



## SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Serving Little Aston, Shenstone, Stonnall, Shenstone Wood End, Lynn,  
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19<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### **Shenstone Parish Council Response to the LDC 2022 Community Governance Review**

Shenstone Parish Council has agreed the statement of reasons below as the first consultation stage submission to Lichfield District Council. The Parish Council can see no substantive reason to adjust the existing Parish boundary which includes the villages of Shenstone, Stonnall and Little Aston and neighbouring hamlets. In making this submission the Parish Council has taken into consideration the four-community governance review key issues identified by the District Council.

#### **1. The identities and interests of the community in the area.**

- (i) The communities within the Parish Council area face very common issues. Protection of the Green Belt in this particular part of the District and County; commuter traffic pressures and hazards; appropriate forms of new private ownership and affordable village homes; maintenance and provision of services devolved from the County and District. These pressures and demands have been faced and managed effectively by the Parish Council.
- (ii) The three largest communities in the Parish each have a live Neighbourhood Plan which has been assembled out of extensive consultation and protects the individual priorities of each community and each is constantly supported by the Parish Council. There is a Parish Council commitment that following the approval of the latest LDC Local Plan all three will be refreshed with their communities
- (iii) Shenstone Parish Council has a strong record of actively pursuing appropriate membership from all three village communities to transparently maintain representation balance.

#### **2. Effective governance.**

- (i) The Parish Council has secured resources in addition to the annual precept allocation for the benefit of all residents. Recent examples of significant additional resources have been secured from the Community Infrastructure Levy and the Rural Community Energy Fund and have always applied to all the eligible villages even if only generated by one village.
- (ii) The Parish Council has been effective in the management of its resources in that it has been able to request and set a zero Parish Precept increase to the benefit of all in financial years 20/21 and 21/22. The Parish Council has achieved this while at the same time absorbing inflation and existing expenditure growth requests.
- (iii) The Parish Council has actively supported the three communities in taking over assets and functions previously provided at the County Council level and at risk of potential closure. The Shenstone Library and the Stonnall Youth and Community Centre are two recent examples.

### **3. Community Cohesion.**

(i) The Parish Council has Neighbourhood Plans and has any ongoing consultation events that are inclusive of the needs of the very young, young, elderly, disabilities, families, single households, low-income households, gender, and ethnicity. This approach combined with the scale of Parish Council resources gives it ability to effectively secure appropriate investment and service solutions.

(ii) The Parish Council Community Grant allocations which total circa £25k annually achieve an overall balance between all communities over time with specific years often responding to the particular needs of one village area. These grants are vital to the community organisations that maintain a wide range of supportive community services.

(iii) The Parish Council communicates regularly with all residents using Newsletter and social media and in addition receives formal and informal feedback on key issues from all sections of each community.

### **4. Does the size, population and boundaries make sense and contribute to the above.**

(i) The Parish Council is the largest in the District Council area. This allows service efficiencies and Parish service delivery solutions not seen elsewhere. Local government service delivery has benefitted from appropriate size solutions, domestic refuse collection services being an example. For the Parish Council this is seen with the grounds maintenance contract with LDC and with the employment of Lenghtsman, posts which have positively increased the reputation and satisfaction with the Parish Council significantly.

(ii) Due to the position of the Parish Council and its three main villages within the highly protected Green Belt the size of the total population has not increased significantly compared to other communities within LDC. Therefore, the overall size has remained relatively stable. The only village with any significant growth is in Shenstone where the Local Plan has a growth designation of c.50 new homes. No change to Shenstone Parish Council is justified by population growth.

(iii) The boundaries of the Parish Council take in the geography south of Lichfield with strong delineation provided by the A5 to the north and the Birmingham City Council boundary to the south. The current boundaries enclose communities with similar challenges, needs and ambitions and are therefore best served by the existing Parish Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Salter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cllr David Salter  
Chairman, Shenstone Parish Council