

Central  
Bedfordshire  
Council  
Priory House  
Monks Walk  
Chicksands,  
Shefford SG17 5TQ



**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE  
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

29 November 2011

Dear Councillor

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2011**

Further to the agenda and papers for the above meeting, previously circulated, please find attached the following report which was marked to follow:-

**7. Community Governance Review - Stotfold Parish (Area of Fairfield)**

To consider an update on the progress of the Community Governance Review currently being undertaken for the area of Fairfield within the Parish of Stotfold.

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Leslie Manning  
Committee Services Officer

email: [leslie.manning@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:leslie.manning@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)  
telephone: 0300 300 5132

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**Meeting:** General Purposes Committee  
**Date:** 8 December 2011  
**Subject:** Community Governance Review – Stotfold Parish (Area of Fairfield)  
**Report of:** Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
**Summary:** This report is to update Members on the progress of the Community Governance Review currently being undertaken for the area of Fairfield within the parish of Stotfold.

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**Contact Officer:** John Atkinson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** Stotfold and Langford  
**Function of:** General Purposes Committee

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Council Priorities:**

This report contributes to the Council's requirement to bring about improved community engagement.

##### **Financial:**

1. None specifically arising from this report but the process of carrying out a governance review is to consult the local government electors together with any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and therefore there will be considerable administrative costs.

##### **Legal:**

2. Community Governance Reviews operate under the following legislative framework:

Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;

*Guidance on community governance reviews*, issued jointly by Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Committee for England;

Local Government Act 1972 (as amended);

Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008 625); and

Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008 (SI2008 626).

3. The manner in which this framework applies to this review is explained in the text of the report.

**Risk Management:**

4. None resulting from this report.

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

5. None resulting from this report.

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

6. None resulting from this report.

**Community Safety:**

7. n/a

**Sustainability:**

8. n/a

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Committee is asked to:**

1. **Consider the results of the public consultation;**
2. **Decide whether or not to recommend that a new parish should be constituted for the area known as Fairfield;**
3. **Recommend that, if a new parish is so constituted, that it be called Fairfield Community Council;**
4. **Make any consequential changes to the area of Stotfold Town Council; and**
5. **Amend the Terms of Reference of the Review so that the second stage consultation period will be extended until 23 January 2012 and that the subsequent stages of the timetable will also be deferred by 14 days in each case.**

**Background**

9. At the meeting of this Committee on the 4 August 2011 it was resolved to carry out a Community Governance Review, in accordance with Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the Act), of the Fairfield area of Stotfold. A Map showing the Fairfield area is attached at Appendix A. A community governance review (formerly known as a parish review) is a review

of the whole or part of a principal council's area for the purpose of making recommendations with regard to creating, merging or abolishing parishes, the naming of parishes, the electoral arrangements for parishes and grouping arrangements for parishes.

10. The principal council must consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body (including a local authority) who appears to have an interest in the review. In carrying out the review every household within the parish of Stotfold was consulted together with the list of interested parties as shown at Appendix B.

### **Criteria for undertaking a review**

11. Section 93 of the Act requires principal councils to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:
  - reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
  - effective and convenient.
12. When considering the criteria identified in the Act, principal councils should take into account a number of influential factors, including:
  - the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
  - the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.
13. In considering the criteria, the impact on community cohesion is linked specifically to the identities and interests of local communities. Size, population and boundaries are linked to both but perhaps more specifically to community governance being effective and convenient.

### **Consultation**

14. Councils are required to consider representations made by local people and interested parties.
15. In carrying out the consultation with the Stotfold parish electorate and the interested parties all respondents were invited to agree or to disagree with the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council. Additionally, there was also an opportunity to add any comments. The results of the consultation together with analysis of the comments are shown at Appendix C,
16. Representations have also been received from Stotfold Town Council (Appendix D) with a further submission by the Fairfield Community Action Group (Appendix E).

## Timing

17. Principal councils are required to complete the review, including consequential recommendations to the Local Government Boundary Committee for England for related alterations to the boundaries of principal area wards, within 12 months of the start of the review.
18. Reorganisation of community governance orders creating new parishes, abolishing parishes or altering their area can be made at any time following a review. However, for administrative and financial purposes (such as setting up the parish council and arranging its first precept), the order should take effect on the 1 April following the date on which it is made. Electoral arrangements for a new or existing parish council will come into force at the first elections to the parish council following the reorganisation order. However, orders should be made sufficiently far in advance to allow preparations for the conduct of those elections to be made.
19. Parish council elections should normally take place every four years at the same time as the elections for the district/unitary authority ward. However, where a new parish is to be created, it may be necessary to altar the date of the next parish election, particularly if the next elections to the ward are not scheduled to take place for some time. Section 98 of the Act allows principal councils to modify or exclude sections of the Local Government Act 1972 so that the first election to the new parish council is held in an earlier year. This would result in councillors serving either a shortened or lengthened first term to allow the parish council's electoral cycle to return to that of the unitary ward at the next election.

## Recommendations and Decisions

20. In conducting community governance reviews (whether initiated by itself or is triggered by a valid petition), the principal council should consider the impact on community cohesion when deciding whether or not to set up a parish council.
21. A principal council must make recommendations as to:
  - (a) Whether a new parish or any new parishes should be constituted;
  - (b) Whether existing parishes should be abolished or whether the area of the existing parishes should be altered; or
  - (c) What the electoral arrangements for new or existing parishes, which are to have parish councils, should be.
22. The recommendations must take account of any representations received and should be supported by evidence which demonstrates that the recommended community governance arrangements would meet the criteria in the Act. Where a principal council has conducted a review following receipt of a petition, it will remain open to the council to make a recommendation which is different to the recommendation the petitioners wished the review to make.

23. In making its recommendations, the review should consider the information it has received in the form of expressions of local opinion on the matters considered by the review, representations made by local people and other interested persons, and also use its own knowledge of the local area. In taking this evidence into account and judging the criteria in the Act against it, a principal council may reasonably conclude that a recommendation set out in a petition should not be made. For example, a recommendation to abolish or establish a parish council, may negatively impact on community cohesion, either within the proposed parish area, or in the wider community within which it would be located, and therefore should not be made.
24. The aim of the Act is to open up a wider choice of governance to communities at the most local level. However, the Government considers that there is sufficient flexibility for principal councils not to feel 'forced' to recommend that the matters included in every petition must be implemented.

### **Alternative Styles for Parishes**

25. The Act introduced amendments to the Local Government 1972 to bring 'alternative styles' for parish councils. Three alternative styles are permitted by the Act:
- (a) Community
  - (b) Neighbourhood
  - (c) Village
26. Where the review relates to a new parish, it is for the principal council, in the first instance, to make recommendations as to the geographical name of the new parish, and as to whether or not it should have one of the alternative styles.

### **Council size**

27. Council size is the term used to describe the number of councillors to be elected to the whole council. The Local Government Act 1972, as amended, specifies that each parish council must have at least five councillors; there is no maximum number.
28. Research carried out in 1992, found that the typical parish council representing less than 500 people had between five and eight councillors, and those between 501 and 2,500 had six to twelve councillors.

### **Publicising Draft Proposals**

29. Under the Act the principal council must both publish its recommendations and ensure that those who have an interest are informed of them.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A - Map of area known as Fairfield

Appendix B - List of Interested parties

Appendix C - Results of Consultation

Appendix D - Representation from Stotfold Town Council

Appendix E - Further submission from Fairfield Community Action Group

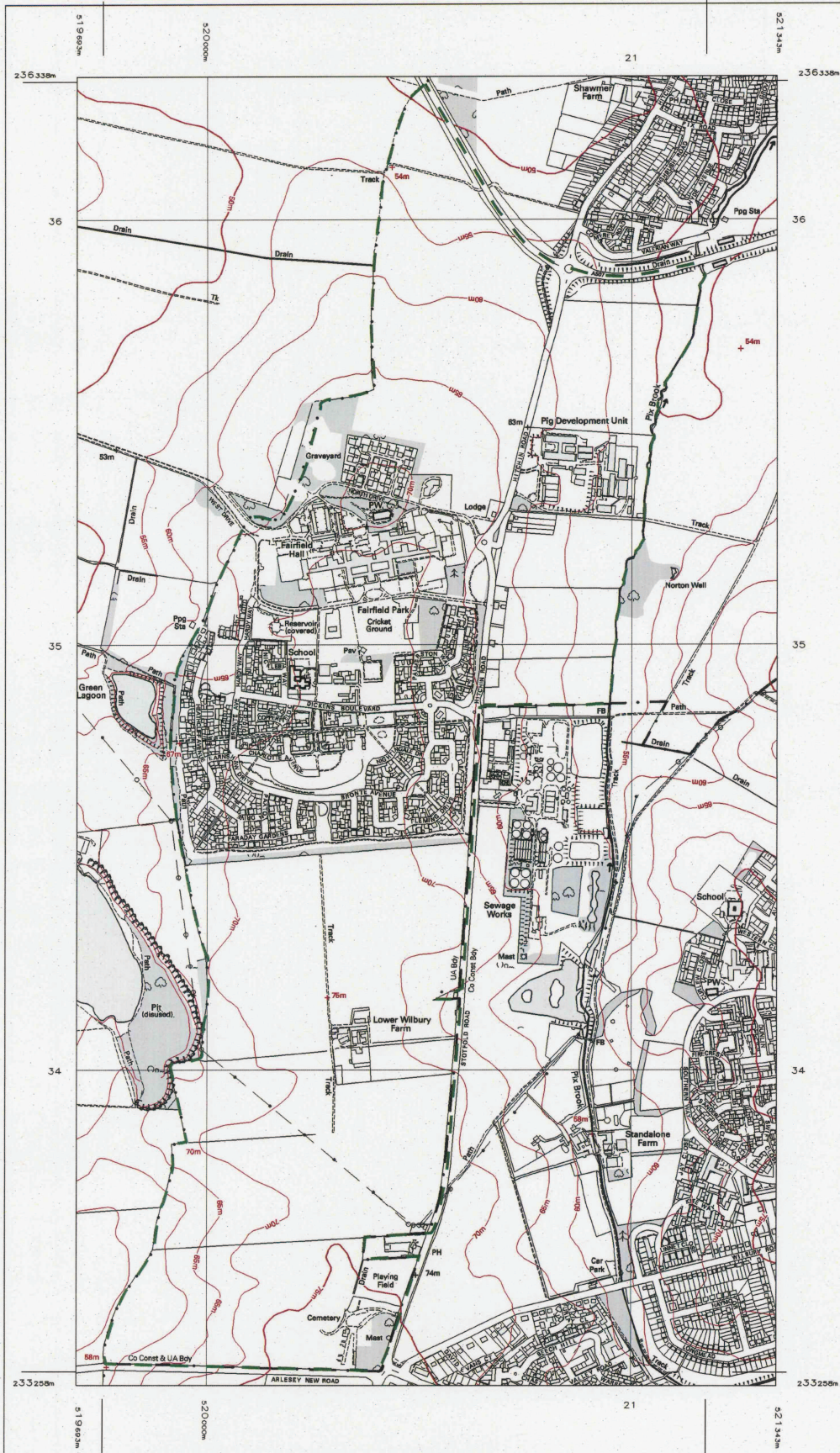
**Background Papers:** None.

**Location of Background Papers:** N/A

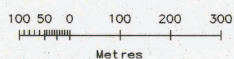




# OS Landplan® Data



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**APPENDIX B**

**Interested Parties**

Councillor J Clarke	Ward Councillor
Councillor B Saunders	Ward Councillor
Councillor J Saunders	Ward Councillor
The Proprietor	Two Chimneys Public House
The Proprietor	Eden Hair Design & Beauty
The Office Manager	Kings Baptist Church
Headteacher	Etonbury Middle School
Philippa Smith	Practice Manager
Richard Stead	Practice Manager
Jenny Stone	Fairfield Park Lower School
Mrs E Hare	Town Clerk Arlesey Town Council
Rev Bob Forest	Methodist Church
Maurice Crouch	Secretary Fairfield Bowls Club
	Community Relations Department
The Proprietor	Lower Wilbury Farm
Dennis Carter	Fairfield Redevelopments Ltd
	Community Relations Department
The Manager	Citizens Advice Bureau
The Manager	GL 14 The Health Club
Michael Weeks	Chairman
Robert Thomson	Secretary Letchworth Cricket Club
Sue Wright	Stotfold Guides
Amanda Allen	Chair Pippin Pre School
The Proprietor	Doughtys at GL14
The Minister	Hopes Baptist Chapel
Chairman	PJ Livesey Group
Joanne Rowland	Poppies Nursery
The Proprietor	Poppyfields Nursery
The Manager	Post Office Stotfold
Julie Pearson	Headteacher
Majors Chris & Joy Davidson	The Salvation Army
Robert Robson	Principal
Nick Peace	Stotfold Scout Group
Rev Pat Quint	The Vicarage
Colin Phelps	St Marys Lower School
Managing Director	Stamford Homes Midlands
Kate Elliott-Turner	Clerk Stotfold Town Council
Julie Longhurst	Secretary
Jess Milne	Red Bear Children's Centre
The Manager	Tesco Express
The Proprietor	Thorne's Poultry & Garden Centre
Chris & Jackie Townson	Toybox Day Nursery
Mrs J Warburton	Secretary North Herts Reel Club
	Secretary NE Beds Conservative Assn
Katherine Arnold Secretary	Secretary NE Beds Labour Party
Gordon Willey	NE Beds Liberal Democrats
Marc Scheimann	Luton and Beds Green Party
Nadine Dorries MP	House of Commons

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**APPENDIX C**

# **Community Governance Review Fairfield area of Stotfold**

## **Consultation results**



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## Introduction

Between August and November 2011 Central Bedfordshire Council undertook a Community Governance Review to consult residents of Stotfold Parish on the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council.

Residents, members of the public and interested organisations were able to give their views on the proposal during a 12 week consultation period.

Views were sought through a paper and online questionnaire. A paper copy of the questionnaire was delivered to every household in the Stotfold Parish along with an accompanying information sheet about the Community Governance Review and proposed boundary map for the proposed Fairfield area. An online questionnaire and the related information were also made available from the Central Bedfordshire Council website.

979 responses were received to the Community Governance review; 775 responses to the paper form and 204 responses to the online form.

The response to this survey represents 10% of the Stotfold Parish (2010 mid year estimates ONS population for Stotfold was 8,822<sup>1</sup>).

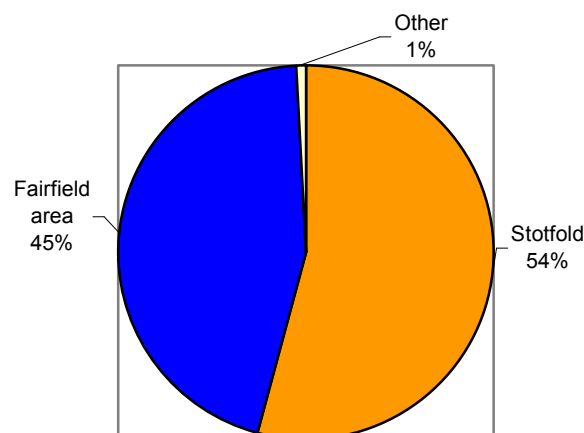
Whilst only a small proportion of Stotfold Parish responded to this survey, the demographic profile of respondents to the survey is broadly in line with the demographic of Stotfold parish, although older people are over represented and young people are under represented in the survey response.

The address and postcode data provided in responses has been analysed to determine the level of responses by area.

Almost all of the responses received were from residents or organisations identified themselves as being based within the existing Stotfold Parish (99%).

Just over half of the respondents indicated they were from the proposed Stotfold area and 45% of the respondents indicated they were from the proposed Fairfield area.

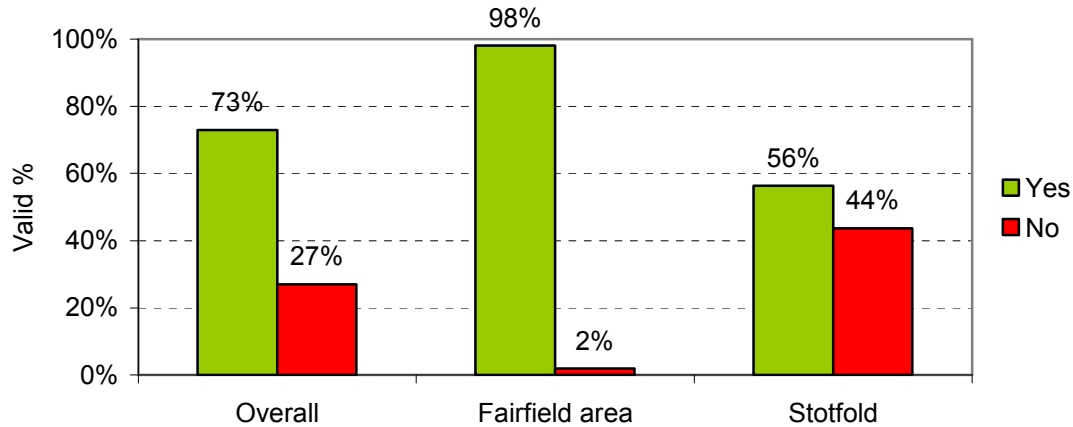
Less than one percent of the responses received were from Letchworth Garden City, Ampthill, Arlesey and Hitchin collectively.



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<sup>1</sup>Figures for the Stotfold Parish Population include Astwick however Astiwick account for a very small proportion of the parish population (approximately 30 people).

## Results



73% of people responding to this Community Governance Review supported the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council (707 people). 27% of people responding to this review did not support this proposal (256 people).

Respondents from the proposed Fairfield area were much more likely to support the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council (98% responded in support of the proposal).

Respondents from the Stotfold area were more divided in their support for the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council, with just over half of the respondents from this area indicating support (56%).



## Comments analysis

396 people made a comment about the Community Governance Review. These comments have been coded into common themes and are summarised in the tables below.

Comments have been analysed by respondents' views on the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council (in support of or against).

Comments from respondents from to the Community Governance Review overall						
	Overall		Responded in support for the creation a new Fairfield Community Council		Responded against the creation a new Fairfield Community Council	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
More investment / Better use of funding for Fairfield area	114	12	113	16	1	0.4
No affinity/ association to the Stotfold area	63	6	62	9		
Separate Council for Fairfield would be costly/ increase bureaucracy	49	5	4	1	44	17
Fairfield to remain a part of Stotfold/ Retain community history and links	44	4	2	0.3	41	16
Fairfield to have separate Council	39	4	39	6		
Fairfield residents were made aware of the additional maintenance cost at time of purchasing property	29	3	11	2	17	7
Fairfield residents access facilities in Stotfold	26	3	1	0.1	25	10
More information needed	21	2	11	2	5	2
Stronger influence in decision making if Stotfold and Fairfield remain combined	16	2			16	6
Do more to harmonise Fairfield and Stotfold residents	14	1			14	5
Separate Fairfield Council must not impact on council tax rates/ increase financial strain for Stotfold	7	1	7	1		
Limit the Fairfield Council to the current boundary if separated	5	1	3	0.4	2	1
Fairfield to have own facilities if it becomes a separate area	4	0.4	2	0.3	1	0.4
Other	19	2	16	2	2	1

The most common reason for support of the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council were around the need **for more investment in and better use of funding for the Fairfield area** (16%, 113 comments).

Respondents feeling Fairfield **has no affinity or association to the Stotfold area** was also a popular reason for support of the proposal (9%, 62 comments). Some respondents commenting around this also said the Fairfield area has little affinity to Central Bedfordshire, with a greater connection to Hertfordshire.

Popular reasons given from respondents opposed to a new Fairfield Community council were that **it would be costly to create a separate council for Fairfield and would increase bureaucracy**, and that **Fairfield should remain a part of Stotfold to retain**

**community history and links** (17% and 16% of those opposed to a new Fairfield Community Council commented around these respectively).

Those responding from the Stotfold area (excluding the Fairfield area) who were not in support of the proposal were most likely to say **Fairfield should remain a part of Stotfold and community history and links must be retained** (18%, 38 people).

A **separate Fairfield Community being costly and increasing bureaucracy** were also popular reasons given from respondents within the Stotfold area who were opposed to the proposal to create a new community council for Fairfield the (16%, 34 people).

The most popular reason for support of the proposal amongst respondents from the Stotfold area was that there is that the Fairfield area **has no affinity or association to Stotfold** (10%, 26 people).

The most popular reasons for support of the proposal to create a new Fairfield community Council was the need for **more investment in Fairfield and better use of funding for the Fairfield area** (23%, 95people) and having **no affinity or association to the Stotfold area** (8%, 34 comments).

## Appendix 1: Questionnaire

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### Community Governance Review Fairfield area of Stotfold



### Response Form

Please complete the questions below and return this form to Brian Dunleavy, Democratic Services Manager at the address printed at the end of this form by 7 November 2011.

Alternatively you can complete this form online at  
[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/surveys/CGR/fairfield.htm](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/surveys/CGR/fairfield.htm)

**Q1 Do you support the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council?**  
(Please tick one box only)

Yes

No

**Q2 Do you have any comments to make that you wish to have considered as part of this review?**

## About You

The following information will help us to make sure that we're getting the views of all members of the community. The answers will not be used to identify any individual. Our data protection statement is provided at the end of this form.

**Q3 Are you male or female?**  Male  Female

**Q4 What is your age?**  Under 16 yrs  16-19 yrs  20-29 yrs  30-44 yrs  
 45-59 yrs  60-64 yrs  65-74 yrs  75+

**Q5 Do you consider yourself to be disabled?**  Yes  No

Under the Equality Act 2010 a person is considered to have a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a sustained and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

**Q6 To which of these groups do you consider you belong? (Please pick one)**

White British  Black or Black British  Asian or Asian British  
 Mixed  Chinese  Other (please specify below)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q7** Your name .....| \_\_\_\_\_  
Organisation name ..| \_\_\_\_\_  
Your address .....| \_\_\_\_\_  
Your postcode .....| \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for completing this form**

**Please return this form to  
Brian Dunleavy, Democratic Services Manager,  
Central Bedfordshire Council,  
Priory House, Monks Walk,  
Chicksands, Bedfordshire  
SG17 5TQ**

**by 7 November 2011**

Data Protection Act 1998

Please note that your personal details supplied on this form will be held and/or computerised by Central Bedfordshire Council for the purpose of evaluating the feedback from the Community Governance Review consultation. The information collected may be disclosed to officers and members of the Council and its partners involved in this consultation. Summarised information from the forms may be published, but no individual details will be disclosed under these circumstances. Your personal details will be safeguarded and will not be divulged to any other individual or organisation for any other purposes.

Information classification: Protected when complete

## Appendix 2: Data tables

### Results overall

#### Q1.Do you support the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	707	72	73
No	256	26	27
Total	963	98	100
Missing	16	2	
Total	979	100	

#### Q3.Are you male or female?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Male	496	51	54
Female	420	43	46
Total	916	94	100
Missing	63	6	
Total	979	100	

#### Q4.What is your age?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Under 16 yrs	5	1	1
16-19 yrs	1	0	0
20-29 yrs	46	5	5
30-44 yrs	274	28	29
45-59 yrs	233	24	25
60-64 yrs	107	11	11
65-74 yrs	163	17	17
75+	106	11	11
Total	935	96	100
Missing	44	4	
Total	979	100	

#### Q5.Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
No	840	86	92
Yes	77	8	8
Total	917	94	100
Missing	62	6	
Total	979	100	

**Q6.To which of these groups do you consider you belong?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
White British	862	88	93
Asian or Asian British	21	2	2
Mixed	8	1	1
Black or Black British	6	1	1
Chinese	1	0.1	0.1
Other	29	3	3
Total	927	95	100
Missing	52	5	
Total	979	100	

**Area**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Stotfold and Langford	497	51	54
Fairfield Park	415	42	45
Letchworth Garden City	3	0.3	0.3
Amphill	1	0.1	0.1
Arlesey	1	0.1	0.1
Hitchin	1	0.1	0.1
Total	918	94	100
Missing	61	6	
Total	979	100	

**Do you support the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council? \* Area**

		Yes	No	Total
Stotfold and Langford	Count	273	212	485
	%	56%	44%	100%
Fairfield Park	Count	405	8	413
	%	98%	2%	100%
Letchworth Garden City	Count	2	1	3
	%	67%	33%	100%
Amphill	Count	0	1	1
	%	0%	100%	100%
Arlesey	Count	0	1	1
	%	0%	100%	100%
Hitchin	Count	1	0	1
	%	100%	0%	100%
Total	Count	681	223	904
	%	75%	25%	100%

**Profile of Stotfold residents responding to the consultation**

**Q1.Do you support the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	273	55	56
No	212	43	44
Total	485	98	100
Missing	12	2	
Total	497	100	

**Q3.Are you male or female?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Male	256	52	53
Female	223	45	47
Total	479	96	100
Missing	18	4	
Total	497	100	

**Q4.What is your age?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Under 16 yrs	5	1	1
20-29 yrs	18	4	4
30-44 yrs	81	16	17
45-59 yrs	107	22	22
60-64 yrs	66	13	13
65-74 yrs	121	24	25
75+	93	19	19
Total	491	99	100
Missing	6	1	
Total	497	100	

**Q5.Do you consider yourself to be disabled?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
No	412	83	86
Yes	65	13	14
Total	477	96	100
Missing	20	4	
Total	497	100	

**Q6.To which of these groups do you consider you belong?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
White British	466	94	96
Mixed	6	1	1
Black or Black British	4	1	1
Asian or Asian British	1	0	0
Other (please specify below)	10	2	2
Total	487	98	100
Missing	10	2	
Total	497	100	

**Profile of Stotfold residents responding to Yes and No to the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council**

**Q3.Are you male or female? \* Q1.Do you support the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council? Crosstabulation**

		Yes	No	Total
Male	Count	131	121	252
	%	52%	48%	100%
Female	Count	134	84	218
	%	62%	39%	100%
Total	Count	265	205	470
	%	56%	44%	100%

**Q4.What is your age? \* Q1.Do you support the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council? Crosstabulation**

		Yes	No	Total
Under 16 yrs	Count	0	5	5
	%	0%	100%	100%
20-29 yrs	Count	13	5	18
	%	72%	28%	100%
30-44 yrs	Count	49	32	81
	%	61%	40%	100%
45-59 yrs	Count	67	37	104
	%	64%	36%	100%
60-64 yrs	Count	31	34	65
	%	48%	52%	100%
65-74 yrs	Count	56	64	120
	%	47%	53%	100%
75+	Count	54	34	88
	%	61%	39%	100%
Total	Count	270	211	481
	%	56%	44%	100%



**Q5.Do you consider yourself to be disabled? \* Q1.Do you support the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council?**

**Crosstabulation**

		Yes	No	Total
No	Count	229	178	407
	%	56%	44%	100%
Yes	Count	38	23	61
	%	62%	38%	100%
Total	Count	267	201	468
	%	57%	43%	100%

**Q6.To which of these groups do you consider you belong? \* Q1.Do you support the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council?**

**Crosstabulation**

		Yes	No	Total
White British	Count	259	199	458
	%	57%	43%	100%
Mixed	Count	3	3	6
	%	50%	50%	100%
Black or Black British	Count	2	1	3
	%	67%	33%	100%
Asian or Asian British	Count	0	1	1
	%	0%	100%	100%
Other	Count	5	4	9
	%	56%	44%	100%
Total	Count	269	208	477
	%	56%	44%	100%

**Profile of Fairfield residents responding to the consultation**

**Q1.Do you support the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	405	98	98
No	8	2	2
Total	413	100	100
Missing	2	1	
Total	415	100	

**Q3.Are you male or female?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Male	224	54	55
Female	183	44	45
Total	407	98	100
Missing	8	2	
Total	415	100	

**Q4.What is your age?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
16-19 yrs	1	0	0
20-29 yrs	28	7	7
30-44 yrs	179	43	43
45-59 yrs	118	28	29
60-64 yrs	39	9	9
65-74 yrs	37	9	9
75+	11	3	3
Total	413	100	100
Missing	2	1	
Total	415	100	

**Q5.Do you consider yourself to be disabled?**

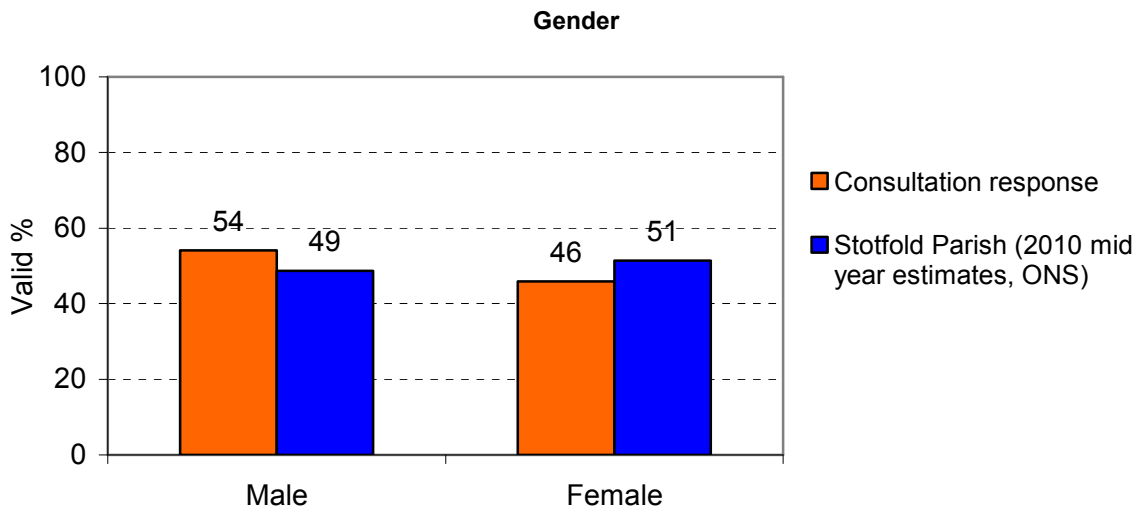
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
No	401	97	98
Yes	8	2	2
Total	409	99	100
Missing	6	1	
Total	415	100	

**Q6.To which of these groups do you consider you belong?**

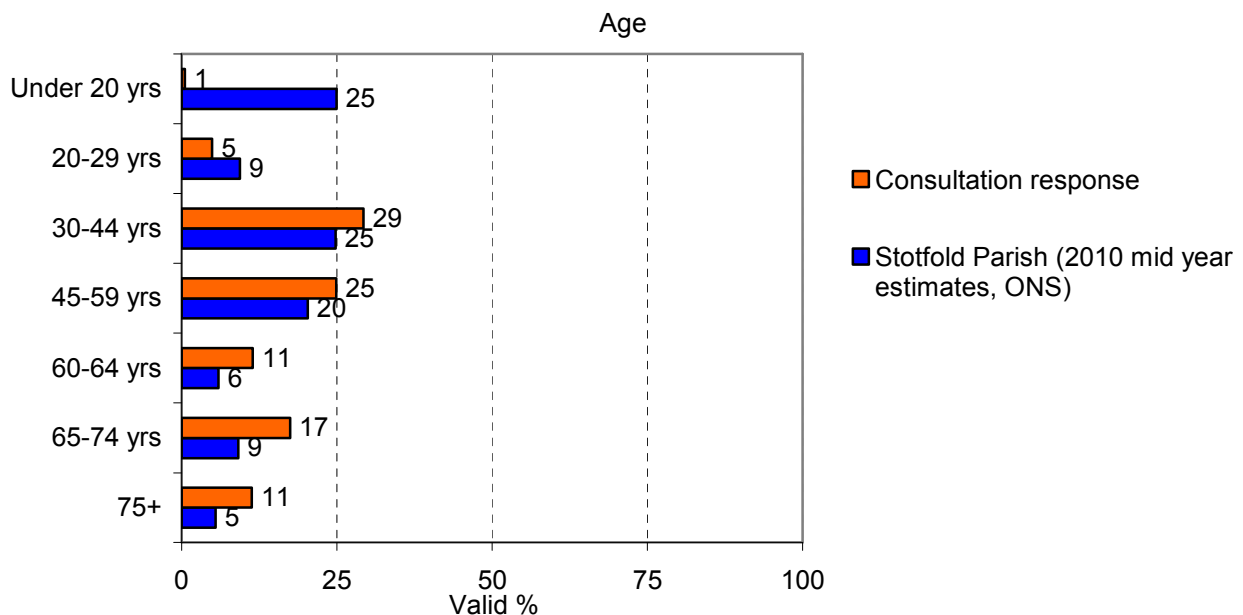
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
White British	368	89	90
Asian or Asian British	18	4	4
Black or Black British	2	1	1
Mixed	2	1	1
Chinese	1	0	0
Other	17	4	4
Total	408	98	100
Missing	7	2	
Total	415	100	

Appendix 3: Verbatim Comments (separate document)

Appendix 4: Respondents' profile



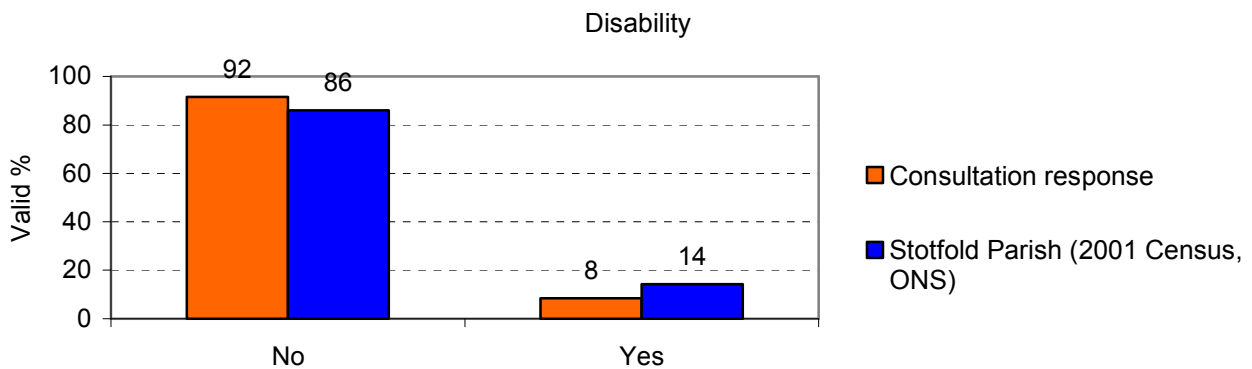
Just over half of the respondents to this consultation were Male (54%). The level of responses by gender were broadly representative to the population of the existing Stotfold Parish overall (including Fairfield Park), with male respondents just slightly over represented in the responses to this consultation.



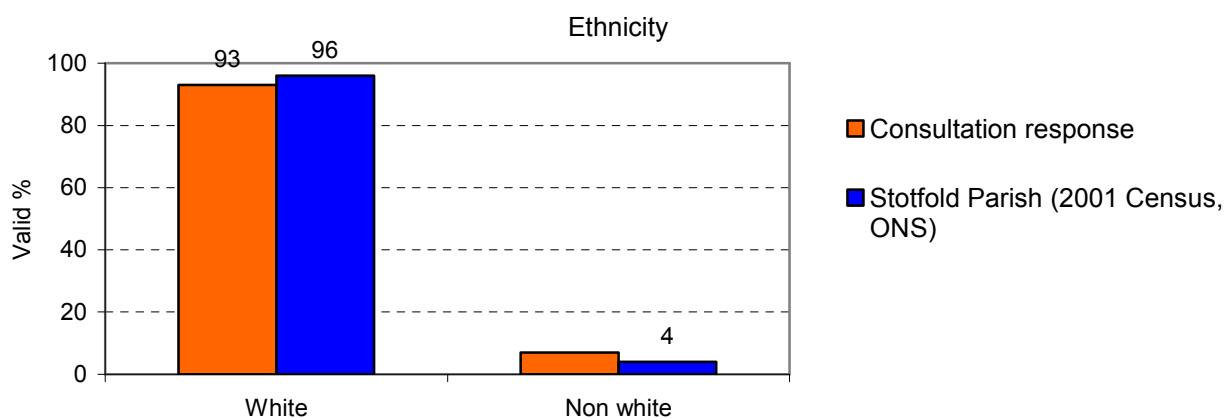
The largest proportion of respondents to this consultation were aged between 30-59 year old (52%). Looking at the population age of the existing Stotfold Parish overall (including Fairfield Park), the level of responses by respondents aged between 30-59 year is in line with the age profile of the area (54% aged 30-59 years).

Over 60 year olds accounted for the second largest proportion of responses (39%). This age group is over represented in the responses to this consultation when compared to the age profile of the existing Stotfold Parish overall (20% are aged over 60 years).

Under 20 year olds are significantly under represented in the responses to this consultation with this age group representing just 1% of the survey responses (25% of the existing Stotfold Parish are aged under 20 year olds).



8% of respondents said they considered themselves to be disabled (physical or mental impairment which has a sustained and long-term adverse effect on ability to carry out normal day to day activities). This is slightly under representative of the proportion of existing Stotfold Parish overall (including Fairfield park) with a disability (14%).



The majority of respondents indicated their ethnicity as being White British (93%). This is broadly in line with the ethnicity profile of the existing Stotfold Parish overall (including Fairfield) (96%).

Appendix 5: Comments analysis tables by area

The table below provides a summary of the comments made from respondents living with the **Stotfold Parish area** (excluding the proposed Fairfield area). Comments have been analysed by respondents' views on the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council (in support of or against).

<b>Comments from respondents from the Stotfold area</b>						
	Overall		Responded in <b>support</b> for the creation a new Fairfield Community Council		Responded <b>against</b> the creation a new Fairfield Community Council	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Fairfield to remain a part of Stotfold/ Retain community history and links	40	8	2	1	38	18
Separate Council for Fairfield would be costly/ increase bureaucracy	37	7	3	1	34	16
No affinity/ association to the Stotfold area	27	5	26	10		
Fairfield residents were made aware of the additional maintenance cost at time of purchasing property	24	5	9	3	15	7
Fairfield residents access facilities in Stotfold	22	4			22	10
Fairfield to have separate Council	17	3	17	6		
More information needed	15	3	6	2	5	2
Stronger influence in decision making if Stotfold and Fairfield remain combined	14	3			14	7
Do more to harmonise Fairfield and Stotfold residents	12	2			12	6
More investment / Better use of funding for Fairfield area	11	2	11	4		
Limit the Fairfield Council to the current boundary if separated	5	1	3	1	2	1
Separate Fairfield Council must not impact on council tax rates/ increase financial strain for Stotfold	5	1	5	2		
Fairfield to have own facilities if it becomes a separate area	1	0.2	1	0.4		
Other	10	2	8	3	1	0.5

The table below provides a summary of the comments made from respondents living within the **proposed Fairfield area** (not including response from the remaining Stotfold Parish). Comments have been analysed by respondents' views on the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council (in support of or against).

Comments from respondents from the Fairfield area						
	Overall		Responded in <b>support</b> for the creation a new Fairfield Community Council		Responded <b>against</b> the creation a new Fairfield Community Council	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
More investment / Better use of funding for Fairfield area	96	23	95	23	1	13
No affinity/ association to the Stotfold area	34	8	34	8		
Fairfield to have separate Council	20	5	20	5		
More information needed	6	1	5	1		
Separate Council for Fairfield would be costly/ increase bureaucracy	3	1	1	0.2	2	25
Fairfield to remain a part of Stotfold/ Retain community history and links	2	0.5			1	13
Fairfield residents were made aware of the additional maintenance cost at time of purchasing property	2	0.5	1	0.2		
Separate Fairfield Council must not impact on council tax rates/ increase financial strain for Stotfold	2	0.5	2	0.5		
Stronger influence in decision making if Stotfold and Fairfield remain combined	1	0.2			1	13
Do more to harmonise Fairfield and Stotfold residents	1	0.2			1	13
Fairfield residents access facilities in Stotfold	1	0.2			1	13
Fairfield to have own facilities if it becomes a separate area	1	0.2	1	0.2		
Other	8	2	8	2		

Appendix 3: Verbatim comments

Q1.Do you support the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council?	Q2.Do you have any comments to make that you wish to have considered as part of this review?
No	<p>I am a resident of Stotfold, and am already of the opinion that, being located on the periphery of Central Bedfordshire, we have limited influence in matters concerning us, and that this would further decline if Fairfield was separated from Stotfold. One grievance of Fairfield residents is that currently they are paying for some Stotfold ground maintenance in their council tax and then also pay a service charge to their management company. The obvious solution is for the Stotfold Council to undertake to do this work where it would normally come under its remit. Fairfield residents are proposing that the area of this new Parish should extend north and east up to the A507 bypass. In order to achieve a coherent planning policy for future developments around Stotfold, I think Stotfold Council must retain responsibility for the areas of land around the town boundaries. The bypass does not form the natural boundary on the Norton Road side of the town, so there is no justification for treating it as such on the Hitchin Road side</p>
No	<p>As a resident of Stotfold, I am of the opinion that we are disadvantaged by being located on the southern border of Central Bedfordshire, and that our influence in matters concerning us is greater if Stotfold and Fairfield remain as one Parish. There appears to be virtually no saving in council tax for Fairfield residents if they become a separate Parish. Where they have to pay double for services through their separate rent/service charge, perhaps Stotfold Council could either undertake to do this work where it would normally come under their remit, or give the Fairfield residents an appropriate rebate. Fairfield residents are proposing that the area of this new Parish should extend north and east up to the A507 bypass. In order to achieve a coherent planning policy for future developments around Stotfold, I think Stotfold Council needs to retain responsibility for the areas of land around the town boundaries. The bypass does not form the natural boundary on the Norton Road side of the town, so there is no justification for treating it as such on the Hitchin Road side.</p>
Yes	<p>For years Stotfold council have happily taken money from Fairfield park while spending precisely nothing on the park itself. They claim the A507 is no barrier to the community and yet they spend all the money they take on one side of that road. Once called out on this, they hide behind excuses as to why they can't spend money in Fairfield Park ("We don't own the buildings", etc.) I don't necessarily agree with the things the new Fairfield council wants to spend it's money on, and I insist that they be locked into a fixed budget that is no higher than paid to Stotfold, for at least 5 years. But I would rather the money taken from Fairfield was spent IN Fairfield. Fairfield Park is a large community, with a sense of self. I don't consider myself a resident of Stotfold in any way. There are a few reasons I ever go to Stotfold. The Doctor and the Pharmacy. The Post Office. Takeaway food. Not one of those is a sense of community. It's just where the services happen to be. However I go for long walks round Fairfield Park. I ride my bike round Fairfield Park. I LIVE in Fairfield Park. Fairfield Park deserves it's own parish. Let us control our own funds and do the things we want to do, not the things Stotfold "deigns to think about."</p>
No	<p>Having taken note of information from both 'sides' of this proposal (i.e. Stotfold Town Council and the proposers of the new Fairfield Community Council), I am not convinced that enough has been done to address the concerns of each side, in advance of making such a SIGNIFICANT change to the first tier of local government in each community. I understand that Fairfield has only recently taken up Councillor roles on the Town Council, to enable the Fairfield voice to be considered as part of the wider Stotfold community. The Fairfield campaign website (<a href="http://www.fairfieldcommunityaction.co.uk">http://www.fairfieldcommunityaction.co.uk</a>) seems to very boldly accuse the Town Council of not spending enough of the Fairfield portion of the Town Council precept on Fairfield projects. However, I can find no evidence of any history of dialogue which might suggest that Fairfield concerns have been considered objectively by and with the Town Council. As a Stotfold resident watching events, it almost appears to be an antagonistic dispute rather than a focused, forward thinking, co-operative dialogue. As such, I think it would be foolhardy to make such a drastic change without first exploring options IN FULL. In the longer term I am not averse to the idea of Fairfield separating to its own Community Council, IF it can be evidenced that separation would be beneficial to all. However, Fairfield Park is a relatively new development and I am not convinced that sufficient time has passed to evaluate whether separation is appropriate. Indeed, Central Bedfordshire Council document 'Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (November 2009)' includes the following at Paragraph 3.17.1: "... The permitted southern expansion of Stotfold and remaining areas of development at Fairfield Park are due to be built out and will take time to assimilate into the life of the town...". This seems to acknowledge that it will take time and effort for the communities to integrate with each other. The full effect of separation has also not been adequately and formally quantified such that all parties are clearly aware of the consequences of such a change. For example, the potential for</p>

	<p>such a change to jeopardise Stotford's infrastructure development by loss of S106 payments due from Fairfield developers, or to cuts in Stotfold Town Council services by loss of revenue from Fairfield residents. I also have some scepticism as to the sincerity of interest in forming a Community Council by the proposers. Information provided on an official bulletin from Stotfold Town Council states: "In the Special Town Council meeting to determine the Town Council's views of the Fairfield Park petition, a Councillor who lives on the Park intimated that 'if the Town Council would give them £50,000 towards the Community Hall, there would be no need to form a Fairfield Community Council'" If this is true (and given that it has been officially released by the Town Council, I must assume that it is) then this may indicate that the proposers' are working towards an ulterior motive rather than having strong belief in the validity of forming a Community Council. Any new Council must surely be proposed with the absolute belief in its necessity and validity; to suggest that the idea would be dropped in exchange for funding towards a different community project is a significant concern. Resultant increases to local precept for all parties may also make it a false economy on the longer term.; current drivers are towards cost reduction in government, not increase. Rather than facilitating the set up of a Community Council at this stage, I believe Central Bedfordshire's efforts would be better spent in facilitating dialogue between Stotfold Town Council and Fairfield residents, to iron out a mutually agreeable way forward that benefits all residents. For this reason, I do not support the creation of Fairfield Community Council at this stage.</p>
No	<p>Fairfield has always been part of Stotfold and should remain so in the future. If the residents of Fairfield Park visited the main area of Stotfold Town they would find a warm welcome from the many organisations and clubs etc. many of which could benefit from the injection of new members and ideas. These new residents have just not given themselves time to explore the many assets within the town which are available for their use. With regard to the payments made to Management Companies the new residents must have been aware of the additional payments when they purchased the properties. It has been stated that the A507 road forms a barrier between the Fairfield development and the main town. This point seems invalid since the new development is only about 600 yards from the existing town and there is an underpass to assist crossing the A507. This new growth in population will help retain services within the town ( such as the bus service which could even improve ).</p>
Yes	<p>Fairfield Park should have the right to spend its own budget and consult with those that live on the park.</p>
No	<p>Due to Fairfield's history it is an integral part of Stotfold. Many people who have moved into the area would not necessarily know of this history. The Town Council has been involved in the development of Fairfield since 1992 way before residents moved into the site. This sounds like individuals wanting to set up a standalone entity which doesn't coincide with the community feeling in this area.</p>
No	<p>Fairfield has always been part of Stotfold and the hospitals on the site were a large employer of residents in Stotfold, it has never been considered as another place. The people who bought the houses on this site knew before they purchased their homes what the situation was regarding the developers and as with anyone who buys a flat they know that council tax will be due to Central Beds of which a portion will go to Stotfold. As regards them not having any affinity with Stotfold, we came to Stotfold 17 years ago from Letchworth not knowing anyone, however we found everyone to be friendly and helpful, and always interested in how we were getting on. I feel that if they made the effort they could greatly enhance the community spirit in Stotfold and work for the good of Stotfold to make it even better instead of being divisive. I think that if the people on this estate allow themselves to be led by a group of power hungry people which is how they appear to be they will eventually regret it. The problem they have seems to be with the developers not Stotfold council.</p>
Yes	<p>I moved to Fairfield from Stevenage and have never considered myself to be a resident of Stotfold. I do not use any of the facilities in Stotfold and prefer to go to Letchworth for most things. Apart from visiting the doctors surgery, I rarely go into the town. I pay the equivalent amount to my council tax in an annual service charge for living in Fairfield Hall which is paying for many of the services the town council would usually provide. As a result I was appalled to see how much the Fairfield community is contributing towards Stotfold town council and how little has been invested back into the Fairfield community. I accept that there are people living at Fairfield who do utilise facilities in Stotfold, which Fairfield Community Council on its own would be too small to provide. I also appreciate that Stotfold may no longer be able to continue to provide certain services to residents if the Fairfield contribution to the town is lost. However, a large number of new houses are being built to the north of the A507 which belong geographically to Stotfold and will ultimately in time replace the revenue lost to the town by the creation of a Fairfield Community Council.</p>
No	<p>I do not accept that Fairfield Park should be allowed to become a separate parish as I consider that this would be detrimental to Stotfold and the surrounding area. Fairfield has been a part of the Stotfold community for centuries and should not be allowed to break away purely to satisfy the whims of a few incomers who do not really appreciate the local area. They are quite happy to use all of our amenities from the Doctors Surgery to Schools and local Shops and Pubs The amount of land involved is vast from the A507 to the Arlesey New Road and includes land on the opposite side of Hitchin Road.</p>



No	The residents of Fairfield park should be proud to be part of Stotfold, they have the use of all of the Stotfold facilities; Shops, Pubs, Doctors Surgeries, Schools and open spaces etc. Stotfold should not be expected to relinquish a vast area of land to people that obviously do not want to live in a country area like Stotfold in the first place. We moved to Stotfold over 35 years ago and were proud to be absorbed into the local community, we have been extremely happy here.
No	I have been a resident of Stotfold for several decades now and have always considered Fairfield to be apart of Stotfold even after the development of the by-pass A507. Fairfield has always been "self-contained" prior to the housing re-development but residents of Stotfold have always been part of the Fairfield scene - I recall an open day and a dog show with the Fairfield residents taking an interest when it was a "hospital". Fairfield residents may pay a "rent/service charge in accordance with their property deeds" but when originally purchasing the new houses their solicitors would have pointed this out to them in the conveyancing process and it was their choice to purchase the properties on this site. Accordingly it is reasonable that they continue to contribute to the precept/council tax to Stotfold Town Council as Stotfold facilities are available and are used by the Fairfield residents - even the local Stotfold News Letter is distributed to all residents of Fairfield. The fact that a large number of Fairfield residents have moved "some distance" is irrelevant due to our "multi-cultural" nature of the UK. Fairfield is and has always been an inclusive part of the Stotfold community. Finally, with the recession that we are all going through and cut backs being made by local councils and the Government it is totally unnecessary to add yet more bureaucrats to society.
No	Historically, the Fairfield Park area had strong links to central Stotfold, not least when the hospital was active on the site. More recently, the new Fairfield Park development was conceived as part of Stotfold, and, given time, its links to the rest of the town could be strengthened and enhanced. Thus far, representatives of the Fairfield Park residents associations and Stotfold Town Council have not done enough to settle their fiscal and civic differences and find common interests so that they might work together for the benefit of the wider local community. There have been faults on both sides, but these could be overcome if a positive dialogue were to be cultivated, as between good neighbours. The diversity, in terms of background and outlook, that Fairfield Park residents could bring to Stotfold should be valued and would help to create a more thriving community. However, if this needless 'divorce' should be granted, then the existing Fairfield Park boundary should not be altered, as proposed by those Fairfield Park residents leading the call for this Review: there are no material reasons to allow such a change.
No	Fairfield Park was always planned as part of Stotfold and to raise the Council Tax for the rest of the town in these times of difficulties to be frowned on. There will be a financial burden on the residents of Fairfield Park as qualified experienced council officers come at a price. The role of parish or town clerk is not one that can be taken on by anyone; it is not just a matter of attending meetings and taking minutes. Can I refer you to the problems in neighbouring Letchworth when they tried to set up a new Council? The attempt was fraught with problems and ended up with a Clerk taking the Council to a tribunal. If the Town Council does not support a break away by Fairfield Park they cannot be expected to pick up the pieces when it all goes wrong! As a former Clerk of Stotfold Town Council I fully support the view of the experienced Councillors.
No	Historically Stotfold people have always considered Fairfield to be part of us and work hard towards integrating the new residents by welcoming them to such activities as Churches, youth groups, libraries Doctors etc. and as time goes on they will just feel part of us. Perhaps if their address was Stotfold and not Fairfield Park this would help.
No	I don't believe Fairfield will benefit from becoming a separate parish council it would be at risk of becoming insular and lose the benefits of being part of a wider community. Fairfield is part of Stotfold and I am proud of being part of Stotfold. Fairfield would be at risk of losing its links and relationships with other partnerships that have been developed over years, and I therefore do not believe it would be more cost effective or provide more personalised services for Fairfield residents to separate from Stotfold. I do not feel five people from Fairfield are representative of Fairfield residents.
No	Fairfield is an integral part of Stotfold and the benefits to remain part of Stotfold far outweigh any benefits Fairfield could hope to offer. Also I think the council tax for Fairfield parish council would rise far more than we are being led to believe, if Fairfield was granted parish council status would we continue to pay a service charge as well as Fairfield council tax. I would be concerned that Fairfield could become quite insular if this proposal went through and damaging the wider spirit of the community in Stotfold all for the vanity of a small group of people living at Fairfield, these people certainly do not speak and reflect my views on this matter
Yes	Although Stotfold and STC have supported and guided the development of Fairfield Park for many years, the management fee structure imposed on residents by the developers means that it is economically unfeasible for Fairfield Park to continue to be part of Stotfold and to provide funding to STC which cannot be used to support services for Fairfield residents
No	Stotfold is and should remain one community. All residents benefit from having one controlling council, that can more effectively look after all the resident's interests. Costs would be kept lower for all under one council. Residents of Fairfield will always need the facilities that are already in Stotfold, such as libraries, Health Centres, shops and the numerous adult and childrens groups. E.g. guides, brownies, scouts, army cadets etc. The Fairfield residents would do better to try and integrate into the town they moved into, instead of trying to pull apart as a separate parish.

No	I feel that creating a new Fairfield council will have a detrimental effect to Stotfold and it's future.
Yes	AS A RESIDENT OF FAIRFIELD HALL I CANNOT SEE ANY BENEFIT OF REMAINING PART OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL. I FEEL THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW FAIRFIELD COUNCIL WOULD BE AN ADVANTAGE TO ALL RESIDENTS OF FAIRFIELD PARK AS MONIES COULD BE SPENT ON ENHANCING THE PARK.
Yes	We feel this would benefit the residents of Fairfield Park and particular those residents in Fairfield Hall as we do not benefit being part of Stotfold Town Council. Any extra monies made available as a result of the new parish can be used to enhance facilities for Fairfield residents.
Yes	Having lived here for a couple of years, I definitely feel like I live in Fairfield, not Stotfold. I tend to view Hitchin as my closest village. The only thing that concerns me about living in Fairfield is the lack of facilities for young teenagers. I don't see that currently being provided, but I feel that this would be a priority of a Fairfield Community Council. I have read and considered the position of the Stotfold Town Council, and it confirmed for me that the best interests of the residents of Fairfield of not of concern to them.
No	I think it would be wrong to create a new community council at Fairfield Park. the area has been part of Stotfold for hundreds of years. It would be inappropriate and unnecessary to remove Fairfield park from the Parish of Stotfold purely because the residents have decided that they no longer like the arrangement the willingly signed up for when buying their properties. No one forced them into signing the agreement to run public facilities at Fairfield Park under the umbrella of a management committee. It was never inferred that management charges were ever an alternative to paying the council tax and any precept that makes up part of it.
No	I have the following points: 1. Stotfold is an ever expanding community and whilst Fairfield currently has a large portion of the areas electors, this proportion will decrease as further development of the town takes place. 2. The statement that Fairfield is not part of Stotfold in the 'geographical sense' seems very odd. Whilst it is separated from the main body of the town by the A507, the same is true for the properties along the Norton Road. There is also a 'geographical' split between Stotfold and Astwick. The Fairfield site has always been viewed as part of Stotfold since we had been in the area and I cannot see any logic for treating it as a separate 'geographical area'. 3. The area proposed as being under the new Community Council seems far larger than the Fairfield site. Other developments within the proposed area may be undertaken on a different basis to the Fairfield development and those residents may prefer to be part of Stotfold rather than a separate community. If the separate community is approved, it should surely be limited to the actual Fairfield site? This would leave options open for the future. 4. The Fairfield residents already have control of a fairly large budget via their service charges, through their Management Company ... surely this is the most appropriate local governance route. Adding yet another layer of bureaucracy is duplicating the running cost of management? 5. Stating that the only 'benefit' that Fairfield residents can avail themselves of is the cemetery is somewhat blinkered. The Town Council cover many other aspects, e.g. recreation grounds, street lighting, rights of way. It seems likely that Fairfield residents do visit Stotfold for reasons other than to be buried? Do none of their children participate in football, scouts, guides, etc. ... or do they have their own groups? If they do participate in the community for such activities, they are more a part of the true community. In summary, I can see no real value in Fairfield setting up its own Community Council. It would just create another body that needed to be resourced and funded. They would be far better participating more fully in the wider Stotfold community and seeking appropriate funding for special local projects.
Yes	I have lived on Fairfield Park since December 2006 and for the vast majority of that time we have been ignored by Stotfold Parish Council. Only after it was muted that we would break away did they show any interest whatsoever and that was clearly because they realised they would have a substantial shortfall in precept monies. Over a number of years they have enjoyed the benefits of the additional income because of Fairfield but have not spent or offered any benefits to Fairfield Residents. It is not enough to simply say that Fairfield Facilities are spanking new. Clearly the additional funds have been spent on the old Stotfold as the accounts do not show any reserve funds. I know quite a lot of people in Stotfold Village and as individuals they will say that the Village historically had nothing to do with Fairfield as pre the housing development Fairfield was considered to be part of Arlesey. The A507 is a clear dividing line and young people on Fairfield require facilities nearer to the Park which we would hope to develop the Formation of the new FCC. As Fairfield effectively borders Arlesey it was very disappointing that Stotfold Council did not support Arlesey in resisting the additional Gipsy sites proposed for Arlesey. Once the Stotfold site was discounted they (Stotfold Council) did not think outside the Box and so in my opinion did not have the interests of Fairfield at heart. Likewise we are faced with the appalling prospect of being blighted with HGV traffic passing our Estate when the planned Hitchin Rail Flyover starts up. Again because the Village was not directly affected Stotfold Council just ignored the Fairfield Residents who incidentally in most cases were not aware of the routes that were being considered for the site traffic. A clear case of "we're o.k. Jack" We need to be in charge of our own decision making if we are to get things done and properly communicated to our Residents. As we also Pay a Service Charge I for one d o not wish to subsidise Stotfold Village activities.
Yes	There is no natural connection between Stotfold Village and Fairfield Park. Fairfield Residents visit Letchworth and Hitchin just as often as they visit Stotfold Village.

No	Larger community groups are likely to be able to sustain community facilities in these difficult financial times. We need to stick together. Fairfield residents were happy to have the Stotfold postcode, rather than the Arlesey one they were destined for and they should commit to being members of the Stotfold community, not just to increase the values of their properties!
No	Fairfield Park is a new addition to the town of Stotfold and it takes time for new residents to feel part of a community and only underlines the need not to build large numbers of houses at one time in small rural towns. In addition, the proposal to include land outside the old hospital boundaries should be ignored totally. If Fairfield were to become a council in their own right, they should be limited to the current boundaries.
No	If the change will increase my council tax I am against it!
No	OBJECTION TO THE FAIRFIELD PROPOSAL Stotfold boundary has always included Fairfield, and Stotfold residents have paid a substantial contribution towards the sustainability of all parts of the Town including Fairfield Park over many generations. Significant numbers of Stotfold residents were employed at Fairfield and London Chest hospitals, these include my parents, uncles and aunts and siblings, it is frankly insulting to their contribution to the Fairfield life and well being of the patients to have the park annexed by the new residents. Stotfold ratepayers have always paid rates based on the entire area and have never been able to "pick and chose" which parts to pay and which to leave. Neither should Fairfield residents be able to do so now. Fairfield park is NOT one isolated corner of the Parish, if the changes went ahead it would in fact annex a substantial acreage beyond its boundary towards North Herts. Stotfold Parish received a pitiful Section 106 allowance from the developers of Fairfield Park so have not benefitted from its existence, on the contrary it has caused Stotfold to have a By-Pass in the wrong place simply to facilitate its building. Residents of Fairfield Park know (or should have known) the charges applied by the developer for maintenance and upkeep prior to them purchasing, in addition they would have also been informed of the precept for Stotfold parish. It is unacceptable for this to be used as a reason for divorce from the Town of Stotfold and start self Governance. If the new parish went ahead but without a precept contribution to Stotfold, Fairfield residents WILL continue to make use of Stotfold and indeed Central Bedfordshire facilities including the new Leisure centre (if its built). This too is unacceptable.
No	Fairfield Park has always been part of Stotfold Parish. I find it quite disturbing that people from other areas choose to come here to live and then decide that they have the right to change our boundaries think that this is very insulting towards the locals and the way we live. If you don't like the way life here pans out MOVE. The people on Fairfield Park knew what maintenance charges and council taxes they would have to pay before they moved in; these charges were/are not hidden. Fairfield Park has always been an important part of Stotfold life, many of us worked there and belonged and still belong to the various sports and leisure clubs. We have also been contributing towards all areas of the parish including Fairfield Park for many generations. Lets hypothetically put the shoe on the other foot how would they have felt if Stotfold residents had decided that they didn't want the "foreigners " to be included in our society or parish. I think someone would be screaming about the act against racism or calling in the "human rights" campaigners. Finally would the boroughs of London put up with this sort of nonsense? no of course not. So why are we having to waste valuable staff time.
	Totally object to the idea of have a separate Council. We moved to Fairfield Park 3 years ago – we were aware that this was part of Stotfold and comes under Bedfordshire Council and would wish this to continue to be the case. We were also fully aware when we moved here that there would be council tax to pay which subsidises services provided for the benefit of all Stotfold residents and we had an additional rate to pay for living in Fairfield Park for the upkeep of the area – none of this is new. What is new, is a small number of residents who also manage the poorly run and dysfunctional communicated Fairfield Park Residents Association who are arguing over a small sum of money which is for the benefit of all of Stotfold who would rather direct this money to the running of the community hall. Allowing Fairfield to form their own Council will be disastrous.
Yes	I believe that Fairfield should have its own community council for the following reasons: 1) Fairfield is separated from Stotfold by the A507 and is surrounded by green space. Not only is it geographically separated from Stotfold but it has a completely different feel, being a new development of Victorian style houses, as well as the converted former hospital. 2) Fairfield is self sufficient in that it has its own school, bowls club, community centre, supermarket, hairdressers, dry cleaners, gym and restaurant. 3) Fairfield has different needs to Stotfold. For example, the community centre urgently needs funds to get it up and running. I also understand that the school is oversubscribed and the birth rate on Fairfield has increased significantly in recent years. 4) There are a lot of residents in Fairfield who feel badly let down by Stotfold Town Council and are keen to ensure that the views of the Fairfield community are represented, for example with regard to planning matters. 5) There is a financial inequality in that Fairfield residents contribute a significant proportion of Stotfold Town Council's income, for which we receive little or no benefit. Our rent charge pays for the facilities for which Stotfold would normally be responsible. Having spoken to many residents about this, I know that they are keen for this money to be spent on Fairfield.

Yes	Fairfield has a different demographic to Stotfold, has different needs to Stotfold, and has a different funding structure. It is clear from the debate on the topic of establishing a new community council that Stotfold Town Council is not equipped to support Fairfield and serve its residents. Their current budget does not have scope to provide facilities on Fairfield and they will never be able to do so for political reasons, as doing so would not be in the best interests of the remainder of Stotfold. It is clear to me that a new community council, which is solely focussed on the needs of Fairfield, will be able to serve us far more effectively. It will be able to work alongside the management companies that have been put in place by the developers to deliver high quality facilities to residents and maximise value for money. Whilst residents from Fairfield can currently stand as Councillors of Stotfold Town Council, this does not change the basic fact that Stotfold Town Council do not have the resources or the politician will to start spending money at Fairfield. Whilst the facilities in Stotfold are available to residents of Fairfield, the two areas are more than a mile apart and are separated by a main road and lonely footpaths which are not suitable for children or women to walk at night.
Yes	I believe strongly in support for local community being determined by the people of the community. For this reason I support the proposal to create a Community Council for Fairfield Park. There has been a total absence of support and funding from Stotfold Town Council over the last few years. The residents contribute over £90,000 pa and have very little to show for it.
Yes	As a resident of Fairfield Park I strongly believe that the community funding is determined by the residents themselves. There has been a total lack of commitment and support from Stotfold Town Council over the last few years. This is evident from information acquired recently. We have a strong community spirit; any support in future financial or otherwise needs to be determined by the people and for the people of Fairfield Park
Yes	YES. I LIVE IN FAIRFIELD PARK. WE ARE GEOPGRAPHICALLY SEPARATE FROM STOTFOLD AND PAY TO A PRIVATE COMPANY FOR MANTAINCE. IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE TO PAY FOR A SERVICE FOR WHICH WE GET NOTHING IN RETURN.
Yes	YES. I LIVE IN FAIRFIELD PARK. WE ARE GEOPGRAPHICALLY SEPARATE FROM STOTFOLD AND PAY TO A PRIVATE COMPANY FOR MANTAINCE. IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE TO PAY FOR A SERVICE FOR WHICH WE GET NOTHING IN RETURN.
Yes	YES. I LIVE IN FAIRFIELD PARK. WE ARE GEOPGRAPHICALLY SEPARATE FROM STOTFOLD AND PAY TO A PRIVATE COMPANY FOR MANTAINCE. IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE TO PAY FOR A SERVICE FOR WHICH WE GET NOTHING IN RETURN.
No	A larger community must fare better for any planning for future infrastructure and services.
No	From the start of the Fairfield Development potential residents were sold the idea of the country retreat 'near the neighbouring village of Stotfold' (David Wilson Homes). This is incorrect. They ARE within the Stotfold boundary and I am dismayed that it has taken so long for people to come to grips with monetary issues tied to the area in which they live. Of course the residents are accessing facilities available to 'us' - the Co-op, the churches, Red Bear Centre, doctors' surgery, schools, clubs and organisations. At least two residents of the Park were involved in the initial stages of creating the Stotfold Town Plan and I am aware of residents who are mystified by the idea of their 'own council'. What a waste of money and time - yours and all down here in the 'village'. If this idea goes ahead it is essential that their 'parish' should be contained within its tree and hedge lined boundary. I se no reasons for why they are claiming areas of land that a re historically Stotfold an d no part of Fairfield Park. Finally, I should note that it is regrettable that Central Beds sent out the original information long before Stotfold Town Council had the opportunity to consider the issue and put forward its reasons for opposition to proposal. Many residents will not have understood the original document or the reason for the response form and consigned it to their bin. Stotfold residents care about their community, as shown by the 42% response to the Town Plan questionnaire. Any figure less than this will show that Central Beds did not handle this survey responsibly.
No	The residents of Fairfield Park are concerned that they already pay their management charge to maintain the public areas of the estate and that the comparatively limited use they get from TC-maintained public services in Stotfold means that they are effectively paying twice. I can see their point of view but don't think that forming a new PC is the way to resolve the problem. Firstly, they must use some services that Stotfold TC provide, such as the parks and the cemetery. Secondly, people from Stotfold regularly use the parks in Fairfield as they are newer and better than those in Stotfold. That will not change just because a new PC is created. Thirdly, the TC is correct in saying that there is hopefully a fair amount of expenditure planned in the Stotfold area because of the recent increase in resident numbers. The town desperately needs a regenerated centre and removing half its residents into a new PC will not help any view held by the district council of the necessity for improvement. Surely the sensible solution is for the management committee at Fairfield Park to limit itself to maintaining the flats, and for all public areas (plus anything else that would usually be maintained by a PC) to be transferred to the responsibility of Stotfold TC. That way Stotfold would continue to be the town of the size that it is, whilst all residents from the town and the estate can use all facilities.

No	Fairfield has historic links to Stotfold and residents have used it for many years for sport, leisure and recreational purposes by way of linking footpaths and bridleways. It is surprising that Fairfield residents claim no attachment to Stotfold or use of its services - Not the library, cemetery, recreation areas, sport facilities, Co-op supermarket, etc. etc! I was involved in analysis of the questionnaire returns for the Stotfold Town Plan - Many residents with Fairfield postcodes expressed a desire for linking, circular footpaths and cycle tracks around Stotfold. They also wanted the area north of Stotfold to be protected from building and through traffic to keep it available for recreation and walking. I suspect the 'gang of five' instigating the request are not representative of the majority of park residents. If ultimately a decision is made to proceed with a separate Council for Fairfield Park it should only be for the area encompassed by the boundary of the park. A glance at a town map shows that this minority group of residents are attempting to lay claim to half the area of the existing town. This would include the area to the west of the Hitchin Road towards Arlesey, commonly used by walkers and formerly horse riders from Stotfold. It would also attempt to hive-off the pig farm land to the east of Hitchin Road which is currently designated for industrial development - which would be much better administered by the existing, experienced Town Council with a view to creating more employment for the town.
Yes	I have no natural affinity to Stotfold and do not feel that I am a Stotfold resident. I do not use any of the facilities provided by the council in Stotfold and do not feel that I should be paying for them on top of the service charges I pay for being a resident of Fairfield Park. I am fully supportive of forming of a Fairfield Community Council and hope that the council accepts the two areas should be separated.
No	All residents in the parish of Stotfold will be paying more Council tax. The Fairfield Park Community should integrate with the rest of Stotfold
No	I have been informed that if this proposal is successful it could impact on council tax / rates and increase the tax for surrounding areas outside of the Fairfield community. With this in mind, any potential increase to tax is a negative from my perspective therefore I am against this proposal.
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Yes	Simply, Fairfield is a well planned self contained development with little use for the communal green spaces, allotments etc offered by Stotfold. The two areas are some distance away and are distinct communities. The money would be better spent expanding the services within Fairfield and developing a closer community ethos.
Yes	This decision must ultimately be determined by the will of the people of Fairfield, not the will of the people of Stotfold village. Fairfield residents do not see themselves as a part of Stotfold, physically, spiritually or historically. The reasons for unity put forward by the Stotfold council are primarily historic and fundamentally anti-progress towards the new Fairfield community. We must be allowed to separate.
Yes	Historically, the Fairfield estate was part of Arlesey and it was only when the developers came that they decided that Stotfold was a more desirable address that it became Fairfield Park, Stotfold. It is not really part of Stotfold as it is separated by the road and is more a part of Arlesey as it used to open into the centre of it. Perhaps they should join Arlesey.
Yes	I agree with the proposals as I cannot see why we should contribute towards the Stotfold when we do not benefit from it
No	The way forward is to integrate new buildings, new homes and the population of Fairfield into Stotfold. The creation of Fairfield Community Council is decisive and would create different aspirations and governance either side of the A507. It is not the case that the only benefit Fairfield residents can avail themselves of is a cemetery resident rate. They have access to library, memorial hall, parks, walks etc and soon new sports facilities. If a high proportion of Fairfield residents have moved a long way they will be better off integrating into Stotfold rather than setting up a separate community.
Yes	It would be nice to see something done with our money in Fairfield park that Stotfold gets from our taxes rather than it being spent else where.
Yes	Stotfold Town Council have had many years to be fair in their allocation of resources, specifically to Fairfield Park. It appears that they have not done so, and therefore do not deserve funds from Fairfield Park residents. Stotfold is geographically distant, and separate from Fairfield Park. There is clearly a substantial community in the numbers residing in Fairfield Park, who both can, and wish to, manage their own civic affairs. This community should be allowed to do so. They would be more efficient and effective in the management of funds.

Yes	I believe it will lessen the burden for Stotfold town council and ensure the residents of the park have more of a contribution to how the facilities are managed.
Yes	Only the information based in the text of the letter and my experience living on the estate. Based upon that it makes sense to me and I therefore support it.
Yes	As far as I can tell, this area of the county has become quite large and is remote from Stotfold town and does not feel part of the town, so really needs to rule itself - will it have its own doctors surgery. It seems to me that the new estate this side of the A507 should be incorporated into Stotfold as it is adjacent to the town and would be benefiting more from the amenities.
Yes	As we at Fairfield do not have any ties with Stotfold, geographically or otherwise, I think it will benefit all the residents of Fairfield Park and Fairfield Hall without affecting the residents of Stotfold itself. As you already know we pay a service charge and also council tax which means that we pay for certain services twice. As stated in your letter "Fairfield is developing its own identity" which I believe can only be beneficial to all.
Yes	We feel our community is Fairfield Park, not Stotfold and this is where we would like to make our investments. We only use the Larksfield Surgery in Stotfold, and do our shopping in Letchworth as this is our nearest supermarket.
Yes	No real comments just can see their point of view at having their own Community council.
Yes	Seems to me to make sense. Fairfield isn't geographically any more part of Stotfold than it is of Letchworth.
Yes	Since I moved to Fairfield Park in October 2010 I have been impressed with a strong feeling of community in the area. I do not feel in any way part of Stotfold community and sincerely doubt whether any Stotfold resident feels any affinity to Fairfield Park. The two communities are separated geographically by green fields and a busy road and I seldom if ever visit Stotfold for any reason. Indeed I feel more of a link to Letchworth where I visit on at least a weekly basis for local services, shopping etc. Establishing our own council with some responsibility for our own finance would further enhance our community spirit and avoid any resentment in resources not being directed our way from Stotfold, and probably likewise from Stotfold residents if money or resources were directed our way, with which they may not feel in agreement.
Yes	The current system seems very unfair towards residents of Fairfield. I would personally like to know why the Stotfold Town council has not motioned this before as they are unfairly benefiting from the money which Fairfield Park residents are paying. Do they intend to re-pay an amount to the Fairfield Park residents as they have been paying into a fund to which they should never have been required to. I would like to mention that I am not a Fairfield Park resident and never have been but I am completely appalled by what I was told in this letter.
No	We consider ourselves part of the Stotfold community. Personally I use the Red Bear centre there for baby groups and clinics, the local church, the GP and local shops and services. Fairfield Park is essentially a housing estate with a school and a shop - hardly a separate village / community.
Yes	I agree that we do not feel we are part of Stotfold community, Fairfield Park has it's own and other than to go the doctors surgery we don't really go into Stotfold. I also agree that we shouldn't have to pay for the same services twice.
Yes	The relevant points to me are: 1. The community at Fairfield Hall and Fairfield Park have moved here from a wide area and there is little if any local connection for the majority of residents. 2. The funding arrangements maintain the separation in part encouraged by the views expressed by Stotfold Town Council. 3. The costs of running the community with a more local council can be more focused and this is likely to result in more efficient spending by people who are active in the community and understand community needs. 4. Currently there is no evidence that the contribution from the residents in the Fairfield areas is resulting in any financial contribution of note by Stotfold Town Council. 5. The Fairfield area is an easily defined area with a community with common facilities and it is appropriate for these facilities and the resources to be managed by local people who are actually effected by the decisions made.
Yes	I support Fairfield Park area which should include land up to New Arleseey Road. I do not support land outside of the Fairfield Park area toward the Stotfold bypass on both sides of Hitchin Road.
Yes	I feel that the contribution made by the Fairfield park residents is not being used to our local benefit - to meet our specific needs for this new community.
Yes	Fairfield should not even be considered "Stotfold". It is geographically more part of Letchworth than Stotfold, as the A507 separates the areas significantly.
Yes	In essence from a geographical viewpoint and the fact that the residents of Fairfield Park already pay for the upkeep on their own area, it seems only equitable that a Fairfield Community Council be established. A Fairfield Community Council would be able to utilise the money currently contributed to Stotfold Town Council to provide facilities targeted to the needs of residents of Fairfield Park. A more specific governing body would also be able to react more swiftly to the needs of residents than a larger governing body.

Yes	The existing system seems fundamentally unfair where a significant section of the community has to pay twice for services. It seems obvious to me that government/local authority in setting up Fairfield Park in this fashion intended it should be a separate self sustained community, rather than a part of an existing one. It therefore seems only right and fair that it should have it's own governance to use the funds collected for the benefit of the community that live there. I would even go as far as suggesting that Fairfield Park should be recognised as a village in its own right.
No	1. Fairfield has always been part of Stotfold and the A507 road has historically always passed through the centre of Stotfold. The existing change of route through Stotfold was built to prevent congestion around residential parts of Stotfold. 2. When residents moved to this area of Stotfold they must have been aware that there was the rent/service charge. Therefore, this charge shouldn't be considered as a valid reason for changing the Stotfold boundaries. 3. For Stotfold residents who have long family ties to the village/town I believe that people who, as part of their reasoning for change have no ties to this area, are now trying to override the wishes of Stotfold people. 4. The proposed boundary for the Fairfield parish seems very large and will significantly reduce the size of Stotfold. If, as stated, the people proposing this change have no ties with this area then there is concern that when a new council is formed there could be proposals for even more housing to be built within the new boundaries, thus changing the semi-rural characteristic of this area. 5. Stotfold residents had to endure a lot of travel inconvenience when the new housing estate was being built. There is also the additional traffic on local roads subsequent to the completion of the estate.
Yes	Whilst the residents of Fairfield Park contribute financially to Stotfold, there is little or no benefit to the households of Fairfield Park. It is therefore far more advantageous to us for the creation of Fairfield Community Council where decisions about the estate can be made by the residents.
No	The main gripe by Fairfield residents is the service charge for their PRIVATE OWNED NOT PUBLIC OWNED facilities. The service contracts were knowingly entered into by residents at the time of property purchase and have nothing whatsoever to do with Stotfold Town Council. Service and maintenance contracts are between the developer and purchaser and are common throughout the UK, particularly where there are joint areas to be maintained. Fairfield residents should approach their contracts managers for any relief. It would not be legal for Stotfold Town Council to provide money towards maintenance of what is private property. It would equally be illegal for a Fairfield Community Council to use precept provided from Central Beds Council Tax to offset their private contract costs, so there is no advantage or relief by breaking away from Stotfold, and perhaps a risk of where/how public funds would be used. Fairfield does not provide one third of the Stotfold Town Council costs. Fairfield residents say they have no affinity with the Stotfold community. Perhaps if they thought more about what they can add to it rather than what they can get out of it they would find more opportunities.
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No	Fairfield hospital & as it was previously known years ago as three counties hospital was at the heart of Stotfold and Arlesey. We believe this is part of Arlesey's and Stotfold's heritage and because of this should remain as part of Arlesey and Stotfold.
Yes	I hope that if they have there own council this mean that they will have here own doctors surgery and schools has the ones in Stotfold can't cope with the amount of people in Stotfold,Fairfield and the surrounding areas
Yes	I would like Fairfield to have its own Council to manage the area. The creation of the Fairfield council will alleviate the burden of managing Fairfield from the current Stotfold council allowing them to focus on Stotfold village. I would also be interested in the Fairfield council moving to enforce the Fairfield Park Covenant.
Yes	This is a very simple issue. Fairfield is large enough to have its own parish authority and is non-contiguous with Stotfold, making a joint parish authority highly inappropriate.
Yes	I am a resident of Fairfield Park since February 2006 and I have visited Stotfold on only 2 occasions. Stotfold towns shopping and leisure facilities are poor and for all of my local needs I use Letchworth or Hitchin. I currently pay £90 to Stotfold council as part of my council tax and as a resident of Fairfield I receive zero services in return as I pay for the maintenance of my environment by way of a service charge. Stotfold itself bears no physical, architectural or geographic relationship to Fairfield Park and I believe that our local taxes are better served in use for the residents paying them.

Yes	<p>With regard to this proposal I fully support the creation of a new Fairfield community council. I am a resident of Fairfield park and as such I pay a service charge to maintain the environment that I live in and I receive absolutely nothing in return for the £90 per annum I am currently forced to give to Stotfold council in the form of Council tax. I have resided in Fairfield park for 5 yrs 6mths and I can count on my fingers the number of times I have crossed the A507 to visit Stotfold. There are zero facilities to attract me to Stotfold and the shopping, restaurant and bars are of a sub-standard quality so I frequent Letchworth and more particularly Hitchin for all of the local services I require. As with many of my neighbours I am employed in London so Stotfold without a train station is of no use to me. We at Fairfield park have our own community centre which could be staffed appropriately for the benefits of both the youth and elderly residents with the funds currently attributed to a town council who offer no return whatsoever to the residents here. I am a very proud resident of Fairfield who cares deeply about sustaining the quality of environment within the park for the benefit of all those who have chosen to live here. I object wholeheartedly to being taxed without return of services from a town council which bears no resemblance or geographical affinity to where I reside. Kind regards Ian Sales</p>
Yes	<p>I live in the area and can see the demand for an independent community council. Fairfield has over its short period created an area that has demands that are not supported fully by Stotfold or the surrounding areas and has separate circumstances such as those outlined in the information form. Fairfield will continue to grow over the next years and will need to ensure that this growth is fully supported in a constant basis and not on a case by case basis that would be such when part of Stotfold. Fairfield has also established many community groups that are independent of the area and local within the Fairfield park/hall areas. Stotfold and the surrounding areas are at a different part of the development cycle while Fairfield is very new and development in style with the surroundings is encouraged many local areas are slowing down their enthusiasm for further growth or expansion and are instead asking for upgrades/new high streets etc. As such Fairfield is unique and understanding these differences which I do not feel could be fully reflected by a Stotfold council needs to be taken into consideration. Standing against each of these views there could be conflicting areas of focus where some areas lose out where a separate council for each area could provide a solution for both needs. Overall, the idea seems simple and quite straightforward.</p>
Yes	<p>I believe this is a great opportunity to use council tax money already being paid to actually benefit the people paying it. At the moment this money is lost to Stotfold and Stotfold council are providing very little in terms of value for Fairfield. The only link we as a family have to Stotfold is the doctors surgery and I don't believe that this is funded in any way from Stotfold. Currently we are paying a service charge for all grounds maintenance, street lighting, tree surgery and other maintenance. Redirecting some of our council tax to a new parish council will complement this and allow the community to move forward.</p>
Yes	<p>Based on the information presented we broadly support the proposal. However, we would like to make a couple of comments. Firstly, apart from the letter we received from Central Bedfordshire Council prompting this consultation, we have been presented only with one argument from the side of the Fairfield Action Group (via a couple of leaflets, or flyers, pushed through our letter box). We have not received anything to present an argument on behalf of the Stotfold Council. We would have preferred to make a judgement based on a more balanced debate. We can only assume, therefore, that the STC have no strong argument against the Fairfield proposal, and so given the clear financial argument put forward by the FAG then we feel compelled to support it. However, we do feel 'uncomfortable' with the FAG's rather strong stance on Fairfield residents not being part of the Stotfold community. We certainly do feel like we are part of the Stotfold community and do not see the geographical position of the A507 as an issue. We are registered at the Larksfield GP practise, our daughter attends nursery in Stotfold, we regularly shop at the local Pharmacy and Cooperative Store, we are regular customers of the India Lodge restaurant and I am registered with the local opticians (and we also had a very nice day out in the Summer at the Stotfold steam fair). All in all, we do feel like Stotfold residents as well as Fairfield residents</p>
Yes	<p>Fairfield is clearly separate from Stotfold and is heavily privatised so we pay our fees to maintain our own grounds.</p>
No	<p>I object to the formation of a separate Parish of Fairfield for the following reasons: 1) When Fairfield was planned it was in the Parish of Stotfold, I see no reason why this should now be different. 2) Residents of Fairfield development say that the only benefit they receive from being part of Stotfold is they get a discounted rate when they wish to be buried in the cemetery. This is a ridiculous statement. Do NO residents of this development use ANY of the services in Stotfold or ANY community groups, Doctors, shops, open spaces? In Addition Stotfold Town Council supports a number of community groups which residents of Fairfield development use, Scouts, football clubs etc. When the new community facility and sports centre is eventually under development in Stotfold, do residents at Fairfield development not wish to use these? 3) This is the first step (I believe) in residents at Fairfield moving the new Parish into North Hertfordshire where they wish to be, regardless of the fact they bought a home in Central Bedfordshire. This is purely to add value to their property price. 4) With cuts to local government spending Stotfold needs the funds from Fairfield. 5) Some residents of Fairfield just want a "gated community" and not to be part of Stotfold (in name only as they DO use the facilities of the town). This is totally against how planning permission was granted for the development in the first place.</p>



Yes	Stotfold Town Council (STC) currently receives in excess of £90000/annum under the existing Council Tax precept; however, the STC does not spend any significant amount of this income on Fairfield Park. As a growing community Fairfield Park has specific needs with regard to our young people and the running of our Community Hall; unfortunately, remaining under the auspices of the STC will not see these particular needs addressed. A Fairfield Community Council would be able to focus on the unique concerns of the Fairfield Residents.
Yes	I believe that Fairfield should become its own Parish due to the size and occupancy of the area. In addition, due to the demarcation of Stotfold by way of the bypass many residents of Fairfield have never fully felt part of Stotfold even though many of us partake in local community events.
Yes	Fairfield is a discrete location that has no natural association with Stotfold. It is a large enough community to govern itself and by having its own parish council the needs and requirements of the community will be best served by people who are part of that community. The present situation is that Fairfield residents contribute a significant proportion of money to the Stotfold council with very little in return.
Yes	In principal I support the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council, on the proviso that full consultation is made with residents on any action which is suggested/to be taken. I do have concerns that in setting up an additional council, additional expenses would be incurred and the funds would not actually be spent on Fairfield. I am very concerned about what I have recently heard about the petition to have a skate park at Fairfield. I believe this would attract youths from Letchworth/Stotfold on to the Fairfield Park during the day, increasing the amount of noise, and traffic in the area. I also fail to see where this would be placed, I would hope not on the Orchard which is one thing I have heard. I think that would be a tragedy were we to lose such a tranquil area, it is a haven for wildlife that are already suffering from a decline of habitat and I think an area like this should be preserved for the whole community, regardless of age. I also have issue with giving children somewhere, which I doubt in no time at all will have been grafitti'd. I say this having just walked my dog at midnight to find that since walking past 2 young trees not 4 hours ago, these have been vandalised, no doubt by the children that are asking to have a skate park. If they cannot respect the area in which they live I don't see why council funds should be spent on them.
Yes	The proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council makes perfect financial sense. Currently funds paid by residents to the Stotfold Town Council do not benefit the residents of Fairfield Park.. Under the new proposal, funds would be available for community projects within Fairfield Park.
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Yes	I support this proposal as I expect that the upkeep and maintenance and facilities of the estate to be improved by having our own parish with our own local councillors who spend our taxes directly for the benefit of residents.
Yes	I welcome this proposal as I believe it is in the best interests for the Fairfield Park community
Yes	With regard to Q10 of the response form, please make sure that CBC gen. purposes committee make a decision on the response of the replies to the questionnaires and not for their or Stotfold council's own wishes or financial gain/loss
No	The added expense of a separate council for Fairfield is not justified. Fairfield has always come under Stotfold and I suspect the proposers of this review want to do so for snobbish reasons, they do not like association with Stotfold and when any houses now come on the market they say it is near Letchworth. It will waste much needed money on a review.
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Yes	I feel this would lead to improved services for the residents of Fairfield Park and benefit all concerned. All much better use of resources.
Yes	I support this proposal as I feel any monies I am paying through my council tax charge should provide benefit back to the community of Fairfield. Whilst most of the estate is near completion there are many facilities needed to ensure that we have the right access to provisions.
Yes	Will any monies for this group come out of the Stotfold budget?
Yes	Local rule is essential to promote a community feel, to facilities for planners forgotten people "our teenagers" and to to raise a truly local tax that can be spent on the needs of Fairfield.

Yes	I have been a Fairfield resident since December 2006 and for the longest time I have wondered why we are part of Stotfold, we have no natural affinity with the town and we are not even physically connected. I feel quite niggled that Stotfold town council receive so much income from Fairfield and yet do little to improve the quality of services and provisions for Fairfield residents. We have a beautiful new community centre which we have longed to be opened, we have many teenagers at the park who have outgrown the playparks and require a full time youth worker to coordinate activities / run a youth centre and possibly even build a skate park. We have literally hundreds of little children who would benefit from play groups and activities that could be run at the community centre if it was open and had better funding for equipment. I hope that you will seriously consider this petition and see the benefits for Fairfield residents if a new community council is permitted.
Yes	I have never considered the Fairfield Estate to be part of Stotfold. Now that they have their own school, shop, etc. I think that many residents will rarely ever come into Stotfold itself. Now that there are 3,000 people living there they should be independent of Stotfold.
Yes	Fairfield Park and surrounding area has a separate identity to that of Stotfold. Separated by the A507 it now has its own shops, schools, and recreation facilities. Stotfold Council has failed to contribute to the improvement of Fairfield despite 30% of their budget being raised from Fairfield Park. The tax raised from Fairfield could be spent on the community hall, facilities for teenagers etc and would compliment the service charge already paid for the basic upkeep of the Park.
Yes	I have never thought of Fairfield as part of Stotfold. it is unfair they contribute to our rates and yet receive virtually nothing in return.
Yes	Is there any documentation to show how Stotfold Town Council plans to spend future monies? It would be nice to have some impartial information highlighting the pros and cons of setting up a Fairfield Council. If we have a Fairfield Council, is our address still Stotfold? What implications does this have in terms of using the children's centre services (Red Bear), catchment areas for schools and Larksfeld Surgery? I would like some more information on who the Fairfield Community Action Group are, how and why they established themselves and how they envisage Local Town Councillors being elected (indeed the process of election and who can stand) and whether they are proposing to stand for election.
Yes	This makes sense for the Fairfield Park community. I feel that STC have not given anything back into Fairfield Park by holding back almost all of the precept charge year on year. I have been impressed by the arguments put forward by the Action Group for Fairfield Park becoming a parish in its own right. They care about what the residents think and get involved with issues. So it gets my vote!
Yes	I believe this is the correct thing to do for the community of Fairfield Park. My reasons are listed below - Over the years we have had little or no support or engagement from STC. - There is not only a physical divide (A507) but also sadly a cultural one - Those individuals who wish to represent and serve Fairfield Park all live on the estate and care about it - The monies from the precept would go a long way to maintaining and improving the development as well as creating facilities for young and old. I have to add this is not by any means a them and us situation. Everyone I have spoken to wants to maintain good neighbourly relations with Stotfold. It is more a case of recognising that we have our own identity along with a strong desire to keep our own house in good order and therefore have the means to do this.
Yes	I support the creation of a new Fairfield Community Council because at present taxes paid by Fairfield Park residents are in the main (approx 98%) not being spent by the current council on Fairfield Park. This is both unfair and undemocratic.
Yes	I support the creation of the new Fairfield Community Council because: 1, The current situation is unfair. For example: of the money paid to Stotfold Council by Fairfield residents only about 1% has been spent by the Stotfold Council at Fairfield Park. 2. Fairfield Park has no physical housing connections to Stotfold. 3. Fairfield is being starved of funds for the development of the Fairfield community centre and other projects
Yes	Fully agree with the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council.
Yes	Strongly agree that community council should be set up for Fairfield Park, primarily for the reasons outlined in the proposal.
Yes	Size and nature of community justifies it's own council.
Yes	Support the argument that Fairfield should have it's own community council due to the size / no of residents in Fairfield, the geographical split from Stotfold village caused by A507 and public services being funded by ground rent and service charges.
Yes	Residents of Fairfield Park already pay for public services such as grass cutting and street lighting as part of our service charge and are therefore not getting any benefit from the element of the precept. Fairfield Park is clearly a geographically separate community.
Yes	We are new to the area, but at first sight Fairfield seems to be a community in its own right, separate from Stotfold. In fact, it seems to us more akin to Letchworth or Hitchin (as the Post Office believe it to be) in HERTFORDSHIRE (Sorry if you love BEDS!)
Yes	Funding supplied to Stotfold Town Council however never aids Fairfield Park in any form. I see no reason to pay twice for the same service and feel the monies would be better served by funding the Community Centre and other Fairfield Park services for young people.

Yes	I do not feel that Fairfield Park is part of Stotfold.
Yes	I am all in favour of local responsibility for local issues.
Yes	If they want autonomy – good luck to them. However can they stop using our over-crowded GP service at Larksfield. Also move the Stotfold sign on the Hitchin Road to the north side of the A507.
Yes	I think it is inevitable that further building of new homes towards Arlesey and within Stotfold (on the bypass at present) the identities of each “village” may become blurred with all the new development. Fairfield Park is enclosed within a defined area at present but does not really ‘belong’ with Stotfold as many of the facilities are already there (except GP, library). In planning for the future if Fairfield exists independently then it would be able to have a greater say rather than be lost in the metropolis of Arlesey and Stotfold when they eventually merge in the next 10 – 20 years.
Yes	The disproportionate funding of Stotfold from the Fairfield development without representation at an appropriate level. Stotfold’s own residency levels are expected to climb naturally – through expansion of the development on the Stotfold side of the A507 – minimising financial consequence to Stotfold Council and without a split Fairfield would become a distraction to Stotfold rather than a primary concern as residents already pay privately for many services.
Yes	Could you tell my why people with disabilities are asked to say that on the form? Thank you. After all Beds have the information you require. R.S.V.P.
Yes	Having read all of the relevant literature about Fairfield being outside the Stotfold zone I would have no objections at all complying with the residents’ wishes of Fairfield. We can then all live in harmony and be happy with our lot.
Yes	It seems to me wholly unreasonable that Stotfold Town Council benefit from the residents at Fairfield Park to the value of some £92,000 and for which they have no legal duty to provide services to. The measly sum of £1,000 donated to stock the community centre I think can be taken as evidence that STOTFOLD councillors have no concern, regard or sense of responsibility to Fairfield Park residents. It can be concluded then, that the only way to ensure a fair provision of service, proportionate to funds allocated is for a Fairfield Council to be formed.
Yes	It seems totally unfair – we pay a precept to Stotfold T.C. and get very little in return. Local tax raised from Fairfield is mostly not spend on Fairfield – and with a growing population of children and teenagers we need to plan for the next 5-10 years. – when all the children become needy adolescents. Complacency on the part of Stotfold Town Council had led to our frustration at not being able to provide for our residents.
Yes	The Fairfield community needs money now – not least to rectify problems with the Community Hall. It therefore needs its own council as soon as possible.
Yes	I would want to see the Stotfold Town Council information re the impact of a new Fairfield Community Council – as to whether there would be any financial affects on Stotfold residents or any existing plans that this would have an adverse effect on.
Yes	I support the creation of a new Fairfield Community Council because: 1 The current situation is unfair. Stotfold Council has given approx 1% of the money paid by Fairfield Park back to Fairfield Park. 2 Fairfield Park has no physical connection to Stotfold. 3 Fairfield Park needs the money taken by Stotfold to fund projects at Fairfield.
Yes	We support this on the grounds that the money used wisely to address the needs of the Fairfield community. We would expect proper consultation with the Fairfield community. We would also like to make clear that we do not want this to be seen as a snub in any way of the Stotfold community, rather a more appropriate allocation of funds.
Yes	I am secretary of the Fairfield Bowls Club and live in Hitchin, but many members of the club live on the Fairfield estate. They all agree that it would be much better to have their own council
Yes	Very little local tax is spent on Fairfield Park – this is unfair considering we pay the same amount as anyone else in Stotfold.We can only be better off having Fairfield Community Council put in place.
Yes	For the same reason put forward in the petition. Fairfield is not part of Stotfold and should only be referred to as Fairfield, Bedfordshire. If the creation of a Fairfield Community Council results in the Fairfield community becoming autonomous and independent then this can only be to the benefit of both communities.
Yes	The grounds for creating a new Fairfield Community Council appear fair and reasonable.
Yes	I agree that double charging for services should not be permitted.
Yes	The proposal is supported on the basis that it does not change our postal address which is Stotfold, Hitchin, Hertfordshire.
Yes	I would fully support the change. It would be a very positive move for Fairfield residents.
Yes	We do not think it acceptable that Stotfold use the money gained from Fairfield Park to improve amenities within just the main town (except for a tiny £1,000 allocated to Fairfield). Although the estate is new and therefore not in need of massive maintenance work, we need to think ahead to provide a framework for a good community, including facilities for our children as they get older.
Yes	I feel this will give the Fairfield area residents more of a voice in their community.

Yes	As a resident of Stotfold for some 44 years I feel it difficult to accept that the new community of Fairfield could ever be considered as part of Stotfold, its location being separated by a STOTFOLD BY-PASS is surely enough to say that it is a separate entity.
Yes	We absolutely support this idea, and look forward to the future development of the Fairfield Community Council for the benefit of Fairfield residents.
Yes	Once Fairfield has its own council the number of Stotfold Town Councillors should be reduced and savings passed on to Stotfold tax payers.
Yes	I do not believe it is fair or just that the residents of Fairfield Park contribute to Stotfold Town Council's budget (via precept/council tax) when the STC do not provide ANY services to the residents of Fairfield Park (bar being buried at the cemetery). I believe we should have the right to spend our council tax on services for Fairfield Park and its community and NOT supplement the Stotfold TC residents' requirements (if the STC need more they should charge Stotfold residents more). To this end, I support the move to create a Fairfield Community Council to support the needs and services of Fairfield Park residents.
Yes	Council tax less expensive and money spent on Fairfield projects only.
Yes	I fully support the comments made in the petition. I moved here from Buckinghamshire and rarely venture to the other side of the A507, especially now Tesco has opened in Fairfield Park. I object to my council tax being used to fund activities I do not benefit from. This money should be used to meet the needs of Fairfield Park residents.
Yes	It is unfair to pay such a large sum of money to Stotfold via our rates to receive virtually nothing in return. We are self sufficient and while paying a service charge this extra money could be well used to benefit Fairfield and its future. Fairfield residents already contribute to the Stotfold economy when shopping and using its services.
Yes	We support this proposal fully. Particularly in view of the high charges we incur in both service charges and council tax which we have challenged since moving here and feel a locally accountable Community Council representing the Fairfield residents would work in our favour not Stotfold or Central Beds.
Yes	We support in full the summary made under Q3 (a) (b) (c) and (d).
Yes	If Fairfield are self sufficient, with their own doctors, town hall and school, I can understand why they wish to set up as a stand-alone council. They do not see a connection to Stotfold. We are considered by them as a neighbouring council.
Yes	Geographically it seems odd that Fairfield should be part of Stotfold. I feel certain they could manage their community better themselves as they are "on the spot".
Yes	They are a community in themselves. Stotfold has nothing to offer them and they do not seem to want to integrate with us, let them be independent.
Yes	As long as it does not affect current rates paid by Stotfold residents and involve facilities provided by Stotfold Council being used by Fairfield residents. Fairfield needs to be totally self sufficient.
Yes	With reference to question 1:-I am in agreement with the proposed creation of a new Fairfield Community Council if the residents so wish.
Yes	We think the new community council is a good idea as Fairfield Park feels like a small community and we already pay the maintenance charge for the estate. We appreciate the hard work that has gone into this campaign and hope that approval is given for the proposal.
Yes	1. All the reasons given in support of this proposal seem valid (Q.3) and reasonable. 2 The Fairfield residents clearly feel no ties to Stotfold. 3. I have witnessed on several occasions in local property papers (Comet/Advertiser) – houses on the Fairfield development being described (wrongly) as "Letchworth". This breach of advertising rules seems further evidence of a wish to 'distance' themselves from Stotfold.
Yes	I would prefer the money we pay in council tax to be used within Fairfield Park and not in Stotfold – a place I do not go to. Also, I have 2 young children and would find the use of Fairfield Community Hall to be of great benefit for any baby or toddler groups as would involve only a short walk instead of a car journey to other children's centres. I believe facilities for older children would be hugely beneficial e.g. skate park for 10-16 year olds as there are no facilities for older children here and in the years to come there will be a very large number of 10-16 year olds in Fairfield Park who will need somewhere to go. Also use of the Fairfield Community hall for youth activities would be of benefit to all.
Yes	As long as the change does not cost more. I vote for Fairfield C.C.
Yes	As long as all appropriate budget provisions have been kept, allocated reserves etc for Stotfold, then OK.
Yes	My only comment in support of this proposal is that a Fairfield Community council to have the interests of Fairfield residents as a core principle and this can only be of benefit to this large community. Being part of Stotfold serves no purpose or benefit to us, visa versa Stotfold have no interest in Fairfield and why should they?
Yes	It is inequitable that the residents of Fairfield Park should pay council tax in addition to their management charge as this subsidises the properties in Stotfold.

Yes	Fairfield Park is already divided geographically by the A507 as I moved here from Letchworth to use the shops and facilities there. The Park was planned as a community village with shops, school and community centre located together in a central location with play areas and seats near the cricket pitch and bowls club which give it a village atmosphere. The green areas, play areas and walk/cycle ways need a lot of upkeep because of the number of people who use them which are paid in the form of a service charge by the residents. Despite having received £94,000 Stotfold Town Council has contributed very little to the park. The money paid to them would be better used for the benefit of Fairfield Park residents if administered by a new Fairfield Community Council.
Yes	I think that we pay enough taxes not to have to support Fairfield plus would not wish to pay extra.
Yes	In my view, Fairfield is a community with a different demographic to the village of Stotfold, being chiefly comprised of youngish couples and young families. There are no bungalows to attract older/retired people. The needs of the Fairfield Park community will therefore be different to those of the general population of Stotfold, which, being separated from Fairfield Park by a busy main road, does not offer facilities which can readily be used by Fairfield Park residents. Fairfield Park should have the ability to decide on the requirements of its population, rather than having decisions made by people who are, to all interests and purposes, living in a separate and very different village, as would be the case if Fairfield Park does not have its own Parish/Town Council.
Yes	I think this is a good idea as we "Fairfield Park" are a large enough community to look after our own affairs.
Yes	Fairfield Hall has been occupied since 2005 and no representations for Stotfold Council have been forthcoming and I feel the monies we donate should be used for ourselves and not swallowed into Stotfold.
Yes	I have read the questionnaire and concur with the recommendations for the formation of a community council for Fairfield
Yes	Stotfold Town Council have contributed little of the £90K pa Fairfield residents pay to them to the estate. It is important to the Fairfield community that money expended by them is re-invested into progress + matters relevant to its community. Hence I fully support the proposal.
Yes	43 a,b,c,d add up to a convincing case.
Yes	Geographically and for the purposes of the post code will we be part of Stotfold, Hitchin or Fairfield Park? At present, it appears as Hitchin, Hertfordshire.
Yes	Only agree if Fairfield Hall grounds remain private and under resident management.
Yes	I regard myself as a "Fairfield resident" having lived here now for 5 years. I have no natural affinity to the area of "Stotfold" but I do like the area and when possible visit the local shops in support of them. As we now have such good amenities at Fairfield; shop, hairdressers, dry cleaners, gym, restaurant and soon a spa, I will support them as much as possible for convenience as much as any thing. Yes we are paying twice for the same amenity and so I support a separate Fairfield Community Council.
Yes	The proposal makes a great deal of sense.
Yes	It would have been better if the town council had helped the Fairfield residents to complete the work on the community centre, providing them with the necessary funding for partition furniture and outstanding facilities in the kitchen, which is necessary for insurance purposes.
Yes	I believe that double charging for services should not be permitted. If this is happening either a separate parish must be established or some form of rebate applied to Fairfield residents so that there is no financial inequity between Fairfield and other Stotfold residents. Are there any regulations already in force to prevent "double charging" for services?
Yes	I would like the money we pay to be used on the facilities and services we use and choose.
Yes	I agree with all of the reasons put forward in the petition for a new Fairfield Community Council.
Yes	Anybody that wants to be away from Central Bedfordshire and the people that just want money and do nothing for it. Stotfold is just a cash cow for Central Bedfordshire. Central Beds do nothing for me. I have been asking for things to be done but they just do not know what to do.
Yes	I totally agree with Fairfield having its own parish council. We are not, and never have been, part of Stotfold community who unfairly retain a high proportion of the parish stipend.
Yes	Completely agree with the points raised by Fairfield Community Action Group
Yes	It is essential that services are provided in Fairfield Park for children over the age of 10. At present there are too many playgrounds (mostly rarely used) for children under 10 or younger. There are also no facilities for adults and there is no doctor's surgery despite the large number of people living in Fairfield Park.
Yes	This area is not part of the Stotfold community and a separate community governance for both areas is beneficial.
Yes	The Fairfield address – as a hospital – was always Arlesely; in my view it should remain so.
Yes	It seems only right to keep this money within the Fairfield community, I trust they will spend it wisely.
Yes	I would like the process to clearly state the disadvantages of this move. A balanced view is required and important.

	<p>What happens to medical provision locally? Currently we make use of the practice in Stotfold – is there still an entitlement to this?</p> <p>What about local community policing? Where does this come from and what affect will separation have? Fairfield Park literally sits on the border with Hertfordshire. Given local representation to move Stotfold into Hertfordshire – would Fairfield Park be included in subsequent discussions or would this be now action for change?</p> <p>Who would fund councillors training for a new cohort of councillors and who would mentor? Where would accountability for governance lie?</p>
Yes	
Yes	Will all roads and paths be completed?
Yes	<p>If we are granted permission to form our own community council, I hope a proportion of the taxes received will go towards improving the facilities for older children/young adults (10 – 18 years) as all the play areas on the Fairfield site, which are very nice are all geared towards younger children, therefore leaving nothing to do for the older ones. The community centre which has now been standing for 3 years is still not up and running. Why can not this be made into a youth club with pool tables and possible skating facilities (skate park) to keep the older children amused and entertained?</p>
Yes	Will the service charges we currently pay be absorbed into the local taxes when the area becomes self governing?
Yes	It has seemed obvious and logical to me that a development that size should ultimately become a self-administering unit with its own school, shops and community centre, none of which are likely to be patronised by the original Stotfold community.
Yes	Could we have an agreement to keep the green field gap between Stotfold (i.e. the A507) and the Fairfield settlement.
Yes	The drain on our resources (e.g. our doctor's surgery) needs to be considered within the discussions.
Yes	Fairfield is separate from Stotfold. I say this having lived 10 years in Arlesey and 10 years in Stotfold (not Fairfield). To combine them is artificial. The needs of a village of all new houses and the original hospital are different to old Stotfold.
Yes	As long as it does not affect public transport to Stotfold i.e. Arriva buses (97).
Yes	We would like to set up our own council in Fairfield Park, Stotfold.
Yes	If Fairfield has its own council will they be allowed to use Stotfold's cemetery? If so they should pay.
Yes	On the basis that my council tax bill reduces and also what I pay for Fairfield Park management and services is assessed, I feel charges are high and I have limited enjoyment from the amenities being serviced (swings, dog bins etc).
Yes	The money from the council tax which is given to Stotfold Council, will that be paid to the new Fairfield Community Council?
Yes	Financial consideration – value for the services provided. (There are six persons living in our house and we are of the same view to establish a separate council).
Yes	Fairfield residents are a community and should have the right to govern themselves through its own council. I hope this proposal is accepted.
Yes	My wife and myself both feel that the proposal to create a Fairfield Park Community Council can only make the area better.
Yes	I just hope the residents of Fairfield are happy with this.
Yes	I feel that a significant amount of money is being paid out by the residents of Fairfield Park with little to show from Stotfold – our roads are not adopted and other than bins being emptied (by Central Beds) (very well I must say) we see no financial gain staying affiliated to Stotfold. There are many future implications with a rapidly growing population – bus services to middle and upper schools and youth services to name but two that FFP will need to invest in so hopefully a Fairfield Community Council will be able to prioritise funds accordingly.
Yes	What will be the implications of the proposed development of the pig farm if it was incorporated within the Fairfield community?
Yes	I agree strongly with the points put forward in the petition. I have nothing to do with Stotfold at all.
Yes	We support this on the understanding that Stotfold Town Council do not currently fairly distribute the local tax raised from Fairfield to the Fairfield residents. Through this, we will be responsible for how this tax revenue is spent and can ensure it is spent on community needs within Fairfield.
Yes	I have lived on Fairfield Park since 2007 and can see the benefits from becoming self sufficient . Having paid a yearly maintenance charge to cover Fairfield Park I do not feel I should also pay for Stotfold costs. Stotfold residents do not pay for Fairfield Park so in return I should not have to pay for Stotfold maintenance. The increased monies this would bring Fairfield Park also means the area will improve. Invariably the grass cutting and general maintenance falls below par and this will only improve if Fairfield Park is made self sufficient. There are now enough residents living at Fairfield to allow this to happen and be successful.

Yes	While I think it is sad for Stotfold as a whole that Fairfield wish to separate, I can understand why they wish to do so. I do not see that my gender, colour, age or anything else has any relevance for the question above! The members of the communities who wish to respond will do so and those who do not, will not. How will knowing what colour I am help you to get all members of the community to respond?
Yes	Our support would be dependant on the councillors being democratically elected. We would not support the co-opting of Fairfield Park residents members onto the council automatically. They are an unelected body who act as they and they alone think fit.
Yes	Will we still have to pay council tax and rent?
Yes	This would have a positive impact on Fairfield and the surrounding area. Geographically, it is already a self contained community and so this proposal would make sense in my view.
Yes	Stotfold is bit enough. I thought Fairfield would be Letchworth Herts
Yes	Are there any cost implications for existing Stotfold residents? Also one of the reasons given is the separation by A507 – Norton Rd is similar.
Yes	Whilst we wish to keep good relations with Stotfold; with the exception of the Doctor's surgery, we don't use or get any value from the facilities in Stotfold. It seems only fair that the funds we pay benefit our community in Fairfield. The community centre is in danger of becoming an expensive white elephant. We should invest in it and make it available to all people in Stotfold to use. I would also like us to find some facilities for young people 10 – 18 years to have – the centre could help here to.
Yes	I support Fairfield Community Council, but the ordnance survey boundaries are unclear. I am unsure if Valerian Way will be included in Fairfield or Stotfold. A more detailed and clearly marked boundary map is required, and would Fairfield Community be Hertfordshire or Bedfordshire as it is close to Hitchin?
Yes	For many years Fairfield and its environs were a self-contained community – practically self sufficient. When the hospital was closed there was no benefit, (in the part it had provided employment over a wide area), to the local area. The development provided new homes and opportunities at the old hospital and I believe it would be a great opportunity for the Fairfield residents to determine their own needs in their community. I would add that I have lived in Stotfold for 64 years and Fairfield has never played any part in my life whatsoever.
Yes	The existing Bedfordshire Council is unable to support our additional 3,000 plus residents in an ever growing population. Stotfold is clearly overcrowded, and our existing facilities such as shops, medical and educational (to mention a few) are already overstretched to breaking point. It would be far better for Fairfield Park to have their own facilities, so that they can feel part of their own community. It would ease the present situation in Stotfold too. I feel that this is one of the most important matters for consideration.
Yes	Fairfield is clearly a separate community.
Yes	Having read the submission in full it just makes common sense. Things change, time moves on, it will help build a new community.
Yes	As long as Stotfold residents do not have an increased council tax bill. In theory the council tax should be reduced for Stotfold residents as there will be 1,800 less people. If Fairfield residents want to be separate then they should have their own facilities – doctors plus library and not drain Stotfold's resources.
Yes	If Fairfield residents wish to have their own Parish I have no objection provided they have their own control and it does not mean Stotfold residents having to bail them out if they get into trouble.
Yes	Only to wish them well.
Yes	Fairfield Park should never have been part of Stotfold community due to distance and the development . Utter reluctance to be part of Stotfold community (in fact technically Fairfield development is at Arlesey). I am increasingly angry at the lack of facilities available in Stotfold (i.e. decent parks for older children) when Fairfield has the benefit of far superior facilities and yet pay the same. Please invest in our small town with the people who chose to live here and support local community. We do not want or need large housing estates that do not wish to integrate into our small community..
Yes	Fairfield is quite clearly a community apart from Stotfold and I am quite sure its residents would be happier looking after their own affairs.
Yes	As a resident of Fairfield Park I in no way feel part of Stotfold. I do not use any facilities operated by the council or cared for by the council in Stotfold. If I need to use facilities not supplied by Fairfield Park I would use Letchworth or Hitchin. The A507 seems like a natural barrier although historically I understand that Fairfield Hall was built away from Stotfold itself for the reason of keeping the patients out of sight, but was considered to have a Stotfold address.
Yes	The FAQ's are very informative. Agree with points put forward. There is starting to be a "community feel" at Fairfield Park. I agree there is no affinity to Stotfold. This is in part, as suggested, that Fairfield and Stotfold are divided by the A507 and also due to Stotfold being largely a commuter town.
Yes	It is a shame that Stotfold does not just spend more proportionally on Fairfield so that the economies of scale/benefits of having a joint council can't be put to better use. The amount spent on Fairfield is ridiculously low – unfairly so. Residents of Fairfield should angry at this. This situation should never have happened to begin with, the money should always have been distributed more evenly.

Yes	I think it is an excellent idea. I do not feel part of Stotfold and do not use its amenities, in fact many Stotfold residents use the parks at Fairfield and do not contribute towards their upkeep. We could use the additional funds generated by Fairfield Community Council to develop more facilities and to properly run the community centre.
Yes	I feel that we should be entitled to funding from the local tax raised from Fairfield as we as residents could benefit from extra funds to implement new facilities for the older children and teenagers on Fairfield. We could employ a youth worker to support and serve the children of Fairfield and also run a road traffic awareness project – there are a couple of dangerous junctions that I am concerned about and I feel if this area of safety is not properly thought through an accident will happen and a young life possibly lost. I hope that Fairfield Park becomes a Stotfold parish for these reasons in the future.
Yes	This comment will not affect my vote in Q1, but might affect the votes of other responders. The boundary of the proposed new parish is unclear on the map. There is an east/west grey line which bisects the area enclosing the parish. I have marked it AB. Is the line between A and B nothing to do with the parish boundary, but simply a different coloured line which has been reproduced in the same shade of grey in the black and white photocopy? If not, it seems to split the proposed parish into two zones and there is nothing on the map or the text to explain their significance.
Yes	Considering the size of the development it makes sense for Fairfield to have its own community council. I don't believe that many residents of Fairfield use the facilities offered by Stotfold. It would therefore be more beneficial for the local tax raised by Fairfield residents to be spent by a Fairfield Council on some issues raised on our behalf and by the community at public meetings; roads and highway safety are a particular concern of mine.
Yes	The Park needs a lot of money spent on the community centre for the benefit of all ages and in spite of paying so much to Stotfold, nothing of any significance has been forthcoming. We need to think ahead. Stotfold have proved they don't truly represent us.
Yes	No recognition of current Stotfold Town Council. We do not benefit from the current precept paid to Stotfold Town Council.
Yes	We regard ourselves as Fairfield residents and are eager to develop the Fairfield identity. We have no affinity with the areas outside Fairfield and travel to Letchworth or Hitchin to shop. In addition to our Central Bedfordshire Council tax payments we contribute our rent/service charges in order to maintain the public facilities at Fairfield. We feel that a Fairfield Community Council will serve us better when dealing with Fairfield issues.
Yes	It makes sense, why should the people have to pay twice? STOTFOLD Council is completely useless anyway, and run by the Saunders clique! In my humble opinion!
Yes	It is important Fairfield residents and their families are able to observe and influence the allocation of capital paid by them for the benefit of their immediate community.
Yes	Not having the financial knowledge, I do not know if separating the two areas would be viable, we have managed to cope as a village/town for over a century, so I am sure we could remain a separate entity now.
Yes	I think Fairfield has become a small community which would further prosper and develop if it had its own Community Council. As a teacher at a local nearby school I feel it is important that residents of a particular area decide what the best interests for the village are.
Yes	Fairfield Park is a community building up in its own right. Therefore, it is appropriate for Fairfield Park to have its own council. The needs and requirements of Fairfield Park are quite specific and it makes more sense to be governed separately. As a parent with a young child I think the future development of the park would be best served by its own council tailored to our own requirements.
Yes	In my opinion the residents of Fairfield Park get a very poor deal from Stotfold Town Council. We make a significant contribution to the council via our council tax and we receive nothing in return. The vast majority of Fairfield residents have no links with Stotfold (we moved here from Hertford 5 years ago) and rarely use any of the facilities in Stotfold – (generally will use the facilities in Letchworth and Hitchin). The Fairfield community is very different to the rest of Stotfold, and has very different needs and requirements. I can not think of a single instance or issues in the last 5 years on which Stotfold Town Council has sought my views or representations. I have no confidence that they will seek to serve the interests of Fairfield residents in future, so I would whole heartedly support the setting up of Fairfield Parish Council.
Yes	And for it to have its own Doctors! It is a village on its own.
Yes	As Fairfield contribute almost a third of the Stotfold budget, will the change affect our current council tax? Also do we really need 15 town councillors in Stotfold?
Yes	The information given in the FAQ section attached to letter clearly indicates that Fairfield is not getting a fair slice of the money raised and is, in fact, mainly subsidising itself at present. This is unfair, hence my support for the review.
Yes	I am new in this area, therefore I can only give a limited view with regards to the above questions.



Yes	I think they should have their own Reps at Fairfield. This may bring a tad of democracy into Central Board meetings, there are many of us who are upset the £84,000 going to 2 persons who have NO PORTFOLIO this is SO WRONG. Also the secret TASK FORCE who spent so much time detailing where the T&C site are to be sited. Now its all in the air again. I always voted Tory but no more of my votes locally.
Yes	I have many friends living in the Fairfield area, Stotfold, who are very dissatisfied with the service and help given by Stotfold Council. I strongly recommend the recreation of a new Fairfield Community Council.
Yes	It appears to make sense, purely on the facts given in your account.
Yes	I would expect to see equal status between Fairfield Hall and Fairfield Park in respect to expenditure on amenities, landscaping of common areas etc. I would also like to see that at least one councillor is to represent Fairfield Hall.
Yes	Fairfield Park is a large community, large enough we would have thought to warrant its own parish council. As in the supported documentation the A507 separates Fairfield completely from Stotfold which makes it distinctly separate from Stotfold. We would completely support this proposal, and there seems one very obvious and sensible outcome for Fairfield Park to be its own parish.
Yes	As the two communities are "separated" by the A507, it would seem to be a sensible idea.
Yes	Please ensure that the Community Centre is maximised for the people of Fairfield Park if this transition takes place.
Yes	Fairfield Park pays a lot of money to Stotfold and gets little if nothing back. We are separate from Stotfold geographically and our own community with our own issues which we should be allowed to address and deal with. Our money should be used for us to help our/this area population. We have nothing to do with Stotfold, never go there apart from the Doctor's surgery, we do not benefit from the Stotfold Town Council tax. We are a separate village.
Yes	If Stotfold Town Council can serve the residents of Stotfold satisfactorily. We have no interest whatsoever in Fairfield Park or its residents!
Yes	As long as the council tax for Stotfold residents does not increase significantly to cover the loss to Stotfold Town Council's budget of Fairfield's council tax. Was never completely sure why Fairfield Park came under Stotfold in the first place! Let Fairfield Park and their lack of parking have their independence from Stotfold.
Yes	So far STC just seem to take and have made no real effort to help or even listen to residents before this blow-up.
Yes	We would like Fairfield to have its own Community Council as it would be nice to have the church reinstated as a parish church, along with the community hall and school. We would have all a council would need.
Yes	I support the proposal on the basis that Stotfold has no financial responsibility after the separation.
Yes	Fairfield Park has been successfully identified as being quite different to that of Stotfold. The residents here are of a different demographic which requires different needs to Stotfold. We as residents already pay for the upkeep of Fairfield which in itself creates a sense of ownership and pride, again, being identified as being its own community different from that of Stotfold. Fairfield is already seen by Stotfold residents as not "being a part of Stotfold", given its size and it is time to make and have its own community council.
Yes	As leaseholders and users of the cricket ground at Fairfield Park, we, Letchworth Garden City Cricket Club, are in favour of the proposal. We believe that a new Community Council would be a better channel of communication for us than the Stotfold Town Council. They would be more aware of, and responsive to, local matters, such as vandalism. They would have more interest in preserving the special nature of this area and developing services for the residents. The fact that it is a self-contained community geographically carries great weight. Most of our club members already regard the Fairfield development as a community in its own right. Very few would ever be aware that it is currently part of Stotfold.
Yes	No objection providing the facilities are also provided i.e. example:- Doctors as the one in Stotfold is already overcrowded it appears.
Yes	I agree that we are quite separate from Stotfold physically and therefore do not feel part of that town. In giving directions to Fairfield Park we have to tell people to ignore all signs directing them to Stotfold and to follow Letchworth instead from the A507, i.e. go in the opposite direction!
Yes	It is of prime importance to remember that many, many of Fairfield's properties are not owner-occupied but let to tenants from out of area. Many owners have never even lived on the site purchasing property for investment purposes and have no affinity to Stotfold, Fairfield or the surrounding area. To that end I believe that Fairfield Park should be independent, renamed "Fairfield Village" and be self-funding and self-governing
Yes	It makes sense that Fairfield community are able to plan and manage their future, given that objectives and aims may well be totally different from those faced living in Stotfold village.
Yes	I fully support this proposal and I think the reasons have been well articulated in the answers to Q3. I think the fact that the Fairfield residents contribute £94K to Stotfold parish and get only £1K in return on a voluntary basis to equip the new Community Centre is a farcical situation. The new Community Centre in Fairfield Park has been built and ready for fitting out for many months but has not happened due to lack of funding etc. Stotfold parish should be ashamed and embarrassed by this situation and the £1K voluntary contribution is

	purely nominal and a joke!
Yes	If Fairfield has a new community council and takes control of a budget, would this mean it could cancel out payments to the property maintenance company Sconlans LLP, or would the charge be much smaller?
Yes	As long as NO monies we pay to Stotfold Council end up supporting the new Fairfield Council and that the separate budgets show that this is the case.
Yes	I really would like to see some benefit from the monies currently paid to the council. I have young children who will soon have little value from the current facilities. It worries me that little is done to provide facilities that will keep them occupied when the park becomes less of an interest to them.
Yes	This is an excellent idea that will ensure Fairfield Park residents fully integrate together .
Yes	Can they have their own Doctor's facility built on site? If they do not want to be part of Stotfold, then they should not use our Doctor's facilities.
Yes	Will this cost Stotfold residents extra? The ratio of residents to councillors in Stotfold as proposed should give Stotfold residents a better service/representation.
Yes	In my opinion it is fair play the residents of Fairfield Park have self governance, as has been stated. Geographically they are in effect a separate "town" and as such should be permitted to go their own way.
Yes	Fairfield is isolated from Stotfold, an island estate, with an entirely different character.
Yes	Stotfold Town Council (STC) does not spend any significant local tax raised from Fairfield residents on Fairfield. Fairfield does not currently have any facilities for young people age 10 – 16. A skate board park and youth facilities in the Community Centre (including a youth worker) could be funded by the £90K+ of Fairfield local tax being spent in "old Stotfold".
Yes	It makes financial and logistical sense for Fairfield to form its own Community Council for all the reasons they state. There may be some problems with the use of "old" Stotfold facilities i.e. library, health centre, cemetery etc. which presumably is still available to Fairfield Park residents.
Yes	Fairfield Park will be an extension of Stotfold once the Stotfold estate(s) is/are completed and I see no reason to split the Fairfield Park off.
Yes	A proportionate refund of council taxes paid for services which the Fairfield Park Management Company has provided.
Yes	How does this affect council tax? We class Fairfield as Hertfordshire not Bedfordshire. Where do the boundary areas go?
Yes	Not at this early stage of the review.
Yes	Fairfield is a distinct community from Stotfold and it is entirely appropriate that a separate Community Council is formed to monitor the expenditure of local tax (currently spent by Stotfold Town Council) on local amenities and facilities.
Yes	I would like to see the money taken from us FP residents that we pay in council tax – spent on FP – not just Stotfold.
Yes	"Community" is lacking in the 21st century. This is magnified on new, discrete, developments such as Fairfield Park. There is no affinity to Stotfold village, so to be able to build the capacity of Fairfield Park would enhance the quality of residence lives on many levels.
Yes	Funds paid by ourselves put into "our" community as opposed to a village not directly connected or concerned with us. Council members being on DP "site" and therefore more directly involved with issues affecting us all.
Yes	Fairfield is not geographically part of Stotfold, it is much closer to Arlesey. It should either be part of Arlesey, or a standalone community. If the latter then I think that coverage by the Larksfield surgery should be withdrawn. Members of the Fairfield Community/Community Council should seek to establish their own Doctor's practice.
Yes	I support the creation of a Fairfield Community Council as I do not believe that the residents of Fairfield Park consider that they belong to Stotfold and they consider they should not be paying for facilities in Stotfold. They are best left to their own devices.
Yes	I fully support the creation of a Fairfield Community Council because this community will always remain a distraction to the real existing community spirit in Stotfold and will make unfair demands making the running of Stotfold Town Council difficult. I do not support the proposals of the Fairfield Community to extend their proposed parish boundaries beyond the curtailage of the existing park. There can be no reason for this.
Yes	Members of the Fairfield Park community feel little or no affinity to Stotfold. The geographical separating by the A507 has re-enforced the psychological separation between the two communities. The amenities of Stotfold are few and far between, I have absolutely no need to visit the area and am unhappy to see the revenues generated by Fairfield residents being used to subsidise Stotfold.

Yes	The people of Fairfield Park were fully aware of the situation regarding the site when they entered their agreements. Stotfold Town Council was set up over a century ago to manage Stotfold. So be it.
Yes	Stotfold Town Council have displayed little interest in Fairfield Park at all despite the increased council tax generated. Fairfield is still not receiving its full range of services whilst the development remains unadopted, and the Town Council has not even had the initiative to arrange or press for regular litter collection in the area which remains a disgrace.
Yes	I feel that the current arrangement with Stotfold Town Council representing me is not very good. They take our precept but do not spend any of it on Fairfield Park. I understand that the STC Councillors feel that they are not able, but this is not right, correct or fair. There are several large projects that need to be done at Fairfield Park and these can be provided with a new community council. Provisions need to be made for the youngsters that live here and STC are not fulfilling this.
No	a) Stotfold Town Council undertook all initial administration concerning the development of Fairfield Park and have overseen any difficulties incurred. Their administrative experience must be of great benefit in the future. b) Fairfield representatives could be co-opted to serve on Stotfold Town Council. c) Fairfield residents must have been aware of financial commitments when taking premises. d) Arlesey never wanted to be linked with Fairfield Park. e) Letchworth Gdn City is sited over the border in Hertfordshire so not eligible
No	The residents knew that rent/services would be made on their property when they moved in and a separate community council will double up on expenditure. Stotfold Town Council is quite adequate for the whole area. All Fairfield need is at least one resident on the Stotfold Town Council. Surely one large pot of money is better than splitting it up over the two areas.
No	Fairfield is an area of Stotfold. Therefore they should be under the already town council of Stotfold. Why should they be different?
No	If Fairfield residents believe they are a self contained community why do they propose expanding the natural boundaries of the estate. It is untrue that Fairfield residents can not avail themselves of amenities in the rest of Stotfold; if they do not do so that is their choice. The financial figures they quote are not accurate and are misleading to the public.
No	Fairfield owners have of their own free will, signed maintenance agreements. They must have been aware of the costs involved as well as their obligations to the local community they were pleased to become a part of. Fairfield always has been in Stotfold. The new road does not change that – the old A507 did not mark a boundary. Fairfield did not have to be developed for residential use. It could instead have been developed as an amenity for the local people to enjoy e.g. something like Grafham Water.
No	A complete waste of money. As Stotfold Town Council are totally ignored when issues are raised at County level. So why have another set of overpaid parish councillors, who will be totally ignored at County level.
No	We do not support this proposal unless the number of councillors in Stotfold reduces accordingly, with the associated reduction in council tax. We see absolutely no need to increase the number of councillors in the “area” of Stotfold and Fairfield from 15 to 22, however the “area” is redefined. Country wide, we are supposed to be cutting back to help to take care of the enormous overdraft Mr Brown left us with and we certainly do not need to increase the spend. If Stotfold Council were to reduce to 8 members, then I/we would be in favour of this proposal.
No	The residents of Fairfield are far more integrated and use many more of the services in the rest of Stotfold than the consultation paper suggests. This includes the following:- library, schools (some Fairfield residents go to Stotfold schools and vice versa), shops, health centre, public transport. Fairfield is similar to the new “South of Stotfold” development. The whole parish should be kept as one entity to promote community cohesion.
No	I am quite happy to stay with Central Beds. The Fairfield area is nothing to do with me as I do not come under Stotfold parish.
No	Surely the joining of South and Mid Beds was to make a bigger area with a bigger buying power and less staff. Does this not apply to a town council? More councillors to be administered along with more accountability. In the short term this may work but in time the expense will grow and nothing would be saved. If you look in the August Stotfold news there are complaints about the Hitchin Road rec from a Fairfield resident (so they do use it). What a waste of public money again by those who have nothing better to do.
No	Why when we have had Fairfield in our parish for so long are we allowing people to tell us that Fairfield is no longer STOTFOLD, if they are not happy why stay, move further afield. We of STOTFOLD have many happy memories of Fairfield as well as these extremely sad memories. Please stop this idea of people coming to our parish and then wanting to change it all. What makes them think that they have the right to take away what we have had all our lives, all they do is moan, they do not like the Doctor’s surgery, it is not run properly say some, and other things. We old Bedfordians are fed up with their complaints, our village has come a long way since I was born at the beginning of the thirties. We do not mind you coming but stop moaning about us all the time.

No	Another unnecessary level of government. Current residences of Stotfold will still pay same amount of tax, as town council will not wish to loose the £94K that it collects now. Why is only one form sent to an address when there is more than one person on the electoral roll?
No	Until such time that any new satellite residential development (e.g. A507 by pass infill) becomes autonomous in terms of lifestyle use of public amenities and associated infrastructure (access to shops, library, surgery, dentist, pubs, clubs, restaurants, takeaways, garages, scout groups, guides, parks, etc. etc.) with the implied cost of manning, maintenance, cleaning, lighting, heating, policing, etc. there should surely be a financial contribution levied, whether or not any private arrangements are available within the new development site itself
No	It is our opinion that Stotfold Town Council have the experience and people in place to take a greater role in the funning of Fairfield Park.
No	This seems to be investment for no return and the benefit appears simply unevident. More councillors? More money? No benefits? Ridiculous.
No	Added cost and bureaucracy.
No	Waste of money.
No	Additional costs to set up a new breakaway council. In the economic times rationalisation is happening throughout councils and companies. Where would the offices be held which would be overheads of; premises, staff likely to be 3 or so, evening meetings etc separate resources and assets. Why?
No	Given the current set of communication on this issue, it seems that the basis for the move is based solely on financial considerations. I am a Fairfield past resident – I think it is a nice place to live and accept that this comes at a cost. Does the park need the £90K it is estimated we pay to Stotfold Town Council for our own needs? I think not at this stage. The Fairfield Community Action communications have been dire to say the least, looking largely in fact and dealing mainly in opinion. My opinion differs from theirs. I do not think that the cost headaches of managing a council have been thought through for the sake of £90K. Through maladministration this figure will quickly drop to a smaller number and I question the logic in moving away from an established council. Would a better solution not be to apportion more of the Stotfold Town Council budget to Fairfield Park and have representation on STC governance?
No	This will just give another level of bureaucracy to the area, it will be another council that will need at least a clerk and RFO which will mean £20,000 approximately going down the drain. The new council will owe millions and will only be able to comment on plans and not do anything that Stotfold does. I fear another Letchworth Town Council situation.
No	I accept that these are the rules as laid out. Fairfield is part of Stotfold or Arlesey and has been for as long as I can remember. Arlesey had a railway station named Three Counties and a railway line from what was Three Counties, and as borders were changed if was integrated into Stotfold As for the A507 cutting Fairfield Park off, this argument would be correct for any number of villages or towns in this area with main roads passing through them. If, when Fairfield was developed the planning permission was for a new village called Fairfield Park, I feel many more objections would have been raised against this development. Fairfield park residents agreed to pay rent/service charges when they signed their deeds along with accepting the development was part of Stotfold. As for benefiting from the tax they pay to Stotfold council, if they are dissatisfied with this surely the right way forward is to offer up representatives for positions on the council to make sure they are represented. I'm sure they appreciate that because not enough people put their names forward, two councillors had to be co-opted. I would argue about them being a self-supporting group and their need for Stotfolds services. As pointed out they do need a cemetery along with Doctors Surgeries, Dentists, Opticians, Chemists and Schools. At present Fairfield Park only has an Infant School with limited places for over 1000 homes, no junior or senior school provision and no religious buildings. A large number of people moved to Fairfield Park knowing it to be part of Stotfold as the price of the properties were advantageous and its geographical location to routes to their places of work. If these facts do not now suit them maybe Stotfold wasn't the place they should have chosen to live.
No	When Fairfield has its own surgery or other services I will think about it.
No	Do not support due to loss of funds to Stotfold.
No	I feel that the residents of Fairfield Park should contribute to Stotfold. They use Stotfold doctor's surgery, the shops, Roecroft St Marys and Etonbury schools and all the clubs and groups for children and adults in Stotfold.
No	Will downgrade the importance and facilities of Stotfold.
No	At a time of economic hardship, Stotfold Town Council can ill afford to lose the £94,000 which Fairfield residents pay to the council at the moment. The town can not afford to lose a third of their budget when there are plans to improve facilities in the future for all residents, including those on the Fairfield estate.
No	It was built non Stotfold ground so therefore remains in Stotfold.
No	I wish it to remain part of Stotfold in order to encourage co-operation between the two places.
No	It seems to me that the residents of Fairfield Park should have checked their deeds prior to purchase to see there was a "rent service charge" applied. If they did not want to pay they should not have purchased.

No	Fairfield hospital was always classed as being part of Stotfold and many residents of Stotfold, past and present, worked there. The residents of Fairfield park are quite happy to use all the other facilities, clubs, pre-schools etc in Stotfold – shops and pubs too. I think it's a ridiculous idea for there to be a new Fairfield Community Council. Why don't they make sure they have adequate representation on the Stotfold Council?
No	We strongly object to splitting Stotfold after what done by Letchworth over the Hitchin Road area i.e. siting of Letchworth Sewage Farm, Pig Station etc. etc. Wilbery hotel ex Stotfold. Stotfold garden centre has Letchworth address.
No	This will weaken Stotfold Town Council.
No	Although Fairfield is self contained it does not have all the facilities that Stotfold has, for example a doctor surgery and so residents would still be using Stotfold's roads to access one. Also if they want to become separate then no residents should be allowed to use Stotfold schools as they do have their own. The amount of people coming in to Stotfold has surely increased since the Fairfield development so general wear and tear on roads must also increase.
No	Fairfield has always been part of Stotfold and should remain as such and served by the town council there.
No	When they bought their houses on Fairfield Park they knew they were in the town council of Stotfold, if they break away they will be able to use the facilities of Stotfold.
No	I believe Fairfield to be a former grounds of a long stay mental hospital formerly incorporated with Arlesey but handed over to Stotfold many years ago. Fairfield is still policed and health care mentored by Bedfordshire and Fairfield over many years has been supported by local communities. I believe that as a separate parish it may divide communities and will still warrant local community support of Stotfold in the future, bearing in mind roads, power, water, sewage and other public services locally will still have to be maintained and feel families of Fairfield Park can not function whole heartedly on their own and as the name suggests Fairfield Park Stotfold Hitchin Herts is still part of long standing communities. Therefore my objection is they should pay their rates to Stotfold as we support them more than they support us. Who will pay the cost of extra councils?
No	I already pay taxes and an additional charge for the upkeep of the roads etc. I live in an unfinished part of the estate and have still had to pay. However, feel even in other parts no maintenance has been carried out. I would support the council but feel asking for more money in the current economy, when I struggle to keep my house, is a big ask. I am sure that this could be considered if you are in a well established household but if you are first time buyers or young professionals or families this really isn't a fair proposal.
No	All that you are creating is yet another administration cost and level of bureaucracy. Keep it simple. Keep as it is. Get the benefit of scale. P.S. The road and underpass between Fairfield and Stotfold could have better more frequent maintenance as the Norton Road underpass has.
No	Residents use facilities within Stotfold and add to usage of shops, parks, roads, schools and other services.
No	Another council equals more cost.
No	Until you can give a factual answer to Q6, I must support the status quo. If one councillor per 484 residents is acceptable, the loss of 1800+ from Fairfield will allow our council to reduce from 15 to 12. Will this happen? At this rate, also, Fairfield could cope with 4 councillors but must elect 3 more. This is wasteful. The loss of 1004 relatively high band properties from Stotfold's catchment will have an adverse effect on our finances. If Stotfold residents have to make up a shortfall of £94K then it appears that a 44% increase in the Band D precept to about £124 will be required.
No	The FAQs provided do not address the key points that need to be known by the electorate i.e. how much will it cost and will now – Fairfield residents be impacted financially?
No	Why do they want to become a new parish with all the public spending on it? What is wrong with the way it is? Do they think they are too good for us? It is not right, leave things the way they are. It is ridiculous, the country has to get its self right first.
No	Under the present financial climate, with the reorganisation of establishments and the cutbacks in government funding, putting pressure on councils to meet financial targets, I feel the introduction of another community council at Fairfield is not in keeping with this principle.
No	Please remain joined we need your money.
No	My view is that a larger council would bring more to the whole community.
No	It will take money away from Stotfold to benefit a much better off and newer development which already has good facilities.
No	Fairfield uses the Stotfold health centre, they have the use of all amenities offered in Stotfold, shops, recreation, (football club), (Conservative club). The use of all the halls, memorial, scouts, guides and army cadets. They should add their support both financial and residential support to the Stotfold Council. Also, they are tapped into our sewerage and water supply. Their roads, roundabout lead to Stotfold. There is absolutely no reason for Fairlands to be separate from Stotfold. It's pure snobbery, this community and town has borders and Fairlands are within the Stotfold border. NO TO CHANGE
No	The residents of Fairfield will avail themselves of the facilities in Stotfold and therefore should contribute towards them.
No	This proposed change would add costs to the overall set up (more councillors for example) and add no

	benefit. Together we are stronger.
No	Item (6) - Fairfield is not the only part of Stotfold to be separated by the A507. Although Norton Road residents are few in number they are in fact much closer to Letchworth but believe themselves still to be part of Stotfold. Although Fairfield now has its own school many parents choose to send their children to the schools in Stotfold. Do they also want their own health centre, where does it end?
No	I have lived in Stotfold for over 70 years. Fairfield has always been Stotfold, keep it that way.
No	The Fairfield Park has always been part of Stotfold from day one. I think the council should decide for themselves. Also, do they have a chemist, surgery, large supermarket, or do they rely on other places like Stotfold or Letchworth?
No	It was part of Arleseey then Stotfold – Herts post code. For value now independent. Over 1000 property developments. Stay part of the community surrounding, snobbery is the only reason in my view.
No	Although most residents of Stotfold do not recognise the Fairfield estate as a part of Stotfold town and indeed it is probably true to say that Fairfield residents do not feel they are part of Stotfold. I think it is prudent to keep the system as it already is. From a financial point of view it surely makes sense to have the decision making and administration for the “whole of Stotfold” in one place. Rather like Central Bedfordshire Council. Not fragmented. Let us integrate NOT separate.
No	Fairfield is part of Stotfold, why have any need to change. I have a house in Fairfield Park and would like the post code to remain a Stotfold one.
No	Financial uncertainty regarding proposed “Fairfield community”. Risk of fragmentation of services rather than encouraging discussions with Stotfold Council. Social concerns regarding relatively wealthy Fairfield Park residents segregating the Stotfold community and disadvantage for poor residents in existing Stotfold council area.
No	With the current new housing development on the southern edge at Stotfold and the proposed development of the DEFRA site, adjacent Fairfield is almost connected to the main body of the Stotfold residential area. Also with the drive to reduce local authority expenditure over the next 10 years the creation of yet another parish council is simply ridiculous given that it would necessitate duplication of administrative costs and actually achieve nothing.
No	I do not agree that Fairfield is not part of Stotfold in the geographical sense. The A507 separates other parts of Stotfold e.g. at Norton Road. Also, with the development of Greenacres, Fairfield and Stotfold are very close together.
No	All residents of Fairfield Hospital knew that they were purchasing a house in Stotfold based on planning permission granted by MBDC planning authority, their lawyers would have informed them of this. Same old story Stotfold residents will have to put up with extra traffic, people, pollution of every type, longer waiting times in the Health Centre and so it goes on. Fairfield is STOTFOLD and it should remain STOTFOLD.
No	As a pensioner, I can not afford to pay more council tax.
No	Born and lived in Stotfold all my life, Fairfield has always been considered as part of Stotfold and should remain so.
No	I certainly object to the proposal that the Fairfield Estate should have its own council. It can not be right or logical that when an estate is built, that its own council can be arbitrarily set up. Where would this leave any future estates or developments in Stotfold, or, in fact the county? The Fairfield Estate was built on land belonging to Stotfold and now according to their plans, they wish to take more of Stotfold land. Why should this be allowed just because it is the other side of a road? For your interest, a few years ago I spoke to someone from Fairfield Estate about this separation and he made two points. (1) Fairfield Estate would like to be called a village. (2) They would like to go into Hertfordshire and be part of Letchworth as their house value would increase by doing this. If this proposal succeeds and these ideas become a reality, then I believe Stotfold rate payers would be the losers. I definitely do not object to Fairfield Estate being represented on Stotfold Town Council, as this is how it should be.
No	Agree with Town Council not to accept due to cost to residents of Stotfold. Reminder that Fairfield residents have lots of facilities within Stotfold including Larkfield Health Centre etc.
No	Use Stotfold facilities – library, doctors, groups. How many residents pay rent/service charge through deeds? Is it flats/apartments i.e. Fairfield Hall – this figure is very vague? What will Stotfold residents council tax go up by? You can not ask Stotfold residents to vote, if we don't have this information. We paid the same before Fairfield was built compared to now.
No	When the area was Fairfield Hospital it was always part of Stotfold. Now it has been developed, residents now feel they shouldn't be part of Stotfold irrespective of where they previously lived. If this scheme gets the go ahead Stotfold's council tax contributions will be greatly reduced, Stotfold will become a much smaller community and it will reduce the power of Stotfold Town Council. Fairfield residents have the use of Stotfold library, doctor's surgery and dentist. They can also use the Memorial Hall, Roecroft Centre and the Riverside play area. If any of the children from Fairfield belong to Stotfold Junior Football Club they get the use of the green and Riverside.
No	How will they cope without Stotfold surgery facilities and their children would need the schooling in Stotfold as

	well?
No	This will not benefit Fairfield Park residents as the amount they pay to Stotfold Town Council, they will still have to pay to Fairfield Park councillors. If there is a shortfall in funds for their councillors it will be paid by the general tax payer. Yes I know that the councillors don't get a wage but still make this up with expenses. This will add another 5 councillors' expenses in a time when cutbacks are being made. It needs to be itemised exactly what extra items that Fairfield have to pay in their rent agreement. Looking at the OS land plan, they have put Letchworth cemetery within their boundary line, missed out the Hungry Horse pub (2 chimneys), missed out the sewage works and put in the pig unit. This is a very strategic boundary line, coming right up to Stotfold. THIS IS A WASTE OF TAXPAYERS MONEY. Surely in the local elections they voted for who they wanted to represent them, so why can't they put names forward to represent them as Stotfold Town councillors.
No	Two reasons:- (1) Financial impact of the proposal. (2) Impact of the reduction in the population of Stotfold may have a detrimental impact on the facilities and services for the town, resulting in a reduced provision of much needed infrastructure. (Noted by the Council's Core Strategy and Development document)
No	Looking to future. Loss of more land to the town of Stotfold.
No	The residents of Fairfield Park continue to use Stotfold schools. The school in Fairfield is too small. The residents of Fairfield Park also use the Stotfold Doctor's surgery, so we think they should continue to pay Stotfold council tax.
No	If they wish to become independent why do they want to claim all the other Stotfold land around their existing border?
No	The map accompanying this correspondence seems somewhat unclear as to proposed boundaries but would seem to include an area larger than the Fairfield development. I think a division of this type would be detrimental to Stotfold. Surely it would be preferable to integrate with us and work for an improved town as a whole. When buying their houses they were aware of the charge on their properties in accordance with their deeds. I note that they say they are not part of Stotfold because of the A507, but the underpass was built at great expense to make access to the main part of Stotfold easy.
No	Let us stand united and be proud. This does not appear to make economic sense to either party. A new Fairfield Community Council would be of no benefit to anyone and would be more likely to cause greater segregation.
No	Many of the Fairfield residents benefit and utilise the facilities within Stotfold. They contribute to the increased traffic on the roads, they utilise the town's amenities and resources. Whilst I can see why they would want to set up a separate parish it seems they do not want to contribute to the amenities they enjoy within Stotfold. What effect will this have on the Stotfold budget and capability to continue to upkeep the town's amenities with a lesser budget? At this time of austerity this is not the time to reduce the budget or separate these two parishes.
No	I believe that the two separate entities will not be able to attract sufficient new funding as a single entity. Stotfold needs to make sure that there is a fair split of spending in the facilities in Stotfold and in Fairfield.
No	When it was functioning as a hospital FAIRFIELD was already associated with Stotfold. When the FAIRFIELD re-development was being planned and built it was always on the basis of it being part of Stotfold. An example is the pedestrian and cycleway Hitchin Road underpass at the A507 junction – built at great expense. With FAIRFIELD a part of Stotfold we can justify the improvement of facilities in Stotfold. Council tax will increase for both FAIRFIELD and Stotfold if the new Fairfield Community Council is created – that is obvious.
No	The only way I would agree is if they had their own doctor's surgery and were equipped enough to be self sufficient themselves rather than using Stotfold's infrastructure.
No	Surely the would-be householder would be made aware of the terms and conditions when they purchase the property.
No	None at this time based on limited information.
No	I think they should not have their own community and use all Stotfold facilities.
No	The people who moved into houses at Fairfield must have known about the charges imposed. It is just the same as maintenance charges if you live in a flat. You may not feel you need a new roof, drains etc but you still have to pay for the benefit of all. People in Fairfield can use the facilities in Stotfold (they are just another housing estate as far as I can see) and so should pay their share of the upkeep.
No	Fairfield Park was conceived as an integral part of the community of Stotfold. No party gains financially by a split or staying together. A break up of the area means that future desperately needed infrastructure for the Stotfold/Arlesey area will be threatened as businesses will not want to be part of a fragmented community/parish. A cohesive community is built by its residents and the "few" people on Fairfield Park who claim to speak for the many have done very little themselves to help the whole community of Stotfold and seem unrealistic in their time scale of how long a "social" union will take to come about, given that many of Fairfield Park residents commute etc. and are out of their home community area for a great deal of time in any week.

No	We should be building community cohesions rather than segregating two parts of the same town.
No	Fairfield is part of Stotfold and always has been, although the road signing is confusing for new residents since it says Hertfordshire on the road sign outside Fairfield and yet it is on Bedfordshire land. In reply to Q3(d) it is well known in the surrounding area that Stotfold has community events all year round/sometimes as much as three at one time, weekends and evenings. Coffee mornings, table top sales, jumble sales, mill weekends, Stotfold Festival Week as well as lots of youth organisations, such as football, Scouts, Guides, also Memorial Hall, pubs and restaurants - clubs, which would be only too pleased and would welcome the Fairfield residents to come along and be part of our community as the Stotfold residents are more than a friendly bunch and always have been.
No	I do not agree to create a new Fairfield Parish Council. In this time of austerity and cost efficiency led Councils, I cannot see this would be a cost effective idea. The bottom lime for all councils and businesses is that we should be finding cost savings and better efficiencies of services. This needs to be actioned everyday to create a smooth efficient business. I have been in Stotfold for 3 years and am quite happy with things.
No	I would like to keep Stotfold and Fairfield as one to work together financially and economically.
No	The more the merrier. Small communities should stick together. One day Fairfield may well need our support (the other side of the A507) for whatever reason.
No	Arlesey Town Council has no opinion one way or the other. There is a diverse range of views across council members. Generally it's an issue the Town Council does not want to get involved with
No	Fairfield should stay in Stotfold. To give governance to the Fairfield group would give them power to take the Fairfield development into Letchworth and with the re-arrangement of the political map will allow a route and easy passage - the address - Fairfield Village, Letchworth GC a much better selling address worth another couple of K's.
No	Stotfold Town council is perfectly capable of the total management of Stotfold another expensive management group is not required.
No	Fairfield has always been a part of Stotfold. It is a great shame that some Fairfield residents feel they have no natural affinity with the local area. Stotfold has many groups which everyone is free to join. Maybe if those residents joined in they would regard themselves as Stotfold residents and this review would not be happening. All facilities are available to all residents ie. Parks, if people choose not to use them that should not mean that they do not have to pay for them - that would be unfair. When moving to Fairfield Park, I believe, residents were informed of the management fee etc. If they were not happy about this, they would presumably not have gone ahead with the move. Maybe their argument is with the developers.
No	Reasons given at Q3(b) & 9d) are closely related - there can be no doubt that for a considerable period of history the Fairfield site has been (and is) within the Parish of Stotfold - until the Hospital was closed down a large proportion of the population were involved directly or indirectly with the site. It is expected that a development on this scale would bring many new residents from "other" areas who initially would have little natural "affinity" for the area - this can only develop over time as all age groups progressively integrate with the itinerant population - a separate parish status would work against, rather than toward that aim. At Q3(c) the submission merely confirms arrangements all property buyers have knowingly and willingly entered into with developers to create "Private" ownership of various amenities. Until development is completed and residents are managing these amenities then neither Stotfold Town Council nor Central Bedfordshire Council can consider alternative systems to the benefit of Fairfield Residents. At Q8 it is proposed that an area around 3 times the size of the well defined Fairfield development should be "gifted" by Stotfold to the new "Parish". If the true aim is for self-governance & Fairness for all then why is all of the proposed additional land needed? This open farmland is needed equally or more so to maintain the outer aspects of the Town - the loss of this to Stotfold would have a great aesthetic impact.
No	The people who came to live in Stotfold Fairfield didn't realise that they would be in the Parish of Stotfold. I have some old maps of Stotfold showing that, I consider myself an amateur historian, and hate any change of administration that's the reason I have given a X. I was born in Stotfold 1925, I think Mr Dack would be disappointed with this view. Thank you for allowing the people of Stotfold for their opinion.
No	Having taken note of information from both 'sides' of this proposal (i.e. Stotfold Town Council and the proposers of the new Fairfield Community Council), I am not convinced that enough has been done to address the concerns of each side, in advance of making such a SIGNIFICANT change to the first tier of local government in each community. I understand that Fairfield has only recently taken up Councillor roles on the Town Council, to enable the Fairfield voice to be considered as part of the wider Stotfold community. the Fairfield campaign website ( <a href="http://fairfieldcommunityaction.co.uk">http://fairfieldcommunityaction.co.uk</a> ) seems to very boldly accuse the Town Council of not spending enough of the Fairfield portion of the town Council precept on Fairfield projects. However, I can find no evidence of any history of dialogue which might suggest that Fairfield concerns have been considered objectively by and with the Town Council. As a Stotfold resident watching events, it almost appears to be an antagonistic dispute rather than a focused, forward thinking, co-operative dialogue. As such, I think it would be foolhardy to make such a drastic change without first exploring options IN FULL. In the longer term I am not averse to the idea of Fairfield separating to its own Community Council, IF it can be evidenced that separation would be beneficial to all. However, Fairfield Park is a relatively new development



and I am not convinced that sufficient time has passed to evaluate whether separation is appropriate. Indeed, Central Bedfordshire Council document 'Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (November 2009)' includes the following at Paragraph 3.17.1: "...The permitted southern expansion of Stotfold and remaining areas of development at Fairfield Park are due to be built out and will take time to assimilate into the life of the town...". This seems to acknowledge that it will take time and effort for the communities to integrate with each other. The full effect of separation has also not been adequately and formally quantified such that all parties are clearly aware of the consequences of such a change. For example, the potential for such a change to jeopardise Stotfold's infrastructure development by loss of S106 payments due from Fairfield developers, or to cuts in Stotfold Town Council services by loss of revenue from Fairfield residents. I also have some scepticism as to the sincerity of interest in forming a Community Council by the proposers. Information provided on an official bulletin from Stotfold Town Council states: "In the Special Town Council meeting to determine the Town Council's views of the Fairfield Park petition, a Councillor who lives on the Park intimated that 'if the Town Council would give them £50,000 towards the Community Hall, there would be no need to form a Fairfield Community Council". If this is true (and given that it has been officially released by the Town Council, I must assume that it is) then this may indicate that the proposers' are working towards an ulterior motive rather than having strong belief in the validity of forming a Community Council. Any new Council must surely be proposed with the absolute belief in its necessity and validity; to suggest that the idea would be dropped in exchange for funding towards a different community project is a significant concern. Resultant increases to local precept for all parties may also make it a false economy on the longer term; current drivers are towards cost reduction in government, not increase. Rather than facilitating the set up of a Community Council at this state, I believe Central Bedfordshire's efforts would be better spent in facilitating dialogue between Stotfold town Council and Fairfield residents, to iron out a mutually agreeable way forward that benefits all residents. For this reason, I do not support the creation of Fairfield Community Council at this stage.

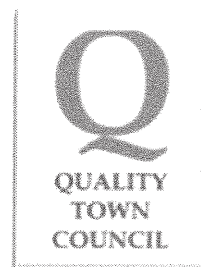
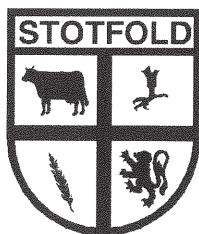
	A WASTE OF MONEY
	2 Members of this household, both with different views
	Have not answered above question as I have only lived here 1 year and am 96 so don't think I qualify to give an opinion
	Please tell me how this proposal is likely to affect me as a resident of Stotfold, particularly if there are any financial implications
	If they feel they want to go it alone, please can they not use Stotfold's facilities, i.e. Doctors, Schools, Library's etc.
	We have no problem with Fairfield Park becoming a separate parish. Residents do not appear to have any interest in becoming part of the village community. We find the map a little difficult to read, but if the proposed boundary lines are as we believe them to be, then we whole-heartedly object to the extent of land being subsumed into the Fairfield parish
	It is wrong that a person has been born in Stotfold lived here all his/her life for 70 years then had to go out of Stotfold because the Council sold all the old peoples homes and left a block of old people homes empty for nearly 10 years at the end of their life, have to pay extra £1000 to be buried in Stotfold and this Council are going to let people from Fairfield be buried after living in Fairfield for such a short time just be buried in Stotfold. As usual Council members do not think things though properly.
	Where will the money to pay the Councillors come from?
	Undecided. Need more information.
	The decision needs to consider future planned/likely residential development for the area. For example, if further development occurs along the A507 bypass, e.g. Between the Hitchin Road and Arlesey roundabouts (on the south side), will these properties be part of Stotfold, Fairfield Park or Arlesey? So, make sure the decision is 'future-proofed' and should be ok. However, as the Government is planning to reduce the number of MPs, should we really be creating more 'parishes' and therefore more bureaucracy?

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# FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

## Stotfold Town Council's response to Central Bedfordshire Council's request for comments

October 2011



## Introduction

The Town Council were made aware some months ago that a group of Fairfield residents were investigating the financing of the Town Council and then of their intention to set up a separate "parish" council for that area of Stotfold.

We understand that this has come about because of the realisation that, due to the adopted management system of the park, financial equalities could place a larger burden on some residents of the park over others. This also applies to funding of the community building, ideally for use by all residents, where finance would actually come only from the residents of the housing area of the Park. They have submitted their request for a Governance Review and it is now, after receipt of this proposal and its details, appropriate for Stotfold Town Council to express their opinion.

The proposals document was copied to all members to read and consider before a Full Town Council meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The outcome of the meeting was that, "the Council does not support the formation of a new Fairfield Community Council". Production of an information leaflet and more detailed response were decided upon, the latter to go before the October meeting of the Council for discussion.

A leaflet was produced to inform Stotfold residents of the Council's opinion. A copy of which is reproduced in the following pages. This leaflet was printed and distributed to all houses in Stotfold.

This response document was authorised at the October meeting of the Stotfold Town Council.

## Contents

Fairfield Governance Review Leaflet by Stotfold Town Council      APPENDIX 3

Comments in relation to the sections of the Fairfield submission:

- **"Our Submission"**
- **Campaign Background**
- **Detail and Documentation**
- **Proposed Boundary**
- **Financing**
- **Concluding comments**
- **Appendices**      - 1    **DCLG Guidance on community governance reviews**  
                             - 2    **Updated financial tables**

## **“Our Submission”**

*“Fairfield is now an area large enough for self-governance”*

The management companies perform most of the functions that a parish council would perform particularly the one for the housing estate. They already have a form of governance recognised by the Boundary Commission in ‘The Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Guidance on Community Governance Reviews’ document, sections 136 to 146 (appended). There is very little extra that a new Parish Council could do.

*“Fairfield is not part of Stotfold”*

Fairfield is very much part of Stotfold and has been since the Civil Parish was created, the farmland being recorded in the Domesday book and beyond. There are many historic connections between the town and the hospital with locals working, playing, performing amateur dramatics, taking part in social events or perhaps being a patient there. The hospital, along with its grounds, has long been regarded as an integral part of the community.

Stotfold Town Council has been influential in the design and development of the site. It is regrettable that, to date, relatively few Fairfield residents have taken advantage of the 120 or so established clubs and community organisations around the town which, over time, will assist the social integration of individuals across the whole area,

The fact that a major road crosses a parish does not mean it has to separate into individual parishes. Although the A507 by-pass travels across between the main part of Stotfold and Fairfield development, an underpass for pedestrians and cyclists provides safe access between the two areas unaffected by vehicular traffic flow.

Henlow is also separated by the A507 into the settlements of Henlow and Henlow Camp (which also includes a large housing estate bordering the A600). Sandy is separated by the A1 from the settlements of Beeston Green, Girtford and Seddington. The two parts of Tempsford are separated by the A1. Many Civil Parishes in this part of Central Bedfordshire are comprised of several settlements within the same parish.

*“Under the terms that Fairfield was set up by the Government and Mid-Bedfordshire District Council there is financial inequity...”*

Neither the Government nor Mid-Bedfordshire District Council had any part in setting up the financial system that residents pay to the management companies for the services that a parish council would have normally provided. The developers themselves decided to do this.

On 15<sup>th</sup> April 1998, Mr A Kendrick of Michael Burrows Associates, for the developers, told Stotfold Town Council members that a Fairfield Trust would be formed in order to run the infrastructure of the development. He stated that the trust would have the responsibility of controlling the budget, and a great deal of income will be needed to sustain the long term maintenance of the site. Mr Phillips, of Phillips Planning Services, spoke at a town council Planning Committee meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2003 saying that the decision had been made by the principal developers to make a private management company responsible for the whole site. In the event they created three management companies.

## Campaign Background

The three management companies cover separate areas of the Fairfield Development.

The smallest is the Middlemarch Residents Association Ltd which has been transferred to residents, three of whom are Directors of the Company. Middlemarch covers the area where the farm buildings were to the northwest of the Hall.

The Fairfield Hall Management Company we are unsure about, and have not yet been able to find any registered resident directors under that name or similar names at Companies House. It could therefore still be under the Developers as Fairfield Hospital Management Company Ltd. This covers the Hall and a defined surrounding area including landscaped areas within the setting of the listed building.

The final management company is Fairfield Park Residents Company Ltd. Its Directors are developer appointments and will not be transferred to the residents until the last house is occupied. It covers the rest of the site except for the part to be transferred to Central Bedfordshire Council for a business park.

The Action Group of 5 residents submitting the proposal for a new Parish are one from Middlemarch and the other four from the Park area.

They are concerned about the "financial inequality" of paying the Stotfold Town Council rate as well as their own fixed and variable rent charge. But it is not as simple as that. The charges currently being levied by each company are different, because of their varying responsibilities.

The Middlemarch Company is responsible for the maintenance of its amenity areas, car parks and access areas. The Hall Company is responsible for a sinking fund, common areas in the Hall, maintenance of amenity areas, car parks and access areas. The Park Company is responsible for open spaces, footpaths (not footways), play areas, woodlands and the surrounding hedge and tree boundary, and the Community Building. The outlay and possible losses to run the Community Building were the catalyst for the group to consider alternatives. The Community Building has not yet been handed over by the Developers.

The Action Group have never entered into informal or formal discussions with Stotfold Town Council jointly to explore ways of addressing some of their perceived 'inequalities' and 'unfairnesses', prior to expressing to the Town Council their wish to become a separate Parish.

They reached a two solution conclusion.

"a) For all affected residents to agree to amendment of their property purchase deed to allow all public assets to pass to Stotfold Town Council, provided that body agreed."

Or

"b) To canvass support for Fairfield to become a parish in its own right"

On advice from the Tree Officer of Mid-Bedfordshire District Council (now Central Bedfordshire Council) the Town Council decided not to take over the surrounding tree belt and woodland. The Town Council had not reached any decision about other transferable assets, although we had confirmed to Mr Phillips that we were interested in

adoption of the green spaces, play areas and cemetery. Mr Phillips' (previously referred to) speech to the Town Council Planning Committee stopped all further consideration of this matter.

However a) presumes that everything has to be transferred to the Town Council. This is not so. The open areas with the play areas and or the Community Hall could be considered for transfer.

But until the Parks' Resident Directors are in place there is no-one with authority to make such a decision. (Except the developers' Directors, they are most unlikely to even consider it). The Resident Directors of the management companies have in their Memorandum and Articles that they can transfer, sell and otherwise dispose of assets.

Their second option b) to become a new parish has unnecessary set up, administrative and reserve allocation costs of £38,975 i.e. 42% in the projected draft budget of £92,525. There is nothing that a new council could do that Stotfold Town Council could not do, a separate council is unnecessary. It is premature in relation to any possible transfer of assets to Stotfold Town Council.

The Action Group sent out 39 letters of notification of intent and invitations to comment. It is noted that absent from the list of addresses are the secretaries of the three residents associations and the company secretaries of the three management companies. There is no mention in the submission of meetings of these bodies or feedback of their opinions regarding the Governance Review proposals.

## **Detail and Documentation**

*"A Fairfield Community Council could act as a unifying body to the three Management Companies."*

Each of the four bodies listed above are independent and sovereign within their own spheres. If the three management companies have matters in common to discuss they could and would do that without reference to any parish council. Neither a Fairfield Community Council nor Stotfold Town Council would have any control over the management companies or residents associations.

It may well be that some people see Fairfield Park as a village. This does not mean that it should become a separate new parish. In 1985 the two separate villages with their own settlement envelopes of Lower Stondon and Upper Stondon came together to form the Civil Parish of Stondon. We have been informed that across the country parishes are being encouraged to join together forming larger units with an economy of scale and a saving of administrative costs.

*"It is apparent that the population of Fairfield is more cosmopolitan than adjoining communities"*

This statement is equally applicable to the rest of Stotfold where there are a large number of commuters involved in a variety of occupations and professions and a considerable number of people frequently work from home.

It is equally true that many people from the rest of Stotfold do work, shop, or go for entertainment to Letchworth or Hitchin and often further afield.

This is a problem that has been acknowledged by Central Bedfordshire Council in its Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document. The document notes that; "Stotfold has relatively poor levels of local service provision. In terms of population, Stotfold (which includes Fairfield Park) is projected to have the second largest population in the Mid-Bedfordshire area (Central Bedfordshire North). To improve sustainability and

self-sufficiency for Stotfold, increased and improved service provision has therefore been planned in for Stotfold, with the vision being to provide new employment opportunities and an increase in local shops and services, improved green infrastructure, library, community, youth and health facilities, additional allotments, recreational open space and facilities, and cemetery space”.

## Proposed Boundary

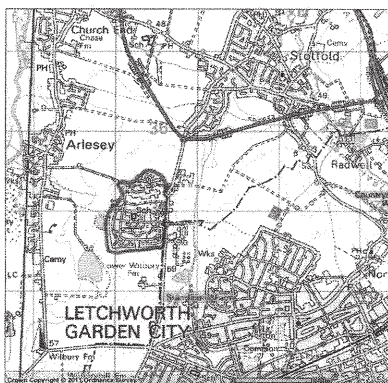
This section is only necessary to consider if Central Bedfordshire Council is minded to approve the formation of a new Parish called Fairfield Community Council.

Stotfold Town Council has considered the proposed boundary and does not accept it.

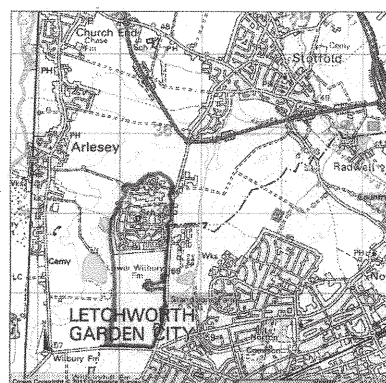
In particular after Planning Officers accepted the demolition of a large industrial area to the north of the town we were promised replacement and additional employment land to address the loss and existing shortfall in provision. Part of this new provision is the site of the former Pig Development Unit in Hitchin Road. If this is included in a new parish it will not address the loss and shortfall in Stotfold but will be a further loss. We already had a shortfall before the Fairfield development started.

That leaves three options:

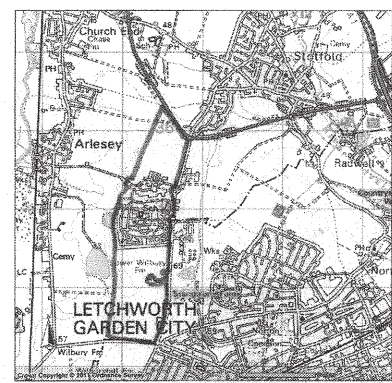
- Option 1. To keep the new parish within the tree and hedge boundary as determined by the Planning Inspector as the envelope for development.
- Option 2. To include the land to the south of the site with the eastern boundary as an extension of the Hertfordshire boundary on the hedge line to the west edge of the road footway. (Including its two property deviations remaining in Hertfordshire)
- Option 3. As Option 2 but to include land to the north of the site to the A507 with the roadside boundary continued to the Hitchin Road roundabout.



(Option 1)



(Option 2)



(Option 3)

It should be noted that neither under the Action Group’s proposal nor ours is the land within the Fairfield Development that is in Arlesey parish included in the boundary options.

The Town Council has voted to support Option 1 as the boundary if Central Bedfordshire Council is minded to approve the request for a new parish.



## Financing

The summary of events on pages 15, 16 and the first paragraph of page 17 of the Action Groups submission are a fair outline of the usual process adopted by Mid-Bedfordshire Planning Department and the outcome for Stotfold Town Council. It should again be noted that the Developers had expressed their intention to have a private solution as far back as our meeting with Mr Kenerick in 1998, before any houses had been built and occupied.

At the first meeting with Mr Kenerick and the last meeting with Mr Phillips, their intention appeared to be for one management trust for the whole site. It was the developers who set up three management companies and therefore introduced the financial and responsibility inequities across the site. The likely reason for this is that the Hall, as with all large blocks of flats or apartments, would essentially be a 'leasehold' property needing its own sinking fund, common area cleaning, caretaking, and maintenance of surrounding lands, car parks and driveways, paid for by a charge on the residents. Since major items of this relate to the Hall only it would be unfair to burden other Fairfield residents with it. The surprise is that they then created two other management companies rather than one. Hence there are three.

In appendix E, 2: Fairfield Park Residents TP1, of the submission, section 13 Variable Rent Charge states the commitment of residents to pay their charges and any parochial taxes. The company (Fairfield Park residents Company Ltd) describes their commitments to the residents and in 13.8 they detail the paying of all rates and taxes. At the end they also state that the paying of parochial rates is the responsibility of the owners of the dwellings. So residents have always known they are to pay both their rent charges and the local precept and have signed into it. The fact that they are given an 18 month free period from their rent charges on first purchase of a property means the realisation of the impact of their situation is delayed.

The crux of the problem is not just between the Action Group and Fairfield residents as rate payers to Stotfold Town Council, all three management companies on the site charge different amounts to their individual residents. The amounts reflect each company's commitments. Also if the houses outside the site are included in a new parish council there will be a fourth level of payment. There are a large number of tenants throughout the site. These people pay their landlords rent, the management companies' charges and a Parish precept. As tenants they are not shareholders of the management companies, so although they have to make all payments they are not owners of the assets they pay for.

The submission includes a list of the Variable rent charges for the Park area of housing. This is the area said to be covered by Fairfield Park Residents Company Ltd, but the submission says the budget was set by Fairfield Redevelopments Ltd (FRL). This explains why the last accounts submitted to Companies House for Fairfield Park Residents Company Ltd (whose directors have been appointed by the developers) shows no current assets, no liabilities, no capital reserves and no shareholders funds. The accounts were approved by the Board on 29/3/11.

It is not known by us why the developers are not using the management company prior to it passing to Resident Directors.

The following table shows an estimate of the impact on residents of their variable rent charge, Stotfold current year rates and the best current estimate of what the Fairfield new Parish rate would be. This later rate is based on the Band D equivalent for Fairfield of 1063 supplied by Central Bedfordshire Officers near the end of October. Since

December 2010 the equivalent of 130 Band D properties have been occupied in Stotfold, mainly from the Fairfield and Land South of Stotfold developments. The following calculations use the current year precept figure for all of Stotfold and the draft budget figure supplied by the Action Group for the new Parish for the next financial year. The calculation includes the extra 130 Band D equivalent properties which has the effect of lowering the Stotfold rates as compared to the actual rate charged last year. This is the best comparison we are able to make at this time.

A further assumption is made, that the Fairfield information supplied to us in which there are no Band A and no Band H properties. That leaves the six bands between A and H. The FRL charge is based on numbers of bedrooms from 1 to 6, the assumption for this illustrative calculation is that these correspond to the six bands.

Illustrative table of the impact of rate in £ at Fairfield Park (housing area)

Band	Number of bedrooms	FRL Charge	Stotfold Charge	New Parish Charge	Total FRL + Stotfold	Total FRL + New Parish
B	1	104.17	61.14	67.70	165.31	171.87
C	2	138.88	69.88	77.37	208.76	216.25
D	3	173.61	78.61	87.04	252.22	260.65
E	4	225.69	96.08	106.38	321.77	332.07
F	5	260.42	113.55	125.72	373.97	386.14
G	6	295.13	131.02	145.07	426.15	440.20

Amphill Town Council has playing fields, play areas, civic buildings and Amphill Park to administer. Its Council tax is £175.04 for a Band D property. At Fairfield the joint total with Stotfold is estimated as £252.22 and with the new Council is estimated as £260.65.

On these figures for the precepts the new Council is a 10.7% increase over the whole of Stotfold precept, and the rest of Stotfold without Fairfield would immediately suffer a 37.2% increase in their parish tax. Based on the actual Stotfold Band D for this financial year, which does not include the 130 Band D equivalent properties occupied during the year, the increases are 7.1% and 32.6% increase for the rest of Stotfold without Fairfield. The financial implications for the rest of Stotfold are now quite clearly devastating and give the Town Council an immense problem as we will not know Central Bedfordshire Council's decision until after the date for us to send in our next year's precept request.

*"The only possible benefit to Fairfield Residents will be cheaper resident rates at Stotfold Cemetery."*

All residents of Stotfold are able to use the facilities we provide and own. They are able to tap into the knowledge of our staff for town matters, as a link to Central Bedfordshire Council, the Police and CAB. There is an expansive list on the third page of our leaflet to residents reproduced within this document.

The Town Council's Planning Committee has worked tirelessly for the benefit of our residents who now live in Fairfield.

*“Fairfield people will never be in a position to benefit (from paying Stotfold’s rate)”*

When the Resident Directors of Fairfield Park Residents Company are appointed and the assets are transferred, then and only then will the Town Council and Fairfield Park have people with authority who are able to discuss and decide whether any assets can be transferred to the Town Council so that the costs can be spread over all of Stotfold.

*“Stotfold Town Council made no effort with their budget to provide funds..... silence could be termed neglect”.*

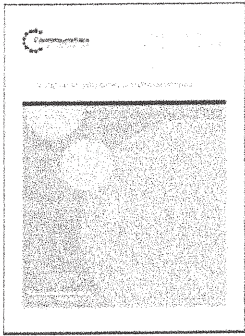
The developer even now still owns the Community Building and has not transferred it. It was and is for them to provide the building. At no point was the Town Council involved in the design of this building or the Section 106 Agreement between the developers and Mid-Bedfordshire District Council about its design and fitting out. It turns out to have been a flawed agreement with design faults. If there has been neglect it lies elsewhere and not with the Town Council. The Town Council would not pay developers for work and items they should be providing anyway. There is also the assumption that the Resident Directors of Fairfield Park Residents Company will agree to a Charitable Trust to run the Community Hall. That cannot be certain until the transfer to that company has been made and they are in a position to consider the matter and make a decision.

The Action Group refers to the protection of the Orchards, as part of the setting of the listed building. A legal agreement already exists protecting it in perpetuity. Certain developers have tried to ignore this but Stotfold Town Council’s Planning Committee knew of it and reminded Planning Officers of it in our very robust objections to developments in that area. A service we provide for the benefit of Stotfold residents.

## **Conclusion**

- The application is premature until development is complete and ‘ownerships’ are clear, allowing the three management companies’ Resident Directors to consider any possible transfer of assets to Stotfold Town Council. Thus spreading the costs over the whole of Stotfold as would normally happen with any new estate.
- There can be no doubts that Fairfield has been and is geographically within the Parish of Stotfold.
- There have been no formal discussions with Stotfold Town Council to explore alternatives.
- The ‘self-governance’ desire does not require or justify expansion beyond the already defined site boundary to come about or to be effective.
- The perceived ‘inequities’ identified across the site will not be solved by this proposal.
- Areas within a Parish can have individual community identities without having to be separated.
- The nature of work, leisure, shopping habits across all of Stotfold are very similar.
- The future ownership/management of the Community Building will not be decided until after full adoption from the developers.
- There has been every opportunity for residents from the Fairfield area to have direct input on Stotfold Town Council and its policies by putting up and standing for election as Stotfold Town Councillors. This did not happen until May of this year.
- A town with projected population of 13,000 would command better overall provision of and investment in infrastructure by Central Bedfordshire Council than two smaller settlements.
- Central Bedfordshire Council’s Local Development Framework Core Strategy states that ‘Fairfield Park...will take time to assimilate into the life of the town’. Therefore Central Bedfordshire Council recognises that integration of new residents takes time. Therefore not enough time has elapsed.

- If Central Bedfordshire Council decides in favour of a new council for Fairfield with elections in 2012, then the financial implications for the rest of Stotfold are clear, an increase in the town rates of 33% is inevitable. We would need time to adjust. The advice from the Boundary Commission, that if elections have just taken place then no further elections should take place for three years is sound advice, otherwise we will need some form of transitional arrangements.



## Guidance on community governance reviews

Published 31 March 2010

Extract from Section 4:

### Other (non-parish) forms of community governance

136. In conducting a community governance review, principal councils must consider other forms of community governance as alternatives or stages towards establishing parish councils. Section 93(5) of the 2007 Act states that *"In deciding what recommendations to make [in the community governance review] the principal council must take into account any other arrangements... that have already been made or that could be made for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in respect of the area under review"*. The following paragraphs consider other types of viable community representation which may be more appropriate to some areas than parish councils, or may provide stages building towards the creation of a parish council. There is sometimes evidence locally of an existing community governance infrastructure and of good practice which are successfully creating opportunities for engagement, empowerment and co-ordination in local communities.
137. However, what sets parish councils apart from other kinds of governance is the fact they are a democratically elected tier of local government, independent of other council tiers and budgets, and possess specific powers. This is an important distinction to make. Parish councils are the foundation stones for other levels of local government in England. Their directly elected parish councillors represent local communities in a way that other bodies, however worthy, cannot since such organisations do not have representatives directly elected to those bodies.
138. The 2006 white paper recommended that local communities should be able to take more responsibilities for local issues affecting their area. Key to this approach is community empowerment, and the ability of various existing organisations themselves to see through specific projects to tackle local issues. Structures such as local residents' associations, community or neighbourhood forums and area committees have an important role to play in local community governance.
139. At the neighbourhood level, there are various initiatives in existence, which through being representative and accountable can effectively empower local people. They have varying degrees of power and influence, and commensurate levels of transparency and accountability.

*Area committees*

140. Area committees are part of the structure of some principal councils (e.g. district, unitary and London borough), where they choose to have them. Area committees are a key initiative for enabling local government to fulfil community governance roles and also to deliver government policy on issues affecting social inclusion in local communities. Principal councils also provide resources for area committees, and their councillors are commonly integral to their constitution. Area committees can cover large areas and exist to advise or make decisions on specific responsibilities that can include parks, off-street parking, public toilets, street cleaning, abandoned vehicles and planning applications amongst others. Also, more widely, they contribute to shaping council services and improving local service provision.

*Neighbourhood management*

141. Neighbourhood management programmes are similarly set up by principal councils and may be led by one of a number of bodies. The expansion of neighbourhood management was promoted in the 2006 White Paper as a tool to enable local authorities to deliver more responsive services through their empowerment of citizens and communities. Their purpose is to create the opportunity for residents to work with local agencies, usually facilitated by a neighbourhood manager, to improve services at the neighbourhood level.
142. Neighbourhood management arrangements aim to improve 'quality of life' through implementation of (rather than advising or making decisions on) better management of local environment, increasing community safety, improving housing stock, working with young people, and encouraging employment opportunities, supported strategically by relevant stakeholders and Local Strategic Partnerships. They tend to cover smaller populations than area committees. The 2006 white paper recommends that take up of neighbourhood management should be encouraged and that Government should work with local authorities pioneering the approach, to raise the profile of achievements and promote adoption elsewhere.

*Tenant management organisations*

143. The 2006 white paper makes a series of proposals that facilitate the empowerment of residents through tenant management organisations (TMOs). Tenant management organisations are established by the local housing authority; they usually function on urban housing estates and can take responsibility for housing services (such as collecting rents and service charges and organising repairs and maintenance) from the local housing authority under the Housing (Right to Manage) (England) Regulations 2008. The 2006 white paper promoted the role of TMOs and recommended simplifying and extending their scope; enabling them to take on additional services and undertake further representation of residents within neighbourhoods. A TMO is an independent legal body and usually elects a tenant-led management committee to the organisation; they can also enter into a legal management agreement with landlords.

*Area/community forums*

144. Area or community forums (including civic forums) can be set up by the principal council, or created by local residents to act as a mechanism to give communities a say on principal council matters or local issues. Sometimes forums are set up to comment on a specific project or initiative that will impact upon the local area, and so may be time-limited. They increase participation and consultation, aiming to influence decision making, rather than having powers to implement services. They vary in size, purpose and impact, but membership usually consists of people working or living in a specific area. Some forums also include ward councillors, and representatives from the council and relevant stakeholders can attend meetings.

*Residents' and tenants' associations*

145. Residents' and tenants' associations enable local people to participate in local issues affecting their neighbourhood or housing estate, including the upkeep of the local environment, crime, sometimes dealing with anti-social behaviour matters, or on some estates, housing management. They can be set up by any group of people living in the same area and can choose who members will be; how they will be represented and what they want to achieve. In the case of tenants' and residents' associations on estates, they may be established with direct support from the principal council, as a mechanism for communicating with the tenants and residents on its estates. To engage effectively with other organisations, residents' and tenants' associations must be able to show that they are accountable and represent the views of the whole community, rather than narrow self interests of just a few local people.

*Community associations*

146. Community associations offer a particular and widespread democratic model for local residents and local community-based organisations in a defined neighbourhood to work together for the benefit of that neighbourhood. They can use a model constitution registered with the Charity Commission. The principal council may also be represented on the association's committee. They usually manage a community centre as a base for their activities. Membership is open to everyone resident in the area.

APPENDIX – update on financial tables

Table 2 uses the Stotfold current year precept, Fairfield projected budget for next year and the updated band D equivalent just received from Central Bedfordshire officers.

*Table 1 – Tax Base – equivalent number of Band D properties*

Band	Stotfold		Stotfold less
	now	part	Fairfield
A	101.73	0.00	101.73
B	377.46	15.94	361.52
C	838.04	154.67	683.38
D	1163.45	336.45	827.00
E	814.37	248.48	565.89
F	332.94	90.35	242.59
G	313.42	222.33	91.08
H	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	3941.41	1068.22	2873.19
Non pay	19.71	5.34	14.37
Tax Base			
Rounded	3922	1063	2859

*Table 2 – Impact on Rates*

Band	Stotfold		Stotfold less
	now	part	Fairfield
A	52.40	58.03	71.89
B	61.14	67.70	83.87
C	69.88	77.37	95.85
D	78.61	87.04	107.83
E	96.08	106.38	131.79
F	113.55	125.72	155.75
G	131.02	145.07	179.72
H	157.22	174.08	215.66

In Fairfield also add on the variable rent charge



# FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Dear Stotfold residents

In August we received from Central Bedfordshire Council, the timetable of consultation about the submission prepared by five people from Fairfield Park, Stotfold, concerning their desire to form a new separate Parish Council in that area.

They are all either connected with the Fairfield Park Residents Association or the Community Hall Steering Group. Two of them, at the May elections became Stotfold Town Councillors, and with the other Councillors can be contacted by any resident from any part of Stotfold.

Many people in Stotfold have connections with the Fairfield site from; working there, playing bowls, cricket, football, being in amateur dramatics, having relatives who did these things or perhaps having been a patient there. Some patients were allowed to walk about Stotfold and were no problem. Stotfold people regarded the Hospital as an integral part of Stotfold. New residents to the town have been discovering the 120+ clubs, groups and associations in the town. These are listed on the Council's website [www.stotfoldtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stotfoldtowncouncil.gov.uk) in the community pages.

Central Bedfordshire Council, in the document Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy 3.17.1 states "Stotfold is one of the district's Minor Service Centres and is located close to the A1 and A507. The permitted southern expansion of Stotfold and the remaining areas of development at Fairfield Park are due to be built out and will take time to assimilate into the life of the town ... 3.17.2 In terms of population, Stotfold (including Fairfield Park) will be the second-largest settlement in Mid Bedfordshire by 2011". **Therefore Central Bedfordshire Council recognises that integration of new residents takes time. Not enough time has yet elapsed.**

The Town Council, as the Parish in which Fairfield falls, has been involved in the development of Fairfield Park since 1992. It responded as a consultee to two public inquiries and has dealt with nearly 1400 planning documents for the site.

The developers decided not to hand over the public areas and community building to the Town Council, but to administer them through three Management Companies and charge the Fairfield homeowners directly for these facilities. Had they been passed to the Town Council we would have appointed contractors and the costs would have been spread across Stotfold including the town rate that Fairfield residents also pay. The Town Council will shortly be taking over the play areas at Queen Street and also the public areas on the land south of Stotfold. The Fairfield developers decided on Management Companies because they needed one for the Hall, as happens with most blocks of flats, and treated the rest of the site in the same way with the other two management companies.

**The Town Council does not agree that the Fairfield site and adjoining areas should be removed from the town. The rest of this document gives further details about the Town Council's position.**

Yours sincerely

Councillor Brian Collier, Mayor of Stotfold



One thousand plus registered electors, mostly from Fairfield, signed acknowledging to Central Bedfordshire Council that the Fairfield Park Governance Review should take place. This does not necessarily imply that they all agree with the applicants aims.

# Financial impact of the proposal

In their submission the 5 proposers have said that the Band D equivalent for the Fairfield area of Stotfold is 1140. A figure they obtained from Central Bedfordshire Council. For the purposes of calculating Council Tax no matter what band from A to H your property actually is, it is converted into a notional equivalent number of Band D properties. The number 1140 was a raw figure and did not take into account, single occupancy discount, second home discount etc. Central Bedfordshire Council have sent a closer estimate, 719, shown in Table 1. They are working on a more accurate estimate, but we have not yet received it.

The Proposers have sent to Central Bedfordshire Council a draft budget for the first year; in fact if Central Bedfordshire Council agrees to set up a Fairfield Council they will decide the first budget figure. The draft budget is for £92,525 divided by their 1140 gives a Band D precept figure of £81.62. The Town Council's precept for the whole of Stotfold is £81.30.

Table 1 shows the Band D equivalent for Fairfield only as 719 this divided into £92,525 give a Band D precept figure of £128.68. This would be the 4<sup>th</sup> highest parish rate in the whole of Central Bedfordshire. It is beaten by Ampthill at £175.04, Dunstable at £139.65 and Houghton Regis at £128.69. For residents of Fairfield this would be paid on top of the Variable Rent Charge for the services that a Town or Parish normally provides.

Table 2 – Impact on Rates

Band	Stotfold now	Fairfield part	Stotfold less Fairfield
A	54.20	85.79	66.88
B	63.23	100.08	78.03
C	72.27	114.38	89.17
D	81.30	128.68	100.32
E	99.37	157.28	122.61
F	117.43	185.87	144.91
G	135.50	214.47	167.20
H	162.60	257.36	200.64

In Fairfield also add on the variable rent charge

Table 1 – Tax Base – equivalent number of Band D properties

Band	Stotfold now	Fairfield part	Stotfold less Fairfield
A	104.59	0.00	104.59
B	373.96	16.14	357.82
C	785.73	143.54	642.19
D	1169.58	265.61	903.97
E	762.97	151.01	611.96
F	310.34	42.43	267.91
G	304.00	103.95	200.05
H	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	3811.17	722.68	3088.49
Non pay	19.06	3.61	15.45
Tax Base			
Rounded	3792.00	719.00	3073.00

The impact this would have on ratepayers is shown in Table 2 if this had happened this tax year. The Fairfield area would be paying more because of the higher draft budget demand, and the remainder of Stotfold would pay more because of the loss of what Fairfield currently contributes. If the boundary remains as in the proposal, Stotfold Residents who live on Hitchin Road (Fairfield side of the roundabout) and those off Stotfold Road beyond Fairfield would pay more than they are currently paying.

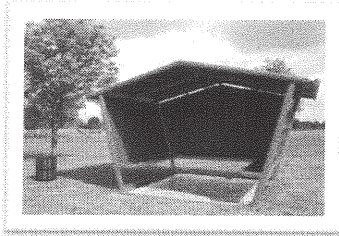
The remaining part of Stotfold could see their Council Tax increase depending on which Band your property falls within (see Table 2) by £12.68 for Band A (£66.88 - £54.20) to £38.04 for Band H properties.

## Community Hall

*In the Special Town Council meeting to determine the Town Council's views of the Fairfield Park petition, a Councillor who lives on the Park intimated that 'if the Town Council would give them £50,000 towards the Community Hall, there would be no need to form a Fairfield Community Council'*

# Current facilities available in the town

## “No youth facilities at Fairfield”



Scouts, Guides, Army Cadets, St John Youth Section, Church youth groups, Stotfold Junior Football Club (boys and girls) exist in Stotfold and are available for more youngsters from Fairfield to join. In terms of the difficult to reach youths the old County Council withdrew from youth provision in Stotfold many years ago and the only youth work in this category has been done by the Aragon Housing Association Youth Worker.

Central Bedfordshire Council has recently considered youth provision, there was none allocated for Stotfold but some based at Arlesey Youth Centre. So this is not just a problem at Fairfield, but throughout all of Stotfold.

## Green spaces and play areas

If Stotfold Town Council had been given the open green areas including play areas, then the maintenance of those areas would have been added to our existing contracts. Maintenance schedules already exist for Fairfield and could continue but in our experience the number of grass cuts is increasing with the milder general weather. Our play equipment is inspected weekly in-house and inspected annually by ROSPA. The Directors of the Management Companies have it within their powers to transfer these areas to the Town Council, so when Fairfield Park Residents Company Ltd has Directors who live on the site they will have the authority to act, until then none of the residents have that authority. The only registered Directors we are aware of are those from the Middlemarch Residents Association Ltd.



## What Fairfield residents can and have benefited from within Stotfold



Allotments, Cemetery, hiring of the Simpson Centre and Memorial Hall, four other equipped play areas, open spaces: Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, The Green, Riverside Playing Field, Millennium Green, Centenary Wood, and the MUGA and skate park facilities. The Town Council owns the Brook Street bowling green, library building, Stotfold Football Club ground. Services provided in the office, experienced and qualified staff, contact point for the public with Central Bedfordshire Council, police, Citizens Advice Bureau, and general enquiries and concerns.

As Central Bedfordshire Council statutory planning consultees, the Town Council's Planning Committee has considered every planning application relating to Fairfield Park. For each application Central Bedfordshire Council notifies adjacent neighbours that the Town Council will be making comment and that copies of plans are available for inspection at the Town Council offices. The Town Council welcomes public participation in the planning process by either sending your comments in writing to the Council or coming to the meeting and speaking directly to Councillors. All comments are taken into consideration by the Planning Committee in making its observations to Central Beds Planning. In particular, with regard to the recent applications for the West Orchard site, the Committee made robust comments in opposition to the applicant's plans. We brought to the attention of current Planning Officers the proof of evidence from a former Planning Officer to the Planning Inspector that there is a clear long-term intention from the Planning Authority to protect the setting of the Listed Building at Fairfield in perpetuity. This is contained in a legal agreement between the developers (and their successors) and the former Mid Beds District Council (and their successors).



Local community grants from the Town Council are available for any organisation to apply for, and the only grants that have been applied for and awarded for the Fairfield area of Stotfold are one from the Fairfield Bowls Club, one from the Fairfield Hall Residents Association and one from the Fairfield Park Community Hall Group.

# Future infrastructure implications for Stotfold

The Central Bedfordshire Council Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document notes that Stotfold has relatively poor levels of local service provision. In terms of population, Stotfold (including Fairfield Park) is projected to have the second-largest population in the Mid Bedfordshire area (Central

Beds North).

To improve sustainability and self-sufficiency for Stotfold, increased and improved service provision has therefore been planned in for Stotfold, with the vision being to provide new employment opportunities and an

increase in local shops and services, improved green infrastructure, library, community, youth and health facilities, additional allotments, recreational open space and facilities and cemetery space.

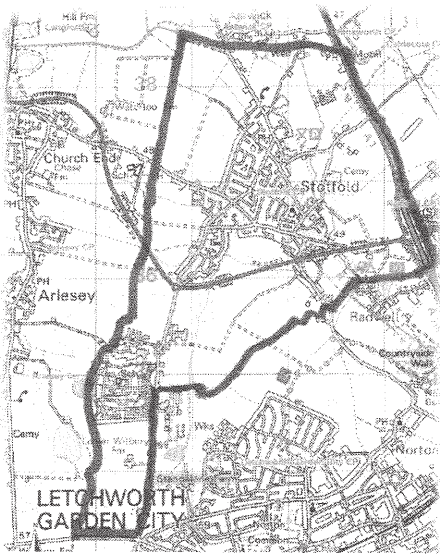


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## *Boundary to the proposed Fairfield Council area*

*A Councillor was concerned that the boundary shown in the submission covered too great an area of Stotfold. The Planning Inspector had determined that Fairfield Park should be contained within its tree and hedge line boundary. It was advocated that this should remain as the boundary to the Fairfield Community Council, if Central Bedfordshire Council decides to create it.*

Any reduction in the population of Stotfold may consequently have a detrimental impact on the facilities and services for the town, resulting in a reduced provision of much needed infrastructure.

## Responding to the Review

**After debate at a Special Town Council meeting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011, Members voted and it was resolved that this Council does not support the formation of a new Fairfield Community Council.**

The Town Council has prepared this leaflet to explain the Council's views and the impact the formation of a new separate Council for Fairfield could have for all Stotfold residents.

Residents may return their comments to Central Bedfordshire Council using the reply slip already distributed, or online at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/surveys/CGR/fairfield.htm](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/surveys/CGR/fairfield.htm).

**The closing date for return of comments is 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011.**

Brian Dunleavy,  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
High Street North  
Dunstable  
LU6 1LF

Your Ref: BD/FP

Thursday, November 3rd 2011

Dear Brian,

**Re: Community Governance Review – Stotfold Parish – Area of Fairfield**

We submitted our main arguments when we presented our petition in July calling for a Governance review. Throughout the consultation period we have listened closely to the views expressed on social network sites and by Stotfold Council. We have heard nothing that changes our view; indeed our opinion that Fairfield should be separated from Stotfold has been strengthened.

We would underline the following points.

*‘The submission was the work of five people’*

Our submission was made following wide consultation with the Residents Associations on Fairfield as well as members of the Potential Directors Committee who will form part of the Residents Company once assets are handed over. We also have had a meeting with a representative of Fairfield Redevelopment Company that is currently responsible for the assets on Fairfield Park.

STC have persistently tried to portray the submission as being the act of five people and consistently ignore the fact that more than 1,200 residents supported it.

*‘The Action Group have never entered into informal or formal discussions with STC’*

Two of our members had an informal meeting with the (now) Mayor in September 2010 and then, as a group, we met with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the clerk at a formal meeting in January. Subsequently there has been no request from Stotfold Council to discuss with the group the outcome of a split, although that possibility was left open at our meeting in January.

*‘STC, led by the Mayor, have knowingly deceived Residents of the town’*

We were surprised and disappointed that STC, in their response sent to residents, used figures that they had accepted at their meeting were inaccurate and misleading. Subsequently Central Bedfordshire Council have supplied revised figures that support those expressed by the Action Group. However, STC has not seen fit to inform the residents they serve, of the important errors.

*Financial impact*

STC only consider the impact a split will have on the remaining part of Stotfold and not the huge impact on the Fairfield community. The figures show that Fairfield residents have been subsidising Stotfold residents for the past five years, currently by £83,000 per annum. All this when there is an urgent requirement for facilities to be provided for children, teenagers and seniors.

During the recent round of budget meetings STC has at no time considered or allowed for the needs or requirements of Fairfield. In other words STC has no plans to spend money on Fairfield in the financial year 2012-2013.

# ACTION for FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY

This underlines our view and request that it is vital a Fairfield Community Council be set up from April next year. This date is allowed under the current legislation. We don't accept that Stotfold will be unduly disadvantaged as there are a very large number of new houses built, being built and about to be built, which will instantly replace the precept from Fairfield. We can see no reason why Fairfield residents should continue to pay this subsidy when they have urgent issues of their own to address.

## *Boundaries*

In suggesting a new boundary the Action Group followed closely the recommendations in the document *Guidance on Community Governance reviews*.

STC has suggested three options on a proposed boundary should Central Bedfordshire agree with the request for a change in the boundary. We oppose all three on the following grounds:

- Option 1** is undemocratic since it attempts to place Fairfield in a sort of municipal isolation ward or ghetto.  
**Option 2** is undemocratic since it would give STC more consultative influence over future potential development of the immediately adjoining territory to the north and east of extant Fairfield development than would be enjoyed by Fairfield Community Council,  
**Option 3** is undemocratic since it will
- a) isolate the few dwellings on the East side of Hitchin Road that are, even in the eyes of the most prejudiced observer, more a part of the Fairfield community than they will ever be part of Stotfold community and who supported our petition
  - b) give STC more consultative influence over known probable development of the immediately adjoining territory to the east of extant Fairfield development than would be enjoyed by Fairfield Community Council.

We also do not see that the creation of a Fairfield Community Council changes anything in terms of employment opportunity for Stotfold residents as we have not proposed changes to the Core Strategic Plan.

STC has dwelt heavily on history and produced crocodile tears, as they have made no suggestions as to how they will remedy the current situation or that they recognise an inequity.

Generally, we feel that the STC response shows that they are not only out of touch with the electors they serve but very much out of touch with the views and demands of the people on Fairfield.

STC clearly believe that finance is the basis of our request for a Governance Review and have totally missed the point that residents of Fairfield are now ready and anxious to take control of their own community. They consistently refuse to acknowledge the true views of Stotfold residents on Fairfield.

Those views were well summed up at the October full meeting of the STC by resident Douglas Rule, who used his statutory rights to tell councilors that he had never before lived in the UK for longer than two years and had never thought about local government before. He stated that his community is Fairfield and he is interested in solving the problems he sees there and is thus supporting the new council. He sees Fairfield as new and different from Stotfold with its long history.

Yours sincerely,



Barrie Dack  
Chairman, Fairfield Community Action group