

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - SANDWITH

PORTFOLIO Cllr Norman Williams
HOLDER:
LEAD OFFICER: Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Martin Jepson
REPORT AUTHOR: Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager

Summary	Reports to the Working Party a request from the Sandwith Village Group for establishment of a standalone parish for Sandwith or Sandwith and Rottington
Recommendation:	That the Working Party considers whether the Council should commence a Community Governance Review as a result of the request from the Sandwith Village Group

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 A letter has been received from the Secretary to the Sandwith Village Group expressing an interest in establishing a standalone parish for Sandwith or Sandwith and Rottington. An opinion survey has been carried out among residents which showed a 34% return rate and some interest in the potential for a parish council. The correspondence received is attached at Appendix "A" and the responses to the opinion survey will be available for inspection at the meeting.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 A principal council (unitary county or district) has powers under Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to undertake a Community Governance Review of all or part of its area, and to decide whether or not to implement the recommendations of such reviews.

2.2 A principal council is required to undertake a Community Governance Review if a public petition is received which triggers a review of the area concerned. A public petition is required to meet certain criteria – including a minimum number of signatures (depending on the number of electors in the area) and a definition of the area to which the review should relate.

2.3 A principal council has discretion to decide whether or not to undertake a Review in cases where the minimum criteria are not met. DCLG and the Electoral Commission have published guidance for principal councils on the conduct of Community Governance Reviews, which requires a principal council undertaking a review to draw up and publish terms of reference of the review. In addition the Guidance states, inter alia:

Sandwich Village Group

*c/o Overcroft,
Sandwich,
Whitehaven,
Cumbria.
PA28 9UG
18/09/08*

COPELAND BOROUGH CO.
Legal Services Ltd
-7 OCT 2008

Dear Sir,

With reference to your Parish Review notice in the Whitehaven News on June 26th 2008.

A survey was carried out by The Sandwich Village group on behalf of the villagers that attended our Open Meeting and who expressed an interest of becoming a Parish. I refer back to the letter I submitted in June 2008 (copy enclosed) regarding the potential for having Sandwich as a standalone parish which could be considered alongside your Town Council review.

The outcome of the survey (enclosed) shows ~ 34% return rate and an interest in the potential for a Parish Council, whether it be Sandwich or Sandwich and Rottington. Please would you be able to give some guidance on what the village would need to do next?

*Many thanks
Yours faithfully*

Louise Neen

*Louise Neen
(Secretary to Sandwich Village Group)*

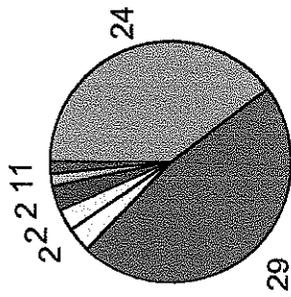
Enc.

Copy of letter submitted June 2008

Copy of survey results

Summary of Parish Survey Results

Overall Number of Votes per Parish Category



- Sandwith Parish
- South Whitehaven Parish
- St Bees Parish
- Further Information Required
- Sandwith and Rottington Parish
- No Parish
- Any Parish

total number of questionnaires sent out 152
 total number of questionnaires returned 44
 return 29%

Rottington Results

8 replies were received from residents of Rottington.
 5 were in favour of a joint Sandwith / Rottington Parish
 3 were not in favour of a joint Sandwith / Rottington Parish.

Sandwith Results

36 replies were received off residents of Sandwith.
 2 of these indicated that they would like to be included in a South Whitehaven Parish
 2 indicated that Sandwith should not be included in any Parish
 2 indicated that they would prefer to be included in St Bees Parish
 1 indicated that they are happy to be in any Parish
 1 indicated that further funding information was required prior to a decision being made
 21 indicated that they would prefer to be included in a Sandwith Parish
 25 indicated that they would prefer to be included in a Sandwith/Rottington Parish