

# **Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee Agenda**

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**Date:** Thursday, 24th June, 2010  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** The Capesthorpe Room - Town Hall, Macclesfield SK10 1DX

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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. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

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

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

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos.11 and 35 a period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to address the meeting on any matter relevant to the work of the meeting. 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 are not required to give notice to use this facility. However, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours' notice is encouraged.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at the meeting should provide three clear working days' notice, in writing, in order for an informed answer to be given.

4. **Minutes of Previous meeting** (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

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**Contact:** Paul Mountford, Legal and Democratic Services  
**Tel:** 01270 686472  
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5. **Wilmslow Community Governance Review - Formulating the Council's Draft Recommendation** (Pages 9 - 22)

To consider a briefing paper on the points which the Council needs to take into consideration in formulating its draft recommendation.

6. **Wilmslow Community Governance Review - First Stage Consultation** (Pages 23 - 92)

The period of the Stage 1 consultation ended on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Members are asked to take into account the following feedback received and to consider and determine their recommendation to the Constitution Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010:

- (a) Valid petition requesting a Wilmslow and Handforth Town Council;
- (b) Valid petition requesting a Handforth Community Council;
- (c) Valid petition requesting a Parish Council for Styal;
- (d) Results of the consultation with electors (page 23)
- (e) Other representations received (page 29)
- (f) Notes of the three public meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010 (page 79)

7. **Next Steps and Arrangements for Stage 2 Consultation** (Pages 93 - 96)

To note the project plan in respect of the remainder of the Review process and to agree the format of the Stage 2 Consultation exercise.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

To agree the date of the next meeting.

**(There are no Part 2 items)**

**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the  
**Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee**  
held on Thursday, 15th April, 2010 at Oakenclough Children's Centre,  
Colshaw Drive, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 2PZ

**PRESENT**

Councillor J Crockatt (Chairman)  
Councillor P Whiteley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors G Barton, R Cartlidge, D Stockton and D Cannon (for Cllr Jones)

**In attendance**

Councillor R Menlove

**Officers**

Lindsey Parton, Elections and Registration Team Manager  
Mike Flynn, Review Team Officer  
Paul Mountford, Legal and Democratic Services

**Apologies**

Councillor S Jones

**16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

**17 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

Mr Steve Dempsey of the Styal Village Association expressed his strong support for a parish council for Styal. In this respect, he felt that the use of the term 'town council' for all options for community governance in the unparished areas of Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal was inappropriate and potentially misleading and that the appropriate term for use in relation to Styal was 'parish', which reflected the wording used in the Styal petition.

**18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING****RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 be approved as a correct record.

19 **BRIEFING PAPER - WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE  
REVIEW PROGRESS REPORT**

Members considered a briefing paper on a number of issues relating to the Community Governance Review.

**(1) Terminology to be used in Documentation and Publicity about the Review**

The Sub-Committee at the last meeting had decided that to avoid confusion to the public it would prefer to refer to the term “town council” in all documentation published about the review. The intention was to try to avoid reference to several different terms, such as “parish council”, “community council” and “town council”.

Members were invited to reconsider their decision on the matter in light of the actual wording of the three petitions received. All three petitions had referred generically to the constitution of a new ‘parish’. Each petition then went on to propose a different title for the body concerned, namely ‘community council’ for Handforth, ‘town council’ for Wilmslow and Handforth, and ‘parish council’ for Styal.

The legislation relating to Community Governance reviews (Section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007) specified that the principal council must make recommendations as to what new parish, or parishes (if any) should be constituted; must make recommendations as to the name of the new parish; must make recommendations as to whether or not the new parish should have a parish council; and whether or not the new parish should have one of the alternative styles.

Under section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972, a parish could be given the status of a town. “Town” status continued to be available to a parish. In addition, the 2007 Act offered a further choice of styles: community, neighbourhood and village. Where a community governance review related to a new parish, it was for the principal council in the first instance to make recommendations as to the name of the parish, taking account of the views and preferences of people living in the area.

Given this background, Members acknowledged that the use of the term ‘town council’ only at this early stage could be confusing to those people who had signed the Handforth and Styal petitions, which did not refer to a town council.

**RESOLVED**

That the term ‘parish Council’ be adopted as the sole generic term to be used in all documentation associated with the Community Governance Review. An explanation of the term be included in all publicity and

consultation documentation, together with a description of all the possible styles of term which could emerge from the review.

## **(2) Public Meetings**

Members noted that it had not been possible to confirm Honford Hall as the venue for the public meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Arrangements had now been made for the meeting to be held at Handforth Youth and Community Centre, Old Road, Wilmslow. The public notice had been amended accordingly and would appear in the press during week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> April to provide two weeks' notice of the public meetings.

It was proposed that each of the public meetings begin with a preamble, outlining the nature of the Review and the issues to be decided, followed by a public question and answer session.

### **RESOLVED**

That

- (1) the change of venue for the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April be noted; and
- (2) the text of the preamble for the meetings be forwarded to Members of the Sub-Committee before the meetings are held.

## **(3) List of consultees**

The list of consultees had been updated and extended following discussions at the last meeting and a revised copy had been circulated to Members for information.

Members commented that the Sub-Committee which had conducted the Crewe Community Governance Review had not been aware of which consultees had responded to the public consultation. The Elections and Registration Manager confirmed that for the Wilmslow Review a full list of respondents would be reported to the Sub-Committee.

### **RESOLVED**

That the revised list of consultees be confirmed.

## **(4) Explanatory Leaflet**

The text for the explanatory leaflet had been updated and a map added. Members were asked to agree the final content and format of the leaflet for printing, and to decide whether a black and white or coloured map should be included.

**RESOLVED**

That

- (1) a coloured map be included in the explanatory leaflet, subject to appropriate colour coding being used to delineate clearly the different areas covered by the three petitions, and subject to the inclusion of a blue line to indicate the course of the River Dean; and
- (2) the text of the leaflet be agreed subject to the following amendments:
  1. the replacement of all references to 'town council' with 'parish council';
  2. the inclusion of an explanatory note to the effect that the term 'parish' can include a town;
  3. the three petitions be mentioned separately in the opening paragraph;
  4. the phrase 'the unparished parts of' be deleted from the second paragraph; and
  5. the table of precepts be amended by:
    - (a) reordering the towns in alphabetical order;
    - (b) amending 'Chorley' to 'Chorley (Alderley Edge)'; and
    - (c) changing the heading of the third column to 'precept per household'

**(5) Draft Ballot paper to Electors**

The Sub-Committee had agreed that as part of the Stage 1 consultation, a voting paper with an explanatory leaflet would be sent to all electors. Members were asked to consider and agree the format and wording of the ballot paper.

[Note: at this stage, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned for ten minutes to enable Members and Officers to consider detailed proposals for the design of the ballot papers. The meeting was then reconvened to consider formally the options proposed.]

It was proposed that for clarity and to enable the response from each area to be identified separately, there would be three separate ballot papers, corresponding with the areas covered by the three petitions and asking those questions appropriate to each area.

The Elections and Registration Manager clarified that the old boundary between Wilmslow and Handforth, as defined in the Handforth Petition, would determine which residents would have a vote on the Handforth proposal.

## **RESOLVED**

That three separate ballot papers be produced, one for each of the areas covered by the three petitions, to include the following questions:

### Handforth

1. *Do you want a parish council? (yes/no)*
2. *Tick the option you agree with:*
  - a. *I want a single parish council for Handforth, Wilmslow and Styal;*  
*or*
  - b. *I want a separate parish council for Handforth.*

### Styal

1. *Do you want a parish council? (yes/no)*
2. *Tick the option you agree with:*
  - a. *I want a single parish council for Handforth, Wilmslow and Styal;*  
*or*
  - b. *I want a separate parish council for Styal.*

### Wilmslow

*Do you want a parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal? (yes/no)*

## **(6) Publicity for the start of the Review**

Members considered revised drafts of the notice and press release to be issued at the end of April which incorporated changes agreed at the previous meeting.

## **RESOLVED**

That the draft notice and press release be agreed subject to the amendment of the third paragraph in each case as follows:

replace 'should by now have received' with 'will shortly receive'.

## **(7) Next Stages**

Arrangements would now be made for the printing of the voting papers and explanatory leaflets, which it was proposed would be dispatched to electors on 7<sup>th</sup> May. The stage 1 consultation period would then take place from 10<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June. Copies of the leaflet would also be printed and made available for the three public meetings on 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April. At the beginning of May, all consultees identified would be contacted and a copy of the explanatory leaflet sent to them, inviting their views.

**RESOLVED**

That the next stages of the Review be noted.

20 **NEXT MEETING**

To be agreed.

The meeting commenced at 2.30 pm and concluded at 3.30 pm

Councillor J Crockatt (Chairman)



## CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the  
**Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee**  
held on Wednesday, 28th April, 2010 at Handforth Youth and Community  
Centre, Old Road, Wilmslow SK9 3AB

### PRESENT

Councillor J Crockatt (Chairman)

Councillors G Barton, D Stockton and P Whiteley

### 21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Cartlidge and S Jones.

### 22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

### 23 WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - VOTING PAPERS

*In accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Chairman had agreed that by reason of special circumstances this item be considered as an item of urgent business because of the need to avoid any delay to the Community Governance Review timetable.*

Consideration was given to the form of words on the Wilmslow voting paper, and to the distribution of the papers within the areas covered by the Wilmslow and Handforth petitions in the Community Governance Review.

It was reported that the electoral area 8EE1 (Finney Green) had been included within the geographic area referred to in the Handforth petition paper. Concern had, however, been expressed as to whether or not this was the most appropriate arrangement for the residents in that area; the River Dean provided a more natural boundary line and if that line was followed the area concerned would fall within the area covered by the Wilmslow petition.

The Sub Committee was informed that, as the area of concern had been included in the Handforth petition, it would be advisable for the residents in that area to receive the Handforth ballot paper. The response to the ballot would provide the information and evidence which the Sub Committee would take into account in deciding the boundaries of any Parishes which might be proposed and the matter could, therefore, be given further consideration at that time in the light of the responses received.

**RESOLVED**

That

- (1) for the purposes of the ballot the Handforth voting paper be sent to residents included in the Handforth petition area, shaded green on the map contained in the Community Governance Review leaflet; and
- (2) the proposed revised wording of the Wilmslow voting paper, as circulated with the agenda, be approved, subject to question 2a being amended to read: "I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal."

The meeting commenced at 8.30 pm and concluded at 9.00 pm

Councillor J Crockatt (Chairman)

## CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

### Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
<b>Report of:</b>	Borough Solicitor
<b>Subject/Title:</b>	Wilmslow Community Governance Review: Formulating the Council's Draft Recommendation

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#### 1. Report Summary

- 1.1 This paper provides Members with an outline of the process to be followed in conducting this review. It is based on the statutory guidance in respect of the process for creating a new local council 'Guidance on community governance reviews' issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission.

#### 2. Petitions

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009 the Council received a valid petition which called for a Community Governance Review and identified the following 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 parish council to be known as Handforth Community Council.
- 3) That members of the Council will not be affiliated to any political party.
- 4) That the area to which the review is to relate be defined as being the electoral ward of Handforth as known in 2007.
- 5) That the Council will not precept the area, only use moneys granted, delegated, awarded or given for the benefit of the area.

Recommendations (3) and (5) were deemed to be outside the scope of any recommendations which could be considered by the Council as part of the review.

A valid petition was also received on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009, calling for a community governance review and identifying the following 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 parish council to be known as Wilmslow and Handforth Town Council.
- (3) That the area to which the review is to relate comprise the Electoral Wards of Dean Row, Fulshaw, Handforth, Hough, Lacey Green and Morley & Styal.

The Council agreed to extend the Community Governance Review to cover the whole of the unparished area of Wilmslow (i.e. the former Electoral Wards of Dean Row, Fulshaw, Handforth, Hough, Lacey Green, and Morley and Styal).

On 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010 the Council received a valid petition which called for a Community Governance Review and identified the following 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 parish council to be known as Styal Parish Council
- (3) That the area to which the review is to relate to be defined as shown on the attached map, being a part of the Electoral Wards of Morley and Styal.

### **3. Procedure**

1. Since February 2008 the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation of parishes and their electoral arrangements has been devolved from the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission to principal Councils such as Cheshire East Council.
2. Cheshire East Council can, therefore, decide whether to give effect to the recommendations made arising from the Community Governance Review, provided it takes the views of local people into account.
3. In broad terms the process will follow a number of phases outlined below:
  - Determine viable options for community governance in the area under review.
  - Draw up a Consultation Plan focused on consulting on those viable options.
  - Stage 1 Consultation on the options.
  - Evaluation and analysis of responses.
  - Draft recommendation for the Constitution Committee to consider for recommendation to Council.
  - Draft Proposal advertised
  - Stage 2 Consultation on the Draft Proposal
  - Council decides Outcome of the review.

4. The key element of the Review is the consultation process. The Sub Committee agreed the list of consultees, method of consultation and the timing of the consultation process.
5. The consultation process is central to the Review and must include:
  - Local government electors in the area under review
  - Local businesses, local public and voluntary organisations, schools, health bodies
  - Residents and community groups
  - Area working arrangements.
6. The views of the Electoral Commission on any proposed electoral arrangements must also be sought.
7. The initial phase of consultation has been based largely on written representations received in response to public notices and specific invitations. Three public meetings were held to give members of the public the opportunity to learn more about the review and to express their views in a public forum. Tailored voting papers and an explanatory leaflet were also sent to the electorate of Styal, Wilmslow and Handforth. The website has also been used to allow people to record their views.

#### **4. Criteria when undertaking a Review**

1. The Council now needs to consider the results of the initial phase of consultation and formulate recommendations ensuring that community governance within the area under review will be
  - Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area
  - Effective and convenient
2. Key considerations in meeting the criteria include:
  - The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion
  - The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish
  - Parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest with their own sense of identity
  - The degree to which the proposals offer a sense of place and identity for all residents
  - The ability of the proposed authority's ability to deliver quality services economically and efficiently providing users with a democratic voice
  - The degree to which a parish council would be viable in terms of a unit of local government providing at least some local services that are convenient, easy to reach and accessible to local people.

## **5. Recommendations and Decisions on the Review Outcome**

1. The guidance requires that recommendations must be made with respect to the following:
  - a) Whether a new parish or any new parishes should be constituted
  - b) The name of any new parish
  - c) Whether or not the new parish should have a parish council (if the parish has more than 1000 electors, the review must recommend that the parish should have a parish council)
  - d) What the electoral arrangements for new parishes which are to have parish councils should be
2. These recommendations must have regard to:
  - The need to ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area and is effective and convenient
  - Any other arrangements that have already been made for the purposes of community representation or engagement
  - Any representations received and should be supported by evidence which demonstrates that the community governance arrangements would meet the criteria.
3. The Review may make a recommendation which is different from that which the petitioners sought. The Review may, for example, conclude that the proposals were not in the interests of the wider local community, or may negatively impact on community cohesion either within the proposed parish or in the wider community. It may, for example, decide that the arrangements for local area working represent the best option for fulfilling the criteria.

## **6. Electoral Arrangements**

The Review must give consideration to the electoral arrangements that should apply in the event that a parish council is established. In particular the following must be considered:

- a) The ordinary year of election – if a single parish council or multiple parish councils were established, the first year of election would be 2011
- b) Council size – the number of councillors to be elected to the parish
- c) Parish warding – whether the parish should be divided into wards; this includes the number and boundaries of such wards; number of councillors per ward and the names of wards

In considering whether to recommend that a parish should or should not be warded, the council should consider:

- whether the number or distribution of electors would make a single election of councillors impractical or inconvenient;
- whether it is desirable that any area of the parish should be separately represented on the council

If the Council decides to recommend wards – in considering the size and boundaries of the wards and the number of Councillors for the wards it must have regard to the following factors:

- i) the number of electors for the parish
- ii) any change in number / distribution of electors likely to occur in period of 5 years
- iii) desirability of fixing boundaries which will remain easily identifiable
- iv) any local ties which will be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries

### **6.1 Council Size**

The Local Government Act 1972 Act specifies that each parish council must have at least 5 members; there is no maximum number. There are no rules relating to the allocation of those Councillors between parish wards.

There is a wide variation of council size between parish councils. Research in 1992 has shown this is influenced by population:

Between 2501 and 10,000 population had 9 to 16 councillors  
Between 10,001 and 20,000 population had 13 to 37 councillors  
Almost all over 20,000 population had between 13 and 31 councillors.

The National Association of Local Councils suggests that the minimum number of councillors for any parish should be 7 and the maximum 25.

Each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to population, geography and patterns of communities. Principal councils should bear in mind that the conduct of parish business does not usually require a large body of councillors. However, a parish council's budget and planned level of service provision may be important factors in reaching a decision on Council size.

### **6.2 Parish warding and names of wards**

There is likely to be a stronger case for the warding of urban areas. In urban areas community identity tends to focus upon a locality, with its own sense of identity.

In terms of naming parish wards consideration should be given to existing local or historic places, so that these are reflected where appropriate.

### 6.3 Number and boundaries of parish wards

The Council should take account of community identity and interests and consider whether any ties or linkages would be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries.

When considering ward boundaries the Council should consider the desirability of fixing boundaries which will remain easily identifiable.

### 6.4 Number of Councillors to be elected for parish wards

If the council decides that a parish should be warded, it should give consideration to the levels of representation between each ward.

It is best practice for each persons vote should be of equal weight as far as possible.

## 7. Grouping of Parish Councils

Section 11 of the LGA 1972 sets out the powers for Parishes to be "Grouped", which means that different Parishes in a particular area may apply to be grouped under a Common Parish Council. Such applicant parishes must not already have their own Parish Council, so they are acting through their Parish Meeting.

Section 91 of the LGPIHA 2007 applies these Section 11 provisions to the Community Governance Review process, so that a CGR may make recommendations for the grouping of any new Parishes which it is proposed to create in the Review area. Such recommendations are subsequently brought into effect through the Reorganisation Order.

However, Section 94(2) of the 2007 Act provides that if a proposed new Parish has 1000 or more Electors, the Community Governance Review **must** recommend that the Parish has a Parish Council. This would apply in terms of the number of electors for Handforth and for Wilmslow, but not for Styal.

Grouping would only be a relevant issue for this Review if parishes of less than 1000 electors were created.

It is also worth noting that a Grouped Parish cannot resolve to confer on itself the status of a Town (Section 245(6) of the LGA 1972).

Paragraph 113 of the statutory Guidance for Community Governance Reviews says "It would be inappropriate for it [Grouping] to be used to build artificially large Units under single Parish Councils....". The



Grouping powers are more directed at areas which contain a number of small Parishes - rather than a large urban area.

## **8. Other forms of Community Governance**

In conducting the Community Governance Review, the Council must consider other forms of community governance as alternatives to establishing parish councils, for example:

1. Area Committees
2. Neighbourhood management
3. Tenant Management Organisations
4. Area/ community forums
5. Residents/ Tennants organisations
6. Community Associations

The Sub Committee considered a summary of these options at its meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010, followed by an overview report of existing arrangements at its meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010. These reports are appended for information (appendices A and B).

## **9. RECOMMENDATION**

In summary, in forming a draft recommendation for the Community Governance Review, the Sub Committee needs to have regard to all representations received, and consider and recommend to the Constitution Committee:

- a. Any forms of community governance as alternatives to establishing parish councils, for example:
  - Area Committees
  - Neighbourhood management
  - Tenant Management Organisations
  - Area/ community forums
  - Residents/ Tenants organisations
  - Community Associations
- b. Whether a new parish or any new parishes should be constituted
- c. The name of any new parish or parishes
- d. Whether or not the new parish should have a parish council (if the parish has more than 1000 electors, the review must recommend that the parish should have a parish council)
- e. Whether the parish should have an alternative Style e.g. Community, Neighbourhood, or Village; or whether the status of Town Council should be given
- f. What the electoral arrangements for new parishes which are to have parish councils should be

- g. The ordinary year of election – if a parish council was established the first year of election would be 2011
- h. Council size – the number of councillors to be elected to the parish
- i. Parish warding – whether the parish should be divided into wards; this includes the number and boundaries of such wards; number of councillors per ward and the names of wards.

**Officer Contact Details**

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## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW SUB COMMITTEE

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**Date of meeting:** 19 February 2010  
**Report of:** Elections and Registration Team Manager  
**Title:** Briefing Paper – Initial Options Evaluation

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1. In conducting this Review, the Council must consider how to respond to the proposals contained in the three separate petitions. In summary, the petitions and the proposals that they contain must be assessed in terms of the following criteria and the key considerations set out in the guidance:

### **Criteria**

Community governance in the areas must be

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area
- Effective and convenient

### **Key considerations**

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish
- Parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest with their own sense of identity
- The degree to which the proposals offer a sense of place and identity for all residents
- The ability of the proposed authority to deliver quality services economically and efficiently providing users with a democratic voice
- The degree to which a parish council would be viable in terms of a unit of local government providing at least some local services that are convenient, easy to reach and accessible to local people

2. The guidance also indicates that as part of the review other viable options should be considered to determine if they represent a better option in terms of addressing the criteria. The Sub Committee will need to gather further information to make an initial evaluation of the options in the table below:

**Area Committees**

Formed as part of the structure of principal Councils, often including local councillors. They can be involved in a wide range of service provision and fulfil a number of community governance roles. Their primary role is to contribute to the shaping of Council services and improving local service provision. The Local Area Partnerships do provide a coherent and consistent pattern across the whole of Cheshire East. The approach is premised on coordination of partners in relatively small local area.

**Neighbourhood Management**

Generally aimed at service delivery improvement and implementation at the local level. Often facilitated by a neighbourhood manager rather than advising or making decisions at local level.

**Tenant Management Organisations**

Usually estate based, largely public/social housing focused.

**Area/Community Forums**

Often established as a mechanism to give communities a say on principal council matters or local issues and to influence decision making. Membership usually consists of people living or working in a specific area.

**Residents' & Tenants' Associations**

Usually focused on issues affecting neighbourhood or estate. They may be established with or without direct support from the principal council.

**Community Associations**

Democratic model for local residents and community organisations to work together to work together for the benefit of the neighbourhood. The principal council may be represented on the management committee.

**Multiple Parish Councils**

The review may decide that multiple parish councils may best meet the community cohesion requirements that are key criteria. The presence of geographic boundaries may need to be considered, for example they may form natural communities.

**APPENDIX B**

**EXISTING WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

**Overview prepared by the Chief Executive's and Partnership Unit**

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Introduction

Community engagement was at the heart of the business case for Local Government Re-organisation, seeking to ensure that services delivered by the new councils are tailored to reflect local circumstances and need.

In Cheshire East the new approach to community engagement is centred around 7 Local Areas which, between them, cover the whole Cheshire East area. As set out in the LGR business case, the new approach to community engagement includes town and parish councils as well as community and neighbourhood groups. Area partnership groups have been established in each of the 7 areas and their purpose is explained in the following section. Clearly these new arrangements are still evolving and will be developed further, reflecting local circumstances.

Wilmslow Local Area Partnership (LAP)

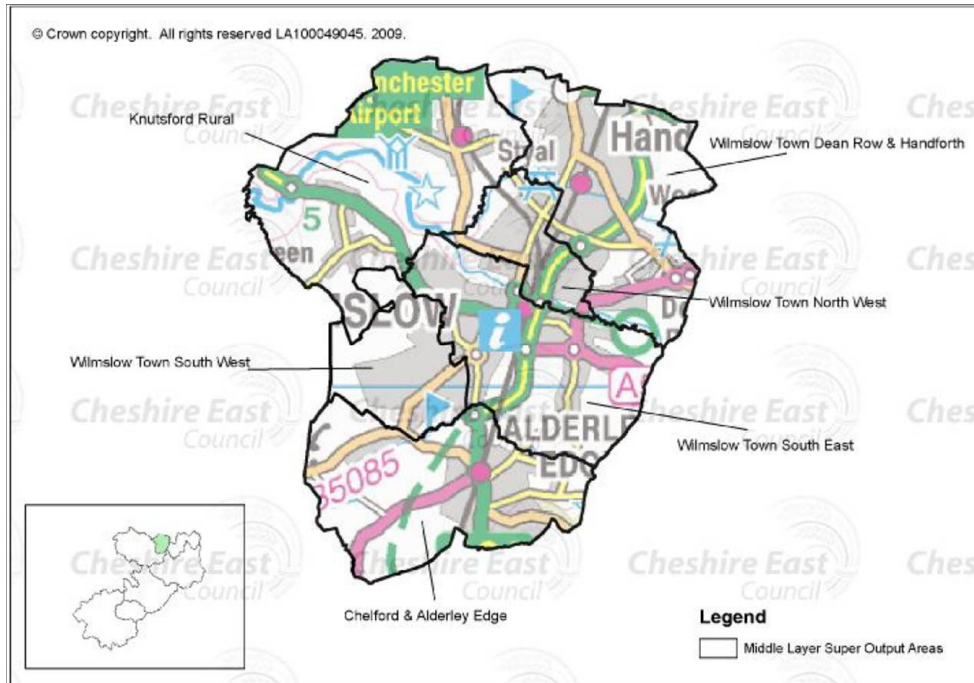
Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) have been established across Cheshire East, to achieve the following outcomes:

- A more effective, co-ordinated approach to tackling local needs and priorities.
- More responsive local management of services.
- Improved engagement with citizens.
- Actual empowerment of citizens.
- Greater citizen satisfaction.
- Enhanced community governance.
- Increased voter turnout.
- Enhanced community leadership role for elected councillors.
- Value for money.

The LAPs are part of the Cheshire East Partnerships Framework and clearly link and work with the Thematic Groups and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Executive. The LAPs are working with neighbourhood and community groups in their area, to engage with local people and address very local issues.

Wilmslow LAP brings together people who have an interest and responsibility for delivering improvements in the area. It is an action group, working together to make a difference. It holds regular meetings which are a touchpoint, where LAP members discuss issues and progress on their work in public. The LAP tackles issues through 'task and finish' groups, and currently has a number of such groups in place. Wilmslow LAP has agreed its initial work programme based on evidence and issues identified by LAP members and the local community.

### Wilmslow LAP boundary



### Wilmslow LAP membership

Membership includes:

- Cheshire East local councillors (and officers representing the People, Places and Policy and Performance directorates of Cheshire East Council)
- Alderley Edge Town Council
- Chorley Parish Council
- Wilmslow Trust
- Wilmslow Business Group
- Citizens Advice Bureau (representing CE Third Sector Congress)
- Cheshire Police
- Cheshire Fire and Rescue
- Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust

- Equity Housing Group
- Wilmslow Education Improvement Partnership
- Job Centre Plus

Other organisations represented at LAP meetings include:

- Cycle Wilmslow group
- Wilmslow 'Living Streets'
- Wilmslow community website

### Neighbourhood Features

- In 2007, the population of the Wilmslow Local Area Partnership (LAP) was 35,200<sup>1</sup>.
- This represented a tenth (10%) of the population of Cheshire East.
- Wilmslow LAP area contains 6 Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs), 2 of which it shares with Knutsford, and 22 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). These are based on population characteristics rather than administrative boundaries and form basic units for understanding local information.
- Wilmslow Town has a population of 30,070.

Within the LAP area, there are 3 pockets of disadvantage, the Colshaw and Lacey Green Estates in Wilmslow and the Spath Lane Estate in Handforth. There is some degree of neighbourhood management in these areas, facilitated by the relevant registered social landlords and supported by Cheshire East Council and local partners, acknowledging that these areas have complex needs and require an intensive approach to involve communities to improve outcomes for local people.

### The Colshaw Estate

The Colshaw Community Development Group is working to join up local services and develop agreements with service providers to jointly plan and deliver service differently in these areas.

The group includes officers from the Cheshire East Council, Riverside Housing Association, Police and Fire services, Groundwork Cheshire and Connexions.

A recent 'Not in My Neighbourhood' event, coordinated by the Police and Fire Services, in partnership with other agencies, targeted the community of the Colshaw Estate and set up a range of activities addressing issues of anti social behaviour and community safety and awareness. This project was identified as a catalyst for further

---

<sup>1</sup> Cheshire County Council population estimates 2007.

targeted work in the area and was established as part of a wider remit addressing anti social area across the LAP area as an ongoing subgroup.

### Community Groups

There is a range of voluntary and community groups within the Wilmslow area. The purpose of community engagement work is to build the capacity of our communities to lead partnership working in their area. The Cheshire East LSP and the Wilmslow LAP are committed to supporting both existing and new community led partnerships. These neighbourhood partnerships will contribute to the Local Area Delivery Plan for the LAP.

### Community Activities

There is a wide range of community activities in Wilmslow, delivered through local partnerships and community groups. These include environmental and heritage preservation projects, business support programmes, sports initiatives, community events and a community website.

### LAP projects / working groups

Since the first meeting in May 2009, the Wilmslow LAP has identified and is progressing the following projects –

- The Carrs Country Park, Wilmslow – demolition of a derelict building to diffuse issues of anti-social behaviour (completed) and further investigation to explore the creation of a multi use accessible path to serve pedestrians and cyclists (ongoing)
- Meriton Road Park, Handforth – bringing back a disused pavilion into community use, including accommodating a model railway club (ongoing)
- Exploring the creation of an motor cross site to engage young people in a controlled environment using an area of waste land (ongoing)
- Identifying and addressing potential improvements to the forecourt and access of Wilmslow Railway station, with improved signage in the town (ongoing)
- ‘Not in My Neighbourhod’ event – a multi agency approach to promote safety on the Colshaw Farm Estate and to address anti social behaviour (ongoing working group)



**WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – SUMMARY OF VOTING PAPERS RETURNED****1. Introduction**

6876 voting papers were returned out of a total of 25,019 issued, representing an overall response rate of 27.48%.

**For Wilmslow:** 17,732 voting papers were issued; 5,066 were returned (28.57%)

**For Handforth:** 6,695 voting papers were issued; 1563 were returned (23.25)

**For Styal:** 592 voting papers were issued; 247 were returned (41.72%)

Appendix A shows the summary of the results of the returned voting papers.

## **2. Summary of Results for the returned “Wilmslow” Voting Papers**

Electors were invited to respond to two questions on the voting paper as follows:-

### **Question 1 : Do you want a parish council?**

1. Yes
2. No

### **Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below**

- A. I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal
- B. I want a separate parish council for Wilmslow

The total number of voting papers received and counted are shown on Appendix 2, broken down into the following combinations of responses :-

- 1 & A
- 1 & B
- 1 Only
- 2 & A
- 2 & B
- 2 Only
- A Only
- B Only
- Rejected

The spreadsheet shows the calculations to question 1 as follows:-

**2894 electors indicated that they want a parish council** (calculated by totalling votes for 1&A, 1&B and 1 Only).

**2144 electors indicated that they did not want a parish council** (calculated by totalling votes for 2&A, 2&B and 2 Only).

In relation to question 2 the responses were as follows:-

**1090 electors expressed a view for a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal** (calculated by totalling votes for 1&A, 2&A and A only).

**1846 electors expressed a view for a separate parish council for Wilmslow** (calculated by totalling votes for 1&B, 2&B and B Only).

### **3. Summary of Results for the returned “Handforth” Voting Papers**

Electors were invited to respond to two questions on the voting paper as follows:-

#### **Question 1 : Do you want a parish council?**

1. Yes
2. No

#### **Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below**

- A. I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal
- B. I want a separate parish council for Handforth

The total number of voting papers received and counted are shown on Appendix 2 broken down into the following combinations of responses :-

- 1 & A
- 1 & B
- 1 Only
- 2 & A
- 2 & B
- 2 Only
- A Only
- B Only
- Rejected

The spreadsheet shows the calculations to question 1 as follows:-

**1023 electors indicated that they want a parish council** (calculated by totalling votes for 1&A, 1&B and 1 Only).

**534 electors indicated that they did not want a parish council** (calculated by totalling votes for 2&A, 2&B and 2 Only).

In relation to question 2 the responses were as follows:-

**415 electors expressed a view for a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal** (calculated by totalling votes for 1&A, 2&A and A only).

**619 electors expressed a view for a separate parish council for Handforth** (calculated by totalling votes for 1&B, 2&B and B Only).

#### **4. Summary of Results for the returned “Styal” Voting Papers**

Electors were invited to respond to two questions on the voting paper as follows:-

##### **Question 1 : Do you want a parish council?**

1. Yes
2. No

##### **Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below**

- A. I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal
- B. I want a separate parish council for Styal

The total number of voting papers received and counted are shown on Appendix 2 broken down into the following combinations of responses :-

- 1 & A
- 1 & B
- 1 Only
- 2 & A
- 2 & B
- 2 Only
- A Only
- B Only
- Rejected

The spreadsheet shows the calculations to question 1 as follows:-

**219 electors indicated that they want a parish council** (*calculated by totalling votes for 1&A, 1&B and 1 Only*).

**23 electors indicated that they did not want a parish council** (*calculated by totalling votes for 2&A, 2&B and 2 Only*).

In relation to question 2 the responses were as follows:-

**25 electors expressed a view for a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal** (*calculated by totalling votes for 1&A, 2&A and A only*).

**201 electors expressed a view for a separate parish council for Styal** (*calculated by totalling votes for 1&B, 2&B and B Only*).

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	Area	No of voting papers received	1 & A	1 & B	1 Only	2 & A	2 & B	2 Only	A Only	B Only	Rejected	Total	Do totals match?
2	Wilmslow 'W'	5,066	1,068	1,819	7	17	8	2,119	5	19	4	5,066	YES
3	Handforth 'H'	1,563	407	613	3	6	4	524	2	2	2	1,563	YES
4	Styal 'S'	247	20	198	1	3	0	20	2	3	0	247	YES
5	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,876</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>2,630</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2,663</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6,876</b>	<b>YES</b>
6													
7													
8		<b>Overall</b>	<b>Wilmslow</b>	<b>Handforth</b>	<b>Styal</b>								
9	<b>Want PC</b>	<b>4136</b>	2,894	1,023	219	<i>Adds columns c, d, e</i>							
10	<b>No change</b>	<b>2701</b>	2,144	534	23	<i>Adds columns f, g, h</i>							
11	<b>Expressed a view for 1 TC</b>	<b>1530</b>	1,090	415	25	<i>Adds columns c, f and i</i>							
12	<b>Expressed a view for separate PC</b>	<b>2666</b>	1,846	619	201	<i>Adds columns d, g and j</i>							
13													
14	<b>How to complete this result sheet</b>												
15	Column A	Area	Name of area										
16	Column B	No of Voting Papers recvd	Total number of voting papers received for that area (including doubtful papers)										
17	Column C	1 & A	Voted '1' for question 1 and 'A' for question 2										
18	Column D	1 & B	Voted '1' for question 1 and 'B' for question 2										
19	Column E	1 only	Voted '1' for question 1 and left 'B' blank										
20	Column F	2 & A	Voted '2' for question 1 and 'A' for question 2										
21	Column G	2 & B	Voted '2' for question 1 and 'B' for question 2										
22	Column H	2 only	Voted '2' for question 1 only										
23	Column I	A only	Left question 1 blank and voted 'A' for question 2										
24	Column J	B only	Left question 1 blank and voted 'B' for question 2										
25	Column K	Rejected	Papers where the voter's intention is not clear										
26	Column L	Total	This column will add columns C to K to check that the total matches column B										
27	Column M	Do totals match?	If totals match the word 'Yes' will appear										

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**Wilmslow Community Governance Review – Stage 1 Consultation  
List of Representations Received**

1. Mrs Das
2. Christine Wilson
3. Rebecca Wilson
4. David Wilson
5. Wilmslow United Reformed Church
6. Manuel Golding
7. Manchester Airport
8. ChALC
9. Quarry Bank Mill and Styal Estate, The National Trust
10. Steve Rawlings
11. Robin Sibthorpe
12. Wilmslow Trust
13. Mrs Gardiner
14. Heidi Sumner
15. Ken Edwards
16. Steve Edgeller
17. Heather Furnival
18. Dr James Lethbridge
19. Lorraine Millward
20. Derek Randall Smith
21. Dean Oaks Primary School
22. Mike Robinson
23. Bob Keen
24. Keith Purdom
25. J Pass
26. John Gordon
27. Steven Cunliffe
28. Clive Bassil
29. Barry Buxton
30. John Gordon
31. Alderley & District Probus Club
32. Wilmslow Historical Society
33. Mrs Pownall
34. D E Allen
35. J D Collings
36. Michael Morris
37. Mr Keith Hudson
38. Ballot paper received and not included in the summary of voting papers returned
39. Ballot paper received and not included in the summary of voting papers returned
40. Ballot paper received and not included in the summary of voting papers returned

\*\*\*\*\*

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

---

**From:** Centre, Call  
**Sent:** 10 June 2010 16:23  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Wilmslow Community Governance Review

[Submitted by Anonymous User]

---

**Wilmslow Community Governance Review Feedback Form**

**Name** Mrs Das

**Address** 20 Overhill Road  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 2BE

**Feedback** After careful consideration I do not wish to have a single Parish Council or more than one Parish Council to be set up in the Wilmslow area.

If you require a copy of this form for your records, please print using your web browser print button before submitting.



## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

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**From:** David Wilson [davidpwilson@uwclub.net]  
**Sent:** 04 June 2010 20:43  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** community governance review - vote

I would like to vote as follows: Question 1 - Yes Question 2 - B

Ballot Paper No. 16471

Mrs. Christine Wilson

Tel/Fax: +44 162 552 5630  
Mobile: +44 795 057 2432  
e-mail: [davidpwilson@uwclub.net](mailto:davidpwilson@uwclub.net)

## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

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**From:** Rebecca Wilson [rak\_wilson@yahoo.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 04 June 2010 11:55  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Community Governance Review - vote

Ballot paper no. 16469

I would like to vote as follows:

Question 1 - Yes  
Question 2 - B

Many thanks,  
Rebecca Wilson

## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

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**From:** David Wilson [davidpwilson@uwclub.net]  
**Sent:** 04 June 2010 11:51  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Communtiy Governance Review - Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal

From: David Wilson,  
18, Curzon Mews,  
Wilmslow SK9 5JN

Voting Slip no. 16470

Question 1 – Do you want a parish council? - 1 -Yes

Question 2 – B - I want a separate parish council for Wilmslow.

David Wilson

Tel/Fax: +44 162 552 5630  
Mobile: +44 795 057 2432  
e-mail: [davidpwilson@uwclub.net](mailto:davidpwilson@uwclub.net)

Wilmslow United Reformed Church  
Chapel Lane  
Wilmslow  
SK9 1PR

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010

Dear Madam

Wilmslow Community Governance Review

I am responding on behalf of the Trustees and Elders of Wilmslow United Reformed Church to your invitation to comment on the possibility of setting up an additional tier of local government such as a Parish Council or similar body for Wilmslow and/or other local areas.

Many, but not all, of the Elders are also householders in the town and have responded on a personal basis to the questionnaire which was circulated to each home in the area. However at our meeting last evening we deliberately looked at the proposal from a community point of view. As a church trying to serve not only its own members but the needs of those living around us, particularly the more vulnerable and less powerful members of society we welcome any initiative which could help support these groups and focus attention on local needs and problems. While it is not yet clear how Parish Councils might operate and what powers they might have we would enthusiastically support further development of the idea and would want to be involved in any further consultation on a draft recommendation.

We also considered the specific question on whether any new body should cover only Wilmslow itself or include the wider area mentioned in the consultation document. We are firmly of the opinion that if such a body is created it should be for the wider area ie include Styal and Handforth.

We look forward to being included in any further consultation you may carry out.

Yours sincerely

M H Williams  
Elder

Mrs Lindsey Parton  
Elections and Registrations Team Manager  
Cheshire East Council  
Sandbach  
Cheshire CW11 1HZ

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

---

**From:** goldingjacob@aol.com  
**Sent:** 03 June 2010 17:46  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Re: Wilmslow, Handforth & Styal proposed council(s).

Dear Mrs. Parton,

Many thanks for your email in reply to my comments and suggestions for your proposed town councils in this area.

I find your comments somewhat disingenuous and patronising in that your Sub Committee should suggest that to include all

options on a ballot paper would "confuse what is already a complicated issue for residents" of Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal.

What is complicated about clearly putting all the choices on a ballot paper? Why is having that choice deemed to be too complicated for us?

This is an outrageous assertion and slur upon this local electorate.

It is more probable that your Sub Committee doesn't relish a vote for one of the no cost alternatives.

Where on the ballot paper can one make a comment, as your email implied?

The leaflet you included with the ballot paper is sufficient in explaining various options but it is the ballot paper that should have carried these options.

This is yet another sad day for local democracy and your Sub Committee and all involved in this gerrymandering process should be thoroughly ashamed.

I and other parties are now considering our legal redress against the Sub Committee, its officers and Cheshire East Council.

Yours sincerely,  
Manuel Golding

-----Original Message-----

**From:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW <CommunityGovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk>  
**To:** 'goldingjacob@aol.com' <goldingjacob@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wed, 2 Jun 2010 18:42  
**Subject:** RE: Wilmslow, Handforth & Styal proposed council(s).

Dear Mr Golding

I realise that it is some time ago since you forwarded your email, however I wanted to thank you for your input to the meeting at Wilmslow and for taking the trouble to put your comments in writing.

As a result of the public meeting held at Wilmslow Leisure Centre, the Sub Committee did in fact convene an urgent meeting that same week to discuss the comments raised and to reconsider the wording of the ballot paper. The Sub Committee agreed to amend the the ballot paper for the residents of Wilmslow, to give the choice of the two questions, as per the representations made - the Sub Committee accepted the argument that this would provide consistency with the ballot papers for the Handforth and Styal areas.

Thank you also for your comments relating to the alternative options to a parish council. The Sub Committee did consider this issue at an earlier date, but decided on balance that to try to include all of the options on the ballot paper would only confuse what is already a complicated issue for residents. The Committee agreed instead that the best course of action was to send a leaflet to all residents to clearly explain all of the various options, and to invite people to submit their comments in writing in this respect.

Kind Regards  
Lindsey Parton  
Elections and Registration Team Manager  
Westfields  
Sandbach

**From:** goldingjacob@aol.com [mailto:goldingjacob@aol.com]  
**Sent:** 30 April 2010 11:26  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Wilmslow, Handforth & Styal proposed council(s).

Dear Mrs. Parton,  
I am attaching my proposals re the Wilmslow, Handforth & Styal ballot paper as requested at Monday's meeting at the Wilmslow Leisure Centre..  
Yours sincerely,  
Manuel Golding  
=

\*\*\*\*\*  
Note: This E-Mail is intended for the addressee only and may include confidential information.

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15 Ashford Road Fulshaw Park Wilmslow SK9 1QD  
Telephones 01625 582517 & 07930 377778

Mrs. L. Parton,  
Cheshire East Council,  
Elections & Registration Manager,  
Sandbach, CW11 1HZ.

30th April, 2010.

Dear Mrs. Parton,  
Re: Proposed Wilmslow/Handforth/Styal Council(s).

Following the meeting at the Wilmslow Leisure Centre on Monday evening, I am responding to the request for comments on the voting format for the above council(s).

- 1) As mentioned on Monday, Wilmslow residents must be offered the same choices as both Handforth and Styal residents, i.e. do we wish to have a Wilmslow only council or a joint areas council?
- 2) Whilst your presentation made great play of offering town councils which would attract a precept cost to residents, I suggest you also include on the ballot form the options for residents to consider choosing one of the "no precept" options.  
i.e. Area Committees, Community Associations, or Area/Community Forums.  
If all the alternatives are not clearly offered it could leave the council open to a legal challenge.

The question would therefore need to be worded as follows or similar:-

Do you want a town council (which will necessitate a precept cost to residents)?  
Yes    No

If YES, choose one of the following:-

- a) Wilmslow only council
- b) Wilmslow, Handforth & Styal joint council

**OR**

Do you want a no cost/no precept alternative?

Yes    No

If YES to alternative tick preference

- a) Area Committee?
- b) Community Association?
- c) Area/Neighbourhood Forum?

An explanatory leaflet outlining the above choices will need to be sent to each elector/resident, such as your "Community Governance Review - Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal" document as available on Monday, which outlines charging basis.

Yours sincerely,

Manuel Golding



JB/gen  
0161 489 2206  
0161 489 3812  
John.Twigg@manairport.co.uk  
2 June 2010

**Manchester Airport**  
Olympic House, Manchester M90 1QX United Kingdom  
t: + 44 (0) 8712 710 711 f: + 44 (0) 161 489 3813  
www.manchesterairport.co.uk

The Elections and Registration Team Manager  
Cheshire East Council  
Westfields  
Sandbach  
Cheshire  
CW11 1HZ

Dear Sir / Madam

### **WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Thank you for advising us of the review of Community Governance arrangements in Wilmslow and for giving us an opportunity to let you have our views.

The Airport Company values partnerships and relationships with communities in the local area. The Airport is a significant local business, a major employer, a neighbour, and landowner. Our aim is to develop strong community links, and communication is the key to this. We are always keen to talk to our neighbours so that we can tell them about our business and listen and understand their concerns.

We understand that the Council has received petitions for the establishment of Parish Councils in Styal, Wilmslow and Handforth, or one Parish Council to represent the whole area. Across large parts of the local area, the Airport has developed good links and relationships with 45 of the established Parish Councils, and over the years we have found them a helpful way of engaging with the local community. We host regular meetings with Parish Councillors, and the local Parish Councils are very helpful in raising issues and working with us to distribute material on a wide range of Airport activities. That includes applications to our Community Trust Fund, our education programmes with local schools and details of Airport operations such as maintenance works and runway closures.

Over many years we have developed a good relationship with the Styal Village Association. To us, the Village Association acts as a Parish Council in all but name and representatives regularly attend our Parish Council meetings. We have a good and a constructive dialogue with the Village Association and have worked with the village to support a range of local activities. The Village Association is representative of the Styal community and important stakeholders for us.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Our links with community groups in Wilmslow and Handforth are not as strong as those with Styal, and unlike Styal there is not an existing single group that represents the local community. Should Parish Councils be established for Wilmslow and Handforth, they would provide a greater community focus and contact point and be useful to us in developing local relationships. We do however consider that the establishment of a Parish Council for Wilmslow would not be appropriate. It would cover too large an area and would replicate much of the community activities that are covered by the Local Area Partnership. However, the wishes and the comments of local people would be particularly important in setting new governance arrangements.

Thank you giving us an opportunity to contribute to the review, and we hope that our comments and observations are helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Cornish". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Andrew Cornish  
**MANAGING DIRECTOR**

## **Community Governance Review – Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal Views of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC)**

### Terms of Reference for assessment

Cheshire East Council should assess the petitions and the proposals that they contain in terms of the following criteria and the key considerations:

Community governance in the areas must be

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area
- Effective and convenient

### Main Points to address:-

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish
- Parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest with their own sense of identity
- The degree to which the proposals offer a sense of place and identity for all residents
- The ability of the proposed authority to deliver quality services economically and efficiently providing users with a democratic voice
- The degree to which a parish council would be viable in terms of a unit of local government providing at least some local services that are convenient, easy to reach and accessible to local people

### ChALC's Views

ChALC considers that an elected Parish Council in each of the three areas would be the most desirable beneficial outcome because of the following:-

- An elected Local Council has a mandate from the population of its area to represent it
- Other forms of local area management can be confusing, undemocratic, have limited focus/powers and may not be able to raise funds
- It is clear that Handforth and Styal see themselves as having separate identities from Wilmslow, and there is no history of 'togetherness'. One large Council covering the whole area may therefore not be the best solution
- Parishes in other areas of Cheshire tend to be much smaller than the area covered by the Wilmslow and Handforth petition (30,700

population). The three largest Councils (in CW&C, CE and Warrington respectively) are very successful – these being Winsford, Congleton and Great Sankey (all just over 20,000 population), two of which are Quality Parishes.

- The three Parish Council option would make Wilmslow the largest at around 22,000 population. Handforth at circa 8,000 and Styal at circa 900 would be large enough to be viable and successful in their own right
- The three Parish Councils option would allow the areas to have their own identities, electoral mandate, statutory powers, fund raising powers and perhaps better reflect the local diversities and interest

Cheshire Association of Local Councils  
2 June 2010

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

---

**From:** Underhill, Eleanor [Eleanor.Underhill@nationaltrust.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 03 June 2010 12:06  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Cc:** NICHOLSON, John  
**Subject:** wilmslow community governance review

To: The Elections and Registration Team Manager, Cheshire East Council, Westfields, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 1HZ

**Wilmslow Community Governance Review**

Thank you for your letter relating to the Wilmslow Community Governance Review.

I am writing on behalf of Quarry Bank Mill and the Styal Estate, and the National Trust, to support the establishment of a Parish Council for Styal. We believe this would provide a useful forum, to ensure that Styal issues are funnelled effectively through to Cheshire East for attention. We also believe that the Parish Council would provide us with a useful entity, with which to consult and engage with our neighbours.

Please can you confirm that you have received this representation.

Yours sincerely,

Eleanor Underhill

Eleanor Underhill  
General Manager  
Quarry Bank Mill and Styal Estate  
The National Trust

direct line 01625 445855  
mobile 07824 597137

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-quarrybankmillandstyalstate](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-quarrybankmillandstyalstate)

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The National Trust is a registered charity - charity number 205846. Our registered office is Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 2NA.

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**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** Steve Rawlings [steve\_rawlings@yahoo.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 02 June 2010 22:23  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** RE: Parish Council ?

... and thank you in return for your measured and informative reply, Lindsey.  
The NAPC leaflet only briefly mentions costs and their collection by 'precept'. It ( the leaflet) implies the precept is directly converted into improved local services. Are there any available figures on tax collected to distributed sums ? Of course, I realise that direct costs are only part of the story, and that long-term benefits of people becoming more involved in the running of their local communities is es unquantifiable - but one must start somewhere !

Steve Rawlings

--- On Wed, 2/6/10, COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW <CommunityGovernance@chesh wrote:

**From:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW <CommunityGovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Parish Council ?  
**To:** "'Steve Rawlings'" <steve\_rawlings@yahoo.co.uk>  
**Date:** Wednesday, 2 June, 2010, 17:52

Dear Mr Rawlings

Thank you for your response.

In answer to your questions, decision making at the moment is only made at one tier of local government i.e. East Council. Parish Councils can give the opportunity for a more local voice.

Parish Councils can take on additional functions which may not currently be provided by Cheshire East Council. They can decide to take on the running of services provided by Cheshire East, but perhaps to a higher level which could not be provided previously. For example, a service such as grass cutting - a parish council could decide, based on local needs, to implement a higher frequency of grass cutting than the standard - and raise a precept to achieve this.

I am not aware that the current system is failing, but some may argue that services to the locality could be improved through the formation of a parish council.

I have attached a copy of a leaflet prepared by the National Association of Parish councils, which you may find useful as background information. Please be assured that I am not advocating the formation of a parish council by my comments, hopefully it will provide some context to what parish councils can do.

I will ensure that your comments are put forward to the Council for consideration.

Kind Regards  
Lindsey Parton  
Elections and Registration Team Manager  
Westfields  
Sandbach

---

**From:** Steve Rawlings [mailto:steve\_rawlings@yahoo.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 21 May 2010 15:57  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Parish Council ?

Dear Sir / Madam,

Having read the four page information leaflet that kindly provided by Cheshire East, I am still not cl  
advantage a Parish Council would deliver compared to what we are currently enjoying.

My queries are:

Who or what exactly is currently making the decisions that a Parish Council would assume if create  
In what way is the current system failing ? Are there documented instances of shortcomings of the c  
system ?

From my admittedly limited perspective, communication channels between the public and local gov  
better than they have have ever been, and the present call for more 'hands-on' governance ( ie. by pa  
councils) is tomorrow's "unnecessary layer of bureaucracy".

Steve Rawlings  
SK9 4AJ

\*\*\*\*\*  
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**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** Centre, Call  
**Sent:** 02 June 2010 20:45  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Wilmslow Community Governance Review

[Submitted by Anonymous User]

---

**Wilmslow Community Governance Review Feedback Form**

**Name** Robin Sibthorpe

**Address** 5 Manor Close  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
sk9 5px

**Feedback**

Although we are both local electors only my wife received a postal voting paper.

I am in favour of a parish council for Wilmslow.  
My preference is for a council just covering the Wilmslow area.

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**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** martinhoyle@uwclub.net [01625525068@uwclub.net]  
**Sent:** 02 June 2010 20:40  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Community Governance Review- Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal.

Sirs,

The Wilmslow Trust wishes to register the fact that it fully supports the creation of a single Parish Council for the whole area as illustrated by the map covering Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal area issued for that identifying purpose.

Martin Hoyle riba.  
Secretary,  
Wilmslow Trust.



**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Sent:** 02 June 2010 18:04  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** FW: Community Governance Review -Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal

Note: Mrs Gardiner has been informed that the figure of 900 is the population figure, as opposed to the number of people on the electoral register. These are the figures which have been provided by the Council's Research and Intelligence Unit and are based upon projections from the last census. Mrs Gardiner still felt that this figure was high, even given this explanation. Officers have concluded that the figure may be higher than expected due to the polling district including Styal prison, which could make the modelling slightly less accurate in this case. However, this is the best estimate of the population figure available for Styal, until the next census is conducted.

---

**From:** Judith M Gardiner [mailto:judithmgardiner@yahoo.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 21 May 2010 10:59  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Community Governance Review -Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal

Dear Sir/fMadam,

We have today received the above information document and our ballot papers. At the bottom of page 2 of the information sheet you have the population of Styal area as 900! I think the number on the electoral role for Styal is 568. Could you confirm which number is correct please?  
Many thanks, Mrs. J. Gardiner

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** heidi sumner [heidisumner@btinternet.com]  
**Sent:** 02 June 2010 16:57  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Community Governance Review

I would like a Parish Council. I would like a single Parish Council for Wilmslow only.

Heidi Sumner

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** Centre, Call  
**Sent:** 02 June 2010 11:36  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Wilmslow Community Governance Review

[Submitted by Anonymous User]

---

**Wilmslow Community Governance Review Feedback Form**

**Name** Ken Edwards

**Address** 48 Hurst Lane  
Bollington  
Cheshire  
SK10 5LT

**Feedback**

First I welcome the three requests for improved community Governance in the Wilmslow Handforth and Styal Area and I am delighted as a Town Councillor and as Chairman of the Macclesfield Local Area of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils to note that the residents of these three areas wish to create democratically elected Local Councils. These Councils will give local people a chance to articulate policies to improve their local environment and to act as monitors of local services supplied by other bodies. They will also provide a focus for local community activity and contribute to the strength and coherence of their areas.

Secondly I would support particularly the request for the constituted Parish Council for Styal and the Town Council for Wilmslow and Handforth. Serious local governance may well require locally raised finance for locally determined purposes as well as being the recipient of grant monies from elsewhere. In fact there is a view that reasonably well off and socially balanced communities who put out a begging bowl while not prepared to put their hand in their own pocket for improved facilities do not deserve those improved facilities. Equally it is important that Town and Parish Councils should have the ability to raise funds in order to access funds from other sources in terms of matched funding. Also Town and Parish councils have often, very sensibly, offered grants to local community bodies such as Guides, Scouts, Air Cadets, Youth Groups, Friends who support facilities such as Community Halls and Arts Centres and Recreational facilities that contribute greatly to the life of the local community. Such voluntary groups greatly strengthen the bonds of local society as well as providing services that far exceed in monetary value the small grants Town and Parish councils provide.

I hope that Cheshire East Brough Council will do everything in its power to facilitate the creation of the two democratically elected bodies and that they will contribute to the well being of their residents and the strength of their local communities for many years to come.

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** Centre, Call  
**Sent:** 29 May 2010 11:15  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Wilmslow Community Governance Review

[Submitted by Anonymous User]

---

**Wilmslow Community Governance Review Feedback Form**

**Name** Steve Edgeller

**Address** 27 Wingfield Avenue  
Wilmslow

**Feedback**

I don't think there's a need for an additional tier of local government in Cheshire. There doesn't seem to be anything a parish/town council could provide, that couldn't already be provided by Cheshire East.  
I vote for no change.

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**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** Heather Furnival [heatherfurnival@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** 28 May 2010 11:09  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Parish Council

I refer to your information re a parish council. I have mislaid the envelope that came with the voting form so would like to submit my views via this email.

Question 1 - Yes i do want a parish council.

Question 2 - I prefer Option A, a single parish council for WIlmslow, Handforth and Styal.

Please advise me that this has reached you and is satisfactory.

Heather Furnival

Heather Furnival 7 Thorngrove Road Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 1DD 01625 524377

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**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** Centre, Call  
**Sent:** 25 May 2010 21:29  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Wilmslow Community Governance Review

[Submitted by Anonymous User]

---

**Wilmslow Community Governance Review Feedback Form**

**Name** Dr James Lethbridge  
**Address** 20 Sagars Road, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 3EE

**Feedback** Community Governance Review - Wilmslow, Handforth, Styal

I am in receipt of my voting paper and will be voting NO to the formation of a Parish Council. However, I object to the form of the paper since, if I vote No, I have no option concerning the area to be covered by the proposed Council. Should a majority vote for a Council and the decision is made to form a Council, or Councils, I am very much against Handforth being included in with a Wilmslow Council. If we are to have a Council locally I would want it to be a Council for Handforth, NOT Wilmslow and Handforth. The voting paper does not allow me express this view and I believe its format and wording do not give a proper choice.

Jim Lethbridge

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**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

---

**From:** Lorraine Millward [hlmmillward@btinternet.com]  
**Sent:** 24 May 2010 13:21  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** RE: Postal voting paper

My preference is for one parish council for the whole district. I also note that Dean Row has been lurr Handforth and object to this in the strongest possible terms. Historically we are part of Wilmslow, NC information paper states that 'over 10% of the electorates' have signed the petitions - so almost 90% h seem that most people therefore do not require any changes.  
 Lorraine Millward

--- On **Thu, 20/5/10, COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW <CommunityGovernance@chesi** wrote:

**From:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW <CommunityGovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Postal voting paper  
**To:** "Lorraine Millward" <hlmmillward@btinternet.com>  
**Date:** Thursday, 20 May, 2010, 16:05

Dear Mrs Millward

Thank you for your email. I am sorry that your envelope did not contain a voting slip. Please would you be kir to respond to this email with your response to the consultation voting paper. I will then ensure that your reply with the results of representations received.

Thank you.

Lindsey Parton  
 Elections and Registration Team Manager  
 Cheshire East Council  
 Westfields  
 Sandbach

---

**From:** Lorraine Millward [mailto:hlmmillward@btinternet.com]  
**Sent:** 20 May 2010 09:22  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Postal voting paper

I have received the information on the community review but, unlike my husband's envelope, my er not contain a voting slip. Please would you forward one as I very much need to vote on this importa  
 Thank you,  
 Lorraine Millward  
 89 Dean Drive  
 Wilmslow SK92EY

\*\*\*\*\*  
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**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** Centre, Call  
**Sent:** 24 May 2010 11:13  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Wilmslow Community Governance Review

[Submitted by Anonymous User]

---

**Wilmslow Community Governance Review Feedback Form**

**Name** Mr Derek Randall Smith

**Address** 42 Welton Drive  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 6HE

**Feedback** I have mislaid my postal voting paper but would prefer a single council covering Wilmslow Styal and Handforth.

**If you require a copy of this form for your records, please print using your web browser print button before submitting.**



**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** DEAN OAKS PRIMARY HEAD  
**Sent:** 21 May 2010 10:22  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Response from Dean Oaks Primary

I would be **against** having a single or multiple parsh councils.

The reasons are:

1. The proposed parish boundary is drawn including some of our catchment area but excluding a large part.
2. It is not an economic climate in which to increase the costs for families. We have many families unable to contribute to the costs of school trips and who are not having holidays etc because of their financial position.

Janet Ciaputa  
Headteacher

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

---

**From:** FMRobinson@talktalk.net  
**Sent:** 20 May 2010 19:20  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Re: Community Governance Review

Dear Ms Parton,

Thank you for your prompt, lucid and comprehensive reply.

Regards, Mike Robinson

----- Original Message -----

**From:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**To:** 'FMRobinson@talktalk.net'  
**Cc:** FLYNN, Mike ; GARRITTY, Mike  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2010 5:54 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Community Governance Review

Dear Mr Robinson

Thank you for your email. The petition which was received from the electors in Handforth requested the Council to conduct a review which considered making a recommendation that a new parish be constituted to be known as Handforth Community Council - the area of which would be defined as the electoral ward of Handforth as known in 2007 ( i.e. when part of the former Macclesfield Borough Council). This is the boundary shown on the map in the leaflet for Handforth.

The current Cheshire East Council Boundaries are different to those mentioned above, in that there is a Wilmslow North Ward and Wilmslow South Ward. The area south of the river that you refer to - plus the Dean Row ward are included in Handforth North ward, along with Handforth. The rest of the area on the map falls under Wilmslow South Ward.

The situation is also complicated by the fact there there is currently a separate boundary review being undertaken by the Boundary Commission for England for the Cheshire East Council wards, the outcome of which is awaited - so these wards are likely to change for next year's local elections in May.

The Wilmslow Community Governance Review itself is only concerned with the potential creation of parish councils for the area and the potential boundaries of such.

If you feel, as part of the consultation, that the boundary for a potential Handforth Ward would be more appropriate to be contained to the north of the river, rather than as depicted on the map - then those views can be put forward as part of the consultation, by reply to this email. Historically (prior to the boundary review in 1999) the River Dean formed the Handforth Ward boundary, as per your understanding.

I have copied this email to my colleagues, who may be able to comment further on the boundary issues.

Kind Regards  
Lindsey Parton  
Elections and Registration Team Manager  
Cheshire East Council  
Westfields  
Sandbach

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**From:** FMRobinson@talktalk.net [mailto:FMRobinson@talktalk.net]  
**Sent:** 19 May 2010 21:55  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

**Subject:** Community Governance Review

Cheshire East Council are carrying out a Community Governance Review, having received three petitions asking for parish councils in the Wilmslow area. Included in the documentation of the review is a map of the area which seems to have re-drawn the boundaries of Wilmslow, Styal and Handforth. For example, the map shows Handforth extending south of the River Dean.

Am I correct in assuming an outcome of the review may be changes to existing recognised boundaries?

Mike Robinson  
Handforth

\*\*\*\*\*  
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**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** Bob Keen [bob-pollyk@tiscali.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 19 May 2010 10:08  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Wilmslow, Handforth Styal - Views

I have received your circular and voting paper for the above proposals. I attended the meeting in Handforth but had to leave before the end.

My preference would be to leave things as they are to allow Cheshire East to settle down without any further layers of government. However, if the decision is that there should be a parish council, then I would vote for a single parish council for the whole of Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal and definitely NOT just for the separate parts.

The voting form does not allow me to express this view and hence the necessity for sending this email.

I shall send the voting form back voting for Question 1 - NO, but no doubt you will take into account my alternative choice.

R D Keen  
44 Woodlands Road  
Handforth  
SK9 3AU

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** Keith [keithpurdom@btinternet.com]  
**Sent:** 16 May 2010 21:13  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** FW: Review Wilmslow Style and Handforth

Hi

You want people's views.

Stop this waste of money. If you are forced by law to consult you are not forced by law to send envelopes and prepay the reply.

Stop these ridiculous parish councils. Why would I want my taxes to go up so more self serving councillors can make more and more expense claims and fund more and more worthless but PC "initiatives" Get real Consult us please on how you are going to save my money not spend it

**Keith Purdom**  
**Bluechip Aviation Consulting**  
**[www.bluechip-aviation.co.uk](http://www.bluechip-aviation.co.uk)**  
**Mobile 44 (0) 78 1082 5497**  
**Office 44 (0) 1625 536 063**

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** J Pass [jacqueline.pass@googlemail.com]  
**Sent:** 16 May 2010 13:46  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Cc:** CROCKATT, Jim (Councillor)  
**Subject:** community governance review

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my views on the above issue.

As a Wilmslow resident I can sympathise with the view that the creation of Cheshire East has meant that direction and decision making has significantly shifted in favour of areas further South, and that little is being done to redress this, but I do not believe that the creation of parish councils is the way ahead. These would merely add a further tier at local authority level with, in practice, very narrow remits and with significant expense. As to the notion that they would, "give a voice to represent local issues and interests", if there is an acknowledgment that this is needed, then Cheshire East should not have been created.

As to the alternative methods outlined there is only one viable suggestion, namely that there should be Area Committees composed of existing Councillors. All other alternatives cited would be undemocratic because they are not elected, and it would be a further transfer of power away to unelected pressure and interest groups.

Mrs Pass

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** JOHN GORDON [johnmoyragordon@btinternet.com]  
**Sent:** 28 April 2010 18:58  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Wilmslow Town Council.

I should like to add to my comments submitted last week.

I have just become aware and I am sure most residents of Wilmslow do not know there are SIX County Councillors living in Wilmslow (plus those in Alderley representing Fulshaw) who have already been elected as being capable of looking after Wilmslow's interests.

There is a consultative Forum and The Wilmslow Tust lobby who have easy access to our Councillors.

To add another tier of representatives with their costs is not the best example of efficiency savings.

John Gordon 34 SK9 6JB 01625523833

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Sent:** 20 May 2010 18:23  
**To:** 'Steven Cunliffe'  
**Subject:** RE: resident's submission on wilmslow governance review

Dear Mr Cunliffe

Thank you for your email. I will ensure that your comments are put forward to the Council as part of the consultation process. The feedback from the public meeting was very helpful. We have responded to the comments made about the ballot paper by amending the questions asked to the residents of the Wilmslow area.

Regards

Lindsey Parton  
Elections and Registration Team Manager  
Cheshire East Council  
Westfields  
Sandbach

---

**From:** Steven Cunliffe [mailto:steve@cheshiremedia.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 28 April 2010 09:30  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** resident's submission on wilmslow governance review

1 Edgeway  
WILMSLOW  
SK91NH

Dear Mrs. Parton,

Thank you for the presentation that you gave to the meeting at the Wilmslow Leisure Centre on Monday and inviting written comments. Nobody gave a convincing case for the establishment of a parish or town council. Cheshire East already carries out the functions which can be devolved to a lower tier authority. The establishment of a second tier would lead to a blurring of responsibilities, with each authority blaming the other when anything went wrong. There would also be an additional precept for council tax payers already having to cope with the effects of the recession.

The ballot procedure appears to be flawed, with Wilmslow not having the same opportunity to vote on its own future as neighbouring Handforth and Styal, which are much smaller areas. I also feel that any ballot should be binding on the council, and not merely part of the consultation exercise.

Yours sincerely,  
Steven Cunliffe (Wilmslow resident)



**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** clive bassil [joyclive@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** 27 April 2010 10:52  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Cc:** jimcrockatt@cheshireeast.gov.uk; paulwhiteley@cheshireeast.gov.uk  
**Subject:** A Future Town Council

Dear Mrs. Parton,

Thank you for the presentation that you gave to the meeting at the Wilmslow Leisure Centre last evening and inviting written comments and questions. I felt that to ask my question and receive your answer in the "warm" atmosphere that developed last evening could have risked this most important and possibly seminal argument in favour of a Town Council, being lost.

As I understand the proposed operation of a W.T.C they would be empowered to carry out certain services for the local community. The funds for these services would be provided by CEC.

Let us use the example of grass cutting. CEC would presumably allocate funds within an annual budget for this purpose to a WTC. WTC would then be required to expend these funds for the purposes allocated. Should WTC by virtue of better (than CEC) purchasing be able to have the work executed at a lesser cost, is the resultant saving kept within the WTC and available for additional services or is the saving remitted to CEC?

Should the saving be remitted to CEC then what incentive is there upon WTC to purchase services locally or cost effectively?

Yours Sincerely

Clive Bassil (Wilmslow Resident)

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**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** Barry Buxton [barry@yobuxton.com]  
**Sent:** 24 April 2010 23:38  
**To:** KEEGAN, Frank (Councillor); COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Cc:** ANDREW, Carolyn (Councillor); GILLILAND, Elizabeth (Councillor); FITZGERALD, Wesley (Councillor); MENLOVE, Rod (Councillor); BARTON, Gary (Councillor); QUINN, Lisa; HARRISON, Ceri  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed 'parish' council for Wilmslow

Mr Keegan,

Many thanks for your prompt and reasoned response. I am encouraged to hear that there is no expectation that Council Tax will rise as a direct result of operating a Wilmslow Town Council.

I am somewhat disturbed, however, by the litter example you give for justifying this new body. It would seem to me that greater cost-effectiveness can be achieved by awarding one (possibly 2) contract(s) to an external contractor with true county-wide capability rather than allowing multitudes of local councils to each set up their own smaller (more expensive) arrangements. Or am I missing something here? I certainly don't see the rationale for "staff up in Macclesfield for all the potential problems..." when external contracting can be utilised. The rigidity and fully-costed expense of added headcount is the last thing that Cheshire East (and its associated parishes) should be contemplating!

Regards  
Barry H Buxton

----- Original Message -----

**From:** KEEGAN, Frank (Councillor)  
**To:** Barry Buxton ; COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Cc:** ANDREW, Carolyn (Councillor) ; GILLILAND, Elizabeth (Councillor) ; FITZGERALD, Wesley (Councillor) ; MENLOVE, Rod (Councillor) ; BARTON, Gary (Councillor) ; QUINN, Lisa ; HARRISON, Ceri  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2010 9:31 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed 'parish' council for Wilmslow

Mr Buxton,

I agree with you entirely about the Financial success of Cheshire East. It has been a terrific rolling back of the cost base. We have more to do in actually starting to provide services locally.

The drive for Unitary Government in a Cheshire which was split into East and West was strongly supported in the Macclesfield Borough.

We always felt that we wanted to distinguish best practice locally and encourage that practice in other parts; for example, Poynton Town Council has been proactive in spearheading an approach which has introduced "Restorative Justice" and we can learn from their experience in tackling anti social behaviour in other parts of Cheshire East (which has no wheat fields - but the wheatsheaf was the recognised symbol for Cheshire County Council for many, many years and no one raised an army and marched on Chester.)

I have been a Parish Councillor in Alderley Edge for 23 years, and I know the good points and the weak points.

The good points are that as a Parish Councillor I am more empowered to effect change in my community. Cheshire East ( which, to my mind, feels like a place, rather than a bus stop) has 107 Parishes at the present time and could have 110.

I am alive to the point you make about creating a new cost base for the electorate in bloated Parish or Town Councils.

An example of our dilemma was this. Litter is dealt with in the Wilmslow area by sending clean up teams from Macclesfield; we have been set challenging targets by Government in response times to actually clean up an area which has been reported.

If we staff up in Macclesfield for all the potential problems in Wilmslow, Alderley Edge, Knutsford, Poynton, Bollington, Macclesfield, Prestbury, Rainow, Disley and Handforth, then we would finish up with a bureaucratic cost base.

We felt that the litter could be dealt with locally, in each of the above instances, and that Cheshire East should give the role (AND THE MONEY) to each of the above places to carry out this task. That, in essence, is the thrust of the drive for a Wilmslow Town Council. We would contract certain functions to be performed locally in Wimslow, and as Cheshire East, we would give Wimslow the money which we, as Cheshire East, currently spend on the task within Wilmslow.

That means your Council Tax in future would be split between a Cheshire East portion and a Wilmslow Town Council portion; the important point is that in future your Council Tax bill should not go up because we have asked Wilmslow Town Council to carry out certain functions. Rather I would expect the Town Councillors of Wilmslow to be able to take the money which they receive from Cheshsire East and actually deliver more value for money within their local community.

I am happy to carry on the debate on the benefits of local Town Councils, together with the cost implications for the local taxpayer.

Best wishes,

Frank Keegan

**From:** Barry Buxton [barry@yobuxton.com]

**Sent:** 21 April 2010 16:07

**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

**Cc:** ANDREW, Carolyn (Councillor); GILLILAND, Elizabeth (Councillor); KEEGAN, Frank (Councillor)

**Subject:** Proposed 'parish' council for Wilmslow

Dear Sir / Madam

As a Wilmslow resident and Council Tax payer I object most strongly to this proposal. It is contrary to the ethos of Unitary Authorities whereby wasteful layer(s) of local government have been stripped out - something which has only just got underway and should be allowed time to prove itself before tinkering with the structure. For me, the removal of Cheshire CC and Macc BC and replacement with 'Cheshire East' (despite the daft name and logo - what's wrong with 'East Cheshire' and where are all the wheat fields?) has been a successful approach to cost-effectiveness in local / community governance. Parish councils can add cost, obfuscation and delay and seem to act simply to feed the needs of local worthies who think they know better than "big brother".

If this proposal goes forward with implications for increasing my Council Tax bill I shall be protesting in the strongest possible terms to the highest authority in the land.

Yours faithfully

Barry H Buxton  
Tinctures, SK9 1QF

\*\*\*\*\*  
Note: This E-Mail is intended for the addressee only and may include confidential information.

Unauthorised recipients are requested to please advise the sender immediately by telephone and then delete the message without copying or storing it or disclosing its contents to any other person.

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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**From:** JOHN GORDON [johnmoyragordon@btinternet.com]  
**Sent:** 22 April 2010 09:16  
**To:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW  
**Subject:** Fw: Town Councils

--- On **Tue, 20/4/10**, **JOHN GORDON** <johnmoyragordon@btinternet.com> wrote:

From: JOHN GORDON <johnmoyragordon@btinternet.com>  
Subject: Town Councils  
To: communtygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk  
Date: Tuesday, 20 April, 2010, 10:52

I am against any proposal to form a council for Styal Handfdorth & Wilmslow and certainly not in favour of a town council for Wilmslow alone.

I think it ridiculous to consider another tier of local government when we have just gone through the expense and trauma of abolishing one.

Politicians (and the public) say they want to reduce government and its costs.

Alderley Edge has certainly not been successful raising their precept by 70%.

Noone in Wilmslow wants that.

John Gordon 34 Knutsford Rd Wilmslow SK9 6JB

**ALDERLEY & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB**

Secretary's Address:-  
Mr. R. A. Burden  
"Mindanao"  
44 Chesham Road  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 6HA  
Telephone: (01625) 583079

Elections & Registration Team Manager  
Cheshire East Council  
Westfields, Middlewich Road  
Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 1HZ

26th May, 2010

Dear Mrs. Parton,

**Wilmslow Community Governance Review**

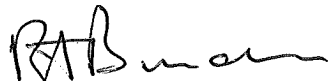
We thank you for consulting Alderley & District Probus Club on the subject of Wilmslow Community Governance.

The Club, being based in Alderley Edge, has no views on the establishment of parish councils for Wilmslow, Handforth or Styal.

It would not, however, be in favour of any change to the status of Alderley Edge Parish Council by way of combination with any parish council emanating from this Review.

Please note, this does not necessarily represent the views of individual members who have been invited by you to respond as local electors.

Yours faithfully,



Robert A Burden - Hon. Secretary  
Alderley & District Probus Club

28 MAY 2010

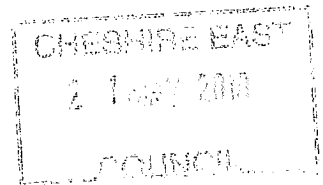
Wilmslow Historical Society

5, Sandown Close  
Wilmslow.  
SK9 2QP

Wilmslow Community Government Review

WHS has a membership of 120 of which only 49% live in Wilmslow, Handforth & Salford. As they will all have their individual reasons for how they believe the area should be governed, I feel it inappropriate to comment on behalf of the Society as a whole.

Mavis Jansen,  
Vice Chairman.



75 Hampson Crescent  
Handforth  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 3HF  
19<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Dear Government Review Committee

I write in reference to views about the proposed parish/town councils. My views are as below:-

1. I do not want to be part of Wilmslow parish.
2. I would like an independent non fee paying parish council in Handforth.
3. Styal definitely deserves to be independent but that is up to the village to decide.

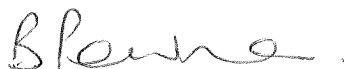
I appreciate that the 3 petitions were submitted all at the same time and this will cause lots of conflict. Personally, Cheshire East has yet to be fully established. Their full potential has yet to be seen. I am sure it will take several years for the administration to be fully organised.

I came to the meeting held at the Leisure Centre in Wilmslow. It created more questions than solutions. I expect the committee will have lots of debates and decisions to make over this.

My main concern is that Cheshire East does its best for the communities within its jurisdiction. If for instance, the council at the moment sees to the cutting of the grass in Handforth on a regular basis. If a parish council was established and they saw fit to undertake this job themselves what happens to the money allocated for this job budgeted for already? Would the council use this extra money for another needed resource in the community? To have a parish council incurs costs as the meeting in Wilmslow stated that a non-fee paying parish could not happen. The price per capita or household over time could amount to a large sum of money. There could be no capping and could be several pounds per week. Realistically at the moment it could be £1.00 per week per household.

Based on the above I will be voting NO. As the meeting stated a re-application could be submitted in two years when there has been more thought and organisation on the implications of a parish/town council.

Yours faithfully



Mrs B Pownall

8, Bollin Court  
WILMSLOW  
Ches., SK9 2AP

Electoral Services  
Cheshire East Council  
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

27th May 2010

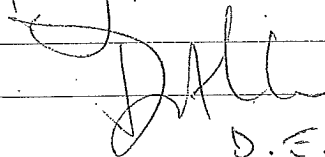
Dear Sir/Madame,  
Wilmslow Parish Consultation

Further to my telephone call to your office I confirm that the above documentation has not been received at the above address. I understand that you will include the opinion expressed in this letter.

I am in favour of a Parish Council for Wilmslow.

I am not in favour of a council for Wilmslow Handforth and Styal.

Yours faithfully,



D.F. ALLEN



13 Draxford Court.  
Parkway  
Wilmslow.  
17.5.10.

Dear Sir,

I would like to  
know what if you have  
a Wilmslow Council what  
are STYAK and HANDBORILL  
going to have nothing  
of their own Councils.

Please let me know.

yours sincerely,

S. J. COLLINGS.

121.524881

Responded by letter 30 - 6 - 10/10 17.5.10.

June 2, 2010

7 Green Drive  
Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 2EU

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to convey my concern over the re-drawing of the Wilmslow/Hanfords boundary to include my property in Wilmslow, as shown on the map delivered to my house at <sup>No. 7</sup> Green Drive, Wilmslow, where I have lived since 1969.

I have nothing against Hanfords, indeed I like it. But I completely identify myself with Wilmslow, where I have for long been a member of the Wilmslow Guild, shop almost entirely in Wilmslow, use the town's library, attend the Methodist Lanchester Club, have so many friends here, I could go on.

The map shows Hanfords to have moved to exclude a line up to the 'Blubell' corner, at the junction of the Manchester road and Dean Row Road. This is in spite of the natural boundary of the River Dane, where an official notice reads Hanfords. ~~As~~ <sup>after</sup> you pass ~~pass~~ Wilmslow Garden Centre and travel northwards to Hanfords.

All of this has come to my attention through your publication, Community Government Review (Wilmslow, Handforth, Styal), including the map of boundaries sent by East Cheshire Council. I'm invited to vote for a parish council, either a single one for Wilmslow or one for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal. I prefer one for Wilmslow alone. I don't want to be annexed to any area other than remain in Wilmslow, in spite of the Boundary Commission's decision as I understand it.

Thank you very much for your attention, and I would appreciate your comment on my views.

Yours faithfully,

M. Morris

(MICHAEL MORRIS)

**Community Governance Review –  
Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal**

# Voting Paper for Electors

1. You have two votes. One for Question 1 and one for Question 2 below.
2. Place a tick in the box on the right hand side of the voting paper opposite the option you are voting for under each question.
3. Put no other mark on the voting paper or your vote may not be counted.
4. Once completed, return by post in the pre-paid envelope without delay.
5. The voting paper must be received by the Electoral Registration Officer no later than 5pm on Friday 4th June 2010.

**Question 1: Do you want a parish council?**

1	Yes <i>WPA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below:-**

A	I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	I want a separate parish council for Wilmslow <i>WPA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

W

April 2010

[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk)



MR KEITH HUDSON.

48 CUMBER LANE,

WILMSLOW,

CHESHIRE,

SK9 6EA.

01625 528638

Dear Sir or Madam, I have

just received voting forms for another layer of governing.

In principal good, but the people who proposed it must of course have a good income. I on the other hand do not, and just a year from a basic pension.

In these times of belt tightening it seems the opposite is on the cards.

A parish council will have an opinion, based on what the locals in the area want, and will find acceptable. So what is the point, Cheshire East will take no notice and do what they want.

For ten years I have driven past the Salamanca pub, but a proposal put forward by locals is out of keeping with area, have planners looked across the road.

What use other is a local Council, Cheshire east will overide it.

Yours  
Mr Keith Hudson

# Community Governance Review – Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal

## Voting Paper for Electors

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### Question 1: Do you want a parish council?

1	Yes	
2	No	✓

### Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below:-

A	I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal	
B	I want a separate parish council for Wilmslow	

W

# Community Governance Review – Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal

## Voting Paper for Electors

1. You have two votes. One for Question 1 and one for Question 2 below.
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### Question 1: Do you want a parish council?

1	Yes	
2	No	✓

### Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below:-

A	I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal	
B	I want a separate parish council for Wilmslow	

W

# Community Governance Review – Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal

## Voting Paper for Electors

1. You have two votes. One for Question 1 and one for Question 2 below.
2. Place a tick in the box on the right hand side of the voting paper opposite the option you are voting for under each question.
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### Question 1: Do you want a parish council?

1	Yes	
2	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below:-

A	I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal	
B	I want a separate parish council for Handforth	

H

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**Notes of Questions and responses – Wilmslow Community Governance Review Public Meeting, held at Wilmsow Leisure Centre at 7pm on Monday, 26 April**

**Present:-**

**Councillors:-**

Jim Crockatt - Cheshire East Council, in the chair  
Paul Whiteley - Cheshire East Council  
Don Stockton - Cheshire East Council  
Gary Barton - Cheshire East Council  
Rod Menlove - Cheshire East Council

**Officers:-**

Brian Reed – Democratic Services Manager  
Lindsey Parton – Elections and Registration Team Manager  
Julie North – Senior Democratic Services Officer

**Public/Residents:-**

Sarah Flannery – Independent candidate (Tatton)  
Liz Jones – Wilmslow Resident  
Adrian Bradley – Wilmslow Resident  
Christopher and Jill Dobson – Wilmslow Residents  
Steven Cah Wilmslow Resident  
Claire Basil – Wilmslow Resident  
D Roberts - Wilmslow Resident  
Ronnie Dykstra - Wilmslow Resident  
Mike Harping - Wilmslow Resident  
B and J Pownall – Friends of Meriton Road Park  
J Crompton - Wilmslow Resident  
M Golding - Wilmslow Resident  
Sally-Anne Hu – Pownall Park Residents' Association  
Susan A Williams - Wilmslow Resident  
Desmond J Williams – Resident/Parkwatch, Wilmslow Park  
JF Gordon – Knutsford Road, Wilmslow  
D Cash - Wilmslow Resident  
Chris Murr – Resident of Handforth  
Stuart Gould - Wilmslow Resident  
Howard Ebdon - Wilmslow Resident  
Pauline Hendley - Wilmslow Resident  
Graham Beech - Wilmslow Resident  
Helen Richardson - Wilmslow Resident

**Questions and responses**

1. It was queried what the wording on the postal voting paper would say.

Lindsey Parton – Outlined the wording on each of the three voting papers. She explained that this was a form of consultation, along with the representations which were expected to be received, and was not a

binding ballot. The feedback would have to be measured and there would be a summary of the voting papers received.

2. It was suggested that the voting paper for Wilmslow was “slightly skewed” and it was considered that the wording on each of the three voting papers should be the same.
3. Reference was made to the previous year’s reorganisation of Local Government and the formation of the new Cheshire East Council. It was stated that, when the Council was formed, residents had been told that one Council would cost less. It was considered that any proposal to create another tier of local government would increase costs.

Cllr Whiteley responded and agreed that it had been said that costs would reduce. Costs had, indeed, dramatically reduced and the process was still ongoing. The vast majority of the Cheshire East Borough already had Town and Parish Councils and the people had asked for this review.

4. It was commented that only 10% of the voting population had asked for the review.

Cllr Barton responded that the Council was obliged, by law, to conduct the review and during the Local Government Review, it had been said that there would be options. The Council had a legal duty to respond to the petitions, but would not force anything on the residents.

5. Reference was made to Alderley Edge Parish Council, which it was stated, had spent £2,500 on the renewal of signs and had increased its precept by 70%.
6. It was queried what a Town Council for Wilmslow and Handforth would do that Cheshire East Council was doing now and what would it do better. It was not fully understood how a Town Council would work.

Cllr Barton responded that it was not possible to say exactly how a Town council would work, as it would be up to those elected to it to decide. The Town Council would have money allocated to it and could use the precept money to focus on particular areas e.g Dog wardens. It would mean creating a body which focused on the Wilmslow area specifically.

7. Reference was made to the number of Cheshire East Councillors already representing the Wilmslow area. Were they not capable of looking after the area?
8. A comment was made that any Town Council would be able to decide the amount of its precept and how much it would pay for its services. Concern was expressed that this might lead to “double charging”.

Cllr Barton gave assurance that there would not be “double charging” for any services.

9. A comment was made that it was essential that it be made clear on the voting paper and any information relating to the Community Governance Review, what services were already provided by Cheshire East Council and what services could be carried out by a Town Council. It was suggested that this could be set out in a table format.

Cllr Whiteley referred to Poynton Town Council as an example of a Council which had raised funding for a particular service to be provided, through a precept. The Town Council had requested that Community Police Officers be provided, in Poynton and funding had not been available from Cheshire East Council for this. The Town Council had, therefore, raised the funding through a precept. This had not, therefore, lead to double taxation. Cheshire East Council was not pushing for a Town Council and the review was being carried out in response to the petition. If it was not what residents wanted, then they should vote against it.

10. A comment was made that there was a general expectation in the country that there should be Town and Parish Councils, as one level of Local Government. What had happened in Alderley Edge might not happen in Wilmslow. If residents wanted to influence Local Government, they should get involved in it.
11. It was queried how much weight a Town Council would have when commenting on large development schemes.

Cllr Crockatt responded that Town and Parish Councils did comment on planning applications and that their views were taken into account. Submitting a local view was a very important function of Town and Parish Councils.

12. It was queried why Wilmslow had had not been separated for the purpose of the review.

Cllr Stockton responded that a petition had not been received for Wilmslow alone. The petition was for the whole area.

13. A comment was made that the voting paper was poorly worded and that it should be reworded to refer to the whole area and then each of the individual towns/villages.

Lindsey Parton responded that residents could make their views known today and that the Committee would then consider and reflect on the comments made.

14. Reference was made to one of the key considerations of the review, “the degree to which the proposals offer a sense of place and identity to residents”. It was felt that Wilmslow currently lacked community spirit and it was difficult to define the area. It did not operate as a village and groups did not work together, but existed in a fragmented manner.

Cllr Crockatt referred to the former Wilmslow Urban District Council, which functioned very effectively as a District Council and suggested that the community spirit needed to be brought back Wilmslow.

15. It was queried how long the decision would last, if it was decided not to have a Town Council for Wilmslow and Handforth.

Lindsey Parton responded that, under the legislation, the Council was not under a duty to conduct a further review in response to a petition for a period of two years.

16. It was queried whether there was a legal restriction to prevent the Council asking residents whether they wanted a Town Council for Wilmslow alone. Could the Council be lenient in its interpretation?

Brian Reed responded that there was a timescale constraint, in that the review must be completed by September 2010. The Council was responsible for conducting the review and had to decide whatever it felt appropriate, taking the residents’ views into account.

17. A comment was made that Local Government would be hit with a reduction in funding and that Cheshire East Council was likely to have to reduce its level of service, as it would be getting less funding from Central Government. It was queried whether this was a risk.

Brian Reed responded it was impossible to predict the future, but no doubt, there would need to be some reductions.

Cllr Whitley responded that, if there were cuts to be made, this would be across the Council area. It would differ from area to area. It was very likely that some areas would accept it, but there would be others who would take the views of local residents into account and this was the benefit of Town/Parish Councils.

Cllr Barton responded that it could not be said for certain whether a Town Council would reduce services, or increase its precept.

18. It was suggested that, if it came down to costs, would it not be better to have an option relating to Area Committees, as there would be no cost associated with introducing them.

19. It was queried whether the precept would be a “flat rate” charge.

Cllr Crockatt responded that it would be based on the Council Tax Band D charge. He stated that there were many businesses in the centre of Wilmslow, which put a strain on services and he understood the concerns of local residents that charges should not be passed on to them.

Brian Reed stated that Cheshire East Council would continue to provide a certain level of service and any Town Council would have to decide whether it wanted to provide more.

20. Cllr Barton stated that Wilmslow already paid for the tidying up of Wilmslow. He was not against a Town Council for Wilmslow, but could foresee difficulties in that residents would have to pay for this. In addition, the Travelling Community visited Wilmslow on two occasions per year and he queried who would fund the clean up operation.

Cllr Crockatt confirmed that Cheshire East Council would continue to fund this.

Cllr Whiteley clarified that the Cheshire East Councillors would still be Cheshire East Councillors and not Town Councillors. Any Town Councillors would be elected and decisions would be based on what the residents asked for. Rather than comparing Wilmslow with smaller areas, like Poynton, it might be helpful to compare it with, for example, Congleton or Holmes Chapel to see how they operated. In addition, he stated that the precept also depended on the area. For example, Knutsford Town Council owned some properties, in Knutsford and the income from them subsidised the precept.

21. A comment was made, by a local resident, that when he first lived in Wilmslow he felt that he could approach his Ward Member regarding services which needed to be carried out (e.g grass cutting) and the work would be done. However, he no longer felt that this was the case.

The public meeting commence at 7pm and terminated at 8.30pm.

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**Wilmslow Community Governance Review Public Meeting held at the Handforth Youth and Community Centre at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 28 April 2010**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor J Crockatt (in the Chair).  
Councillors G Barton, D Stockton and P Whiteley.

**OFFICERS:**

Mike Flynn (Review Team Officer)  
Brian Reed (Democratic Services Manager)  
Cherry Foreman (Democratic Services Officer)

**PRESENT:**

Sarah Flannery (Independent Candidate, Tatton).  
Councillor Frank Keegan (also of Alderley Edge Parish Council)  
Councillor Howard Murray (also of Poynton Town Council)

**Public/Residents:**

Adrian Bradley, Malcolm Calvert, Rebecca Calvert, Bob Keen, Nick King, Rosemary King, Peter Mainwaring, Rod Menlove, Joanne Minnes, Christine Mitchell, John Mitchell, Robert Moore, David Pincombe, Anna Triantis, Anne Walsh, Elizabeth White and W White.

**Questions and Responses**

- Q1 If a Town Council goes ahead how many Councillors will there be for Handforth, Wilmslow and Styal?  
Ans *Brian Reed and Mike Flynn*: the number cannot be predicted at this stage but will come out of the process; it will be a minimum of 5 and the maximum is not set but generally is no more than 25.
- Q2 What will the precept for Handforth be?  
Ans *Brian Reed*: the precept will be dependent on the services carried out by the town or parish council.
- Q3 PCSO's (Police Community Support Officers) have been appointed by Poynton Town Council, how and why?  
Ans *Cllr Murray*: the PCSO's have been an excellent addition to the service: he explained the different categories of PCSO, the duties they can perform, and the cost to the Town Council.
- Q4 Is the cost of town/parish councillors entirely funded by the precept?  
Ans *Brian Reed*: they are funded by the precept initially unless other arrangements are made such as future grant monies.  
*Cllr Keegan*: the wish is that eventually the whole of Cheshire East will be parished and that, with the award of the necessary finance, they would then take over the responsibility for certain functions and duties. At present Cheshire East Council provides a number of discretionary services and there would be discussions with the councils as to whether they wished to take them on.

- Q5 Are parish councillors remunerated? What resident's opinions were researched when including Finney Green in the Handforth proposal?
- Ans *Mike Flynn*: CHALC (Cheshire Association of Local Authorities) has a generic remuneration scheme which PC's can adopt, although none have. Travel and subsistence can be claimed but no allowances.  
*Cllr Whiteley*: Finney Green has been included in the Handforth petition, although this is puzzling as the proposal describes the boundary quite accurately using the River Dean. He did not believe the Finney Green residents supported it, it was based on a Boundary Commission change in 2007 which was designed to retain 3 councillors in the ward but which as a result distorted the traditional boundaries,  
*Cllr Barton*: the Handforth petition referred to the boundary of the old borough ward, but the ballot would enable this to be agreed, the petition boundaries were indicative not final.
- Q6 If the decision made by Council is different to the petition, it would be undemocratic.
- Ans *Brian Reed*: the Council has to conduct the consultation exercise to ascertain the views of the public and that could throw up something different to what was envisaged.  
*Cllr Barton*: it is fully democratic, hence the ballot. The final option will be in line with the most popular opinions and, ultimately, the ballot response may be no.
- Q7 What questions will be on the ballot paper, and what happens next?
- Q8 Regarding counting and interpretation of the vote, are all the responses put together or is there separate counting for Handforth and Wilmslow i.e. will the Wilmslow vote affect the Handforth vote?
- Ans *Mike Flynn*: responded that the format of the ballot paper was to be discussed at a meeting later that evening. He explained the options for the 3 different areas, which would be separately identifiable, in order to separate out each area from the whole area of 'greater Wilmslow'. The ballot paper would ask whether or not a parish council was wanted and then, if yes, whether for the whole area or for a single area (relating to the area in which the respondent resided).
- Q9 The natural boundary is the River Dean, and until that is resolved how can those in the grey area make a decision?
- Ans *Cllr Crockatt*: the boundary will be decided before the ballot paper is sent out.  
*Cllr Stockton*: there may not be a boundary to decide if a single entity is determined.
- Q9 Is there a capping mechanism for the precept?
- Ans *Cllr Whitely*: the precept is what is asked for by the parish council and Cheshire East Council only approves it.  
*Cllr Keegan*: referred to the precept to be levied by Alderley Edge Parish Council which reflected the need to cover the costs of building a medical centre on to the front of the Festival Hall. The higher amount



was for one year only. The parish council had the power to raise money in this way, as did Poynton Town Council in order to cover the cost of its PCSO's.

*Cllr Murray:* stated that Poynton Town Council had not raised its precept for three years running. Accountability meant that if people did not like what was happening then you did not get re elected. The public could attend all the council meetings and ask questions, and also go to the Parish Assembly and raise questions – there was a whole raft of accountability. He referred to the current complications of double taxation on some of the services provided/carried out by parish and town councils but that this would not continue in the future as the parish council would have control of the costs and the services provided.

Q11 With reference to the services which Cheshire East Council wants to offload, do we know what they are?

Ans *Cllr Murray:* there is a difference between 'transfer' and 'devolve' e.g. Cheshire East Council has responsibility for litter but would like to devolve it to a local council or to a cluster of local councils, the finance for that primary function would follow it.

Q12 How will people not present at (this) meeting be able to understand, from the leaflet, the issues around double taxation etc.

Ans *Brian Reed:* the process identifies that there will be some benefits but there is a limit to the amount of information that can be included in the leaflet; its aim is to get people attention, there are other ways they can find out more.

*Cllr Murray:* it is a weak document and it does not do justice to the benefits. How do you put out the benefits of big v small groupings?

*Cllr Crockatt:* the parish councils would start in a small way and they would decide what services they would provide, gradually building in experience.

*Cllr Keegan:* a presentation was given recently in Middlewich, which set out the duties and responsibilities of town and parish councils; it would be useful to distil that information down for circulation with the leaflet.

*Brian Reed:* explained that the timescales for printing, meetings etc were extremely tight but that Cllr Keegan's suggestion (above) would be looked into and, if possible, it would be put on the website.

*Cllr Barton:* confirmed that this would be discussed at the Sub Committee meeting to be held at the close of the public meeting.

Brian Reed summarised what would happen next and urged all those present to participate in the consultation exercise, in addition to having attended the meeting. He confirmed that the consultation exercise would end on 4 June, and that the results were due to be considered at a meeting of the Council on 22 July 2010.

Thanks were extended to the Councillors Keegan and Murray, from Alderley Edge Parish Council and Poynton Town Council respectively, for attending and assisting in answering questions.

**The public meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.20 pm**

**Wilmslow Community Governance Review Public Meeting held at Styal Primary School at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 29 April 2010**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor J Crockatt (in the Chair).

Councillors G Barton, D Stockton and P Whiteley.

Also in attendance Councillors H Murray and R West

**OFFICERS:**

Mike Flynn (Review Team Officer)

Brian Reed (Democratic Services Manager)

Paul Jones (Democratic Services Team Manager)

**PUBLIC/RESIDENTS**

B and T Torrington – Styal residents

A E Kawcock – Styal resident

Julia and Bill Mahon – Styal residents

Malcolm Fox – Styal resident

Aiden and Beryl Killoran – Styal residents

Eric and Brenda Wilkins – Styal residents

Simon Poyser – Styal resident

Alan and T Gardiner – Styal residents

E Wagner – Styal resident

S Briggs – Styal resident

Liz Jones – Styal resident

Ian Jones Styal Village Association

Oliver Swinburne – Styal resident

Jackie Haslam – Styal Village Association

Louise Drummond – Styal resident

Jean Nolan – Styal resident

Kate Leigh – Styal Village Association

Tony Gilbert – Styal resident

Peter Andrew – Styal resident

Jane Andrew – Styal resident and Styal PTA Secretary

Andrew and Judith Hewitt – Styal residents

Peter Highfield – Styal resident

Shirley and Eric Holt – Styal residents

**Questions and Responses**

1. A statement in favour of a Parish or Town Council was made but a question was asked on any potential disadvantages.

**Ans** Parish or Town Council can raise precepts to provide services. The disadvantages are not having the advantages, for example conclusion on matters such as planning and the right to be heard. Under Cheshire

East you have 3 representatives. Under a Parish you might have as many as 20? As a Parish you can raise funds for local activities.

2. Concerns were expressed that as a small village Styal may be lost in Cheshire East. Is there an appeal process should the council decide not to proceed?

**Ans.** Not that the Council was aware of.

3. If the town council "paid" for services, would there be a reduction in Cheshire Council Tax?

**Ans.** Parish or Town Council have the potential to deliver a better service. Some services could be devolved from Cheshire East. The Parish or Town Council would need to consider what might be viable. If services were devolved the Town or Parish councils might receive funding aid. With this you can improve the service.

4. Concern was expressed that as Styal had such a small population that it might not influence services in Wilmslow that the community relied upon.

**Ans.** Styal would still have Cheshire East so could still influence Wilmslow. If you have one big Parish council for the whole area, that could be influential. If you are small, would you have sufficient weight? The local community would need to consider how Styal would relate to Wilmslow and if its interests were best served by a small or large Parish or Town Council

5. If Styal were part of a big council would it have fair representation and get fair allocation of the precept.

**Ans.** If a large single council likely to be warded which would address this. For example there might be a ward for this area. In a bigger Council Styal might benefit more because of the larger pot of funding available. You would also continue to have Cheshire East Councillors and local groups. There are opportunities to take part through existing mechanisms.

6. What are we voting for?

**Ans** All electors will be invited to complete a voting paper, sent by post, which will ask the following:-

1. Do you want a Parish Council
2. Single Council for all three areas
3. Separate for Styal

Parish or Town Council will need a Parish clerk. As part of a wider area would only need one for all three and would be more effective.

7. The National Trust are a significant landholder. What experience if any is there working with such a body. They are an influential body. The village association are working closely with the Trust.

**Ans** They cannot put a representative on the Town Council, but they would be a partner. They are on the list of consultees.

8. Styal is next to the airport, can a Parish Council influence this.

**Ans** You might have more influence as a bigger Parish Council. You can produce a Parish plan that is sent to Cheshire East to form part of a policy planning document that influences planning developments

9. Can Parish councils be dominated, especially in a small area such as Styal?

**Ans** The point of a Parish Council is to focus on their locality.

10. When the Parish Council is elected must they do what we require?

**Ans** Through the parish assembly you can hold them to account and ask questions of your representatives

11. How do we make sure the Parish Council addresses the views of the majority of people? A bigger Parish may become a political body driven by the parties.

**Ans** A local Parish Councillor for Styal would be well known. Parish Councillors are not paid; they are volunteers and are not always politically motivated.

**12. What happens next?**

**Ans** The Council has to follow the statutory guidelines and timetables. Notes had been made of the comments made and these would be published. They will form part of the reports going forward. The Consultation would close on 4<sup>th</sup> June and be considered by Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

**The public meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.20 pm**

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WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - PROJECT PLAN

Task/activity		Decision making process	Date of Meeting
<b>Officer Project Team</b>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Community Governance Review Sub Committee - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings</b>	19/02/2010 23/3/ 2010 15/4/2010 Plus urgent meeting – 28/4/2010
Guidance summary Project Plan Map of Review Area – including former MBC boundaries, adjacent parishes  electorate: current/future  Options appraisal  Prepare consultation leaflet  Electoral arrangements - initial views size/warding  Consultation – Full list of consultees and contact details  Draft Public notice prepared  Arrange public meetings  Arrange printing for postal ballot	LP LP MG  MG KH /JB JR/ KH/ DN MF/ LP JB/ KH  LP / DN	Consider summary of guidance  Approve terms of reference Approve Review Process / project plan Agree consultation methods Agree a composite list of consultees Identify and evaluate options for the review Formulate Leaflet to consultees and electors Agree arrangements for public meetings Agree and signoff format of ballot paper(s)	
Publish Public Notice giving details of public meetings	LP/DN		14/4/2010 <i>(Two weeks before public meetings held)</i>

WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - PROJECT PLAN

Task/activity		Decision making process	Date of Meeting
Public Meetings		Mon 26/4/2010 – Wilmslow Leisure Centre – 7pm Wed 28/4/2010 – Handforth Youth and Community Centre – 7pm Thurs 29/4/2010 – Styal Primary School – 7pm	Wk cmg 26/4/2010
Publish Public Notices for 1 <sup>st</sup> stage consultation			28/4/2010 <i>(Two weeks before consultation starts)</i>
Comments / submissions invited from interested parties on Options (4 week consultation period)  Count of ballot ballots returned		<b>Consultation Period (stage 1)</b>	10 /05/2010 – 4 /6/2010
Collate representations and prepare committee report		<b>Community Governance Review Sub Committee - 5<sup>th</sup> meeting</b>	Mid – June 2010
All submissions / comments considered and evaluated.  Report / draft recommendation prepared for consideration by Constitution Committee <i>(agenda dispatched on 16 June)</i>			
		<b>Constitution Committee</b>	24/6/2010
Preparation of report to Council on draft final recommendation (including any warding arrangements) <i>(agenda dispatched on 12 July)</i>	LP / MF/ BR	Formulate draft final recommendation to Council	



WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - PROJECT PLAN

Task/activity		Decision making process	Date of Meeting
		<b>Council</b>	22/7/2010
		Approval of final draft recommendation for consultation Agree public notice for stage 2 consultation	
Publish Notice	LP/ JS		28/7/2010 <i>Two weeks before consultation starts</i>
Implement Consultation (3 weeks)	LP/ MF/CC	<b>Consultation Period (stage 2)</b>	11/8/2010 – 1/9/2010
		<b>Community Governance Review Sub Committee - 6<sup>th</sup> meeting</b>	13/9/2010 – AM tbc
Preparation of analysis/evaluation of consultation outcome  Develop final recommendations – to include Implementation Plan, interim arrangements and election arrangements	LP/BR/MF	Analysis of consultation outcome Formulation of final recommendation and Implementation Plan for consideration by G & C	
Preparation of report to G & C detailing final recommendation for approval by Council	LP/BR/MF	Approval of final recommendation and Implementation Plan for consideration by Council	
		<b>SPECIAL MEETING Constitution Committee</b>	13/9/2010 -PM tbc
Preparation of final recommendation and report to Council Implementation arrangements Draft Order and associated documents including maps	LP/BR/MF		

WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - PROJECT PLAN

Task/activity		Decision making process	Date of Meeting
Implementation Plan including interim arrangements			
		<b>Final Decision by SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING</b> Including Approval of reorganisation order and Implementation Plan	15/9/2010 tbc
Council Publishes Reorganisation Order			By 20/9/2010
Implementation of any changes in electoral arrangements			Thereafter

Key to Officers:-

LP	-	Lindsey Parton	JB	-	Juliet Blackburn
MF	-	Mike Flynn	JR	-	James Rounce
KH	-	Kirstie Hercules	MG	-	Mike Garritty
DT	-	Diane Todd	JS	-	Julie Stockton