

BARWICK in ELMET & SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL
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PAPER FOR CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 28th OCTOBER 2013

RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR SEPARATE PARISH COUNCIL FOR SCHOLES

The Barwick in Elmet and Scholes Parish Council respectfully request the General Purpose Committee to take the following points into consideration when reaching a decision on this Petition

- The Parish Council were not made aware of this petition prior to its submission
- They believe that it results from the one man crusade of a former Parish Councillor against the Council supported by members of the local action group(Save Our Scholes) who continue to challenge virtually everything which the Parish Council (and for that matters Leeds City Council)does
- We believe, from reports which we have received, that many signatures were obtained based upon misinformation given when the petition was taken door to door
- the Parish Council was not given an opportunity to defend allegations which have been made
- for example suggestions have been made that the Council has favored Barwick in Elmet both in its decision making and financially when in truth every effort has been made to be scrupulously fair and records can be produced to show that expenditure is evenly split between the communities
- it has been suggested to residents that s106 / CIL moneys resulting from possible development in Scholes will be expended in Barwick in Elmet whereas it is the policy of the Council(recently reaffirmed to make it absolutely clear to residents) that such moneys will continue to be expended for the benefit of the community in which development occurs
- the Parish Council can see no valid reason or logic to splitting the Parish at a time when a united front is required to resist the massive development which threatens Scholes
- the Parish Council has been in existence in its present form since 1946 without any problems of this nature arising and is evenly balanced with 6 Councillors from each village – none of whom support a split of the Parish at this time
- if significant development in Scholes is approved at some stage in the future it is accepted that such consideration may be a subject for debate but there are other boundary issues to take into consideration (the Parish stretches well towards Thorner, Bramham and Garforth). At a time of financial constraint we suggest that these are issues for the future

In short the Parish Council believe that this Petition is ill-founded and that the underlying issue has not been properly considered. Accordingly we ask that the decision of the General Purpose Committee is that it should be turned aside