

**Community Governance Review Stage 2**

**Comments received through consultation**

**Comment 1**

Whilst I appreciate what the estate is trying to do regarding the roads. We here in Lampits Hill Avenue, have already paid through the nose to have our road made up, and lost parts of our frontage in the process. I can understand the other residents not wishing to do this. But we certainly do not wish to pay more council tax than we have to.

**Comment 2**

I am attaching this letter to the questionnaire which has been sent out to the Frost Estate residents because I feel that there are a few points which I would like to raise. Firstly, I feel there has been a lack of specific knowledge from the committee who is forging ahead with this application. We have had no meetings to clarify what would be put forward; whether to go forward or indeed how the committee were elected in the first place.

- Is it representational of the whole estate?
- It would have been appreciated if someone were to have called the residents together in order for all to have exactly what it means to have a parish council explained and any questions raised answered in full 'view' of all.
- What would a parish council take on?
- How would residents be notified of any projects/changes?
- How would the council be elected and would it represent the WHOLE estate (not just the roads that are seeking this council now)
- What power do residents have within the council to object to; for instance having a waste bin placed outside their house?
- What provisions are there for lower income families or the elderly? How is their portion equalled out - We have had no specific financial indication of what the costs would be or who would oversee these. Would a committee/council be able to just say 'that's the bill' setting a figure that they see fit without any recourse.

Lastly, the Frost Estate is a unique place to live, and it has been long understood that to do so you take on certain responsibilities; one being the maintenance of your road and grass verge. If one does not like the terms of purchasing a property on the Frost Estate, then one should not do so. I am not in favour of blindly steaming ahead with the suggestion of a Parish Council.

**Comment 3**

I am writing to you in response to the recent letter and questions sent out to Frost Estate residents. I am taking this opportunity to formally advise you that as per my original returned questionnaire, I strongly disagree with the setting up of a parish council for the Frost Estate I draw your attention to the fact that less than 50% of residents returned their questionnaires, suggesting that I am far from being in the minority. I have always believed in standing on my own two feet, and not borrowing beyond my means. Six weeks after moving into our property, 13 years ago, we were approached by neighbours who were getting together to raise funds to get our road re-laid, the residents of Chamberlain Ave contributed towards this, and the road works were

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completed; this is an option to other roads on the Frost Estate. For many years it has been common knowledge throughout Corringham and Stanford that, if you move on to the Frost Estate you are responsible for the maintenance of the roads. If you do not want this then don't move here. I therefore make the following statement:- At no point will I pay any increase on my council tax bill, which is due to the parish council, even if this means that I have to cancel my direct debit to Thurrock Council and pay by cheque. If you add together 50 people who agree with my sentiments and the 50% who did not return their questionnaires then you have a large number of people who will probably feel/do the same. This could then result in you having to take legal action against all those residents who withhold payment, or foot the bill yourselves. I will never agree to strangers running up an unspecified and ever moving debt on my behalf and would therefore advise that you decline the request to set up a Parish Council by predominantly residents of Giffords Cross Road, and suggest that they put their efforts into repairing the road themselves.

### Comment 4

Being a long term responsible resident of the Frost Estate I am now finding a group of self appointed and totally self interested people are trying to railroad me, and other responsible residents, into a parish council of their choosing. The latest document and questionnaire I have received from the Council indicates that less than half of the estates residents responded to the first one and 14.01% of those indicated a preference for no change. That response is hardly sufficient to even consider the imposition of a parish council. The residents of Chamberlain Avenue, Windsor Avenue, and Lampits Hill Avenue are all responsible people who have taken their responsibilities seriously, all have re surfaced and maintained their roads at their own cost and not wanted or asked anyone else to pay for their roads. In fact the self appointed group, do not mention or are even interested in these roads, they don't suit their self interested purpose. You have obviously noted that the 14.01% of residents all come from the three roads I have indicated, and with very good reason, they have already taken the responsibility and paid for their roads. In the first letter sent out by the council, it was considered that the request for a parish council was driven by the self appointed group wanting others to pay for the upkeep of their roads, and that it was the sole reason. Nothing has changed, that is still the case, and is supported by the fact, that the members of the self appointed group are all in close proximity to the Giffords Cross Central Avenue vicinity mentioned in your letter. In further support to this, there was a meeting at the council offices chaired by councillor Gupta and two council staff, this group who want a parish council attended it, I was also there, their agenda then was to get the council to repair their roads as long as they didn't have to pay for it. They failed, now they are trying to get the rest of the estate residents to pay for their neglect. There are a number of roads close to this estate where residents keep them in good repair, three that come to mind are, the link road between Brampton Close and Lampits Lane, the extension of Morley Hill starting at house number 84, and parts of Central Avenue, all the residents in those roads take responsibility for the upkeep, unlike the small group on the self appointed committee. Regarding the legality of imposing a parish council on this estate, I am of the opinion that this can be challenged by past precedence, at least one resident has acquired the frontage of his property from the crown estate, at least one resident has been refused the same request by the crown estate. Taking the first approved request by the

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crown estate, it is obvious that at least half of the properties on the estate comply with the reasons accepted by the crown for their first approval, I am in possession of copies of both the applications sent to the crown estate, which you can inspect if you wish.

Looking at the twelve services in the received letter, it comes as no surprise that top of the list is maintenance and repair of roads, which is exactly what your conclusions were, when you said it appears to be the only reason for wanting a parish council. The rest are just there to make the number up and are a nonsense, as I will show below.

(1) maintenance and repair of roads - this basically relates to those on the committee, they will not take responsibility or duty to keep their part of the estate roads in repair, we have and have no need for our roads to be looked after.

(2) crime prevention measures - what is meant by that, we have police patrols, we have a neighbourhood watch, and who feels the need for more, I have never heard of anyone being broken into, or trouble from unruly children.

(3) repair and maintain public footpaths and bridleways - what public footpaths, all properties keep their frontage mown, concreted, block paved ETC, and bridleways do not exist, so why is it included.

(4) Light roads and public places - we already have adequate lighting on the estate, where everyone and everything can be seen clearly, public places do not exist, this is a private estate.

(5) Provide traffic signs and other notices - what on earth is that supposed to mean, there has never been a vehicular accident or injury in the ninety plus years the estate has been in existence, signs are not needed.

(6) plant trees and maintain roadside verges - all the fronts of properties are either concreted, block paved, or gave verges the owners keep in good condition, by cleaning or mowing, why on earth would they want their concrete dug up or their paving dug up for a tree, that could affect the footings of their property.

(7) Provide litter bins - come and walk on this estate any day or time, and see what litter you can find, the only time litter may appear is when dustbin lorries spill it, and then it is quickly picked up by residents.

(8) Environmental projects - perhaps you can explain what that means for residents.

(9) Grants to voluntary groups - Ridiculous to even include it

(10) provide parking spaces for vehicles - All properties have parking on their own fronts and drives, absolutely no need to provide any more.

(11) Parks and open spaces - there are no open spaces or parks on the estate, the ones that do exist are adjacent to the town centre, which are maintained and looked after by the council. Why was this included.

(12) community halls - the estate doesn't have a hall or the space to put one, again, why was this included.

You can see by the twelve points above, that numbers two to twelve have no relevance, they are there to make the number up, and muddy the waters. The sensible way to deal with this, is for the Council to tell the committee to do what's right, and take the same responsibility as others on the estate have and look after their own sections of it, and not try and get others to foot the bill. The council can do that for them and charge for it, or I can get the same company we used to do our section of the estate. There are enough properties on Central Avenue and Giffords Cross Avenue, and the couple of small offshoots adjacent to them, to do as we did and collectively pay for it. Either to have it done in sections or just the main parts they want done.

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Another point worth mentioning is that none of the people living on the roads we have maintained in good order exit the state via Giffords Cross or Central Avenue, we have no need to, or want to.

### **Comment 5**

Since my last contact, I and a number of other Frost Estate residents in the north east of the estate, have met with our MP Stephen Metcalfe. It was interesting to hear Mr Metcalfe agreeing with all of us, that the parish council group are only interested in having their roads repaired by the whole of the estate, which is also in agreement with the first report where your office indicated the same. Since the meeting, we have spoken to all the residents from my section of the estate, every one of them are strongly against the imposition of a parish council, having already spent thousands of pounds each to have their roads done. Another point worth taking into account, is that all the original roads in this section were completely unmade, just mud, hardcore and puddles, until we the residents paid to have them done. On a survey of the whole estate, we found that some of the residents of certain roads, have had major works done in the laying of block paving to their frontages, money that could have been spent on their roads, why didn't they? I have now been told, and had confirmed, that the steering group are trying to get residents to vote yes by using frightening and intimidating statements. Two that come to mind, are both from OAPs, one a 79yr old woman, who was told that she could be sued for any personal injury to other persons, if she didn't vote yes to having her roads done. The other woman, even older at 89yrs old, told exactly the same. The 89yr old woman's experience is well documented and known by Stephen Metcalfe. When I approached him about it, he was well aware the woman had been sent an apology along with a bunch of flowers, an admittance of guilt if ever I saw one. I have attached a group photo's of the roads in my section, they speak for themselves, we do our duty and take responsibility for them, unlike the group who will not take responsibility for their roads, wanting instead for us to pay for them as well.

### **Comment 6**

Need more detail on which roads will be repaired and how they will be repaired.

### **Comment 7**

We have asked before and we are unsure what or how they intend to repair the roads, our road is not too bad and we feel we will be paying for other roads to be fixed, which should be done but not paid for by residents that will not benefit from it.

### **Comment 8**

I have a problem with the review papers sent out. I do not feel it makes it clear enough that = a) It does not require a YES majority vote for the council to decide to set up a parish council. b) if the council decide to set up a parish council, all resident would be made part of it and have to pay into it, even if they voted NO. Neighbours I have spoken to agree with my comments. This does not very democratic to me.

### **Comment 9**

I am not prepared to commit to anything until I know how much it will definitely cost each household. Also which roads are taking priority other than Giffords

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Avenue and Central Avenue. The roads definitely need repairing but with this system I can see big problems i.e. people on the estate who have already paid for their roads.

### **Comment 10**

Leave the Frost Estate as it is.

### **Comment 11**

Do we need the councillors?

### **Comment 12**

Please do not bother me with any more literature re this matter. I am not at all interested as a few years back, we got together and did our own bit of road to improve matters for us, so let those who live there do theirs.

### **Comment 13**

Do not want a Parish Council, do not want increase in Council Tax, my road is fine.

### **Comment 14**

Have lived here for 28 years and being over 80 years of age I don't want the hassle.

### **Comment 15**

Seabrooke Rise in Grays is a neighbourhood mainly due to 'hoodies'. Neighbourhood sounds like a council estate "Frost Residents Council" sound's better. There should be one councillor from every road and broad range of ages. I voted no, then yes as I felt under pressure to vote yes. Please ensure that my vote is NO. I do not want a parish council.

### **Comment 16**

Changed my mind [voted no initially]