

MACCLESFIELD COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

PUBLIC MEETING SILK ROOM, MACCLESFIELD TOWN HALL 22 JULY 2013

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE
Sarah Baxter	Ken Edwards
Lindsey Parton	Alift Harewood
	Janet Jackson
	David Marren (Chairman)
	Laura Jeuda
	Brendan Murphy

RESUME OF THE QUESTION/COMMENT AND ANSWER SESSION

	QUESTION	ANSWER
1.	<p>Councillor Mrs Janet Jackson made a statement on her own behalf. Lot of people concerned about the extra cost. It will be an extra cost as still have to pay CEC Council Tax. May say why bother with a Town Council? CEC were cutting costs by saying didn't want to pay for x,y and z, as a result services will be lost. CEC has the ability to charge a special express levy so we could stay as we are and still pay more. If go for a Town Council will be a precept but will have services you want. It is a more democratic way of having services. Town Council opening up a wider community and would be based in Macclesfield. Envisage providing services like the market, car parks, running of West Park museum. Could look at providing community grants to give out to local organisations. A Town Council would be cohesive for the town. Take on town centre management, parks could produce a neighbourhood plan. My personal view would be to support a Town Council.</p> <p>Councillor K Edwards made a statement on his own behalf. Thanked CEC for taking the review on board. It was difficult and complex but allowed the people of</p>	

<p>Macclesfield to make a choice. Want a Town Council for Macclesfield. About 113 Town and Parish Councils in CE and Macclesfield the only area without one. Four advantages:-</p> <p>Comprehensive, encompasses the whole of Macclesfield. Democratic in that Members are elected every 4 years. Town Council can be quite powerful. It does things to benefit the community. In Bollington gritting was poor in a number of areas. The Town Council debated with the local people and ensured a better gritting service was in operation. Need to ensure Macclesfield has a strong voice and to provide the services the town wants. Definitely need a Town Council.</p> <p>Councillor Miss C Andrew made a statement on her own behalf. Won't return to the days of Macclesfield Borough Council. If a Town Council to take on all duties be quite expensive. Nantwich Town Council costs people £95 for a Band D property for Crewe it was £28. Mention was made of the LAP made up of 4 organisations and individual groups, but not all Cllrs involved in the LAP. Town Council would have a role in Planning. Have meetings and discuss plans, but wouldn't have any decision making powers. Would just be a consultee. Whichever option choose will cost money. Stuck between a rock and a hard place. It will cost money no matter what. People need to read the literature and weigh up the arguments.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs L Jeuda made a statement on her own behalf. Lot of things said, no point in repetition. Recent convert to Town Council. If no channel in Macclesfield only have ourselves. Need a body of people to represent the views of Macclesfield. Will cost but need to manage services that will bring</p>	
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	<p>revenue in ie car parks.</p> <p>Councillor B Murphy made a statement on his own behalf. All in favour of a proper Town Council not a 'Mickey Mouse' Parish Council. May have responsibility for allotments, hanging baskets, toilets etc but won't get control of car parks. No way will CEC hand over car parks. Leader of Council offered Disley a car park but it's free. Crewe car parks are half price. Macclesfield car parks more expensive. Macclesfield is a diverse area. In 2009 had a meeting in Tytherington over 130 people attended. They were asked if there was a Town Council would they prefer one Town Council for Macclesfield or have their own Parish Council, the majority voted for the latter. Crewe Town Council already had 2 Cllrs resigned. Handforth Parish Council is up in arms over building in the green belt and Wilmslow Town Council wanted to spend £15,000 on Mayoral chains which it is now not doing. Community well being is subjective. What is well being? You need to have your eyes wide open. Will cost a lot of money. No say in Planning. If CEC can't provide services would Town Council be more successful?</p> <p>Councillor Mrs A Harewood made a statement on her own behalf. If having a Town Council was so bad then why did everyone else have one? Town Council only way local democracy can be served. Last 3 options are not in the interests of the local community. The Town Council is set to serve. Hope people vote for it.</p>	
2.	<p>Haven't heard what Town Council would be? How would it operate separately from CEC? Would the Wards be as they are now with CEC? Would it be effective or ineffective? If had a Town Council how many Cllrs would be on it? Have they done their sums?</p>	<p>Parish Council legislation says if it is a single local Council it is a Parish Council and only becomes a Town Council if the Parish Council decides it wants a mayoralty. The term is interchangeable. Will cost more. Some smaller Parish Councils don't raise a precept but then they probably don't do that much. Nantwich Town Council's is £97. Runs a range of services from CEC and therefore costs a certain amount. May be the same for</p>

		Macclesfield. The cost of the services is £500,000 with a tax base of 5,000 it works out a £100 for band D Council Tax properties. As Macclesfield has a tax base of 18,000 would work out a lot less than a £100 per Council Tax band D property. Up to Parish Council what services wants to deliver too difficult to say what will cost. Crewe Town Council elected 20 Councillors. I preferred 10.
3.	CEC decided is this a democracy?	The bulk of opinion in relation to Crewe was for there to be 20 Cllrs.
4.	Are the list of activities outlined in the document 'pick and mix'? Is there any flexibility?	Whole range of activities Parish Council can get involved in. Simply take a selection from the list but can be a range of activities the Parish Council can take on. Generally what is included on the list is what a Parish Council can do, however there is new legislation under the Localism Act 2012 which may give Parish Councils slightly wider powers but that legislation is new.
5.	For £38 precept what activities has Crewe take on?	At the moment have had to take over allotments. 11 sites transfer over a 150 year lease provided details are agreed. If not CEC could stop allotments. Transferring over responsibility of toilets and hanging baskets etc. Only just been created a few months ago, expect activities to increase. Already been asked to think about paying for CCTV.
6.	Macclesfield is so large, could be a range of activities, could need a number of Officers and could become very bureaucratic?	Would need a Clerk and a secretary and would probably buy in HR and accountancy advice. Nantwich Town Council used to have 1 Clerk and secretary now have 13 employees all transferred over. No finance or HR staff are on the payroll. To begin with would probably only require a Clerk, a secretary and perhaps 2 others. Depends really on what activities the Town Council takes on.
7.	Why no-one invited from the Community groups?	Not specifically invited but Groups were made aware of the consultation sessions.
8.	Would there be a cap on the cost?	DCLG did put a cap on principal LA's and were going to apply to Parish Council's but don't think this has happened yet.
9.	If the local Members wanted a particular outcome could they be outvoted?	Yes possibly, however the Council had to consider all of the representations received and come up with a recommendation which reflects the majority of people's views. Would have to have a good reason for deciding not to. The process was then explained in greater detail.
10.	Could the Parish Council apply for grants? Would the Wards be the same as the Cheshire East Wards?	Yes can apply for grants. In terms of the Wards the Governance Review Group would have a look but it would probably be based on the existing Wards.
11.	Do the Parish Councillors have the same deal as CEC Cllrs could they be on both?	Parish Cllrs don't receive an allowance, may get mileage expenses. Could have the same Cllrs on the parish Council that are also on CEC. Individual parties put individual candidates to stand, may be CEC Cllrs may not. Some individuals may stand and not represent any Political party. In Crewe very few of the Town Councillors are on CEC.
12.	Do CEC pay for the Town Council?	No, CEC is completely separate from the Town Council. If the Town Council made a mistake then it would fall to the Town Council to sort.

13.	Nantwich Town Council had 3 employees now over 30. Are they paid for by the Town Council? Who are they all?	NTC run a number of activities. Civic Hall used to be run by CEC. CEC wanted to close it so NTC took it over for a £1. Had to raise precept to finance the running of it. Majority of staff transferred over and are now employed by the NTC. Cost CEC £150,000 to run the hall, NTC reduced the cost to £100,000.
14.	If didn't go for it could services be withdrawn?	Yes.
15.	Sounds like double taxation to me. Seems costly to take on the running of buildings.	Not definite what the Town Council would take on. CEC won't decrease Council Tax bill already facing further cuts. Had a saving on Council Tax Bill since it has been frozen.
16.	How many could be on the Town Council, 40-50?	If go for a Town Council, elections take place. Parties put forward individual candidates. People can put themselves forward. All names go on a ballot paper. Every individual eligible to vote will receive a ballot paper. Term is for the same period as a CEC Cllr.
17.	If went for the other option Community Development Trust and they had their own Trustees how would they be elected?	Not elected by the public they would have their own governance arrangements.
18.	Would the Town Council take on the pension responsibility?	Yes.
19.	Would Town Council want to take on car parks? Costs thousands to maintain.	Unlikely CEC pass car parks on. Would have to negotiate but unlikely.
20.	How would the Town Council raise its own tax?	18,000/19,000 tax base in Macclesfield. £10 for a band D property would generate an income stream of £180,000.
21.	How encouraging young people to become involved with a Town Council?	Engaging with 6 th Form Colleges. All people on Electoral register be entitled to vote.
22.	What has the turnout at the consultation events been like?	Quite low, bit better than Crewe.
23.	On paper Town Council seems a good idea only when look at in detail the cost of it etc not sure getting much for your money.	CEC provide the cake for the Town Council to ice.
24.	People not aware events happening, leaflet should have been sent to all households.	Been in the local press and on the website and advertised in the Grovesnor Centre and local supermarkets. Would cost a lot to send out leaflet to all households but will be sent out further along the process.
25.	How many people have to vote to make it viable?	Consider all views obviously if there was an overwhelming view CEC would have to take into consideration. If 32% turnout and 95% of the 32% voted in favour of Town Council likely to go ahead. If only 3% of the 32% voted in favour may be of a different view. If 500 forms filled in will consider all 500 forms.