

MACCLESFIELD COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

PUBLIC MEETING WESTON COMMUNITY CENTRE 4 JULY 2013

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE
Sarah Baxter	Louise Brown
Rose Hignett	Alift Harewood
Lindsey Parton	Martin Hardy
Brian Reed	David Marren (Chairman)
Julie Stockton	Brendan Murphy

RESUME OF THE QUESTION/COMMENT AND ANSWER SESSION

QUESTION	ANSWER
1. Clarification was sought as to who made the Order and if it was Parliament.	In response it was confirmed that the Council made the Order.
2. Why is there a 12 month gap between making the Order and implementing it?	<p>If the decision was for Macclesfield to become a Town/Parish Council then it would fit well into the electoral cycle as Elections are scheduled to take place on May 2015 and therefore would save incurring an additional cost. Furthermore an Order can only be made on 1 April in anyone year.</p> <p>(A further question was raised suggesting that European Elections were taking place in 2014 so could it not be done then. The response was that the Election would still have to be rerun a year later to coincide with Borough Elections 2015).</p>
3. What would happen if there was low turnout? If only 1% vote in favour of the other 99% didn't would the views of those who voted be ignored and those who didn't vote would win out?	All of the views would be considered. Crewe was used as an example whereby only 32% of the Electorate turned out and yet there was still an outcome. Whatever the response rate the Panel would consider all of the information.
4. One person didn't feel they had enough information to make an informed choice. Wasn't sure of the pitfalls on becoming a Town/Parish Council	In response the Chairman stated that it was difficult to get the balance right. The Council didn't want to provide too much or too little information. Could easily produce 20/30 pages. It was felt that people would get an initial feeling as to what sort of outcome would be the best for the town. The conclusion may be that people are happy as they are.
5. Can a Parish council deliver services they want and wouldn't have services forced upon them?	In response the Chairman stated used his example of being on Barthomley Parish Council whereby that particular PC was not responsible for any services and this was reflected in the precept. However Nantwich Town Council delivered a lot of services hence the precept was higher. Barthomley's precept was £10 Nantwich's was £97.
6. What would the specific voting	The material would come in all sorts of ways ie email,

	options be?	writing.
7.	Is inertia a factor could it be the status quo?	Can't answer a hypothetical scenario, however if no-one was to take any interest then the sensible option would be to do nothing.
8.	One comment was made that unless there was a significant number in favour of a Town/Parish Council then the silent majority should not be ignored.	
9.	Another comment was made that people wouldn't bother to vote and that CEC had not done enough to engage people.	
10.	Another comment was made that maybe a Town/Parish Council would be a good thing in order to ensure that people in Macclesfield are being listened to.	Appreciated that Macclesfield was the only unparished area and therefore it was felt that a review should be undertaken.
11.	Another comment was made that Town/Parish Councils do not have any say ie Lyme Green they are consulted but that is it.	
12.	Another person made a number of comments in relation to the general state of Macclesfield and its relationship with CEC.	
13.	Another comment was made that no-one knew about the consultation events taking place and that not everyone bought the local newspaper or had access to the internet.	It was explained that the Council had no control over where the local newspaper placed the advert. (The Chairman advised if people wanted to leave their names and addresses the Council could send them leaflets to be handed around the locality)
14.	Do you tweet when outside the market place?	It was confirmed that a stand had been set up in the Grosvenor Centre.
15.	Wanted good clear figures on the costs.	If the outcome was to establish a Town/Parish Council then the costs would depend on what the Council wanted to do. If the Town/Parish Council wanted to do little then the precept would be small.
16.	A comment was made that it was obvious what the Town/Parish Council couldn't do. It would be very restrictive as to what it could do. All in favour of localism if have a Town Council that is effective. Can't have a 'Mickey Mouse' Council needs to work in partnership with CEC. Did think document produced by CEC was excellent.	
17.	What would the Town/Parish Council be responsible for?	Depends how much you want the precept to be. Can do quite a bit but would have a higher precept.
18.	People need to understand what is on offer. People thought that the Crewe Town Council was replacing	

	CEC.	
19	Would CEC Cllrs be on a Town/Parish Council?	They are 2 distinctively different bodies if Town/Parish Council approach was adopted. They would elect their own Cllrs some may also be Members of CEC but don't have to be.
20	Another comment was made in respect of Local Service Delivery meetings and that this should be given a bigger role. Wouldn't need to pay extra money or have extra Cllrs. In response to this another person felt this had no powers and a Town Council would ensure things got done. Options 5,6 and 7 wouldn't work.	
21	Another comments made was that person had no views either way at this moment in time, however CEC needed to ensure that people had the right information to make a decision. Important to get the messages out. People not aware. Bath doesn't have Town Council has Charter Trustees instead. Could work at Macclesfield too.	
22	If people didn't want a change at the moment could the issue be raised again?	Yes.
23	Would like to see the figures broken down. Would like to see what Town/Parish Councils do.	An outline of what Town/Parish Councils could do could be included on the website.