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| Please note date and time of special meeting |
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Dear Members

Special Resources Scrutiny Committee

A special meeting of the Resources Scrutiny Committee will be held in the **Walton Room, Civic Suite, Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Thursday 27 September 2018 at 4.30pm** to deal with the business as set out on the agenda.

Please note that this meeting will be recorded.

Members are reminded that contact officers are shown at the top of each report and members are welcome to raise questions etc in advance of the meeting with the appropriate officer.

A.R. Well

Head of Law and Administration

**SPECIAL RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -
27 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Chairman Councillor E G R Jones

A G E N D A

1 Apologies

Page Nos

2 Officers' Reports

ITEM NO 2(a) **Community Governance Review:
Parish of Swynnerton**

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HEAD OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION

Membership

Chairman Councillor E G R Jones

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| I E Davies | J Hood |
| M G Dodson | R A James |
| R J Draper | E G R Jones |
| A T A Godfrey | A J Perkins |
| A S Harp | P Roycroft |

Cabinet Members:-

Councillor K S Williamson - Resources

Councillor F A Finlay - Environment and Health

Councillor R M Smith - Leisure

ITEM NO 2(a)**ITEM NO 2(a)**

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Report of: | Head of Law and Administration |
| Contact Officer: | Jim Dean |
| Telephone No: | 01785 619209 |
| Ward Interest: | Swynnerton and Oulton |
| Report Track: | Special Resources 27/09/18 (Only) |

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**27 SEPTEMBER 2018****Community Governance Review: Parish of Swynnerton****1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present to the Committee the results of the public consultation to enable it to consider and recommend any changes to community governance arrangements in the Parish of Swynnerton.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members consider whether any changes should be made to the community governance arrangements for Swynnerton Parish and make recommendations accordingly;
- 2.2 That any recommendations be subject to further consultation as outlined in this report.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 Following the receipt of a valid petition, the Council on 24 July 2018 resolved to carry out a Community Governance Review of Swynnerton Parish and tasked the Resources Scrutiny Committee to carry out said review.
- 3.2 The terms of reference of the review are:
- “To review the community governance arrangements for the Parish of Swynnerton including:-
- (a) The possibility of dividing the Parish into more than one parish;
 - (b) The boundaries of the Parish and any recommended new or altered parishes;

- (c) The electoral arrangements for the Parish and any recommended new or altered parishes;
- (d) The name of the Parish and any recommended new or altered parishes.

With particular reference to considering the creation of a new parish for that part of the Parish comprising Yarnfield and to make recommendations to Stafford Borough Council accordingly.”

- 3.3 The Council has consulted local government electors and interested parties in Swynnerton Parish, seeking their views on what, if any, changes should be made to the current arrangements. The results of the consultation are appended to this report.
- 3.4 Any recommendations must cover the issues outlined in paragraph 5.7 of this report.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 To improve the quality of life of local people by providing a safe, clean, attractive place to live and work and encouraging people to be engaged in developing strong communities to promote health and wellbeing.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 The power to review community governance arrangements in its area was devolved to Stafford Borough Council by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (“the Act”). Community governance arrangements are all matters relating to the administrative parishes in the area including which areas should be parished, the boundaries of the parishes, the names of the parishes, which areas should have a parish council and the electoral arrangements for the council.
- 5.2 The Act requires the Council to conduct a review of an area if it receives a valid petition signed by the required number of local government electors in the review area. The Council received a valid petition, in respect of Swynnerton Parish, which called for the creation of a separate parish council for Yarnfield (which is currently a warded area within Swynnerton Parish).
- 5.3 In conducting the review, the Council will need to consider all matters of community governance within the parish to ensure that they are reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area, and are effective and convenient.

Consultation Responses

- 5.4 The Council received 495 consultation responses. All responses were checked and 46 were found to be invalid and were not included.

Of those valid responses, 357 were in favour, 80 not in favour of creating a new parish for the Yarnfield Ward of Swynnerton parish.

- 5.5 Responses on a ward by ward basis are set out below:

| | Response | In favour | Not in favour |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Swynnerton | 46 | 29 | 17 |
| Tittensor | 39 | 27 | 12 |
| Trentham | 44 | 14 | 30 |
| Yarnfield | 308 | 287 | 21 |
| Total | 437 | 357 | 80 |

- 5.6 A copy of the questionnaire is attached as **APPENDIX 1**, with responses attached at **APPENDIX 2**. Of those who thought that Swynnerton Parish should be divided, the majority considered that it should be divided into one parish consisting of Yarnfield and one parish consisting of the remaining area of Swynnerton Parish.

Of those who thought Swynnerton Parish should not be divided, reasons given included views that the cost of doing so would exceed any benefit and that the current arrangements worked well and there was no need to change.

- 5.7 While the Council must take into account any representations received in connection with the review, it is for the Council to decide what arrangements should be made. However, recommendations must cover the following points:
- (a) whether a new parish or any new parishes should be constituted
 - (b) whether an existing parish should be abolished or its area altered;
 - (c) the name of any new parish and whether the name of an existing parish should be changed;
 - (d) whether or not any new parish should have a parish council
 - (e) the electoral arrangements for any new or altered parish council

- 5.8 It is intended that any recommendations made by the committee at this meeting will be circulated to all those initially consulted. The proposals will also be included on the Councils website. Any further responses received will then be brought before the committee in order that final recommendations can be made to Full Council.

- 5.9 If the Committee conclude that there should be no change to the existing Parish of Swynnerton, then it should still consider the other matters set out in paragraph 5.7 (c) and (e) as they apply to the Parish of Swynnerton.

- 5.10 If the Committee conclude that there should be a separate parish covering the area of Yarnfield ward of Swynnerton Parish, as requested by the petition, it should consider the matters set out in paragraph 5.7 as appropriate to both the new parish and the remaining part of the parish of Swynnerton.
- 5.11 If the recommendation is to create a new parish of the Yarnfield Ward of Swynnerton Parish this can be achieved in two ways:-
- (1) Either the existing parish of Swynnerton can be abolished and two new parishes be created, or
 - (2) the boundaries of the existing parish of Swynnerton can be altered to exclude the Yarnfield Ward and one new parish can be created comprising that ward.

The recommendation is to take the second option as this is administratively simpler and allows the current parish to continue in existence with the benefit of continuity.

5.12 Size of Councils

There are no specific guidelines for what constitutes the correct level of representation. For Members information, based on current parishes within the Borough, the ratio of Councillors to electors varies, see examples below:

| Electors | No of Councillors |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 246 | 7 |
| 535 | 5 |
| 1504 | 5 |
| 1544 | 10 |
| 1604 | 8 |
| 2596 | 9 |

5.13 Warding of Parish Council

Current Arrangements

Swynnerton Parish is made up of the following four parish wards:-

| Wards of Swynnerton Parish | Electorate (as of 2 July 2018) | Number of Parish Councillors |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Swynnerton (SWA) | 588 | 3 |
| Tittensor (SWB) | 848 | 3 |
| Trentham (SWC) | 1160 | 3 |
| Yarnfield (SWD) | 1578 | 4 |

If a new parish council is created for Yarnfield ward the Committee need to consider if the new parish should be warded and if the remaining Swynnerton parish continues with their existing wards. The Swynnerton parish is currently warded and represents distinct communities within the parish.

To aid consideration the example of a small parish which is warded would be Barlaston with 2186 electors with 3 parish wards. An example of a large parish that is not warded would be Doxey with an electorate of 2596 represented by 9 councillors. The only consideration the committee should consider is whether the parish is made up of distinct Communities which would benefit from being represented by their own ward councillors.

If the Committee decided to ward either of the new parishes they will need to decide how many councillors there should be for each ward. The Committee should take into consideration electoral equality.

If the Committee decide to retain the existing Swynnerton parish on the current boundaries it will need to decide the electoral arrangements. The consideration should include whether the current warding arrangements are appropriate and if the current wards are retained how many councillors should represent each ward. In making this decision the committee should consider electoral equality.

| | |
|---|---|
| 6 Implications | |
| 6.1 Financial | <p>The cost of conducting the review falls on the Council. Resources of £5000 were allocated from existing reserves to cover administration costs.</p> <p>Any changes affecting election and other running costs of parish councils would need to be raised by precept.</p> |
| Legal | As set out in the report |
| Human Resources | Nil |
| Human Rights Act | Nil |
| Data Protection | |
| Risk Management | The review must be carried out within 12 months of commencement. Any changes to electoral arrangements should be made on time to be implemented at the 2019 parish elections. |
| 6.2 Community Impact Assessment Recommendations | <p>The Borough Council considers the effect of its actions on all sections of our community and has addressed all of the following Equality Strands in the production of this report, as appropriate:-</p> <p>Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.</p> |
| Previous Consideration - Council - 24 July 2018 - Minute No C18/18 | |
| Background Papers - File available in Democratic Services - Consultation Document APPENDIX 3 | |

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

PARISH OF SWYNNERTON

Question 1

Do you think Yarnfield should be a separate Parish from Swynnerton with its own Parish Council?

Question 2

If the review creates a new Parish for polling district SWD what should the new Parish be called?

Question 3

If the review creates a new Parish for polling district SWD how many Councillors should represent the following:-

| Parish/ Parish Wards | Number of Electors | Number |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Swynnerton Ward (SWA) | 588 | |
| Tittensor Ward (SWB) | 848 | |
| Trentham Ward (SWC) | 1160 | |
| Proposed New Parish (SWD) | 1578 | |

Question 4

If you do not agree with the proposal in the petition to create a new Parish for SWD would you:-

- a) Retain the current Swynnerton Parish

If no,

- b) Propose a different structure to the current Parish of Swynnerton as detailed below:-

How many Parishes?

Which areas would they cover?

Would each Parish have its own Parish Council?

How many councillors would you propose for each Parish Council?

Additional Comments:

In Favour:-

Not in Favour:-

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

PARISH OF SWYNNERTON

Question 1

Do you think Yarnfield should be a separate Parish from Swynnerton with its own Parish Council?

Yes: 357

No: 80

Question 2

If the review creates a new Parish for polling district SWD what should the new Parish be called?

| | |
|--|-----|
| Yarnfield Parish Council | 118 |
| Yarnfield | 97 |
| Yarnfield Parish | 38 |
| Parish of Yarnfield | 17 |
| Yarnfield Ward | 15 |
| Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council | 11 |
| Yarnfield and Cold Meece | 11 |
| Yarnfield SWD | 3 |
| Yarnfield Village Council | 1 |
| Yarnfield and District Parish Council | 1 |
| Yarnfield Council Ward | 1 |
| Yarnfield Village Parish | 1 |
| Yarnfield Ward SWD | 1 |
| Yarnfield and District | 1 |
| Yarnfield District | 1 |
| Yarnfield Council | 1 |
| Yarnfield Parish Ward | 1 |
| Yarnfield with Cold Meece | 1 |
| Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council | 1 |
| New Yarnfield | 1 |
| | |
| New Swynnerton | 1 |
| Swynnerton HS2 Parish Council | 1 |
| Swynnerton and Cold Meece Parish Council | 1 |
| Swynnerton Parish Council | 1 |
| Swynnerton Yarnfield | 1 |
| SWY | 1 |
| | |
| Cold Meece and Yarnfield Parish Council | 3 |
| End of the Line Disaster | 1 |
| No idea, does it matter? | 1 |
| YWD | 1 |

Question 3

If the review creates a new Parish for polling district SWD how many Councillors should represent the following:-

| Parish/Parish Ward | Number of Electors | Number of Cllrs | Response |
|---|--------------------|---|---|
| Swynnerton Ward (SWA) (currently 3) | 588 | 1 2 3 4 5 7 8 | 31 105 105 5 6 10 1 |
| Tittensor Ward (SWB) (currently 3) | 848 | 1 2 3 5 5 6 7 9 | 14 50 167 12 7 1 4 1 |
| Trentham Ward (SWC) (currently 3) | 1160 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 | 5 21 131 69 11 5 6 2 2 1 1 |
| Proposed New Parish (SWD) (currently 4) | 1578 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 15 | 4 10 25 97 49 26 88 3 7 1 1 1 1 |

Question 4

If you do not agree with the proposal in the petition to create a new Parish for SWD would you:-

a) Retain the current Swynnerton Parish

Yes - 115

No - 34

If no,

b) Propose a different structure to the current Parish of Swynnerton as detailed below:-

How many Parishes?

Average response 3

Which areas would they cover?

Same geographical areas specific reference made to Cold Meece and Hanchurch.

Would each Parish have its own Parish Council?

Yes

How many councillors would you propose for each Parish Council?

Average response 5

Additional Comments Received

Those in favour:-

The following comments were made and discussed at Yarnfield Forum on the 4th September, 2018 with regard to the setting up of a separate parish council. There was a unanimous vote in favour of separating from Swynnerton Parish Council.

- 1 The Forum pointed out that Yarnfield was considerably under-represented on Swynnerton Parish Council and has been for some time. Cold Meece has had no representation on Swynnerton Parish Council for several years and this would be an opportunity to ensure that Cold Meece residents would be represented.

- 2 Yarnfield is an expanding village with an additional 250 homes, the last of which are nearing completion. The VOSA site in Cold Meece has also been identified as suitable for residential development. This additional growth of the Yarnfield Ward and prospective further growth means that it now requires its own Parish Council that can dedicate itself to Yarnfield and Cold Meece issues.
- 3 The Forum feels that the area covered by the present Swynnerton Parish Council is too large for it to be administered effectively by one parish council. Also, the Parish consists of many distinct elements such as: rural areas with some hamlets; a large urban housing estate; a historic village; and Yarnfield, a hamlet that has developed into a modern dormitory settlement. Therefore, each ward has very different issues. It is clear that communities several miles away have little understanding of, or interest in, the needs and aspirations of the evolving community in the Yarnfield ward. A separate parish council for Yarnfield would be an opportunity to address issues in Ward SWD more effectively.
- 4 At present Swynnerton Parish Council has a large amount of business to cover at each meeting. If Yarnfield had its own Parish Council this would be mutually beneficial: Yarnfield could concentrate on Yarnfield and Cold Meece issues; while Swynnerton Parish would significantly reduce its workload.
- 5 Yarnfield Parish Council, it is felt, would be more accountable to the residents of Yarnfield. The Forum believes that the only way in which the voices of Yarnfield residents are to be heard, and residents fairly dealt with, is to separate from Swynnerton Parish Council. Sadly, it is felt that Swynnerton Parish Council is no longer relevant to the residents of Yarnfield.
- 6 The Forum considers that it is vital that Yarnfield has its own Parish Council that will listen to the voices of residents and respond to them in a way that makes them feel valued members of a community rather than outsiders. They also desire a Parish Council that will respond in a reasonable time-frame to improve the environment in which they live and do its best to foster a spirit of co-operation in their community.

Additional comments from the Chair of the Forum

~ During the past week I have learnt that Swynnerton Parish Council has cancelled the Parish Council meeting held in December, a meeting that should have been held in Yarnfield. As a result, there will be an eight month period in which there is not a parish council meeting held in Yarnfield. In reducing the accessibility of the Parish Council in effect the people of Yarnfield are being disenfranchised. Those without their own transport are particularly disadvantaged, as are two of the Yarnfield Ward councillors who suffer from disabilities.

~ Furthermore, I have read two drafts of a Swynnerton Parish Council Newsletter which has been now sent for publication. Unfortunately, the final

version is not yet in the public domain. However, if the final version is like the draft copies, this will be a very divisive document the tone and content of which are very inappropriate; firstly, because it has been used to attack Stone Railhead Crisis Group: a group that has dedicated itself to serving the interests of Yarnfield villagers, the Parish, and the wider community, on the highly contentious issue of HS2. The drafts also contain some very selective and factually inaccurate information that will slant the readers' perception of the work carried out by SRCG. The same criticisms can be made of a list of "achievements" of SPC in Yarnfield Ward while work carried out elsewhere in the parish is, to some extent, excluded.

- Good luck to the new Parish Council. My only worry is that Cold Meece could be forgotten within the new parish Council.
- Yarnfield is rapidly expanding and, being affected by Government projects in different ways to the other Wards in the Parish of Swynnerton, needs to be independent from them.
- Having attended several parish council meetings I was appalled at the lack of interest shown by councillors from the other wards when Yarnfield items were bring discussed. They were more interested in who'd got the sweets and what were they! This was confirmed when they failed to join us in the petition to parliament about HS2 but went their own way. Disgusting!!! Time we controlled our own future.
- Due to our increased population I wish to see the people of our current ward have greater control of matters that directly affect us by gaining Parish Council status.
- I feel that the current Swynnerton Parish Council is too large to sufficiently represent the village of Yarnfield & Cold Meece. The people of Yarnfield & Cold Meece need a Parish Council with a specific interest in the running and management of the village.
- Yarnfield is a self contained village with Village Green, Public House, Shop and Village Hall, Swynnerton is a large rural area whilst Trentham and Tittensor are essentially dormitory areas for Stoke on Trent, none of these wards have the all or any of the village characteristics of Yarnfield.

Yarnfield has 37.8% of the listed electorate but only 30.7% representation on the current PC, Swynnerton Ward has 23% representation with only 588 electors a gross imbalance.

Yarnfield is a rapidly growing village creating its own PC would enable it to enhance its own identity by allowing the development of Yarnfield specific activities such as growing the annual village fete and other cultural activities.

There are already several active community action groups in the village which would allow the development of cultural activities, these include the Yarnfield

Village Forum, The Village Hall Committee, Village Fete Committee and the Yarnfield based Stone Railhead Action Group.

Some evidence of the commitment of these organisations to Yarnfield is that the Forum pay for additional grass cutting to the village green over and above that provided by SBC, it is an objective to develop the Village Green further by improving the drainage to prevent flooding which occurs periodically.

Yarnfield having its own PC is essential to the improvement of its community spirit.

- The purpose of the Parish Council must be to represent the interests of the community it serves. In its current form Swynnerton Parish Council is unable to do this. The area covered by Swynnerton Parish Council incorporates four distinct and separate villages. These villages, and their communities, have little in common and as a result issues of concern to one community are not replicated in the others.

The population of Yarnfield has increased over the last few years due to the housing developments in the village. It would be well served by a new parish council whose remit would be to represent both Yarnfield and Cold Meece.

The same would also be true for the new Swynnerton Parish Council which would be able to focus its interests on the reduced area.

The creation of a new parish council for Yarnfield and Cold Meece would provide an opportunity for other voluntary groups within the village to align with the new parish council and the need for the Yarnfield Forum, which currently acts independently of the parish council, would be removed. This in turn would lead to greater cohesion between the various community groups and a shared purpose to enhance the interest of the village.

- Yarnfield needs to be represented more thoroughly on the lowest level of local government by people who know and understand the area - and the issues we face.
- I believe that the people of Yarnfield should represent themselves in their own Parish Council.
- Yarnfield has outgrown the existing parish boundaries. The formation of a Yarnfield parish will give residents a greater say in village affairs & encourage residents to attend meetings.
- We need our own parish council because Swynnerton are not supporting us. In any way with speeding, drainage, green maintenance. We are being let down by Swynnerton parish council.
- Yarnfield is a growing village; more than 300 new households have been added in recent years. 38% of parish population resides in Yarnfield which is not reflected in number of councillors, I would suggest 7 councillors for the

new parish council.

Yarnfield is big enough to manage own issues: we have pavements which are in disrepair, a flooding village green, and major issues with the plans for both HS2 and the proposed Stone Railhead which will impact on residents of Yarnfield. I would like to see proper representation for the people of Yarnfield and for the Parish Council meetings to be held in Yarnfield so that local people can attend without having to travel. I think by having our own Yarnfield Parish Council we can have a greater relationship with Cold Meece, perhaps even make plans to build a new footpath linking the two villages which is accessible all year round instead of a dirt path through a field at the discretion of Lord Stafford.

Having our own Yarnfield Parish Council will enable us to put more pressure on both the borough and county councils to rectify local issues.

- The present Swynnerton Parish Council covers a very wide geographical area and issues facing it are too diverse. The proposed Yarnfield Parish Council would be better placed to deal with local issues.

SWD accounts for 38% of the population of the existing Swynnerton Parish Council but has only 30% of the council members. This under representation could be addressed by creating a separate Parish Council for Yarnfield,

- This submission is being sent in on behalf of the Stone Railhead Crisis Group, following receipt of documents to our postal address at Yarnfield Village Hall. The SRCG has tried to work constructively with Swynnerton PC, but this has proven difficult. The SRCG has received some limited support from SPC, but unfortunately too many of the councillors think that the Stone Railhead/IMB-R proposals only affect Yarnfield, and therefore resent supporting the SRCG in its efforts to have the Railhead/IMB-R relocated to a more suitable location. Ironically the SRCG's work has also focussed on the devastating impacts that will result from the HS2 proposals on the road network at J15 of the M6 at Hanchurch in the Trentham Ward, and has also provided expert advice to the resident most affected by HS2's proposals on the A51 near Long Compton Farm within the Swynnerton Ward. The SRCG therefore believes that SPC should support all communities equally within its parish without fear or favour, but unfortunately the factions that have developed over the years has not made this possible. With HS2 going to be the largest and most significant development to affect Yarnfield and the neighbouring communities for the next decade or more, the SRCG has reluctantly concluded that the only way to ensure that the interests of local people are properly looked after is for the SWD ward to be represented by its own parish council and this is what we ask Stafford BC to grant.
- A separate Parish Council for Yarnfield and Cold Meece is essential to protect the interests of local people, especially in the light of the dire consequences that the HS2 project will have. The current Swynnerton PC has shown itself incapable of looking after the interests of all parishioners.

- We would like to be fairly represented, Yarnfield has the largest population. At present we feel that parish councillors are not taking into account the interests of the whole community on certain matters.
- Yarnfield is probably bigger these days than Swynnerton, due to the ongoing house building therefore I think it is time Yarnfield had it's own Parish council.
- I feel Yarnfield would get a better service from council members who reside in the village and have a better understanding of our issues and wishes.
- Because of the proposed HS2 project the residents of Yarnfield would like to shape their own destiny and input to any other projects which may affect us in the future.
- Our village as become very big and we have no help from Swynnerton Council. the green is always flooded, bus times are useless, speeding especially outside the school, we need our own councillors to look after our own fast growing village and that horrible HS2 which is going to destroy loads of land and cause massive problems getting in and out of our village, we need to look after ourselves.
- Yarnfield has become a very large parish village with ongoing speeding, flooding, and we are getting no support from Swynnerton council and we now want to look after our own village with our own parish councillors, the lack of support from Swynnerton councillors has been terrible, we need to support ourselves.
- Yarnfield has the most population growth within the parish and bears the most impacts of HS2. Its concerns are also taking up most of Swynnerton PC meetings. Yarnfield should therefore have its own Parish Council.
- As Yarnfield now the largest population of the current four wards, the time has come for Yarnfield to have its own parish council to represent and meet the needs of those living and working in Yarnfield and Cold Meece only.
- Yarnfield (including Cold Meece) is the largest population of the four wards and needs to be in control of its own destiny by forming a separate parish council.
- Since the shameful lack of support shown by the councillors of the existing Swynnerton Parish Council over the siting of a huge industrial complex just outside our village to build HS2, it is clear that they are out of touch with the needs of our village and we need our own representation!
- Swynnerton Parish Council are totally out of touch with the needs of our community, as demonstrated by their shameful lack of support to stop HS2 building a huge industrial complex on the outskirts of our village which was apparently nothing to do with them! We need our own council to try and minimize the horrendous affects!

- Disgraceful Yarnfield is so under represented; this will help readdress any imbalance.
- Yarnfield is sadly lacking in the most basic of amenities, hopefully having our own parish and councillors steps could be made to right this.
- Yarnfield has now developed to a size where it needs to control its own future especially with the onset of major issues like HS2 and the possible garden city
- Yarnfield is a big village and should have it's people representing it.
- Yarnfield is not currently being adequately represented by the current Swynnerton Parish council. It needs its own Parish Council to ensure the impact of the HS2 Railhead/ imb-r is mitigated.
- I am disappointed that the revised arrangements that gave Yarnfield greater representation within the current Swynnerton Council structure have been rejected within a decade. However, as Yarnfield is petitioning to become separate again, I believe that the parish business of both Swynnerton and Yarnfield might proceed more harmoniously if they separated.

Former Vice-Chair of Swynnerton Parish Council and past Councillor for Trentham Ward

- Yarnfield and Swynnerton have different priorities. With the plans for HS2 still under discussion one parish doesn't easily cover the interests of both.
- Living so far from Swynnerton I have little idea of what goes on and when. I only attend Swynnerton for voting matters.
- I have no strong views on possible parish changes, however it seems that Yarnfield village will be affected by the proposed HS2 (and permanent railhead) rail project, to a greater degree than the other villages presently incorporated into Swynnerton Parish. As a separate Parish, Yarnfield may be better to cope with the inevitable consultations/interactions with HS2 and local authorities as the construction approaches.
- As Yarnfield already dominates Parish Council discussions and is likely to get much better it seems best that it is allowed to run its own affairs. The remaining wards will be able to deal with matters relevant to their own needs.
- The increasing size of Yarnfield makes it obvious that it should be separate.
- With HS2 Swynnerton Village will be experiencing a great deal of change and upheaval over the coming years and must be appropriately and strongly

represented to avoid its inhabitants being adversely affected by this considerable change.

- Only change I would prefer is to hive off Yarnfield and let it become an independent parish. Growth of population will largely come to this area and additional Councillors may be considered pro rata to that increase.
- Yarnfield should have its own parish in order to deal effectively with issues arising from HS2. Trentham should have its own parish as Trentham Gardens is a major influence on local issues such as planning. Swynnerton/Tittensor should be combined to make a more efficient structure and give a combined voice on rural settlement issues.
- SWD area is very small but is totally different in character to the other 3 wards that it would make sense to separate. Councillor numbers would appear about right. To ensure new parish has adequate but not over representation.
- Allowing for the various and diverse interests of the electors in their representative wards and to improve the operational efficiency and cost effectiveness of their representatives, I believe the number of Councillors should be proportionally reduced.
- If they wish to leave then let them. We will survive without them!
- With the HS2 rail maintenance yard and an extra motorway link all around Yarnfield I feel they should have their own Councillors for their more specific needs.
- Yarnfield would operate very well with its own Parish Council. HS2 affects Yarnfield more than the others in the villages. A strong Parish would enable Yarnfield.
- Looks a good idea due to the number of electors in the Yarnfield area compared to the others.
- Yarnfield needs its own Council in view of the proposed building of the HS2 hub and needs to defend its parish against further building proposals.
- It is my view that a petition by residents of Yarnfield requesting a new parish indicates that there is a local consensus in favour of such.
- Yarnfield is a small village as you know, having our own village council I believe would create a better local community where elected people could

steer the issues and improvements for Yarnfield only and not the wider current model.

- About time, please make it happen.
- Yarnfield is developing out of proportion to the other Swynnerton parishes. It needs a greater say on its local affairs.
- I think in my view the increase of population the time has now come for Yarnfield to have its own Parish.
- As I live in Yarnfield for 15 years. It would be better to be able to contact our 'own Council' and not others. What happens in Yarnfield should be controlled by the Parish of Yarnfield, not Trentham, Tittensor etc.
- Yarnfield village has a rapidly expanding community and the time is right to form a new parish council to cover the Yarnfield parish ward.
- Yarnfield should at least be separated from Hanchurch, Tittensor and Trentham.
- Yarnfield needs its own parish to better reflect local feeling on issues such as the likely horrific impact of HS2.
- For Yarnfield/Swynnerton it should be weighted toward Yarnfield given the relative population sizes. 1 parish councillor for Swynnerton, 3 for Yarnfield, Tittensor/Trentham to have 2 Councillors each.
- Because Yarnfield is a big growing village. HS2 will cause huge problems for the village and we need our own parish council to deal with this situation.
- As Yarnfield has the largest number of electors it should have its own Parish Council and be adequately represented.
- Cold Meece and Yarnfield face huge upheaval that must be fought to be restricted. We do not want more housing and as we are stuck with HS2 we need to fight for minimal disruption. We are a rural community and wish to remain so. At present our parish councillors do not represent my view or I feel the majority view.
- Yarnfield has now become the largest electoral area so therefore should be allowed to have its own parish.

- Obviously Yarnfield should have its own parish and appropriate number of parish councillors due to the large number of electors. This number is increasing year on year.
- The Yarnfield Ward is long overdue.
- I agree to the introduction of a new parish to cover Yarnfield as we have the largest population and the development of HS2.
- We agree with the proposal to create a new parish – called Yarnfield Parish – to represent the electorate of Yarnfield.
- Yarnfield ward has grown considerably in the last few years. It has 50% of the voters yet has only 4 Councillors (30%). There are several issues affecting Yarnfield at the moment including traffic issues, state of the pavements, the Green and of course the proposed HS2 railhead. I would like to have the power to deal with these and other issues locally.
- We have ongoing problems with the increase in traffic, the very poor state of the pavements and the flooding on the green – all the coupled with the prospect of HS2 means we have to be responsible for our own destiny and not reliant on others.
- I have based the number of councillors under a separate parish for Yarnfield to represent the current number of electors in each ward – and the population of Yarnfield is still growing.
- Reasons for Yarnfield having a separate parish Council:
 - (1) Yarnfield has by far the greater electorate in comparison to Swynnerton, Tittensor and Trentham. The Yarnfield electorate should be proportionately represented to ensure due democratic process
 - (2) We do feel that Yarnfield loses out due to this under-representation and that, where there are conflicting interests, Yarnfield's 'voice' is weak and often over-ridden
 - (3) We have particularly felt this lack of support on HS2 issues. We do not feel that the current Council's approach to the impact which the Stone Railhead will have on Yarnfield and Yarnfield Lane has been sufficiently specific or strong.
- I feel Yarnfield deserves direct representation, its growing population and development has outgrown the service provided by Swynnerton Parish. Recent events have proven that the Swynnerton Parish is out of touch with

the feelings of the Yarnfield population and no longer offers a fair representation.

- My proposals are:-

| | |
|-----|-------|
| SWA | 1:290 |
| SWB | 1:280 |
| SWC | 1:290 |
| SWD | 1:260 |

This would give every indication of a fairer representation.

- I feel that as we are a large village, we need to be better represented in all issues affecting our environment, not just the impending railhead; which was not supported by some parish Councillors under the current format. Therefore, I fully recommend the proposal for Yarnfield Parish Council.
- As Yarnfield is by far the largest of the four wards and as a result should be far better represented given future proposals for development and certainly in the matter of the intended railhead. Under the current set up I don't feel that Yarnfield can be awarded the attention it will need to address these issues and fully support the proposal to form Yarnfield Parish Council.
- Having lived in Yarnfield for 24 years and seen how it has grown I now feel it is time for it to have its Parish Council – in order for it to represent itself, in all matters concerning the village.
- I feel as Yarnfield's population is growing rapidly it is time to review its situation regarding being part of Swynnerton Parish. I think now is the time for it to become a parish on its own right. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.
- We would like to be represented fairly based on the total of population – over certain items the present parish councillors have voted in their own interests and not in the interest of the whole community.
- This review has been triggered by the failure of Swynnerton Parish Council to support the Stone Railhead Crisis Group (SRCG) which has been battling, on behalf of the residents in the whole parish, with HS2 limited to secure a better solution for project HS2 in the locality and in North Staffs.

This failure was surprising because the adjacent Parish councils to Yarnfield, namely Chebsey and Stone Town, positively supported the SRCG in Parliament with the HS2 Select Committee.

HS2, as a project, will have a huge negative impact on Staffordshire, particularly in the Stone-Eccleshall-Trentham area, and bring no benefits. It should have caused the various PCs to unite in their determination - not to fight HS2 Ltd - but to work with HS2 Limited to find the best solution, as the SRCG has attempted to do.

Having observed the operation of the SPC by attending some of its meetings as a member of the public, I have noticed that some of the Councillors seem to take parochial views focused on their ward and, consequently fail to see the bigger picture. Understandably, the residents of Yarnfield ward of the SPC have triggered this governance review.

Based on the size of SPC through the figures of the electorate, Yarnfield ward is almost 40% of the total and in my view should have a separate voice - a separate parish council - some time ago.

Based on the correspondingly smaller PC of Swynnerton, Tittensor and Trentham Ward, I think the number of Councillors should be changed to 2, 3 and 4 respectively making 9 in total.

On that similar basis, a separate Yarnfield PC should have at least 6 parish councillors.

located on the Swynnerton/Tittensor border, where I have lived since 2001.

I also consider that anyone over 80 years should not be eligible for the role of parish councillor.

As the Chairperson of Yarnfield Forum I have attended a number of Parish Council meetings and have then reported back to the Forum, members of which are all Yarnfield residents. Residents have, for some considerable time, expressed their dissatisfaction and dismay at some of the decisions of Swynnerton Parish Council. This culminated in a recent unanimous vote in favour of establishing a separate Parish Council from Swynnerton. After the vote I was asked to approach Yarnfield Parish Councillors to request a Local Governance Review.

Comments with regard to question 3.

Using the guide of approximately 351 residents to one Parish Councillor. I have suggested the reduction from 3 to 2 Parish Councillors for Ward SWA. For many years now this ward has been over-represented on the Parish Council and it was a disappointment that at the last review, this anomaly was not corrected. With regard to the other wards SWB and SWC, I have rounded up representation to reflect the actual number of residents on the electoral role. This will also ensure that representation is future-proofed against rises in the electorship due to any additional house- building in the areas involved.

With regard to Yarnfield (Ward SWD) I have suggested six parish councillors for Yarnfield Parish Council. This would create the opportunity to offer Cold Meece representation on the new Parish Council, something residents of Cold Meece do not enjoy at the moment. Furthermore, having toured round the Yarnfield Park estate and seen how many houses are at present unoccupied or still in the process of being built, I think it worthwhile to include any additional residents that are likely to join the electoral role in the near future. Similarly I am aware that additional housing may be built on the old VOSPA Testing Station site and, possibly elsewhere at Cold Meece, and have taken these factors into consideration. Hence I hope that the level of representation suggested, will justify the suggestion of 6 councillors in the ward.

Importantly, Swynnerton will remain a large and viable parish without Yarnfield and therefore will not suffer if the Review allows Yarnfield to form its own Parish Council.

I believe that Yarnfield, Ward SWD, should become a separate parish for the following reasons:

Firstly, it is clear that at the moment Yarnfield with 1578 adults on the electoral roll is under- represented on Swynnerton Parish Council. With a growing population due to extensive home- building in Yarnfield, this situation will gradually worsen in the very near future. It seems to be patently unfair that a village with only 588 adults on the electoral role has three Councillors on the Parish Council, while a village with 1578 adults has only four. For some considerable time Yarnfield has been under-represented on this Parish Council.

Secondly, geographically Swynnerton Parish is fundamentally rural except for Yarnfield which is a large and growing village. Unfortunately, Councillors from other areas are only likely to visit the village at Parish Council meetings held in the village once every four months. Thus they are somewhat remote from the village and its issues. It is very clear that on occasions Parish Councillors lack the local knowledge that they need in making decisions about Yarnfield issues.

It is fair to say that at times much of the business at Parish Council meetings is directly related to Yarnfield; I have, on occasions, detected a certain resentment in some Parish Councillors at the domination of Yarnfield issues at some meetings.

Unfortunately, a number of issues which are important to local residents particularly issues involving traffic problems, the village green and its drainage, and more recently, the proposals of HS2 to build the line and a Railhead/IMB-R outside the village, have been met with apparent indifference by some Councillors. In addition, it seems to take an inordinate amount of time to try to resolve some of these issues: for example, the drainage of the village green, or the provision of interactive speed signs; while others seem to have been ignored.

Unfortunately, Councillors have not, in my opinion, grasped the significance of the HS2 proposals and the devastating effect these are likely to have on the local community of Yarnfield. Swynnerton Parish Council has failed to keep itself fully informed of developments on this issue, and has made decisions on behalf of Yarnfield villagers which, villagers feel, are not in their best interests. There is evidence that they lack the insight that would enable them to understand the impact these proposals are likely to have on the local community in general and on Yarnfield in particular. As a result, a number of villagers feel that Swynnerton Parish Council has no interest in Yarnfield.

Unfortunately this was demonstrated when one Parish Councillor from Ward SWA stated at the AGM that he did not represent the people of Yarnfield. While at another meeting Parish Councillors from the same ward argued that as the proposed HS2 line and its associated infrastructure was in Stone Rural Parish that this issue did not need to be a concern of Swynnerton Parish Council, regardless of the impact this would have on Yarnfield residents and other local residents. These comments reveal a very insular approach to the role of parish councillor and a parochial response to the wider issues involved.

After consideration of the above I feel that in the near future when the HS2 project gets underway Yarnfield will need representatives who are on the spot, have a clear insight into the issues involved, and negotiate with HS2 representatives on behalf of the village. Similarly when HS2 is completed there will be sufficient issues to justify a Parish Council that is on the spot and has its finger on the pulse of the community. This, is what Yarnfield Parish Council will be able to do and why it is so necessary.

Those not in favour:-

- I, as Chairman, make these comments on behalf of Swynnerton Parish Council.

Swynnerton Parish Council was a well-attended and fully manned Parish Council whose Councillors worked together amicably with few disagreements of note and acted as one Council. That all changed when HS2 decided to add the IMB-R (railhead) to the HS2 line between Stone and Yarnfield. Although some mile and a half from the main village and outside our Parish area, a few local people began a campaign to have it moved which counted two Yarnfield Councillors among its supporters. This became the Stone Railhead Crisis Group (SRCG).

When the time came to submit Petitions to the Select Committee, we were aware that as a Parish Council, we would only have one opportunity to Petition. If, therefore, we joined with Stone Town Council and Chebsey Parish Council, in a petition written by SRCG that dealt solely with the proposed railhead between Stone and Yarnfield, we would have lost any chance to seek mitigation against the effects of the HS2 railway line itself if their Petition failed. This line cuts diagonally across our Parish with cuttings, embankments and permanent road closures particularly around Swynnerton village. The railhead was already more than adequately covered and included a statement from us in their Petition that we would have joined with them but for the need to Petition in our own right for mitigation.

We were subsequently asked to join in their Petition against Additional Provisions which we again declined because it mostly dealt with minor technical changes outside our Parish area and our expertise. SRCG assumed that they would be given a second opportunity to air their alternative plan for the railhead amongst their other points and were advised by us that this was unlikely to happen.

Their first Petition was refused and the second was kept strictly to arguments against the additional provisions. Yarnfield followers were told that they lost because we did not support them. Since then, the anger and bile expressed by SRCG members, several Yarnfield Ward Councillors, and some Yarnfield residents knows no bounds. Since our AGM in May when I was elected to the Chair, that and every subsequent meeting has been disrupted by SRCG members displaying the most blatant disregard for Council standing orders even two of the Yarnfield Councillors who had only ratified them at the AGM in May.

We have considered the proposal that Yarnfield Ward should form its own Parish Council and Councillors have raised the following points.

- 1 Both Parishes would be diminished as a result of a split, and the financing of any large projects we have going forward across the whole parish would immediately have to be re-considered.

- 2 Some projects that are on-going such as the Neighbourhood Plan and the installation of flashing speed signs in all four wards could be suspended until next year's Elections.
- 3 Some existing Parish Councillors will have to stand down as they will be outside the three-mile limit if Yarnfield becomes a separate Parish Council.
- 4 There are concerns as to the reasons why this has arisen now. It has become apparent that many Yarnfield residents have been told of late that Swynnerton Parish Council has done little for Yarnfield and they are always the last to be considered. This is a deliberate lie spread to discredit Swynnerton Parish Council which our Minute Book will prove is untrue. It does however add to the fire caused by our response to the HS2 Petitions which were also deliberately misunderstood by Yarnfield Ward Councillors who told us that we were, in effect, traitors to their cause.
- 5 There is some apprehension that the true reason Yarnfield Ward Councillors want their own Parish Council is so that SRCG will have the ability to petition against HS2 in its own right. At least two existing Councillors are on the SRCG Committee – one is its Chairman. There is no doubt that several other SRCG members are already lined up for next year's elections. Some of our Councillors are concerned that there is insufficient reason to go it alone based on SRCG support, hence the disinformation being spread in Yarnfield (See 4. Above).
- 6 There is also concern that a Yarnfield Parish Council would concentrate its time and resources on fighting HS2 and the railhead to the detriment of other village concerns and, going forward, those involved would lose interest once the railhead issue is finally resolved.
- 7 Some Councillors have suggested that if Yarnfield does not get its own Parish Council, the existing Councillors for Yarnfield Ward will not resign, and will continue to be obstructive at our monthly meetings. This is no reason to give in to their behaviour which is close to a form of blackmail.
- 8 Until this whole debacle over HS2 Petitions began, we had a full complement of Councillors. One has already resigned, and it is feared that others will follow as it is very dispiriting when volunteers are continually facing hostile, disruptive and obstructive Councillors. This again, however, is no valid reason to grant them their wishes. It is more a problem for me as Chairman to control and this I will do.

On the whole Swynnerton Parish Council is ambivalent about Yarnfield forming its own PC. There are many considerations for either argument. However, on balance, the arguments in favour are either from Yarnfield/SRCG Councillors or based on a desire for a peaceful return to parish business that does not include monthly re-runs of appalling

behaviour. The arguments against are for the interests of Yarnfield residents being adequately represented beyond the final decision on the railhead, and for continuing the work Swynnerton Parish Council is achieving for all of its Wards.

It is felt that this is a fabricated and divisive campaign which seeks to frighten residents in Yarnfield, especially the elderly, who are told that Swynnerton Parish Council have let them down and as a result they will not be able to travel out of the village easily, emergency vehicles will not get through, and that they will live into the foreseeable future with constant noise, light pollution, and strangers in the village from the railhead site.

It would be a disservice to the people of Yarnfield to agree to this proposal. Perhaps now is not the time and they would be better served when Project Fear has subsided and HS2 and its railhead plans are clearer.

- I am unable to support this when such limited information was provided on what the impact might be. It is a shame that the council were unable to answer my question on whether there would be any additional financial and time cost pressures in creating another parish. If there isn't then I have no objections but if there is there are so many other ways that this could be managed to provide residents of Yarnfield more air time to discuss their issues such as holding a pre meeting just to discuss their area. I would also have concerns about the sustainability of the proposed model. I understand there are plenty of volunteers now but if you have more councillors are you confident that there are enough willing people to succeed them? Also would this have any impact on decision making at the borough council if the number of councillors for the area is changed?
- Thanks to Stone Newsletter, we learn of the real reason why Yarnfield Parish suggests separation. Insufficient to warrant this action.
- I believe that the current Swynnerton Parish should remain in situ for the following reasons:

The current number of Councillors within the Swynnerton Ward would have a greater impact on decision making with other organisations and government bodies other than just the few councillors that would be afforded to the new parish.

The finances of a standalone parish would be limited. Where would the income be generated from to provide a parish clerk, venues for meetings, publications?

At the moment the Stone Railhead and Crisis Group have concerns over the forthcoming HS2 project which actually falls within Stone Rural and not Yarnfield. Therefore I believe creating a new parish will be commandeered by this group and deviate from the parish council's primary function.

- No idea what the reason is for this. No one has made the positive case for this proposal? I'm at a loss.
- The call to create a separate Parish Council from Swynnerton came about after an emotionally charged Annual Meeting of the Parish of Swynnerton on 24th May of this year – in particular by two Yarnfield Ward Councillors, both members of the Stone Railhead Crisis Group (SRCG) – one being the Chairman of that Group. During the Meeting, the Parish Council was subjected to an outburst of hostile abuse from the SRCG and other members of the public suggesting that the (Swynnerton) Parish Council no longer represented the people of Yarnfield as they did not support the SRCG's Additional Provision Petition. This is simply not true – see High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill, House of Commons Select Committee, Petition No. HS2-P2A-000086: Swynnerton Parish Council). Further, it should be noted that in recent years, the (Swynnerton) Parish Council has spent most of its income on projects within the Yarnfield Ward – adoption of the Green (south side) with inherent responsibility for grass cutting and tree maintenance as well as maintenance of play equipment and insurance, additional cuts of the whole green on an ad hoc basis over the last 5 years, white gates for speed reduction at entrance to village, £500 annually to support the village hall, financial support to Best Kept Village, financial support to the Fete, £500 offered towards the cost of expert advice on green drainage, planned installation of posts for mobile flashing speed signs in due course and the supply of annual bulbs for planting.

It should also be noted that on that very morning of the 24th the Select Committee published its First Report in which it turned down the SRCG Petition to move the Railhead (IMB-R) from Stone to Aldersey's Rough – emotions were thus running high. (Note – the IMB-R is not within the Parish Boundary [but is within Stone Rural] and the Additional Provision had no direct effect on the Parish of Swynnerton and in particular the Ward of Yarnfield.) HS2 traverses the Ward of Swynnerton only and thus any comments suggesting that Yarnfield is perceived as the most effected Ward should be viewed in that context.

Although I am not against the creation of a new Parish per say, I believe that this is not the time to proceed, as any new Parish of Cold Meece and Yarnfield would in all probability be dominated by members of the SRCG who's only motivation is to continue its campaign to move the IMB-R. Once the issue of HS2 is over, I believe that these members would lose interest and not further the interests of the parishioners. Furthermore, should the breakup of Swynnerton Parish Council proceed, the financial impact on both new Parishes would outweigh the benefits to the community eg the cost of an additional Parish Clerk would be a loss of spending on projects within the Parish. I also believe that the breakup will have a detrimental effect on the ability to represent the Parish in a cohesive manner in dealings with outside bodies – SCC, SBC, HS2, EA et al.

In view of the emotive nature of the Petition, the Review should be delayed

and be re-visited in time to implement a new Parish (should one be so desired) by vote at the 2023 Parish Elections.

NB The SRCG has no standing as a directly affected body as defined in the (HS2) Petition criteria and has petitioned for moving the IMB-R via Chebsey Parish Council and Stone Town Council.

- Keep the current council structure but reduce SWA to 2, SWB and SWC stay at 3 and SWD to increase to 5 councillors. Increasing the number of Parishes does not increase their individual power or influence; I believe it actually decreases the overall influence within the district council.
- I prefer that the whole area works best when together, for the good of the separate villages.
- I am not sure there is any real benefit in creating separate parishes. Given the close proximity of the existing wards it would seem that we should all have the same goals and will face the same challenges whether they be from HS2 or other. Surely it is better to work together with a stronger voice.
- Not enough information provided to make a reason for or against changing the current Parish structure
- Changes for so few occupants' feels unnecessary and a waste of effort/cost.
- My view is the current structure could be retained with a proportional division of Councillors viz: Swynnerton 1, Tittensor 2 Trentham & Yarnfield 3. The aim would be to reduce costs and more closely reflect electorate numbers. Not sure of the reasoning behind the proposal to change the structure but accepting this is in response to a Petition my view is as submitted above.
- I am not in favour of dividing up into smaller parishes. However I think the number of councillors should be in proportion to the number of electors, that is reduce Swynnerton in favour on Yarnfield.
- We need to reduce bureaucracy, not increase it.
- Surely it would be better to include rather than exclude Yarnfield as this would be commercially and financially better for all parishes and the communities as a whole with cross fertigation and reducing overheads, keeping everyone in the loop.
- Why create another set of administrative entitles?
- At the moment Yarnfield represents approx. 50% of the Swynnerton Parish Council. If the proposed split were to happen I believe this would seriously affect the viability of the 3 remaining villages in the Parish. Yarnfields present contribution to the parish precept is vital in maintaining existing structures to all 4 villages. The split would see increased costs to parishioners on both

sides of the divide. As you are aware this proposal has already been turned down in the past, and I/we see no merit in bringing it up again.

- I believe that creating another additional parish will create a disproportionate amount of cost and administration. Every Council department will have an additional Member to deal with. I feel that the current dissatisfaction arises from 3 short term issues: the state of the green, the pavements and the HS2 petition. Once these are settled I see no justification for the split. All 4 villages will be the poorer for the loss of Yarnfield from the Parish. Reducing the parish sizes reduces the opportunity for grouping of costs for discounts and may leave the resulting parishes too small to have effective and meaningful budgets.
- What a waste of time and money. This review is money that could be better spent improving services to the community. Just because a few self important busy bodies think they can tell us what is best.
- The current arrangements have been used and accepted by all persons within the parishes for a good number of years, and I feel that it should remain so.
- I do not see any reason to create an extra parish. This will just generate more unnecessary paperwork.
- Such a change is unnecessary in the current economic climate. More integrated Parishes are required to streamline costs and provide a service to residents – not more!
- It will be a complete waste of time and money. What a stupid idea.
- No need to change.
- There should be no changes that would incur increased costs – either in setting up a new parish or ongoing costs post set up. If anything, the overall number of parish councillors should be reduced.
- This exercise is a waste of public money, money which should be spent on more deserving areas.
- A parish requires a church which Yarnfield does not have.
- No changes needed, except for more recognition for Cold Meece.
- If it not broken do not fix it.
- Do not see what benefits there would be in creating a separate parish for Yarnfield.
- I am perfectly happy as things are. Just a complete waste of money to me.

- Old adage – if it ain't broke don't fix it!

Other Comments:-

- Why was the reason why Yarnfield wanting to go it alone not included in the governance review?
- Swynnerton Parish Council will have more power as one larger parish council than as two smaller parish councils.
- It is somewhat ridiculous to be asked to vote on an issue when we are not given any information as to the nature of the original application!! It was only by chance I read about it in the Stone Gazette
- I feel the information given with the review was extremely light in fact - no mention of why the proposal was made
- I propose that there should be 1 Parish Councillor for approx. every 300 electors As Yarnfield is the largest ward then that is what the council should be called
- The existing Parish Councillors have ignored the wishes of residents of Yarnfield with regards to HS2 railhead.
- The present Swynnerton Parish Council is very large in terms of the geographical area it represents. People in Yarnfield, for example feel quite remote from those who live in the north of the parish, and their interests are different. In terms of population Yarnfield is the largest village and it is being under represented. The present council do not always support our interests.
- The existing SWD structure is now outdated. It was set up many years ago and no longer fairly represents the spread of electors across the area. I no longer have confidence that the balance of councillors results in a fair distribution of funding or the appropriate support for the majority of tax payers.
- 3 councillors for Yarnfield and 2 councillors for Cold Meece
- Yarnfield is large and still expanding and needs to deal with its own problems including HS2 and the proposed railhead.
- The current Swynnerton Parish Council has proved itself to be disinterested in the issues affecting Yarnfield. This means that the largest population in the parish is disenfranchised.
- I have included Cold Meece in the name of the new PC as they are our closest neighbours, unfortunately the vast majority of the electors in Yarnfield are relatively new to the Parish and probably do not feel any association with Cold Meece.

- Yarnfield is bigger and has expanded over recent years. It could extend into the MOD site too if the proposed new village ever gets built. The HS2 proposal near Yarnfield is not actually within the Parish boundary and will only cut across SWA ward.
- The current arrangement is too diverse an area, so different requirements in the Polling Districts mean that particular local areas of concern are not necessarily addressed e.g. The main road outside the army camp between Swynnerton and Eccleshall is straight and cars travel at very high speeds (motor bikes can be c. 100mph). Now Cold Meece has more houses with schoolchildren who need to walk along the road to catch their bus, a 30mph limit should be in place, even though no-one has been killed as yet. With the current arrangement it does not get near the top of the PC's list, because of the area they try to cover.
- Yarnfield is by far the biggest ward of the existing Swynnerton Parish Council but has been poorly served by the existing councillors, who care nothing for the people of our village. This was particularly evident by the abject failure to support recent attempts to stop the citing of a monstrous industrial complex to build HS2 on the edge of the village. This apparently had nothing to do with Swynnerton Parish Council!
- As by some way the largest ward we need our own Parish that better reflects sentiment in the village. Particularly so with the impending ruination of the local area HS2 and the HS2 Railhead Depot is likely to cause.
- As on the outer edges we see very little improvement by the parish
- Yarnfield is now the size to be able to make its own decisions regarding future development without having input from other non interested sources
- Frankly, I have doubts about Swynnerton PC being able to bring about effective solutions to residents concerns. They are essentially buck passers.
- I am confused as to why you could not address the letter to the people who live in the properties. You are aware of people on the electoral role however you do not want to address as individuals you are happy that we are just occupiers.
- I live in Clayton Village off Northwood Lane and have done for the last 30 years. In all that time I have only ever received the refuse collection from Stafford. All the other services, libraries, schools, GP surgeries have been provided by Newcastle and it seems to me that this is the area that should be removed from Stafford BC and incorporated into Newcastle. Yarnfield holds no interest to me what so ever.
- I would probably support a proposal to split the Parish of Swynnerton in two, by joining SWC and SWB together while SWA and SWD formed the other parish. There then would be two parish councils, the Tittensor and Trentham

parish as one separate parish council and the Swynnerton and Yarnfield parish as the other parish council. Both of the two new parish councils could have seven councillors each.

- Swynnerton, Yarnfield and Cold Meece are mostly on one side of the M6. The parish boundary should run north of Swynnerton to the A519/A51 junction. Facilities required for doctors surgeries, suggest Yarnfield village hall or Cold Meece VOSP site.
- Why does the electorate figure for Yarnfield include Cold Meece – this has always been part of Cotes Heath Parish. Splitting Swynnerton from Yarnfield leaves Yarnfield without a parish church as opposed to the rest of the parishes.
- Based on the electorate numbers it would seem that a logical Trentham Parish separate from Swynnerton, so that:

| | | |
|---------|---|----------|
| SWA+SWB | = | 1 parish |
| SWC | = | 1 parish |
| SWD | = | 1 parish |

- I think it should be considered to split SWC and let Trentham side be split from the Monkey Forest onwards up the east side be linked to a Stoke on Trent parish. The West side (Hanchurch) joined onto SWB or SWA. Joining it to SWA would even out the electorate numbers.
- This idea should only be implemented if cost would increase Councillors wages and reduce services provided.
- The present parish council for Swynnerton is unwieldy
- Tittensor should go and be divided between Swynnerton and Trentham. This would reduce costs and make sure that a parish as historical as Swynnerton does not lose its way.
- Individuals who are not biased or tainted by past policies. Physically and mentally able to take on board the demands of modern life, plan ahead and appreciate the bigger picture.
- General lack of help/fight from SBC to opposing the Railhead for HS2 in Yarnfield
- Hopefully this could aid with additional amenities within Yarnfield.
- Number of Councillors must be an odd number.
- I could not access the Survey Monkey to complete this on-line, it just said the survey must have been moved.

A lot of people in the village, if this has happened to them, do not have the facilities to copy the ballot paper, and will probably not be able to share their views.

- Council and Parish Council areas need to reflect the needs of communities; this cannot be done if the area of representation is too spread out, reflecting outdated boundaries and population numbers. Communities become disenfranchised and disengaged – and eventually disillusioned with the process.

As new comers to the area we have seen this happen in many areas. Communities need to be represented by local people who know and care about the local needs and issues.

- I think that the needs and issues that relate to Yarnfield are quite different to the other parts on this scattered parish. The Yarnfield area is likely to further increase in numbers in the next few years and that will increase the specific nature of things like traffic and public amenities. The siting of a large HS2 maintenance depot will create issues which will not impact on the rest of this existing parish.

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Community Governance Review

Parish of Swynnerton

Stafford Borough Council
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Community Governance Review

Community Governance Reviews are carried out by local authorities to determine changes to local governance arrangements, such as parish councils and town councils. A review can be initiated by the council itself or in response to a petition from residents or a residents' group. Such a review must take into account the wider context of local governance and the impact that any changes will make.

Stafford Borough Council has received a petition for a Community Governance Review asking that the following proposal be considered:

"Stafford Borough Council undertakes a community governance review for the formation of a separate parish council for the Yarnfield ward defined as polling district SWD area."

On 24 July 2018, the Council agreed to undertake a Community Governance Review and the Terms of Reference are:-

To review the community governance arrangements for the Parish of Swynnerton including:-

- The possibility of dividing the Parish into more than one parish.
- The boundaries of the Parish and any recommended new or altered parishes.
- The electoral arrangements for the Parish and any recommended new or altered parishes.
- The name of the Parish and any recommended new or altered parishes.

With particular reference to considering the creation of a new parish for that part of the Parish comprising Yarnfield and to make recommendations to Stafford Borough Council accordingly.

Current Arrangements

Swynnerton Parish is made up of the following four parish wards:-

| Wards of Swynnerton Parish | Electorate (as of 2 July 2018) | Number of Parish Councillors |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Swynnerton (SWA) | 588 | 3 |
| Tittensor (SWB) | 848 | 3 |
| Trentham (SWC) | 1160 | 3 |
| Yarnfield (SWD) | 1578 | 4 |

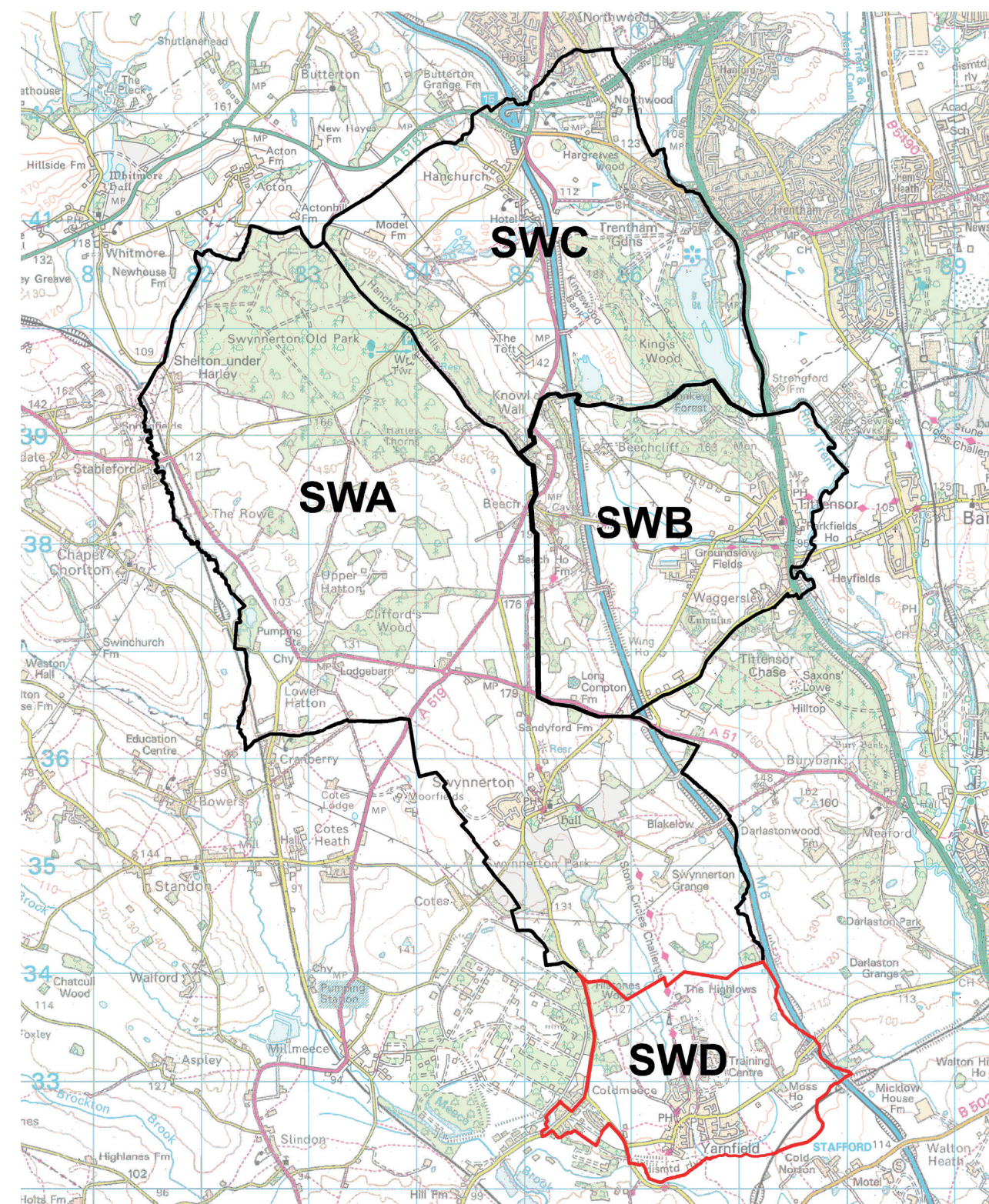
Petitions Proposed Arrangements

| Wards of Swynnerton Parish | Electorate (as of 2 July 2018) | Number of Parish Councillors |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Swynnerton (SWA) | 588 | To be determined |
| Tittensor (SWB) | 848 | To be determined |
| Trentham (SWC) | 1160 | To be determined |

| New Parish | Electorate (as of 2 July 2018) | Number of Parish Councillors |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Yarnfield (SWD) | 1578 | To be determined |

(The effect of the request from petitioners will be to establish a new parish as detailed on the attached plan. The review will consider any other proposals for the electoral arrangements for the parish of Swynnerton)

Map of Swynnerton Parish and Polling Districts



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The Review Process

The Council agreed on 24 July 2018 that a Community Governance Review would take place.

The review begins with a consultation period of six weeks. During this time local residents, Parish Councils, Parish and District Councillors, MP's, MEP's, local political parties and various organisations are invited to make comments and proposals (representations) that will be considered by the Resources Scrutiny Committee, who will then produce the Draft Recommendations on future electoral arrangements for Swynnerton Parish.

Submissions can be made online at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/cgrSwynnerton2018 or by completing the enclosed response form, to arrive by no later than **12noon on Monday 10 September 2018**.

Any submissions received after this date will not be taken into account.

Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, members of the public

will be able to access any representations made, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Following the close on the **10 September 2018** details of all representations received will be submitted to the Council's Resources Scrutiny Committee, who will then prepare the Draft Recommendations. It is important that all interested parties let us have their proposals and comments regarding parish council boundaries and electoral arrangements. Submissions stating that existing parish electoral arrangements are satisfactory and do not require any change, may also be submitted along with relevant supporting evidence.

The Council's Resources Scrutiny Committee will publish the Draft Recommendations and further proposals and comments can be made between **Monday 8 October 2018 to Monday 22 October 2018**.

Any further representations received will be considered by the Council's Resources Scrutiny Committee who will prepare the Final Recommendations which will be published prior to submission to the Council meeting on **Tuesday 20 November 2018**.

Timetable

| DATES | TIME SCALES / ACTIONS | EVENT |
|---|---|---|
| Tuesday 24 July 2018 | | Council agreed to commence with a Community Governance Review |
| Monday 30 July 2018 to Monday 10 September 2018 | 6 weeks | Public Consultation Commences |
| Thursday 27 September 2018 | Consideration of any proposals or comments | Special Resources Scrutiny Meeting |
| Monday 8 October 2018 to Monday 22 October 2018 | Public to make further representations | Public consultation on draft recommendations |
| Early November 2018 | Consideration of further representations | Resources Scrutiny Meeting |
| Early November 2018 | | Publish final recommendations |
| Tuesday 20 November 2018 | Approval of final recommendation | Council meeting |
| With effect from 1 April 2019 | | Order to create new Parish |
| Thursday 2 May 2019 | Implementation of any necessary changes in electoral arrangements | Parish elections |