rights locally (and not create a break in those traditions) until such time as a parish can be created."

My impression is that most of the Members of the former Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council who voted to establish the Trustees for Crewe (including me) did so expectating that the Trustees would continue for only a short period. The Trustees were established to preserve the office of Mayor, an office that began when Crewe became a Borough in 1877, and continued when it was subsumed into the new Borough of Crewe & Nantwich in 1974. In my view, the correct way to maintain that office is for future mayors to be elected by members of a reconstituted Town Council, and to chair meetings of that Council. A 'Mayor' merely chosen from the twelve people who happen to represent Crewe wards on Cheshire East Council is a travesty - preservation of the trappings of office with none of the substance.

Re-establishment of Crewe Town Council does of course depend on the consent of the electors in the unparished areas of the town. Cheshire East Council deserves credit for organising a ballot during the public consultation in the first stage of the Governance Review. With hindsight, it was a mistake to make that a double ballot. The results of the two votes are contradictory: one vote apparently against a Crewe Council, the other in favour.

A natural response to these results would be to seek clarification in the second stage consultation, and it is regrettable that this opportunity was not taken up. It is also regrettable that the result of the votes has been presented in a misleading way during this second consultation.

The result of the first ballot question is presented as: 3655 electors wanting a parish council and 4059 electors wanting no parish council. This ignores the 321 electors who didn't vote on this question at all, but who by voting on the second question clearly indicated support for a council. Thus less than a hundred votes separates the totals for and against a "parish" council, a term that undoubtedly confused some of the electors. Yet this result has been allowed to override the vote 5617 in favour, 1475 against a "town" council, the term that was used in the original petition.

The belief seems widespread amongst the membership of Cheshire East Council, that a Crewe Town Council will be established eventually. However it is not clear in what circumstances a second Governance Review would take place, or what object is gained in delaying establishment of a Council beyond 2011. Many people within the town and beyond it assumed that the original petition signed by more than 10% of eligible electors was sufficient in itself to secure a Town Council. It is

perverse not to take this step in the establishment of a uniform pattern of local government in east Cheshire, when just 4059 voters - less than 12% of the electorate - have expressed opposition to it.

David Cannon

CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

RESPONSES TO STAGE 2 CONSULTATION

REPRESENTATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS AGAINST THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

COLIN TOMKINSON,
36, RUSKIN ROAD,
CREWE,
CW2 7JR

RE-CREWE CHRONICLE 9-12-09

16-12-09

Dear Lindsey Parton,

Concerning Cheshire East Council, I have never wanted a Crewe Town Council. The "Election" was such, that I cancelled out my own vote as did many other voters. Surely the "VOTE" should have been a straight YES or NO.

I believe the election was arranged to give the result they wanted, rather than what the majority of Crewe Town Residents want.

Crewe Towns future looks very bleak ruled from above by Cheshire East Council

Yours Sincerely

C Tomkinson

P.OLLERHEAD. MA.
320, BROAD STREET,
CREWE,
CW1 4JH

Telephone 01270 585622
email: p.ollerhead@tiscali.co.uk

Dealer in Second-Hand Books

19th December 2009

Dear ~~Sir~~, Madam

Following attendance at a public meeting in Crewe to discuss the draft recommendations for a town council or four parish councils for Crewe I wish to make the following observations.

1. The draft recommendation states that the outcome of the Council's review is:

"To accept the vote from the people of Crewe and to reject the notion of a town council for Crewe."

I desire to register a strong denial that the flawed vote based upon two questions, one of which was ambiguous in the extreme expresses the will of the people of Crewe. I am reasonably intelligent yet I apparently voted for no change in the status quo, which means that I voted to reject a town council. Anyone who lives in the town (not Cheshire east councillors who do not live here) knows that the overwhelming desire is for a town council.

I am fully aware that this consultation is but window dressing and that the desires of Cheshire East Council to deny Crewe a council will be voted through. It will however be a bad day for democracy.

2. If as seems likely parish councils will be installed into Crewe I wish to say that Crewe is one entity. Unlike Wistaston or Willaston, which always had separate identities even, when part of the old Crewe and Nantwich Borough, Crewe however has no recognised parishes. Do not let anyone on Cheshire East say that it has. As a student of Crewe's history (three books in print and two at the publishers) I can state categorically that the town is an entity NOT an amalgam of parishes. To foist parish councils onto Crewe will be ridiculous. We want a council for the whole of the unparished area of the town.

Yours faithfully,

P. Ollerhead

P. OLLERHEAD

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: info@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Sent: 23 November 2009 07:55
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW; ARGENT, Katherine
Subject: crewe_community_governance_review_2009 - form submission

Email Result For Form :
Your Feedback : I totally disagree that the people of Crewe voted down the proposal for a town council. The form supplied to record a vote was ambiguous and difficult to understand. I am a retired teacher and an ex-engineering drahgtsman but could not understand the first section of the form. I wish now to state complain about the first stage even though it has been accepted by the council. I also wish to state that Crewe NEEDS a town council not four parish councils or however many Cheshire East intend to foist upon us.
P. Ollerhead, 320, Broad Street, CREWE CW1 4JH

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Steve Hogben [steven.hogben@googlemail.com]
Sent: 21 December 2009 11:53
To: Parton, Lindsey; COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe Community Governance Review Stage 2 consultation

Dear Mrs Parton,

Recently you wrote to me in my capacity as a member of a community group in Crewe, a parish councillor and an Honorary Alderman of the Borough, to seek my views on the draft recommendation of Cheshire East Council **"to accept the vote from the people of Crewe, and to reject the notion of a Town Council for Crewe at this time".**

I am writing to express my emphatic rejection of the draft recommendation. In my opinion, the Council's recommendation is wrong because it ignores many of the results of the first stage of consultation. The purpose of Stage One consultation was to collect views from residents and stakeholders to enable the Council to form a rational conclusion, based on evidence. There is ample evidence to demonstrate that the people of Crewe want a town council.

The Stage One voting result came in two parts.

It is fair to say that the first question on the voting paper produced an inconclusive result:

In favour of a parish council	3655
No change	4059
Abstained	342
Total	8056

I attended the first public consultation meeting held at 2.30 p.m. on 1st September 2009. I know (because he said as much) that Honorary Alderman Ray Stafford attended specifically to ask whether respondents had to complete both parts of the voting paper, or was it possible to fill in just one part. This question is included in the record of that public meeting. The response to his question is recorded as being **"as this was not a ballot, respondents' views would not be invalidated if both parts were not completed, but it would reduce the amount of evidence upon which a reasoned conclusion could be drawn".**

So plainly there were people who did not wish to complete part one of the ballot paper but who did wish to express a preference for a town council. In fact, Ray Stafford stated that many residents had contacted him simply because they did not fully understand the voting paper, but did want to back a town council for Crewe. Mr Stafford said this in the abovementioned public meeting that was chaired by Councillor Kolker, and his comments were clearly heard by all present, including the press. Others in attendance, including me, had been asked similar questions by local residents and supported his contention.

In view of this, it seems to me that the result of the vote on the first question must be augmented by responses to question two. According to the Council's own figures, of the 342 people who abstained from answering the first question, 301 supported one town council for Crewe, 10 favoured four parish councils for Crewe and 31 responses were rejected by the Council, presumably because they were invalid in some way. So in effect 88% of the "plumpers", who only answered question two, wanted a town council for Crewe.

This suggests strongly that the result of the vote on question one should be interpreted as being **at least** 3966 in favour of parish council arrangements for Crewe, and 4059 against parish council arrangements for Crewe, with 31 rejected voting papers. In any rational statistical analysis, this has to be seen as too close to be decisive, and easily within the range of statistical (and other) error.

The response to the second , less ambiguous question on the voting paper by contrast was very decisively in favour of a town council for Crewe. Almost 70% of all those who voted preferred a single town council for Crewe to any other outcome.

5617 in favour of a single town council for the unparished area of Crewe

1475 in favour of four parish councils for the unparished area of Crewe
111 who favoured a parish council did not express a preference between the two options
822 who wanted no change did not express a preference between the two options
31 voting papers were rejected

8056 in total

I now turn to the corporate category, if it can be so described. Of the 41 representations received from stakeholders, 28 preferred a single town council to any other of the many options available. This is a clear two-thirds majority. And it should be noted that these responses did not include replies from significant stakeholders in the town, such as the Crewe Chronicle, MMU Cheshire and Crewe Alexandra FC, all of whom had publicly supported a town council for Crewe beforehand, but none of whom were consulted at Stage One by Cheshire East Council.

Two other very clear pieces of evidence of popular support for the creation of a town council for Crewe also appear to have been overlooked by Cheshire East Council in producing its draft recommendation. These are the petition signed by 3,672 registered electors in the unparished area of Crewe, and the results of a telephone poll by Telsolutions, a reputable independent polling company, whose results can be supplied on request.

In conclusion, the bulk of the evidence points to a wish by the people of Crewe for a town council.

Quite apart from all the above, if Cheshire East is to operate most effectively as the strategic authority intended by government when it created the new unitary council, it is expected by government to devolve powers and budgets to the lowest level, in other words to local councils. This was a basic assumption in the 2007 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, and was sometimes referred to as "double devolution". It is the case that there needs to be a network of local councils within the area of a new unitary council capable of delivering front-line local services: this is another compelling reason for Cheshire East to take the opportunity now to introduce local councils in all those areas that are currently unparished, including Crewe, Macclesfield, Wilmslow and Handforth. Since community governance reviews are about to commence for Macclesfield, Wilmslow and Handforth, which must be concluded by the autumn of 2010, the principle authority has a golden opportunity now to ensure a consistent outcome, whereby local councils cover the whole of its administrative area.

Even if some elected members have doubts about the strength of local support for a Crewe town council, they have a real opportunity to show true community leadership and make the decision now to introduce local council arrangements for the town from May 2011. I urge all elected members to seize that opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Hogben

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Malcolm Scane [malcscane@ic24.net]
Sent: 12 December 2009 18:44
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe Town Council

The Elections and Registration Team Manager,
Cheshire East Council,
Westfields,
Sandbach,
Cheshire,

Dear Lindsey

Would you please register my support for the proposed Town Council for Crewe

Malcolm Scane
43 Catherine Street
CREWE
CW26HD

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Pat Parry [pat.m.parry@btopenworld.com]
Sent: 23 October 2009 12:36
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe town council ballot

I was not at all happy with the format of the ballot paper. I did not understand the first set of choices. Why would anyone opt to stay as we are when at the moment we are in a state of limbo, yet to have gone for the other option would not have indicated my wishes either. To put a question mark on the ballot paper would have invalidated it so I simply opted not to vote on the first question. My wish was for a Crewe Town Council and I assumed that by voting for that in the second part of the ballot would have made my wishes clear. I now read that by not voting in the first element Cheshire East has chosen to ignore voters whishes as indicated in the second question. I asked numerous friends and colleagues, including former C & N borough councilors but none of them was able to explain to me what the first choice really meant.

If the first choice was between Crewe having some form of local council or not then that is what the ballot paper should have stated.

I am really angry that Cheshire East seems to be ignoring the results of the second question, which, if what I have read in the press is correct, indicated that the majority of people who voted wanted a Town Council as opposed to four separate parish councils. If residents did not want one or the other of those they would not have voted at all.

pat.m.parry@btinternet.com
Crewe

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: info@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Sent: 23 November 2009 19:40
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW; ARGENT, Katherine
Subject: crewe_community_governance_review_2009 - form submission

Email Result For Form :
Your Feedback : I thought I voted to have a town council for Crewe, but now I'm not sure. The ballot paper was confusing to say the least. Crewe is the largest town in South Cheshire and needs a voice of it's own. There is a very real danger that others, in Cheshire East, will seek to marginalise Crewe in order to pursue their own agenda(s. This must not happen, one town, one voice.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: stephen pennell [smpennell@hotmail.com]
Sent: 25 November 2009 13:19
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe town council governance review

As a person who signed the petition I feel the process was hijacked by Cheshire East Council looking for political gain, And to influence the result with a loaded ballot paper the petition asked people to sign up in support of a Crewe town council. the question on the ballet paper should have been a simple yes or no answer. By fiddling the ballet paper they achieved a different result this makes a mockery of the petition and ignores local feeling regards this issue. The ballot should be rerun with a simple yes no answer. As regards the 4 parish council option as anyone seen a petition or mandate for its inclusion on the ballet paper, no will be the answer as there was none,

Mr S M Pennell
1 Castlemere Drive
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 4SP

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: ROBERT ICKE [r.icke@btinternet.com]
Sent: 26 November 2009 19:32
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Question 1
1. I want a parish council for my area
2. I want no change to the current arrangements (no parish council)
Question 2: You can still vote for your preference even if you have voted above for no change
A. A single Town Council for the whole of the unparished area of Crewe
B. Four parish councils for the unparished area of Crewe

I must say the questionaire was very very confusing - I wanted a Town Council but because of how poorly the questionaire was written my vote would have been registered as a NO Town Council - which is wrong and probably like others falsely accounted for.

I did not want a Parish Council - But I wanted a TOWN COUNCIL so I indicated NO to a Parish Council.

ONLY in Question 2 do you talk about a TOWN COUNCIL in which I voted A for a single town Council.

I am not sure whether this was a deliberate misleand on the Leading Conservative Party as they were anti - towm council. However I do believe it was VERY VERY misleading and in all due respect a Unfair ams one sided result.

Quetion one should have Read Do you want a TOWN COUNCIL Yes or NO
Question two shoould have read IF there is to be a TOWN COUNCIL would you like 1 TOWN COUNCIL or Crewe divided into 4 PARISH COUNCILS.

I hope this infomation will be passed onto the Obusman so they can see how poorly thr questioning was and why the results shold be null and void.

Yours

Robert Icke

A COUNCIL TAX PAYER

Please can I have reponse to my email

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: D WILLIAMS [d.williams24@btinternet.com]
Sent: 27 November 2009 08:55
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe Town Council

The form for the Stage 1 consultation was very confusing for most people.
The people of Crewe need **ONE TOWN COUNCIL**, other areas are represented by Town/Parish Councils' so why should Crewe be different.
The people in the unparished parts of Crewe are not being listened to. Why do you not get out into the communities and speak to the electorate and ***listen*** to their views

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: info@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Sent: 05 December 2009 22:25
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW; ARGENT, Katherine
Subject: crewe_community_governance_review_2009 - form submission

Email Result For Form :
Name : john rhodes

Address : 22 Brooklyn street Crewe cw27jf

Your Feedback : Who ever came up with the wording for the ballot paper successfully confused the good people of Crewe. Was that the intention?
Crewe badly needs a town council to co-ordinate activities it cannot be left to cheshire east council alone,it failed us miserably over the christmas arrangements in the town centre.
A town council should be a democratically elected body comprised of people who live in Crewe and have its best interest at heart.Not a political football.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: janncncab@googlemail.com on behalf of Julie ann Ankers [julieann@cecab.org.uk]
Sent: 09 December 2009 11:59
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Town Council

To Elections & Registration team Manager,

I consider myself fairly well educated and able to understand forms, but the voting paper you sent out regarding the Town Council was totally misleading.

I answered no to question one but now find that I voted No to a town council? This is not the case, I wanted to have a town council but the way it was worded was very confusing.

Also to question two I voted No to a split in to four parishes.

I feel that Crewe & Nantwich should have a local council, as it is one of the largest populated area's in Cheshire East.

Was this a ploy by Cheshire East to confuse people, and what agenda have they got for refusing Crewe & Nantwich A Local Voice?

In terms of the new consultation it is very unfair that it has ONLY been advertised (in a hard to find spot I might add) in the Crewe Chronicle. Not all residents but this paper. It should be a whole consultation process not just a small article in a local paper!

We went to the Municpal Buildings as advertised and even the staff there did not know what we were talking about. The lady had to telephone Sandbach for the details and was told it was only a sentence anyway? This is not very good especially in communication to us of Crewe.

This is e-amiled on behalf of Thelma Grace but please respond to this e-amil address.

I will pass on the response to Thelma Grace.

Many thnaks

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: PAM MINSHALL [pam.minshall@btinternet.com]
Sent: 10 December 2009 14:56
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Consultation

CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - STAGE 2 CONSULTATION

The wording of the draft recommendation seems particularly disingenuous. The people of Crewe did not reject the notion of a Crewe Town Council - in fact by far the largest number voted for one town council, and that the figures can be so manipulated is due to the faulty ballot paper that was sent out in the first stage of the consultation.

I believe that a single town council for Crewe should be established now. It is certain that there will be one in the future, and one would have thought that in fact, Cheshire East Council would welcome such a body as a significant part of the wish to devolve some matters to a more local level.

Crewe, like other towns within the authority, has its own particular history and culture and a town council will help preserve this as well as promoting community cohesion and giving residents a very local focus and a say in purely Crewe matters and concerns.

I therefore reject the draft recommendation from Cheshire East Council, and request the immediate establishment of a single Town Council for the unparished areas of Crewe.

(Mrs) P M Minshall
145 Gainsborough Road
Crewe
CW2 7PL

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Trevor Clowes [handt136@talktalk.net]
Sent: 12 December 2009 12:36
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe Town Council

Were it not for the incredibly devious wording which this corrosive East Cheshire Council chose to utilise in the ballot paper in order to frustrate the due election process, it is generally believed that there would have been a clear majority in favour of the appointment of a town council.
East Cheshire Council have rapidly squandered any credibility which they might have once carried into their recent establishment.
Trevor Clowes
Crewe.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: info@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Sent: 21 December 2009 10:40
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW; ARGENT, Katherine
Subject: crewe_community_governance_review_2009 - form submission

Email Result For Form :
Name : denvir champion

Address : 7 Masefield Drive,crewe CW1 5JU WALDREN WARD

Your Feedback : I am totally in suport of a town council for Crewe the form was very confusing delibertly.
I am watching this conservitive run council to decide how to vote in national and local elections and after dead christmas trees the Queens park, town center renewal, moving the rail station out of crewe to nowere I can see nothing to recomend a vote for Cameron or Timpson goverment.And his handling of Post office and Crewe works but this is in line with there plans to outlaw unions

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: info@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Sent: 16 December 2009 15:10
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW; ARGENT, Katherine
Subject: crewe_community_governance_review_2009 - form submission

Email Result For Form :
Name : R.A.Harding

Address : 7 Nigel Gresley Close, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 5GW

Your Feedback : I must first state that I was & still am in complete diagreemaent with the splitting of the county and believe it was a very silly , politically motivated and costly mistake. However, it has now taken place and the question is,"Should Crewe have its own town council"? I think that to have any focussed representation under the current county plan??, that Crewe must have its own town council. I'm sure this will add to the cost of Government (see my dismay above), but it is the lesser of the two evils.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: info@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Sent: 27 November 2009 00:40
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW; ARGENT, Katherine
Subject: crewe_community_governance_review_2009 - form submission

Email Result For Form :
Your Feedback : Your decision to reject the formation of one council for Crewe is wrong. The forms for stage one were misleading.
Crewe should have its own Town Council like other areas.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: info@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Sent: 23 November 2009 19:40
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW; ARGENT, Katherine
Subject: crewe_community_governance_review_2009 - form submission

Email Result For Form :
Your Feedback : I thought I voted to have a town council for Crewe, but now I'm not sure. The ballot paper was confusing to say the least. Crewe is the largest town in South Cheshire and needs a voice of it's own. There is a very real danger that others, in Cheshire East, will seek to marginalise Crewe in order to pursue their own agenda(s. This must not happen, one town, one voice.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: info@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Sent: 01 January 2010 15:40
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW; ARGENT, Katherine
Subject: crewe_community_governance_review_2009 - form submission

Email Result For Form :
Name : Rowena Gomersall

Address :

Your Feedback : Looking at the results it would seem more people who commented on the proposal wanted a single council for Crewe. I feel the people of Crewe need a strong voice to be heard in the new authority. However past experience shows that the wishes of the people are usually ignored. Very few people wanted two unitary authorities but that's what we got thanks to Hazel Blears. We (and CWAC) are now reaping her rewards with swingeing cuts in services and jobs when it was obviously going to be an expensive central government con.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: info@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Sent: 02 January 2010 12:10
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW; ARGENT, Katherine
Subject: crewe_community_governance_review_2009 - form submission

Email Result For Form :
Name : V.G.Roberts

Address : 29 Berkeley Crescent, Wistaston, Crewe CW2 6QA

Your Feedback : In order to provide cohesion and a sense of community for the town of Crewe, I consider that there should be a Crewe Town Council made up of representatives from the Electoral Wards of Coppenhall, Delamere, Grosvenor, Maw Green, St.Johns, Valley and Waldron, and those parts of Alexandra, Leighton, St.Barnabas and Wistaston Green which do not already fall into an existing parish. BUT the Town Council should be NON - POLITICAL like present parish councils.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Mick Roberts [michaelleslieroberts@hotmail.co.uk]
Sent: 03 January 2010 20:08
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe Community Governance Review - Stage 2 consultation

Colleague,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the second stage of the consultation on the review.

As a supporter of the "A Voice for Crewe" I do not agree with the Council's recommendation. The success of that petition and the manner in which those conducting the approach to voters were responded to by the majority of Crewe people shows they wished to have their own Town Council.

The ballot produced a result but in doing so it is clear that a significant number of people were confused by the ballot. One cause of confusion was the introduction of an option for multiple parishes.

Therefore the Council should take full opportunity to use the second stage to conduct a telephone poll, or something similar, to seek to bottom out the issue of voter confusion. An unambiguous approach to voters would be welcome.

Hopefully the Council, in recognising there were issues connected to the handling of the ballot and how voters interpreted this, will make every attempt in the second stage to establish what can be accepted by all as a clear and concise outcome of local opinion on the matter of a Town Council.

Yours fraternally,
Mick Roberts

78 Ford Lane,
Crewe,
CW1 3EH.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: jonollerhead@aol.co.uk
Sent: 04 January 2010 17:48
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: town council

As a resident and ratepayer of Crewe I wish to object to having four parish councils in place of a town council. The original questions were ambiguous and the statement that the residents of Crewe voted against a town council is flawed.
My desire is for a town council and not four parish councils.

J. Ollerhead

Remer Street
Crewe

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: paulblurton@tiscali.co.uk
Sent: 05 January 2010 13:25
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe council

Dear Sir/Madam, I for one can not understand why there has been so much opposition by certain of our East Cheshire elected representativs to a Crewe Town Council. Are these people scared of something? There has been a referendum calling for a council. The election rigging looks like the situation in Afganistan. Isit East CC intention that Crewe should have no voice?
Paul Blurton 41 CW2 7NT

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Steve Clapham [steve.clapham@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 05 January 2010 16:07
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe Town Council Consultation

Dear Lindsey Parton,

Thank you for the information pack containing draft recommendations from the consultation.

At the time of the initial consultation I found the terminology in the questions confusing and misleading. The use of the term Parish Council in Question 1 and Town Council in Question 2 was politically designed to confuse voters and result in a split response that would muddy the water and lead to inaction.

Looking at the results you sent me I can see that that is exactly what has happened.

It is clear that a majority of those who voted were trying to express the desire for a Town Council in Crewe. This is clear from the large majority in favour to Question 2.

Looking at the response to Question 1 in light of this, a split decision, indicates to me that people were unsure about what a Parish Council means – and whether they would want one.

The response to the detailed questionnaires seems to mirror this interpretation.

Therefore, the Council's draft recommendation "To accept the vote from the people of Crewe and to reject the notion of a town council for Crewe at this time." is the wrong response and goes against the expressed desire of the people of Crewe.

I'm not sure what can be done now – given that a flawed consultation process has led to a flawed and confused response. Ideally the consultation should be done again with a simple question for or against a Town Council – to which the people of Crewe would give their support judging from the response to Question 2.

hope that your team can look again at this question and take on board these comments.

Yours Sincerely,
Steve Clapham.

Revd. Steve Clapham
All Saints Vicarage, 79 Stewart Street, Crewe, Cheshire. CW2 8LX
Phone: 01270 560310
Mobile: 07891 219048
Email: steve.clapham@yahoo.co.uk
Web: www.allsaintsandstpeters.org.uk

5 Hardy Close
Weston

Dear Sir

I am in favour of a Town council for Crewe We need some decent shops and not have to go to Hanley or Chester for special things The only thing that worries me is when Peter Kent was the leader of the Labour Party he did leave Crewe in a mess of parking with moveing the memorial that is why people got rid of him and how more of his merry men

Yours Sincerly

Cllr Pamela Williams
Weston PARISH COUNCIL

34 Lea Avenue
Crewe
CW1 6HH

Telephone: 01270-583847

8th January 2010

Dear Sir,

Re: Crewe Community Governance Review Stage 2 Consultation

I write, having served as a Borough Councillor for Crewe and Nantwich over 26 years, to say that I continue to support the view of Crewe having its own Town Council.

Whilst I was not able to attend the before-Christmas head-to-head debate which took place at the Beechmere Residential Building on Rolls Avenue in Crewe, I 100% support the residents and their guests in their vote at the end of the debate, which was 14-1 in favour of having one town council. Furthermore I do know, generally, this had been the sort of reaction throughout the town.

I am fully aware that Councillor Ray Westwood spoke in favour of having several parish councils in the Crewe Town area, and that Peter Kent presented the case for having one Crewe Town Council. I believe that it is true to say that Crewe people generally thought the process to be "flawed", with the first stage of consultation where many said they did not understand the ballot paper.

I was a most active member of the "Voice for Crewe" campaign held late last year, and continue to support all the various points put forward for doing so. After all, some 3,700 signatures had been gathered from residents demanding that Crewe had its own local authority.

My strength throughout the 26 years I was on the council was "people and community", and, therefore, knowing and responding to their needs (this is what I call local accountability). I would hope that Cheshire East would now agree to allow Crewe to have its own "Town Council" in response to the residents of the Town.

Yours faithfully,

Ray Stafford M.B.E.

Honorary Alderman of the Borough

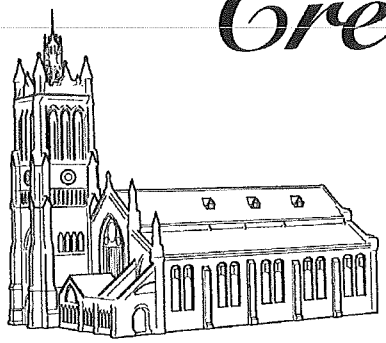
CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

RESPONSES TO STAGE 2 CONSULTATION

REPRESENTATIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS AGAINST THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

Rec'd 1/12/09

Crewe Historical Society



Mr C Chapman
Borough Solicitor
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach

LP

Mrs Pam Minshall
Chairman
Crewe Historical Society
145 Gainsborough Road
Crewe
CW2 7PL

28 November 2009

Dear Mr. Chapman

GOVERNANCE OF CREWE

Crewe Historical Society members have asked me to write to strongly support the establishment of a Crewe Town Council. The view was expressed that the consultation exercise carried out via a referendum, while it was flawed and confusing, nevertheless, along with the earlier petition, did indicatethat there was clear support for such a council.

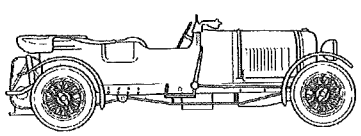
The Society feels that Crewe's distinctive history and culture requires and deserves the kind of voice and focus a Town Council would provide, helping community cohesion and local involvement of the kind we see happening in our neighbouring towns and parishes.

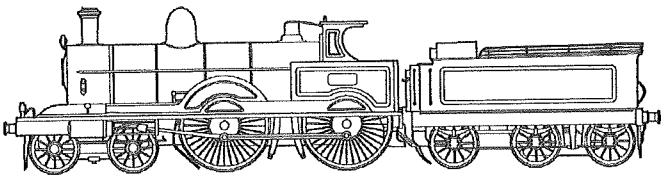
I was also asked to point out that the Society did not respond to the first stage of consultation because of the timing: we do not meet between the end of May and the end of September and so there was no opportunity to consult with members.

Yours sincerely

P M Minshall

P M Minshall
Secretary





avantage
choice, quality & independence

Marion Shaw
Avantage Harvest Housing
Beechmere
Rolls Avenue
Crewe CW1 3QD

Lindsey Parton
Elections & Registration Team Manager
Cheshire East Council
Westfield's Middlewich Road
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

Date 18th of December 2009.

Re: Response to the Crewe Governance Review Second Stage Consultation.

Dear Madam
I am writing to you to inform you of the result of a debate held at Beechmere Retirement Village on Friday 18TH of December 2009 and confirming the result and the comment that the residents would like one single Town Council for the unparished area of Crewe and reject the notion that multiple Parish Councils, this was bourn out of the 21 residents and other electors present only one was in favour of more than one Parish Council and lived outside the area of Crewe.
Furthermore 12 residents were in favour of a single Town Council and expressed concern over the Ballot result of the first round of consultation and ask for redress by using a Telephone canvass results which were made available in the first stage consultation but were ignored.
Attached to this letter are a number of documents an invitation, two posters, attendance list and a signed preference sheet submitted as evidence to verify the feeling of the meeting a views expressed there.

Yours sincerely
M Shaw

Marion Shaw Centre Manager Beechmere

AGAINST A TOWN COUNCIL

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
J.E. RICHARDSON	IN FAVOUR OF MULTIPLE PARISH COUNCILS FOR CREWE.	J.E. Richardson

FOR A TOWN COUNCIL

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
MRS A BURGESS	BEECHMERE	A Burgess
MR A LARGE	24 COPPENHALL LANE CREWE	A Large
MRS M LARGE	24, Coppenhall Lane Woolstanwood Crewe CW2 8TT	M Large
MR A GUNSTON	18, DODDINGTON RD CREWE CW2 8HD	A Gunston
IRENE EDWARDS	33 BEECHMERE,	I. Edwards
DOROTHY HAND	45 " "	D. Hand
STEVEN ROBERTS	4 LAWTON ST	Steven Roberts
JUNE ROBERTS	WEBBYS EST.	
IRENE BOULTON	BEECHMERE	I Boulton
IRENE WALKER.	Beechmere	I. Walker.
KEVIN LARKIN	23 TOLLEMACHE DRIVE CREWE CW1 3YA	
Peter Otterhead	320, BROAD ST CREWE CW1 4TH	

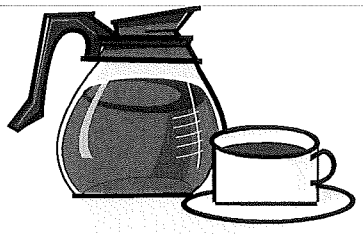
4 OF TEN

ATTENDANCE SHEET CTC TOWN COUNCIL DEBATE

18/12/09

First Name	Surname	Email address	Contact Number
ARTHUR	LARGE		
IRENE	BOULTON		
MARGARET	LARGE		
IRENE	EDWARDS		
KEVAN	LARKIN		
A Burgess			
[illegible]			
P Bilenhead.			
STEVEN	ROBERTS		
JUNE	ROBERTS		
Adrian	[illegible]		
[illegible]	BEARD.		
TED	RICHARDSON		
STEVEN	HOGBEN		
Kate	WEESE		

First Name	Surname	Email address	Contact Number
Gillian	HEESE		
M PRICE.	PRICE.		
BRENDA	TILLEY		
MARY	RUSCOE		
D.	Hamd.		
~~Peter~~	~~OLLERHEAD~~		



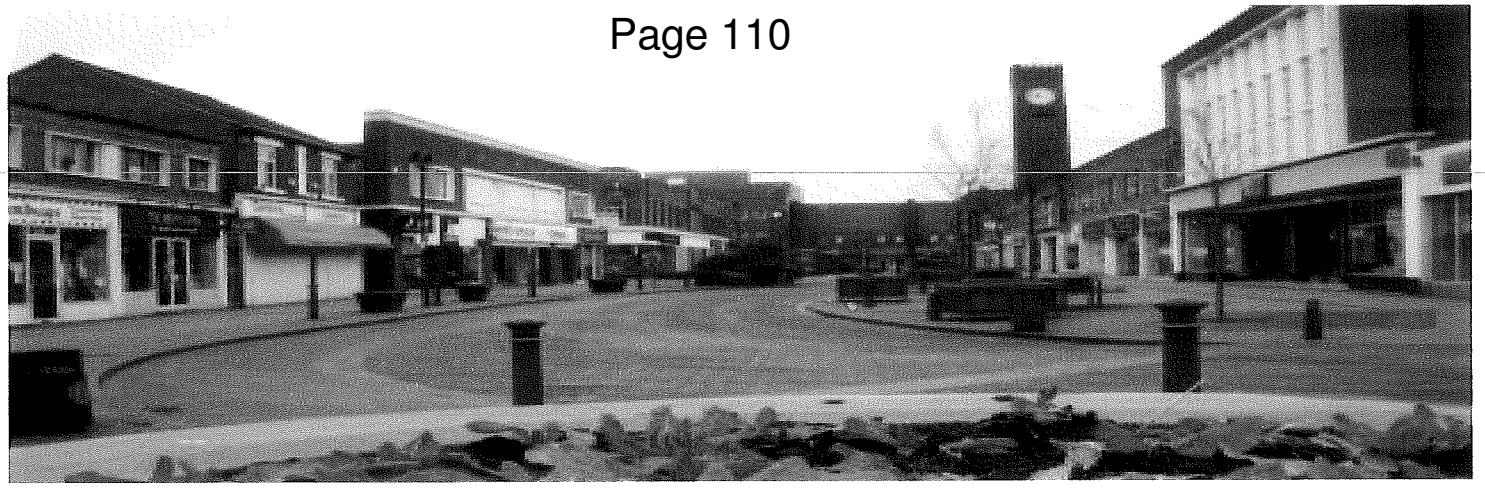
Residents meeting

18th December 2.30pm

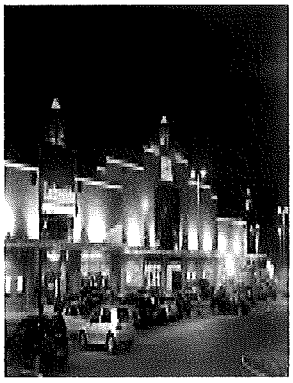
Coffee and a chat in the village hall

2 local Councillors from the local area will be here!

Look forward to seeing you all.



You are invited to attend a debate on the formation of a Town Council for Crewe



Beechmere Building,
Rolls Avenue Crewe
On
Friday The 18th December 2009
14:30 Hours

Guest Speakers include
Alderman Mr Peter Kent
and Councillor Ray Westwood

Public meeting open to all!

Do you want a Town Council yes or no you decide?

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Jack Wimpenny [jack.wimpenny@tiscali.co.uk]
Sent: 26 December 2009 20:38
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe Community Governance Review - Stage 2 Consultation

Thank you for including me in this consultation process.

Your explanatory leaflet, issued with the ballot paper, only covers the basic facts relating to the creation of a Town Council for Crewe. You have not listed those services that a Town Council could take on as an alternative provider to the Cheshire East Council. Without this information, voters had no means of assessing whether the proposal for a Town Council had potential benefits for the town's residents and businesses.

What you did provide was an indication of the charges made by other Town Councils but, without knowing the services they provide, the data is meaningless and should not have been included. I think it served merely to put voters off the idea by indicating that it would cost more.

With regard to the results of the ballot, I feel that you unfairly clouded the issue. Question 1,1 asks whether people wanted a Parish Council for their area. This, despite the fact that local debate and the valid petition clearly set out the nature, name and area for a Crewe Town Council. It is not surprising that voters would reject the idea of a Parish Council since this had never been on the agenda for discussion.

I understand that Town and Parish Councils are legally one and the same but this point might well be lost for the voting public especially when considering the wording of Question 2. Here is the first mention of the Town Council to which the valid petition referred, However, tagged on to this is yet another option, for four Parish Councils. Again , this option was never on the agenda until the ballot. It is not surprising that voters chose the Town Council option because this is what the petition had called for.

The petition was clear in its intent and the voting paper should have reflected this. It should have asked, simply, whether voters wanted a Town Council for the whole of the unparished area of Crewe or not.

On a matter of principle, I do not agree that Cheshire East Council should have introduced the notion of a '4 Parish Council' arrangement. This should only have been offered had the proposal for the Town Council been rejected by voters.

Yours Faithfully,

Jack Wimpenny,
Chair of Governors
St Mary's RC Primary School
Crewe.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: PAM MINSHALL [pam.minshall@btinternet.com]
Sent: 21 December 2009 15:42
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Cc: Peter Ollerhead
Subject: Consultation

CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - STAGE 2 CONSULTATION

At the recent meting of the Crewe and District Local History Association the following response to the consultation was agreed:

We reject the Council's draft recommendation and ask that a town council for the unparished area of Crewe is set up as soon as possible. The petition for a town council, and the 5617 residents who voted for a single town council in the clear and straightforward part of the flawed ballot paper show that there is considerable support for such a move. Crewe has a distinctive economic and social make-up and needs the voice and focus such a council will provide.

(Mrs) Pam Minshall
Secretary

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: PAM MINSHALL [pam.minshall@btinternet.com]
Sent: 17 December 2009 16:04
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Response

CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - STAGE 2 CONSULTATION

After consultation with the governing body of Ruskin Sports College, I have been asked to respond to the Council's draft recommendation.

We feel that in fact, a town council for Crewe should be established immediately. The town is significantly different in its social and economic make-up from other areas in the new Cheshire East Council, and we believe that it needs the distinctive local voice that a town council would provide.

(Mrs) P M Minshall
Chairman of Governors

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Christopher Moulton [shavington@btinternet.com]
Sent: 04 December 2009 15:21
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe Community Governance Review

Dear Lindsey

Further to the documentation received by the Parish Council in respect of the Stage 2 consultation process, my Members have asked me to write to advise Cheshire East Council that Shavington-cum-Gresty Parish Council is in favour and supports the principle of a Town Council for Crewe.

I would be grateful if you could report this these views to the Council when it considers the responses to the consultation.

Kind regards

Chris Moulton
Clerk to the Council
Shavington-cum-Gresty Parish Council

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: jill rhodes [rhodesclan2003@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 05 December 2009 21:43
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Comminity Governance review

Dear Lindsy Parton
I write in response to a letter requesting my views on the recommendation not to have a Crewe Town council.
I feel that Crewe should have a town council as does Nantwich. Westminster Nursery is situated in a park that was owned by the Crewe & Nantwich council. This was a local council that was easy to deal with. Dealing with a larger body makes things more difficult.
When I read the possibiliites it seems to me that the initial question was misleading. People in Crewe want a town Council, not a parish council.
The state of Crewe town centre this Christmas has prompted me to reply. A dead Christmas tree and one string of lights. Crewe has never been renowned for its Christmas lights but in previous years there has at least been a switch on and a recognition of the season. This year there has been nothing and this is because there is no local body to organise the celebrations. The lights in Nantwich with its local governance are far better because there are local people to organise them.
I and many others I have spoken to, strongly disagree with the suggested recommendation. Crewe needs a Town Council and the sooner we have one the better.
Yours Sincerely

Jill Rhodes
Chairman of westminster Nursery

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: PEBBLE BROOK HEAD
Sent: 09 December 2009 14:46
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Town Council

Dear Gaynor
I am a head teacher at Pebble Brook Primary School Crewe

I am writing to state that I wholeheartedly support the view that Crewe should have its own Town Council

Having its own Town Council gives Crewe at least some ownership in decision making within its community

Community cohesion plays a large part in the School Self Evaluation Report that all schools have to complete for OFSTED and I would state that in giving Crewe its own Town Council, that this would be developing that community cohesion - something that the Cheshire East split has not done.

Thank you
Donna Reed
Head teacher

112- 114 Frank Webb Ave
Webby's
Frank Webb Ave
Crewe
Cheshire CW1 3NE

Crewe West Community Group.

December 21, 2009

Dear Sir or Madam:

When we responded to the first stage consultation, we asked for a Town Council we except the results of the vote but were disappointed
With how the ballot sheets were presented, we believe that it should have just been a simple vote
'Do you want a Town Council' Yes or No. And we again reiterate that we need a town council.
We deplore the draft recommendation To Accept the vote from the people of Crewe and to reject the notion of a town council for Crewe at this time and ask for the decision that we do not need a town council, and revisit the telephone poll and how the ballot was carried out.
And please give us a Town Council!

An example of the benefit of town councils was highlighted recently when the Christmas Lights switch on, business stayed open late due to the expected influx of people, because this did not happen which had derogatory effect on business this would have not been the case if we had a Town Council like other Cheshire East areas.

And we believe the formation of a Town Council can help regeneration and help Crewe to weather the economic storm better, also funds would help small groups like ourselves coming from residents locally for extra money to be spent in the area of most need.

So once again we request a town Council for the unparished area of Crewe.

Sincerely,
Lynne Tilley

Secretary

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: peter kent [peterakent@tiscali.co.uk]
Sent: 03 January 2010 23:21
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: FW: Crewe Community Governance Review - Stage 2 consultation
Attachments: Publication of draft Recommendations.doc

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the second stage of the consultation on the review.

It will be no surprise that the campaign for "A Voice for Crewe" does not agree with the Council's recommendation. The success of our petition, and the manner in which we have been received by the overwhelming majority of Crewe people, means that we continue to believe that they wish to have their own Town Council.

Of course, it will be claimed that the ballot produced a result which could be interpreted as contradictory to this view. However, it is clear that a significant number of people were confused by the ballot. Although we believe that this confusion was sufficient to substantially change the result of the vote, no-one can be sure. For that reason, we believe that the council should have taken the opportunity to use this second stage to conduct a telephone poll, as I outlined when addressing the Council at its full meeting in Nantwich. This could have been done at a cost which would be negligible to your council and would have helped to produce a conclusion which could have been accepted by all sides.

One of the causes of the confusion was the introduction of an option for multiple parishes. Despite frequent requests for information, it is still not clear why this option was introduced, except for the view of one councillor who does not represent Crewe. Our conclusion is that the opportunity to create confusion was one that was eagerly grasped by those of your members who opposed a Town Council for reasons of political advantage. Our campaign has been essentially cross-party and we have supporters from all mainstream political parties, and many with no allegiance at all, so we find it disappointing that a vision for Crewe is being degraded.

Finally, we question the sincerity of the Council in handling this second stage. The legislation compels you to conduct a further stage and your officers are clearly doing their best to conduct it properly. However, a majority of your members have declared themselves against the idea of a Town Council for Crewe (though apparently not for other parts of Cheshire East). Consultees may therefore ask themselves what is the point of responding ? When I addressed your Council I invited members to say what sort of response would persuade them to change their minds. There was no attempt to offer an answer to this.

Your council has promised to listen to the people of Crewe (and many in surrounding areas who look to the town to provide leadership). Although we genuinely believe that you will disprove our fears, all the evidence so far forces us to the conclusion that this exercise is a meaningless sham.

Peter Kent

From: HAWTHORNTHWAITE, Gaynor [mailto:Gaynor.Hawthornthwaite@cheshireeast.gov.uk]
Sent: 26 November 2009 15:53
To: peterakent@tiscali.co.uk
Subject: Crewe Community Governance Review - Stage 2 consultation

Dear Mr Kent

Following receipt of a petition from local residents recommending that a single town council is created in Crewe, Cheshire East Council has been conducting a Community Governance Review.

Public consultation took place between 1st and 30th September, when views were sought on future community governance arrangements, including whether a town council should be created in the unparished parts of Crewe.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: J Welch [welch-j@sky.com]
Sent: 06 January 2010 20:33
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Community Goverance Review Stage 2- Crewe Town Council.

Lindsey Parton,

Elections and Registration Team Manager,

Democratic Services,

Westfield House,

Middlewich Road,

Sandbach,

Cheshire,

CW11 1HZ.

Ref: Crewe Community Governance Stage 2 consultation

Dear Linsey,

I write, as Chair to the Governors of Adelaide Special School, Adelaide Street, Crewe, regarding your request for school views relating to the possible formation of a Crewe Town Council. This response is in respect of the Second Stage (2) consultation process.

There are potentially benefits for this, and other schools, which might emerge if a Town Council was established. Adelaide School is actively seeking to involve our children in community activities. We are member of the 'Excellence in Crewe' (EIC) consortium and several other local groups. A Town Council, for Crewe, might further facilitate our local involvement and offer a further focus for our activities.

In terms of curriculum development we see benefits in the potential to introduce the application of local government and political debate into our citizenship studies. A local presence, such as a Town Council, might generate, and stimulate an interest in civic affairs in our children which may yield longer term benefits.

From the tenure of the above comments you will be aware that we are in favour of the establishment of a Crewe Town Council. Such an innovation might yield both benefits to the school and the community.

I am willing to be contacted if you require further elaboration of our views and can be contacted at home on 01270 583002 or at the school, via the Head Teacher, Mr Lloyd Willday on 01270 685151.

Yours Sincerely,

Jeffrey Welch M.A., B.A., A Dip Ed., Cert Ed.

Chair of Governors,

Adelaide School.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Andrew Taylor [andrewn.taylor@btinternet.com]
Sent: 08 January 2010 10:40
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Cc: Helen Birtles; Malcolm and Sandra Riley; Paul Boskett
Subject: Crewe Community Governance Review

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write on behalf of Union Street Baptist Church, whose leaders have again considered the proposals in respect of the community governance review.

We remain firmly of the view that there would be considerable value in a single town council being established for Crewe, with the standing of the equivalent councils that now exist for Nantwich and other local towns. Both the unique history and heritage of Crewe, and its continued development requires a forum in which town matters can be discussed and from which a consequent town view can be expressed.

Our thoughts in this matter are, in part, influenced by the resurgence in recent years of Churches Together in Crewe, which has indicated that, not withstanding denominational and theological differences, there are town-wide enterprises and activities which can draw town-wide responses and co-operations. People wish to be part of an identified town community, and a town council would give appropriate expression to this.

We look forward to learning the Council's decision in due course.

Your faithfully,

Andrew Taylor
Minister

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Malcolm Riley [msriley@btinternet.com]
Sent: 08 January 2010 16:54
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Cc: Andrew Taylor; Helen Birtles
Subject: Re: Crewe Community Governance Review

Dear Sir/Madam

I have received copy of an email sent to you by our Church Minister Rev. Andrew Taylor on 8/01/10, supporting the establishment of a Town Council for Crewe. I fully endorse everything Andrew has said, and would therefore add my support for this proposal.

We have recently acquired (through the good offices of Cllr Floude) copies of the original architect's plans for this church, when none were thought to exist. These were in the Cheshire CC's Archives, and were in the original brown filing envelope held by, and determined by, **Crewe Borough Council** in 1882. The Church Sunday School and Chapel were then built at speed and completed ready for use by September 1884.

The leader of the group who pursued the erection of the church premises was Mr Richard Pedley J.P. who was prominently associated with the public life of Crewe, becoming an Alderman and Mayor of the Borough. Our earliest church meeting minutes record the following:

"He [Mr Pedley] responded to the appeal wholeheartedly, and placing himself at the head of the movement used his influence and means to bring about its accomplishment. Without his help it is probable that the project would have languished, and might finally have ceased. His memory should be perpetuated and held in the highest esteem so long as the Church exists."

The Church does indeed exist today - and has served the community of this town well for over 125 years since Crewe Borough Council's decision to approve its construction. We have done our best to perpetuate the founder's memory, not least by maintaining a strong civic link with the Borough Council by inviting the Mayor's presence and participation in many special events and services over the years.

It would be a sad day if the significance of Crewe Borough Council - and its civic leaders - became lost in time due to this latest local government re-organisation. Our Church is now perpetuated in the history of this relatively young town as a Grade 2 Listed Building and an active centre for worship and commmunity activities, having been constructed at a time of intense industrial progress through the Railway Industry. As Andrew Taylor has implied, this 'people's building' is "...part of an identified town community, and a town council would give appropriate expression to this".

Please give your utmost support to this plea.

Yours faithfully

Malcolm Riley - Church deacon and Property steward, Union Street Baptist Church, Crewe

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Malcolm Riley [msriley@btinternet.com]
Sent: 10 January 2010 19:41
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Cc: Andrew Taylor
Subject: Crewe Town Council

Dear Sir/Madam

We refer to our representations emailed to you on 8/01/10 in support of the formation of a Crewe Town Council, which we trust will be considered before the final decision is made. We believe our observations made in the representations remain pertinent in respect of the key principle of establishing a Town Council for Crewe

We have also had another look at the 'Publication of Draft Recommendations Arising From The First Phase of Consultation', via your website, and wish to make the following approach in respect of the process that is being followed.

The Draft Recommendation appears to be in error for the following reasons :-

The questions as put were not particularly informative. Firstly, on page 3, Question 1 and subsection 1 reads "I want a parish council for my area". To accord with the recommendations at the beginning of the report under the heading 'The Review' (on page 1), the question should have been ..."I want a new parish for my area, to be known as Crewe Town Council".
The question as put does not accord with the Review Recommendations, because the only possible name for a 'new parish' in Recommendation 1 is that specified in Recommendation 2 i.e. ..."That the new parish should have a Council to be known as Crewe Town Council".

The corollary to this dilemma is that the two sub-questions in Question 1 are irrelevant, because (by reason of the wording of the Review Recommendations) a 'parish council' was not an option, but a 'new parish' having a ...'Council to be known as Crewe Town Council' was.

In respect to Question 2. Preference A received an overwhelming majority expressing a view for a single town council for the whole of the unparished area of Crewe. In addition, the majority of views expressed in the representations on pages 3 & 4 are in favour of a single town council. Since 'a single town council' was the only option for a parish to be constituted out of the three recommendations of The Review, the wording of the draft recommendation of the Council at its meeting on 15 October 2009 is incorrect, since the greatest number of electors (5617) actually voted for preference A ..."A single Town Council for the whole of the unparished area of Crewe".

We therefore ask that you annul this draft recommendation either before, or at the special meeting of the full Council at the end of January 2010.

Yours faithfully

Malcolm Riley - Church deacon and Property steward, Union Street Baptist Church, Crewe
Andrew Taylor - Minister, Union Street Baptist Church, Crewe

CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

RESPONSES TO STAGE 2 CONSULTATION

OTHER REPRESENTATIONS

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Lindsey Parton
Elections & Registration Team Manager
Democratic Services
Westfields
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

25 September 2009

Dear Lindsey,

CREWE LOCAL GOVERNANCE CONSULTATION – STAGE 2

Thank you for your email of 26 November, and for asking me again to contribute to this consultation.

As I stated in my previous submission, the way that I have approached this exercise has been to take feedback I have received from constituents, and my observations of the consultation process, and give you an overview of that.

This overview was published in the Council's letter of 2 October 2009.

I simply have not taken a personal stance on this issue myself. The people of Crewe have put their view in a vote, and it is now for the local government representatives they elected to make a final decision.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Timpson

EDWARD TIMPSON
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CREWE & NANTWICH
www.edwardtimpsonmp.com

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: hugh. emerson [secretary@npa-crewe.org.uk]
Sent: 14 December 2009 20:44
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Crewe Town Council

We feel the original consultation failed on three counts.

Firstly it was confusing in having two contradictory questions in the first part.
Secondly the petition only requested a single parish yet an option for four parishes was presented.
Thirdly public meetings were not adequately notified and there was no opportunity for any public debate on the merits or otherwise of a Town Council.

There should be a further referendum with one simple question - Do you want a Town Council for Crewe - yes or no?

--

Hugh Emerson
Secretary
Northern Pensioners Association
Crewe & District
Tel: 01270 664645
5 Ripon Drive
Crewe CW2 6SJ
www.npa-crewe.org.uk

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Extraordinary Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: 25 January 2010
Report of: Borough Treasurer and Head of Assets
Subject/Title: Council Tax Base 2010/11
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Keegan

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 This report notifies Council of the Council Tax Base for Cheshire East

2.0 Decision Requested

2.1 That Council, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, sets the amount to be calculated by Cheshire East Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2010/11 as:

- for the whole area – 145,171.05
- for each Parish area as set out in Appendix A

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 Cheshire East Council is required to agree its tax base before 31 January 2010.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 N/a

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 N/a

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change
- Health

6.1 N/a

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

8.1 None

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 Included in report

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 Confirmation of the Council Tax base for 2010/11 ensures that the statutory requirement to set the Tax Base is met.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 Cheshire East Council is required to approve its Tax Base before 31 January 2010 so that the information can be provided to Cheshire Police Authority and Cheshire Fire Authority for their budget processes.

11.2 The Tax Base for the area is the estimated number of chargeable dwellings expressed as a number of Band D equivalents adjusted for an estimated number of discounts, exemptions, disabled relief and appeals plus an allowance for non-collection

11.3 The Tax Base has been calculated on the assumption that properties remaining empty for longer than six months are allowed a discount of 25% and that properties regarded as second homes are allowed a discount of 25%. The number of band D equivalent properties for 2010/11 is 146,238.98.

11.4 It is necessary to further adjust the Tax Base for:

Changes in the Valuation List

These could arise for a variety of reasons such as appeals, disabled relief, new properties, deleted properties and changes in discount or exemption entitlements. Taking into account these factors, the Tax Base is expected to increase by 398.44 properties.

Non-collection

It is suggested that a reduction of 1% be made in the Tax Base calculation to accommodate non-collection. This reduces the Tax Base by 1,466.37 to 145,171.05.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

12.1 N/a

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Lisa Quinn
Designation: Borough Treasurer and Head of Assets
Tel No: 01270 686628
Email: >lisa.quinn@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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Appendix A

COUNCIL TAX-TAX BASE 2010/11

CHESHIRE EAST	BAND D EQUIVALENTS	TAX BASE 99%
Acton	132.40	131.08
Adlington	595.50	589.55
Agden	79.06	78.27
Alderley Edge	2,633.69	2,607.35
Alpraham	182.90	181.07
Alsager	4,553.70	4,508.16
Arclid	119.30	118.11
Ashley	161.03	159.42
Aston by Budworth	182.17	180.35
Aston-juxta-Mondrum	89.60	88.70
Audlem	924.80	915.55
Austerson	40.40	40.00
Baddiley	126.20	124.94
Baddington	55.40	54.85
Barthomley	88.10	87.22
Basford	97.60	96.62
Batherton	24.00	23.76
Betchton	275.10	272.35
Bickerton	120.20	119.00
Blakenhall	59.20	58.61
Bollington	3,081.94	3,051.12
Bosley	196.22	194.26
Bradwall	84.90	84.05
Brereton	571.50	565.78
Bridgemere	60.70	60.09
Brindley	70.80	70.09
Broomhall	89.60	88.70
Buerton	216.70	214.53
Bulkeley	124.90	123.65
Bunbury	616.10	609.94
Burland	277.10	274.33
Calveley	129.80	128.50
Checkley-cum-Wrinehill	47.00	46.53
Chelford	653.92	647.38
Cholmondeley	78.90	78.11
Cholmondeston	74.30	73.56
Chorley	253.83	251.29
Chorley (Crewe)	47.10	46.63
Chorlton	498.90	493.91
Church Lawton	906.10	897.04
Church Minshull	208.00	205.92
Congleton	10,124.65	10,023.40
Coole Pilate	26.10	25.84
Cranage	599.60	593.60
Crewe	14,786.28	14,638.42
Crewe Green	96.10	95.14
Disley	1,949.33	1,929.84
Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley	184.10	182.26
Doddington	17.80	17.62
Eaton	170.64	168.93
Edleston	39.90	39.50
Egerton	36.40	36.04
Faddiley	76.90	76.13
Gawsworth	856.94	848.37
Goostrey	1,107.40	1,096.33
Great Warford	444.14	439.70
Hankelow	125.20	123.95
Haslington	2,399.00	2,375.01
Hassall	111.50	110.39
Hatherton	171.50	169.78
Haughton	97.00	96.03
Henbury	333.11	329.78
Henhull	24.50	24.26
High Legh	901.25	892.24
Higher Hurdsfield	343.42	339.99
Holmes Chapel	2,442.60	2,418.17
Hough	353.60	350.06
Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths	165.10	163.45
Hunsterson	79.00	78.21
Hurleston	26.50	26.24

COUNCIL TAX-TAX BASE 2010/11

CHESHIRE EAST	BAND D EQUIVALENTS	TAX BASE 99%
Kettleshulme	174.36	172.62
Knutsford	6,043.64	5,983.20
Lea	22.70	22.47
Leighton	1,527.00	1,511.73
Little Bollington	87.22	86.35
Little Warford	36.97	36.60
Lower Peover	73.89	73.15
Lower Withington	295.86	292.90
Lyme Handley	71.17	70.46
Macclesfield	19,025.61	18,835.34
Macclesfield Forest/Wildboarclough	114.52	113.37
Marbury-cum-Quoisley	123.50	122.26
Marton	115.44	114.29
Mere	419.31	415.12
Middlewich	4,749.60	4,702.10
Millington	108.11	107.03
Minshull Vernon	121.30	120.09
Mobberley	1,469.94	1,455.24
Moston	179.00	177.21
Mottram St Andrew	391.94	388.02
Nantwich	5,500.70	5,445.69
Nether Alderley	381.36	377.55
Newbold Astbury-cum-Moreton	342.30	338.88
Newhall	357.80	354.22
Norbury	93.50	92.57
North Rode	116.72	115.55
Odd Rode	2,048.40	2,027.92
Ollerton with Marthall	300.25	297.25
Over Alderley	218.67	216.48
Peckforton	74.90	74.15
Peover Superior	392.06	388.14
Pickmere	377.22	373.45
Plumley with Toft and Bexton	396.16	392.20
Poole	59.90	59.30
Pott Shrigley	148.00	146.52
Poynton with Worth	6,080.64	6,019.83
Prestbury	2,134.64	2,113.29
Rainow	593.42	587.49
Ridley	63.20	62.57
Rope	819.60	811.40
Rostherne	86.31	85.45
Sandbach	6,829.20	6,760.91
Shavington-cum-Gresty	1,682.00	1,665.18
Siddington	191.97	190.05
Smallwood	287.50	284.63
Snelson	84.47	83.63
Somerford	185.70	183.84
Sound	103.40	102.37
Spurstow	192.40	190.48
Stapeley	1,336.40	1,323.04
Stoke	108.70	107.61
Sutton	1,172.16	1,160.44
Swettenham	168.10	166.42
Tabley	200.64	198.63
Tatton	12.67	12.54
Twemlow	92.00	91.08
Walgherton	59.70	59.10
Wardle	59.40	58.81
Warmingham	109.10	108.01
Weston	812.40	804.28
Wettenhall	96.70	95.73
Willaston	1,313.10	1,299.97
Wilmslow	14,200.08	14,058.08
Wincle	94.78	93.83
Wirswall	42.80	42.37
Wistaston	3,091.60	3,060.68
Woolstanwood	261.90	259.28
Worleston	106.10	105.04
Wrenbury	467.80	463.12
Wybunbury	619.60	613.40
	146,637.42	**145,171.05**

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