

West Lindsey Parish Charter

Consultation Report – May 2020

Introduction

As part of reviewing and introducing an updated Parish Charter, a consultation was held inviting responses from all Town Councils, Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in West Lindsey. This report provides the results and comments obtained during this consultation.

The consultation opened on 5th February 2020 and closed on 30th April 2020.

1. Responses Received

A total of **12** responses were received from parish or town councils

- 8 of these were from Parish Councils
- 2 of these were from Parish Meetings
- 2 of these were from Town Councils

Bardney Parish Council	Blyton Parish Council	Brampton Parish Meeting
Brattleby Parish Council	Broadholme Parish Meeting	Brookenby Parish Council
Gainsborough Town Council	Great Limber Parish Council	Greetwell Parish Council
Ingham Parish Council	Market Rasen Town Council	Nettleham Parish Council

A total of 1 response was received from an individual not associated with a local council and has been discounted.

2. Parish Charter

How easy do you feel the Parish Charter is to read and understand?

5 – Very difficult	4	3 – Neither easy nor difficult	2	1 – Very easy
0	0	3	3	6

Do you feel this Parish Charter fulfils the purpose of outlining how we will work together?

Not Sure	No	Yes
1	1	10

If you feel that anything has been missed from this Parish Charter please say here:

- *The proposed Parish Charter would provide WLDC with input to the decision making of the Parish Council, which is not in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and Local Government Act 1972. In return the Parish Charter states that a Parish Council would only receive the same treatment as a member of the public. The proposal is over one sided.*
- *Greater co-operation on planning matters. Local knowledge of the village is disregarded and requests for applications to go before committee have been ignored.*
- *Issues with Neighbourhood Plans not being studied by WLDC Planning (Noted, just two lines given to this vital community tool!*
- *No reference to Planning interaction*
- *As I see it there is no specific point of contact liaison officer for Parish Council Clerks to ring in order to be assisted or sign posted to the correct department or Officer. A separate and most secret phone number to a specific Department who may act as sign posters may help or a specific email address for a specific Officer may help. This is due to any organisation of the Council size being difficult to navigate ones way around to correct Officers and perhaps being given incorrect information.*

3. Relationship

To what level do you feel the relationship between your council and West Lindsey works?

5 – Very bad	4	3 – Neither good nor bad	2	1 – Very good
0	2	2	4	4

Do you feel that the Parish Charter will help improve the relationships between your council and the District Council?

5 – Make it worse	4	3 – No difference	2	1 – Big improvement
1	0	7	4	0

Any comments on how this Parish Charter could improve the relationship:

- *Some departments within WLDC are more receptive to working with our Parish Council than others. The proposed Parish Charter does not offer anything that would improve the relationship.*
- *To listen what communities are saying*

- *Yes it would improve the relationship in some eventualities but I have not had any problem with West Lindsey. If I am in any doubt as who to contact I have always been directed to an appropriate person where everyone has been most helpful. Regarding our Parish Meeting, very few people show any interest as to what's happening, .and regarding question 10 I am fully aware of those issues. Regarding a public liaison meeting we would be unable to attend. So would depend on a Parishioner, which is unlikely to happen.*
- *Putting it into practice - in the last 6 months we have only seen the district councillors once. I've not heard of a Parish Forum since being appointed in August last year.*
- *If it defined clear service agreements*
- *If there is a proper understanding by all then it may work. A lot is down to education as usual and writing in as already said a specific contact point for Parish Clerks.*

4. Parish Forums

Have you attended a previous Parish Forum organised by the District Council?

Cannot remember	No	Yes
0	8	4

How would you rate how useful the last Parish Forum was that you attended?

5 – Very useless	4	3 – Neither useful / useless	2	1 – Very useful
0	0	1	2	1

Which of the following elements do you feel are important to get from a public liaison meeting?

Updates on finance and parish precept	7
Information on support schemes for local communities	9
Information about grants and funding	10
Networking with other local councillors	6
Interaction with other parish, town and district councillors	6
Ability to ask questions	8
Ability to discuss local issues	7

How far would you be prepared to travel in a car for this meeting?

Up to 10 minutes	Up to 20 minutes	Up to 30 minutes	Up to 40 minutes
1	3	5	2

How many Parish Forums would you attend per year?

0	1	2 or more
1	5	6

5. Additional Comments

Please provide any other comments about the draft Parish Charter:

- *BGPC have no recollection of ever being invited to a Parish Forum and certainly we are not aware of their existence. LALC already offer a means for Parish Councillors and Clerks to network and discuss current issues. The proposed Charter is also dependent on a good working relationship with the district councillor, sadly this doesn't always happen and BGPC are not the only ones to encounter this problem. BGPC would very much welcome the opportunity to achieve mutually beneficial working relationship with WLDC, however sadly this document does not provide a way forward to achieve this.*
- *Being such a small community and having no precept it is hard to feel we belong to the system. There is very little enthusiasm for such matters in our village. It is hard to see what we would gain from the Charter or what we can contribute.*
- *The 'Parish Charter' is a document of 'Good intentions'. However, it only remains so where WLDC are prepared to listen to the issues Parish Councils - and ultimately the community - have in their locality.*
- *The Town Council discussed the Charter at a meeting last night and members had no specific comments to forward on.*
- *The acknowledgement time of within 5 working days of receipt is not very ambitious in the age of e-mail. Similarly a full response within 20 days is too long.*
- *A useful document to enhance the relationship between Parish, Town and District Councils.*
- *My main concern is that in the charter it makes no mention of any specific point of contact within WLDC, which would be for only for Parish/Town Clerks. A point of contact at WLDC from which assistance in the first instance may be obtained, or a WLDC Officer who can be properly sign post, to the correct Officer who deals with particular issues. This may be by phone, or email.*