

WHITEHAVEN COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW PANEL

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 MARCH 2014 at 2:30pm
IN THE CARLISLE/SPEDDING ROOM, THE COPELAND CENTRE.**

Present: Councillors Peter Kane (Chair); Geoff Garrity; John Kane; David Moore; Gillian Troughton and Peter Tyson.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors George Clements and Stephen Haraldsen;

Officers: Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present: Councillor Paul Whalley.

WCG 12/13 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2014 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

WCG 13/13 Review of Phase One Consultation Responses and Phase Two Consultation

Members were advised by the Democratic Services Manager that since the last meeting of this Panel on 14 January 2014, the Phase One consultation exercise had been undertaken. This included an On-Line questionnaire, Paper questionnaires and a series of ten Drop-In sessions held across the unparished areas of Whitehaven and Sandwith.

It was noted that the Drop-In sessions had been very poorly attended, with a total of just 35 people utilising the opportunity to ascertain further information.

A total of 149 questionnaires had been completed, 9 in paper format and 140 via on-line consultation company, Survey Monkey.

It was further reported that, due to a technical issue, only the first 100 of the 140 on-line questionnaires had yet been accessed and analysed.

From the questionnaires that had been analysed so far, a number of trends were emerging, these were:-

- Not all the forms had been fully completed.
- Forms were completed by people resident outside of the unparished area.
- 17 respondents were opposed to parishing
- The remainder were either in favour of parishing or neutral.
- Only one respondent expressed a wish for more than one Town/Parish Council.

Of the questionnaires completed, the identifiable trends among the factors favouring parishing were:-

- Additional funding from Precepts and other funding sources
- Local decisions on services
- Take up of services principal Councils cannot provide

Of the questionnaires completed, the identifiable trends among the factors against parishing were:-

- Additional costs/precepts
- Additional tier of bureaucracy

During the discussion that followed, Members asked if an expected Petition requesting a Town/Parish Council had been received and were advised that, to date, it had not.

It was suggested that all the remaining responses be analysed before a decision be considered on how to proceed.

The Democratic Services Manager was asked to undertake the additional analysis to ensure that at the next meeting the Panel could consider:-

- If they should progress to a Phase 2 consultation,
- How a Town Council/ a Parish Council/ a number of Parish Councils could be set up, and
- How a Phase 2 Consultation exercise might take place.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the update be received, and
- b) a further meeting be arranged in two weeks when all the consultation responses had been analysed.

WCG 14/13 Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – that the next meeting of the Whitehaven Community Governance Review Panel be held in approximately two weeks and Members would be contacted to arrange a suitable time.

The meeting closed at 3:15pm

Chairman.....

Date.....