

**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>).

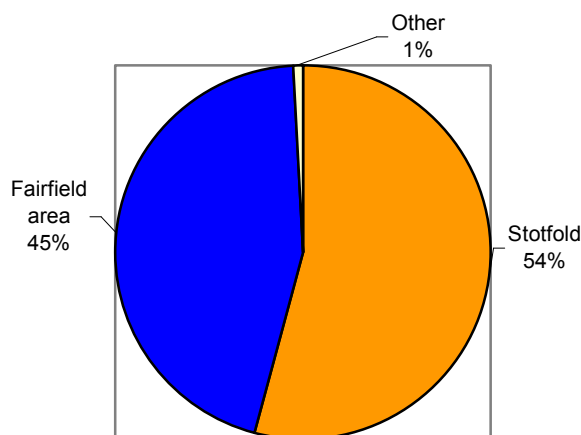
Whilst only a small proportion of Stotfold Parish responded to this survey, the demographic profile of respondents to the survey is broadly in line with the demographic of Stotfold parish, although older people are over represented and young people are under represented in the survey response.

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.

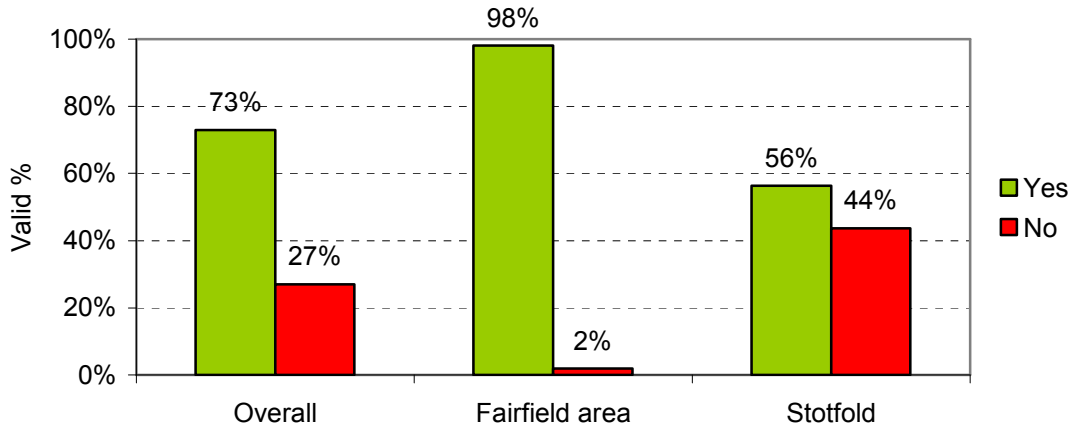
Less than one percent of the responses received were from Letchworth Garden City, Ampthill, Arlesey and Hitchin collectively.



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<sup>1</sup>Figures for the Stotfold Parish Population include Astwick however Astiwcck 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).