

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW WORKING PARTY

Notes of the meeting held on Monday 8 February 2016 at 6pm in the Penn Chamber,
Three Rivers House.

Present:

Councillors Diana Barber, Sarah Nelmes, Martin Trevett and Alison Wall

Ward Members in attendance: Councillors Paula Hiscocks, Debbie Morris, Ralph Sangster and Ann Shaw OBE. Councillor Kemal Butt arrived during the meeting.

Officers: Gordon Glenn, Performance and Projects Officer
Steven Halls, Chief Executive
Sarah Haythorpe, Principal Committee Manager
Anne Morgan, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer
Helen Wailing, Committee Manager

Also in attendance:

Miles Hosking (Four Wards Campaign)

About 14 members of the public / members of Residents' Associations

- 1) **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Councillor Rupert Barnes.
- 2) **Declaration of Interests**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3) **Presentation from the Four Wards Campaign**
Miles Hosking gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Four Wards Campaign.

Members of the Working Party and Ward Members then asked questions of Mr Hosking, including questions on the following topics:

- Identification of needs in the unparished areas and ensuring the four wards are equally represented.
- Whether a community council would be divided into wards with separate councillors for each ward.
- Income generation for a community council which would not own land etc.
- Tangible benefits of a community council for Moor Park and Eastbury Ward.
- Whether each ward could be self-determining in a referendum.
- Concern that residents do not currently have accurate information about what a community council would be able to do.
- Spending of CIL monies.
- That Community / Parish Councils are not limited in the setting of the precept, although District and Borough Councils are limited in the setting of Council Tax.

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- Community Council taking on extra services from the District Council, and how this would affect the level of precept.
- The requirement to reflect the identities and interests of the community in a community governance review.

Members of the public and the 4 wards campaigners were asked to leave and the WP and ward members then met in private to discuss the presentation and answers given by the 4 Wards to the questions raised.

4) Working Party discussions

The Action notes from the meeting held on 28 January 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

Agreed actions:

- Action notes of all meetings of the Working Party to be published on the website.
- Webpage for the CGR to be made more obvious on the website.
- Any changes to the FAQ document should be sent to the Performance and Projects Officer, and copied to the Chairman, to be agreed by the Working Party if needed with the Chairman and Chief Executive having final editorial rights. The FAQ should be dated to show where and when additional information is added. Some of the questions put to the Four Wards would be included. It was critical that the information provided in the FAQ document was factually accurate.
- Application for Funding from the New Burdens Community Governance Review Fund to be made immediately.
- Consultation and referendum – agreed to recommend to Regulatory Services Committee and to Council to go out to referendum (postal vote option likely), with consultation prior to that via questions on the website and through public meetings.
- Next meeting – 22 February 2016 at 6pm to be a public meeting. Members of the public able to register to ask factual questions at the meeting. Meeting to be publicised via Residents' Associations and TRDC website. Carina Helmn (HAPTC) to be invited to the meeting. (Member surgeries and Rickmansworth Area Forum were not the best places to raise public awareness of the CGR).
- Report to Regulatory Services Committee on 2 March 2016 to recommend agreement of Terms of Reference in current form, and agreement of an amended timetable.
- Draft proposals to be deferred to a future Regulatory Services Committee, to allow an extra meeting of the Working Party to be held in March (date to be confirmed).

5) Date of next meeting

Monday 22 February 2016, 6pm, Penn Chamber