

**Time and Date**

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 13th January, 2015

Place

Council Chamber - Council House

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December, 2014** (Pages 3 - 10)
3. **Coventry Good Citizen Award**
To be presented by the Lord Mayor and Judge Griffith-Jones, Honorary Recorder
4. **Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor**
5. **Petitions**
6. **Declarations of Interest**

Items(s) for Consideration

7. **Community Governance Review - Proposals for Finham Area** (Pages 11 - 36)
Report of the Executive Director of Resources

Other Business

8. **Question Time**
 - 8.1 Written Question – Booklet 1 (Pages 37 - 38)
 - 8.2 Oral Questions to Chairs of Scrutiny Boards/Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee
 - 8.3 Oral Questions to Chairs of other meetings
 - 8.4 Oral Questions to Representatives on Outside Bodies
 - 8.5 Oral Questions to Cabinet Members and Deputy Cabinet Members on any matter
9. **Statements**

Monday, 5 January 2015

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Carolyn Sinclair/Suzanne Bennett 024 7683 3166/3072

Membership: Councillors F Abbott, N Akhtar, M Ali, A Andrews, M Auluck, R Bailey, S Bains, L Bigham, J Birdi, J Blundell, R Brown, K Caan, D Chater, J Clifford, G Crookes, G Duggins, C Fletcher, D Galliers, D Gannon, A Gingell, M Hammon (Deputy Chair), L Harvard, P Hetherington, D Howells, J Innes, L Kelly, D Kershaw, T Khan, A Khan, R Lakha, R Lancaster, J Lepoidevin, A Lucas, K Maton, J McNicholas, C Miks, K Mulhall, J Mutton, M Mutton, H Noonan (Chair), J O'Boyle, E Ruane, R Sandy, T Sawdon, B Singh, D Skinner, T Skipper, H Sweet, K Taylor, R Thay, S Thomas, P Townshend, S Walsh and D Welsh

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

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**Carolyn Sinclair/Suzanne Bennett
024 7683 3166/3072**

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Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 9 December 2014

Lord Mayor Councillor H Noonan (Chair)

Councillor N Akhtar	Councillor R Lakha
Councillor A Andrews	Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor R Bailey	Councillor A Lucas
Councillor S Bains	Councillor K Maton
Councillor L Bigham	Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor J Birdi	Councillor C Miks
Councillor J Blundell	Councillor K Mulhall
Councillor R Brown	Councillor J Mutton
Councillor K Caan	Councillor M Mutton
Councillor J Clifford	Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor G Crookes	Councillor E Ruane
Councillor G Duggins	Councillor R Sandy
Councillor C Fletcher	Councillor T Sawdon
Councillor D Galliers	Councillor B Singh
Councillor D Gannon	Councillor D Skinner
Councillor A Gingell	Councillor T Skipper
Councillor L Harvard	Councillor H Sweet
Councillor P Hetherton	Councillor K Taylor
Councillor J Innes	Councillor R Thay
Councillor L Kelly	Councillor S Thomas
Councillor D Kershaw	Councillor P Townshend
Councillor A Khan	Councillor S Walsh
Councillor T Khan	Councillor D Welsh

Honorary Alderman Mr D Batten, Mr J Gazey

Apologies: Councillor F Abbott, M Ali, M. Auluck, M Hammon, D Howells
and R Lancaster

Public Business

100. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2014 were signed as a true record.

101. Coventry Good Citizen Award

On behalf of the Council, the Lord Mayor presented Mrs Mirabelle 'Queenie' Smith with the Coventry Good Citizen Award. Her citation read:

Mirabelle 'Queenie' Smith has been co-ordinator of the Neighbourhood Watch in North West Coventry for 31 years. She is hardworking and dedicated to the people of her community; she has been a representative on the Action Against Crime initiative; founder member and sometime Chair of Coventry Association of Watch Schemes, serving also at county and West Midlands levels.

Queenie was the founder of Brownhill Green Allotment Association and is a major 'hands on' contributor in keeping the allotments alive.

Together with these activities, Queenie has found time to serve as a member of the Council backed Safer Neighbourhood Group meetings and was co-founder of the Coventry Clothes Bank.

Queenie is a well-known and respected member of the community she has made an outstanding contribution towards crime prevention, charity work and caring for the community. She is a vital driving force at ground level always practical and showing selfless determination

It is right and fitting that she should be presented with the Coventry Good Citizen Award.

102. Death of Former Councillor and Honorary Alderman, Trevor Webb OBE

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of Trevor Webb OBE, former City Councillor and current Honorary Alderman of the City.

Trevor had been a Lower Stoke Ward Councillor between 1967 to 1971 and a Bablake Ward Councillor between 1973 until his retirement in 1990.

He served on a number of committees, including Chairman of Finance Committee, was a governor of many schools and colleges including Bablake and King Henry VIII for 32 years and was Chairman of Coventry School Foundation for 16 years. Upon his retirement as chairman of the governors, King Henry VIII acknowledged his part in the school's success by naming their new building the Trevor Webb Sixth Form Centre.

He became an Honorary Alderman in September 2012.

Members of the City Council paid tribute to Mr Webb and expressed their condolences to his family.

103. Petitions

RESOLVED that the following petitions be referred to the appropriate City Council bodies:

- (1) Request to outlaw parking of motor vehicles on pavement in the City – 34 signatures – presented by Councillor Skinner.**
- (2) Objection to Planning Application FUL/2014/3541 (Betting Shop in King William Street) – 131 signatures – presented by Councillor Akhtar.**
- (3) Request to review parking arrangements at Baginton Road shopping parade – 268 signatures – presented by Councillor Taylor.**
- (4) Request to resurface Parkside in St Michaels Ward – 32 signatures – presented by Councillor O'Boyle.**

- (5) **Recycling bins on Glentworth Avenue – 59 signatures – presented by Councillors Birdi and Clifford.**
- (6) **Request to prevent parking on grass verges on Princethorpe Way – 18 signatures – presented by Councillor Lakha.**
- (7) **Request that Council recognise inadequate infrastructure within Woodlands Ward to support increased residential development – 160 signatures – presented by Councillor Hetherton.**

104. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Mrs Lucas and Taylor declared “Other Interests” in the matter referred to Minute 106 (The Coventry Award of Merit).

They withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this matter.

105. **Re-order of the Agenda**

In accordance with the paragraph 10.1(c) of the Constitution, a motion without notice was moved by Councillor Townshend, seconded by Councillor Gannon and agreed to re-order the business on the agenda so that Item 11 (Statements) was taken before Item 10 (Question Time).

106. **The Coventry Award of Merit**

Further to Minute 54 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities), the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director of Resources which provided advice from the meeting of the Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities) Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel held on 17 October 2014 regarding proposed recipients of the Coventry Award of Merit.

In moving the nominations, Councillor Townshend reported that the cost of the Awards would be met from the Lord Mayor’s Hospitality Budget .

RESOLVED that the City Council approves the recommendations of the Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities) and grants the Coventry Award of Merit to the recipients below as recommended by the Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities):

Mr David L Burbidge OBE DL

For outstanding service to the economic and cultural life of the City, including his contribution to the development of Coventry Building Society, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry Cathedral Development Trust and, more recently, the Royal Shakespeare Company and to the Lord Lieutenancy of the West Midlands.

Councillor Ann Lucas OBE

For her outstanding contribution to the city of Coventry for 20 years as an Elected Member, serving as its first female Leader of the City Council. Her work on domestic violence issues received national recognition when she was awarded an OBE in HM The Queen New Year’s Honours List 2014 and her role at the Local

Government Association as Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods Group and National Domestic Violence Champion.

Mrs Betty McGlinchey

For her outstanding personal devotion to the children of the City of Coventry, acting as a foster carer for nearly 40 years fostering more than 1,200 children with love, care and compassion. By personal example of service to others, she has demonstrated the highest ideals of citizenship. Her work was recognised nationally by the Pride of Britain Awards 2014 as a local hero.

Mr Ratan N Tata GBE and Jaguar Land Rover

To recognise the investment of Tata Steel into Jaguar Land Rover to protect the status of car manufacturing in the region, the Jaguar Land Rover brand and particularly employment of its employees and many subsidy suppliers. The promotion of Coventry, through Jaguar Land Rover and its birthplace, continues to be recognised globally and his contribution to the Warwick Manufacturing Group and the University of Warwick.

Councillor Ken Taylor OBE

For outstanding contribution to the city of Coventry for nearly 30 years on the City Council, serving as Lord Mayor in 2002 and former Leader of the City Council for 6 years. He received national recognition for his services to local government, including the Local Government Association, when he was honoured with an OBE in 2010. He was a board member of Advantage West Midlands and former Chair of the Coventry Partnership.

The Most Reverend Justin Welby

For outstanding contribution to national life and international affairs through his personal devotion to the Church of England which continues to bring credit to the City of Coventry. As former Sub-Dean and Canon for Reconciliation Ministry at Coventry Cathedral and now Archbishop of Canterbury the city's message of peace and reconciliation continues to be recognised worldwide.

(Note: Councillors Mrs Lucas and Taylor withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item)

107. **Community Governance Review - Proposals for Finham Area**

Further to Minute 29/14 of the City Council, Councillors considered a report of the Executive Director of Resources which provided feedback from a Governance Review for the Finham area of the city.

At the Council Meeting on 24 June, 2014 the Council agreed to carry out a Community Governance Review for the Finham area of the city, following receipt of a petition signed by 711 people requesting the creation of a parish council. The process for carrying out a Review was set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The views of electors and others in the area had been sought and the purpose of the report was to provide feedback from this exercise and for the Council to make recommendations on community governance arrangements for the Finham area.

The terms of reference agreed in the report considered by Council in June 2014 set out a process which included two stages of consultation. Councillor Townshend clarified the process for the review. If the Council decides to recommend that a parish for the Finham area is not created, then reasons would be provided and that would end the process. Alternatively if the decision was to recommend a parish for the Finham area the draft proposals would be consulted on. As a result, Councillor Townshend proposed revisions to the terms of reference of the Review, which were circulated at the meeting, to make this clear. These revised terms of reference would then be published and a report brought back to Council in January 2015 for further consideration.

Therefore, in accordance with paragraph 14.5 of the Constitution, in moving the Recommendations, Councillor Townshend moved that Recommendations 1 to 3 detailed in the report be withdrawn from consideration and replaced with the following Recommendations:

That Council:

1. agree amendments to the terms of reference (as now circulated) for the Community Governance Review.
2. agree that a report be considered at the January meeting of Council on whether or not a new Parish for the Finham area of the city is recommended.

In order to facilitate this, it was moved by Councillor Townshend, seconded by Councillor Gannon and agreed that, in accordance with paragraph 23.1 of the Constitution, paragraph 17.1 of the Constitution relating to the Six Month Rule be suspended for consideration of this item.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

1. **Agree amendments to the terms of reference (as circulated) for the Community Governance Review.**
2. **Agree that a report be considered at the January 2015 meeting of Council on whether or not a new Parish for the Finham area of the city is recommended.**

108. **Polling District and Polling Place Review**

The City Council considered a report of the Chief Executive which detailed amendments to the polling district and polling place review scheme which had been approved by Council on 14 January 2014. The amendments were required due to comments received at the Elections in 2014 and some of the polling place locations becoming unavailable. The Electoral Arrangements Panel and Ward members had been consulted. As required by legislation, the consultation document had been published on the Council's website.

In moving the recommendations, Councillor Townshend referred to a small typographical error in Appendix 1, page 47 of the report: In the 'recommendations' column for Bablake Ward, the polling district referred to should be "Al" instead of "Ak". This had correctly been shown in the plan on page 49.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- 1) Approves the revised polling district and polling place scheme, as detailed in the report.**
- 2) Agrees that if any further polling places become unavailable prior to the election that the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader and the appropriate Ward members agree temporary amendments to the scheme for the 2015 elections.**

109. Statements

(a) Statement by the Leader

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Lucas, made a statement in respect of "Combined Authorities".

Councillor Blundell responded to the statement.

(b) Statement by the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People)

The Cabinet Member (Children and Young People), Councillor Ruane, made a statement in respect of the "Children's Services Improvement Plan".

Councillor Lepoidevin responded to the statement.

110. Question Time

The following Members answered oral questions put to them by other Members as set out below, together with supplementary questions on the same matters:

No	Question Asked By	Question Put To	Subject Matter
1	Councillor Crookes	Councillor McNicholas	Quantify the benefit of Centro's services to the City
2	Councillor Sawdon	Councillor Townshend	Town and Parish Councils.
3	Councillor Blundell	Councillor Mrs Lucas	Combined authorities
4	Councillor Hetheron	Councillor Kershaw	Funding for SEN transport
5	Councillor Crookes	Councillor Mrs Lucas	Response outstanding from previous Council meeting.
6	Councillor Skinner	Councillor Maton	Site leased to Cov Tech Rugby Club

7	Councillor Skinner	Councillor Lancaster/McNicholas	Parking problems in the vicinity of Tile Hill rail station
8	Councillor Sawdon	Councillor Maton	Display of posters in shop windows of empty shops.
9	Councillor Blundell	Councillor Townshend	Invitation to Wainbody Ward Forum

111. **Debate - Peace and Reconciliation Umbrella Organisation**

Councillor Sawdon moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Hetherton, in Councillor Abbott's absence.

“This Council, recognising the excellent work being done in the field of peace and reconciliation by a number of groups throughout the city, believes that an umbrella organisation would provide a sharper focus for these groups and that the City Council should take the lead in setting it up.’

RESOLVED that the Motion as set out above be unanimously adopted.

(Meeting closed at 5.00 pm)

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Council

13 January 2015

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Councillor Townshend

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Chris West, Executive Director of Resources

Ward(s) affected:

All Wards

Title: Community Governance Review – Proposals for Finham Area

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

At the Council Meeting on 24 June, the Council agreed to carry out a Community Governance Review for the Finham area of the city, following receipt of a petition signed by 711 people requesting the creation of a parish council. The process for carrying out a Review is set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The views of electors and others in the area have been sought and the purpose of this report is to provide feedback from this exercise and for the Council to make recommendations on community governance arrangements for the Finham area.

Recommendations:

1. That the Council determine whether:
 - a) to recommend a new parish for the Finham area of the city
or
 - b) not to recommend a new parish for the Finham area of the city.
2. If the Council decides to recommend a new parish for the Finham area of the city that it recommends the following naming and governance arrangements:
 - a) that the new parish be called Finham Parish and comprises the areas shown on the map contained in the report to Council
 - b) that the new parish of Finham should have a parish council
 - c) that the name of the Parish Council be Finham Parish Council
 - d) that the electoral arrangements that should apply to the new parish are that:
 - i) it should not be divided into wards, and
 - ii) a total of 10 councillors to be elected
 - e) That a further report be submitted to Council before 24 June 2015 upon the Re-organisation Order and any other relevant matters

- f) Authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services to work with City Councillors for the Ward and/or the Residents Association on the provisions of the Re-organisation Order and such other matters as may be required to be considered prior to the formal creation and operation of the Parish Council
3. That the Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to publicise the outcome of the Review and the recommendation to establish/not to establish a new parish of Finham and a parish council for Finham.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 - Additional Considerations if a Parish is Recommended

Other useful background papers:

Community Governance Review – Petition: Report and Appendix to Council Tuesday 24 June 2014

<http://democraticservices.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s17887/Community%20Governance%20Review%20-%20Petition.pdf>

<http://democraticservices.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s17888/Appendix%201.pdf>

Guidance on community governance reviews: Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, March 2010

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

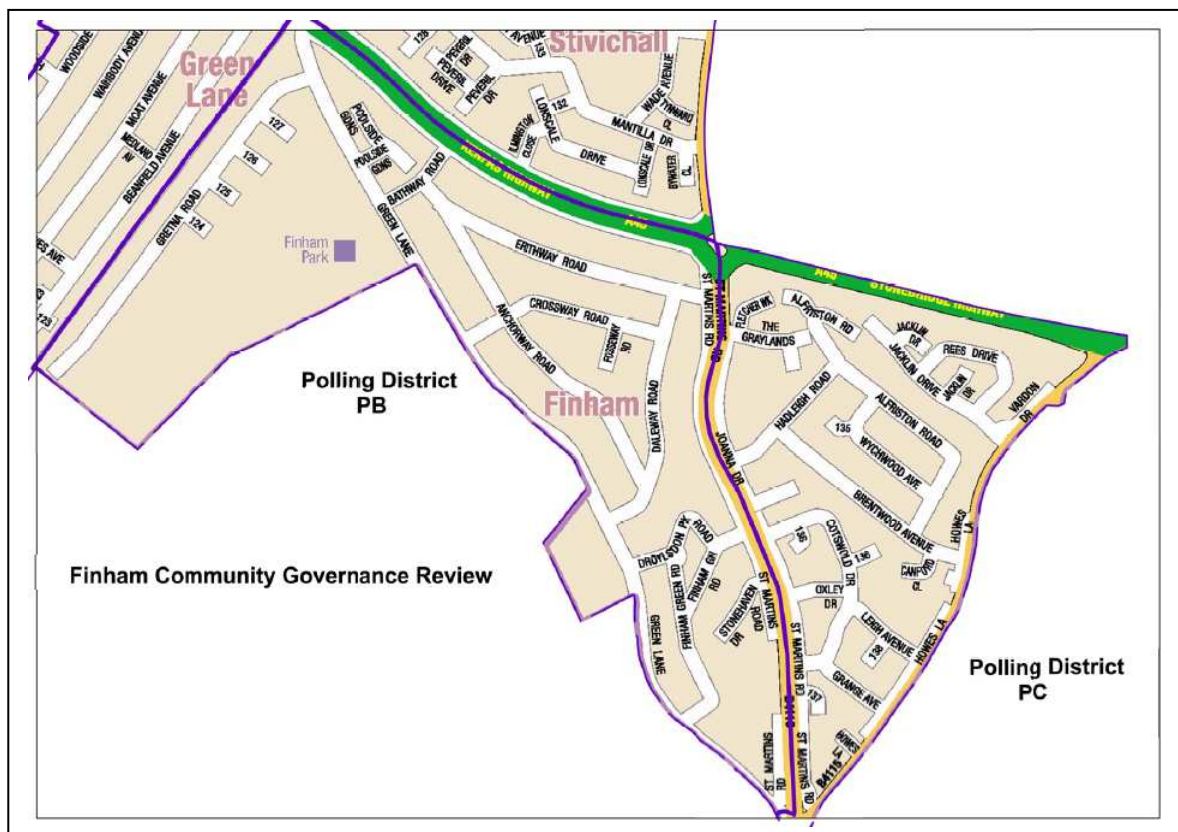
Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Report title: Community Governance Review – Proposals for Finham Area

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 At its meeting on 3rd December 2013 the Council received a petition signed by 711 residents requesting the establishment of a parish council for the Finham area of the City shown on the map below.
- 1.2 The petition area covers polling districts Pb and Pc in Wainbody Ward shown on the map below. At September 2014 the petition area was made up of 3851 local government electors.



- 1.3 In accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (LG&PIHA 2007), the Council is required to conduct a Community Governance Review following the receipt of such a petition.
- 1.4 Creation of, or changes to, parish councils are governed by a process known as a Community Governance Review. This involves a review of the whole or part of the Principal Council’s area for the purpose of making recommendations with regard to creating, merging or abolishing parishes, the naming of parishes, the electoral arrangements for parishes and grouping arrangements for parishes.
- 1.5 Provided that the Council follows the mandatory minimum procedures in the legislation, it may conduct the review in any way that it chooses and this was set out at the 24th June Council meeting. At the Council meeting of 9th December, the Council agreed revisions to the terms of reference for the review to clarify the timetable and approach to consultation. In carrying out the review the Council must also have regard to the Government’s guidance on Community Governance Reviews.
- 1.6 In order to seek the views of people affected, the Council chose to carry out consultation with the electors in the petition area by ballot. The ballot paper and supporting information

were sent to 3851 eligible local government electors on the electoral register who live within the area covered by the petition and contained three questions. Voting was made possible by post, internet or telephone. The process was administered by Electoral Reform Services, and took place between 26th September and 5th November.

- 1.7 The number of votes cast was 1,461, a return rate of 37.9%. The results for each question are shown below:

Question 1: Do you agree that you can influence decisions that affect your area?

	Number of valid votes	Percentage
Yes	421	29.0%
No	908	62.4%
No Opinion	125	8.6%
Total	1,454	100.0%

Question 2: If you wanted to have a say about an issue affecting Finham, do you feel there are currently appropriate ways to do so?

	Number of valid votes	Percentage
Yes	392	27.0%
No	867	59.7%
I don't know	193	13.3%
Total	1,452	100.0%

Question 3: Do you support the creation of a parish for the Finham area of Coventry?

	Number of valid votes	Percentage
Yes	1,064	73.0%
No	319	21.9%
No Opinion	75	5.1%
Total	1,458	100.0%

- 1.8 The next stage of the review process is for the Council to recommend whether or not a Parish should be created for the petition area. If the Council recommends that a parish should not be created, it is required to publish the reasons for its decision and that is the end of the process. If the Council recommends that a parish should be created, it must make further recommendations on the naming and governance arrangements as required by the legislation and are contained in Recommendation 2 on the front page of this report. The review must be completed by 24 June 2015.

1.9 Role of Parish Councils

- 1.9.1 Parish councils have two main roles: community representation and local administration. They are consulted on planning applications in their area and can develop neighbourhood plans for an area. The Guidance note *Service delegations to parish and town councils* by the Commission for Rural Communities, April 2009 explains that Parliamentary acts and regulations permit principle authorities to allow parish councils to discharge certain functions (i.e. services) on their behalf.

- 1.9.2 There are different forms and levels of delegation but the most common delegations are those covering services which maintain the local environment e.g.:

- cutting grass verges;
- looking after local footpaths;
- clearing gullies; and
- managing council allotments.

1.9.3 Other functions that might be considered for delegation include:

- Maintenance of highway verges, open spaces, footways and footpaths
- Allotments
- Tree preservation orders
- Maintenance of closed churchyards
- Street cleansing (such as litter picking, sweeping and graffiti removal)
- Public conveniences
- Noise and nuisance abatement
- Recycling provision
- Street naming
- Street lighting (except on principal roads)
- Parking restrictions
- Off street car parking
- Road safety measures
- Issue of bus and rail passes or other transport voucher schemes
- Licences for taxis, street trading of public entertainment
- Aspects of planning development control
- Aspects of library & museum management
- Aspects of leisure and tourism provision (e.g. permits, playing fields, play areas)

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 The government guidance states that principal councils may wish to take into account a number of factors when reviewing community governance arrangements, to help inform their judgement against the statutory criteria. The following paragraphs are taken from the Guidance.

2.2. ***The impact on community cohesion of community governance arrangements*** (Guidance paragraphs 67-76)

2.2.1 *Setting up parishes and parish councils clearly offers the opportunity to strengthen community engagement and participation, and generate a positive impact on community cohesion. In conducting community governance reviews (whether initiated by itself or triggered by a valid petition), the principal council should consider the impact on community cohesion when deciding whether or not to set up a parish council.*

2.2.2 *Britain is a more diverse society – ethnically, religiously and culturally – than ever before. Today’s challenge is how best to draw on the benefits that migration and diversity bring while addressing the potential problems and risks to cohesion. Community cohesion is about recognising the impact of change and responding to it. This is a fundamental part of the place-shaping agenda and puts local authorities at the heart of community building.*

2.2.3 *In its response to the recommendations of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion the Government has defined community cohesion as what must happen in all communities to enable different groups of people to get on well together. A key contributor to community cohesion is integration which is what must happen to enable new residents and existing residents to adjust to one another.*

2.2.4 *The Government’s vision of an integrated and cohesive community is based on three foundations:*

- *people trusting one another and trusting local institutions to act fairly*

2.2.5 *And three key ways of living together:*

- *a shared future vision and sense of belonging*
- *a focus on what new and existing communities have in common, alongside a recognition of the value of diversity*
- *strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds*

- 2.2.6 *The Commission on Integration and Cohesion's report, Our Shared Future, is clear that communities have expert knowledge about their own circumstances and that actions at the local level contribute to achieving integration and cohesion, with local authorities well placed to identify any pressures. The Commission reports that policy makers and practitioners see civic participation as a key way of building integration and cohesion – from ensuring people have a stake in the community, to facilitating mixing and engendering a common sense of purpose through shared activities. The 2006 white paper's proposals for stronger local leadership, greater resident participation in decisions and an enhanced role for community groups contribute to promoting cohesion.*
- 2.2.7 *Community cohesion is about local communities where people should feel they have a stake in the society, and in the local area where they live by having the opportunity to influence decisions affecting their lives. This may include what type of community governance arrangements they want in their local area.*
- 2.2.8 *The 2007 Act requires principal councils to have regard to the need to secure that community governance reflects the identity and interests of local communities; the impact on community cohesion is linked strongly to it. Cohesion issues are connected to the way people perceive how their local community is composed and what it represents, and the creation of parishes and parish councils may contribute to improving community cohesion. Community governance arrangements should reflect, and be sufficiently representative of, people living across the whole community and not just a discrete cross-section or small part of it. It would be difficult to think of a situation in which a principal council could make a decision to create a parish and a parish council which reflects community identities and interests in the area and at the same time threatens community cohesion. Principal councils should be able to decline to set up such community governance arrangements where they judged that to do so would not be in the interests of either the local community or surrounding communities, and where the effect would be likely to damage community cohesion.*
- 2.2.9 *As part of a community governance review a principal council should consider whether a recommendation made by petitioners will undermine community cohesion in any part of its area.*
- 2.2.10 *Challenges to community cohesion are often very local in nature and because of their knowledge of local communities, local authorities are in a good position to assess these challenges. As for the other considerations set out in this guidance, principal councils will wish to reach a balanced judgement in taking community cohesion into account in community governance arrangements.*

2.3 Size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish
(Guidance paragraphs 77-83)

- 2.3.1 *Size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish are linked to aspects of both principal criteria as identified in the 2007 Act, but perhaps more specifically to community governance being effective and convenient. Often it is factors such as the size, population and boundaries which influence whether or not it is going to be viable to create a parish council. Parishes must fall within the boundaries of a single principal council's area.*
- 2.3.2 *The Local Government Commission for England in its 1993 Report Renewing Local Government in the English Shires makes the point that there is a long history of attempts to identify ideal minimum and maximum sizes for local authorities. Instead its preference was for authorities to be based on natural communities and reflecting people's expressed choices. This is even truer today, particularly at the most local level of government. Nevertheless, the size of communities and parishes remains difficult to define.*

- 2.3.3 *Parish councils in England currently vary greatly in size from those with a handful of electors with some representing hamlets of around 50 people to those in towns with well over 40,000 electors. Geography and natural boundaries; population size; and to an extent 'council size' (the term used by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to describe the number of councillors who are elected to a local authority) may influence how small or large a parish council can be.*
- 2.3.4 *The general rule should be that the parish is based on an area which reflects community identity and interest and which is of a size which is viable as an administrative unit of local government. This is generally because of the representative nature of parish councils and the need for them to reflect closely the identity of their communities. It is desirable that any recommendations should be for parishes or groups of parishes with a population of a sufficient size to adequately represent their communities and to justify the establishment of a parish council in each. Nevertheless as previously noted, it is recognised that there are enormous variations in the size of parishes, although most parishes are below 12,000 in population.*
- 2.3.5 *A parish council should be in a position to provide some basic services and many larger parishes will be able to offer much more to their local communities. However, it would not be practical or desirable to set a rigid limit for the size of a parish whether it is in a rural or urban area, although higher population figures are generally more likely to occur in urban areas. Equally, a parish could be based on a small but discrete housing estate rather than on the town within which the estate lies.*
- 2.3.6 *There may be cases where larger parishes would best suit the needs of the area. These might include places where the division of a cohesive area, such as a Charter Trustee town (see paragraphs 133 to 134), would not reflect the sense of community that needs to lie behind all parishes; or places where there were no recognisable smaller communities.*
- 2.3.7 *As far as boundaries between parishes are concerned, these should reflect the "no-man's land" between communities represented by areas of low population or barriers such as rivers, roads or railways. They need to be, and be likely to remain, easily identifiable. For instance, factors to consider include parks and recreation grounds which sometimes provide natural breaks between communities but they can equally act as focal points. A single community would be unlikely to straddle a river where there are no crossing points, or a large area of moor land or marshland. Another example might be where a community appeared to be divided by a motorway (unless connected by walkways at each end). Whatever boundaries are selected they need to be, and be likely to remain, easily identifiable.*

2.4 The two options open to the Council are set out below.

2.5 Option 1: That the Council recommend a new parish for the Finham area of the city.

2.5.1 Reasons why the Council should recommend a parish and parish council include:

Size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish

2.5.2 Size of proposed parish: 3851 voters is significantly larger than many village parishes, 80% of which have fewer than 2000 voters. This should be big enough to sustain a parish council, particularly if it were to take over some services from the City Council. A parish council should be viable.

2.5.3 Defined area: The area chosen for the parish is well defined with recognised boundaries. The area has a small retail centre at Brentwood Avenue and a district retail centre at Green Lane. Local schools serve the community as well as a community library.

The impact on community cohesion of community governance arrangements

2.5.4 Wider picture of community governance: Finham has an established Residents Association with a well supported executive committee that meets monthly and could provide the basis on which stronger governance arrangements could be built. The area covered by the petition is part of the Wainbody Ward. The Ward Forum is reasonably well attended compared to other Forums. Voter turnout in Wainbody Ward for the local elections between 2010 and 2014 was above the city average. Participation in the ballot undertaken as part of the Community Governance Review was 37.9% - a similar proportion to that which voted at the last local election. 73% of those who participated expressed support for a parish council. Approximately 60% of those participating said they did not agree that they could influence decisions that affect their area and that they felt there were not appropriate ways to have a say about an issues affecting Finham.

2.5.5 Impact of governance arrangements on community cohesion: Residents in the wider Wainbody Ward perceive a higher level of community cohesion than other areas of the city with 96% of residents surveyed agreeing that people of different backgrounds get on well together (90% city average)¹. From the 2013 household Wainbody Ward also has the highest proportion of residents who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area (61% compared to a city average of 37%). 21% of Wainbody residents said they were actively involved in working towards improving their neighbourhood. Setting up a parish council could strengthen the existing sense of community cohesion and engagement which is demonstrated by the household survey, voter turnout and the Residents' Association.

2.5.6 Effective and convenient local government: The area is geographically compact and clearly defined. A parish council may be well placed to deliver some local services e.g. open space maintenance, develop neighbourhood planning and take on assets. A parish council is able to raise funding for local services through the precept and other sources of funding in order to carry out activities. The introduction of a more local level of government could provide the opportunity for more locally responsive services.

2.5.7 Appendix 1 sets out the additional considerations and recommendations that the City Council will need to decide upon if it recommends that a Parish Council should be created.

¹ Household Survey 2013 undertaken by Coventry Partnership and BMG Research. There were 2,208 responses to the Household Survey. 90 of these were responses were from residents in Wainbody Ward.

2.6 Option 2: That the Council does not recommend a new Parish for the Finham area of the city.

2.6.1 Reasons why the Council should not recommend a parish and parish council include:

Size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish

2.6.2 Size of proposed parish: The tightly drawn boundaries of the proposed parish may mean that there is reduced scope for a parish council to deliver a wide range of services commonly taken on by parish councils such as maintenance of parks, playing fields and open spaces. The Greenspace Strategy 2008 – 2018 identifies deficiencies in access for parks and open spaces and allotments in the wider Wainbody Ward.

2.6.3 Defined area: Creating a Parish for Finham could adversely affect other areas. While the boundaries for the proposed parish are well defined and, taken on their own, appear well drawn, the parish could be too tightly drawn. The streets between the railway line which forms the western boundary of the proposed parish and the A429 are excluded. There is a risk that this land and these houses could be excluded from any future review and so would remain unparished and become isolated and cut off from other areas which are parished.

The impact on community cohesion of community governance arrangements

2.6.4 Wider picture of community governance: Except when carried out alongside a general election, less than one third of people in Coventry generally vote at local elections. Although turnout in the Wainbody Ward is higher than in many areas, the majority of people do not participate. While 73% of those responding to the poll supported a parish council, the return rate was 37.9%. 62% of the electorate did not respond to the poll – making a total of 72% who did not positively express support for a parish. This could suggest that there is not across the board support for a parish council. Attendance at ward forums is higher than in some other wards but is only very small proportion of residents actually engaging in meetings. The government's own guidance (see Appendix 1, paragraph 1.1.5) and recent experience with Keresley and Allesley Parish Councils (where elections were not contested in 2007 or 2011) suggest it can be difficult to find enough candidates to stand for election, resulting in a parish council which is largely or wholly unelected by residents. This could increase rather than reduce any perceived democratic deficit in the area.

2.6.5 Impact of governance arrangements on community cohesion: The Finham Residents Association is already operating as a means for residents to engage and make their views known. Other mechanisms include the petitions scheme and community engagement meetings and activities. The establishment of a parished area and parish council may add little to the already high levels of community cohesion in the area (see paragraph 2.5.5) and may result in a sense of disaffection between the parished area and unparished areas nearby. If services are delegated, those living in areas without delegations may view differing service standards as unfair.

2.6.6 Effective and convenient local government: The Council would bear some of the costs of setting up a parish council and unless a range of service delegations are established and operate effectively, a parish council could be relatively expensive with little obvious benefit. It would add extra costs to local council tax payers' bills and an extra layer of government for potentially limited benefit. If services are delegated, delivery costs may be more than expected and the Parish Council may not have the necessary capacity or skills to deliver them. Coventry is relatively small and compact and the administrative centre is not remote from anywhere in the city.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 In order to seek the views of people affected, the Council chose to carry out a ballot of the electors in the petition area. On 26th September, Electoral Reform Services sent information and a ballot paper to the 3851 local government electors affected. The original closing date of 22nd October was subsequently extended to 5th November following a request from Finham Residents Association in order to maximise the opportunity for as many people as possible to respond.
- 3.2 Information about the review was also placed on the Council's website. In addition, eight local organisations covering schools, medical practices and organisations listed on the Peoplelink database of local organisations in the area, were provided with information and invited to express any views. These were Finham Park School, Finham Primary School, Sky Blue Medical Group, Medical Practice 183 Green Lane, St Martin's Church, Finham Senior Citizens Club, a Taekwondo Group and Erb's Palsy Group.
- 3.3 No additional comments were received over and above the returned ballot papers.
- 3.4 The Finham Residents Association set out their reasons for seeking a Parish Council on their website during the consultation process and these were discussed at a meeting held with representatives of the petitioners. The reasons are summarised in paragraph 3.5.
- 3.5 Looking at the structure of the Finham Residents Association (FRA), it was felt that there would be benefits from applying to become a Parish Council. This would allow local people to try to have more of a say in what happens in the area and offer a greater chance of providing the facilities in Finham that already exist in other areas of Coventry. It was felt that Finham residents were in a better position to identify and address their concerns and are frustrated at being perceived as a supposedly affluent area which had little or no needs. A particular priority that has been identified is addressing the needs of an elderly and aging population. Other issues of concern include the lack of play and community facilities.
- 3.6 At the Council meeting of 9th December, The Cabinet Member Policing and Equalities made it clear that representations about the request for a Parish Council could still be made ahead of the January meeting of Council. Information about the review has remained on the Council's website with the opportunity for people to make any additional comments via an online form or by email, telephone or in writing. Information to this effect was communicated via social media, displayed in Finham and the surrounding area and sent to local businesses, the local policing team, Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group and representatives of Allesley and Keresley Parish Councils.
- 3.7 To allow the maximum opportunity for comment, a deadline of midday on 8th January was set and feedback from any representations received will be summarised and published prior to the Council meeting on 13th January 2015.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Following the decision made at this meeting, the Council must publish its recommendations and ensure that interested persons and bodies are made aware of them. The Council must then consider whether to give effect to the recommendations in the review and this must be done before 24th June 2015. When it has made its decision, the Council must publish its decision and the reasons for it. It must make sure that interested third parties are aware of the decision.
- 4.2 Should the Council recommend that a Parish be created, further information on the timetable is contained at Appendix 1.

5. Comments from Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial implications

Should it recommend establishing a parish council, the City Council will need to ensure that the on-going relationship with, and costs in dealing with, the Finham Parish Council is effectively resourced. It is likely that these resources will be borne from existing budgets.

The City Council will need to reconfigure the Council Tax processing database to enable the effective administration and collection of the additional Council Tax precept. The estimated cost would be approximately £13,000.

Future parish council elections will need to be properly resourced. The rules and processes for parish council elections mirror those for Ward elections, although there is no legal requirement to issue poll cards at a parish council election unless they are combined with another poll. The cost of administering parish council elections for a single area, such as Finham, would be in the region of £6,000 for a 'stand-alone' election and approximately £4,000 when combined with ward elections. This figure excludes any IT election management systems upgrades. The City Council can recharge the costs of elections to the Parish Council and they can recover the costs through the parish precept. Running the parish elections alongside the planned local elections will ensure that additional costs are minimised.

If as a result of the Review, a new parish council is created, there will be financial implications for those residents within the parish area. Parish councils are entitled to levy a precept on each property in their area for the purposes of funding the parish council's activities. A parish council will have the right to decide their level of precept in perpetuity. Residents have been made aware of this implication during the consultation exercise.

If the Council approves the establishment of a new parish council, the annual Council Tax Report considered in the February prior to the first elections, will include an estimated precept to fund the costs of the Parish Council in the following year. The Parish Council would have until 1 October to issue its precept and the level of this precept cannot be higher than the amount established in the Council Tax Report. Finham Parish Council Tax payers would be required to pay an additional element of Council Tax. (For context, the additional Band D equivalent charge in Allesley Parish in 2014/15 was £10.31 and in Keresley Parish £8.25.)

5.2 Legal implications

The legal process and matters to be considered are set out in full in the main body of the report. However, Councillors should be aware that the Council must, by law, complete the

Community Governance Review within 12 months of its start. This means the review must be completed by 24th June 2015 at the latest.

The Council must have regard to the Government's Guidance on Community Governance Reviews when carrying out its review and making recommendations. Any recommendations made as a result of the review must include reasons for the decision and these must be publicised.

Where a decision is made to create a new parish, if there are more than 1,000 electors in the new parish, the review must recommend that a parish council is established.

If the Council decides to create a new parish, it must make a Reorganisation Order. Once the Order is made, a copy of it, and a map, must be put on deposit for public inspection. The Council must also publicise its availability for public inspection and notify a number of official bodies. Copies of the Order must also be sent to certain bodies.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

Reviewing the City's governance arrangements is in line with the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy - "developing a more equal city with cohesive communities and neighbourhoods".

6.2 How is risk being managed?

In conducting the review, the Council's Electoral Services Team will maintain a comprehensive risk register to monitor the progress of the review.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

A parish council does not replace the City Council but provides an additional layer of government. If a parish council were established for Finham, the City Council would still deliver the majority of services in the area. The kind of services that could be provided by a parish council are shown at paragraph 1.9.

6.4 Equalities

Analysis of socio-demographic information and segmentation information was undertaken prior to the ballot to identify if additional information/support would be likely to be required by any equalities groups living in the Finham area in order to respond to the ballot. No groups were identified through this analysis.

All registered electors living in the Finham area were issued a ballot paper and supporting literature, with the option of receiving the information in large print or other formats if required.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

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www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings

Additional Considerations if a Parish is Recommended

1. If the Council decides to recommend a new parish, it is also required to publish its recommendations for the naming and governance arrangements for the new parish. The government guidance sets the context for decisions on size and warding. The following paragraphs are taken from the Guidance (paragraphs 153 to 162).
 - 1.1 Council Size
 - 1.1.1 *Council size is the term used to describe the number of councillors to be elected to the whole council. The 1972 Act, as amended, specifies that each parish council must have at least five councillors; there is no maximum number. There are no rules relating to the allocation of those councillors between parish wards but each parish ward, and each parish grouped under a common parish council, must have at least one parish councillor.*
 - 1.1.2 *In practice, there is a wide variation of council size between parish councils. That variation appears to be influenced by population. Research by the Aston Business School Parish and Town Councils in England (HMSO, 1992), found that the typical parish council representing less than 500 people had between five and eight councillors; those between 501 and 2,500 had six to 12 councillors; and those between 2,501 and 10,000 had nine to 16 councillors. Most parish councils with a population of between 10,001 and 20,000 had between 13 and 27 councillors, while almost all councils representing a population of over 20,000 had between 13 and 31 councillors.*
 - 1.1.3 *The LGBCE (Local Government Boundary Commission for England) has no reason to believe that this pattern of council size to population has altered significantly since the research was conducted. Although not an exact match, it broadly reflects the council size range set out in the National Association of Local Councils Circular 1126; the Circular suggested that the minimum number of councillors for any parish should be seven and the maximum 25.*
 - 1.1.4 *In considering the issue of council size, the LGBCE is of the view that each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities. Nevertheless, having regard to the current powers of parish councils, it should consider the broad pattern of existing council sizes. This pattern appears to have stood the test of time and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to have provided for effective and convenient local government.*
 - 1.1.5 *Principal councils should also bear in mind that the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors. In addition, historically many parish councils, particularly smaller ones, have found difficulty in attracting sufficient candidates to stand for election. This has led to uncontested elections and/or a need to co-opt members in order to fill vacancies. However, a parish council's budget and planned or actual level of service provision may also be important factors in reaching conclusions on council size.*
 - 1.2 Parish Warding
 - 1.2.1 *Parish warding should be considered as part of a community governance review. Parish warding is the division of a parish into wards for the purpose of electing councillors. This includes the number and boundaries of any wards, the number of councillors to be elected for any ward and the names of wards.*

1.2.2 *In considering whether or not a parish should be divided into wards, the 2007 Act requires that consideration be given to whether:*

- a) *the number, or distribution of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient; and*
- b) *it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented*

1.2.2 *Accordingly, principal councils should consider not only the size of the electorate in the area but also the distribution of communities within it. The warding of parishes in largely rural areas that are based predominantly on a single centrally-located village may not be justified. Conversely, warding may be appropriate where the parish encompasses a number of villages with separate identities, a village with a large rural hinterland or where, on the edges of towns, there has been some urban overspill into the parish. However, each case should be considered on its merits, and on the basis of the information and evidence provided during the course of the review.*

1.2.3 *There is likely to be a stronger case for the warding of urban parishes, unless they have particularly low electorates or are based on a particular locality. In urban areas community identity tends to focus on a locality, whether this be a housing estate, a shopping centre or community facilities. Each locality is likely to have its own sense of identity. Again, principal councils should consider each case on its merits having regard to information and evidence generated during the review.*

1.3 *The number and boundaries of parish wards*

1.3.1 *In reaching conclusions on the boundaries between parish wards the principal council should take account of community identity and interests in the area, and consider whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries. Principal councils should seek views on such matters during the course of a review. They will, however, be mindful that proposals which are intended to reflect community identity and local linkages should be justified in terms of sound and demonstrable evidence of those identities and linkages.*

1.4 Additional Recommendations

1.4.1 Should the City Council recommend the creation of a Parish for Finham, proposals for naming and governance arrangements are made below:

- a) **Parish Name and area:** the area identified is well known locally as Finham. It is proposed that the new parish be called Finham Parish and comprises the areas shown on the map at paragraph 1.2 of the main report.
- b) **Governance arrangements:** In creating a parish, the legislation provides options for different governance arrangements including not establishing a Council or putting in place arrangements for a parish meeting. However, where the number of electors is more than 1,000, as in this case, the Community Governance Review must recommend that a parish council is established.
- c) **Name of the Parish Council:** the Council can be designated a Town, Village, Community or Parish Council. Town and Village are not appropriate for the area. Coventry already has two parish Councils so for consistency it is proposed that the new body be called Finham Parish Council.
- d) **Electoral arrangements:** recommendations must be made in relation to the number of councillors and whether or not the parish should be divided into wards. Taking into account the guidance on number of councillors, particularly at paragraphs 154 and 157 (paragraphs 1.1.2 and 1.1.5 of this Appendix) and the challenges associated with attracting sufficient candidates it is recommended that the number of councillors be 10

It is considered that this number gives a balance between creating a council that is large enough to be viable but not so big that it may prove difficult to attract candidates. Taking into account guidance and the nature of the area, which does not consist of areas with very distinct local identities, it is not proposed to divide the area into wards. It is recommended that:

- i) the parish should not be divided into wards, and
- ii) that a total of 10 councillors to be elected.

1.4.2 If the Council decides to create a new parish, it must make a Reorganisation Order and more information about this and the other legal steps required are set out in paragraph 5.2 of the main report. Should the Council recommend the establishment of a parish council, a detailed timetable will be developed for consideration at a meeting of Council prior to 24th June 2015. However, the Re-organisation Order must become effective on 1st April in any year if elections are to be held for the new Parish Council in the following May.

1.4.3 If the Council's recommendation is to create a parish council, the next steps would include:

Publication of recommendations

Council makes final recommendations and approves Re-organisation Order including anticipated budget.

Re-organisation Order published

Cabinet approves Finham Council-Tax Base and grant (January)

Council approves Council Tax Setting Report, including the Finham precept based on anticipated budget (February)

Re-organisation Order becomes effective (1st April)

Elections to new Parish (May)

1.4.4 Given the lead in time required for the reconfiguration of the Council Tax system and the work required to prepare a meaningful budget and the Re-organisation Order, it is anticipated that the first elections would take place in May 2016.

Council

13 January 2015

Title: Community Governance Review – Proposals for Finham Area

Supplementary Paper

1. Background

At the Council meeting of 9th December 2014, the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities made it clear that representations about the request for a Parish Council could still be made ahead of the January meeting of Council.

To allow the maximum opportunity for comment, a deadline of midday on 8th January was set.

Feedback from representations received during this period is summarised in this paper.

2. Responses

34 responses were received, 30 of which were from people living within the petition area. 24 out of the 30 respondents had already participated in the ballot. In addition, four responses were received from outside of the petition area.

Responses were made against each of the three questions which had been asked previously in the ballot. Some people answered only either yes or no while others also made comments. The full set of comments received is attached as an appendix to this report.

In response to the question, “Do you think that you can influence decisions that affect your area?” 13 people living within the petition area said yes and 17 said no.

In response to the question “If you wanted to have a say about an issue affecting Finham, do you feel there are appropriate ways to do so?” 10 people living within the petition area said yes and 19 said no.

In response to the question “Do you support the creation of a Parish for the Finham area of the city?” 27 said yes and 3 said no. Of the four responses from people outside of the petition area, two supported the creation of a parish council, one did not and one was undecided.

3. Summary of the Issues raised from residents within the Finham area

Many of the responses referred to the ballot carried out during October and November, with several people saying that they had already contributed or that they supported the result. *“I completed the Ballot form sent out as part of your review. The result was a large percentage in favour of Finham becoming a Parish Council”* and *“residents voted in favour and therefore we should have our Parish Council”*.

Some people commented that they feel they are currently able to influence decisions that affect their area *"I can influence decisions about my area through the residents committee. I can air my views at meeting and obtain support of the group which will have greater strength than one. But these and other people also commented that the area "can only benefit from having a parish council" and "a local parish council can act directly on some issues and have more influence at a local level"*.

Some of the reasons given for supporting the application reflected those set out by the Finham Residents Association and summarised at paragraph 3.5 of the main report to Council. These included:

- The ability of local people to have more of a say in what happens in the area: *"If the Finham area had the status of a parish council legally we would have a greater say in what happens in our community. This can only be to the good."*
- The level at which decisions are made in the city: *"decisions are largely made with the overall city as a consideration, therefore decisions which could see the local library close and significant housing developments in one of the most affluent, beautiful and desirable areas of Coventry would be battered" and "The Parish would not only take on responsibilities currently held by the council but would allow them the time and resources to make some of those more effective."*
- That Finham is overlooked and that the views of local people are disregarded: *"Past experience has shown that Finham does not get its fair share of attention or funding from the Council"*.

Some respondents identified local needs that a parish council could address: *"I feel we are neglected and would like to have more say in local road issues, looking after verges, community transport and leisure facilities for the young people of the area" and "despite numerous applications over many years, there is still no permanent site for any community activities for the young or elderly residents of the area"*.

Some residents expressed their opposition to the creation of a parish council. *"No it will not add any value to the services and facilities which are currently in place. It will add a further and unnecessary level of bureaucracy which will be self-perpetuating and a costly white elephant."* A comment was also made that the *"Finham residence society are currently (and have been for a while) struggling for members so why should it be any different if a Parish Council is created?"*

Some people commented on the costs to residents. *"I feel that a parish council would more effectively represent the interests and concerns of local residents and I am prepared to pay a little extra council tax to fund this"*. An alternative view raised about costs was: *"I strongly feel that the council do a good job in the Finham area and paying more Council tax is not what I want to do no matter how little it may be"*.

4. Representations received from outside the petition area

Residents from outside the petition area also had the opportunity to make comments.

The Styvechale Grange Residents Association which covers part of the area adjacent to Finham wrote to confirm their support for the application for a Parish Council.

One respondent commented that they *"did not know the value of the parish council suggestion compared to any other option of possibly creating a more cohesive community in the Green Lane area"*.

In addition to the responses recorded above, 13 residents from outside Finham but living in neighbouring areas in the Wainbody Ward signed a note circulated at the December meeting of the Wainbody Ward Forum expressing their support for the establishment of a Parish Council.

**Community Governance Review – Proposals for Finham Area:
Responses received between December and January Council meetings**

This document includes the comments made against each of the three questions which had been asked in the ballot.

Some people answered only either yes or no and did not make additional comments.

34 responses were received, 30 of which were from people living within the petition area. In addition, four responses were received from outside of the petition area.

24 of out of the 30 respondents living in the petition area had already participated in the ballot.

1. Do you think that you can influence decisions that affect your area?

Responses from within the petition area

Total Yes 13
Total No 17

Comments:

Yes but not as a single person therefore parish council will be an advantage If you wanted to have a say about an issue affecting Finham
Yes, I can't understand why you are asking these questions again The residents voted in favour of having a parish council. At 73% in favour. So why does the council not just go along with it. What has happened to democracy here?
No, 3/4 of our members have already indicated our desire to have a parish council.
No, I don't feel the current structure represents Finham residents effectively and Focussed more on other areas of the City.
No, difficult to attend council meetings and make your point to a large meeting if you are not comfortable with public speaking
No, decisions are largely made with the overall city as a consideration, therefore decisions which could see the local library close and significant housing developments in one of the most affluent, beautiful and desirable areas of Coventry would be battered.
Yes, I can influence decisions about my area through the residents committee. I can air views at meeting and obtain support of the group which will have greater strength than one.
No, Currently I do not think that as a resident I have any influence on any decisions which the City Council take. Despite numerous applications over many years there is still no permanent site for any community activities for the young or elderly residents in the area. Finham does not seem to be on the radar scale for any additional monies or services which the Council provide for other areas of the city.
No, What decisions? We only get something when you have a grant to justify. Only after 50 years was the street lighting renewed. The traffic calming measures outside Finham Park School are not maintained. Fallen leaves are not swept out of the gutters and drains only get cleaned when residents get fed up of the floods and phone Coventry Direct.
No, ∴ I don't have a clue who my local Councillor is so I am unable to provide information of what I want for my area. Currently there is very little I feel that I can influence. Other than the residence association I am not aware of other forums for consultation.
No, City Council make decisions and as a resident of Finham I personally have no time to devote towards supporting any further decision making process at a level other than that which exists at council level
Yes, As I take an interest in Ward Forum meetings and what is happening around the area I live in
Yes, to have more say on important local matters.
Yes, Residents Association do give some comfort that we can influence decisions. Parish Council would have an even bigger impact

No, Past experience has shown that Finham does not get its fair share of attention or funding from the Council. Our library may be under threat and we have no other facilities. Our Councilors are in the minority and their proposals are quashed along political lines not on democratic lines. We are cut-off by the A45,A46 and the railway to Kenilworth and ignored.
No, I feel that because Finham is not a deprived area the residents are rarely consulted on services in the area, indeed we do not receive any assistance at all.
No, I do not feel that the Council listens to the views of Finham Residents. The Council places all facilities in other areas of the city and give us nothing We have no play areas for local children - not a single piece of play equipment. No community centre where people can meet The library is under threat The bus service is only a result of local people fighting for it. The local Primary school and the Residents Association provide and plant the flower tubs around the area – Council who provide huge planters for the rest of the city provide nothing
Yes, Having a Parish Council 'on site' would make it much much easier to raise issues and hvae them aired at the appropriate meetings.
No, If the Finham area had the status of a parish council legally we would have a greater say in what happens in our community. This can only be to the good. A parish council has a greater responsibility than a residents association and is less likely to be ignored in matters affecting the locality.
No, Finham suffers from a poor infra-structure. - physical separation by the A45 - no allotments - no play areas - no community building. These clear areas of concern need to be investigated and addressed rather than being simply dismissed as not needed in Finham .

Responses from outside the petition area

Total Yes 2
Total No 1
No response 1

Comments:

Yes, I have lived in Coventry from 1968-1991 then 2001 to the present, and parents have lived in [x road] since 1986 and I moved there in 2001.

2. If you wanted to have a say about an issue affecting Finham, do you feel there are currently appropriate ways to do so?

Responses from within the petition area

Total Yes 10
Total No 19

Comments:

Yes, Finham residents
No, The council never listens to the people of Finham. As explained above by having to reconsider whether we are aloud!! A parish council even though it was voted for! Because it's a better off area we get no support or extra funding! Why should that be we all contribute and pay our tax so we should receive support like other areas of the city. You can't even collect our rubbish the week before Christmas!
Yes, Via the residents association
No, The way in which this review has been carried out is an examble of the devious way in which we have had to negotiate our way to have our application acted upon even with the unmitigated support of our elected city councilors.
Yes, Through Finham association
No, Difficult to attend council meetings and make your point to a large meeting if you are not comfortable with public speaking
No, How can a single member of the Coventry community influence a change in such a largely governed space, without more devolution?
Yes, Obtaining support for community policing to combat unsociable behaviour. Development application from local businesses can be opposed as a group if not appropriate for the residents
No, Phoning Coventry Direct is fine to report a failed lamp but requests for a proper plan for renewing the tarmac in the area fall on deaf ears.
Yes, Finham Residents Association exists but is ineffective because it is a membership organisation which will not intervene in any issue arising between 2 member residents. Essentially it is a toothless body.
Yes, However one does not always find out happenings affecting your area. I believe that having a Parish Council that local communication will be better. Consultation is not a strong point of Coventry Council. I believe that if we had had a Parish Council when our Community Centre was demolished we would have had a replacement of similar size
Yes, Residents Association help but having a Parish Council would have a bigger impact
No, The request for to establish a Parish Council for Finham is being strongly resisted, no reasons are given other than the £4000 cost every 4 years during elections, which is insignificant especially considering the income to the Council from Council tax generated in the area. Since leaving WDC Finham has lost one primary school, a community centre and a clinic, although promises were made that the funds from sale of the primary school/community centre land off Howes Lane/ Brentwood Ave would be re-invested in a new Community centre, it was not.
No, I attend Ward Forums. I attend local and public meetings but the Council disregards our views and works on its own agenda with little or no regard for the local views expressed

No, it is not sufficient or strong enough to submit issues to the Coventry council as an individual only. The Finham Residents Association has done much to represent the views of Finham - but Finham now needs to have a parish Council to achieve more

No, I attend Ward Forums. I attend the Safer Neighbourhood Group meetings. I attend Voluntary Action Coventry meetings particularly those concerning an ageing population that we have in Finham.

We give our views to the Council but feel that they disregard any suggestions that are not in keeping with their own political agenda which does not include Finham.

Responses from outside the petition area

Total Yes 0

Total No 3

No response 1

Comments:

No, SGRA [*Styvechale Grange Residents Association*] but another one may be useful as [*x road*] is bordering the Finham Parish. So would like to know how they are communicating with those affected via SGRA?

3. Do you support the creation of a parish for the Finham area of the City?

Responses from within the petition area

Total Yes 27
Total No 3

Comments:

Yes, As explained earlier
Yes, As explained above we need to have our say and be listened to by the council. Rather than being ignored! Can't get over the fact that this is going round again! Residents voted in favour and therefore we should have our parish council! I understand it's because the council say it's too expensive to run! That's just rubbish other areas have them the council just wants control!
Yes, I feel that a parish council would more effectively represent the interests and concerns of local residents and I am prepared to pay a little extra council tax to fund this.
Yes, Through Finham association
Yes, A local forum is less daunting to residents to speak out, and a local parish council can act directly on some issues and have more influence at a local level
Yes, the Parish would not only take on responsibilities currently held by the council but would allow them the time and resources to make some of those more effective. Not only that they serve the local community largely in which they live. Not someone living miles away with little or no day to day knowledge in the intricacies of the local economy/system.
No, I strongly feel that the council do a good job in the Finham area and paying more council tax is not what I want to do no matter how little it may be. Why should I pay more for what I believe is going to be a worse service? The Finham residence society are currently (and have been for a while) struggling for members so why should it be any different if a Parish Council is created. What happens when those people get bored of it? Who monitors their expenses etc. I really do not want this!
Yes, I think the area can only benefit from a parish council and not only do local residents benefit but so does Coventry. Having desirable areas in Coventry will mean that it becomes a better option for people looking to move to the area. Something that the council wants to encourage.
Yes, I support the application put forward to the City Council for the formation of a Parish Council for Finham as I believe that the residents would benefit from the formation and do not think that the current decision to reject this application is democratic.
Yes, We are a small but closely linked up community in Finham. If we get a parish status, we would have more of a say in our matters and more can be done for the local community.

<p>Yes, As a resident of the Finham area I feel we are neglected and would like to have more say in local road issues, looking after verges, community transport and leisure facilities for the young people of the area.</p> <p>The original ballot showed that over 62% of responders feel they have no say in decisions affecting the area and nearly 60% feel they don't have a way to express their feelings about issues in the area. This is born out by the fact that, even though the majority of responders want a Parish Council, the City Council is doing its best to brush the issue aside and not complete the full and thorough review they are required to do.</p>
<p>Yes, The needs in each community is different in each area therefore each area should have a say in what is needed in that area. To have the control given to the parish we can respond more quickly to our needs. Currently we have an ageing population who rely on public transport whose services diminishes each year. There are no places for the children to go to. It is assumed that we are an affluent area and therefore can afford more expensive transport methods or recreational activities. We do not have a community centre that provides facilities for the community which causes isolation and no focus for teenagers.</p>
<p>No, It will not add any value to the services and facilities which are currently in place. It will add a further and unnecessary level of bureaucracy which will be self perpetuating and a costly white elephant</p>
<p>Yes, The return for a yes vote far exceeded that of nearly Coventry Councillors at the last election which shows there is interest to have a Parish Council. Although not a reason for having a Parish Council both Warwickshire, Warwick DC and Birmingham have more Parish Councils. Indeed both the recent Labour Government and the present Conservative Government are supporting the establishing of Parish Councils, yet the controlling Coventry Councillors appear not to want to hear the voice of Government and the citizens of Finham,</p>
<p>Yes, Every requirement has been met to be granted parish status, i.e the local vote which was in favour</p>
<p>Yes, It will have more authority and therefore a bigger influence</p>
<p>Yes, Small though they may be, the available funds from the Finham for Parish Council work will at least be spent on Finham by Finham representatives and not on party political lines.</p>
<p>Yes, As Residents we have met every requirement to request that we are granted a Parish Council and we should not be asked for extra proof. It is the Council who are required to complete a full and thorough review and then make a decision as to whether they accept the views of the Residents (democracy) or reject them.</p>
<p>Yes, . Under section 83 of the Local Government and Public Involvement of Health Act 2007 we petitioned the Council to carry out a governance review.</p> <p>I completed the Ballot form sent out as part of your Review</p> <p>The result was a large percentage in favour of Finham becoming a Parish Council</p> <p>The Guidance on Community Governance Review 2010 shows that as a local resident I have fulfilled the requirements and would wish the result to be acted upon.</p> <p>To reject the overwhelming result in favour of a Parish Council is to reject the democratic process and reinforces my response to questions 1 & 2</p>
<p>Yes, as stated previously</p>
<p>Yes, as stated previously</p>

Yes, This is our opportunity to provide for Finham those things that we know we need and will not be provided by the existing system. Our concerns will have to receive a more focussed consideration and attention by the Council.
 We have met all the requirements within the Governance review and I completed the Ballot form sent out as part of your Review. The published results of the Ballot give an overwhelming vote in favour of establishing a Finham Parish Council. As local residents we have made our views clear through the democratic process. The Council needs to react accordingly.

Responses from outside the petition area

Total Yes 2
 Total No 1
 No response 1

Comments:

No, not until I have been sent the relevant information, which I may have missed so please email a link to where it is available or post to my address.

Yes. On behalf of Styvechale Grange Residents Association, I wish to confirm our support of the application by Finham Residents Association (FRA) to register as a Parish Council. The proposed geographical area is clearly defined, an initial petition by FRA indicated a clear desire for a Parish Council, and the subsequent ballot by Coventry City Council confirmed this to be the case. In accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the requirement of the Council to act in a democratic manner, I believe that they have a duty to approve the above application.

I would like you to define "Finham" as an area. I don't know the value of the parish council suggestion compared to any other option of possibly creating a more cohesive community in the Green Lane area.

Council Meeting

13 January 2015

Booklet 1

Questions

1.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Skinner

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor A Khan

TEXT OF QUESTION:

Following the discussion at full Council on 9 September 2014, and his subsequent helpful communication, will he make a further written statement on the possibility of maintaining a 50 metre swimming pool in Coventry?

The matter remains of great interest to residents throughout the City, and we need to keep them constantly informed.