

**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**