

Trainer, Judith

From: Trainer, Judith
Sent: 08 March 2017 13:58
To: Trainer, Judith
Subject: FW: Community Governance review - Grindon Parish
Attachments: Grindon East Rationale.docx

This email was classified as : OFFICIAL

From: Kit Lofthouse - KT Associates [<mailto:kit@kt-associates.com>]
Sent: 23 January 2017 11:36
To: Services, Electoral
Subject: Community Governance review - Grindon Parish

David Bond
Electoral Registration Officer
Stockton Borough Council

Wynyard Residents Association
3 Harestones
Wynyard
Billingham
TS225QT

23rd January 2017

Dear Mr Bond

Community Governance review – Grindon Parish

Please accept this letter as the official response to the Community Governance Review of Grindon Parish by Wynyard Residents Association (WRA).

In November of last year WRA began to seek the views of Wynyard residents as part of our Neighbourhood Plan consultation with regard to a potential application for Community Governance review to establish Wynyard as its own Parish separate from Grindon. I had discussed with Mrs M Waggott previously the support we would need to trigger the review and the consultation exercise was to determine if we had the necessary support. When we discovered that an application had been made by residents of Thorpe Thewles the need for a separate application by ourselves became redundant, however we did collect a large number of signatures from Wynyard residents and I have attached these for your use as part of your consultation. As you will see we had overwhelming support in favour of establishing a Wynyard Parish in its own right. Out of all the residents we sought support from only two did not feel they wished to sign. We estimate that we discussed the potential boundary change and establishment of our own Parish with 30% of the households on Wynyard.

I have also attached a sheet outlining why WRA feel that the split of Grindon Parish with the boundaries being those shown on Map 1 of your consultation letter would be the most appropriate. We believe that Grindon East should have its own Parish. We have no strong views as to the fate of Grindon West as we feel we do not have enough detailed financial information to support an analysis of the viability of it becoming a parish Council by itself.

I can be contacted on kit@kt-associates.com, or 01740644679 should you have any further questions or information needs.

Yours sincerely

Kit Lofthouse

Chair

Wynyard Residents Association

Proposed Grindon Parish split

Rationale on behalf of Wynyard Residents Association

1) Culture

Grindon East is predominantly made up of Wynyard Village and Wynyard Park which house the Wynyard Hotel and Spa. Wynyard village is a modern conurbation whose residents comprise individuals who live in aspirational executive housing. It has no social or affordable housing and no council housing. It has few amenities and no public transport. It is not a cohesive community in any sense and has no central village resource such as a church or village hall to enable this to be easily developed. The residents in the main are reasonably affluent with few social care needs. This makes them independent and almost isolationist in their outlook.

Grindon West is a mixture of small communities with long established history, they have affordable housing and social care needs not seen on Grindon West. They are also well served with amenities compared to Grindon West having community venues, pubs and a strong village and community identity. Where Grindon East has major housing developments on the way which will expand its population by more than 50% over the next few years. Grindon West is unlikely to grow at the pace or to the size that Grindon East already has and will continue to do. The culture of the two sections are completely different. In Grindon east few residents know their neighbours or interact with them whereas in Grindon West this is a part of everyday life. The cultures engender differing needs and so we believe a split would be positive for both.

2) Geography

Grindon West is a mainly rural area. It has small villages/hamlets with farms in between. Grindon East on the other hand has an established Hotel Park as its main green space with only a couple of other farm properties. The main space is a modern estate with loop roads, and a golf course. This again is a major difference between the two areas. The aim of the residents of Wynyard is to preserve the green space for leisure and wild animals not to utilise it for food production. The needs of Grindon West and East are totally different in this respect.

3) Amenities

The lack of community amenities in Grindon East is an enduring issue that needs addressing, this is not so for Grindon West. The lack of schools, transport, shops, leisure parks, community halls and spaces, health care facilities etc is a major concern which the developers who already have plans approved for over 500 new dwellings have consistently ignored in the past. New housing being planned lacks sufficient parking for the size of the dwellings and density of housing is an issue also. These needs will drive the conversation for years to come and will be the focus for the residents of the Neighbourhood Plan. Grindon West already has community facilities and their conversation with any developers proposing to build in the area will necessarily be quite different.

4) Transport networks

Grindon East and West both have "A" roads as part of their Parish area however the difference between the roads is marked. Grindon East has two major roads the A689 and A19 which are increasingly under pressure due to the volumes of traffic using them. The A177 which runs through Grindon West can be busy but is not subject to the same issues and pressures are the others. Grindon East has traffic traversing through between the A1(M) and the A19 via the A689 and the roundabouts and access points for the residential areas are causing concern - with three accidents alone in the last six weeks at the West entrance on the A689 to Wynyard Village.

5) Finance

When Grindon Parish was originally established Wynyard village was a small place with few residents. It would not at that time have been financially viable to have its own Parish Council, it resembled the other small villages in the Parish and so made logical sense to be included as an amalgamated area. The new Wynyard development now far outstrips the original size and with the further dwellings which have been approved for Stockton it will total 1500+ houses and apartments. It would make a Grindon East Parish financially viable and should have the opportunity to utilise the precept raised from these houses, on behalf of the residents, directly for local issues. As part of the current Grindon Parish it has struggled to have its voice heard for some time and it has only been with the intervention of the WRA that this is slowly being addressed.