



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

**North East Derbyshire District Council
Stonebroom Community Governance Review
Resident Survey - Response Report
March 2023 Survey**

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25th Apr '23

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Distribution	Issue	Date
Sarah Sternberg	Final Report	25/04/23
Donna Jawad	Final Report	25/04/23
Kath Drury	Final Report	25/04/23

Introduction

The Council received a Petition for a Community Governance Review of Stonebroom and as a result needed to consider whether Stonebroom should have its own parish council and not be part of Shirland and Higham Parish Council any more.

The Council agreed Terms of Reference and an initial timetable for the review both of which could be found on the Council's website, Consultation was then carried out.

Following this initial consultation back in October/November 2022 and consideration of those views, the Council wished to further explore residents' views on whether they think there should be a separate parish council for Stonebroom or not and the reasons behind those views.

The results of both surveys will be considered as part of the review by the Council later in the year.

Methodology

A survey was created and this was made available to all relevant stakeholders with options to complete online, via the NEDDC website with a link to Snap surveys and also via leaflet drop-offs to parish households allowing them to handwrite responses and return via the post to the Council. The survey was open for 4 weeks with a closing date of Friday 31st March.

Response Summary

In total 121 valid responses to the survey were received prior to the return deadline, 21 of which were completed online and 100 were postal returns. Additionally 5 surveys were returned without name and address details and were therefore excluded from the results as it was not possible to verify these returns came from within the parish (this requirement was included clearly within the privacy notice within the survey).

The percentages throughout the report may not always add exactly to 100% due to rounding.

Executive Summary

- Of the 121 respondents who completed the survey, 69 people (57%) felt in principle there should be a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area, with 52 respondents (43%) stating there should not be.
- By comparison, the November '22 survey result showed 73% in favour, 25% against and 2% did not know. So whilst the majority of respondents are still in favour of the proposal, the favourable responses has reduced by 16% from Nov '22 to the Mar '23 survey result.
- Of the respondents who favoured the proposal, the most popular reasons were 'local representation for the community', 'reflects the ideas and interests of the community' and 'more control over local services'.
- When asked if they would still be in favour of the proposal if there were financial implications to residents, 28 people (41%) said yes, 10 people (14%) said no, with a further 31 people (45%) stating it would depend how much.
- Of the respondents who opposed the proposal, the most popular reasons were 'adequately catered for by Shirland and Higham Parish Council', 'it may cost more in council tax' and 'the parish is too small to sustain its own parish council'.
- After reading the literature explaining the functions of a parish council that was provided to accompany the survey 83 people (69%) said the information confirmed what they previously thought in terms of their understanding of a parish council, 37 people (31%) found that a parish council could do more than they thought, with just 1 person (1%) finding that a parish council could do less than they thought.
- 49 respondents (41%) felt that Stonebroom would be able to sustain the running of its own parish council, 38 people (31%) felt it would not, with a further 34 people (28%) stating they did not know.
- 55 respondents (46%) felt that a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area would help create a greater sense of pride and togetherness within the communities, 44 people (36%) felt it would not, with a further 22 people (18%) stating they did not know.
- 49 respondents (41%) felt the proposals would create a drive within the local community to improve the effectiveness of the parish council within the area, 29 people (24%) felt it would not, with a further 43 people (36%) stating they did not know.

Respondent Profiling Information

Key demographic information was captured in each survey to help build a respondent profile and assist with equalities monitoring. A table of results is included below together with the summary of key points below which compares this information to the District's profile taken from the 2021 Population Census.

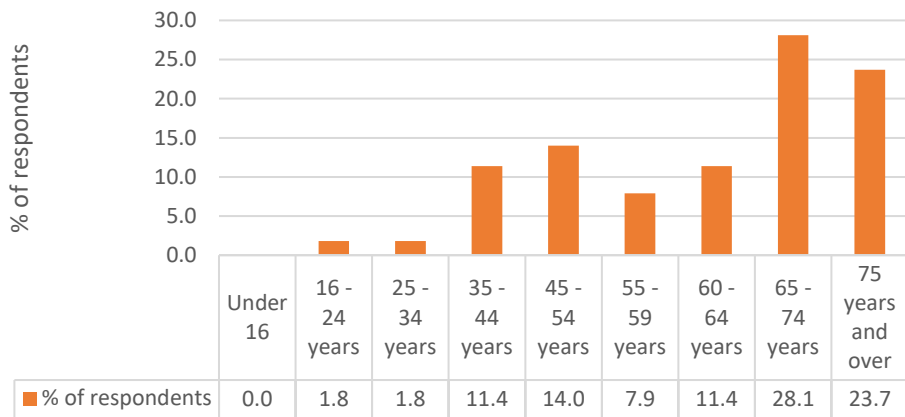
Respondent Characteristic	Overall Respondent Profile %	% Population Figures (2021 Census)
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	54	49
Female	46	51
		-
<i>Age Group</i>		
		(age % as proportion of 2021 population aged 16+)
16-24 years	2	12
25-74	74	77
75 & over	24	11
<i>Ethnicity</i>		
White British or Irish	100	96
Ethnic Minority (including white-other)	0	4
<i>Disability</i>		
Yes, limited a lot	18	11
Yes, limited a little	19	11
No	63	78

The profile of respondents was over representative of males and under representative of females when comparing to % population 2021 census figures. The survey was over representative of the 75+ age category and under representative of the under the age of 24 years old category. Ethnic minorities are underrepresented within the survey, whilst people who stated they had disability limitations to a greater or lesser extent are over represented when benchmarked against the 2021 census.

Gender by Respondent %



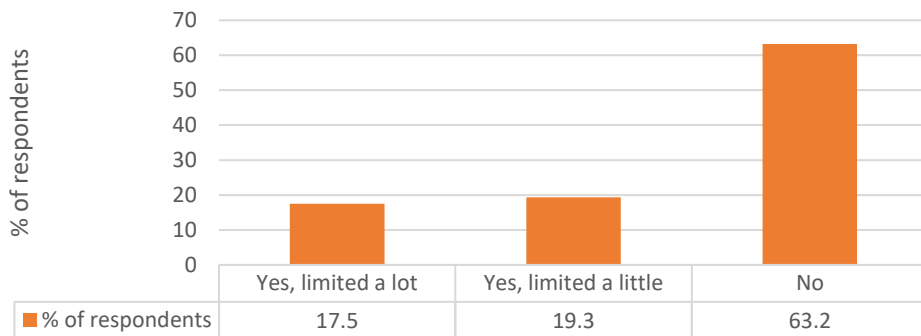
Age by Respondent %



Ethnicity by Respondent %



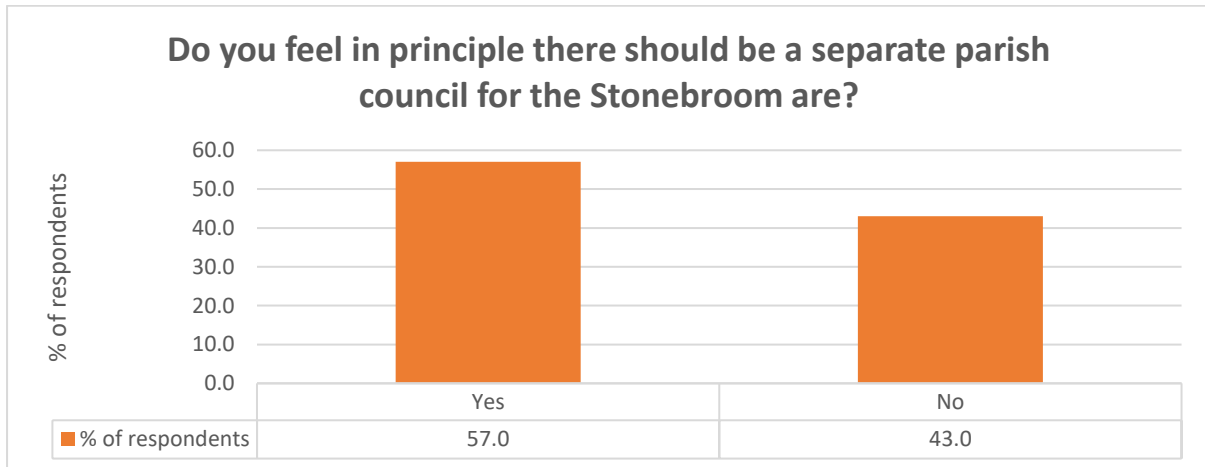
Day-to-day activities limited by Respondent %



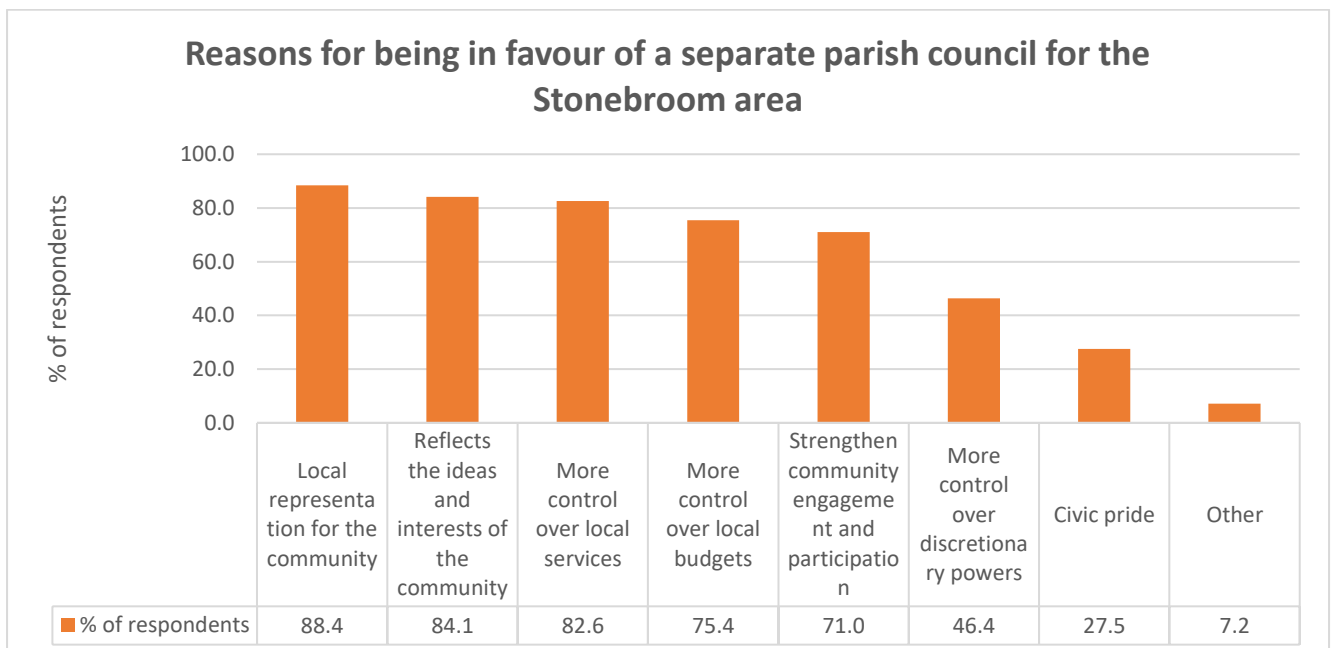
Survey Response Detail

In principle should there be a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area

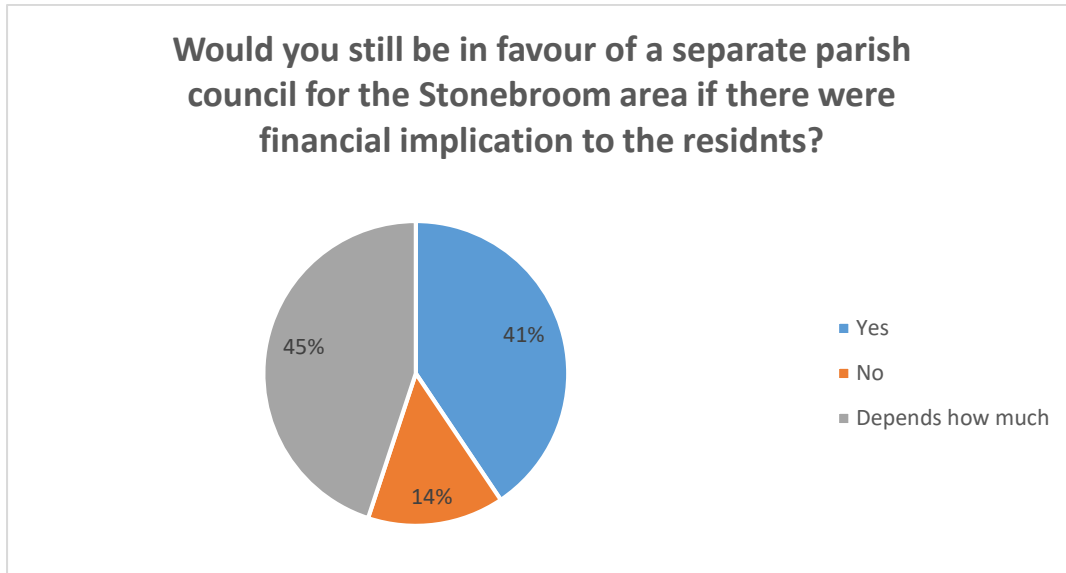
Of the 121 total respondents, 69 (57%) thought that in principle there should be a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area, with 52 respondents (43%) opposed to the proposal.



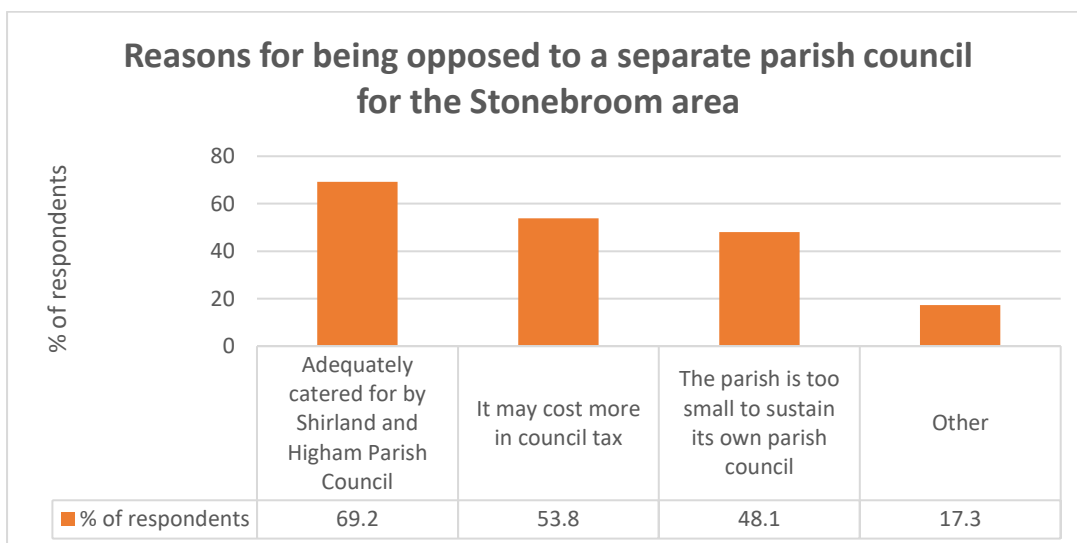
The 69 respondents who in principle were in favour of a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area were asked to explain their reasons from a selection of options (respondents could select all they felt applied). The 3 most popular reasons being 'local representation for the community' with 88% choosing this option, followed by 'reflects the ideas and interests of the community' with 84% in agreement and 'more control over local services' with 83%. A full breakdown of responses is below, please see Appendix 1 for details of the 'Other' comments.



Additionally, the 69 respondents who in principal were in favour of a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area were asked if they would still be in favour if there were financial implications to the proposals. 28 people (41%) said they would be in favour, 10 people (14%) said they would not be in favour, with a further 31 people (45%) saying this would depend how much.



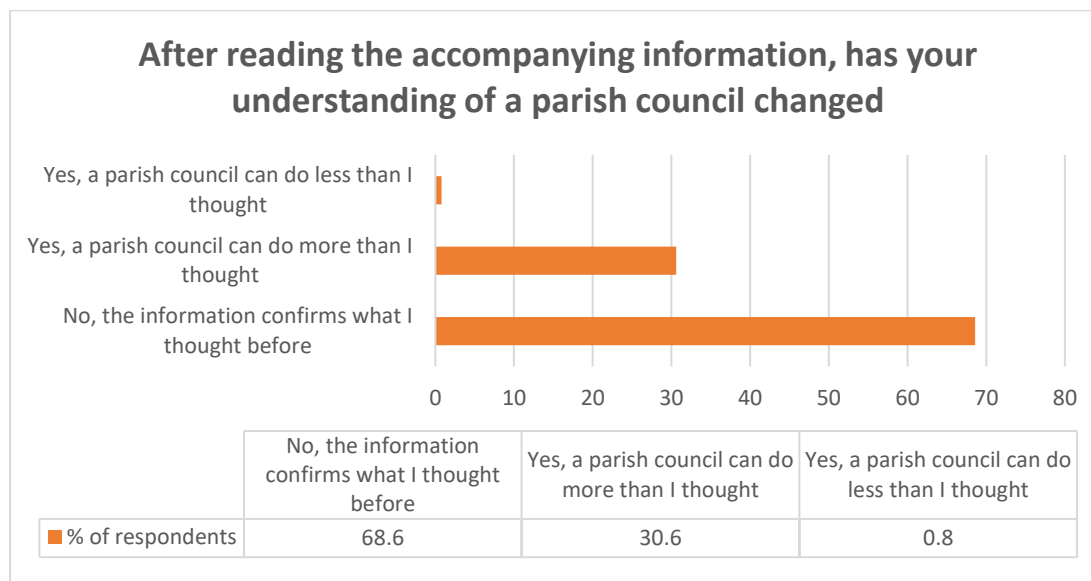
Of the 52 respondents who in principal were opposed to a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area were asked to explain their reasons from a selection of options (all they felt applied could be selected). The 3 most popular reasons being 'adequately catered for by Shirland and Higham Parish Council' with 69% choosing this option, followed by 'it may cost more in council tax' with 54% in agreement and 'the parish is too small to sustain its own parish council' with 48%. A full breakdown of responses is below, please see Appendix 2 for details of the 'Other' comments.



Understanding of the functions and purpose of a parish council

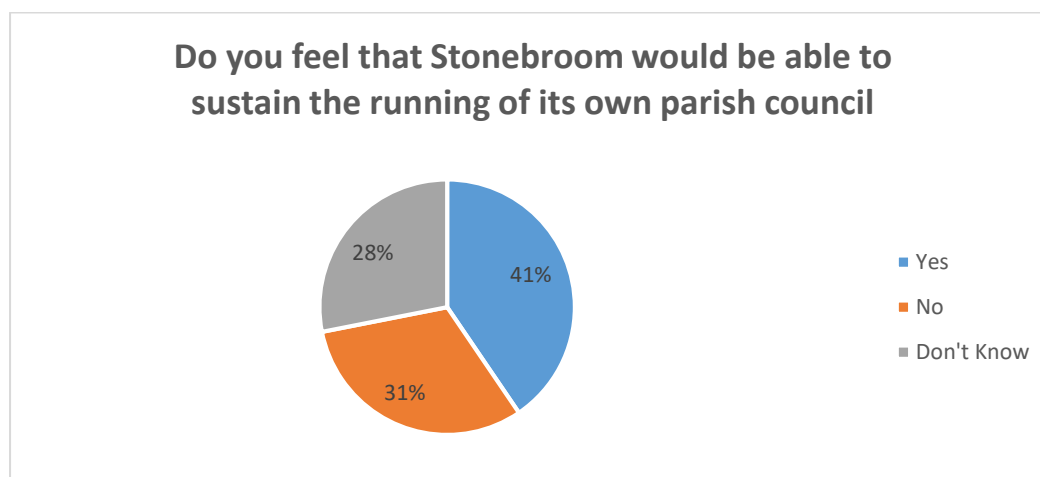
The respondents were questioned as to their understanding of the functions and purpose of a parish council. The responses to this question can be found in Appendix 3.

In addition, the council provided an accompanying document with the questionnaire, explaining the functions and purpose of a parish council. The respondents were asked after reading the information, whether their understanding had changed. 83 people (69%) said the documentation confirmed what they already thought, 37 people (31%) said that a parish council could do more than they'd originally thought, 1 person (1%) felt a parish council could do less than they'd originally thought.



Would Stonebroom be able to sustain the running of its own parish council.

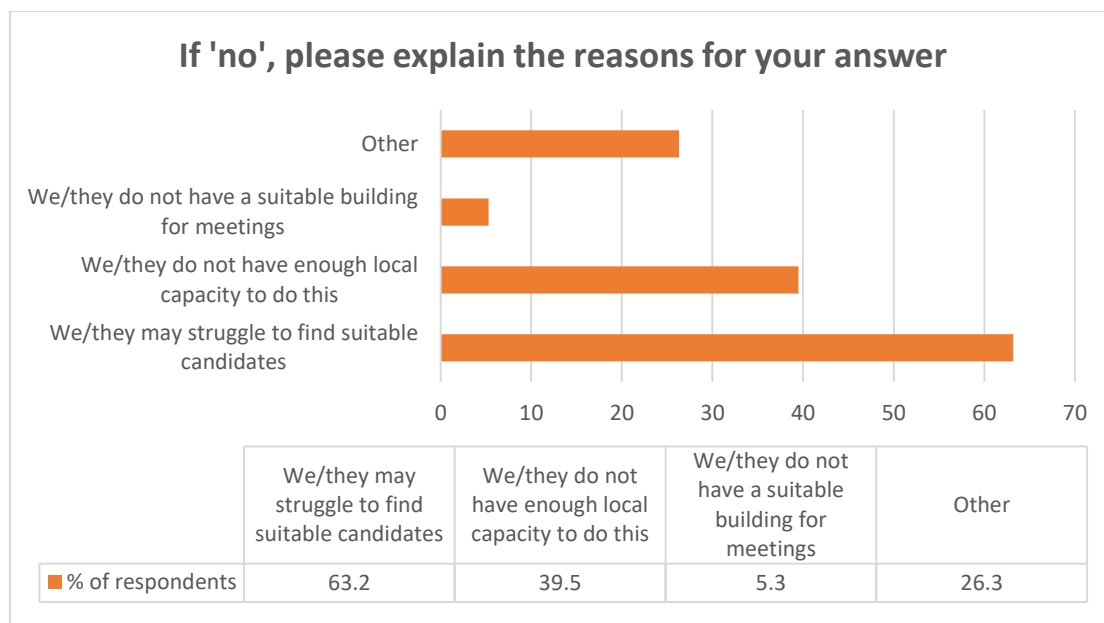
49 respondents (41%) felt Stonebroom would be able to sustain the running of its own parish council, 38 respondents (31%) felt it would not, with a further 34 respondents (28%) stating they did not know.



The 49 people who answered that they felt Stonebroom would be able to sustain the running of its own parish council were asked to explain the reasons for their answer. The full list of comments can be found in Appendix 4, these break down into the following categories:-

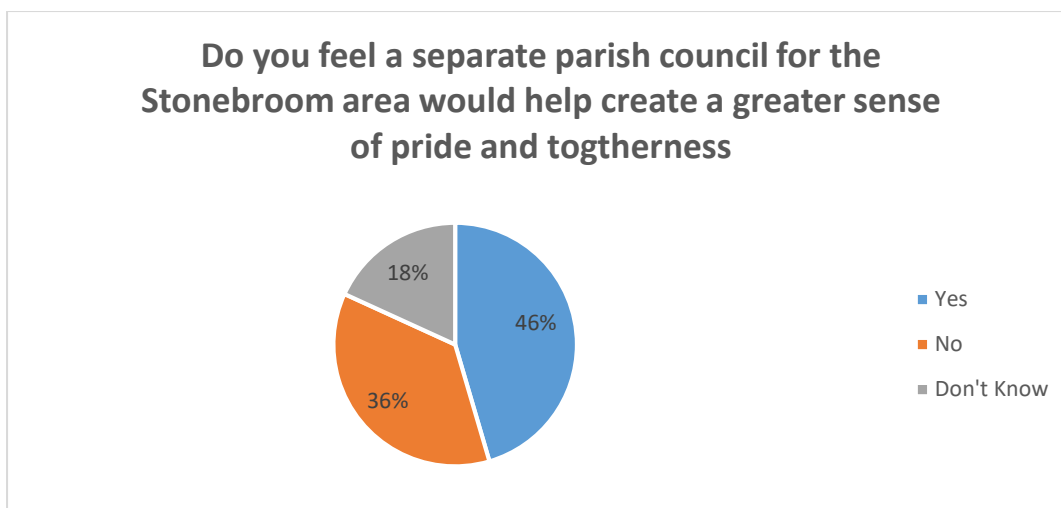
Plenty of interested residents' to get involved	37 comments
More control / autonomy / own voice	5 comments
Stonebroom area large enough to sustain	3 comments
Other	1 comment

In the same manner, the 38 respondents who answered that they felt Stonebroom would not be able to sustain the running of its own parish council were asked to explain the reasons for their answer. 24 people (63%) felt 'they may struggle to find suitable candidates', with 15 people (40%) saying 'they do not have enough local capacity to do this'. Full details can be found below and the 'Other' comments can be found in Appendix 5 of the report.



Would a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area help create a greater sense of pride and togetherness within the communities of Stonebroom and Shirland & Higham

55 respondents (46%) felt the proposals would help with community pride and togetherness, 44 respondents (36%) felt it would not, with a further 22 respondents (18%) stating they did not know.



The 55 people who answered that they felt the proposals would create a greater sense of pride and togetherness within the communities were asked to explain the reasons for their answer. The full list of comments can be found in Appendix 6, these break down into the following categories:-

More control / autonomy / own voice	13 comments
Focus on individual villages	11 comments
End to perceived inequalities	10 comments
Community spirit / pride / togetherness	10 comments
Less internal disputes	2 comments
Village growth	1 comment

In the same manner, the 44 respondents who felt the proposals would not create a greater sense of pride and togetherness within the communities were asked to explain the reasons for their answer. See Appendix 7 for these comments, these break down into the following categories:-

Proposal would create separation / division	14 comments
Community pride already exists	7 comments
Lack of enthusiasm to engage in the community	5 comments
Proposal would make no difference	5 comments
Proposal initiated by a small group	2 comments
Strength in numbers is better	2 comments
Lack of experience / numbers of potential councillors	2 comments

Would the considered changes create a drive within the local community to improve the effectiveness of the parish council within the area.

49 respondents (41%) felt it would create a drive to improve effectiveness, 29 respondents (24%) felt it would not, with a further 43 respondents (36%) stating they did not know.

Do you feel the considered changes would create a drive within the local community to improve the effectiveness of the parish council within the area



The 49 people for answered that they felt the proposals would create a drive to improve effectiveness were asked to explain the reasons for their answer. The full list of comments can be found in Appendix 8, these break down into the following categories:-

More control / autonomy / own voice & local needs	26 comments
Increase local community engagement with parish council	12 comments
Increase local pride	6 comments

In the same manner, the 29 respondents who felt the proposals would not create a drive to improve effectiveness were asked to explain the reasons for their answer. See Appendix 9 for these comments, these break down into the following categories:-

Current parish council already effective	8 comments
Proposal would create separation / division	5 comments
Increased costs / less funding	3 comments
Not effective long term	1 comment
Stonebroom already separate	1 comment
Stronger together	1 comment
Proposal initiated by a small group	1 comment
Lack of general enthusiasm in parish council	1 comment

Additional comments in regards to the proposal

See Appendix 10 for the full list of respondent comments, which break down into the following categories:-

Proposal will better meet the needs of the local community	8 comments
Current parish council too large	6 comments
Villages have differing interests / requirements / needs	5 comments
Current parish council is fine – no need for change	5 comments

Lack of individuals prepared to get involved / general lack of interest	5 comments
Other comments	5 comments
Proposal would increase control / autonomy to villages	4 comments
Parish council needs to communicate with residents better	3 comments
Proposal would create separation / division	3 comments
Proposal initiated by a small group	3 comments
Proposal would increase costs / reduce funding	3 comments
Create a sense of local pride	2 comments
Proposal may not be successful	1 comment
General support	1 comment

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Please explain your reasons for being in favour of a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area – ‘Other’ comments.

If a separate parish council was awarded, the funds collected would be spent on Stonebroom, whereas now it is split between Shirland and Higham. We don't even mention Stonebroom in the parish council name.

This would be a more hands on situation at local level. Personally I experience long delays in correspondence with the current council.

Each village will have its own identity. Making P.C's bigger I believe will make villages lose their individuality.

The Stonebroom local councillors do the other areas of the parish down by being negative and unhelpful.

Can influence local planning applications.

Appendix 2 - Please explain your reasons for being opposed to a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area – ‘Other’ comments.

The 3 villages all run into each other. The existing parish council seems to do a very good job already, so why change.

Why mend something that isn't broken.

Stonebroom and Shirland are intertwined and one community, so is more effective for all to be combined.

Being together will help in any disputes.

We would have more power if all three joined and include Stonebroom in the name with equal representation and equal time on the agenda at meetings. We need to join communities and share challenges.

Too many people on councils claiming expenses as it is.

The group instigating it don't have enough people interested in standing for the roles e.g. councillors etc.

There is a lack of community leaders willing to step up in Mickley alone (from experience)

Appendix 3 - What is your understanding of the functions and purpose of a parish council – comments.

As per your informative leaflet that you kindly enclosed.

To administer the parish, keeping in mind the interests of local residents. To ensure the smooth running and safety of the local environment.

To represent the views of the residents. To manage and maintain parish facilities such as halls and play areas. To administer the precept for the benefit of the majority of the residents.

To work for the interests of all the community. To regulate future building on green field sites. Taking into account the schools and doctors capacity.

I have no idea, Shirland & Higham Parish Council are very poor in informing residents of what they are supposed to do and what they actually do.

Meeting locally to consider and engage with the local community on what services and budgets should be provided, for services they are locally entitled to provide.
Better since I've read your accompanying leaflet.
To make decisions for people in the parish. Represent views and concerns of people. To be responsible for the communities, parks, street lighting, litter, planning etc.
As per the accompanying information provided.
It would depend on the increase to council tax as to where the money would go to by informing the parish.
Act in interests of residents on local issues. Oversee planning applications and make comments. Point of contact for local issues to pass on through chain to district and county councils.
That they support the community by providing opportunities for entertainment etc.
To look after and maintain some of the facilities in their parish. Providing play areas. Looking after local planning. Keeping the villages clean.
Adding value to residents in the local area by providing events, group, support and services such as village halls, sports grounds and general village maintenance.
Responsible for local issues such as planning, also social events and issues for the community.
As per info.
To look after local residents needs and views.
They provide services to the local community.
Village matters.
To look after the needs of its parishioners.
I never gave it a lot of thought beyond them representing the needs of their local area.
A small group of local people meeting on a regular basis in the belief they have more influence and power than the entire western world.
To represent the interests of local people.
They are part of a three tier of local government. They have elections to appoint local parish councillors. They maintain the local village hall and provide the views and wishes of local residents. Can have views expressed when applications required in the local area. Provide local activities for residents to enjoy. Provide and run more activities for children in the area.
The parish council is a body that receives a precept from the district council to provide services at a local level.
To sort any issue concerning our local residency and hope to make it a happier place for everyone concerned.
To look after and maintain local facilities, also to improve and look to install new facilities.
As per the enclosed leaflet.
As per the attached leaflet.
Control of local services.
To improve and keep all amenities. To carry out canvassing of local views to ensure monies are spent well and not squandered on unpopular causes/items. To encourage local participation in meetings.

Local government. Provide community and a voice for taking action. They also manage their own budgets for the year.
To represent the people in the parish.
They look after village halls, public buildings, some give allotments to parishioners, maintain parks, cemeteries, churchyards, and other amenities.
Having been a parish councillor, my impression was that local consideration is on the agenda first hand and regardless of which political party is in power, they rarely or never considered parish council concerns.
As per enclosed information.
To have regular meetings, manage the budget set by the precept, to improve facilities and services for its community. Apply for funding such as grants and awards. To listen to the local community and try to fulfil their needs wherever possible. Represent the village at all levels and promote wellbeing and unity within the community.
Commenting on planning applications looks to be the big one.
To represent the people of the area. Make comments on planning applications. Provide and maintain a village hall. Maintain churchyards. Lights at Christmas. Plant bulbs in tubs etc. Provide allotments. Playgrounds etc.
Look after the local community and authorise and approve local initiatives and schemes. Maintain upkeep of local parks, village halls and sports pavilion. Providing and allocating allotments. Street light decor, e.g. hanging baskets, RBL poppies, Christmas lights and decorations.
I understand the role of a parish council because my wife is a Shirland & Higham Parish Councillor.
As outlined in your accompanying information.
Ideas and decisions for day-to-day running of Stonebroom.
Local democracy. Management of local services including funeral services and local halls.
Knowledge and understanding of the local area.
Very little
To make life more pleasant for the residents of the village. More control over illegal parking on High Street, i.e. extra-large van parked on the causeway, also difficult to see oncoming traffic when trying to get out of my drive.
To scrutinise planning applications. To improve the local area e.g. litter picking. To enhance the local environment.
To integrate the residents more into village life. Give benefits of floral display e.g. Christmas etc. To be independent on changes within the village.
A parish council is the first level of local government, having direction and control over the cemetery, tennis courts, children's play areas, football pitches, allotments, flower tubs and baskets, Christmas lighting, village hall and pavilion. Local observations on planning applications.
Provide services for the entire community, as outlined in the NEDDC pamphlet.
Servicing the needs of the community at a very local level.
To represent the views of local people and liaise back to district and thereby county authorities. To look after our wellbeing and to make relevant decisions on our behalf. They should communicate to and listen to the local community, that is not great here but we could work together to be more than we presently are.

They are knowledgeable about the area and can input on local issues. They provide a local link to the community and I think keep a local community going. They can help support with grants etc. Smaller P.C. means more personal to local village.
Providing local facilities.
Promotion of local community cohesion through provision of local amenities, support for community groups and initiatives and advocacy for the parish with wider bodies including district and county councils.
Sort things out.
To maintaining, improving the parishes they serve.
Parish Councils are responsible for an area in which decisions are made or services required for that area etc.
To manage / control issues affecting the parish.
To serve the people of Stonebroom, not just Shirland.
The main purpose is to improve facilities and services for the local area / village. Liaise with residents to understand community needs and manage the budget accordingly to provide the services required.
To fully represent all aspects of all residents within the parish as a whole. To allocate funds and resources fairly and proportionately.
I have been a parish councillor for many years and also on the district. I was Chair so have a full understanding.
Dealing with my local issues.
To support local people in local activities.
Talk a lot, do nothing, waste money.
To responsibly manage the allocated budget for the good of the local community. To endeavour to improve facilities and services for the benefit of the local population. To listen and respond to input from the immediate community re. services, wellbeing, state of the roads etc.
As per information sheet.
Look after / maintain community services and shared areas.
Providing a range of services for the community. In Shirland, mainly village hall and summer fate.
They provide local services.
To oversee how the budget is spent locally. To ensure that all local facilities and amenities are maintained safely. To listen to the views and requests of local residents. To ensure that necessary infrastructure is provided for growing community e.g. doctors, schools, safe places to meet and leisure facilities.
So we residents have more autonomy on immediate local issues.
Catering for the parishes interests.
I don't know.
To represent the views and make decisions for the people of the parish. To look after the best interests of the local community.
To decide how local government money is used within the parish to improve facilities for the local residents.
I have read the accompanying leaflet carefully, so everything mentioned on that.

Maintaining local amenities (village hall etc.), having a say in planning proposals, organising community events, bringing communities together.
To cater for the needs and help from a council of people who share the same problems.
Keeping churchyards tidy and cutting grass in and around graves. Making village halls fit for purpose. Providing allotments when possible and galas. I've stated in Q8 the parish council did more than I expected.
To look after the needs and interests of local people which we don't get now, for instance maintaining footpaths in the village.
Already a parish councillor.
To be responsible for managing a prescribed budget to support the parish area. Amenities such as play grounds dog bins halls small grants to voluntary groups. Fetes etc. etc.
Why is this question being asked? It makes no difference what a person's knowledge base is when voting in local elections therefore why is this vote any different? There is a danger of injecting bias into this survey by testing understanding rather than satisfaction levels. So if a person does not have a good understanding, does this make their opinion less valid?
To work for the benefit of the local residents.
In this case, I'm not sure. Presumably managing the burial grounds and cemeteries, there are only a few public buildings in Stonebroom, I think these can be adequately managed by the existing parish council.
To reflect the local needs for residents.
I believe that a parish council represents the community and is a voice for the parishioners and to oversee the facilities , buildings and land which at present the current council aren't doing a very good job
Maintain play areas Maintain village halls Maintain allotments Maintain burial grounds Maintain community areas
To provide local play areas for children, the upkeep of cemetery, responsibility for village hall, community centre and sports pavilion. To provide hanging baskets, flower beds for the parish.
Parish councils are like the governing boards of schools
As per the leaflet provided in the mailing
To work on behalf of the residents of the Parish.
They comment on planning applications, maintain the parish churchyard, provide allotments, maintain village halls, bus shelters etc. and keep the local area safe I.e. the new bridge at bottom of forest school (a footpath across to Morton). They are responsible for the Christmas lights on the lamp posts and hanging baskets in summer. They meet monthly and the public are welcome to attend with a 15 minute time allowed for questions or comments. The minutes from the previous meeting are freely available for the public to view, they also have a website. If a member of the parish has a problem in their parish they should bring it to the council's attention to be discussed at the next meeting.
Maintain village halls, churchyards, allotments. Comment on planning applications. Provide grit bins, hanging baskets in summertime and Christmas lights.
Maintaining village halls, graveyards and cemeteries, providing allotments.
I don't know because the parish council don't make themselves visible in the community

To look after and maintain aspects of the parish. To bring the residents of the village together and look out for the interests of all residents
Local democracy
Basic understanding but try to get to public meetings. Work permitting.
Maintain community buildings such as village halls Promote local interaction between villages Provide events for community engagement Be part of decisions on spending to benefit the community
Until recently I had little understanding of the role of the parish council. This was largely due to poor engagement with the community but the councillors.

Appendix 4 - Do you feel that Stonebroom would be able to sustain the running of its own parish council – ‘Yes’ comments.

Plenty of interested residents’ to get involved – 37 comments

When talking to local residents and neighbours there seems to be sufficient interest in standing for election to the council.
There is a strong feeling in Stonebroom for a separate council and several people have stated that they would be councillors.
Stonebroom has a diverse population and is not just a mining village anymore. There are lots of people who work hard to make the village better and will continue to do so.
The residents of Stonebroom appear to be supportive of having their own parish council.
I feel there are enough voices in the parish to justify this.
Separation is by request of Stonebroom so implies that there is local interest.
The village have more than enough people who fit the criteria of my answer to Q7.
The couple of meetings that have been organised has attracted a favourable group of people and residents of the local area. I am sure that there will be potential councillors in Stonebroom that can represent the village.
I feel there are a good enough wide range of intellects, ages and abilities to act on these needs.
Stone broom’s population has expanded dramatically over the last decade and is more than capable of providing its own council.
I would be willing to be involved, as I know would many others.
The position of clerk has already been named, the enthusiasm for members is also evident.
The village have an active community group who have strong relationships with local residents within this group (and are always recruiting). We have experienced committee members who will work closely in a new parish council.
Residents in the local area would be ideal, I know of residents who would come forward.
People will get behind it if it's in our hands and will better the village.
Very active community volunteers, has a 'get up and go' attitude.
I'm sure people would be more than happy to contribute if progress could be seen.
Because this is something to benefit the whole of the village e.g. making financial decisions and running of projects.
The meeting held to discuss the issue was well attended.

The people interested in running Stonebroom Council are more than capable or they would not be interested.
The younger working generation have shown great enthusiasm and already spoken about being on the new council if formed.
There are plenty of people who are interested in local matters.
It will draw people together who care about the community they live in.
During the past year there has been great support from local people who have developed things for children e.g. Forest School summer activities and HAF providing food parcels and meals for the needy and now a food bank has been established by a group of local people.
I am a regular reader of local activities on the local social media Facebook site and the newsletter. There are enough enthusiastic, educated people on there who I'm sure would be keen to get involved.
Stonebroom already has its own quarterly magazine and volunteers organising day trips, school holiday activities, walking, litter picking, a food bank, table top sales, quiz nights etc.
There are groups up and running already who do a lot for the community.
Because of the strong feelings about the proposal in the community.
We've got a good community, with people willing to put themselves forward.
Enough people say the same as me when I'm out and about in the village.
The residents have organised many good examples of social action. There is a strong commitment to community and my understanding is high dissatisfaction levels of the support from the current Parish Council
I think there are several people that would love the job, though I don't know if they would add value to the existing situation.
I know of a lot of people I'm the community that would like a chance to make a positive difference
They have a community group who run events for the community of Stonebroom
There are people from Stonebroom already planning to stand for the existing parish council who have said they will support a Stonebroom parish council. There are several community groups developing in the village who are driven to improve the village
Appeared to be plenty of support at meetings.
I know of several people who are planning to run for councillor, and have expressed an interest in promoting the improvement of the Stonebroom community.

More control / autonomy / own voice – 5 comments

Stonebroom has for far too long been a low concern, deprived area and the 'big brother' Shirland and Higham Parish Council have only been interested in what benefits them, whereby the likes of Stonebroom remain the status quo.
They would have more control over Stonebroom parish and make decisions on their behalf.
Because this is something to benefit the whole of the village e.g. making financial decisions and running of projects.
Stonebroom seems to be the poor relations
To put the wishes of Stonebroom residents first and foremost

Stonebroom area large enough to sustain – 3 comments

Stonebroom is large enough to sustain its own parish council and would be better for local councillors.

Stonebroom is a big enough area to warrant its own council and be able to support it.

Stonebroom is a large area with many residents, it is continuing to grow.

Other – 1 comment

There's already ample trouble makers who would internally combust trying to be on their own council.

Appendix 5 - Do you feel that Stonebroom would be able to sustain the running of its own parish council – ‘No’ – Other Comments

Why add extra cost, there will not be any extra cash.

Together we are stronger.

It's not a short term commitment and those up for the challenge can soon 'fall away' when they realise what's involved.

It will be the same people, not necessarily the best people. Amalgamate the three names and recruit for new from all three areas.

I do not see why they need a separate parish, they are very well cared for under the present Shirland/Higham/Stonebroom council. If it isn't broke, don't fix it!

Economies of scale

Lots of monologue. Expenses again.

Increased costs.

I think there are just a minority who want to form a separate council and I believe it was the idea of a person recently moved to the parish. There are some fantastic voluntary groups in Stonebroom now but I'm not sure it's understood what running a Parish Council entails. I do have concerns there may not be suitable candidates or enough. I also understand that two of the Parish councillors currently on Shirland and Higham council (from Stonebroom) will leave to be on the separate Stonebroom council. I ask myself why?

Shirland and Higham Parish council cover Stonebroom and Mickley very well.

Appendix 6 - Do you feel that a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area would help create a greater sense of pride and togetherness within the communities of Stonebroom and Shirland & Higham – ‘Yes’ comments

More control / autonomy / own voice – 13 comments

Within Stonebroom we would feel more in control of our future and therefore be more prepared to work towards achieving our goals.

I'm sure it would benefit the parish by having our own voice.

I think locals would be quite contributing with ideas.

At least we would have independence and freedom to negotiate better things to come, bringing back community spirit.

The new parish council will have Stonebroom at the heart of every discussion / action.
More local representation.
They will know the needs of Stonebroom people better than the Shirland Council.
So we residents have more autonomy on local issues.
Morton has benefitted greatly from having its own parish council and is a similar size. More control over things planned for Stonebroom.
Shared commitment, more opportunity for equitable financial support and a more dynamic response to community initiatives.
Stonebroom resident's wishes would be listened to.
It would enable more people who live in Stonebroom to be elected and have a say on how their village is administered.

Focus on individual villages – 11 comments

Because the parish councillors will be able to concentrate on just one village and will not have divided loyalties.
Separated parish councils will be able to focus expenditure / resources finely tuned to local area.
I feel by removing Stonebroom would give Shirland less responsibility and be able to concentrate on their own issues.
Gives a feeling of being individual.
At present Shirland and Higham struggles to feel like one community. Stonebroom adds to that sense of disjointedness.
People are very much concerned with problems in their close neighbourhood.
Because all the villages are very different so if they are governed locally each area can take pride in the things that are important to the distinct communities.
Knowing the parish council had the interests of our village and our village alone.
When I have asked on social media why Stonebroom doesn't have Christmas decorations or welcome to Stonebroom decorations the reply has always been there's 5 parishes to cater for and no funds.
I hope a Stonebroom parish council would better meet the needs of the residents of Stonebroom.
The demographics, population groups and affluence between Stonebroom, Shirland, Higham, Mickley and Toadhole furnace vary significantly. By having more distinctive parish areas the parish council will be able to deliver services that meet the needs of the local community whilst working collaboratively with the surrounding areas on projects of mutual interest.

End to perceived inequalities – 10 comments

Many comments expressed over the years seem to reflect the opinion that Stonebroom is always last in line for most things and it would help if it was felt that everyone was pulling together to improve our village.
We always seem to be the 'poor relations'.
Currently feels Stonebroom's local needs are side-tracked to Shirland & Higham.
Stonebroom people looking out for ourselves instead of being classed like we don't matter.

Current imbalance in parish council. Stonebroom has its own needs / aims.
Stonebroom has been deprived of a parish council.
Stonebroom seems to be the poor relation.
Stonebroom appears to get left behind in things, maybe will be better as a single parish.
Stonebroom feels like the poor relation currently.
Stonebroom have always felt left out by Shirland parish council.

Community spirit / pride / togetherness – 10 comments

In the past Stonebroom seemed to have a better community spirit than Shirland & Higham.
It would be nice to feel part of a community after only just moving to this area.
My experience of village life has shown that villages have a strong feeling of togetherness in their own village.
Pride in togetherness and pride in showing our local area.
Yes for Stonebroom, not sure about Shirland & Higham.
Bringing the villages together more.
More local people in the area makes a better community.
Each village has different needs and if Stonebroom is separate I feel it will motivate the community to take more pride and care of the village.
Because certain people already do so much for our community.
More and more are willing to help the local community whether that's for the children, the elderly or the general community.

Less internal disputes – 2 comments

2/3rds of the parish act fairly and respectfully. Stonebroom local councillors do not bring anything to the table.
There have been disagreements in the past about how the money has been used between the villages.

Village growth – 1 comment

Stonebroom has grown over the last few decades and should have its fair share of own money to spend in the local community.

Appendix 7 - Do you feel that a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area would help create a greater sense of pride and togetherness within the communities of Stonebroom and Shirland and Higham – ‘No’ comments.

Proposal would create separation / division – 14 comments

It would create separation and segregation where currently the villages come together and co-operate in one parish.
Separation does not foster togetherness.
I think it will divide communities more.

If there were two separate small councils, there would be constant disagreements between them.

It's difficult to get people to stand as councillors without fragmenting further.

Unlikely to increase togetherness, more likely to reduce it.

May cause divisions.

Divisive and spreads division, much misinformation has been put about in the community.

The opposite, it would split us up! We need to get together and talk and find out how we could work better together. Higham lacks community play space, all three lack green space and woodland.

I think it would divide us. Stonebroom are extremely well served by the present parish council, they even already have the benefit of the doctors surgery on their doorsteps.

I am not sure that most people think that way.

It would be divisive.

A separate parish council goes against togetherness.

I'm not sure how dividing the district will make us feel more proud.

Community pride already exists – 7 comments

I think people have pride and are community minded already regardless of whether Shirland, Higham or Stonebroom.

The two parishes seem to have a good sense of pride in helping each other already.

The current parish council already achieves this.

Already a good community spirit in Stonebroom.

Relationships between villages have worked over many years so why change.

Stonebroom and Higham are very different villages and already have pride in their communities. Lots of voluntary groups in Stonebroom now.

I don't think we need a separate parish council to have a sense of pride. We already have a sense of pride.

Lack of enthusiasm to engage in the community – 5 comments

Shirland and Stonebroom are both too small and have a high percentage of council houses and people don't contribute, to taking part or being part of most things.

People don't give two hoots about pride and togetherness, that's why all the pubs have closed, times have changed.

The majority of parishioners aren't interested.

No one is interested.

Only a few will be interested.

Proposal would make no difference – 5 comments

There has been no sense of 'pride and togetherness' in the 50+ years I have lived here and no parish council will ever improve that.

I don't think it would affect the togetherness of our area at all.

We're all squashed against each other anyway.
Nothing would change how the villages already interact with each other.
Nothing to change.

Proposal initiated by a small group – 2 comments

There are a small number of people who are in pursuit of glory for their own gains.
The proposal for a separate parish council came from a few individuals to enhance their own egos, or power, within the local community. It would not help most people, as the existing parish council is well run.

Strength in numbers is better – 2 comments

As in question 6, I think the parish is too small to carry any weight, strength in numbers is better I think.
Looking at the minutes and agendas for the current parish council there is ample time to consider any Stonebroom matters. Stonebroom is simply not big enough to need its own parish council. Would also impact effectiveness of Shirland and Higham PC.

Lack of experience / numbers of councillors – 2 comments

They may be too inexperienced to run a council.
I feel Shirland Stretton and Mickley will not have enough dedicated councillors.

Appendix 8 - Do you feel the considered changes would create a drive within the local community to improve the effectiveness of the parish council within the area – ‘Yes’ comments.

More control / autonomy / own voice & local needs – 26 comments

If Stonebroom was in control of its own finances and decisions people would become more interested in what was happening.
Within Stonebroom we would feel more in control of our future and therefore be more prepared to work towards achieving our goals.
Greater focus on Stonebroom resident’s needs, preferences and specific requirements.
Because they appear keen to manage their own affairs.
Because there will be ownership of decisions made.
They would have own parish councillors to improve the local community.
I think if locals run it is easier to keep check on proposals.
This would give Stonebroom the chance to prove their worth.
We would deliver / support local issues / projects / consultations at the centre of the community.
Giving local people more choice on local issues would instil the drive and pride to do more.
Maybe an element of competition as to who provides the best services.

Attention could be focussed more specifically in each area. The very process of change showed a renewed commitment to parish development.
Provide the opportunity to assess the needs of the community more thoroughly.
Gives other areas a fighting chance of fair representation.
Local representation with local representatives.
We would have our own autonomy.
They will have more control over their own immediate local area.
With council help they could do so much more so our community.
Because people involved would be more locally involved.
Local people would own more of the decisions. The social demographic is different for both areas and a separate council would ensure a more focussed approach to local government.
The elected Parish Councillors would work more effectively for Stonebroom.
This has been raised as a solution to an existing problem. I'm not sure what that problem is, as I have not followed the appropriate discourse, but this proposal should bring more attention to the concerns, whatever they were.
The parish as is, is far too big to accommodate all needs. Splitting it up would benefit everyone.
I think Shirland parish council would realise that it's not just for their village's benefit there is also Mickley Higham and Stonebroom
Because the current parish council is not effective in delivering services to the wide range of residents in the current parish area
The current parish council is trying to align the needs of a very diverse population, in terms of affluence and distribution of age in the community.

Increase local community engagement with parish council – 12 comments

I feel more people would take a greater interest in what the parish council where up to.
It has already made me look into the work, or lack of it, by the parish council.
The more 'ownership' the more people are willing to work towards making it work well.
Harness enthusiasm, local people solving local problems.
Working for the purpose of making the village residents feel 'special'.
As the people concerned live in Stonebroom they will know where improvements are needed.
People would feel supported and encouraged by a local council.
People would feel their voices are heard.
It will mean that more time to discuss problems, planning issues during council meetings as they are only dealing with issues in one village and all the councillors will live in the area affected.
I think it would attract a lot more volunteers
Whichever way this goes there will be pressure from local residents for more for Stonebroom
The current parish council is not fit for purpose, it does not engage with community members or make itself accessible to the committee or supposedly serves. They only hold their meetings in one village despite the pc covering 4 villages, meaning those without transport have limited access to attend. Also take for instance the

installation of play equipment at Stonebroom and Mickley. The equipment was ordered by the pc without any consultation with the residents, it was only a week before the equipment was due to be installed that the pc attendee the playing fields to gather the opinion of the children it was intended for, as part of the grant requirement. This action was just a box ticking exercise required as part of the grant which funded the equipment , with the results of this survey having no impact on what was installed as it was already ordered and planned for installation.

Increase local pride – 6 comments

A sense of pride in a once mining community's heritage.

Giving local people more choice on local issues would instil the drive and pride to do more.

Civic pride.

Yes it would, as the many successful groups within Stonebroom are already improving inclusiveness and participation in many activities and making Stonebroom a great place to live.

They would feel their needs are being addressed locally and this would help them feel a sense of pride in our village.

Self-pride.

Appendix 9 - Do you feel the considered changes would create a drive within the local community to improve the effectiveness of the parish council within the area – 'No' comments.

Current parish council already effective – 8 comments

The parish council already does this and Stonebroom has a greater take on funds as it is, and has never been denied requests for improvements.

The parish council is active as it stands for all of us.

We only need one parish council in the area.

The current parish council is already achieving this.

Don't see why it should, what's wrong in not wanting to be different in ideas to help the village.

Community groups already have support of pc.

There is nothing wrong as it is.

Already opportunities under current arrangement.

Proposal would create separation / division – 5 comments

No, just the opposite, it would create rivalry and bickering.

If there were two separate small councils, there would be constant disagreements between them.

Unlikely to increase togetherness, more likely to reduce it.

I do not believe it would create drive within the local community, only division.

I do not believe there exists a sense of belonging to a local community.

Increased costs / less funding – 3 comments

Both parishes would have increased bills and less funding than combined, so would not be beneficial.

It won't make any difference other than costing more.

We would be fighting for the same dwindling pots of money and competing, not working together.

Not effective long-term – 1 comment

Maybe it would create an initial drive but the long term response may not be effective.

Stonebroom already separate – 1 comment

I feel that Stonebroom is already considered as a separate village and community.

Stronger together – 1 comment

Together will pull us to improve all areas.

Proposal initiated by a small group – 1 comment

The proposal for a separate parish council came from a few individuals to enhance their own eyes or power within the local community. It would not help most people As the existing parish council is well run.

General lack of enthusiasm in parish council – 1 comment

No one is interested in a parish council.

Appendix 10 - Do you have any further comments to make in regards to the proposal.

Proposal will better meet the needs of the local community – 8 comments

I feel that smaller communities are better able to consider issues which directly affect them. Less interest is shown toward other villages when these issues arise.

I hope enough people in the local area come together to make it happen and we get representation in Stonebroom.

A local approach would more likely understand and meet the community's wants, desires and solutions, than an individual to report back from outside the area.

The people of Stonebroom have worked very hard to maintain the village and need support by a council who live locally and understand their requirements. We all need to work together to make our village a great place to live and work in. We need a strong team of local people to lead and guide us and show us what is available to improve our environment and make it a happy place to be proud of. A

council has the knowledge to help us to apply for grants and funding to improve the area.

Please listen to the voice of Stonebroom people. Their voice is important and the fact that there are so many people wanting to have their own council suggests that current arrangements are not working.

It will mean that Stonebroom will have a really local opinion on what happens to their village and how money should be spent on it.

Stonebroom has quite a few willing volunteers for different projects which all do well but I am sure would do even better with our own Stonebroom parish council just for Stonebroom.

I wish to see a parish council better representative of Stonebroom, for the betterment of Stonebroom and those within.

Current parish council too large – 6 comments

The Shirland & Higham parish council is one of the largest parish councils in the country, possibly making it unwieldy and unmanageable.

The present parish council is one of the largest in the country and is unwieldy trying to cater for the needs of several communities which differ widely in their requirements.

I believe that the present parish is too large to cope with at the moment, so for Stonebroom to have their own council would alleviate Shirland to concentrate on a smaller parish.

My personal opinion as a current councillor of Shirland and Higham Parish Council is that the parish is too large. Each village requires different facilities and needs. Surrounding parishes around Stonebroom i.e. Morton and Tibshelf have their own council and doing really well with the similar size village. At present the current parish council is not meeting everyone's needs as one box doesn't fit all, so to speak.

I don't think I've heard of anywhere else that has such a huge demographic to be called a parish. Most are run for the individual villages not for a small town as this existing parish is. Stonebroom needs to be able to decide for itself on what happens here to better its own community facilities.

It really is time to make a change the parish is too big and growing and each village needs different needs but currently we are all under the same rule , it's just not working , the current council is over run with Shirland councillors so they always have the majority when it comes to voting .

Villages have differing interests / requirements / needs – 5 comments

Historically and culturally, Stonebroom as an ex-mining village has had little in common with either Shirland or Higham and this division of interest continues to the present day.

Historically there are quite wide social differences between Shirland & Higham and Stonebroom and much of this difference continues today.

I'm new to the area so maybe I'm wrong, but Higham seems to have residents with a different lifestyle to Stonebroom, as does Shirland. A broad generalisation I

know, but look at the houses and cars! Perhaps of all three areas, Stonebroom is under represented currently if I consider it.

We would like (as Shirland and Higham have) proper bus shelters with digital running bus times. 30-speed limit signs along Birkinstyle Lane and High Street.

Each village needs different needs but currently we are all under the same rule, it's just not working, the current council is over run with Shirland councillors so they always have the majority when it comes to voting.

Current parish council is fine / no need to change – 5 comments

I have lived in Stonebroom for over 50 years and I'm satisfied with the Shirland and Higham Parish Council.

The parish as currently is works for all involved, so it shouldn't be split. Maybe different changes can be made to support rather than splitting the villages.

Stonebroom do very well out of our union. They not only have the doctor's surgery, but also the pavilion, allotments, a football field, new play equipment and have had lots of resurfacing. I do not understand how going alone would be of any benefit to any of the residents of either Stonebroom, Higham or Shirland. I can only assume this is about the profile for whoever has come up with this idea. Our union has worked well for 50 years plus, so if it isn't broke, don't fix it.

It's alright as it is.

Although Higham is a very different village to Stonebroom, Shirland and Mickley (They have no council houses and it is considered a more affluent area) I feel Shirland and Higham Parish council serve all the villages well.

Lack of individuals prepared to get involved / lack of general interest – 5 comments

People need to take more interest in what we have already.

To judge from the attendance at parish council meetings, I do not think enough people would devote themselves to work on a separate council. What would happen if the Stonebroom and/or Shirland Parish Councils failed?

We just need new councillors at the May elections. Never been to a meeting yet where there is a full team and people asleep and having to be prompted what to vote and when to put their hand up. So one person gets two votes, never right.

I just hope the residents that have made the effort to attend the pc meetings since the first public meeting was held now appreciate how hard it is running a pc. Also if Stonebroom does separate it will be under the same rules and regulations as every other pc.

Sometimes change is good but in this instance I really can't see how Stonebroom would be any better off. I've been to every Parish council meeting at Shirland in the last 6 months and there has never been more than 9 members of the public there. (Usually less than that, some of those being the ones who want to separate). Maybe those who want to separate should apply to be a councillor on Shirland and Higham Parish council?

Proposal would create more autonomy / control for villages – 4 comments

It is difficult to activate interest in your local area when it is felt that you have very little control over such things as finance.

It would be good to have our own parish so we can choose what goes on around us and to make our own decisions. Also we can be self-sufficient with the help of the council.

Current council does not fairly allocate resources. Local democracy starts with parish councils, Stonebroom deserves better.

Shirland and Higham is constantly getting more housing so will soon be able to function as a parish council on its own without Stonebroom. This will make the decision making about how monies are spent in the different communities much easier and stop any future conflict and disagreements.

Parish council to communicate with residents better – 3 comments

Whatever happens to these councils, pressure should be put on them to be more active, communicative and responsive.

Wish they would post when meetings are in the area, not only at the village hall, not everyone goes there.

Currently we experience very little feedback on council activity. Perhaps the attention of our councillors is too thinly spread.

Proposal would create separation / division – 3 comments

I suspect it will bring Stonebroom into more local engagement within that area, but it may lose togetherness and co-ordination with Shirland and Higham.

There are too many tiers of government in the UK already. This country has never been so divided and creating more divisions will make things worse. This country is broken and in my view it's beyond repair.

Three villages together will make a stronger community spirit, separation might lead to jealousy between villages that alone cannot be an ideal situation in today's economic climate ... haves and not haves.

Proposal initiated by a small group – 3 comments

This is just an ego trip for one man who has lost power and control of his small empire. No one has yet given a valid reason for this breakaway. He is responsible for blocking any financial support for structural repairs to the village hall, which is now in need of a new roof and yet Stonebroom have a new pavilion and meeting hub of which the costs are met entirely by the parish council. There's an old saying 'if it isn't broken, don't fix it', that applies here.

This idea seemed to come about in a hurried manner by a few and I wonder how much the community really understand how well they are supported by the current council

I think it's a select few who want Stonebroom to have a separate council. I've lived in Stonebroom 27 years and no one has implicated they'd like to separate as far as I'm aware in all those years.

Proposals would increase costs / reduce funding – 3 comments

Difficulty in splitting assets, where would the boundary be set. Another parish clerk would be an extra cost for parishioners of Stonebroom and I suspect that a true cost has not yet been made aware to the people that will end up paying for it.

Cost of living is high enough without increasing such likes as council tax.

Very unclear what the driver is for the suggested change. Insufficient financial resources as it is and pressure on council tax doesn't need the burden of another parish council to service.

Create a sense of local pride – 2 comments

Major changes are needed in this village to give it a feeling of pride very much lacking for years. People should take responsibility for their properties.

All three areas are struggling with disjointed thinking badly thought out developments and excessive housing with little or no investment in infrastructure. Our GP practice is struggling our schools are already overflowing traffic has increased especially large lorries through Stonebroom and the only evidence I see of parish is the same flower containers I see everywhere Obviously a job lot! We need to pull people together and decide what is best for all of us basically three small communities that could be powerful together.

Proposals may not be successful – 1 comment

It's a big thing to separate and it may not work out.

General support – 1 comment

I strongly support the petition for a Stonebroom parish council.

General disagreement – 1 comment

This is a total waste of time and money and it will not be supported by the majority.

Other comments – 4 comments

I think there should be a referendum.

I have personal and local issues with both DCC & NEDDC, in which I feel I am being totally disregarded, especially concerning the redundant Morton Colliery site and the transfer of public designated land to third parties with these two councils encouragement. Due to the past 3 years of seriously ill health and in my 89th year, I am disrespected or disregarded. I am now back on the scene and will be acting on these serious issues. The above councils are actually elected to be custodians of the public's assets, but they have overturned their professional capacity, in a situation where the public's employees are transferring their employers assets for self-gratification, in yet another example of 'the tail wagging the dog'. The two councils above are champions at time wasting, incompetence and misleading

rhetoric. At least if the situation could be handled at local parish council level, it would be quicker.

Top of tree politicians with a degree of corruption. Bottom of tree politicians the same but on a smaller scale.

This is the fourth survey I have completed. When is the wishes of Stonebroom residents finally taken into account? Or will this continue, until we get so fed up that we will just give up the fight for a separate parish council.