

**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.