

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW RESPONSES (DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS)

RESPONSES RECEIVED BY EMAIL

Response 1

I am writing in support of electing a Windsor Town Council.

I do not believe the current arrangement or electees look after the interests of Windsor or its residents at all.

Despite a large amount of revenue being generated by Windsor residents the majority of it is spent outside of the town, mainly in Maidenhead but also in the smaller boroughs surrounding.

Whilst I understand that the smaller boroughs surrounding may need some investment I do not support such a huge proportion of it being spent in Maidenhead, a town quite a distance away that has already, and continues to have, a huge amount of investment spent on it.

There are plenty of issues in our area which need support such as increased litter patrols and additional policing in the town centre since crime has increased significantly however our station was closed but again Maidenhead remains open.

The planning department are approving huge developments in our town centre with zero regard to the residents it will affect either relating to parking which has now already become woefully short in supply, doctors and dentists already over full and traffic challenges amongst many others. I am well aware that these permitted buildings generate revenue for the council however yet again most of this is spent outside of Windsor in Maidenhead or on council vanity projects.

Furthermore I found the email you sent to have a nasty tone of scare mongering to put people off voting for the town council. Why on earth would we need to pay for accommodation of the electees as they would be local??

Why would we need to pay for meeting rooms when those rooms already exist and or the meetings can be held virtually?

I also imagine most of the town council would happily be volunteers however you have alluded that we would need to pay a salary. With the exception of a clerk I doubt this would be necessary.

I am in favour of a Windsor Town Council.

Response 2

Having read your hand delivered leaflet I would like to be able to respond with some inciteful views on this issue but feel I am ill-equipped to do so.

On the face of it we are being asked whether we are in favour of creating another layer of bureaucracy whose cost, powers and responsibilities will only become clear once it has been established.

My worry is that this will lead to much buck passing between RBWM and the town Council as to who is actually responsible for any given situation and as such I would be against the proposals.

My one recent foray into needing some local remedial work (clearance of a blocked drain gully) took 12 months to sort out as I was passed around various depts at RBWM and then the contractors responsible for the service who seemed to be answerable and accountable to no one.

It took a formal complaint from me to finally get any joy at all.

Unless the formation of a Town Council will help in this type of situation I say leave well alone.

Response 3:

Q Do you believe in the creation of a new Town Council for the purpose

- . Altering the boundaries of existing parishes.
- . Changing the name of existing parishes.
- . Creating or abolishing Parish or town councils.
- . The electoral arrangements for Parish Alton councils such as the number of councillors and Parish warding.

A No I do not Believe in dismantling a perfectly effective workable democratic system we have now.
No to New Town Council

Q. do you support the creation of a Windsor Town Council under the electoral arrangement set out in our draft recommendations.

A. I emphatically object to the creating a new Windsor Town Council for the sole purpose of undermining Parish Council we already have. There is no need for a new Windsor Town Council. I emphatically object to the proposal of creating a new town council to the bullet points above for the.

Believe the existing governance arrangements and representations for residence is sufficient. A emphatic no to a new Windsor town council.

Response 4

Absolutely we need a Windsor Town Council – and you will get the support.

Complemented by increased engagement with true Windsorians – I've lived around this town my whole life, my grandparents moved here and my parents lived here too – most of my 1000+ social contacts are local - so please take my comments as productive.

I happen to advise SME's on campaign strategy (both off and online) and for one of my current clients I provide marketing and fundraising consultancy for their roster of 400+ Parish and Town Councils.

This incredibly important cause comes at a time where we all have plenty of other things to keep us occupied such as livelihoods (and bins – always the bins) – nobody champions the local council on my social timeline, nobody I meet talks about the Windsor Town Council ... ever.

To build an audience we need a cause at the soul of Windsor – I would recommend championing three core issues that stretch across all of the broad networks I know of in the Windsor community – trust is the key accelerator in building this audience.

1. Alexander Gardens - trust that WTC will protect our town over developers pound-notes
2. The £200m RBWM debt - trust that WTC investigate and simplify the cause, effect and solution
3. The High Street – trust that the WTC puts local trade/shopping and therefore locals and the local economy first

This mixes livelihood, physical environment and heritage – emotive subjects encapsulating Windsor.

Shout these from the gunnells and people will get to know you through understandable and relatable causes – *“I shop there ... I have a business that relies on that ... I walk there and connect to my lovely town”* = you're on my side = trust = audience engagement.

We then will see the new WTC understands what the real soul of Windsorians is and that garners the trust for them to become your crowd of ambassadors. I'm sure you know this already – but the flyer I just received demonstrates an opportunity of an audience you've yet to reach.

Core theme is inclusivity: digital campaigning, use shorter URL's, a catchy email address, memorable campaign @ tag & hashtags that resonate with the communality – where 90% of the town gets their information from.

I have joined in some of the online forums and I can see a disconnect of relatability to people from the town. The very first task must be to go into the community and ask them what core-messages will resonate – that will they pay attention to.

I can see through the familiar characters that you have many bases covered but still there is possibly some pickup opportunity on diversity across income and race – if this impression is wrong then that representing voice is yet to get out there.

Suggest that outside of the generic comms give one of the 1-3 causes to a voice that best represents one of the core groups – business, town-centre and wider residential community (the locals).

With clarity and direct messaging various communities they become trusted ambassadors known for championing this important cause with clear messages. And when they have their network engaged on the cause – they migrate this network to WTC (through trust garnered).

That's my thoughts – feel free to ignore them if I've overstepped – I will continue to promote within my circles and anytime there is a crunch time I'll at least add voice.

Response 5

The 'Have your say' leaflet is yet another example of appalling PR material that has emanated from RBWM for many years. It is not likely to yield enough responses from a broad and large enough sample of your target customers for you to make considered judgements.

I am qualified to advise you as such, because although now retired I have worked as a consultant for numerous organisations with similar problems. It is sad that you have a captive audience, an opportunity to address them personally, budget and time to do so, internal resources to collate and analyse the responses, a tame local media who will gladly publish the conclusions, but all that you have managed to create is a verbose item of paper that will be mostly thrown in bins shortly after receipt, apart from the tiny sector in the community that are already politicised enough to make their views known.

It reminds me of way back when as director designate of consumer affairs for a UK health authority, with a brief to create a viable public consultation exercise, I was privately told by the CEO: *"No, we only need to be seen to be consulting the public, but the last things we actually need is their interference. Just make sure that the material you send out has the effect of alienating them, but with silk"*.

Your choice of language in the 'Have your say', will almost certainly have that same effect.

HAVING SAID ALL THAT AND EVENTUALLY FINDING THE KEY QUESTIONS WITHIN YOUR LEAFLET, here is a view shared by many:-

1. Re. Para 5 How would local government...
Many Windsor people have a view that the aspirations and needs of Windsor's various multivarious communities (from Precarians in Sawyers Close, Dedworth to wealthy liberals in Bolton Crescent), are mixed and diverse enough to justify an entirely separate council SEPARATE from Maidenhead.

By all means, if most services are continued to be delivered by the so called Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, that's OK if it aids operational efficiency, BUT not if it means Windsor is to be penalised. After all, as one elderly old lady said to me the other day *'Windsor generates income. Maidenhead spends it'*.

Look at it another way:

'The Royal Borough of Windsor' sounds right.

BUT

'The Royal Borough of Maidenhead'

NO NO NO

There is little or nothing 'Royal' about Maidenhead, nor has there ever been!!

YES, CREATE A WINDSOR COUNCIL PLEASE.

Response 6

I'm not convinced an extra level of government is justified, as it could add considerable financial overheads and lead to duplication across levels.

Points to consider

Currently Windsor always appears to be the poor relation. Over the years we have seen Windsor residents, through their council tax, paying proportionally more for Maidenhead's schemes e.g.

- The Jubilee River which alleviated flooding in Maidenhead, but brought additional flooding further downstream, such as Datchet and Old Windsor.
- The rebuilding of Maidenhead Town Centre.

The option I should really like

Instead of a Borough Council, give each town its own Town Council, so that Windsor Town Council can serve the needs of the people in Windsor, and Maidenhead Town Council can serve the people in Maidenhead.

Response 7

On behalf of Slough Windsor & Maidenhead CAMRA, I would like to express support for the creation of a Windsor Town Council as set out in the draft recommendations of the RBWM.

We believe that the current arrangements for deciding pub planning issues including proposals for pub closures and re-development do not take sufficient notice of the views of Windsor residents. It is to be hoped that a Town Council would be able to give more informed views of such development matters and influence the RBWM Development Management Panel to the benefit of the Windsor community.

Response 8

I have read the leaflet about the community governance review & see that we are invited to have our say.

From the draft recommendations published I do not think we have sufficient information on which to take a view.

The only powers recommended for the new Town Council are responsibility for the delivery of Allotments.

In Windsor, management of allotments is mostly devolved to Windsor & Home Gardens Allotment Association anyway.

I cannot see that 21 elected representatives will be needed to carry out that responsibility.

Until we are made aware of all the other powers that the Town Council will be responsible for & the financial implications I cannot support the creation of a Windsor Town Council.

Response 9

I do think it is a good idea in having a Windsor Town Council.

Windsor residents have little to do with Maidenhead and probably have more to do with Slough than anywhere else as they visit the large shops are on the Bath Road such as B and Q.

Windsor Town Council existed for many years and therefore why cannot we go back to this arrangement – using the same coat of arms, meeting in the Guildhall and deciding our own business.

Response 10

I would like to register my approval of creating a Windsor Town Council.....it was a much fairer system we used to have...my father was an Alderman of Windsor Council ..when Windsor was a lovely well kept town not a subsidiary of Maidenhead...bring back Windsor to its residents..

Response 11

To vote accordingly, please!

Response 12

YES

Response 13

I would like to say YES and vote in favour of a Windsor Town Council.

Response 14

Re your postcard my husband and I wish to answer three “yeses”. We strongly support the creation of a Windsor Town Council and feel that this should have been done years ago. Yes we support the creation of a Windsor Town Council as an additional layer of government . Yes brings us into line with other parishes in RBWM and giving greater support locally. We feel that this long overdue and it is important that a local council should have control.

Response 15

1. YES
2. YES
3. YES

Response 16

We want one!

Response 17

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the RBWM Community Governance Review – Windsor Town Council – Stage 2 Public Consultation.

The matter was discussed at the Council meeting on 26th April 2021 and the Chairman and Clerk were tasked to provide a positive response to the consultation.

Please see below our response.

- ***Do you believe the creation of a Windsor Town Council as set out in our draft recommendations delivers effective and convenient local government for the residents of Windsor? Please explain why.***

Bray Parish Council believes that the creation of Windsor Town Council as set out in the draft recommendation would deliver effective and convenient local government for the residents of Windsor. Parish Councils have a social importance to residents, especially those who are unable to access the increasingly website driven processes of Local Authorities and it is for this primary reason that we believe a Windsor Town Council will provide more effective and convenient governance. The opportunity to elect local representatives with the Powers to deliver services relating to local matters we believe is vital.

- ***Do you support the creation of a Windsor Town Council under the electoral arrangements set out in our draft recommendations? If not, what alternative electoral arrangements would you suggest?***

The proposed electoral arrangements appear to be suitable and reflect the comments made by those responding to previous consultations as well as taking into consideration the requirements of existing polling districts.

- ***Do you support the creation of a Windsor Town Council as an additional layer of local government or do you believe the existing governance arrangements and representation for residents is sufficient? Please provide reasons to substantiate your view.***

From the consultation (3.1) it is clear that RBWM believes that parish councils play an important role in terms of community empowerment at a local level and Bray Parish Council is pleased that RBWM is committed to providing the opportunity for Windsor communities to be empowered through the setting up of a Windsor Town Council. The Local Government Boundary Review in 2018/19 saw a large reduction in the number of Borough Councillors and since then it is the experience of this Parish Council, that residents have not had the access they would hope to have from their elected representatives and have consequently turned more frequently than previously to the Parish Council for help and advice, we therefore believe that the existing governance arrangements and representation for residents is insufficient. As other areas of the Borough have access to Parish Councillors and Councils it appears to be sensible and fair to provide this option for the proposed areas of Windsor.

Response 18

I am in favour of the local council for Windsor. For far too long the Conservatives have run the Royal Borough as Maidenhead and the Royal Borough it is time for residents of WINDSOR to have their say and the mafia of Maidenhead were made to listen to the residents as many are normally Conservative voters. The way we are being treated i.e. through residents parking schemes, that have been in place for many years and run very successfully by the residents being totally disrespected and ridiculous restrictions initially proposed in our local streets, and a 60 mask placed or proposed to be erected in our residents area shows the contempt that we as Windsor residents are being taken for granted.