

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
 Councillor Judith Blake
 Leader Leeds City Council
 Civic Hall
 Calverley Street
 LEEDS
 LS1 1UR



30 July 2015

Dear Cllr Blake

I believe you are looking again at the process regarding the proposal for a Town Council for Guiseley. This is appreciated.

I understand that the main petitioner for the proposed council has written to you, to tell you that some of the consultees have been incorrectly allocated by Leeds City Council officers as a no when they should have been logged as a yes. It is felt this is unwarranted. The Council officers in our opinion have done an unbiased job in keeping a substantially correct consultation log of all of the consultee's views both for and against.

Another resident has analysed the consultation log and details are on the enclosed table. No doubt you will make your own examination of the replies.

I feel the following points ring out:-

1. The petition gathered 1179 signatures in favour of a Town Council but this was over a 9 month period from 25 December 2013 to September 2014 i.e. 36 weeks or 252 days – a rate of 4.6 signatures per day. We have no idea how many were approached or whether any of them declined to sign the petition.
2. There was little public awareness during this period.
3. I only became aware of the submission of the petition at the Meeting of the Guiseley & Rawdon Forum on the evening of 19 November 2014 when I also discovered that the closing date for consultation was 28 November. I therefore had printed at my own expense leaflets, a copy of which is attached and distributed them through my contacts to distribute further afield. This leaflet was purely to raise public awareness as far as we were able and was not political.
4. During the period 20 to 28 November the following representations were made to Leeds City Council:-

Against the proposed GTC	251	daily rate 28
For the proposal	<u>127</u>	daily rate 14
Total representation.	<u>378</u>	

As you can see over the 9 day period the representations showed roughly 2:1 against the proposal.

This is a big issue and there is a feeling in Guiseley that there has not been enough public awareness of the petition, in particular all ratepayers should be aware of the remit of a Town Council and the additional charges to be made to the rates if a Town Council is to be formed.

It would seem the only fair way to have a truly representative outcome is to have a full referendum in which all residents entitled to express a view are contacted and also all bodies such as the Aireborough Neighbourhood Forum and Aireborough Civic Society are fully informed.

Yours sincerely



Here are the tabulated results

Original LG Officer Entries									
No's	=	267	+5	-2	=	270	=	71.45%	
Yes's	=	108	+2	-2	=	108	=	28.57%	
						378			
Original LG Officer Entries Corrected by me – Three No's to Yes's**									
No's	=	267			=	267	=	70.63%	
Yes's	=	109			=	109	=	28.84%	
Don't Know	=	2			=	2	=	0.53%	
Missing Entry	=	1			=	$\frac{1}{378}$	=		This missing LG entry was a Yes so 108 becomes 109
Original LG Officer Entries Corrected by me plus Partners mentioned									
New Total Const	267	+54	+108	+23	Don't Knows Missed out 2	=	552		
No's	267	+54			=			71.02%	
Yes's	108	+23			=			28.98%	

So the range error for No = $71.45\% - 70.63\% = 0.82\%$ of Error maximum for No's

So the range error for Yes = $28.98\% - 28.57\% = 0.41\%$ of Error maximum Yes

So it would appear that the errors for the Yes vote is worse than for the No vote, that is the No vote is always more accurate than the Yes.

Conclusion

Finally the Local Government Officers table is substantially correct and tabulates consultees views in a true an fair way. There is nothing wrong.

URGENT

A TOWN COUNCIL FOR GUISELEY?

IEWS TO BE MADE KNOWN BEFORE 28 NOVEMBER 2014

Are you aware that a petition signed by 1179 people for a Town Council for Guiseley has been presented to Leeds City Council?

This was brought out by David Bowe, Guiseley Town Council Coordinator, at the Meeting of the Guiseley & Rawdon Forum on Wednesday, 19th November. He reported that on Thursday 23 October Leeds City Council General Purposes Committee considered a report on the proposal for a Town Council. One of our local Councillors, Graham Latty, said 1179 signatories (only just over 10% of the electorate required by law to request a review) was not a sufficiently large number to justify action and proposed that a referendum should be conducted in the area. He was informed this would cost £40,000. It was therefore agreed not to spend this amount but to start a "local governance review".

A period of consultation apparently began shortly afterwards requiring views to be made known **BEFORE** 28 November. A decision will then be made by the General Purposes Committee and Leeds City Council.

A Town Council acts as a voice for local residents but decisions on such matters as planning and traffic in Guiseley remain with Leeds City Council.

There is an additional amount added to Council Tax for a Town Council. It cannot be quantified beforehand but examples of the additions are as follows:-

Otley £57.98

Rawdon £15.04

Average for Leeds £28

As the majority of Guiseley residents are probably not aware of the position it is **vital** you make your views known and draw the attention of as many people as possible to the situation.

If those who do not want a Town Council do nothing, there will be a Town Council by default.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN BEFORE 28 NOVEMBER TO:-

susanna.benton@leeds.gov.uk

Susanna Benton, Electoral Services Manager at

Electoral Services, Level 2, Town Hall, The Headrow, Leeds LS13AD

Tel: 0113 247 6727

