

Consultation – Phase One

FOR			
	Name	Comment	Working Group's Response
1	Michael Richmond	My wife and I very strongly believe we should have our own Parish Council. We should have our own autonomy. We need shops - not keep going to our 'neighbours' in Coalville. We, here in deepest Whitwick, have a wonderful fund raising group called 'Woodstock in Whitwick', who have raised over £28,000 since 2003. I am proud to say I was one of the founder members, along with the late Jimmy Chambers. Whitwick folk have and want to preserve their identity. Whitwick folk are special! Roll on the Parish Council of Whitwick!!	Comments Noted.
2	Kevin Godfrey	I am in favour of a Parish Council for Whitwick as I feel that Whitwick is in danger of losing its community identity; needs more focus on the management of the village centre; and as a separate parish may be able to attract additional grant funding for village projects that can not currently be accessed. In your document you gave the impression that there would be an additional charge added to council tax bills if this proposal was to go ahead. I am concerned that this may be misleading and may lead to people objecting to the idea. Residents in Whitwick currently pay an additional "Coalville Special Expenses" levy to NWLDC in order for the District Council to undertake the services that would usually be the responsibility of a parish council. Although there is the possibility that the precept could exceed this, it is also possible that the proposal could be cost neutral. I feel that this should be made clear to residents who raise objections on the grounds of cost.	The actual amount of the precept is up to the parish council to decide. Example precept figures have been sent to all those who have made representation.
3	Julia Bailey	Yes, I want a Parish Council in Whitwick.	Comments Noted.
4	Alexa Derbyshire	I think it is important for Whitwick to have a parish council and I wholeheartedly support the proposal for a Whitwick Parish Council.	Comments Noted.
5	Mrs S Bradley	I am in favour of a Whitwick Parish Council.	Comments Noted.
6	J W Stretton	I am in favour of a Whitwick Parish Council.	Comments Noted.
7	Andrew Middeton	<p>If the proposed parish council is to simply be a talking shop with no genuine influence, I will oppose it... However, if it is to have a real say on the development of the village, I will support it... Time and time again, NWLDC has shown that it has no development plan for Whitwick beyond turning it into a characterless dormitory village with poor services and facilities... Hopefully a parish council would come up with a much more sensible development plan, incorporating a SUSTAINABLE amount of new housing, as well as new and useful shops [not the multitude of hairdressers and the car showroom we have bizarrely situated right in the centre of the village, as at present] and new businesses / opportunities for employment... If it does become a reality, I would also like the parish council to be given responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reviving a sense of community in the village, by organising events, etc. ▪ preserving and drawing attention to the few remaining heritage buildings in the village which NWLDC hasn't gleefully allowed third-rate developers to demolish. ▪ managing at least some of the recreation facilities in the village and expanding public access to the surrounding countryside. ▪ providing some sort of facility for the village's young people – perhaps along the lines of Shepshed's Passion project. ▪ providing a good, general community shop [not for profit, if necessary], which has been lacking since NWLDC did nothing to fill the void after Coop closed and were 	How influential the parish council is on the future of Whitwick will be largely down to those elected to sit on the parish council.

		<p>happy to have what would have been a useful community building bulldozed for poor quality "houses" which are little better than slums...</p> <p>Beyond being a lifeline for those who struggle to get to and from Morrison's and handy for other residents, such a shop could help the village's economy by buying produce from local farms, allotment holders and gardeners, act as an information point for the parish, district and county councils and any number of other things.</p>	
8	David Harrison	<p>I am in favour of a Parish Council as this will ensure that the specific requirements, issues and concerns of local villagers are considered and possibly addressed. It also brings local democracy where people can have a say. Whitwick has a long and distinguished history and is at risk of being swallowed up and becoming part of the "Coalville" conurbation. Creation of a PC may help restore and retain its local identity. I would be interested to know what the additional cost of the PC would be on the council tax as this may be a barrier. I expect there would also be some start up costs which would also need to be paid for by someone.</p>	<p>Example precept figures have been sent to all those who have made representation.</p>
9	Rita & Malcolm Siddals	<p>Whitwick should have a Parish Council.</p>	<p>Comments Noted.</p>
10	Linda Hobbs	<p>I would like to express my support for the formation of a Parish Council in Whitwick. I believe it is important that the village retains its own identity and is not subsumed by the greater Coalville. It is very important for villagers to have a direct input into decisions that affect the village e.g. planning applications and public transport arrangements. A community centre for Whitwick would be a great asset and I think we have a better chance of achieving this with a parish council in place.</p>	<p>Comments Noted.</p>
11	Christopher Malins	<p>I am very much in favour of a parish council for Whitwick and much concerned about the threat to the green wedges by housing plans.</p>	<p>Comments Noted.</p>
12	Paula Hamill	<p>I am very much in favour of a parish council for Whitwick and much concerned about the threat to the green wedges by housing plans.</p>	<p>Comments Noted.</p>
13	Kirsten Hill	<p>I have recently moved to the area and I noticed through the LDF process and proposal of joining Whitwick and Coalville that the village had no representation at a local level. I would like to lend my support in the introduction of a Parish Council for Whitwick and it surprises me that one has not been established at an earlier date due to Whitwick's size and history. It shall be nice to see the benefits that a Parish Council can bring to Whitwick and how it can develop upon an existing strong community spirit</p>	<p>Comments Noted.</p>
14	Lyn and Dave Wren	<p>Whitwick needs a parish council to look after the affairs of the village community and so that it doesn't become part of Coalville. People need to be proud of their village and learn to care for it. This needs to be done at a young age, with Mums and toddlers, and continued into youth and adulthood. If people take pride in the village perhaps the few that vandalise it, would be encouraged to more constructive activities. The village needs a village hall where people can meet for social evening and various events to celebrate things such as Bonfire night, Christmas, New Year, St Georges Day, Summer Fairs, Family BBQs , Dances etc. Ravenstone has a Parish Council which gets the community involved in various activities, keeping the community alive, Whitwick needs something similar.</p>	<p>Comments Noted.</p>
15	Mrs J L Knight	<p>Further to receiving the leaflet through my letterbox I am hereby registering approval for myself and on behalf of my husband who also wholeheartedly agrees with the creation of a Parish Council in Whitwick. I am originally from Coalville but moved to Whitwick when I married but I have always had links to the village through previous generations, and ancestors and my husband's family has been resident in the village for generations. Historically, the village of Whitwick dates back to the Domesday book, with evidence of even</p>	<p>Comments Noted.</p>

		<p>earlier settlements, Coalville would not exist if it were not for the industrial revolution coming to the village of Whitwick at the turn of the last century, and the shafts of Whitwick Colliery being sunk. Over time Coalville's urban sprawl spread to engulf its surrounding area and nibbled away at the edges of Whitwick. Whitwick is fiercely protective of its identity as a separate place not just a dormitory of its bigger younger neighbour. Giving the people of Whitwick a Parish Council helps protect the identity of this historical village and its residents a bigger say in the decisions made for it by the district council, who don't always take into consideration the best interests of the village. Thank you for taking the time to read this.</p>	
16	Mrs L Harlow	<p>My family and myself all residing at the above address are in STRONG FAVOUR of the formation of a Parish Council for Whitwick. I and my husband were both born in Whitwick and have lived in Whitwick on/off for years and have many family members also residing in the area, all the family have strong links with Whitwick. We do not wish to become one large community joining to Coalville and Thringstone, we wish to keep Whitwick as the village it has always been for hundreds of years. Our vote is for a Parish Council in Whitwick.</p>	Comments Noted.
17	D A Lindsay	<p>I am very much in favour of a Whitwick parish council as it <u>might just might</u> give the people of Whitwick a voice that will be heard, although after the last breathtaking display of arrogance by the planners, I would not hold my breath. It is my considered opinion for what it is worth, that the decision to proceed with development of the Ford garage site, has set back the regeneration of Coalville centre by another twenty years. To give favour to Tesco, who will pull out after a few years anyway as they did before, when the foot fall in that area proves to be low is beyond belief. This is a very poor decision that the Councillors involved will live to regret, I am sure, at the next round of local elections. There is much said by both main political parties [who have a poor record of development in Coalville] about the rise in popularity of the BNP in the area, it is any wonder when we see decisions like this, that go against the wishes of a large percentage of the people in the area. This decision follows on from another controversial decision to proceed with the traffic calming in North Street in Whitwick, a consultation was held, with the overwhelming number of local people against the proposals, it was done any way. Again, you only have to look at the very dangerous situation on Ashby Road in Coalville that the local people had no say in, again it beggars belief that this situation was imposed on the people of Coalville after a negative response. There are much safer ways to control the speed of traffic than this. Finally, I must just say that some Councillors seem to have forgotten that they were elected to serve the people not dictate to them, so making it harder for the genuine councillors who work for the people to be respected for their efforts.</p>	Comments Noted.
18	Anthony Ashford	<p>Please could I see a clearer map of the actual borders please.</p>	Sent.
19	Roy Stratton	<p>As a resident in the area I would like to register my support for the establishment of Whitwick Parish Council as presented in your leaflet. However, as the chair of the steering group that put forward the petition I am concerned by the wording of the governance review leaflet as are other members. Your reference to 'an additional charge added to council tax bills' is misleading as this change simply replaces the 'Coalville special expenses' charge and may be higher or lower depending on the precept set by the Parish Council. May I ask if the steering group overseeing this review were asked to approve this leaflet? I am particularly concerned if this issue is likely to bias the consultation and subsequent recommendations.</p>	<p>Most members of the general public do not know how a parish council is funded and reference to a precept was made to try and explain this. Example precept figures have been sent to all those who have made representation.</p>
20	Peter and Pat Christian	<p>Could we please register our support for the establishment of a Parish Council in Whitwick.</p>	Comments Noted.

21	Claire Caulfield	I feel strongly that Whitwick should have its own parish council. It is vital for Whitwick to have a voice and a strong identity to prevent it becoming a suburb of Coalville. After living in a small village that had a parish council it was a shock that somewhere the size of Whitwick didn't have one.	Comments Noted.
22	Simon Grandidge	I am writing to you in response to your recent publicity and invitation so to do. It seems to me that in these days of ever growing apathy when even against the backlog of deep unrest at a system which allows elected representatives to take such personal advantage (expenses scandal); the next general election turnout will more than likely be well short of representative - any group wanting to invest time and effort to be of benefit for the local community must be a good thing and recognised as such. I wholeheartedly welcome the attempts to establish such a body in Whitwick - and hope that this is the majority view from representations received.	Comments Noted.
23	Trevor Mann	I respectfully advise that due to the total lack of representation of the population in this area I feel that the only recourse left to that population is the formation of a Parish Council. It has become blatantly obvious that the wishes of this population are and have been totally ignored and as such future contempt of would be challenged by the formation of a Parish Council.	Comments Noted.
24	Margaret and Peter Montandon	Further to your leaflet advising us of the proposal to form a Whitwick Parish Council I wish to inform you that my husband and I fully support this proposal, being of the opinion that such a council should have been in existence for the last 30years at least. It is our opinion that the formation of a Whitwick Parish Council can only be of benefit to the village We fully accept and understand that the formation of a Parish Council will have some financial implications by way of slight increases in our Council Tax payable but are of the opinion that this will be money well spent.	The actual amount of the precept is up to the parish council to decide. It may mean the amount payable is more or less than that paid currently.
25	Jo Straw	I would like to respond to your consultation letter and say that I am personally fully in favour of having a Parish Council for Whitwick. I would also like to mention that I have had several emails from Whitwick residents that are very concerned about your consultation letter with regard to the precept. I have not personally been involved with the Steering Committee but I recently emailed members to ask about this. As I understand it the cost to residents could be more but it could be nil or less. I am well aware that you will need to suggest that there may be a cost implication but I am saddened that the entire scenario was not communicated in your letter. I have also an email from a resident who says that he was informed by the Council that the Whitwick Action Group had submitted the petition to yourselves. Please could you note that although we have members who sit on both the Whitwick Action Group and Parish Council Steering Groups, they are two distinctly different groups.	Most members of the general public do not know how a parish council is funded and reference to a precept was made to try and explain this. Example precept figures have been sent to all those who have made representation.
26	Mrs M C Partridge	A Whitwick Parish Council is long overdue and all the villages which formerly formed the Coalville Rural and Urban District should have been afforded their own council in 1974 when Coalville District Council was abolished to form North West Leicestershire District Council. The proposed boundaries also seem to have impinged yet gain on the old parish boundaries. Who has set these boundaries and by what right?	The boundaries were proposed by the petitioners.
27	Margaret Duerden	I believe that it is high time that we have a Parish Council in Whitwick. We are a large and growing community which was established nearly a thousand years ago, and it seems wrong that we do not have our own independence, especially in these days of absorption of green belt land into so many conurbations. I feel we also need to have more responsibilities for the planning and management of our area.	Comments Noted.
28	Paul Siddals	Following the notice on Whitwick Parish Council Community Governance Review, I would like	Example precept figures have been

		to register that I am wholly in favour of the formation of a Parish Council for Whitwick, to provide an additional level of local democratic governance. I feel that your notice was a little misleading as it implied that the formation of a Parish Council would result in an additional charge to the council tax bills. As you are well aware, this may not be the case, as Whitwick would no longer be included in the special expenses for Coalville and its precept could be equal to or lower than that charge.	sent to all those who have made representation.
29	Steve Johnson	I am a Whitwick resident and have been all my life and I feel it is vital that we are represented by local people and not here today, gone tomorrow councillors who do not even live in or represent the area that their voting affects. I realise that some people are put off by any extra amount on the Council Tax but I feel it could be offset by removing some of the frivolous positions in local Government such as the Coalville Champion and the Place Shaping Champion, two that readily spring to mind.	Comments Noted.
30	Karin Siddals	I would like to register with you that I fully support the idea of a Parish Council for Whitwick.	Comments Noted.
31	Trevor and Gaynor Armston	As local residents of Whitwick, we are very much in favour of having a parish council.	Comments Noted.
32	Mrs T & Mr I Wattam	As residents of Whitwick, both my husband and I would like to register our support for the creation of a Parish Council. We both feel very strongly that local needs can only be addressed by local representatives who have a broad knowledge of the area and in the light of many proposed changes in the Whitwick and surrounding areas a parish council will very much help the area and the residents alike.	Comments Noted.
33	Mr T Wright	I believe that it is important that local communities are represented at district level and fully support this application.	Comments Noted.
34	Martin Fletcher	Just a short note to register my full hearted support for Whitwick to have its own parish council. I truly believe that in the long term interests of our Democracy, locally it is most important for the Whitwick people to feel they have a say in the future destiny of their village. This is largely because it has become apparent that the local district council often doesn't seem to understand that many of people of Whitwick come from generations of families, living in this space, going back to pre-Doomsday times. And therefore they become upset and even antagonised when their market charter is moved to Coalville, or the Green Wedge is threatened. History shows us, that throughout the world, when leaders ignore the ordinary people it is at their own peril!	Comments Noted.
35	Miss J Beniston	I am writing to support the proposal to create a Whitwick Parish Council. I was born in North Street, Whitwick in 1937 and lived there until 1956 when I left to do my teacher training. After returning to NW Leicestershire and spending six years teaching in two primary schools in the county. I lived and worked in various parts of the UK from Scotland to Greater London. I returned to Whitwick in 1984. When I left, Whitwick was a community with a strong sense of identity, thriving businesses and industries, and six butchers shops. Obviously, today, Whitwick is very different. The people who are relative newcomers seem to enjoy being part of this particular community and feel welcomed by the indigenous families, however most people feel there is a very real threat of Whitwick losing its distinctive identity and being absorbed into a larger conurbation centred on Coalville. There are a number of organisations at present that are witness to the fact that Whitwick is a community that is both conversant with and proud of	Comments Noted.

		its roots; the Historical Society, the Friends of Holly Hayes Woods Organisation and the Community Coffee Shop are examples of community members who are capable and willing to be involved in community issues and projects. I wholeheartedly support the proposal that Whitwick should have a parish council.	
36	J Kendrick	My view is that its time the residents of Whitwick had a say as to improve the village from the steady decline over the past years, and to try to improve it to being a better caring community, also to have someone to voice what the people feel instead of just being pushed to one side by NWLDC.	Comments Noted.
37	Miss L Heritage	I am writing to express my support for the creation of a parish council for Whitwick. I believe this to be an excellent idea and would help the people of our village very much. It would give a voice for the people of Whitwick at a very local level and would, I feel, contribute to a level of order within the village. It would also reinforce the strong sense of community that already exists and give a further separation from the town of Coalville of which, I for one, do not consider us part of.	Comments Noted.
38	A Lewin	Endorses the above comments.	Comments Noted.
39	James Rossell	Please can I express my support, as a life-long resident of Whitwick, for the proposed Whitwick Parish Council. The village has grown considerably over the years and should have it's own Council to represent the interests of the local residents. I think the leaflet I received might be a bit misleading. Yes there would be a separate charge on the council tax bill, but at present Whitwick council tax payers are paying towards the special expenses of the Coalville urban area, so a parish precept could well be less expensive.	Example precept figures have been sent to all those who have made representation.
40	John Pollard	I wish to vote in favour of a Parish Council for Whitwick, please advise what further information, if any you require.	Comments Noted.

AGAINST

	Name	Comment	Working Group's Response
1	Barry Fern	I feel there are already enough Councillors representing Whitwick for planning, promoting tourism, licensing, managing village centres and providing community halls, as there is already a community hall in Howe Road. How many community halls will there be, and at what expense to the council tax payer? So my answer to the question is 'no' we do not need a parish council.	Comments Noted.
2	A F Wain	As a resident in Whitwick, I am not convinced that a parish council would give much benefit to my local area. I feel that the work done by the district council is enough to fill the needs of the local area. Also, as a pensioner living on a limited income, any increase in outgoings would be an unwanted extra problem to deal with, especially as any parish council in the area would not provide enough benefits to justify extra financial burdens. So I would oppose the introduction of the new body.	Comments Noted.
3	Simon Hopkins	I can see no reason why we need yet another layer of government at extra cost to the council tax payer. I suspect that the motivation behind this is being driven by opposition to building on so called green wedge land. It seems an odd time to choose to offer an increase in council tax when we are facing a fair few years of increasing taxation and/or public expenditure cuts.	Comments Noted.
4	D Ward	<p>I am writing to propose my objection to this proposal. Firstly, Whitwick has functioned quite well up to now under the auspices of N.W Leicestershire District Council and in the current economic climate, it seems difficult to justify the additional expense of a parish council to the current high level of council tax. Secondly, the remit of the parish council to promote tourism, licensing, management of village centres and provision of community halls and involvement in planning cannot be substantiated for the following reasons:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tourism – Whitwick, other than a proud mining history, has little to offer tourists. ▪ Licensing is already covered by the District Council ▪ There is little in the way of a village centre to be managed ▪ No community hall exists at the moment and the cost of creating one would be expensive and unnecessary when the Hermitage Leisure Centre can be made available if and when a facility is required. ▪ Involvement in planning – if a parish council objection to a particular planning application can be overridden by the District Council after consideration of all the relevant factors then that circumstance makes the parish council a tiger without teeth. <p>The impetus for this petition seems to me to have been motivated by a tentative proposal to build houses on the Whitwick/Thringstone green wedge. Public meetings that have been held so far on this outline planning suggestion have aroused sufficient and significant objection by the public to ensure that this proposal will proceed only at considerable public anger. Our local MP Mr David Taylor has already expressed the view that the district council needs to go back to the 'drawing board' on the local housing requirements. I believe that the total housing needs of the district have already been reduced. To sum up, I feel that the above reasons outweigh the probable political motivations of the parish council politicians and the petition to create a parish council should be rejected.</p>	<p>The actual amount of the precept is up to the parish council to decide. It may mean the amount payable is more or less than that paid currently. Example precept figures have been sent to all those who have made representation.</p> <p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Cannot comment on what motivated the petition.</p>
5	Colin & Avis	We strongly object to a parish council being formed in Whitwick.in view of the economic climate	Comments Noted.

	Barrow	it would be better to look at reducing councillors rather than increasing them and adding more strain on council tax.	
6	Mrs Janet Wood	This is only another level of useless level of bureaucracy which will add costs to the council tax.	Comments Noted
7	Mr Robert Parker	My wife and I object to the formation of a parish council as we can see no benefits to the village.	Comments Noted
8	Dave Burton, Helen Bradley	We have lived in Whitwick for just over 7 years now, and have not seen the need for a parish council, however last local elections we did sign up for the creation of one but now we have changed our minds, especially if it is going to cost us more money in the form of council tax. We now feel that there is enough levels of Government and it all has to be paid for.	Comments Noted
9	Dave Metcalfe	I would most certainly be opposed to any additional level of bureaucracy being introduced into our community, and any increase in council tax.	Comments Noted