



# **Community Governance Review New Town or Parish Councils in Torbay**

## **Further Questionnaire Consultation Report October 2019**

Number of online questionnaire responses received	1607
Number of paper questionnaire responses received	51
Number of postcards returned	150

**This consultation was open between Monday 02 September 2019 and  
Friday 25 October 2019.**

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# 1. Introduction

On 14 January 2019 we launched a Community Governance Review of the whole area of Torbay. The review is to consider if any changes should be made to our existing arrangements. This includes whether new Parish/Town Councils should be created in areas that currently don't have them, which are Torquay and Paignton.

The first phase consultation ran from 14 January 2019 until 15 March 2019 and was for us to find out what the public's initial thoughts were on the introduction of town/parish councils. From this feedback, we heard that people were concerned about the amount of extra council tax they may have to pay, the reduction in local services, what council tax is currently spent on and the number of additional town councillors which may be created.

This second phase of the consultation was to provide more detail about these areas of concern. We focussed on the importance of local services within communities and asked if residents would be prepared to pay extra through the Town Council precept to protect the services that matter most to them.

Without this precept, it is likely that Torbay Council will have to end or further reduce services, such as flower beds, toilets, and public entertainment and events. This is because costs and demand for the services we have to deliver by law continue to increase. If we do not have Town Councils it is likely that more local services will be reduced or ceased as we won't have the funding to continue them in future years.

Town Councils are a way to protect local services that matter to residents such as street cleaning and maintaining parks and gardens. They are also a way to continue delivering services and balance the demands of reduced budgets.

A consultation on establishing Town Councils requires a two part consultation and is a process that is prescribed by law. This second phase was always part of the planned consultation.

Torbay Council continues to lobby central government to recognise the issues that Torbay, other coastal areas and local government in general face. We don't currently know what funding we'll receive from central government for 2020/2021 and beyond and so we need to plan based on our historical levels of funding.

## 2. Scope of Consultation

Whilst the first phase of consultation was primarily online, this phase needed to be undertaken very differently, with a range of events and communication methods. Some comments from the first consultation were based on presumptions about the level of council tax precept which would be levied and the number of town councillors required. Many respondents also believed the current level of council tax should be enough to support local services in future.

The aim of the second consultation was to ensure that local electors, all stakeholders, individuals and groups who have an interest in the potential for establishing town / parish councils were aware of the review and to facilitate further discussion on the potential benefits for community engagement and how town / parish councils could make a difference to their communities.

It was important that in this second phase the public were fully informed as to the likely future of council services due to the wider financial constraints on Torbay Council which have led to this proposal and to address some of the concerns raised during the first consultation in relation to costs and precept levels.

Detailed supporting information about the review and this second stage was made available on our website <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/council/new-town-councils>. This included services that could be transferred, estimated budgets for Town Councils, the cost to residents and Frequently Asked Questions.

### **Stakeholders**

A request to share awareness of the consultation was made to Council staff, Torbay Hospital, South Devon College, local Police offices, community organisations such as Torbay Business Forum and the local Chambers of Trade. Key stakeholders were contacted directly and given information about the consultation and how they could get involved.

All Community Partnerships were contacted and asked to spread awareness about the consultation within their communities. They were offered the opportunity for a Councillor to attend one of their public meetings in order to give more detail about the consultation.

### **Torbay Community**

All local residents, business owners and organisations were invited to give their views via an online questionnaire. Posters were put up in all the Council's public facing offices and the Community Governance Review was publicised in the mainstream media.

Over 400 Viewpoint panel members were emailed a link to the questionnaire and asked to complete it. A total of 6000 randomly selected Torbay households (10% of the total population) were sent letters and prompted to take part in the consultation.

Ward Councillors were briefed and asked to distribute posters and comment postcards at key community locations within their wards and 400 paper questionnaires were passed to those Councillors who requested them. At their request, 200 postcards advertising the consultation were passed to community representatives in Churston.

## **Roadshows**

Councillors and senior officers attended advertised roadshows to spread awareness and engage with the community about the consultation in each of the three towns and at Churston Library. Councillors also attended primary schools across the bay at pick up times as well as Paignton and Brixham rugby clubs and Torquay football club on match days.

## **Social Media**

Regular and timely social media posts highlighted our scheduled roadshows, Facebook Live question and answer sessions and the Question Time event. Questions and comments on social media were responded to and commenters were signposted to our on-line information and the questionnaire. Videos and infographics to explain the council's financial position and promote the consultation were posted and messaging was targeted to specific groups of the community (including young people).

## **Event**

Our Ask Us panel event held at Riviera International Conference Centre (RICC) on 1 October 2019, meant that attending members of the public and those watching on Facebook could ask their questions to the panel of Councillors, senior officers and Cllr Browse (Chairman the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) and Chairman of Holberton Town Council).

### 3. Headline Results

#### Questionnaire

A total of 1607 completed questionnaires were received. A summary of results is shown below. Full results from the questionnaires are shown in [appendix 1](#) along with respondent's comments which have been grouped into themes with examples shown alongside. Where responses number less than five they are shown in the tables as >5. Some comments span a range of themes. Comments are shown as they were received and have not been altered.

Respondents answered positively to the first four questions of the questionnaire. **63.9%** believe **it is** important to have community cohesion where they live.

Just over half (53.5%) believe **it is** necessary to have leadership and commitment in developing and supporting community cohesion.

**83.9%** of respondents believe that services such as parks and open spaces, toilets, control of litter, community centres and events **are** important where they live. **75.9%** believe **it is** important that communities are able to influence decisions about these services.

The majority of respondents identified themselves as **Torbay residents** (1547). We can see from the 1469 postcodes we were given **40.6%** of all respondents were from Torquay, **44.6%** from Paignton, and **6.0%** from the Brixham area.

**83.3%** of respondents **did not** agree that two new parish councils should be created in Torbay.

**82.9% did not** agree that the new town or parish council(s) should each be divided into electoral wards with the same number of councillors as there are for Torbay.

**84.1% did not** agree that Torbay Council should set a maximum council tax precept of no more than £90 a year for each new parish / town council in their first year of operation in order to see services continue.

**43.4%** opted to choose "**something else**" when asked where they think Churston with Galmpton ward should be included. **39.8%** chose to either include it within a new Paignton parish, include within Brixham parish or split it between the two.

#### Roadshows and Postcards

We received **150 comment postcards**. These were primarily a tool given out by members and senior officers at roadshows, schools, and in the community to signpost people to the town councils web page information. They also provided an opportunity for the public to give rapid feedback by asking for a yes / no response to the proposal and leave comments.

Attendees of the roadshows reported that in conversation with members of the public, it was apparent that the more engaged people tended to be more informed about the proposal and its potential positive outcomes for their community, excepting Brixham residents where they already have a town council and generally did not want to stop and chat about them. Brixham residents were well informed about the reasons for town councils and their benefits.

The returned roadshow postcards show **57.4% against** creating town councils and **42.6% in favour**.

Results of the feedback received on the postcards can be found at [appendix 2](#).

## Ask Us Event

Approximately 30 members of the public attended our Ask Us event at the Riviera Centre in person. The event was filmed and broadcast on Facebook Live and has now been viewed by over 22,000 people.

Attendees and those watching at the time were asked to submit questions to the panel. These were grouped by subject and put to the panel by the facilitator. At the end of the Facebook Live broadcast, there was also an opportunity for the audience to ask questions of the panel directly. All questions put to the panel were then made available on the town councils web page along with their answers.

## Social Media

Throughout the consultation period **over 60 posts** were posted onto the council's Facebook and Twitter pages. All of these posts included either a video, photo or graphic which highlighted the ongoing consultation, the roadshows, public event and how Town Councils can be a benefit to Torquay and Paignton. These posts also included the two Facebook Live Question and Answer Sessions and the live broadcast from the public event.

These 60 posts reached **a potential audience of 186,369** and all of them received good engagement. Across Facebook and Twitter the posts were **reacted to 328 times, shared 395 times and received 1,062 comments**. On Facebook the average engagement rate on our posts was 5% (our posts ranged from 2 to 11%). For comparison, Facebook see the average for good engagement rate to be 2%.

Evaluating the social media posts and correlating this with the number of consultations completed, it can be seen which social media posts encouraged residents to complete the consultation.

The post below received the highest amount of reach on Facebook (26,259). It also **encouraged 193 unique page views** of the consultation webpage **with 76 consultations completed**:

**Torbay Council**  
Published by Orlo [?] · 16 September · 🌐

Just 585 completed responses were received for our first consultation about Town Councils for Torquay and Paignton.

That's just 1 response for every 228 residents, or less than 0.45% , living in the Bay!

If you care about your town make your voice heard. Have your say on the proposals for Town Councils now!

Answers to a number of frequently asked questions, including why we are consulting again, can be found here: <http://socsi.in/wXmC5>

The consultation can be found here: <http://socsi.in/2mgtj> (closing date 25 October 2019)

**1 in 228**  
[www.torbay.gov.uk/new-town-councils](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/new-town-councils)

Get more likes, comments and shares  
Boost this post for £16 to reach up to 5,200 people.

**26,059** People reached      **4,625** Engagements      [Boost Post](#)

👍👎🗨️ Andrew Findell, Mary Pugh and 17 others      58 Comments 75 shares

Our Live broadcast of the Ask Us public event also encouraged a large number of consultations to be completed. The Live broadcast itself **reached a potential audience of over 22,000**. The tweets from the Live event also **reached over 7,000 Twitter accounts**. It can be seen that on the day of the event the **consultation webpage received 130 unique page views with 52 consultations completed**. But more noticeable is that the following day after the event - the **consultation webpage received 305 unique page views with 179 consultations completed**. This could be attributed to the fact that the Live broadcast is saved as a video onto your Facebook page and that our followers viewed it after the event had finished.

Most of the feedback on Torbay Council's social media channels was posted on Facebook. The majority of respondents to the Facebook posts are against setting up town or parish councils either replying "No" or making it clear in their comments that they do not support the introduction of town or parish councils. Common comment themes are; they are already paying too much in Council Tax, they do not want to pay any more Council Tax as they are very dissatisfied with how existing services are being delivered.

Other comments again mention that the Council should work harder with the funding it already has and / or spend it more fairly and wisely in delivering its services. Many commented that they feel the money they pay in Council Tax is being misused or wasted by the Council and that Councillors and staff should take pay cuts.

Torbay Council responded to these comments to answer any questions posed, to correct misinformation, to signpost people to the consultation, and refer people to the on line FAQs. In addition, members of the council joined in the conversations and were able to put their views direct to residents.

An evaluation of the response to our social media posts can be found at [appendix 3](#).

## **Written Representations**

There were also 32 written representations received. These have been collated, anonymised where necessary, and can be found in [appendix 4](#).



## 4. Appendix 1 - Questionnaire Results

### 1) Do you believe it is important that there is community cohesion in the place where you live?

	Number	Percent
Yes	1027	63.9%
No	339	21.1%
Don't know	160	10.0%
No answer	81	5.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

#### 1a) Please tell us why.

Theme	Examples of comments
<b>Community and togetherness / Belonging / Good relations</b>	<p><i>"A community that pulls together will be healthier, have a greater sense of identity, lower crime, more of a vision for its children and will be better able to deal with its local problems."</i></p> <p><i>"Because a cohesive community looks after itself better. There is less crime, less need for social care intervention."</i></p> <p><i>"Because people in that community have shared interests in the care and upkeep of their surroundings. This fosters a sense of belonging and also - with luck - encourages people to be more responsible for their area. Litter, rubbish, noise, just simple consideration for others. It ought to develop a more caring and responsible society for our children to grow up in and for everyone there to thrive."</i></p>
<b>Wellbeing / Quality of life / Safety</b>	<p><i>"So that people feel safe in their homes and on the street. Local environment will improve if people feel their efforts are appreciated by others."</i></p> <p><i>"To build stronger communities, sense of well-being and look after vulnerable members of society."</i></p> <p><i>"To raise community spirit and desire to live in a pleasant town."</i></p>
<b>Representation / Local needs / Involvement</b>	<p><i>"Because cohesion leads to greater understanding of problems faced by various sections of the community."</i></p> <p><i>"Because it is much more effective if all concerned work to the same aim and results in much better financial resources."</i></p> <p><i>"Best results are achieved by pooling resources, skills, expertise and experience and learning from others."</i></p>

2) Do you believe it is necessary for there to be leadership and commitment in developing and supporting community cohesion in the place where you live?

	Number	Percent
Yes	860	53.5%
No	475	29.6%
Don't know	183	11.4%
No answer	89	5.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

2a) Please tell us why.

Theme	Examples of comments
<b>Leadership is positive if right person in charge</b>	<p><i>"A leadership can inform people of matters which affect them."</i></p> <p><i>"Again, Torbay is the community. If the council leadership is unable to cope and manage Torbay correctly, then new leadership should be considered."</i></p> <p><i>"Because at the moment there is such a lack of local leadership in Paignton where I live. And look at where it has got us."</i></p>
<b>Paying more will not get value for money</b>	<p><i>"A separate town council will be just as toothless as the existing Brixham one. Paying more and not getting value for money."</i></p> <p><i>"Again. Completely irrelevant to the council. Torbay is a small authority it does not need more money wasted on wages and costs associated with yet more bureaucracy."</i></p> <p><i>"Because again I'm unsure if I say yes you will definitely charge us for it. Stop taking money from us without consent."</i></p>
<b>Should be provided by Torbay Council</b>	<p><i>"Again could and should be able to be provided by the main council."</i></p> <p><i>"Because it needs to be co-ordinated. However I don't believe it needs a new level of councillor to provide this, why isn't our current council working on this?"</i></p> <p><i>"Extra levels of bureaucracy are counterproductive."</i></p>

**3) Do you believe that services such as parks and open spaces, toilets, control of litter, community centres and community events are important to the place where you live?**

	Number	Percent
Yes	1349	83.9%
No	106	6.6%
Don't know	64	4.0%
No answer	88	5.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>100%</b>

**3a) Please tell us why.**

Theme	Examples of comments
<b>All these promote Wellbeing public health etc.</b>	<p><i>"People need space to relax, however the maintenance of the toilets have been contracted out and all refuse collections are done from a central location in the bay and a town council will change nothing."</i></p> <p><i>"People need toilets; if parks &amp; litter are not serviced then communities deteriorate as the more un kept a community space is the less the community value that space and there is snowball effect of a downward spiral to vandalism &amp; antisocial use of the spaces."</i></p> <p><i>"It promotes a sense of pride in the place you live in and a clean and tidy place gives a greater sense of wellbeing."</i></p>
<b>Important to Torbay for Residents and Visitors</b>	<p><i>"For the economy (tourism), for the children (freedom to explore and play), for the rest of us (for enjoyment and relaxation)."</i></p> <p><i>"If your locality is well cared for it encourages community engagement which is really important in a town like Brixham which has growing businesses but also tourism."</i></p> <p><i>"Living in a tourist resort which relies on tourism people need things to be looked after and maintained to provide safe environments for everyone."</i></p>
<b>Vital to the community, people enjoy them</b>	<p><i>"People are more likely to respect an area if it's nice"</i></p> <p><i>"It keeps the place pleasant and clean, and events are great for community spirit and building togetherness."</i></p> <p><i>"Pleasant environment to live in."</i></p>

4) Do you believe it is important that communities are able to influence decisions about the services listed above?

	Number	Percent
Yes	1220	75.9%
No	230	14.3%
Don't know	86	5.4%
No answer	71	4.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

4a) Please tell us why.

Theme	Examples of comments
<b>Council doesn't Listen</b>	<p><i>"But the council as is has not listened to the residents but seem to continue on with borrowing and investing in out of area developments."</i></p> <p><i>"Councillors don't listen to general public they do what they personally think is best which frequently is detrimental to the area."</i></p> <p><i>"Communities have never been able to influence any council decisions."</i></p>
<b>Should be able to do this already</b>	<p><i>"BUT they already do via their councillors."</i></p> <p><i>"By electing councillors to govern the whole of the Bay."</i></p> <p><i>"Decisions and finance should be provided by Torbay Council, the statutory body."</i></p>
<b>Community voice is essential</b>	<p><i>"Community involvement and responsibility will mean an increased pride among residents and hopefully reduce antisocial behaviour."</i></p> <p><i>"Community involvement and responsibility will mean an increased pride among residents and hopefully reduce antisocial behaviour."</i></p> <p><i>"Communities have to live with the services provided, therefore they should influence the services they get."</i></p>

# Proposal 1

That two new parish councils are created within Torbay.

Torquay Parish would cover the wards of; Barton with Watcombe, Cockington with Chelston, Ellacombe, Shiphay, St Marychurch, Tormohun and Wellswood.

Paignton Parish would cover the wards of; Clifton with Maidenway, Collaton St Mary, Goodrington with Roselands, Kings Ash, Preston and Roundham with Hyde.

Churston with Galmpton ward is included in a later question.

## 5) Do you agree with this proposal?

	Number	Percent
Yes	254	15.8%
No	1339	83.3%
No answer	14	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 5a) Please tell us why.

Theme	Examples of comments
<b>Cost more / Waste of money</b>	<p><i>"Another level of bureaucracy which will only cost us the tax payers."</i></p> <p><i>"As previously stated why should we pay more for this service when it should be covered by our ward councillor."</i></p> <p><i>"Another tier of government is not required. Current structure is small enough without additional bureaucracy and cost."</i></p>
<b>More bureaucracy / Unnecessary layer</b>	<p><i>"Another level of bureaucracy and cost to the local taxpayer when local voluntary groups, with support from existing Torbay Council, could undertake the overseeing and development of facilities."</i></p> <p><i>"Absolutely object to the formation of a town council as a stealth tax and way of increasing my expenditure."</i></p> <p><i>"Additional and costly bureaucracy."</i></p>
<b>Already have Torbay Council / Councillors</b>	<p><i>"Duplication of already elected council."</i></p> <p><i>"Duplication of effort is wasteful especially when resources are scarce."</i></p> <p><i>"I am not prepared to pay more council tax when this could be easily managed by Torbay Council with more funding being made available by central Government."</i></p>

## Proposal 2

That the new parish/town councils for Torquay and Paignton are each divided into electoral wards with the same boundaries and number of councillors as there are for Torbay Council.

### 6) Do you agree with this proposal?

	Number	Percent
Yes	239	14.9%
No	1333	82.9%
No answer	35	2.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### 6a) Please tell us why.

Theme	Examples of comments
<b>Cost more / Waste of money</b>	<p><i>"As before - we already have Torbay Council &amp; pay enough Council Tax!"</i></p> <p><i>"As before, Torbay is a deprived area and the residents cannot afford your proposed increases in taxes and council tax...regardless of how you want to divide up the town councils Torquay and Paignton have 2 of the most deprived wards in the country - how can you justify asking for more money from these people to add town councils to an existing LA which in itself serves on 3 towns? It's preposterous."</i></p> <p><i>"As stated before it is just another way of extracting money from the people who can afford it the least."</i></p>
<b>Unnecessary</b>	<p><i>"Completely unnecessary !!!!!!!"</i></p> <p><i>"I don't think town councils are necessary. Listen to the residents of Torbay."</i></p> <p><i>"It is not necessary to have any Town Councils"</i></p>
<b>More bureaucracy</b>	<p><i>"It will be extra bureaucracy."</i></p> <p><i>"Do not agree as I do not agree with Town Councils, More bureaucracy more costs for no useful purpose."</i></p> <p><i>"Another level of bureaucracy and cost to the local taxpayer when local voluntary groups, with support from existing Torbay Council, could undertake the overseeing and development of facilities."</i></p>

## Proposal 3

The proposal is that Torbay Council will set a maximum council tax precept of no more than £90\* a year (£1.73 per week) for each new parish/town council in their first year of operation. This level of precept could see the following services continue;

- Recreation and parks
- Landscaping
- Museums
- Theatres
- Public entertainment
- Events
- Public toilets
- Seafront illuminations

\*For a Band D property

### 7) Do you agree with this proposal?

	Number	Percent
Yes	236	14.7%
No	1352	84.1%
No answer	19	1.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### 7a) Please tell us why.

Theme	Examples of comments
<b>Cost more / Council tax is too high</b>	<p><i>“All covered by Torbay Council. This is an extra tax we cannot afford to pay.”</i></p> <p><i>“Already pay enough council tax, this is just a waste of our resources.”</i></p> <p><i>“A guarantee for one year is of little value. It’s a guaranteed increase; then after that further increases. And no guarantee of any improvement in services for the tax paying citizen.”</i></p>
<b>Services should already be covered Already have a council / Pay enough already</b>	<p><i>“All of the services listed above should be dealt with under the current Council budget and not expect residents to pay more to sort out the mess of poor management at Torbay Council. I think that things like museums and theatres should be privately run enterprises and the money created from them re-invested back into the business for a better run experience.”</i></p> <p><i>“Looking at other areas of the Country, museums are fantastic and they are privately run. I would never visit the museum in Torquay</i></p>

Theme	Examples of comments
	<p><i>as money hasn't been invested, but don't expect residents to foot the bill!"</i></p> <p><i>"All should be done by Torbay Council. No need for town Councils All these items should be managed through the existing council."</i></p>
<b>Uncapped / Cost will rise</b>	<p><i>"£90 first year how much the next year, and the years after that, on top of the council tax we pay"</i></p> <p><i>"£90 for the first year, how much thereafter? £300 per year or £6 per week is not acceptable to most households, many of whom are on benefits or are pensioners."</i></p> <p><i>"£90 this year and no restriction on how much you will charge on the future. If you want to fund this from your own resources then do whatever you like, but I do not want to pay a single penny more for the services we are supposed to receive. Torbay council may be on the break of a financial crisis, but don't expect us to pick up the bill for other people's financial failures"</i></p>

The Churston with Galmpton ward could be included within Paignton Parish, or within the boundary of Brixham Parish.

**8) Please choose an option below which reflects where you think Churston with Galmpton Ward is most closely connected.**

	Number	Percent
Include within Paignton Parish	171	10.6%
Include within Brixham Parish	280	17.4%
Be split between Paignton Parish and Brixham Parish	188	11.7%
Something else	698	43.4%
No answer	270	16.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**(For those that chose something else) Please tell us your preference for Churston and Galmpton.**

Theme	Examples of comments
<b>Don't live there / does not affect me / ask them / don't know</b>	<p><i>"That question should solely be for people that live in Churston it has nothing to do with the rest of Torbay. The rest of Torbay should not decide their fate."</i></p>



Theme	Examples of comments
	<p><i>"Perhaps the people living in that area should vote on it personally."</i></p> <p><i>"No view - don't live there."</i></p>
<p><b>Keep it as it is</b></p>	<p><i>"No split necessary."</i></p> <p><i>"No change to existing boundary."</i></p> <p><i>"My preference is for it to continue as it is at present."</i></p>

**8a) Please tell us why.**

Theme	Examples of comments
<p><b>Don't live there / does not affect me / ask them / don't know</b></p>	<p><i>"Local residents need a voice."</i></p> <p><i>"It should be left to the people living in these Wards to decide."</i></p> <p><i>"It doesn't need changing."</i></p>
<p><b>Keep thing as they are</b></p>	<p><i>"It shouldn't be happening. We don't want it"</i></p> <p><i>"Either Brixham or Paignton - don't split it, people won't know who they belong to."</i></p> <p><i>"Do not want a split"</i></p>

# About you

## 9) Please tell us whether you are a:

(multiple choice)	Number	Percent
Local resident	1547	96.3%
Local employee	177	11.0%
Local business person	116	7.2%
Official representative responding on behalf of a community organisation	5	0.3%
Other	11	0.7%

## 9a) Please tell us the name of your organisation

Comments
<i>"Torquay Town Centre Partnership"</i>
<i>"Galmpton Residents Association"</i>
<i>"Torbay GMB Union"</i>
<i>"TBC"</i>

## 9b) Please describe "other" here

Comments
<i>"Retired"</i>
<i>"Not local to the area."</i>
<i>"Ex employee; business owner now retired!"</i>
<i>"I wanna KILL"</i>
<i>"specil needs"</i>
<i>"STOP WASTING MONEY"</i>

**10) What is your postcode?**

	Number	Percent
TQ1 (Torquay)	352	21.9%
TQ2 (Torquay)	301	18.7%
TQ3 (Preston/Paignton)	344	21.4%
TQ4 (Paignton)	373	23.2%
TQ5 (Brixham)	97	6.0%
Other areas	>5	~
No answer	138	8.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**11) Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself?**

	Number	Percent
Male	740	46.0%
Female	669	41.6%
In another way	7	0.4%
Prefer not to say	109	6.8%
No answer	82	5.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Which of the following age groups applies to you?**

	Number	Percent
0 – 15	>5	~
16 – 24	21	1.3%
25 – 34	120	7.5%
35 – 44	207	12.9%
45 – 54	275	17.1%
55 – 64	368	22.9%
65 – 74	387	24.1%
75+	150	9.3%
No answer	78	4.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**12) Do you consider yourself to be disabled in any way?**

	Number	Percent
Yes	216	13.4%
No	1261	78.5%
No answer	130	8.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**13a) Please tell us how your disability affects you**

<b>(multiple choice)</b>	Percent
It affects my mobility	2.2%
It affects my vision	9.0%
It affects my hearing	1.8%
It affects me in another way	5.4%

**14) How would you describe your ethnic origin?**

	Number	Percent
White	1313	81.7%
Mixed ethnicity	13	0.8%
Asian or Asian British	10	0.6%
Black or Black British	>5	~
Chinese	>5	~
Other ethnic group	12	0.7%
Prefer not to say	194	12.1%
No answer	61	3.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 4. Appendix 2 - Postcard Evaluation

There were 150 postcards returned to the council which were either handed back to roadshow attendees, handed in to a library or sent by post.

	Number	Yes	No	No preference indicated
Torquay Town 06/09/2019	>5	>5	0	0
Paignton Town 13/09/2019	38	34	>5	>5
Paignton Rugby Club 21/09/2019	>5	>5	0	0
Brixham Town 21/09/2019	6	5	>5	0
Churston Library 24/09/2019	6	>5	>5	>5
Ask Us Event RICC 01/10/2019	12	0	12	0
Torquay United 05/10/2019	0	0	0	0
Brixham Rugby Club 12/10/2019	18	17	>5	0
Independently returned / origin unknown	69	>5	66	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>&gt;5</b>

Of the postcards we received back, 57.4% of postcards had **no** ticked. 42.6% of postcards had **yes** ticked. There were a few where the respondent had chosen not to tick a box but instead just left a comment.

Comments on the postcards of respondents that ticked **no**, expressed that they felt Town Councils were a waste of money, cost too much, were another layer of bureaucracy and were not wanted.

16 cards stated the respondent would like a separate town council for Churston with Galmpton, 13 of those had ticked **no** to town councils on their postcard.

Comments on the postcards of respondents that ticked **yes**, expressed suggestions for improvements to services, Brixham Town Council was good and that more local representation would be an improvement and town councils were a good idea.

71 people gave their postcode on their card. The table below shows that most respondents using postcards to feedback were from Paignton.

	Number
TQ1 (Torquay)	9
TQ2 (Torquay)	9
TQ3 (Preston/Paignton)	23
TQ4 (Paignton)	14
TQ5 (Brixham)	14

## 5. Appendix 3 - Social Media Evaluation

Please see the Spreadsheet on the next page for a breakdown on the evaluation of social media. This information is summarised at the start of this report in the Headline Results.

Date	Social media - Facebook							Engagement Rate %	Twitter				Web page hits - Unique Pageviews			No. of consultations completed
	Post	Graphic	Reach	Reactions	Comments	Shares	Impressions		Likes	Replies	Retweets	new-town-councils	Consultation	FAQ's		
30th Aug	Consultation starting on 2nd Sept	Your Town Your Voice	3,873	15	20	19	5%	1619	1	5	3	3	0	2		
31st Aug												0	0	0		
1st Sept												1	0	0		
2nd Sept												7	4	2		
3rd Sept												1	2	0	1	
4th Sept												7	34	1	12	
5th Sept	First roadshow taking place tomorrow	Your Town Your Voice	4,991	11	9	26	6%	981	0	1	1	3	4	0	2	
6th Sept	Torquay Roadshow starts in 1 hour	Your Town Your Voice	2,276	7	23	4	5%	1263	4	0	5	21	7	3	8	
	Torquay Roadshow taking place	Pic of Cllr Morey	2,110	12	10	2	7%	2369	4	3	6					
	Promoting 1st Facebook Live	#YourTQs	4,684	15	35	20	6%	750	0	0	1					
7th Sept												10	0	1	40	
8th Sept												4	0	0	4	
9th Sept												4	3	1	5	
10th Sept	Have your say on your town's future	Video	3,589	12	28	19	9%	606	2	0	2	44	29	11	25	
	First Facebook Live	Live Video	12,457	80	184	35	14%									
11th Sept												29	7	5	13	
12th Sept	Second roadshow taking place tomorrow	Cllr Morey video	2,715	13	20	6	8%	1266	1	0	0	22	3	8	12	
13th Sept	Paignton Roadshow starts in 1 hour	Your Town Your Voice	3,968	6	46	15	7%	1601	3	0	1	36	64	7	24	
14th Sept												7	13	2	6	
15th Sept												10	10	3	6	
16th Sept	1 in 228 residents completed 1st consultation	1 in 228	26,059	21	158	75	10%	1846	3	4	4	115	193	93	76	
17th Sept												37	84	19	26	
18th Sept	Approx. 200 emails sent out by consultation team to Viewpoint panel members												191	173	55	87
19th Sept												154	132	59	53	
20th Sept	Next roadshow in Brixham	Cllr Darling Video	3,450	8	25	9	6%	1140	1	1	1	65	58	23	29	

	Next Facebook Live on Wed 25th Oct	#YourTQs	2,538	10	11	9	5%	1047	0	0	0				
21st Sept	Brixham Roadshow today	Your Town Your Voice	2,099	4	8	3	4%					35	28	8	60
22nd Sept												25	43	7	36
23rd Sept	Next consultation at Churston Library	Your Town Your Voice	2,538	5	6	5	3%	1011	1	0	1	47	32	10	26
24th Sept	Today's consultation at Churston	Your Town Your Voice	1,725	1	3	3	2%	810	0	0	1	37	18	11	8
	Letters sent to Paignton & Torquay residents														
25th Sept	Facebook Live taking place today		1,725	3	0	6	2%	1081	2	0	3	57	37	5	19
	Second Facebook Live	Live Video	4,267	22	114	14	11%	772	1	0	1				
	Letters sent to Torquay residents / Twitter post announcing Ask Us event								1337	4	0				
26th Sept												38	28	10	12
27th Sept	Announcing Ask Us event	Ask Us	1,454	2	8	0	4%	954	0	0	1	91	33	14	11
28th Sept												26	13	5	43
29th Sept												46	26	4	18
30th Sept	Twitter - reminder re Ask Us event							1519	2	1	2	80	37	5	29
1st Oct	Ask Us Facebook Live	Live Video	22,034	22	216	10	5%					127	130	14	52
	Boosted event for Ask Us (4 days, cost £40)	Ask Us	5,859												
	Twitter - reminder re Ask Us event							1019	2	0	4				
	Twitter - room set for Ask Us event							1031	2	0	2				
	Twitter - Thread of 7 tweets for Ask Us event							7236	11	8	2				
2nd Oct												270	305	22	179
3rd Oct												129	88	7	41
4th Oct	Torquay United Roadshow tomorrow	Your Town Your Voice	16,832	7	31	30	4%	750	0	0	0	82	58	6	24
5th Oct	Torquay United Roadshow today	Your Town Your Voice	1,670	1	4	1	3%	1154	0	0	1	38	31	4	32
6th Oct												50	44	5	31
7th Oct												54	82	6	34
8th Oct												56	127	5	59
9th Oct												35	108	7	46
10th Oct												44	36	3	17
11th Oct	Brixham Rugby Club Roadshow Tomorrow	Your Town Your Voice	8,692	3	32	21	5%	975	0	0	1	59	35	3	24
12th Oct	Brixham Rugby Club Roadshow Today	Your Town Your Voice	2,167	0	20	3	4%	763	0	0	0	56	41	3	26
13th Oct												29	31	1	18
14th Oct												47	40	5	25

15th Oct												58	20	3	18
16th Oct												39	18	4	13
17th Oct												12	27	1	16
18th Oct												14	8	2	2
19th Oct												49	86	31	31
20th Oct												47	56	25	22
21st Oct												7	20	2	14
22nd Oct	Consultation closes at end of the week	Your Town Your Voice	10,321	5	22	21	3%	943	0	0	1	45	75	5	39
23rd Oct												35	53	3	28
24th Oct												65	118	4	51
25th Oct	Consultation closes today	Thank You	3,218	4	29	10	7%	911	1	1	1	77	139	4	74

157,311	289	1,062	366	5.8%	36,754	45	24	48	2,777	2,891	549	<b>1607</b>
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Key

- Over 50 consultations completed that day
- Facebook reach over 10,000
- Facebook reach under 2,000
- Twitter reach over 1,500
- Twitter reach under 800
- Web hits over 100

145%



## 6. Appendix 4 - Written Representations

Paignton is always the poor relation . About time a compulsory purchase order was put on crossways and more investments sort to encourage the town revival . It seems as if Paignton is forgotten. The refurbishment of Jack Sears to move the down and outs and to get them out of Torquay is another kick in the teeth for the town . Money is found to make them have a lovely home but is not found for other needy services it's a joke. Very sensible to move them near a pub and bus station.

I only hope no more councillors are elected for separate councils. To save money we need less councillors and the big wards.

Paignton needs to encourage more investments for its future.

-----

Why are we carrying on with another survey when the last one was overwhelmingly at 80% against Town Councils?

The town Council precept is an extra cost to households and an unnecessary burden on the people.

The over expenditure of Adult and Children's services means other services have been stopped and resulted in this needless survey.

Every time another tier of representation is introduced there is the potential for more conflict and decisions will be harder to agree.

I can't see a logical reason for introducing town councils

-----

Having read your information on the thoughts for your proposals for another layer of councils I can only say that we have no need for an additional layer of bureaucracy or asking the residents to pay even more council tax for the promises of things that we will never receive. We were promised improved amenities when the Unitary Authority was approved, I know this because I was one of the Chairman of the local Chambers of Trade who were asked to support this application which had been rejected, we did so believing that we would see the improvements in the parks, the public toilets, the physical condition of the town, cleaner streets as an example which we still do not get as the cleaners almost never take the brooms off their carts or whatever it is you call them but what we did see is a car park suddenly full of new Mercedes, BMW's etc. for all the senior servants.

The promised improvements never materialised, one of the busiest tourist areas, Torquay Harbour, does not even have an open public toilet and yet there are thousands of visitors to that area every year including the elderly and young children who sometimes need to find a toilet a matter of urgency and we can be so proud of this council who decided that these people do not need one but we can complain so much if someone is so desperate that they use a wall but of course we can prosecute them for indecency then.

We are and I hope will always be a major British Holiday resort and it is about time that the council supported this fact and in supporting this huge measure of income to this area started realising that we do not need endless reports and ever increasing quantities of civil servants whose department managers have increasing salaries for managing a larger department, we need employees that will do the work required to improve the standards of

the Bay, we need leadership that will honour their word and not take years to do it as seems to be the case with handing over Oldway Mansion to the Friends of Oldway so that they start to apply for grants to restore the mansion and not have the obstruction of the council slowing everything down because they cannot decide what to do but somehow think that they can convince the public that they have the good of all at heart.

There is no trust in this council to honour anything that they say and another recent example of this is the council deciding to put parking meters in Preston near the beach which already has a time restriction for people parking there. This was rejected before and now you have once again decided that the Council Tax payers do not matter, you want them to have to pay even more to live here and use the facilities that should be open for all as residents in the Bay without having to pay even more.

Therefore, to re-iterate, in answer to your question as to whether or not we should have town councils, emphatically no, there is very little trust that the council would keep it's word and the track record in the last 25 years bears this out strongly. We do not need more bureaucracy, we need less and we need it managed better which will always be difficult as civil servants have no concept of cost, whatever they get wrong the tax payer always covers the cost and it is about time that this attitude stopped.

-----  
I object to their formation, they serve no purpose, the English Riviera council is quite enough.

-----  
As a local resident I am appalled to hear that you are wasting taxpayer's money to the tune of £50,000 for another consultation on Town Councils!!!  
No one wants them, over 80% voted NO and do not want further duplicate administration to deliver services that will ultimately add a further £90 - £300.00 on our Council Tax Bill should we have Town Councils.  
This is not what anyone wants and as Leader of the Council you should be looking to streamline your delivery not add administration and duplication.  
Would you please run the Council in an efficient manner, delivering services that need delivering rather than thinking up ways to cost the taxpayer even more in an out of date manner and wasting money.  
I heard that at a recent consultation at the Riviera Centre only 30 people turned up.  
Doesn't this tell you something!  
All very disappointing and certainly a failure on your running of the Council.

-----  
Do some work. I often see one person working and two or three others standing leaning on their shovels watching.  
And there is often a street cleaner with his barrel of cleaning equipment who spends most of the day sitting in a shelter.  
Get them all working not shirking.

As I thought more councillors more money tax payer paying. Perhaps go for more volunteering More community care Already people do lots of jobs for free i.e. beach cleaning Get people paying more for beech huts that use the services i.e. water donâ€™t pay for it Retired residents will be again hit more for money

---

The section "How much will cost you" is inaccurate and misleading. It doesn't allow for the capped amount that will be added to existing charge. Please be honest about this. Band D is likely to go up by £179.91 not the £90 you are telling your voters.

---

You are all a joke. Why waste more money creating another council. There are enough of you already. Buck your ideas up and stop wasting so much time and money.

---

I wish to vote a NO to the New Town Councils, and strongly object. I say NO-NO-No.

---

I have been following Torbay Council's latest wheeze to obtain money from the Council Tax payers with interest. As I understand it, all local councils are limited in their ability to increase Council Tax to a maximum of 2.99% without holding a referendum on the rise. Funnily enough, this is exactly the amount that Torbay Council have raised their Council Tax by – go figure.

So now, to get around this restriction, the great idea of a Town Council Precept has been dreamt up.

I have read a lot on this through Torbay Council communications and have been "reassured" that, for the average Council Tax payer, the Precept will be "less than £100 in the first year". Now, I don't know whether you have noticed, but employers in the Bay area have not been giving their employees pay rises for a number of years now – maybe council employees have been getting raises? £100 is not an insubstantial amount to find when people are struggling as it is. Even assuming that people can find this extra £100 (for the first year) I have found no mention of any mechanism in place to limit the amount that the Council can raise the Precept by each year. Indeed, I noticed with interest that the Brixham Town Council Precept was raised by 9.66% this year alone – let me state that again as it is quite incredulous – Brixham Town Council Precept was raised by 9.66% this year alone!

What is to stop Torbay Council (under the guise of the Town Councils) doing exactly the same with the new Town Councils' Precepts each year (or raising them by even more) to cover up for their own financial mismanagement? Will we be looking at Precepts of £200, £300, £400 or more in the next few years? Given that Council Tax payers have no recourse to fight any raises and are compelled to pay their bills, passing the introduction of

Town Councils without a way to limit the rise in Precepts appears to be a licence for the council to legally rob their residents.

Until there is a public acknowledgement that there is a mechanism in place to stop unseemly rises or a very clear statement to Council Tax payers that the council can raise the Precept by however much it pleases, I will be voting against the formation of the new councils and I will be encouraging everyone I know to do the same.

Can you offer any reassurances on the levels of rises that we would see should the new Town Councils become a reality?

-----

The threat of extremely high raises in the charges would remain completely beyond the control of the residents.

I wonder whether the people of Brixham would vote for a town council again having experienced it for a few years. Somehow I doubt it but they are now stuck with higher council charges that are spiralling out of control.

My only hope is that the fate of the residents of Brixham does not befall the rest of Torbay.

-----

NO. That is my answer to the latest brainwave from people who seem to think that more layers of management/government paid for by raising money from people who can least afford it is a way of improving services.

You may comeback with the argument "it only cost the price of a cup of coffee per week" but there are a great many pensioners living in this area who cannot afford a cup of tea let alone coffee. The rates in this region should provide enough money to provide all the services in the community and raising more money by a clever back door ploy is completely out of the question. Councils are constantly being shown as useless in the management of money so the first objective should be efficient management and reduction of waste. Sometimes humorous comments are more accurate than funny i.e. 'How many people does it take to change a light bulb for the council' 1.to note the fault 2.to write the repair order 3.to obtain the replacement from the stores 4.to hold the ladder 5.to fit the bulb 6.to dispose of the old bulb etc. etc.

So once again I emphasise my answer to your proposition is NO a thousand times NO.

-----

If I could make an observation. As Torbay Councillors can perform the roll of Town Councillors it seems the only benefit of Town Councils is to enable fund raising for worthy projects over and above Council tax rises.

I have great sympathy with Councils, central government having disgracefully cut funding. This only serves to further enrich London at the expense of the regions. However, I prefer not to cooperate with further impoverishment of the regions. Please find ways to put pressure on central government instead of setting up Town Councils.

-----

I don't want a new council

---

I reject proposal for town councils for Torquay and Paignton

---

Nothing really startling from Brixham Council, They try their best but many essential things are ignored. E.g. marking of bays in carparks especially disabled. Anyone can park anywhere as the bays are not clearly marked. At Breakwater none at all nor at Freshwater and Oxen Cove. There is bound to be more cost if local councils are set up, so where is the saving? I notice that Torquay still has just about everything.

---

We will not support any of these proposals as they are only adding yet another unnecessary level of bureaucracy, red tape and expense to local government. These proposals appear to be a rather circuitous way of adding an extra increase to the Council Tax.

Torbay is supposed to be a Unitary Authority. These proposals seem to be negating this fact and reverting to what was here some 30 years ago.

Torbay is a low income area. This additional charge will only put more pressure on the many low paid workers living here, who will then have to be supported by the benefit system, thus negating any imagined financial advantages of the proposed changes.

Also we will not support any further proposals by the Liberal Democrats, as the Party is not following the outcome of a national democratic referendum. The name 'Democrats' should be removed from the Party name as it is a misrepresentation of the Party that wishes this Country to remain under the dictatorial rule of the E.U.

---

Dear Lib/Dems and independents town  
Councillors.

I have just read about your  
plans to press ahead with new Town Councils.  
Despite 80% of residents being against this  
idea in a recent consultation.

My greatest concern is this  
will result in a rise of the council tax.

I have to protest most strongly  
You must be sensitive to council tax payers.

I am already struggling to pay with all  
the recent increases of the council tax. And so on  
many other people. It is my biggest bill and  
far out of proportion to my small income.

Is it really necessary to have another  
layer of bureaucracy. Surely that's what your  
representation is all about. Please reconsider.

---

The councillors of Torbay Council are back to their old tricks, change for change's sake at extra cost to the rate payer.

If you want to reduce costs make the existing staff & councillors more efficient. Don't be a load of sheep following others. Don't waste so much money on paper chasing. Take responsibility for what you were elected for and don't try to offload your duties.

---

Further to your recent letter regarding establishing new Town Councils. The answer is NO NO NO.

We have recently had a consultation on new Town Councils where over 80% of residents were against your plan

We don't need a NEW LAYER of bureaucracy and costs to residents of up to £90 a year -extra. We are already anticipating a 2020 council tax rise of some 6% !!!!!

Is this going to be like Brexit? We keep voting until you get the answer YOU require!!

This council would serve us, its residents best by getting back to basics and

- (1) Restart a weekly kerbside bin collection.
- (2) Introduce a fortnightly garden waste kerbside collection. Currently some 140 local authorities even do it for free.
- (3) Get stuck-in on road sweeping and kerb weeding/grass killing including hedge and tree trimming. Barton district including Church Road is supposed to see a road sweeper every three months. Only every three months. To my knowledge we have had only ONE visit in 2019. We pay the same council tax rate as Torquay centre who gets a regular litter pick and road sweeper service yet we get treated to a third world service.
- (4) Re-instate a police presence. There used to be a foot patrol occasionally along Barton Hill with patrol cars sweeping the side roads. NOT SEEN FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS.

Whilst we applaud the savings and efficiencies Torbay Council has achieved this last few years we are certain on the basic services you have reduced far too much.

-----  
I am against the forming of Town Councils and believe they will be a waste of public spending and cause an increase in council tax.  
-----

With regards to your figures quoted whether it was £50,000, as seems the general consensus or £6,500, it really doesn't matter, it is still a total waste of taxpayer's money. £6,500 would pay for replacement broken lights along the seafront and harbour area, would contribute to the Christmas lighting and at least would have seen a benefit to the people of Torbay. £6,500 has just been torn up, thrown in the air and wasted!! Any spending on consultation that has already been done is not sensible, particularly where the Council has a moratorium on spend.

Town Councils add another layer of administration, would result in additional staffing and therefore incur additional costs. In my experience in Essex, Town Councils such as Witham also tend to be political and do not deliver anything other than what is currently being delivered by the unitary. It just adds another burden of cost to the ratepayer. On the other hand, small parish councils often have little or no officer cost and can deliver over and above what the Council delivers. Clearly, as a resident, I do not want to pay any further Council tax, particularly when it will not bring additional services.

I think if this Council forces through Town Councils it will forever damage their political reputation.

Let us hope that business sense takes prevalence. A consultation did take place previously regarding Town Councils and the results came back with an unanimous 80% "NO". So by asking different questions is a waste – people do not want them.

-----  
I have just completed and submitted your online questionnaire which I do not think was a particularly good one in helping to express my views.

I voted against the formation of any new town councils in the Torbay area.

I am not against the principle of town councils as such. In fact I was a keen and active member of Nailsea Town Council for seven years prior to coming to live in Devon. However I do not think that the introduction of town councils for Torquay and Paignton would be a good idea in our situation. We are essentially a common geographical unit and our needs and services should be capable of being effectively delivered by the present arrangements.

The problem as I see it is that of government funding, or the lack of, not that of operational efficiency and sensitivity to local needs. The answer is for the government to largely restore the cuts made to local authority funding which seemed to have been their main vehicle in achieving their "austerity" public spending cuts. I have been appalled about the supine way in which local government has largely accepted and implemented these cuts, particularly in this part of the world which is politically predominantly a Conservative area. Address this problem rather than introducing an otherwise, in this area at least, an unnecessary additional level of government.

-----  
I do not agree nor do I want town councils.

-----  
Do not agree with Lib Dem coalition with independents on council wards. Brixham should remain a self-governing council and not share any self-governing with Paignton or Lib Dems (cannot be trusted on bedroom tax).





# Brixham Town Council

First Floor, Brixham Town Hall,  
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Town Clerk: Mrs Tracy Hallett

Torbay Council  
Town Hall  
Torquay  
Devon

[consultations@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@torbay.gov.uk)

18<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Sirs

**Re: Community Governance (Town Councils) Review Consultation**

At the Full Council meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October, members considered a response to the above consultation. The following response was resolved:

That Brixham Town Council decline to comment on Torbay Council's Community Governance Review on Town Councils in their second consultation. The Town Council agreed that there was a lack of information in order to make an informed decision.

Instead, Brixham Town Council supports Torbay Council to lobby Central Government to provide adequate funding to deliver essential services to our communities and prevent existential crisis.

Yours faithfully

*Tracy Hallett*

Tracy Hallett

---

The questions that arise are a mixture of possible/probably small errors and larger apparent omissions. I might preface my questions with an assurance that I am undecided on the issue of parish/town councils and have no bias except with respect to a preference for clear logic and clear communication.

In section 2, Current situation, as part of draft recommendations:

- a. What assets or liabilities are under consideration for transfer?
- b. The number of properties in Brixham are listed as 6.1714; it appears that this number should be 6,171.
- c. What is the reasoning behind the assertion that admin costs for Brixham (with just over 6,000 properties, would be the same for Paignton, with almost three times as many, and Torquay, with even more properties? Given that the councils for Paignton and Torquay would need to respond to far more people, general administrative costs would surely be greater.

In the section on Electoral arrangements, the first line of the second paragraph refers to "the ordinary election of parish councillors" as something that currently takes place in 2019. Given that we have no parish councillors, should the statement refer to Torbay Councillors, not parish councillors?

Section 5 refers to the role of parish councils to "allow for the provision of local services that Torbay Council may be unable to sustain in the future due to resource and demand pressures particularly in the statutory services of Children's and Adult Services." This statement seems ambiguous in that it is not clear whether parish council income could be used to meet Torbay Council's statutory services. Is it the case that parish council income could be used for this purpose, or are those statutory services necessarily funded from only the Torbay Council income?

Sections 6, 7, and 8 do not answer the questions they purport to answer. Nothing in the written material for Q 6 explains how the proposal would tackle deprivation. The written statement is a generic, rather bureaucratic sounding waffle that has no meaning in the context of the question. The same criticism applied to Q 7 and 8. Please would the council provide clear, informative answers to these questions? At present there is no pertinent information provided.

I note that although the current proposal includes assurance that the first year precept will be no more than £90 per annum for Band D property, item 5 clearly states that the advantage to establishing parish councils is that their precept mechanism "is not currently subject to capping rules", and so can increase by any amount. Is it the case that costs will only be controlled for one year, and could rise substantially in future years?

One final comment: I very much appreciate the change to the consultation procedures, to include people who are not in a position to be informed and respond via the internet. The previous consultation was seriously flawed in this respect. The refusal of the previous council to make provisions for responses other than online was contemptible.

-----

I would like to propose a new town council for Churston & Galmpton wards.

---

I was rather surprised that I did not receive written notification of the above proposal by Torbay Council.

The documentation was sent to a near neighbour who kindly provided me with a copy. Given that Torbay Council appears to consider this matter rather important I would have expected to receive a copy.

I appreciate that I receive a discount as a single occupant but that is solely due to the death of my wife in July 2018.

I believe that I have a right to have been sent the documentation.

I have completed the online questionnaire although I feel the questions were aimed at providing the Council with the "right" answer, i.e., approval of the plan for Town Councils. I also feel the Council has failed to take into account any other increases in Council Tax which may / will occur. I believe there will be an increase of 2% in respect of Care services , plus the usual inflation busting increase from Torbay Council. The total increase could be nearly 10% next year.

Overall, I feel the limited distribution of the Consultation documentation is anti-democratic. However, as the Liberal Democrats are intent on ignoring the decision of 17+ million voters to leave the E.U., omitting a few thousand local voters is a mere drop in the ocean.

Overall, this is very poor.

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I do not want a Paignton town council. It would fragment the local services at present supplied by Torbay Council. The various Town Community Partnerships can inspire and contribute to local activities and local democracy.

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I live in Paignton and am completely against the creation of a separate layer of bureaucracy that would be caused by an additional council for Paignton.

## Policy, Performance and Review Team



For further information please contact the Corporate Support Team on 01803 207227 or email [consultation@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@torbay.gov.uk)

The information used to collate this report has been collected and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 1998.

