

TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL CUNDING REVIEW (2012)

QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish Council: ASHLEY

Name of Clerk: Mrs SALLY McKEOWN

1. Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's (sic) in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils?

**Yes – but it also understands that in 1974 the about-to-be formed Kettering Borough Council agreed to its acquisition (at no cost) of all the capital assets of the smaller Councils and in return would pay a grant sufficient for the running costs of each Town and Parish Council in perpetuity. This, it is understood, was the commencement of grant funding in the Borough.**

2. Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does you council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is produced below for your council)

That:-

- i. the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;
- ii. the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;
- iii. that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored'
- iv. the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report;

**Yes, the Council understands that the above is the preferred option of the Executive Committee, but does not necessarily agree or accept this view.**

3. Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

**At the bi-monthly meeting of Ashley Parish Council on August 29<sup>th</sup> the following views were expressed by the Council:**

**That, whist it was understood that Kettering Borough Council was having its own funding reduced, it is not acceptable that all grant funding should cease completely; why could grant funding not continue at a rate commensurate with the Borough's own funding level.**

**The special status given to Kettering Town is not equitable and allows that electorate, at no extra cost, more and better facilities than rural parishes the residents of which are now being asked to pay more for no improvement in services/facilities. The decision**

**not to explore the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town in this review renders the review a 'non-consultation'. It is felt that, as Kettering Borough Council are being lauded for not raising Council Tax in a recession and are receiving compensatory payments as a result of this from Central Government, the abolition of grant funding is, in effect, a Council Tax rise by the back door – what amounts to a tax by the name of precept still remains a tax.**

4. If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

**a That during the recession, grant funding be continued at a reduced rate commensurate with the overall percentage decrease in income experienced by Kettering Borough Council.**

**Or**

**b There should be a reduction in Council Tax to rural residents to compensate for the precept.**

5. In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided please?
6. Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

**Not applicable**

7. Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

**Parish Councils cannot easily or morally persuade their own electorate of the rectitude of the additional cost of a precept in return for no extra services or facilities when it is clear that a much larger community in the Borough (Kettering Town), which is the recipient of far superior facilities faces no such additional cost, entirely at the discretion of the Borough Council. Ashley Parish Council has had to raise funds to improve village facilities through private grants and voluntary donations. It would be a 'double whammy' to have to pay an amount in addition to the Kettering Borough council tax for the privilege of receiving the same services and to have the same need to raise private money for improvements when others in the borough, in more sensitive electoral areas, are making no extra contribution.**

8. Any other comments?

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / Town Council - **BARTON SEAGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL**

Name of Clerk – **RICHARD REED**

Q1 Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)

Yes

No

Q2 Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?

that:-

- (i) *the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;*
- (ii) *the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;*
- (iii) *that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;*
- (iv) *the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.*

Yes

Q3 Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

**A good idea. It will hopefully make the electorate more aware of local issues.**

**Whilst most members are opposed to precept it is inevitable that this will be the outcome and as such steps toward replacing the value of the grant with precepting will need to be taken**

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q4 If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

Q5 In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?

**Unless all borough households are to be levied a precept for Parish/Town Council functions and the Borough demonstrated that it has lowered its own demand then this can be carried forward as demonstration to the populous that it is not a form of double taxation, however if the Borough cannot do this then this would be the inevitable conclusion of someone examining the figures they would be presented with.**

Q6 Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

**The Borough should assist with this also as it has an employed staff to help create and circulate documents to explain its change in the funding system as this has not been the route chosen by Councils, it is coming 'from above' and as grants are being dropped there would be no local funding without additional Local Precept for the Parish and Town Councils to carry out this work to an appropriate level without additional funding and possibly other resouces.**

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

**Q7** Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

**Ensuring that precept is purely a Parish Council issue, not Council Tax from KBC.**

**Most members ran for their seat opposed to Local Precept and thus they will be seen as going back on election promised which could well outweigh the perception of constructive community project and general relations with the populous**

**Q8** Any other comments?

**Excellent idea. It will eliminate any thought of unnecessary spending by a Parish Council and will require a tight budget unless extra precept raised.**

**Signed**

**Print Name** Richard Reed

**Date** 12 October 2012

**Email** richardreed01@btinternet.com

**Date of Council decision and reference** 11 October 2012

**Minute 12/118**

## TOWN &amp; PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

19 OCT 2012

Name of Parish / ~~Town Council~~ - Bampton Ash

Name of Clerk - Liz Evans (Mrs E Evans)

Q1 Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)

Yes

RB

Q2 Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?

that:-

- (i) the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;
- (ii) the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;
- (iii) that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;
- (iv) the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.

Yes

Q3 Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

It is the unanimous decision of the parish councillors that they wish the present grant system to be maintained.

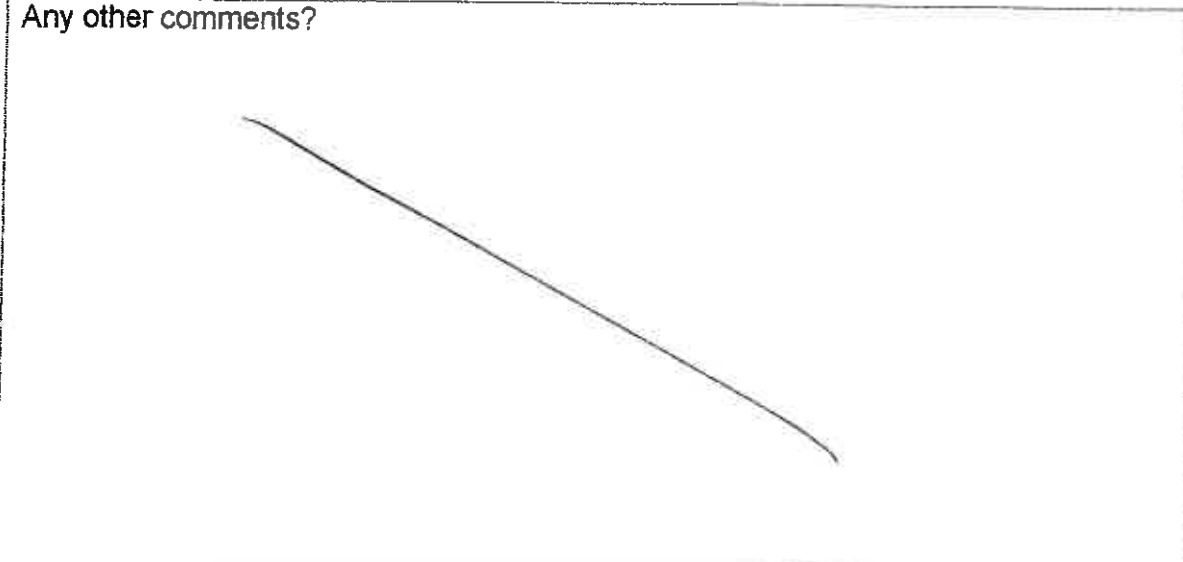
# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q4	If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?
	<p>The parish council wishes to see the current grant system maintained and increased in line with inflation.</p>
Q5	In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?
	<p>Clearly there would be an issue of double taxation given that parishioners would be paying an additional amount as a precept on top of their council tax. Parishioners would be disadvantaged by not being treated equally with others in Kettering town.</p>
Q6	Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?
	<p>n/a</p>
Q7	Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?
	<p>This parish council has no experience on which to base an informed comment on this question.</p>

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q8	Any other comments?  
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Signed *E Evans*

Print Name *E. EVANS, Clerk To BLAMPTON ASH PARISH COUNCIL*

Date *12 October 2012*

Email *blamptonashparishcouncil@hotmail.com*

Date of Council decision and reference *13 September 2012*  
*Minute no 7.2*



## TOWN &amp; PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / Town Council - BRAYBROOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Name of Clerk - R. WARNE

Q1	<p>Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes         <input type="radio"/> No       </p>
Q2	<p>Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?</p> <p>that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;</li> <li>(ii) the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;</li> <li>(iii) that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;</li> <li>(iv) the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.</li> </ul>
Q3	<p>Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.</p> <p>The Parish Council would like grant system to remain, however, small it becomes. Precepting should be for individual projects</p>

## TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

### QUESTIONNAIRE

Q4 If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

1. Continuation of grant
2. Abolition of grants with equitable treatment of all areas of Borough.

Q5 In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?

Q6 Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

Q7 Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

Feel involuntary precepting will undermine village community spirit (Big Society)

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q8 Any other comments?

Signed

R. Warne

Print Name

R. WARNE

Date

18/9/12

Email

CLARK & BRAY BROOKER CLERK CO. LTD

Date of Council decision and reference

18/9/12

Ref 38.5

## Broughton Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Council:  
GA Duthie

13 Aldwincle Road  
Lowick  
KETTERING  
NN14 3BL

Mark Dickenson  
Acting Head of Finance  
Kettering Borough Council  
Bowling Green Road  
KETTERING NN15 7QX

11 October 2012

Dear Mr Dickenson

### Town and Parish Council Funding Review - 2012

I refer to your letter of 17 August last and would confirm that this Council has now formulated its response to this consultation. Using the question numbers from the Questionnaire pro-forma, the Parish Council's replies are as follows:

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. The parish Council is NOT in agreement with KBC's Executive Committee's preferred option as it is double taxation for the rural area.
4. Continuation of the status quo.
5. Council Tax pays for the services given to both Town and Rural dwellers. From this Council Tax the Grant system contributes towards the running costs of Parish Councils with the extra amount needed to run the PCs being met by raising a precept, paid for by those living outside the Town. The Town not being 'parished' does not pay additionally. If the grant system is removed parishioners will have to pay even more by way of a precept to cover these costs.
6. Yes
7. N/A
8. Nothing has changed following the previous consultations on this issue. KBC should provide its reasons for the change to enable parishioners to understand the benefits to them of changing the system, unless it is just to save £80,000 at the expense of rural dwellers. The Grant system has worked well for many years. The proposed changes will be difficult to explain to those parishioners who we represent. More than any other tier of local government, Parish Councils effectively operate as a voluntary service where people give freely of their time and effort and this represents great value.

Yours sincerely

  
Clerk to the Parish Council

## TOWN &amp; PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / Town Council - *Buxton Latimer*Name of Clerk - *George Sheldon*

Q1 Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)

Yes

No

Q2 Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?

that:-

- (i) the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;
- (ii) the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;
- (iii) that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;
- (iv) the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.

YES

Q3 Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

*If the reason for withdrawing grant to local Councils is to help KBC freeze its Council Tax, the consequence is to raise Council Tax in the parished areas. This would be unfair between Kettering town and the parished areas.*

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q4 If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

The current policy of reducing grant to local councils pro-rata to the grant to KCC from central government has a logic about it.

Q5 In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?

Some leisure facilities, such as the Civic Centre and Community Centre provided by voluntary effort or precepting in Burton Lathams would be provided by KCC out of borough-wide funding in Kettering.

Q6 Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

Yes.

Q7 Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

NA.

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q8 Any other comments?

No.

Signed



Print Name

George Smeddon

Date

23/10/12.

Email

george.smeddon@talktalk.net.

Date of Council decision and reference

02/10/12

Minute Ref: 10/12/07.6

## Mark Dickenson

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**From:** Cranfordcouncil@aol.com  
**Sent:** 12 October 2012 20:28  
**To:** Mark Dickenson  
**Subject:** funding.  
**Attachments:** cpc121001fund.wps

Mark, please find below (corrected from attachment) the response to the Town and Parish Funding document from Cranford Parish Council. This is a response to a circulation of the document to councillors and incorporates there statements. It will be confirmed in the minutes of the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 24th.

Peter Quincey,  
Parish Clerk, Cranford.

Town and Parish Council Funding 2013/14, and onwards.

DRAFT.

1. The Cranford Parish Council objects to the withdrawal of the annual grant to town and parish councils and also to the continuing reducing of the amount, as KBC clearly state that the grant is for the purposes of administration. If the administrative officers of KBC have not had there salaries reduced why should the burden of 'saving money' fall on the town and parish councils.
  2. The Parish Council also object to the decision by KBC not to consider a 'special expense' on the Kettering Town tax payers. Bearing in mind the facilities available to Kettering Town residents within the town and the ease of travelling to them (regular bus services), these residents have a distinct financial advantage over their rural counterparts.
  3. It also objects to the KBC decision not to parish Kettering Town. With most supermarkets within 2 miles of a Kettering Town resident, they have a distinct advantage over their rural counterparts, who generally will have to travel five times that distance with extra expense burden that entails.
  4. As most villages have lost their Post Offices and shops, there is an additional cost burden for rural residents in availing themselves of these facilities.
  5. To visit any medical services involves far greater travelling and expense than those in the town area.
  6. Changing the way Towns and Parishes are funded was not in the Conservative Party manifesto to my knowledge.
  7. As Town and Parish Councillors are volunteers and unpaid, perhaps they should be treated as such, Charity and Volunteer organisations.
-



# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / Town Council - CRANSLEY

Name of Clerk - HELEN M LACY

Q1 Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)

Yes

~~No~~

Q2 Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?

that:-

- (i) the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;
- (ii) the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;
- (iii) that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;
- (iv) the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.

YES

Q3 Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

The grant should be sufficient to cover all necessary expenses of the Parish Council and any precept should be for specific projects within the Parish.

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q4 If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

As Q3

Q5 In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?

No.

Q6 Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

No

Q7 Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

N/A.

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q8 Any other comments?

**Signed**

*Thelma M Lacy*

**Print Name**

*Thelma M Lacy*

**Date**

*18.09.2012*

**Email**

**Date of Council decision and reference**

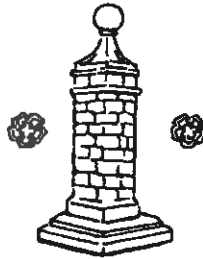
*13.09.2012*

*Ref. Minute No 12.76.7 date 13.09.2012*

# Desborough

Chairman Desborough Town Council:  
Cllr Allan Matthews

Telephone: 01536 760703  
Email: [ajmatthews666@btinternet.com](mailto:ajmatthews666@btinternet.com)



# Town Council

Clerk: Mrs Leigh Parkin  
47 Station Road  
Desborough, Kettering  
Northamptonshire  
NN14 2RS

Telephone: 01536 628816  
Email: [leigh.parkin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:leigh.parkin@yahoo.co.uk)

11<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Mr M Dickenson  
Acting Head of Finance  
Kettering Borough Council  
Municipal Offices  
Bowling Green Road  
Kettering NN15 7QX

Dear Mr Dickenson

## Re: Town & Parish Council Funding Review 2012

Desborough Town Council (DTC) has met to consider the Town & Parish Council Funding Review Information Pack sent to all Councillors.

DTC is aware that Kettering Borough Council (KBC) is one of the only Councils in the country that currently pays grants to Town & Parish Councils. The grant system was introduced in April 1974 following the re-organisation of Local Government. At this time Kettering District Council, in agreement with DTC, took over the management of all services and functions previously undertaken by Desborough Urban District Council. The records from this period clearly state that DTC was in favour of the levying of a General Rate income based on a standard of services effective throughout the District, on the assumption that grants would be made available to all Parish Councils. In January 1974 it was resolved by the Kettering District Council General Purposes Committee that the District Council reimburse each Parish Council their net annual expenditure up to a maximum of £2.00 per head of population. This commitment was not time limited or linked to the level of the core government grant.

DTC would prefer the existing arrangements, the payment of revenue grants to Town & Parish Councils, to continue. However, if KBC decide to cease revenue grants then DTC would expect that all assets transferred under the 1974 agreement be returned to DTC's ownership. The Town Council therefore requests a copy of the schedule of all assets transferred under the 1974 agreement.

In respect of the issue of double taxation DTC believes that this can be dealt with in a number of ways:

1. The grant system could continue in its current format to cover the running costs of the Town Council;
2. Kettering Town is parished and does not continue to receive direct funding via the Borough Council;
3. The current grant system is abolished with a reduction in council tax payable, equal to the precept payment needed to fund the DTC running costs, by the Council Tax payers in Desborough.

DTC would further request that KBC provide a detailed explanation to Desborough residents justifying why their annual Town Council precept payment will increase with no reduction in Council Tax or discernible increase in the services provided should these reforms be

implemented. This is exacerbated by the fact that other residents of the borough who live in unparished areas will experience no such increase under these reforms.

DTC is happy to work with Kettering Borough Council to provide a fair and equitable solution to this funding issue. Thank you for your consideration of the above issues and we look forward to your prompt response.

Yours sincerely

L Parkin

Mrs Leigh Parkin  
Clerk, on behalf of Desborough Town Council

## TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

### QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / Town Council - **Dingley**

Name of Clerk – John Strutt

#### Q1

Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)

Yes ~~No~~

#### Q2

Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?

that:-

- (i) the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;
- (ii) the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;
- (iii) that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;
- (iv) the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.

#### Q3

Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

**Dingley Parish Council (DPC) suggests the changes should be phased over a longer period to avoid a 'big bang' change, possibly over 3-5 years.**

**There appears to have been no review of Parish costs to look to reduce these, e.g. centralisation of Clerk services, consolidation of insurance requirements, etc. This, we believe, is a major oversight and a missed opportunity.**

Q4

If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

**The Borough Council pays for the 'fixed costs' associated with the running of a Parish Council such as Clerks salary, insurance premiums, audit services, etc. DPC also believes that these services should be provided by the Borough Council. This would leave the Parish Councils to raise only discretionary funds based on local needs and will avoid any accusation that the Council Tax Payers are being charged twice. The net cost for the whole Borough would be less.**

Q5

In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?

**Yes it is an issue, unless the Borough's proportion of the Council Tax is reduced.**

Q6

Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

**Yes.**

Q7

Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

**Management of a budget 18 months in advance of the spend, communication costs with Parishioners to ensure local support for the proposed budget.**

Q8

Any other comments?

**No.**

Signed Jolyon Ingham

Print Name Mr Jolyon Ingham

Date 8 Oct 12

Email Jolyon.ingham@talk21.com

## Mark Dickenson

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**From:** Sharon Goddard [sgoddard\_3454@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** 12 October 2012 20:18  
**To:** Mark Dickenson  
**Cc:** markrowley65@gmail.com  
**Subject:** [SPAM] Town and Parish Council funding

**Importance:** Low

Geddington Newton & Little Oakley object to the withdrawal of a Grant system on the grounds that it does not represent an equitable system between the town and rural areas.

This can only be explained by example: The problem with the proposed new system is that since the Borough Council are not considering making the town a Parish then residents gain all the benefits from the Council tax without any precept but in rural areas residents have to pay for those benefits.

In Geddington, for example, the Parish Council had to precept to help to fund the new Play Area in the Recreation Field, the installation of a new footpath to the Youth Club, as well as ongoing maintenance of the Recreation Field fence. If Kettering had installed new play equipment in say, the North Park area, then this would have been paid for and maintained by the Borough Council at no additional cost to the ratepayers. This would suggest that rural areas are being faced with double taxation for services that would be inclusive of Council tax in the town.

Please could you pass on these comments to the Committee concerned.

Regards

Sharon Baker  
Parish Clerk



# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / Town Council - GRAFTON UNDERWOOD

Name of Clerk - MARIAN SEXTON

Q1 Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)

Yes

Q2 Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?

that:-

- (i) the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;
- (ii) the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;
- (iii) that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;
- (iv) the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.

YES

Q3 Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

WE ARE AGAINST YOUR PREFERRED OPTION, TO PAY THE BASIC COSTS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, AROUND £18 PER ANNUM WOULD NEED TO BE ADDED AS PRECEPT TO THE COUNCIL TAX. THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE VOTED ON BY VILLAGERS. THERE IS A RISK THAT THERE MAY BE A MAJORITY AGAINST. THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD CEASE.

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q4	<p>If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?</p> <p>CONTINUE AS PRESENT.</p>
Q5	<p>In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?</p> <p>TO USE BOROUGH COUNCIL FACILITIES, VILLAGERS MUST TRAVEL OUT TO USE THEM. THIS REQUIRES PRIVATE TRAVEL COSTS. HOWEVER WE PAY THE SAME COUNCIL TAX AS TOWN DWELLERS. WE CONSIDER THIS DOUBLE OR EXTRA TAXATION.</p>
Q6	<p>Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?</p> <p>NOT RELEVANT</p>
Q7	<p>Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?</p> <p>NONE IF ADDED TO COUNCIL TAX.</p>

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q8 Any other comments?

- 1 MANY BOROUGH COUNCILS CHARGE LESS COUNCIL TAX TO RURAL DWELLERS THAN TO TOWN DWELLERS. THIS IS AS EQUAL A SUBSIDY AS PAYING A GRANT.
- 2 WE ONLY SPEAK AS A SMALL VILLAGE. SOME OTHERS HAVE SIMILAR VIEWS TO US.
- 3 AS KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL IS CONSERVATIVE CONTROLLED. AS THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED A LOCALISM BILL, IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW YOUR OPTION CONFORMS WITH THIS. TAKING THIS ACTION MAY RESULT IN THE DEMISE OF SOME SMALL P.C.'S.

Signed Marian K Sexton

Print Name MARIAN SEXTON

Date 13 September 2012

Email keith.marian.sexton@btinternet.com

Date of Council decision and reference

13 September 2012

2012 - Sept 03 (ii)

## TOWN &amp; PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / Town-Council - Harrington

Name of Clerk - Mrs. Betty West

Q1 Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)

Yes

No

Q2 Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?

that:-

- (i) the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;
- (ii) the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;
- (iii) that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;
- (iv) the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.

Yes

Q3 Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

We are a tiny village + wish to continue with a grant rather than a precept. At present the grant is sufficient for our outgoings. If we had allotments, street lighting or any amenity we might need more; but we would like to continue as we are.

## TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

### QUESTIONNAIRE

Q4 If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

Stay as we are

Q5 In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?

Q6 Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

N.A.

Q7 Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

It is far simpler to stay as we are.

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q8 Any other comments?

Just because there are very few councils that operate a grant system does not mean that it is a bad system - perhaps they should use the grant method for their small villages too.

Signed



Print Name BETTY WEST

Date 4th September 2012

Email harringtonpcclerk@aol.com

Date of Council decision and reference

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / Town Council - Loddington Parish Council

Name of Clerk - Jo Moore

Q1 Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)

Yes

No

Q2 Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?

that:-

- (i) *the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;*
- (ii) *the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;*
- (iii) *that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;*
- (iv) *the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.*

A Yes the Council does understand.

Q3 Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

A As a Council we strongly oppose the preferred option. We believe KBC is planning to reduce its costs and transfer them to the households of Towns and Parishes.

We are concerned that for Loddington Parish Council to have the same funds that we receive from the grant our villagers will have to pay more council tax. The total amount of grant given to Town and Parishes in 2012 was £88,490 which is equal to £2.83 on the council tax for every household in the borough. If Loddington had to raise the grant amount by precept it would cost every household £12.93. We realise that Kettering Town residents are in effect subsidising outlying towns and parishes, but we believe they are compensated by receiving far more from the KBC services and expenditure.

We also believe the nature of the role of the Parish Council and Clerk will change. The Council will become very accountable to the village which will increase workloads and costs.

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

**Q4** If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

**A** Our preferred arrangement would be to stay with the current grant system.

Our second favoured option would be where small Council's stay with the grant system, while larger Council's use a precept system. In 2009 this was offered as the Hybrid System.

**Q5** In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?

**A** We do not believe this is an issue. If a precept system is chosen we would want to see that our villagers are paying £2.83 less on their council tax bills (our current grant amount).

**Q6** Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

**A** N/A.

**Q7** Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

**A** An increased workload for the Clerk budgeting accurately for a precept. This would result in an increase in hours and therefore cost to the Council.

More work for the Council agreeing a consensus of the budget within the village.

This changes the nature of the job of a Councillor as the role moves from volunteering to being very accountable. The new responsibilities will create extra work and may discourage villagers from taking on the role.



# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q8 Any other comments?

**Signed**

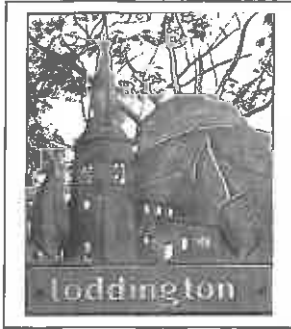


**Print Name:** Joanna Moore

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012

**Email:** clerk.loddington.pc@hotmail.co.uk

**Date of Council decision and reference:** 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Item 9.



## ***LODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL***

69 Harrington Road  
Loddington  
Kettering  
NN14 1JZ

T: 01536 710646

M: 07742 664604

clerk.loddington.pc@hotmail.co.uk

24<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Dear Mr Dickinson

### **Town and Parish Council Funding Review 2012**

Loddington Parish Council would like to reiterate its total opposition to the proposal on Town and Parish Funding which was submitted for consultation in August.

The issue here is that Kettering Borough Council is choosing to save itself £88,490 (today's values) at the expense of households in Towns and Parishes, who will face a significant increase in Council Tax from the resultant precept.

The grant is meant to cover the basic costs of operating the Parish Council and despite the recent cuts; Loddington's £2820 still makes a vital contribution. We have chosen to fund our projects through local fundraising rather than using a precept. We would need to levy a precept of £12.93 per Band D household to recover our present grant. We see this increase in local tax to be totally unacceptable.

We note from para 3.7 of your paper to the Executive on 18th July that you dismiss the introduction of a Special Expense on the basis that it "...would result in a real cash amount of Council Tax that residents pay...". You seem to have overlooked this outcome when suggesting that Towns and Parishes recover their grant sum from their own households.

Our discussions with other Towns and Parishes in the Borough have revealed none who is in accord with your proposal. We hope therefore that the Executive will take note of these objections and look to other ways of saving money from their budget.

Yours sincerely

**Jo Moore**  
**Clerk to Loddington Parish Council**

CC. Russell Roberts, Alison Wiley, Jonathan Bullock, Ian Jelley, Jim Hakewill

## TOWN &amp; PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

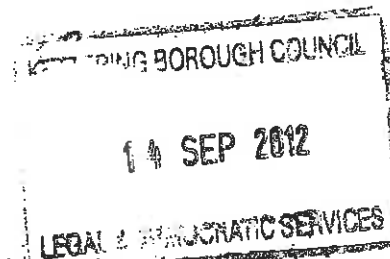
## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / Town Council -

itchley

Name of Clerk -

R. Warne



Q1 Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Councils in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)

Yes

No

Q2 Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?

that:-

- (i) the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;
- (ii) the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;
- (iii) that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;
- (iv) the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.

Do understand although do not agree.

Q3 Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

The Parish Council feels that the grant to cover the minimum expenses to run a Parish Council should be maintained

## TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

### QUESTIONNAIRE

Q4 If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

Borough Council should employ a group of full time Clerks to service the administration of the Parish Councils. Which would reduce the cost of running a Parish Council

Q5 In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?

This is still issue.

Pytchley precepted £1000.00 to purchase play equipment which would be provided in town.

Also paid 50% towards street light

Q6 Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

No - only raised Precept to provide a Hem of play equipment

Q7 Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

QUESTIONNAIRE

Q8 Any other comments?

This is double taxation, however, it is looked at.

Villages do not receive the same standard of provision or services - we have to fight tooth & nail to get anything done.

Signed

R Waine

Print Name

R WAINES

Date

3/9/12

Email

clerk@pythorleyclerk.co.uk

Date of Council decision and reference

3/9/12

Minute ref 44.3

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / Town Council - **ROTHWELL**

Name of Clerk - **CARDYN MACKAY**

Q1 Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)

Yes

No

**SEE COVERING LETTER AS TO 1974 AGREEMENT**

Q2 Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?

that:-

- (i) *the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;*
- (ii) *the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;*
- (iii) *that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;*
- (iv) *the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.*

**YES**

Q3 Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

**STRONGLY OBJECTS - SEE COVERING LETTER**

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

- Q4 If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

FROM APRIL 2013, THE GRANT TO ROTHWELL T.C. SHOULD BE THE SAME AS IN 2012-13 AND THEREAFTER RISE BY THE RATE OF INFLATION IN THE PRECEDING YEAR.

SEE COVERING LETTER

- Q5 In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?

ROTHWELL RESIDENTS WOULD PAY MORE IN COUNCIL TAX THAN THOSE IN KETTERING BUT RECEIVE FEWER SERVICES

- Q6 Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

NA

- Q7 Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

GENERAL OBJECTION FROM RESIDENTS TO PAYING SLIGHTLY HIGHER COUNCIL TAX THAN KETTERING, BUT RECEIVING LESS.

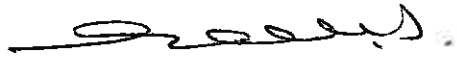
TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

QUESTIONNAIRE

Q8 Any other comments?

SEE COMMENTS LETTER

Signed



Print Name

CAROLYN MACKAY

Date

13-9-12

Email

robtwell.council@gmail.com

Date of Council decision and reference

11-9-12

FINANCIAL REPORT



# ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

*Market House, Market Hill,  
Rothwell, Northamptonshire NN14 6BW*

Tel: (01536) 713252

Email: rothwell.council@gmail.com

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Clerk:

Mrs C E Mackay  
15 Desborough Road  
ROTHWELL  
Northamptonshire  
NN14 6JG

Tel: (01536) 711086

13th September 2012

Mark Dickinson  
Acting Head of Finance  
Kettering Borough Council  
Bowling Green Road  
Kettering  
NN15 7QX

Dear Mr Dickinson

## TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW 2012

Thank you for your letter of 17th August 2012, enclosing the Report on the Town and Parish Council Funding Review currently being carried out. This matter was considered by Rothwell Town Council at its Meeting held on 11th September 2012.

The first item in the Background paragraph in the Executive Report for the Meeting on 18th July 2012 refers to the fact that Kettering is one of the only Councils in the Country which continues to provide ongoing revenue support to Town and Parish Councils through annual grant payments, whereas other areas raise a precept. The first section of the Questionnaire also refers to this issue and asks whether each Council is aware of this fact. Rothwell Town Council has always been aware of this and it is an unfortunate omission that neither the Members of the Executive Committee nor apparently the Borough Officers are aware of the reason for this situation as follows.

When preparing for Re-organisation in 1974 there was agreement between the representatives of the Borough Council of Kettering about to be formed and all the then Urban District and Parish Councils in the area that the new Kettering Borough Council would acquire (at no cost) all the capital assets of the smaller Councils and in return Kettering would pay a grant sufficient for the running costs of each Town and Parish Council in perpetuity. Kettering cannot now unilaterally decide to opt out of the contract made nearly forty years ago and leave the Town and Parish Councils with nothing. Therefore if the Executive Committee decides to go ahead and cease providing revenue grants they will have to return ownership of all the capital assets, such as playing fields, cemeteries and other land and property received in 1974, to the Town and Parish Councils and pay rent for all of these. Perhaps we could have a copy of the schedule of these assets handed over in 1974.

Continued.....

Rothwell Town Council

13th September 2012

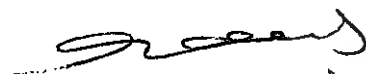
Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Executive Report state that there are no policy implications or use of resources consequences from a decision to cease the grants, but if the Borough Council was to renege on the 1974 agreement it is believed this would affect both the existing Borough policy in this respect and their use of resources in having to pay rent for land and property which the Borough now has free of charge.

Rothwell Town Council, with the other Parishes, has already taken the largest share of reduction in resources and therefore the Town Council has decided that the funding grant to Rothwell should remain the same from 1st April 2013 as it is for 2012-13, and thereafter to rise by the level of inflation for the preceding year. We are not able to continue to exist with any further cuts in the grant. If the Borough does need to find additional savings Rothwell Town Council suggests you could reduce the grants paid to Members, and also the salaries paid to all the Chief Officers, including the Chief Executive and his three Deputies, especially as none of the Officers understood the 1974 agreement or advised the Members of the Borough Executive Committee of this contract.

As to the issue of double taxation, the request made at the previous review was actually that no change should take place unless the Parishes in the town of Kettering were also given their own Councils and therefore no longer received direct support from the Borough Council. If this was not done Rothwell residents would feel that they would have to pay extra Council Tax but receive fewer resources than people living in Kettering.

It would be appreciated if copies of my letter could be circulated to all the Members of Kettering Borough Council as well as the A6 Towns Forum and the Rural Forum.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Mackay - Clerk  
Rothwell Town Council

cc: Cllr Alison Wiley, Portfolio Holder  
Cllr Russell Roberts, Leader  
Cllr Ian Jelley  
Cllr Alan Mills  
Cllr Margaret Talbot  
David Cook, Chief Executive  
Martin Hammond, Deputy Chief Executive  
Sue Lyons, Head of Democratic & Legal Services

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / Town Council - **RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

11 OCT 2012

Name of Clerk – **RICHARD REED**

**Q1** Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)

**Yes**

**No**

**Some Members are unaware of this situation.**

**Q2** Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?

*that:-*

- (i) the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;*
- (ii) the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;*
- (iii) that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;*
- (iv) the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.*

**Generally yes but (iii) requires clarification.**

**Q3** Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

**Personally I am not in favour of a precept.**

**It is wrong to deny Parish Councils the funding that is already being raised for our benefit from our residents. There would need to be a reduction in the Rates for villages and parishioners to balance any requirement to raise a levy. Our people are effectively being taxed twice if we are to raise a levy.**

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

**Q4** If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

**Continued grant scheme as this appears to work well.**

**You are already collecting the Rate from our people and we accept that the grant is being scaled down in line with the governments funding rules. There is no need to change anything with the current arrangements and you are simply plundering our grants.**

**Q5** In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?

**As no reduction in council tax will be given then this is evidently a form of "double taxation".**

**If there is to be a local precept to be divided between the households in the Parish, this will mean that they are paying more than the residents of Kettering but having a poorer service from KBC. That is what I would understand by double taxation.**

**Rural parishioners already pay a higher proportion of the taxation than the towns. Our Grant has always been a part of that taxation (Rate). Therefore if we have to raise a levy then we are paying twice. You will need to reduce Rural rates to make the position fair.**

**Q6** Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

**N/A**

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

**Q7** Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

**This would be highly unpopular amongst parishioners judging by local opinion and would result in certain higher taxation and the possibility of Parish Councils being disbanded.**

**Selling the concept to the residents.**

**More work for the Parish Council than the current system.**

**Our people are already paying more than Kettering residents but for a lesser service. To have to raise a levy would be wrong and an insult to our people.**

**Q8** Any other comments?

**The manner in which this matter has been brought to the Executive is almost fraudulent. The Rural Forum did not ask the Executive to discuss this matter as it was not an issue that needed debating. The current Grant arrangements should not be changed.**

**Signed**



**Print Name**

**Richard Reed**

**Date**

**9 May 2012**

**Email**

**richardreed01@btinternet.com**

**Date of Council decision and reference** Proposed by Cllr. Hooton and seconded by Cllr. Abraham via e-mail 08.10.12 (To be ratified at the next meeting).

**Kettering**

## Town & Parish Council Funding Review (2012) Questionnaire

Name of Parish: **Stoke Albany Parish Council**

Name of Clerk: **Mrs Leigh Parkin**

Q1	<p>Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town &amp; Parish Councils?</p> <p><b>Yes</b></p>
Q2	<p>Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your Council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?</p> <p>that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(i) The position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;</i></li> <li><i>(ii) The Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town &amp; Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of 2014/15 financial year;</i></li> <li><i>(iii) That the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;</i></li> <li><i>(iv) The consultation arrangements be agreed as outlines in section 4 of the report.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Stoke Albany Parish Council notes the Executive Committee's preferred option, however, Kettering Borough Council (KBC) is asked to provide the following information:</b></p> <p><b>A list of councils, of which KBC is aware, that do not parish or special expense their town centres;</b></p> <p><b>A copy of the 1974 agreement between KBC and Town/Parish Councils which gave rise to the existing grant arrangements and the conditions agreed at that time.</b></p>
Q3	<p>Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.</p> <p><b>Stoke Albany Parish Council disagrees with the Executive Committee's preferred option ((ii) above) and wishes to keep the status quo.</b></p>
Q4	<p>If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest?</p> <p><b>Stoke Albany Parish Council suggests that the current grant system broadly stays as it is but to narrow the bands of increase with a larger base figure.</b></p>
Q5	<p>In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?</p> <p><b>Stoke Albany Parish Council still believes that 'double taxation' is an issue. At present</b></p>

	<p><b>Council Tax is levied to incorporate the Town &amp; Parish funding. If precepts are to be the only form of Town &amp; Parish Council funding then the present Council Tax charge from KBC should be lowered to the Council Tax payers in the Parishes and Towns by the amount presently paid by way of a grant to each Council. In Stoke Albany's case this would be a reduction in Council Tax of £18.80 per household (£2820 / 150 – current year figures). This situation can only be overcome if Kettering Town is parished and a precept is levied on the residents of Kettering Town in line with all other Towns and Parishes within the Borough.</b></p>
Q6	<p><b>Of those Town &amp; Parish Councils that already raise a local precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?</b></p> <p><b>Stoke Albany Parish Council does not currently raise a local precept.</b></p>
Q7	<p><b>Of those Town &amp; Parish Councils that do not raise a local precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?</b></p> <p><b>See answer to Q5. Stoke Albany Parish Council has also raised concern that a number of Town &amp; Parish Councillors may 'stand down' if the Executive Committee unilaterally abolishes grant funding. Town &amp; Parish Councillors are volunteers who currently have a responsibility to residents within their parish to cost-effectively spend both the grant received from KBC on the running costs of the Council and any precept raised for developments identified within the Town/Village as agreed locally. Stoke Albany Parish Councillors cannot justify to their parishioners the introduction of a precept to cover the running costs of the Council when there is no discernible increase in services provided and this is clearly not the case for residents of the Borough that live in unparished areas. For example, residents in Kettering Town would not be required to make a precept payment as the Borough Council manage the affairs for the Town paid for by residents across the whole Borough through their Council Tax.</b></p>
Q8	<p><b>Any other comments?</b></p> <p><b>Stoke Albany Parish Council believes that, as with all Principal Authorities, KBC is either looking to reduce costs and/or raise more money. In order to ensure that KBC is seen not to increase Council Tax it has identified a reduction in costs through the abolition of Town &amp; Parish Council funding. Residents of the towns and parishes will then experience an increase in costs through a local precept to make up for this shortfall. This can only be fair and acceptable if the residents of unparished areas are also required to pay a precept/special expense for a proportionate amount of money. To achieve the above Kettering Town needs to be parished and deal with its own affairs and Kettering Borough Council needs to be reorganised to deal with Borough-wide affairs.</b></p> <p><b>Stoke Albany Parish Council is happy to work with KBC to provide a fair and equitable solution to this funding issue.</b></p>

Fao Mark Dickenson

14<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Town and Parish Funding Review

Dear Mark

I have read the document and believe it adds very little to earlier documents on the subject .

Firstly let me say that I am not against precepting in principle providing it is applied fairly across all council tax payers across the entire Kettering BC area. This is where I find the current proposals unacceptable , the decision not to apply a precept or a special expense to residents of Kettering town leaves the village residents in an unfair position compared with the town. The Government has announced that council tax will be frozen again next year but for residents of Sutton Bassett the real situation is that they will see their council tax increase by around £21.30 ( for an average D band property ) or put another way 1.6% increase on their council tax with no additional benefits related to this increase . This increase is even more stark when one considers it relates only to the Kettering BC element , in fact this give a figure of over 10% increase for no change in services .

I accept that at the present time KBC cannot increase its council tax level but I think this should apply to all residents and deplore KBC's decision to use a loop hole in the legislation , related to precepts in parish councils , by in practice saving £88,490 at the expense of village residents.

You ask in your questionnaire what other solution would Parish Councils propose , I will return to my original statement , I am not against precepting in principle , however I believe in the current climate it is unreasonable to implement the proposed fundamental change . I strongly urge the Council to delay the proposed change and to introduce when conditions permit a full review of funding to include either precepting the town or introducing a special expense as I understand other Borough Councils do in the area.

Yours sincerely

Bernard Rengger  
Chair to Sutton Bassett parish meeting



## TOWN &amp; PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / Town Council - WARKYTON

Name of Clerk - MALCOLM SEXTON

Q1 Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)

 Yes

 No

Q2 Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?

that:-

- (i) the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;
- (ii) the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;
- (iii) that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;
- (iv) the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.

YES

Q3 Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

RAISING A PRECEPT IN WARKYTON IS IMPRACTICAL DUE TO THE POPULATION, THE WORKING POPULATION BEING LOW. FOR WARKYTON AND SIMILAR SIZED COMMUNITIES THE EXISTING GRANT - ALBEIT REDUCED WOULD BE THE BEST OPTION

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q4 If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

/

Q5 In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?

/

Q6 Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

/

Q7 Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

THE LOW POPULATION WOULD MEAN HIGH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FEW WHO WOULD PAY. THE SOLUTION MIGHT BE TO AMALGAMATE SAY WARKTON, WEEKLEY & QUARRTON UNDERWOOD.

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q8 Any other comments?

CURRENTLY WE ARE ABLE TO MEET OUR  
OPERATING COSTS

IF WE WERE TO "AMALGAMATE" WITH OTHER  
VILLAGES WE WOULD NEED KBC ASSISTANCE

Signed



Print Name

J. J. CONNOR

Date

10/10/12

Email

Date of Council decision and reference

10/10/12

## TOWN &amp; PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / Town Council - WEEKLEY

11 OCT 2012

Name of Clerk - MARIAN SEXTON

Q1	Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)
	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes <span style="margin-left: 200px;">No</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Not considered relevant to the current debate</p>
Q2	Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?
	<p>that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;</li> <li>(ii) the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;</li> <li>(iii) that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;</li> <li>(iv) the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.</li> </ul>
	Yes
Q3	Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.
	<p>The Council's preferred option is noted, but the Weekley Parish Council does not support this change.</p> <p>They support Option 1, continuing the current system, but noting that the Grant would fall, in line with Government core funding and raising a local precept where it was considered necessary.</p>

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

**Q4** If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

**Q5** In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?

**Q6** Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

**Q7** Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Q8 Any other comments?

We noted that the Council's proposal, to remove Grants, does not take into account the current situation where we contribute through Council Tax to the costs of the Council. They suggest any change would not include any consideration of special expenses for Kettering town. This appears to be unacceptable as it places an unfair burden on local residents.

We also noted that as recently as 2009, the issue was raised and defeated by a large majority of Parishes rejecting the change.

I have been asked to include concerns regarding consultation following the review, particularly safeguards for Parish Councillors.

Signed *Marian K Sexton*

Print Name *MARIAN K. SEXTON*

Date *11 October 2012*

Email *keith.marian.sexton@btinternet.com*

Date of Council decision and reference

*3 October 2012*

*ref) 2012 - Oct 02*

## TOWN &amp; PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish / ~~Town~~ Council - WESTON - BY - WELLAND

Name of Clerk - P. V. SHAW

Q1 Were you aware Kettering Borough Council is one of the only Council's in the country that currently pay grants to Town and Parish Councils? (please delete as appropriate)

Yes

No

Q2 Having read the Executive Committee Report and the draft minutes, does your council understand the Executive Committee's preferred option in relation to the future of the scheme (the draft minute is reproduced below for your council)?

that:-

- (i) the position in respect of the current grant arrangements be noted;
- (ii) the Executive Committee's preferred option is to cease providing revenue grants to Town and Parish Councils and that this would be effective from the start of the 2014/15 financial year;
- (iii) that the investigation of special expenses for Kettering Town not be explored;
- (iv) the consultation arrangements be agreed as outlined in section 4 of the report.

Councillors are aware of these points

Q3 Please outline your Council's view on the Executive Committee's preferred option.

It is reasonable and to be expected

## TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

### QUESTIONNAIRE

Q4 If your Council is not in favour of what the Executive Committee proposes, what other solution would your Council suggest is considered?

N/A

Q5 In previous consultation exercises, some Councils have raised the concept that they believe there is an issue relating to 'double taxation' in their area. If Councils still believe that this is an issue, could further details be provided below please?

The current council find it difficult to understand this issue

Q6 Of those Town and Parish Councils that already raise a Local Precept, would you be prepared to help provide practical advice and assistance to help others introduce their local precept?

N/A

Q7 Of those Town and Parish Councils that do not currently raise a Local Precept, what are the practical issues that may concern you in relation to doing so?

The drawing up of an accurate budget



TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING REVIEW (2012)

QUESTIONNAIRE

Q8 Any other comments?

[Empty response box with a single diagonal line drawn across it]

Signed

P.V. Shaw

Print Name

MRS. P.V. SHAW

Date

8/09/2012

Email

Pauline@pvshaw.fsnet.co.uk

Date of Council decision and reference

4th September 2012 Ref: 14.

# Wilbarston Parish Council

Chairman  
Councillor Nick Richards  
3 Weinahr Close  
Wilbarston  
Leicestershire  
LE16 8QX

Tel 01536 770351

Clerk  
Mrs Leigh Parkin  
55 Union Street  
Desborough  
Northamptonshire  
NN14 2RH

Tel 01536 506021  
wilbarston.clerk@yahoo.co.uk

11<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Mr M Dickenson  
Acting Head of Finance  
Kettering Borough Council  
Municipal Offices  
Bowling Green Road  
Kettering NN15 7QX

Dear Mr Dickenson

## **Re: Town & Parish Council Funding Review 2012**

Wilbarston Parish Council considered the Town and Parish Council Funding Consultation at its meeting on 11 October 2012 and resolved to respond to the questionnaire as follows:

### **Question 1**

'Yes' to the question as put, but we are also aware that Kettering Borough Council is one of only a few in the country in which the central town is neither parished nor deemed to carry a special expense. We submit that historically the grant system was adopted as an alternative to either town centre parishing or a special expense regime and that it should not be removed without being replaced by either of the other options.

### **Question 2**

We understand, but disagree with (iii) for the reason given in response to Question 1.

### **Question 3**

We are wholly opposed to the preferred option which, if implemented, would put residents of rural parishes at a financial disadvantage by comparison with their town equivalents. It appears to be widely accepted elsewhere in the country that those living in rural situations choose to forego, at least partly, the benefits of the town centre and understand that when they do make use of them there will be an additional expense for transport and parking. For this reason, whatever the local detail giving rise to the situation, total council tax tends to be lower in rural communities than in towns - this is evidenced by studying the charges in the surrounding authorities of Harborough, Daventry, Wellingborough, East Northants and South Kesteven. There will always be exceptions, but in a village if this is due to a local project or significant service the cost will be understood and thus 'owned' by the community.

The papers suggest that the preferred option carries no policy implications, but if implemented it will send a message to the rural parishes that their view has less value than that of the town. This view no doubt already exists in a small number of authorities where development of the town is the major priority and a few rural parishes on the outskirts are of

# Wilbarston Parish Council

little consequence, but Kettering has a large number of outlying communities and we would be sorry to see it go down that route.

## **Question 4**

The most straightforward course would be to leave the current system in place, without further reductions, until other mooted changes in local authority funding have to be addressed.

An option would be to regard the current total paid in grants as the 'special expense' on the unparished town centre and reduce the council tax levied by the Borough Council on smaller town and parish households by a similar amount in such a way as to allow the towns and parishes to recoup their lost grants by precepting. This would not be straightforward but would result in no net change for the Borough Council's finances and no increase in total tax paid by any resident.

## **Question 5**

If it is accepted that Town and Parish councils provide a service to their parishioners, then in the unparished area this service is being provided by the Borough Council and funded by all of us. Rural households are therefore paying for the service provided by their parish council as well as for the same service being provided to others by the Borough Council.

## **Question 6**

We do, and we should.

## **Question 7**

Not applicable.

Thank you for your consideration of the above issues and we look forward to your prompt response.

Yours sincerely

*L. Parkin*

**Mrs Leigh Parkin**

**Clerk, on behalf of Wilbarston Parish Council**