

MACCLESFIELD COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

PUBLIC MEETING TYTHERINGTON CLUB 10 JULY 2013

| OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE | COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE |
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| Sarah Baxter | Janet Jackson |
| Lindsey Parton | David Marren (Chairman) |
| Julie Stockton | Brendan Murphy |
| | Lloyd-Roberts |

RESUME OF THE QUESTION/COMMENT AND ANSWER SESSION

| | QUESTION | ANSWER |
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| 1. | Did Macclesfield establish the decision to review? | CEC felt it should undertake a review as it was the only area without anything in place, so whilst a petition had not been received CEC felt it necessary to undertake a review. |
| 2. | Councillor B Murphy made a statement on his own behalf. He stated that the document CEC had produced was excellent, however the problem was with what was not being said rather than what was being said. There was a difference between a Parish and a Town Council. A Parish Council could become a Town Council if it went down that road and elected a Mayor. Most people want to have a say. Can have a Local Plan but must be consistent with the CEC Local Plan. CEC only has to be obliged to give consideration of it. The person speaking wanted to see a Town Council for Macclesfield or Tytherington but only if it had teeth. Assets to be transferred should include the £500,000 that Wilson Bowden have to pay to CEC for taking over the management of local parks and should come to Macclesfield via a Town Council. Could have responsibilities for park benches, hanging baskets etc but it was a lot of money for just that. One option was no change and could give the Local Service Delivery Committees power to do things. | |
| 3. | Councillor Mrs J Jackson made a | |

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| | <p>statement on her own behalf. She stated that if a Town Council was going to be put forward as the favoured option it would cost money. How much depended on what the Town Council was to be responsible for. Where is a list of services that the Town Council could take on? Can take on markets, car parks, open spaces grants etc. Used to have a Grants Panel now decided by Cabinet. Can't go back to the old days but feel that a Town Council would be of benefit. When completing the form people need to say what services they would like the Town Council to manage. Thought it was a good idea.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Are there any powers a Parish Council can be granted as a right otherwise what powers does it have?</p> <p>Lot of people feel it would be an extra taxation. Is it an extra charge? Please explain how the mechanisms of the charge work out?</p> | <p>Yes it is an extra charge. Council tax would still continue to rise. If became a Town Council may want to take on the things that CEC are currently responsible for. If activities transferred down to a Town Council then funds would have to be raised to finance the services (precept). Logically Council Tax should go down but this would be unlikely to happen. Further explanation was given in relation to the Council Tax issue.</p> <p>(It was felt that the leaflet needed a clear explanation on the costs).</p> <p>In terms of the precept it is difficult to predict what it would be as it would depend on what services the Town Council took on. It was explained that Nantwich Town Council was responsible for a number of services so the precept was high. Other Parish Councils do very little, therefore the precept would just about cover the cost of the Clerk and the building taken on. Would have to take on allotments.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Would every individual household be in a Ward? Would there be a Council Tax Bill for CEC and one for the Parish Council?</p> | <p>Every household is already in a Ward. All of the information would be included on the same Bill but broken down separately.</p> |
| 6. | <p>What point do CEC say they are bankrupt?</p> | <p>The grant from Government has been cut by 30% and will likely to decrease by another 10%. It is a problem and Local Government will do less and less. CEC trying to cut its cloth. What it has to do is look at a range of discretionary services it is responsible for and then prioritise which it can continue offering.</p> |
| 7. | <p>It was commented that a Parish Council could be a statutory consultee and could put money aside to fight Planning appeals. Macclesfield was a unique town with</p> | |

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| | <p>a unique ID. He stated he was a Cllr from elsewhere and his Parish Council was responsible for quite a lot. It was the cost of an average tank of fuel for a year. By law allotments have to transfer over. He represented Keighley Town Council and stated that Town Councils can provide the 'icing on the cake'. Better to let the Districts focus on the 'nitty gritty'. All services will stay at Sandbach won't get cut there.</p> | |
| 8. | <p>Where can we find complete list of all these services? Should be on the website.</p> | <p>CEC was collating the information with ChALC and the National Association of Local Councils had a good website which gave examples of how other LA's operate. Could put this on the website.</p> |
| 9. | <p>Would services be delivered by professionally trained Local Government employees or would they be delivered by unpaid volunteers?</p> | <p>Staff all transferred over from the Council to Nantwich Town Council. Other Councils may have alternative views.</p> |
| 10. | <p>How many staff were employed at Nantwich Town Council and did they transfer over on the same terms and conditions?</p> | <p>30 casuals and yes on same terms and conditions.</p> |
| 11. | <p>Would the question paper going out be a straightforward yes or no? Will the decision be made on a simple majority or a certain %? Do party Members become Parish Cllrs is it a party decision? Would have been helpful to know what £1 on a Council Tax band D gets you?</p> | <p>In Crewe all 20 Cllrs are from the Labour Party. In Nantwich the Cllrs are predominantly Conservative. What £1 gets you depends on where you live. Can't predict what the question on the paper will be as there are a number of options. It was very clear Crewe wanted a Town Council. 32% said yes.</p> |
| 12. | <p>Is the Parish Council the same as a Town Council?</p> | <p>Yes the Parish Council has to decide if it wants to become a Town Council. A Town Council has a Mayor.</p> |
| 13. | <p>How much teeth would a Parish Council have?</p> | <p>Depends on how good the people are who have been elected. Does forge a good relationship between the CEC and the Parish Council.</p> |
| 14. | <p>What happens at Stage 3 of the Consultation process? Would it be advertised widely?</p> | <p>Consultation on the draft decision comes out. Yes it would be advertised on the website at the LAP's and in the Macclesfield Express and in leaflets via the Town Centre Manager.</p> |
| 15. | <p>Is there a view as to the merits of existing CEC Cllrs standing for the Town Council? Can the Town Council Elections be on the basis of a third every year?</p> | <p>The Elections would be likely to follow the same as CEC so as to avoid incurring additional costs. Residents would be the people deciding who should be voted in. If it was a new Town Council then it might be beneficial to ensure some of the Members had experience of being on a Council previously, particularly for the first period.</p> |
| 16. | <p>How long would the Parish Council take to bed in?</p> | <p>About 2 years.</p> |