

## **CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Change to North Swindon Parish Council**

**2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017**

### **1. Introduction**

In March 2017 the Parish Manager was tasked to test with local schools suggestions for a new permanent name to reflect the meaning of the Parish Council. Letters and an Application form (attached) were sent to the local schools.

Pupils were asked for ideas for a logo and name, encouraging them to think about some of the references to the local area. Councillors were keen to ensure historical connections to the names of our neighbourhoods such as Cheney & Hurst were considered. Consideration to the 'One Hundreds' system set up around the church in the Middle Ages was also requested.

The response was low with only one entry which was deemed not suitable. In June 2017 Council resolved to change the name of the Parish Council from Central Swindon North Parish Council to North Swindon Parish Council.

The process of approving the name change is defined within section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 which states as follows:

- (1) At the request of the parish council or, where there is no parish council, at the request of the parish meeting, the council of the district in which the parish is situated may change the name of the parish.
- (2) Notice of any change of name made under this section—
  - (a) Shall be sent by the district council concerned to the Secretary of State, to the Director General of the Ordnance Survey and to the Registrar General; and
  - (b) Shall be published by the district council in the parish and elsewhere in such manner as they consider appropriate.
- (3) A change of name made in pursuance of this section shall not affect any rights or obligations of any parish or of any council, authority or person, or render defective any legal proceedings; and any legal proceedings may be commenced or continued as if there had been no change of name.

## **2. Report Details**

- 2.1** After Councillors passed the name change resolution, letters of objection were received which suggested the name change had 'confusing' connotations as to the location of North Swindon. It was suggested that residents may feel the Parish has a remit in all areas to the North including Haydon Wick and beyond.
- 2.2** The SBC Monitoring Officer in his role as outlined in section 1 is responsible for facilitating the change. Given the number of objections received it was suggested that further consultation is required.
- 2.3** An open consultation on the proposed name change has been in effect for five weeks.
- 2.4** The consultation received responses in three ways. Responses were invited through the Councils webpage, from a public engagement session in the Pinehurst Fun Day on July 15<sup>th</sup> and from letters received from our partners.

The Council received one response via the website in favour of the change to North Swindon Parish Council.

The Public Engagement Session on July 15<sup>th</sup> received eleven objections to the name change, two who were indifferent and one in support. All those who responded were SN2 residents and on the whole felt that North Swindon did not accurately reflect the area they lived in.

The Council received note(s) of objection from the MP for North Swindon, SBC Ward Member Cllr Donachie and the Clerk of Haydon Wick Parish Council citing confusion of residents with neighbouring Haydon Wick Parish.

## **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1** That Councillors review the responses received from the consultation and make a decision as to whether we continue to request the name change to North Swindon Parish Council.
- 3.2** If Councillors wish to continue with the name change to North Swindon Parish Council then a meeting to discuss next steps will need to be organised with the Monitoring Officer as soon as practicable. Given that the majority of responses are negative; this will likely result in further consultation or a request for the Council to reconsider.
- 3.3** The Council may wish to consider an alternative name which does not have geographical connotations to the North.
- 3.4** The Council may wish to retain the existing name of Central Swindon North Parish Council.