Agenda

General Purposes Committee

16 April 2024
at 7pm

The Guildhall, St Peter's Place, Canterbury

Membership of the Committee:
Councillor James Flanagan (Chair)
Councillor Alister Brady (Vice Chair)
Councillor Dane Buckman
Councillor Pat Edwards
Councillor Peter Old
Councillor Naomi Smith
Councillor Ian Stockley
Councillor Jeanette Stockley
Councillor Steven Wheeler

Quorum: 5

NOTES
1. Members of the public may speak at meetings of the Committee so long as they contact Democratic Services by 12.30pm the working day before the meeting.
2. The venue for the meeting is wheelchair accessible and has an induction loop to help people who are hearing impaired.
3. Everyone is welcome to record meetings of the Council and its Committees using whatever non-disruptive methods you think are suitable. If you are intending to do this please mention it to the Democratic Services Officer and do not use flash photograph unless you have previously asked whether you may do so. If you have any questions about this please contact Democratic Services (members of the press please contact the Press Office).

Please note that the Chair of the meeting has the discretion to withdraw permission and halt any recording if in the Chair's opinion continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting. Reasons may include disruption caused by the filming or recording or the nature of the business being conducted.

Anyone filming a meeting is asked to only focus on those actively participating but please also be aware that you may be filmed or recorded whilst attending a council meeting and that attendance at the meeting signifies your agreement to this if it occurs. You are also reminded that the laws of defamation apply and all participants whether speaking, filming or recording are reminded that respect should be shown to all those included in the democratic process.

Persons making recordings are requested not to put undue restrictions on the material produced so that it can be reused and edited by all local people and organisations on a noncommercial basis.

If a meeting passes a motion to exclude the press and public then, in conjunction with this, all rights to record the meeting are removed.

4. The information contained within this agenda is available in other formats, including Braille, large print, audio cassettes and other languages.
Contact: Democracy, 01227 862009, democracy@canterbury.gov.uk

Agenda

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 SUBSTITUTE COUNCILLORS

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

TO RECEIVE any declarations for the following in so far as they relate to the business for the meeting:-

a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
b. Other Significant Interests (what were previously thought of as nonpecuniary Prejudicial interests)
c. Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests

Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests not required to be disclosed as DPI's or OSI's, ie announcements made for transparency reasons alone, such as:
• Membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items, or
• Where a Councillor knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person, or
• Where an item would affect the well-being of a Councillor, relative, close associate, employer, etc but not his/her financial position.

[Note: an effect on the financial position of a Councillor, relative, close associate, employer, etc; OR an application made by a Councillor, relative, close associate, employer, etc, would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI].

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may speak on any item on the agenda, for a maximum of three minutes, provided that notification has been given to Democratic Services by 12.30pm on the working day before the Meeting.

5 MINUTES

To confirm as a true record the minutes of the meetings held on 13 December 2023 and 29 January 2024..

6 PETITION FOR A WHITSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - RESPONSE TO STAGE 1 CONSULTATION

TO CONSIDER the report of the Director of Corporate Services.

7 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

8 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

TO RESOLVE - That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act or the Freedom of Information Act or both.

9 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS WHICH FALLS UNDER THE EXEMPT PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 OR THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 OR BOTH

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 13th December, 2023 at 7.00 pm in The Guildhall, St Peter's Place, Westgate, Canterbury

Present: Councillor Flanagan (Chairman)
Councillor Brady
Councillor Buckman
Councillor Edwards
Councillor Old
Councillor Smith
Councillor I Stockley
Councillor J Stockley
Councillor Wheeler

In attendance

Officers:	Tricia Marshall	-	Director of Corporate Services
	Matthew Archer	-	Head of Corporate Governance
	Katherine Bescoby	-	Electoral Services Manager
	Pippa Tritton	-	Democratic Services Officer

417 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

418 **SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were no substitute councillors.

419 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair made a general announcement that the speaker was known to some councillors.

420 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair advised that there was one public speaker for the meeting who would be heard directly before the relevant item.

421 **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Head of Corporate Governance explained the terms of reference for the General Purposes Committee and stated that it covered three areas, which were (a) Human Resources matters such as health and safety at work policies, or serious incidents

that needed reporting; (b) Election related issues and; (c) miscellaneous items, including those which were not assigned to other committees.

This was NOTED.

422 **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW IN THE UNPARISHED AREA OF WHITSTABLE**

(Public speaker Bernadette Fisher spoke prior to discussion of the item.)

Matthew Archer, Head of Corporate Governance introduced the report to ask Council to approve the terms of reference, timetable and consultation plan for a Community Governance Review (CGR) for the unparished area of Whitstable.

He explained that the council was under a duty to carry out a CGR as it had received a valid community governance petition for the whole or part of the council's area (signatures had been received by 7.5% of the electorate for the area defined).

He noted that the unparished area of the Chestfield Ward was included within the boundary of the review.

Councillors debated the report and comments included the following (where required, clarification was provided by the Head of Corporate Governance, the Corporate Services Director and the Electoral Services Manager):

- The benchmark for the petition of 7.5% of the electorate was set in legislation as the threshold to trigger a review.
- A mix of views from different demographics were sought in order to get a representative as a whole. Events would be held in places where participation might otherwise be low.
- Those signing the petition had to supply an address, this would be analysed post consultation stage to see if there was any geographical variance.
- Did Dargate or other outlying areas need a separate consultation?
- The review could come up with an alternative boundary if it was felt the proposed boundary was too broad and did not meet the criteria, but the suggested option felt like a good starting point as it denoted the unparished area.
- The threshold was reached as per the area on the map, not the specified wards.
- Questions were asked about how interest would be generated; if people didn't respond they might end up with a Town Council, whether or not they wanted it.
- Social media would be used to make people aware of the Review, alongside other communications and consultation events.
- It was possible that residents would argue against a Town Council, as well as for.
- Precepts varied from parish to parish, but it was felt that £60-80pa for a band D property was a reasonable estimate to communicate in the consultation.
- All Saints Church in Whitstable was suggested as a suitable venue for a further consultation event and this would be investigated.
- Residents wouldn't necessarily know what a town council's powers could be, and typical powers would need to be explained.
- It was suggested that a member of Kent Association of Parish Councils (KALC) be invited to give a broad view.

- There would be an election process for town councillors, and it could be a challenge attracting suitable candidates.
- The election process would work the same way as parish councils.
- There were very few statutory services that town councils had to provide; some do very little and some do a lot. They have quite broad discretionary powers.
- Accounts for a town council would be independently audited. The Council's Monitoring Officer would cover code of conduct monitoring and complaints.
- As far as officers were aware, there was no national move towards a unitary authority.
- It was important to reach out to those in areas who wouldn't normally engage with consultations. Could schools be asked to assist by circulating details via their mailing lists?
- QR codes could be added to any printed documentation.
- Officers stated that capacity may be an issue with some suggested actions but they would all be considered and discussed with the consultation team.
- The issue of warding would be considered further. It may be necessary with a larger area, and could help with election arrangements as an election could be held just for that Ward if only one vacancy.
- Further information on the whole process could be discussed with KALC.
- Councillors acknowledged that resources were limited but were keen that consideration was given to at least a third meeting as the priorities of residents in different areas may be very different.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote unanimously agreed:

Recommended (to Council):
1. That a Community Governance Review be conducted, in accordance with\ the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and the timetable and terms of reference set out in the appendices to the report be approved;
2. That the Head of Corporate Governance, in consultation with the Head of Paid Service, be authorised to take all necessary steps in relation to the review;
3. That a Task and Finish Advisory Group be appointed to consider the review and make recommendations to the Council, comprising seven councillors (three Labour, two LibDem, one Conservative and one Green Party).
4. Consideration to be given to a third meeting venue to ensure that the priorities of residents in different parts of Whitstable be taken into account.

Record of voting:
For (9): Councillors James Flanagan, Alister Brady, Dane Buckman, Pat Edwards, Peter Old, Naomi Smith, Ian Stockley, Janette Stockley, Steven Wheeler
Against (0)
Abstained (0)

423 **POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW**

Katherine Bescoby, Electoral Services Manager explained that all councils were required to undertake a review of their polling districts and places for parliamentary elections between 1 October 2023 January 2025. She added that the the report presented feedback from the review and suggested changes to existing arrangements for consideration.

In response to queries from councillors, the Electoral Services Manager stated that alternatives could be considered in future and changes made.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote unanimously agreed:

Recommended (to Council)
1.That the changes to polling districts and places as set out in section 4 of the report be agreed.
2. That subject to incorporating the changes in 1 above, that the Council agree the polling districts and places set out in Appendix 2.

Record of voting:
For (9): Councillors James Flanagan, Alister Brady, Dane Buckman, Pat Edwards, Peter Old, Naomi Smith, Ian Stockley, Janette Stockley, Steven Wheeler
Against (0)
Abstained (0)

424 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS TO BE DEALT WITH IN PUBLIC**

There was no business under this item.

425 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

426 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS WHICH FALLS UNDER THE EXEMPT PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 OR THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 OR BOTH**

There was no business under this item.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.02 pm

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 29 January, 2024
at 7.00 pm in The Guildhall, St Peter's Place, Westgate, Canterbury

Present: Councillor James Flanagan (Chair)
Councillor Alister Brady (Vice Chair)
Councillor Dane Buckman
Councillor Peter Old
Councillor Naomi Smith
Councillor Ian Stockley
Councillor Jeanette Stockley
Councillor Steven Wheeler

In attendance: Councillor Keji Moses
Councillor Harry McKenzie

Officers:
Matthew Archer- Head of Corporate Governance
VanessaMontgomery - Senior Democratic Services Manager

504. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Edwards

505. Substitute members

There were no substitutes present.

506. Declarations of interest by Members or Officers

There was a voluntary announcement made on behalf of all committee members that the public speaker was likely to be known to the committee as he was a former councillor.

507. Public participation

There was one public speaker regarding item 5.

508. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE PARISH BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE PARISHED AREAS OF WESTBERE AND HERSDEN

(There was a voluntary announcement made on behalf of all committee members that the public speaker was likely to be known to the committee as he was a former councillor.)

The Head of Corporate Governance introduced the report that was asking the committee to recommend to Council to approve the terms of reference, timetable and consultation plan for a Community Governance Review (CGR) of the parish boundary between the Westbere and

Hersden parished area.

There were two options detailed in the report:

Option 1 - To agree the terms of reference, timetable and consultation plan

Option 2 - To suggest amendments to the terms of reference and timetable, which will be referred to Council for consideration.

The Committee discussed the recommendations and the following points were made, with the Head of Corporate Governance giving clarification where necessary:

- A question would be amended in the consultation to read should the Westbere parish boundary be moved to incorporate the Bread and Cheese field green space.
- It was clarified that the second part of the petition, which called for the Field to be designated as protected green space, was a planning policy matter and therefore beyond the scope of this review. It had been explained to the petitioner that comments could be submitted in response to the local plan consultation which was due to start in March 2024.
- A query was raised regarding the capacity of the Task and Finish Group who were already looking at the Whitstable Community Governance review (CGR). It was acknowledged that capacity could be an issue. An extended period had been allowed to prepare the recommendations to account for the overlap with the boundary review and the Whitstable CGR.
- It was clarified that the second phase of the Whitstable consultation would occur after the conclusion of this review so it would be staggered which should help with capacity.
- The consultation was open to all residents in the district, although as part of data gathering, addresses would be asked for and so the location of the respondee would form part of the analysis.
- The ward boundary review was due to conclude in July. The findings would be considered before concluding this review.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to vote recommended to Council:

1. That a Community Governance Review be conducted, in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and the timetable and terms of reference set out in the appendices to this report be approved;
2. That the Head of Corporate Governance, in consultation with the Head of Paid Service be authorised to take all necessary steps in relation to the review;
3. That the CGR Task and Finish Advisory Group be invited to consider the review and make recommendations to the committee.

Record of the voting:

For (8): Brady, Buckman, Flanagan, Old, N.Smith, I.Stockley, J.Stockley and Wheeler
Against: None
Abstained: None

509. Any other urgent business to be dealt with in public

There was no urgent business

510. **Exclusion of the press and public**

Not required

511. Any other urgent business which falls under the exempt provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or both

There was no urgent business

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7:20pm.

General Purposes Committee
16 April 2024

Subject:

Petition for a Whitstable Town Council Community Governance Review - response to Stage 1 consultation

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Director and Head of Service:

Tricia Marshall, Director of Corporate Services

Officer:

Matthew Archer, Head of Corporate Governance

Cabinet Member:

Chris Cornell, Cabinet Member for Coastal Towns

Key or Non Key decision:
Non Key

Decision Issues:

These matters are within the authority of the Council

Is any of the information exempt from publication:

This report is open to the public.

CCC ward(s): All

Summary and purpose of the report:

The purpose of the report is to consider the consultation feedback from Stage 1 of the Community Governance Review, responding to the petition for a Whitstable Town Council.

To Recommend (to Council):

That the following proposal is submitted to Council for approval -

1. That feedback is sought on the following draft recommendations -

   Based on the findings of the consultation, the advisory group has not recommended an alternative boundary for a smaller town council.

   Instead, it recommends a qualitative approach inviting comments, opinion and evidence which supports or disproves the following four propositions:

   i. That a parishing of the whole CT5 area does not represent the interest

of the community given the lack of public support.

ii. *That the splitting of wards in Gorrell will damage community cohesion by forcing only some in an area to pay for largely shared services and resources.*

iii. *That a smaller parished area covering Harbour & Tankerton lacks community cohesion given the lack of public support and distinct unique identity of both settlements, therefore is not recommended.*

iv. *That a smaller parished area covering Harbour & Tankerton will neither be effective or convenient in achieving the original aims of the petition to create a single 'voice for Whitstable' and incapable of delivering the range of projects presented by the petitioning organisation.*

2. That feedback is obtained through written representations using the means set out in the report.

3. That the revised timetable be approved

Next stage in process:

The recommendations from this committee will be put to Council on 25 April 2024.

1. Introduction

The Stage 1 consultation was a general consultation on whether residents wished to have a town council in Whitstable.

The results of that consultation have been assessed by the advisory group and its recommendation is that a town council for the unparished area of CT5 should not be established at this time.

This report seeks agreement from the committee to seek views on the draft recommendations.

2. Detail

The Council commenced its Community Governance Review in January 2024 when it published its Terms of Reference as agreed by Council. Stage 1 consultation was carried out for an eight-week period from 5 January until 1 March 2024.

The consultation asked a wide range of stakeholders, the residents of Whitstable and residents of the wider District to submit their views on the creation of a town council in Whitstable.

Officers have analysed the responses to the Stage 1 consultation and prepared a comprehensive 43-page summary of the results, which is appended to this report in Appendix B.

The advisory group has considered the responses in detail, using the terms of reference and criteria of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and guidance

issued by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on Community Governance Reviews as the foundation for their deliberations.

The outcome of the advisory group work is set out in the report, concluding with the draft recommendations.

Views and feedback will be sought using the approach set out in the report, subject to the recommendations of the committee or Council.

It is proposed the consultation is a qualitative exercise, inviting comments on the proposed recommendations of the Council.

A revised timetable has been included within the proposals.

The results will be considered by the advisory group which will make recommendations to the Committee. The final decision will be taken by Council in October 2024.

Summary of the results

The full list of the results is provided in the comprehensive summary in Appendix B, supported by all of the detailed comments submitted during the consultation.

In response to the question ‘Should Whitstable have a town council?’, a majority of those who responded were opposed to the idea.

Level of support	Percentage (Number)
Yes	38% (691)
No	56% (1,014)
Not sure	6% (104)

The main reasons for opposing the town council were consistent across all areas of CT5:

- the financial burden
- unnecessary level of bureaucracy
- waste of money
- a belief that CCC already fulfils the duty.

Of those who supported the proposal, there were also consistent reasons offered:

- Locally-focused autonomy is needed
- Whitstable priorities are different to Canterbury's
- Precept will help improve events, facilities and local issues

A breakdown of the headline results is provided here for ease of reference. The information can also be found on page 9 of the consultation results, supported by further detail.

Top line results by postcode

	CT5 1	CT5 2	CT5 3	CT5 4	All other postcodes
Yes	52% (271)	44% (204)	19% (166)	29% (166)	41% (11)
No	42% (219)	50% (235)	73% (154)	67% (392)	52% (14)
Not sure	6% (32)	6% (29)	8% (17)	4% (24)	7% (2)

Top line results by district ward

	Chestfield	Seasalter	Swalecliffe	Gorrell (Harbour)	Gorell (Lower Gorrell)	Tankerton
Yes	23% (53)	25% (118)	32% (67)	60% (210)	37% (113)	53% (119)
No	71% (161)	70% (323)	61% (128)	34% (120)	57% (173)	42% (94)
Not sure	5% (12)	5% (23)	8% (16)	6% (20)	6% (19)	5% (11)

Advisory Group deliberation

The legal tests

The draft recommendations were based on an assessment of the results measured against the three legal tests found in the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) guidance on community governance reviews.

Test 1 - Community governance must reflect the identities and interests of the community.

Would a town council cover a community of identity? [paragraphs 55-61 of the guidance]

Seasalter, Swalecliffe and Chestfield wards

The analysis showed a very clear rejection of the proposals in the Chestfield, Seasalter and Swalecliffe wards. This was corroborated by the postcode analysis on pages 11 and 12 of the consultation analysis and the heat maps on pages 36 onwards, which clearly illustrate the communities in those areas do not identify with the perceived benefits of a town council.

The group felt the community interests of Swalecliffe, Chestfield and Seasalter would not be best served by imposing a town council upon those communities given the very clear steer provided by the consultation results.

‘Lower Gorrell’ (southern section of Gorrell ward)

The initial postcode analysis indicated that the view was more balanced in the more central areas within the Gorrell and Tankerton district ward boundaries, which are contained within the CT5 1 and CT5 2 postcode areas.

The heat map on page 40 of the analysis indicated that support in Gorrell ward appeared to

be stronger in the central area nearest the coast and less so away from the coast.

Further analysis was requested by the group in the Gorrell ward to establish whether views differed significantly between residents in ‘Lower Gorrell’, south of the railway line compared with what we’ve termed ‘‘Harbour’ on the coastal side Gorrell Ward, north of the railway line.

The table above indicates opposition to the proposal in Lower Gorrell, with 57% opposed and only 37% supporting, suggesting the communities within Gorrell ward as a whole cannot be said to have a common interest in establishing a town council.

The clear view of the communities living in ‘Lower Gorrell’ indicates they do not identify with the proposal and, on that basis, the advisory group felt it would be unreasonable to make any proposal that included residents living in that area.

‘Harbour’ (northern section of Gorrell ward) and Tankerton ward

That left only the central area, summarised here as the ‘Harbour’ area of Gorrell ward and Tankerton, where a statistical majority were in support of the proposals.

Consideration was then given to the volume of responses relative to the population of Whitstable.

It was noted that considerable effort had been made to ensure everyone was aware of the consultation in order the response rate could be used as another measure of the appetite for a town council within the area.

The group took into account the fact that every household in the CT5 area had been written to, three public events held to raise awareness and extensive social media coverage throughout to ensure the profile of the review was maintained over the eight-week consultation period.

The total number of responses received was just over 1,800, only just exceeding the original petition threshold of 7.5%, with less than half of those who responded supporting the proposal. Support for the proposal had thus dropped and not increased.

The number of those in favour of a town council in Tankerton and Harbour equated to a small percentage (less than 5% and 6% respectively) of the electorate in each area respectively.

While it cannot be said definitively that the lack of engagement by a majority of residents indicates opposition, it was felt the numbers indicated a lack of enthusiasm for the proposal and it was therefore legitimate to take account of the response rate when assessing whether the community could be said to be truly supportive of the proposals.

Proposition

The group moved on, to consider whether a smaller area comprising the Harbour and Tankerton areas was likely to be viable (part of test 2) and whether, if combined, they would reflect the identities and interests of a single community.

The group also considered the impact a smaller boundary might have on the residents within it.

Those within would be paying a precept while residents in the immediate surrounding areas would not. But they would benefit from funding and services provided by the new entity.

Para 74 of the guidance states - *'... It would be difficult to think of a situation in which a principal council could make a decision to create a parish and a parish council which reflects community identities and interests in the area and at the same time threatens community cohesion. Principal councils should be able to decline to set up such community governance arrangements where they judged that to do so would not be in the interests of either the local community or surrounding communities, and where the effect would be likely to damage community cohesion'.*

There were concerns that such a proposal could be harmful to community cohesion and lead to resentment from those who would have to pay as a result.

The areas of central Whitstable (Harbour) and Tankerton were not felt to be naturally cohesive in terms of their identity and interests.

The centre of Whitstable is the retail hub of the town and contains a different mix of housing to Tankerton.

Tankerton has a very separate and distinct identity to the centre of Whitstable. Residents of Tankerton tend to identify as such.

It has a separate and distinctive centre with retail shops and cafes, creating its own community hub.

The area straddles two district wards, which would involve the creation of parish wards within a new town council, if it were to be created.

The marginal majority and comparatively low proportion of the population responding in support of the proposal, combined with the overall lack of support in CT5 2 overall gave cause for concern that even a smaller council was hard to justify in the circumstances.

To quote from the conclusions of the consultation analysis (page 33), '*These findings are predicated on the proposal that was put forward at this stage of the community governance review. Those that responded to this consultation, answered on the basis of the boundary proposed. Should Stage 2 commence and this boundary be amended, it cannot be assumed that the same trend will be noticeable.*'

The group felt that by the measure of the test, the concerns outweighed the perceived benefits of a smaller town council proposal.

Test 2 - Community governance must be effective and convenient

Will the existing or new parish be viable? Will it be able to provide services? Will it promote wellbeing? [paragraphs 62-65 of the guidance].

Having rejected the proposal for a large town council and having considered test 1, the group went on to consider the viability of a smaller town council and whether it could be considered to be effective and convenient, in relation to test 2.

It was acknowledged the number of households within such an area would be considerably lower than the original proposals, with a consequential impact on the ability of a smaller town council to raise significant income via the precept.

During the consultation period the advisory group met with town and parish council

representatives in order to gain a better understanding of how their councils are managed, the services they deliver and how they interact with other tiers of government.

The group felt that the ability to employ staff, fundraise, deliver services and make an impact on the scale indicated in the original proposal would be undoubtedly compromised.

To give an indication of size, the mapped areas labelled ‘Harbour’ and ‘Tankerton’ contain an electorate of just over 6,500[1], which equates in broad terms to a quarter of the electorate of Whitstable.

Paragraph 62 of the government guidance states *‘The Government believes that the effectiveness and convenience of local government is best understood in the context of a local authority’s ability to deliver quality services economically and efficiently, and give users of services a democratic voice in the decisions that affect them’.*

A town council requires significant infrastructure compared with a parish council. Typically a town clerk, a parish clerk and a financial administrator on the payroll and premises or a front-of-house presence.

The ratio of costs as a proportion of the total precept will tend to be greater in a smaller council as it lacks the economies of scale afforded to a larger entity.

Given the limited powers available to a town council of this scale, it may well have the capability to ‘*promote the social, economic and environmental well being of the area*’ (para 64), but it is unlikely to be of sufficient scale to take on services over and above that of say a large parish council.

It was felt the benefits identified in the consultation by those who were supportive of a town council, namely ‘*the desire for local autonomy, differing priorities to Canterbury and improvements to events and facilities*’, would be more challenging to deliver at this scale.

Allied to that is the underlying concern about cost of living and the fact many services would continue to be delivered at district level despite the imposition of a precept, echoing the primary reasons cited by those opposing a town council.

In summary, it was felt that while it was technically feasible to consider a small town council or a larger parish, or two parishes, neither were in line with the original proposition.

The test of effective and convenient governance was felt to be marginal at best and, returning back to the view of the majority of residents, unlikely to deliver what those in support of the proposal wished to achieve.

In light of the wider concerns cited by those in opposition to the proposal it was felt that more effective and convenient community governance was best delivered by continuing with the existing arrangements.

Test 3 - Must consider other arrangements for community representation or community engagement that exist in the area

Are there any residents’ associations, community forums or area committees? Do existing arrangements reinforce a community of identity? Do they have a bearing on how to parish an

[1] Polling districts WT1, WT2, WG3 and WG4 - April 2024

unparished area?

The group's approach to the final test considered whether the town council was filling a void that residents felt was necessary in order to feel heard and deliver community engagement and well being to the area concerned.

During the public events, the Chair of the Kent Association for Local Councils spoke at length about the contribution of town councils elsewhere in facilitating different communities of interest coming together for a wide variety of causes.

Arguably one of the great strengths of Whitstable as a town is that it already has a plethora of community and interest groups that have naturally come together on a voluntary basis.

To quote one of the written representations - *'Things cited in the documentation are already catered for by the District and County Council, by some ward Councillors and importantly by local voluntary groups and I include in that some of the local churches who actually get out and do things in the community and at no cost to the Council Tax Payer. Such groups also attract outside funding like Lottery money and can work in tandem with District Council officers.'*

Examples of a vibrant civic community include:

- the continued engagement of the Whitstable Society, Whitstable Beach Campaign and residents associations in planning matters. The Whitstable Society retains reserved speaking rights at the planning committee.
- the work of the CT5 Forum in collecting and presenting evidence for change to elected representatives on a range of topics including transport, planning and environmental issues
- organised groups of traders who have successfully raised money to improve their high streets and organise free community events
- community led festivals including the Whitstable Oyster Festival, Whitstable Harbour Day, Whitstable Carnival, Whitsparkle, Wild About Whitstable and annual May Day Celebrations
- a strong network of faith organisations jointly commissioning and funding projects to support of homeless people (the Haven), provide debt advice (CAP), improve resident safety (Whitstable Street Pastors) and improve child mental health problems (Coastal Family Hub)
- formal networks supporting efforts on food poverty, health & wellbeing organised by Canterbury Foodbank, Revival and formerly by the Umbrella Cafe and Red Zebra Community Solutions. Informal community led responses to the COVID 19 Pandemic and the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis

The Harbour and Tankerton area, where a town council might feasibly be supported, is also one of those best served by community groups and on that basis it was felt that perhaps a further exploration of how the council can harness the energy of those willing to get involved is something that could be explored separately.

The point made by the CT5 People's Forum that voluntary groups lack a democratic mandate is acknowledged.

The balance of power in favour of the council will always exist in such arrangements

because ultimately it has both the democratic mandate and statutory decision making powers.

However, the advisory group felt the council might be open to a conversation about how best to address some of the concerns or opportunities expressed by those who support a town council, to see if they can be addressed in other ways.

This is something that could be explored by seeking views and feedback about how best to work together with community groups.

Councillors are engaging with groups and parishes across the whole district on a regular basis and the feedback generated in response to this question could easily be asked to a wider audience and applied more widely across the district.

The group was clear, however, that the tests of effective and convenient local governance meant that any suggestions or proposals would need to reflect the existing capacity and resources available to support new ideas.

Feedback will be collated for consideration at the end of the review.

Conclusions

To sum up the deliberations, the group worked its way through the tests but came back to some fundamental points in its analysis of the consultation:

i) The responses indicated the proposed town council in Whitstable covering the unparished area included with the petition is not supported. On that basis it is not recommended.

ii) In the areas where there is indicative support for a town council the numbers were not compelling when compared to population size. The size of the response and a lack of positive support from those who chose not to respond was therefore a legitimate consideration.

iii) The group did not feel alternative proposals for a smaller town council adequately satisfied the three legal tests for the reasons outlined in the report. It was felt the communities where there was marginal support were not necessarily cohesive, nor did they share a common identity. There were concerns that making a proposal when the majority of respondents in the town were clearly opposed could be harmful to community cohesion.

iv) There was an opportunity to discuss with groups how the council presently engaged with them to see if there were opportunities to work together to achieve some of the benefits articulated by those supportive of a town council within the existing arrangements.

v) The numbers responding to the petition in apparent support of a town council were not reflected in the response to the consultation.

Next steps

In light of the conclusions, advice was sought from the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) on the position where the council is not minded to support the petition recommendations or put forward alternative recommendations.

The group noted the guidance stated (para 95) - '*Where a principal council has conducted a review following the 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.'*

Clarification was sought about the nature of the consultation that might be required in such circumstances.

The AEA advised *'Once you publish your draft recommendations you should then conduct another round of consultation, allowing any further comments to be made. This will allow for further representations to be made based on your draft recommendations before you publish your final recommendations.'*

The proposal is therefore to invite views and feedback on the draft recommendations, which are - ..

Based on the findings of the consultation, the advisory group has not recommended an alternative boundary for a smaller town council.

Instead, it recommends that views and feedback is sought, which supports or disproves the following four propositions:

1. **That a parishing of the whole CT5 area does not represent the interest of the community given the the lack of public support**

2. **That the splitting of wards in Gorrell will damage community cohesion by forcing only some in an area to pay for largely shared services and resources**

3. **That a smaller parished area covering 'Harbour' & Tankerton lacks community cohesion given the lack of public support and distinct unique identify of both settlements, therefore is not recommended**

4. **That a smaller parished area covering 'Harbour' & Tankerton will neither be effective or convenient in achieving the original aims of the petition to create a single 'voice for Whitstable' and incapable of delivering the range of projects presented by the petitioning organisation.**

Gathering views and feedback - method and output

The guidance is not prescriptive about the methods of engagement used when conducting a review. It is quite common to use a different approach for the second stage to gather feedback on the draft recommendations.

The draft recommendations will therefore be published on the council's website and promoted through the usual social media channels. Feedback will be sought by writing to stakeholders and those who responded to the consultation. It is not proposed that all households are written to, nor will public meetings be held. The council will engage with the petitioners and will consider any requests to attend other meetings.

The feedback will be analysed and considered by the advisory group who will make recommendations to the General Purposes Committee.

The committee will make final recommendations to Council who will make the final decision.

Timetable

The original timetable was set out in the report to General Purposes 13 December 2023, in Appendix C.

The nature of the proposals allow the duration to be reduced from twelve to eight weeks. Full Council must approve changes to the review timetable, therefore the following is proposed for approval -

Stage	Committee	Duration	Action
Stage two - approve draft recommendations	General Purposes Committee - 16 April 2024		General Purposes Ctte makes proposals to Council.
	Council - 25 April 2024		Council approves Stage two recommendations
Stage two - publish draft recommendations	29 April 2024 to 24 June 2024	8 weeks	Publish draft recommendations for further consideration
Stage two - consider submissions	24 June 2024 to 22 July 2024	4 weeks	Consideration of submissions received – draft recommendations prepared
Final recommendations	General Purposes Committee - early August (date tbc)		Final recommendations published – concluding review
	Council 17 Oct 2024		Council makes the final decision and resolves to make a Reorganisation Order if required.

3. Relevant Council policy, strategies or budgetary documents

Constitution

4. Consultation planned or undertaken

The Stage 1 consultation document is appended to the report.

The response to the feedback on the draft recommendations will be considered by the General Purposes Committee who will make final recommendations to Council.

5. Options available with reasons for suitability

Option 1 – That the Committee considers the advisory group recommendations and

approves the draft proposals for the next stage.

Option 2 - To add, remove or amend the proposals -

- Additions or amendments would need to be based on either a response to the Stage 1 consultation (see Background Papers), or the identification of a community governance issue.
- Removals should be on the basis of determining that the proposal does not address a community governance issue, or that it is unsuitable based on the available evidence.

Option 3 – That the Committee considers the recommendations and does not approve a final list, determining that no options arising from the Stage 1 consultation or assessment should go forward to the next stage.

This is not recommended as the analysis has identified points that the Council should be addressing in carrying out its review in accordance with the Guidance and the 2007 Act.

The risk to the Council of not proceeding with gathering feedback on the draft recommendations is that the findings of the review and, if agreed, their implementation, are challenged for a fault in the process. It is therefore important the Committee are satisfied that the process outlined is sufficient to mitigate that risk given that the Act and Guidance are not prescriptive in what needs to be conducted.

This report sets out the process being followed and proposed consultation to ensure that the decisions being taken are sound.

6. Reasons for supporting option recommended, with risk assessment

It is recommended that the proposals are put to Full Council, as amended by the committee.

7. Implications

(a) Financial - None

(b) Legal - None

(c) Equalities - None

(d) Environmental including carbon emissions and biodiversity - None

Contact Officer: Matthew Archer, Head of Corporate Governance

Background documents and appendices

Appendix A - Climate Change Impact Assessment

Appendix B - Community Governance Review, Whitstable - Summary of consultation responses

Appendix C - Full text of comments

Additional document(s) containing information exempt from publication:

No

Appendix A Climate Change Impact Assessment (Checklist)

Please provide an assessment of the impact of the proposal under each of the headings below. If none, please say so.

1. **Climate Change impacts**

Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	**Explanation of impact** If you have any relevant data, please include that in the explanation and reference the source.	**Mitigation**
Impact on the council's target of being carbon neutral by 2030 This applies to emissions of carbon dioxide as a direct result of our **own** activities and services. Please consider the whole life impact of your proposals		
Neutral		
Impact on carbon emissions in the Canterbury district This applies to the carbon dioxide emissions in the district as a result of your proposal. Please consider the whole life impact of your proposals.		
Neutral		
Emission of other climate changing gases including methane, CFCs, nitrous oxide		
Neutral		

2. Adaptation to climate change - Impact on our resilience to the effects of climate change

The greatest risks posed by climate change to the UK are:

- Flooding and coastal changes including erosion from extreme events
- Risks to health caused by high temperatures
- Water shortages and drought
- Risk to natural environments & services - landscape, wildlife, pollinators, timber etc
- Risk to food production & trade
- Emergence of new pests and diseases affecting people, plants & animals

What impact do your proposals have on our ability to resist or tackle these problems in the future?

Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Explanation of impact	Mitigation
Neutral		

Appendix B

Community Governance Review, Whitstable - Consultation responses

Community Governance Review – Whitstable

Consultation responses

1. Introduction

Following receipt of a petition with enough signatures from local residents to trigger a Community Governance Review (CGR), consultation on whether Whitstable should have a town council took place between Friday 5 January 2024 and Friday 1 March 2024.

This proposal was not initiated by Canterbury City Council. However, the city council is responsible for carrying out the CGR on behalf of local residents.

This formal process involves two stages. The first stage is to establish whether or not there is support for a Town Council and the second stage would be to consider proposals, depending on the outcome of stage one.

This report summarises the findings of the first stage of consultation.

Using the electoral register as a guide, the proposals set out in stage one would have affected 23,499 residents. While the number of overall Whitstable residents on the electoral register is greater (by 2,648), this proposal does not affect those residing in the parished area of Chestfield.

A total of **1,847 responses** were received.

The following points should be noted:

- The initial petition was a separate exercise from the consultation. The signatories were calling for the review to be conducted, this consultation was in response to the petition.

- This consultation process was not a vote, nor a referendum. There is no ability for the council to hold a referendum on the matter.
- While the town council proposal would impact Whitstable residents primarily, due to the precept, everyone was welcome to respond to this consultation.
- This report outlines the numbers expressing certain views. While only a fraction of overall Whitstable residents responded to this consultation (approximately 8%), the response rate was high when compared to other council consultations. There is no ‘acceptable’ response rate. Councillors will draw their own conclusions from the responses received.
- Approximately 1% of responses received were duplicate entries submitted by people who had already had their say once. Where possible, subsequent submissions were deleted or combined with a respondent’s initial response. Given the low percentage of people that did this, we can say that this has not skewed the final results of the consultation.

2. Executive summary

The main findings from the consultation are:

- Overall, across Whitstable as a whole, 56% of respondents feel that Whitstable should not have a town council while 38% think it should.

- More people are against the idea of a town council than for, in all but one of Whitstable's postcode areas (CT5 1).

- At ward level, over half of respondents in the Harbour and Tankerton wards are in favour of a town council. However, the majority of respondents in the other four wards said that Whitstable should not have a town council.

- Among those against the prospect of a town council, the main reasons cited for this include the financial burden it presents and an unwarranted level of bureaucracy.

- Those who feel Whitstable should have council state that locally-focused autonomy is needed. Many of these respondents feel that the precept would help improve facilities and address Whitstable-centric priorities as opposed to just Canterbury.

- Reasons for support and objection do not vary significantly across the different postcode areas.

- Approximately 98% of respondents live in Whitstable, while only 1% work or visit the area.

3. Consultation methodology

Consultation took place between Friday 5 January 2024 and Friday 1 March 2024. The following methods were used to seek views:

- an online questionnaire, which received 1,750 responses
- a paper version of the questionnaire, of which 59 was returned
- a total of 38 written representations were received.

The consultation was promoted in the following ways:

- an article on the council's newsroom site, including frequently asked questions
- an online video presentation published on our website
- posts on the council's social media channels
- a letter and information brochure posted to all those residing in the CT5 area
- three in-person public information sessions.

Additionally, the following stakeholders were emailed directly to encourage them to respond to the consultation:

- Parish councils
- CCC councillors
- Relevant KCC councillors
- Residents' associations
- Local 'Friends of' groups
- Canterbury Connected Business Improvement District (BID)
- Canterbury Archaeological Trust
- Canterbury Green Party
- Canterbury Inter Faith Association
- Canterbury Society
- Canterbury Society
- Canterbury Action for Sustainable transport
- Canterbury College
- Cathedral Court Residents Association
- C4B
- CPRE Kent
- CPRE Kent
- East Cliff Neighbourhood Panel
- English Rural Housing Association
- Ethnic Minority Independent Council (EMIC)
- Ethnic Minority Independant Council
- Herne Bay and District Chamber of Commerce
- Hi Kent
- Hilltop Community
- Home Builders Federation
- Chamber of Commerce
- Invicta Chamber of Commerce
- Local Democracy Forum
- Moat Housing
- Mono Consultants Limited
- SPOKES East Kent Cycle Campaign
- St Mildreds Area Conservation Society SMACS
- The Crab & Winkle Line Trust
- The Canterbury Academy Trust
- The Gardens Trust
- The Georgian Group
- The Ickham, Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux Society

- The Open Spaces Society
- The Society of Sturry Village
- The Talk of Tankerton
- The Twentieth Century Society
- Theatres Trust
- Whitstable Improvement Trust
- Visit Kent
- Canterbury Climate Action Partnership
- Canterbury Christchurch Student Union
- University of Kent Student Union
- UCA Student Union
- Age UK Canterbury
- Canterbury Inter-Faith Association (CANDIFA)
- Disability Advisory Panel (DAP)
- Ethnic Minority Independent Council (EMIC)
- HiKent
- Nigerian Community Association
- Polish Educational Club in Kent (PECK)
- Karibu Community Action Kent
- Kwan Ngei Chinese Association
- Canterbury and District Jewish Community
- Canterbury Muslim Cultural Centre
- Kent County Council - Highways
- Stagecoach
- Whitefriars
- Marlowe Society
- English Heritage
- World Heritage Committee
- Pride
- Visit Kent
- Canterbury Cathedral
- Canterbury Festival
- Continental Drifts
- Kent Cultural Transformation Board
- Canterbury Tales of England
- Canterbury Archaeological Trust
- Whitstable Rocks *
- Harbour Market *
- Bretts *
- C Attenborough *
- Wheeler Restaurant *
- Chris Hunt Fishing Hut *
- Foad Fishing *
- South Quay Shed *
- Dani Shellfish *
- Glyn *
- Graham West *
- Ocean Marine Fishing Hut *
- Barnes Offshore *
- Crab and Winkle Restaurant *
- Harbour Garage *
- Oyster Coast Water Sports *
- Whitstable Marine *
- Phil Edwards Fishing *
- Neil Shilling Fishing *
- Whistable Yacht Club *
- Richard Judge *
- Cooper Fishing *
- Ryan Attenborough Fishing *
- RNLI Whitstable *
- Sailmaker Fishing Hut *

** Whitstable Harbour stakeholders*
*** (If you are not included above but would like to be contacted about future corporate consultations, please contact consultations@canterbury.gov.uk).*

4. Findings

NB: Percentages have been rounded to the nearest decimal point

4.1. Questionnaire responses

A total of 1,809 completed questionnaires were submitted, 59 of which were online.

4.1.1. Respondent profile - overall

The overwhelming majority of respondents are residents of Whitstable.

Respondent type	Percentage
A resident of Whitstable	98% (1,763)
A visitor to Whitstable	0.4% (8)
A worker in Whitstable	0.3% (6)

32 (1.8%) respondents answered 'Other', and their self-described respondent type is shown below

- Resident of Chestfield: 6 comments
- Born in Whitstable: 4 comments
- A business owner in Whitstable: 4 comments
- Property owner in Whitstable: 4 comments
- Resident of Canterbury: 3 comments
- Frequent visitor to Whitstable: 2 comments
- A councillor: 2 comments
- Ex-resident of Whitstable: 1 comment
- A parish clerk: 1 comment
- Whitstable Parkrun Event Director: 1 comment
- Moving to Whitstable in the future: 1 comment
- Resident of Hersden: 1 comment
- Resident of Seasalter: 1 comment

The majority of people responding were aged between 55 and 74.

Age	Percentage
Under 18	0.3% (5)
18 to 25	1% (20)
26 to 34	4% (67)

35 to 44	9% (164)
45 to 54	16% (287)
55 to 64	23% (407)
65 to 74	26% (469)
75 to 84	14% (259)
85 and above	2% (37)

NB: 94 (5%) respondents did not give their age

There was a relatively equal split between males and females, with slightly more females responding than males.

Gender	Percentage
Male	46% (834)
Female	48% (871)
Prefer to self-describe (for example, non-binary, gender fluid etc)	0.2% (4)

NB: 100 (6%) respondents did not give their gender

4.1.1. Respondent profile - Whitstable (by postcode area)

For the purposes of this consultation, when turning to residents of Whitstable, four character postcodes (CT5 1, CT5 2, CT5 3, CT5 4) have been utilised to illustrate levels of support and objection to the proposal, as Appendix 1 illustrates.

A higher number of responses were received from those living in CT5 4 followed by those in CT5 1. Significantly less people from CT5 3 responded when compared to Whitstable's other postcode areas.

Postcode area	Percentage
CT5 1	29% (522)
CT5 2	26% (468)
CT5 3	12% (210)
CT5 4	32% (582)
All other postcodes	2% (27)

NB: This does not include responses made via written representation as postcode data for these respondents is unknown

4.1.2. Should Whitstable have a town council?

Respondents were asked if they felt Whitstable should have a town council.

Overall, more than half of respondents said that they did not want a town council for Whitstable.

Level of support	Percentage
Yes	38% (691)
No	56% (1,014)
Not sure	6% (104)

When comparing by postcode area, in CT5 1 more residents are in favour of the town council proposal than against, by 2%. Of those who responded to the consultation from CT5 2, half of them object to the proposal. A high volume of opposition to the town council proposal can be noticed by those residing in CT5 3 and CT5 4. Finally, over half of those who responded from outside of the Whitstable area oppose the idea of a town council in Whitstable.

	CT5 1	CT5 2	CT5 3	CT5 4	All other postcodes
Yes	52% (271)	44% (204)	19% (39)	29% (166)	41% (11)
No	42% (219)	50% (235)	73% (154)	67% (392)	52% (14)
Not sure	6% (32)	6% (29)	8% (17)	4% (24)	7% (2)

The data set out above has been applied on a ward level. Please note, for the purposes of this analysis, the current ‘Gorrell’ ward has been split into the previously known ‘Harbour’ and ‘Lower Gorell’ wards and are presented separately below.

Across these six wards in Whitstable, overall support for Whitstable having its own town council can be seen in two of the wards - Harbour and Tankeron. In these wards, over half of respondents show support for the proposal.

Higher levels of opposition can be observed in Chestfield, Seasalter and Swalecliffe wards where over half of respondents in their wards said Whitstable should not have a town council.

	Chestfield	Seasalter	Swalecliffe	Harbour	Lower Gorrell	Tankerton
Yes	23% (53)	25% (118)	32% (67)	60% (210)	37% (113)	53% (119)
No	71% (161)	70% (323)	61% (128)	34% (120)	57% (173)	42% (94)
Not sure	5% (12)	5% (23)	8% (16)	6% (20)	6% (19)	5% (11)

4.1.3. Reasons why - CT5 1

Respondents were asked to give a reason for their response and the following comments were received:

‘Yes’:

- Locally-focused autonomy is needed: 193 comments
- Whitstable priorities are different to Canterbury's: 86 comments
- Precept will help improve events, facilities and local issues: 82 comments
- Other towns have Town Councils: 13 comments
- Secure extra grants: 10 comments
- Improved organisation of voluntary groups: 6 comments
- Mistaken comment (should be a no): 1 comment

‘No’ and ‘Not sure’:

- Financial burden: 129 comments
- Unnecessary level of bureaucracy: 78 comments
- Waste of money: 69 comments
- CCC already fulfil the duty: 36 comments
- A TC doesn't have any real power: 20 comments
- No scrutiny over town council/unrepresentative: 18 comments
- Not enough information: 10 comments
- Idea initiated by a small group of people: 11 comments
- A TC gives local representation: 4 comments
- Insufficient notice/meetings were at a bad time: 3 comments
- A TC is more cost effective: 1 comment

4.1.4. Reasons why - CT5 2

Respondents were asked to give a reason for their response and the following comments were received:

‘Yes’:

- Locally-focused autonomy is needed: 146 comments
- Precept will help improve facilities, events and local issues: 66 comments
- Whitstable priorities are different to Canterbury's: 49 comments
- Secure extra grants: 7 comments
- Other towns have Town Councils: 4 comments

‘No’ and ‘Not sure’:

- Unnecessary level of bureaucracy: 111 comments
- Financial burden: 101 comments
- Waste of money: 86 comments

- CCC already fulfil the duty: 60 comments
- No scrutiny over town council/unrepresentative: 18 comments
- A TC doesn't have any real power: 15 comments
- Not enough information: 13 comments
- Insufficient notice to judge proposal: 6 comments
- Idea initiated by a small group of people: 5 comments
- More local voice is good: 2 comments
- Other TCs are bad: 1 comment

4.1.5. Reasons why - CT5 3

Respondents were asked to give a reason for their response and the following comments were received:

‘Yes’:
- Locally-focused autonomy is needed: 22 comments
- Precept will help improve facilities, events and local issues: 15 comments
- Whitstable priorities are different to Canterbury's: 10 comments
- Needed to support local charities and volunteer groups: 1 comment
- Mistaken yes: 1 comment

‘No’ and ‘Not sure’:
- Financial burden: 95 comments
- Waste of money: 56 comments
- Unnecessary level of bureaucracy: 40 comments
- CCC already fulfil the duty: 33 comments
- A TC doesn't have any real power: 13 comments
- Idea initiated by a small group of people: 7 comments
- Not enough information: 6 comments
- No scrutiny over town council/unrepresentative: 5 comments
- Voluntary groups already do the job: 3 comments
- Not enough notice or advertising of consultation: 2 comments
- The TC shouldn't apply to Chestfield: 1 comment

4.1.6. Reasons why - CT5 4

Respondents were asked to give a reason for their response and the following comments were received:

‘Yes’:
- Locally-focused autonomy is needed: 123 comments
- Precept will improve facilities, events and local problems: 58 comments
- Whitstable priorities are different to Canterbury's: 49 comments

- Secure extra grants: 7 comments
- To improve communication with residents: 1 comment
- Mistaken yes?: 1 comment

‘No’ and ‘Not sure’:

- Financial burden: 210 comments
- Waste of money: 124 comments
- Unnecessary level of bureaucracy: 121 comments
- CCC already fulfil the duty: 88 comments
- No scrutiny over town council/unrepresentative: 24 comments
- Insufficient notice to judge proposal / 5pm meetings are bad for working people: 20 comments
- A TC doesn't have any real power: 11 comments
- Idea initiated by a small group of people: 7 comments
- Not enough information: 6 comments
- A TC gives local representation: 1 comment
- A TC will improve local services: 1 comment
- Secure extra grants: 1 comment

4.1.7. Reasons why - All other postcodes

Respondents were asked to give a reason for their response and the following comments were received:

‘Yes’:

- Locally-focused autonomy is needed: 8 comments
- Whitstable priorities are different to Canterbury's: 5 comments
- Precept will improve facilities, events and local problems: 3 comments

‘No’ and ‘Not sure’:

- Financial burden: 6 comments
- CCC already fulfil the duty: 6 comments
- Waste of money: 6 comments
- Unnecessary level of bureaucracy: 5 comments
- No scrutiny over town council/unrepresentative: 2 comments
- Idea initiated by a small group of people: 1 comment
- Needed if a unitary authority is formed: 1 comment

4.2. Written representations

A total of 38 written representations were received.

4.2.1. Representations in support of a town council

Overall, those in favour of a town council suggested that the precept would help improve facilities and local issues. Written representations also cited a need for locally-focused autonomy, highlighting that Whitstable's needs are different to Canterbury. Others make mention of other towns having town councils, drawing attention to the benefits they have received as a result.

You can read the full representations below.

- *'I have not completed the questionnaire but having carefully read your consultation document I would wish to record my support for the proposed Whitstable Town Council.'*
- *'In regards to establishing the Whitstable Town Council, I believe it should indeed be set up. The funds would then be allocated to the Whitstable Town Council, allowing it to prioritize its own interests such as road maintenance, community activities, and welfare initiatives. For quite some time, it's been unclear what actions the Canterbury City Council has taken for the Whitstable area. I suspect their focus is primarily on Canterbury itself rather than Whitstable.'*
- *'As a long standing resident of Marine Parade in Whitstable, which once had an active residents association,I think Whitstable either having its own council or residents having a logical route to have their say is essential. One case in point, several years ago Canterbury Council proposed to make Marine Parade paid for parking. The residents association didn't agree at the time and the council took that on board. Fast forward a number of years and the parking spaces are not always being used as intended. Currently there is at least one person already known to you, who parks a camper van every single day for the whole permitted hours, and alarmingly the same person seems to have now bought an additional much larger camper van that he's doing the same thing with. He's done this for 2 years so far, for almost the whole year, and presumably will continue with 2 large vans for as long as he's permitted. This stops residents or visitors who want to use the beach, or shop locally, bringing money to the high street. It is a blatant disregard of what the residents imagined when agreeing to long-term free parking and a lot of us are upset about it. Putting a four hour limit would seem reasonable, or some measure, so that people don't take advantage in this way. It would be important that the council is representative however, for instance it wouldn't be right for either there to be either a one-sided negative or pro-holiday let view. If there is to be a council however, it is important that is is able to make rules for the area that are*

enforceable. Additional campaigning and the ability to raise funds to promote Whitstable as the the unique area it is would be a wonderful benefit of the council.'

- *'Please add my name to any votes. Whitstable is a specific and valuable location and should be regarded and represented by local people who live in the area.'*
- *'I see your letter to Whitstable residents regarding the matter of the creation of a town council was dated Monday 8th January. This has reached us (and I suspect many other local residents) today Monday 12th February. This is long after your "information sessions" have apparently been carried out. If there was a low turnout and limited interest I suspect this delay in receiving notice would be why. This is clearly why Whitstable needs it's own council, as clearly the Canterbury council don't see our town as something that requires attention. If you decide to run these information sessions again, I would like to attend so please let me know the new date.'*
- *'I am very much in favour of a Town Council for Whitstable and fully support the aims and objectives. With our own council we could improve our local community from crime reduction to cleaning the beaches, improving the surfaces of the roads which are not good and providing benefits for the whole of Whitstable community. I think it is a very good idea for Whitstable to have a Town Council'.*

The CT5 Forum submitted the following comments at the Community Governance Review Task and Finish Advisory Group:

[...] 1. The Voice for Whitstable group very much welcomes the opportunity to set out its case to the Task and Finish Advisory Group.
2. The group is part of the CT5 People's Forum which was established after Canterbury City Council's (CCC) previous administration decided to abolish the Whitstable Forum in October 2020, the last remaining forum where residents of our town could speak freely with Councillors about the issues which mattered to them.
3. A group of residents decided to set up a new forum, the CT5 People's Forum – organised and run by local people, providing a forum where residents could link up with Councillors. It has expanded this wider role as suggested by participants to supporting, enabling and sometimes organising local activities to improve the town. Apart from this Town Council group, the two other groups are Eco which runs the now annual Wild About Whitstable biodiversity week and the Traffic and Active Travel group which has focused on speed and safety and is moving towards the broad active travel agenda re help for cyclists and Whitstable Walk Day. The Forum is always developing its information exchange and links with other organisations to support informed participation in the local community and, funded by CCC, is developing an information hub.
4. The Forum is non-party political and governed by a board of trustees. The town council group was responsible for obtaining the required number of signatures of the local electorate to trigger a Community Governance Review (CGR) into the possible establishment of a town council for the unparished areas of the CT5 postcode area. Although still part of the Forum, we have rebadged ourselves A Voice for Whitstable to make it clear that we are campaigning for a town council to be established in Whitstable.

Why should Whitstable have a town council?
5. In a nutshell:
• Whitstable is a great place to live and work. Our town is unique and many people work hard in support, but it often feels that we are overshadowed by Canterbury City and our own personality gets lost in the big picture. We have very different needs to the City and the town could be a whole lot better if it had the ability to care for itself.
• Whitstable is in a minority. Outside the Canterbury City Council district every urban area in East Kent has a town council, apart from Margate (where a plan to create one is currently under consideration). The map at Appendix I shows gaping holes in community governance arrangements throughout the district, including the unparished areas of CT5.
• What voice we have now could be lost, as there is the real possibility that in the future Canterbury City Council will be subsumed into an even larger unitary authority, the preferred route in central government. Any informal forum such as ours is dependent on a small group of people to keep it alive so is intrinsically vulnerable and anything led by CCC, as we have seen, could fall away to changing politics or simply cuts.
6. In addition, we feel that a town council could:
• represent the needs of our diverse community.
• help to administer day to day life in our town.
• improve the quality of life for all who live, work and visit our town.
• help fulfil the place-shaping aim as detailed in the core commitments of CCC's Parish Charter.
• benefit the town through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds generated by the Neighbourhood Portion of CIL receipts as also detailed in the Parish Charter.
7. We also strongly feel that Whitstable is losing out:
• town councils can access funding that CCC and Kent County Council cannot. They have a town clerk who is expert in the legal framework for local activities and in seeking funding for the plans the elected town councillors draw up.
• currently there is no Whitstable community organisation with which CCC is legally obliged to consult on planning matters, including new developments. A town council would have to be consulted.
• it could add value to the hard work of CCC and KCC councillors.
• so many great things already happen in our town through the amazing efforts of local groups and individuals. A town council could bring these efforts together providing a community hub they could use, expert help, coordination and help bid for more funding [...]

You can view the full submission at the end of Appendix C.

4.2.2. Representations against a town council

Overall, those objecting to a town council for Whitstable stated that it was an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and a significant financial burden for local residents.

You can read the full representations below.

- *‘I have read the documentation supplied and I have been aware of the activities of the Whitstable CT5 Group who initiated this measure. The CT5 group only came into existence as a result of the Council decision to abandon the Area Members Panels which were expensive in terms of officer time and poorly attended other than when issues relating to dogs were on the agenda. I have attended the CT5 meetings on occasions where attendance is not much better and many of those attending are what I would call political activists. Petitions are rarely a measure of public support. A persuasive canvasser can get all sorts of people to sign something if the full facts are not put across. In that sense this consultation is useful but I suspect that the majority of local residents will not participate. Things cited in the documentation are already catered for by the District and County Council, by some ward Councillors and importantly by local voluntary groups and I include in that some of the local churches who actually get out and do things in the community and at no cost to the Council Tax Payer. Such groups also attract outside funding like Lottery money and can work in tandem with District Council officers. I know this to be a fact as for the last 18 years I have been leading the voluntary group that manages what is now known as the Gorrell Valley Nature Reserve. We have trebled the area from the original Duncan Down of some 30 acres and have gained 18 consecutive Green Flag Awards for excellence. Last year volunteers gave in excess of 1,000 volunteer hours and in the past on two occasions we have gained lottery funding for initiatives and have fund raised by many other methods. The Seasalter Christian Centre does splendid work with young people locally and is expanding in that area. At Tankerton a voluntary group has magnificently carried out work to make the main street attractive and welcoming, and another group resurrected the carnival. Viable well motivated groups like this merit support from the District Council but the current Council now seeks to end the member Opportunity Fund allocations of £1,000 per member which enabled fast track support to such groups. For many years the Whitstable Society has acted as a statutory consultee on planning issues. This has been valuable and they have wealth of experience in this area. I am also aware that their willingness to rattle cages has on occasions had a salutary effect on the periodic shortcomings of the planning department. That is a useful function notwithstanding the fact that in the current climate any attempt at democracy in planning is undermined by the planning inspectorate, the vacillations of government policy, developer wealth and the appeals process. My maxim has always been "If it works don't fix it" and whilst the current system is not perfect there is no evidence that those in the CT5 group who aspire to duplicate what is already provided by the groups I have described above can do any better. What this District needs is action and not words I cannot and will not support needless duplication and a further charge in the region of £80 per household for the creation of a further tier of government, more hot air, and the establishment of a mere talk shop controlled by a narrow group of local busybodies, political "has beens" and hobbyists. It's simply just not good value for money.’*
- *‘I am opposed to the idea of Whitatable having a Town Council. Canterbury Council is big enough to carry out all necessary functions. Having another spin off is more*

expense adding to the already high cost of council tax People are finding it hard to make ends meet without more added costs to their council tax.. Not for me.'

- *'I am not in favour of the setting up of a Whitstable Town Council in view of the extra financial implications.'*
- *'My husband and I think that Whitstable does not need a town council as we are represented through the Canterbury Town Council. Also, we are not happy to pay more council tax as what we pay now is already exorbitant for the services we receive. Thank you.'*
- *'Good day. Further to your above consultation document requesting our comments. My wife and I are against this proposal. We feel in a cost of living crisis an extra burden of bureaucracy is not necessary, especially with an additional council tax to be levied, indicated at £60-£80 per annum. We also feel that Whitstable does not need extra cultural events of the type indicated in your document, and if these were to come here they should be funded by their supporters rather than the local residents. Therefore our view is that the status quo should be maintained and Whitstable remain part of the Canterbury City Council for its administration and services.'*
- *'I received the pamphlet dated Monday 8th January 2024, pm today Friday 26th January, taking over 3 weeks to arrive here at Whitstable. I refer to the pamphlet which states that it is response to a petition received. I have seen not seen nor heard of such petition until now, or its source. I am therefore against this, currently, support for such a Whitstable Town Council on the grounds that it is undemocratically proposed via the previously unknown petition and it's instigators.'*
- *'We do not see the need for a Town Council in Whitstable. We are well enough represented through Canterbury City Councillors although we wait to see how well the new administration performs. Now is not the time to add to the financial burden of local residents who are without doubt facing substantial increases in their council tax bill in the very near future.'*
- *'Good Morning, I write to you as I am a concern resident of WHITSTABLE. I today received a letter initiation dated 08 January to consultation meetings about the town council proposal. This is after the meetings of the 18 January and 22 January have been completed. I suggest to you that democracy is not being serviced and public notice of such meetings should be in advance of the events and not after them. I also suggest that the correct way to proceed in this issue would be a local referendum, with the for's explaining what the rate supplement of 60-80 pounds a year would be spent on, and if we are not already paying Canterbury for these services. Anything provided by any future Whitstable council must be beyond that already provided for by the KCC or CCC! and those against wishing to maintain the current status quo NOT needing to defend their position. I have read other articles on line and Whitstable has had a town council in the past before it was absorbed into Canterbury. We are supposed to live us in a democratic area. Your email address advocates that you believe in democracy, Give us a VOTE on this issue to all the rate payers and residents and not just those political activist that wish to enhance their own political ambitions locally. It has been said ""No Taxation without*

representation"" the will of the people must be heard. Give us a chance to VOTE on this with the next local elections, with either a YES/NO question on the ballot paper.'

- *'Against introducing further layer of government. Pointless organisation. Further costs for residents of Whitstable.'*
- *'Thank you for the information you have provided regarding setting a new town council in Whitstable. I am a resident living in Whitstable. I do not agree with this proposal and would certainly not want to pay for it. I do not think we need one and I can see no benefits.'*
- *'As a young family trying to save money, the extra £60+ a year is not something we are happy with. I don't trust that anything will be done to benefit ourselves, and we are strongly against the proposal.'*
- *I have served in senior leadership roles on Unitary, County and National government bodies and never once heard the suggestion that adding another layer of bureaucracy will increase efficiency or effectiveness. This is tackling the symptoms and not the cause.'*
- *'I have read the article in the Whitstable Community Magazine. Are you willing to pay for a new town council. The answer is NO. A lot of people on lower income cannot afford this with council tax going up again this year to already high levels, next year with probably another 5% rise plus your £80 Whitstable town council tax this will probably mean something like a total of £200 a year which I find totally unaceptable I would rather donate the £80 pound to an animal sanctuary.'*
- *'Thank you for your letter dated 08/01/24 received end of January. Rather late for the meetings, but I did attend the Seasalter meeting. Most of the people were probably of retiring age as younger people were at work or travelling home. I would not support this as most councils are claiming they are short of money, why do we require an other council that would increase council tax by £80 only to possible end up in the same situation. With the increase of council tax at about 5% per year by 2025 this would add another roughly £200 per year on already a high tax. Some older people and those on low income simply cannot afford this. At the meeting one lady claimed she had a friend who was very worried as she could not afford the extra cost. At the meeting I asked how much revenue this raised and what the money would be used for I did not get an answer. I think Canterbury City Council are doing a reasonable job, Is this another way of just creating more income. As the old saying goes if it ain't broke don't fix it. Regarding the questionnaire form I am still talking to people who have not received one, not everyone has a smart phone or a computer. I think ever house hold should receive one in the post, It is not to late to do this and maybe extend the dead line of the 1st of march. As I feel this would have been the most democratic way of doing this.'*
- *'Regarding the above proposal, we have given the matter some thought and have come to the following conclusions: 1. We can see no net benefit in having a Town Council as all the proposals in the leaflet have and should be dealt with by Canterbury City Council; 2. This is what some of our Council Tax currently pays for; 3. This adds another layer of political bureaucracy; 4. This adds additional expense for no perceivable net gain over and above the services and amenities already*

provided by Canterbury City Council; 5. Your consultation leaflet states, "" A town council could not replace the City Council or the County Council"" and ""You currently have an MP, County Councillors and City Councillors""; 6. According to your consultation leaflet, it lists similar organisations already in the area as being a. Community groups, b. Residents' groups, c. Business groups; 7. We are aware that the Canterbury City Council is selling their offices, relocating a minority of staff to Whitefriars' Shopping Centre in Canterbury and the remainder are working from home. With all these savings and the monies from the sale of their offices (all taxpayers' funds built) in Military Road there should be plenty of slack in their funds, even potentially a net reduction in the Council Tax precept: these extra monies could enhance the facilities already being provided for. We can see no net benefit to Whitstable and its residents with the proposed increase to our Council Tax precept to cover any costs, so we will not be supporting proposals to establish a Whitstable Town Council.'

- *'One is the cost. People are struggling to pay essential bills as it is. There's no guarantee the cost will not increase every year. Another is there are too many layers of local government already. Then there's the question of how it would be funded and how effective it would be in terms of local representation. We already have local councillors costing quite considerable sums, they should be our representatives. How much notice would the City Council take of decisions taken by a town council? Going by the past local forums, not much. The election of town councillors would be carried out how? It will end up as just Party political, aping CCC. Lastly none of the main political parties are keen on properly funding Local Authorities, meaning funds will be cut whoever wins the upcoming election. So a NO THANKS.'*
- *'Dear XXXXXXXX XXXXXXX, I have lived in Whitstable for over 50 years and strongly disagree that we need a town council. It is a thriving town that does not need one. There seems to be a very strong, vocal lobby group working to install a council, but I question their real motives. I wonder whether they have their own interests to promote rather than the best outcomes for the town. I also wonder whether we will end up with a small cabal running the council for a long time in a quasi- autocracy. I do not see the need for a council, we have plenty of representation already via councillors etc. It just adds another layer of bureaucracy and most importantly cost. Many ratepayers struggle to afford the council tax at present let alone with an extra precept added. It may be that those who do not pay council tax do not see this as an issue. I think that the people who decide whether we have a town council should be the people who will have to pay for it.'*
- *'My view of the proposal for a Whitstable Town Council is against. The people (whoever they are) behind this are unknown to me and they only just got the signatures of 7.5% of the CT5 electorate. The 92% that weren't interested or even approached seem to count for nothing. It is feasible that if the 7.5% vote yes but the 92% are apathetic then we could have a situation that the dog is wagged not by the tail but the arse end! Also at this time when most councils (local and county) are in financial difficulty then the likelihood of Council Tax increasing by 5% (county) and*

3% (local) is very likely. Add to this the increase of mortgage rates thanks to the financial genius of Liz Truss and the general increase in the cost of living (food banks etc) this is not the best time to increase the financial burden on families.'

- *'We, XXXXX and XXXXX, wish it to known that we would not have signed the original petition if we had been told there would be a charge to have a town council. We realise that we cannot withdraw our signatures at this stage but feel you should be aware that we wasn't given the full facts. We fully object the formation of a Town Council now all information has been released.'*
- *'I am not in favour of a Town Council for Whitstable. I see no advantage in having another 'arm' of Government. The issues they will be able to influence are somewhat limited and trivial and are already being dealt with, in one form or another, anyway. The cost is prohibitive - £60 to £80 for a band D and how long will it stay at that cost? At a time when there is a cost of living crisis; with alarming rises in mortgage repayments, fuel bills and the cost of some foods now approaching twice as much as they were 2 years ago and regular price rises still relentlessly marching on: how many families who have to rely on food banks to help the family budget will consider paying an additional £60 to £80 per year for what a Town Council can offer, to be money well spent? So, no,no,no. If it ain't broke don't fix it.'*
- *'Hello, I do not want a Whitstable Town Council.'*
- *'I live at XX Kemp Road and do not want a town council as I think we pay enough as it is.'*
- *'I do not agree to a Whitstable Town Council'.*
- *'Hello, Please understand that I am very much against the setting up of a town council for CT5. Thank you'.*
- *'My husband, XXXXX XXXXXXX, and myself, XXXXX XXXXXXX wish to register our choice/vote of NO to the formation of a Whitstable Town Council. We do not want a Town Council.'*
- *'I hereby object strongly to the suggestion that a Town Council should be set up for Whitstable. I do not want another layer of democracy and the cost that this entails. The area is already adequately served by City and County Councillors. I do not wish to be charged an additional precept in order to enable a few people to exercise extremely limited powers which are already sufficiently covered by the existing Authorities. It would be a most unwelcome additional financial burden on residents at this very difficult time. I urge that no further action be taken.'*
- *'I strongly oppose the idea of setting up another Council for our area. We already have two Councils covering Whitstable and another Authority would simply increase the amount of Council Tax that residents have to pay. There would be no real benefit and the extra financial burden on people at this time cannot be justified. I trust that no further action will be taken.'*
- *'I would like to raise my objection to the formation of a Town Council in Whitstable. I am very concerned by the potential cost of these proposals, and the fear that it will become just another committee. The fact that there will be no cap on what a town council is likely to add to the existing council tax is most worrying. Furthermore, people who are elected are likely to take affirmative actions, to justify their position,*

rather than give a perceivable benefit. I cannot understand what decision that this committee might take will have a beneficial outcome that might be achieved via other means or current forums. I have not heard any positive reasons from residents of Whitstable as to why a Town Council is needed or will be beneficial to the town of Whitstable.'

- *'I would like to register my opposition to the setting up of a further council group for the town. We are relentlessly asked to pay more for less, so the idea that we would want to finance another room full of talking heads (with very few responsibilities or powers) at the council strikes me as ridiculous. Among my circle of friends and colleagues this seems to be a view shared - I haven't yet met anyone who seems to be in favour of this proposal.'*
- *'I am not in favour of a Whitstable council.'*
- *'I am strongly opposed to a town council: (1) Yet another bureaucratic layer to supplment the local councillors (2) An added cost to the ever rising council tax (3) Most of what a town council hopes to achieve is covered by existing organisations and local government.'*
- *'In three words "No Thank You". I can see no gain for Whitstable to have a town council, all it will do is increase our council tax and has a disabled person unable to work I can't afford to pay more than I do. I would also like to say how badly this proposal has been promoted. I have lived in Whitstable all my life, no one asked me would I like to be considered, so please how did you define this need? If it goes ahead, which I really hope it doesn't will there be a opt out clause for those of us who don't want it and are happy as things are? If it happens, I will deduct the amount I am charged for it when I get my council tax bill. Why can't all those incomers and do gooders leave well alone and allow those people who are proper Whitstable people to try and enjoy our town. This needs to be made public property, with everyone knowing about public meetings and such before the event not weeks after.'*
- *'I am writing as I have received a leaflet on consultation on proposal for a Whitstable Town Council. To which I strongly oppose due to reason being I am already struggling to pay my council tax and if this proposal goes ahead it will increase my council tax bill. So please add me to th elist of people not in favour.'*

The parish clerk for Chestfield Parish Council submitted the following comments via email:

Chestfield Parish Council is of course supportive of parish and Town councils and the benefits that this third tier of local government bring, being closest to the people of the areas that they represent. However, we feel that the CT5 area proposed is too large an area - there will be marginalised areas/roads (such as Seasalter, Pean Hill, and Yorkletts) that will pay a precept but get nothing back for doing so. The area should be reduced and cover just the central area of Whitstable and the Harbour - provided this consultation shows an appetite and support for a Whitstable Town Council. Alternatively a better option would be for several smaller parish councils to be created – these would

have a better sense of identity for residents paying towards them and have parish councillors in those areas that know their needs better and can make more of a difference to those new parishes areas.Smaller parish councils could work extremely well for example for areas like Swalecliffe and Tankerton -we feel that this will further serve to keep their own particular identity, rather than be 'swallowed up' into a Whitstable-centric Town Council.

Brooklands Farm was a strategic site for housing in the previous administration's Canterbury District Local Plan (Policy W5 refers) with 1300 homes being proposed. Regardless of whether it remains a strategic site in the next draft Plan it is likely to move forward to a planning application. Chestfield Parish Council would put forward a representation now that rather than see a divided governance between a parish and Town council, that the whole site should come to/become Chestfield Parish. A divided governance would be illogical for this area. We appreciate that the mechanism for this parish boundary request will need to be at the next community governance review by the Local Government Boundary Commission to finalise/decide this request rather than from this current internal CCC Community Governance Review triggered by the petition. We will be seeking at the next opportunity that the Brooklands Farm site, whether it is built on, or equally if it remains unbuilt on, should pass to Chestfield Parish. We feel that any potential new residents of Brooklands Farm would feel more part of Chestfield than Whitstable. Similarly, we would hope that the current households in that area would welcome becoming part of Chestfield Parish. We therefore ask that if a town council for Whitstable as proposed is agreed, that its boundary does not at this stage encompass the Brookland Farm site whatsoever, but rather be drawn to exclude it.

At its consultation events, CCC put up a series of PowerPoint slides, among which there was the following: "What is a community governance review? A community governance review enables a principal council such as Canterbury City Council to review and put in place or make changes to community governance systems and structures e.g. by creating, merging, abolishing or changing parish or town councils in the review area. Chestfield Parish Council would seek an assurance that it would not be merged with a new town council for Whitstable. Several of our residents have sought clarity from us on this – they do not wish to see any change from their third tier of governance currently. There have been comments that we do a good job for them and they would not want to see a merger with wider Whitstable. May we have a clarification and assurance that our Parish Council remains unaffected in any proposals formed through this governance review please.

4.3. Public sessions

Three public information sessions were held during the consultation period. Details of these are below:

- Swalecliffe & Chestfield Community Association, 18 January 2024, 5pm to 7pm
- Seasalter Christian Centre, 22 January 2024, 5pm to 7pm
- Whitstable Umbrella Centre, 1 February 2024, 5pm to 7pm

All three of these events were promoted via email to a wide array of stakeholders on the council's newsroom website as well as social media channels. Approximately 220 people attended overall, with the third and final event in the Umbrella Centre attracting over 120 people.

The letters were unfortunately delivered late to some households, which resulted in some complaints about the fact some or all of the public events had passed. In response, an online version of the presentation was published, along with answers to all of the questions raised at the events. The presentation received over 230 views.

Below is a summary of the points raised at each event.

4.3.1. Swalecliffe & Chestfield Community Association

The following questions and comments were raised:

- Whitstable has a lower average income for households and lots of people in work poverty, will they get a discount on the fees if they don't qualify for benefits?
- We know there is a lot of debt in county councils and local authorities. Are there any provisions to prevent the same from happening in town councils?
- You talked about the number of respondents needed, in terms of stage 2 submissions are there any criteria that apply to this in terms of minimum numbers responding or would it be a simple majority to decide the outcome?
- Who will decide if there will or won't be a town council?
- How many people actually live in this area that you have bound?
- Where does the initial money come from for a town council?
- As someone who doesn't live in the area, can I still respond to the consultation?
- Is it true that businesses would not have to pay the precept?
- The councils non-statutory services public conveniences are not a statutory service such as public toilets, if they were under threat could the town council take these services on?
- Will town councils benefit from housing developments where they developers are levied? Development contributions are split, section 106 agreements won't change,

the CIL contribution would go to the town council but it wouldn’t be the full pot of development contributions.
- At the moment there is an agreement in the charter which gives them a percentage, currently Whitstable, Canterbury and Herne Bay don't get any of that money, is that correct?
- Is the CIL money only from developments that happen within that boundary?
- The CIL projects are actually listed and voted on well in advance, there will be projects in Whitstable no doubt on the CIL list already.
- Public toilets are always potentially at risk, they are needed to tick boxes for green/blue flag awards, who is responsible for this? In Whitstables case, the blue flag, would CCC feel the need to support this to retain the blue flag?
- How will it be decided how many councillors there will be? Do they have to live in the area?
- Will the number of councillors be based on evidence elsewhere?
- Can someone from Chestfield Parish stand as a councillor for Whitstable?
- We know CCC have had funding cuts, this diminishes the councils responsibility to deliver the non-essential services, if there was a town council for Whitstable, what are the chances of the city council or town council creating policies on things such as tourism, environmental etc?
- The town council group has a website which has been revised with new information. Some attendees encouraged people to have a look as it included positives and negatives.

4.3.2. Seasalter Christian Centre

The following questions and comments were raised:

- A question regarding the fees estimated for Band D. Can the fees be set by the council in following years and they decide what the amounts would be.
- Will every household receive a questionnaire form?
- When you talk about social media. I have had this conversation with CCC recently. They said it's on Facebook and on our website. This should be on the local news, on local meridian news or in posters where people go to. Too much is relied on social media. A lot of people don’t use it.
- This meeting is not representative of the demographic. Where are the diverse ages who are entitled to vote? You need younger dynamic people to become councillors. Here you are asking this demographic to approve the idea of having another charge imposed on young people. You had an opportunity to put a council notice in with the council tax. It is not a democratic way to come in for the decision of whether you will or will not have a choice in the council. Imposing on young people and young families. Although there is never a right time for the potential people. This should

not be decided by the council but by the electorate. Do you want to have a council or not?

- You have told us how to start a town council. But have not been told how to get rid of them if they don't do their job.
- Can I ask about planning? The town council would be consulted for planning applications. Would the town council be consulted for the LDP?
- I agree with gentlemen speaking to old people. What about older people? Not on benefits. Some may start worrying they may not be able to afford or do not want to pay. Will they be taken to court? What happens then?
- Is it possible to do another event? These start at 5pm. Is it possible to do a weekend/lunchtime one? I was concerned about the enforcement from the non payment of council tax as well. Where I missed part of the presentation will it be put on the website?
- We know that the local government is under pressure. Some examples of what you gave are what town councils can provide. Toilets and street lighting. These are provided by CCC and KCC. What assurances are CCC going to give that they won't cut any more funding. Using the town council as an excuse for giving cuts.
- Member is it likely there is going to be a reduction to the council tax for the services that a town council now delivers.
- Do councillors get paid? Where does the money from the tax go?
- It is my understanding that councils have statutory obligations. What are the statutory obligations which will remain for CCC and what discretionary services will be passed on.
- Consultation says something about 1st march. Is there a threshold for the number of people responding and is there a threshold for and against.
- Central govt would support this as it gives them an opportunity to increase council tax for services that should be given.
- You have a very narrow demographic here. I have a babysitter so I can be informed and made aware. The council is talking from a position of privilege and people may be affected by this increasing cost. Not everyone will be able to afford the proposed charges.
- What powers do you hold as a town council? Can you influence the infrastructure like bus routes and services?
- I would like to add that what people are concerned about is the extra money. But also to consider the extra money that will be pulled into the town which is not from our pockets. All the parish councils can apply for grants and pull in lots of money. Example given of loan. We might like a community centre to provide health and social activities. Froome council employed a bid person to help people bring in bids and they helped to bring in 1.4 million. As a town council we can think big and pull in that money from outside.
- When I moved down here we had a local police station and an information centre. Can the town councils have any influence to bring those back in. We are lucky in seeing people around but would the town council be able to bring this in. Felt that we don't have a voice and are not getting the same benefits as the other areas. Do

you have those powers? It's about safety and where people don't feel safe. If we had local policing or info on community safety.

4.3.3. Whitstable Umbrella Centre

Matthew Archer introduced himself and the other people giving presentations.

- Matthew Archer (MA), Head of Corporate Governance, Chief Executive at Canterbury City Council (CCC)
- Charmaine Keatley (CK) on behalf of Kent Association of Local Councils (KACL)

MA gave his presentation which included the following points:

- The role of town councils (TCs) and what they contribute.
- The whole district review in 2017, where no TC was created for Whitstable as not enough interest.
- How the Community Governance Review (CGR) is started by a petition signed by 7.5% of the electorate.
- That the petition is carefully checked to ensure names are on the electoral register in the correct area.
- The petition cites concerns over lack of representation for areas without parishes if a unitary authority was created and the desire for more local control of how funds are spent. Other coastal towns have TCs and the petitioners feel Whitstable is overlooked.
- CGRs create merge alter and abolish parishes and TCs
- TC election May 2025 if it goes ahead, term
- CCC's role is only to consult, it doesn't have a position for or against the creation of the TC. The TC is not CCC's idea.
- The boundary of the proposed TC in phase 1 of this CGR.
- Where the council tax that CCC collects is used and how most of the council tax goes to Kent County Council (KCC). 11% goes to CCC.
- That there is not a specific limit on the yearly increases of the TC charges (precept) TCs and Parish Councils (PCs). There are some control measures on how much the TC charges can be increased by however.
- CCC sets the first TC charge. Other TCs charge between £60 and £80 a year. This could generate £750k and £1M per annum respectively. Some aspects make this hard to precisely predict the amount that might be raised by a Whitstable TC. This is because not every household would be liable for TC charges, there are, for instance, exemptions for properties probate, students, charities and for those on low incomes.
- An explanation of CCC vs KCC responsibilities and some of the idiosyncrasies (CCC = controls some aspects of off-street parking, KCC controls some aspects of

on-street parking), and also how CCC is responsible for a greater number of many different services.
- That a TC is not the same as Urban District Council (UDC) which is something that existed in Whitstable in the past, but no longer exists now.

CK gave her presentation which included the following points:

- A TC can support KCC services even though the TC isn't directly in charge of them.
- For example a library that might be shut down by a Country Council can be supported by the TC, and libraries provide extremely important services to local communities.
- Bus route cuts affect vulnerable people. TCs can set up community transport services. An example of this is the parish alliance shopper bus, setup by TC and PCs.
- TCs can provide valuable local knowledge on where the issues are and what changes need to be made by the responsible authorities for road and pavements maintenance, Highways Improvement Plans (HIPS), new 20mph speed limits and pedestrian crossings.
- TCs better understand local people's needs on matters like food poverty, warm spaces, social spaces.
- TCs work with the CCC in the same way as they do with KCC. The TC can work with CCC to ensure there is an appropriate mix of different types of development by conducting surveys of the local community. TCs can act as Housing Enablers.
- TCs can make a neighbourhood plan which goes alongside the local plan to have more influence on how development happens in the local area.
- TC only statutory duty is to provide allotments if they are wanted.
- The TC charges are usually described about the cost of a cup of coffee an x (e.g. week or month).
- Froome TC hired a bid writer to help community groups to go for grants. This brought £1.3 million into Froome.
- TCs can apply Saturday clubs for primary kids for low income, food banks with fresh food, village food stores with hygiene packs, weekly cafes for people with dementia and as a general social space. They can also provide cost of living grants (money for people with low incomes), initiative with young, dementia artists
- One TC supplemented Year 6 school trips for families with low income so their children weren't excluded from the activities.
- TCs can borrow money via KALC and the Department for Levelling Up (DLUF), over very long periods of time, like 50 years, which can enable TCs to buy churches to convert places that can be used as community workshops, centrest to run speed awareness courses, vaccination centres, lectures and other volunteer initiatives.
- In one case, a loan of £500k was used to purchase a church that was already a community hub that hosted activities like yoga, dancing, and adult education.
- If TCs weren't able to access these loans, these community buildings can be lost to development like conversion to residential housing.

- Other TCs has looked at climate change initiatives like tree planting energy saving grants, energy efficient light bulbs Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points in TC car parks, wildflower areas, recommendations to developers like making green spaces within developments, land purchase for play areas and flood resilience fields, seed swaps, bug hotels pollinators, 20 is plenty rewilding schemes.
- Froome is a good example of what TCs can do.
- TCs help with prescriptions, talking to lonely people, wellbeing initiatives
- KCC Helping hands fund a number of projects including a dementia cafe, cost of living support, health and weight loss programmes, and volunteer run loneliness schemes. They all massive impact and have received good feedback
- Child mental health services like Kooth, or whatever the TC wants.
- Creating a TC also links you into a network of similar communities of other TC where you can get advice and support.

MA then made the following points and took questions from the attendees:

- That TCs have an influencing role as a statutory consultee as part of planning applications.
- That CCC is not obliged to give powers to any Whitstable TC that forms.
- That an ambitious time table has been set out to reach a decision in time for the other elections taking place next year.

Questions

- Q: Can other boundaries be considered? What happens if Seasalter doesn't want a TC but the centre of Whitstable does?
- MA: Other boundaries can be considered. In the analysis, we will see if there are different views in different areas. In Phase 2 proposals like an alternative TC boundary might be put forward. The committee will see the recommendations and then they will decide what other proposals to proceed with next.
- Q: Are TC councillors affiliated with the major political parties?
- MA: You can stand as an independent TC councillor or be affiliated with one of the major parties. TCs sometimes have councillors who have been put forward by the major parties. PC usually have independent councillors.
- Q: Do the TC charges pay for the wages of the TC councillors?
- MA: it is very unusual for TC councils to claim an allowance. Although they have the power to claim an allowance, most don't. It is extremely rare at the PC levelfor allowances to be claimed by councillors. Typically the TC funds would be used for staff. The number of staff is decided by the TC councillors. The TC Charges are used on TC staff, services, buildings and projects.
- CK: The TC Charges must support projects and staff,
- Q: What proportion of the area to which the CGR applies, in terms of residents or people or households, have to respond for it to be representative?
- MA: There is no threshold that defines if responses are representative of an area. The advisory group will consider its representative. For instance if there is a very

low response rate, the advisory group may state there is not enough interest, but it's up to them to make recommendations.

- Q: Can we see the distribution of responses?
- MA: In the survey you can put your address and we can do postcode analysis to see how views vary by area.
- Q: If we had a TC, would the CCC be more ruthless because they will rely on the fact that a TC will step in to support services cut by CCC. e.g. CCC might close a library if they know a TC will step in and fund it.
- Chris Cornell, Councillor for Gorell: There is less money around generally to support services, and authorities can't run everything that they used to. Different authorities do consider if other people can fund services. It wouldn't be ruthless but we would have to consider if a service can be funded by someone else.
- Q: If there were a particular building that the TC didn't want to be developed. Would they be listened to or would CCC just approve a planning application for development anyway
- MA: CCC makes the final decision. It will consult and give weight to TC's views as part of the planning application process. It also has to consider planning policy and the officer's report. The TC's view is considered as part of all of these aspects.
- Q: Is there any evidence of TV influencing planning applications?
- MA: Yes there would be examples, the TC's views would go into the report that assess the application. This would include the views being set out for and against, and the TC's view does have weight. The planning committee does about 10% of applications.
- Q: A post by CT5 forum said residents will be able to decide how the TC funds are spent. Is this correct?
- MA: Technically speaking the TC councillors and the town clerk decide how the TC funds are spent. They have a mandate (authority) as elected representatives of the residents. The residents don't decide directly. The TC councillors may consult with the electorate and have the usual incentives to represent the residents as elected representatives.
- Q: Please give a specific example of how a TC could stop a library closing?
- CHL: We can work with KCC to agree a memorandum of understanding and provide a ready to go contract for TCs that allow them to take over a library. THis can mean taking over the building and or the library services and leasing them back to KCC. There are new systems being developed for this sort of work. Its very early stages there is not a concrete procedure at this point.
- Q: On the 17th of October we will have a final decision. However, in the next 10 months, if there is significant opposition, will the proposal for a TC be dropped midway through the process or must it continue through the whole process you have outlined?
- MA: We decide how we do the consultations and when we have finished analysis of phase 1 in April, we will put proposals together for the phase 2 consultations.
- Q: even if there is 100% opposition

- MA: If there is enough interest to go though this initial part of the process, then we will proceed through that part of the process.
- Q: If the process goes on to the 17th of October, who makes the final decision and how will they come to the decision?
- MA: 38 councillors will vote yes or no and the proposal will proceed if there is a majority.
- Q: Regarding £1M is not enough money for a TC to do useful things. Can we have money from CCC also? Can we reduce our CCC tax and increase Whitstable TC tax?
- MA: The TC would determine the amount it charges and it would decide how to spend its funds. The CCC will need its own funds to deliver its statutory services. If there are projects where there can be collaboration there can be conversation on how their pots of money are spent between them (CCC and Whitstable TC). There are lots of examples about how TCs spend their money and whether they deliver value for money.
- CHL: £1M is only what they raise directly but it can be magnified through match funding, grants, and other schemes like the national lottery. It depends on your needs, and those needs give access to different grants.
- Q: How is the boundary area defined?
- MA: The boundary area is defined by the CCC and might include different areas. We are asked to pick logical geographical boundaries that represent communities.
- Q: Haybury is a borough of London surrounded by greenbelt. We live in Gorell and about 60% of Gorell is agricultural land. Will the TC obtain funding from agricultural bodies? Haybury had a book on different bodies where funding could be obtained.
- MA: We have officers that will take advantage of grant funding opportunities from the central government. This is the same at KCC and for TCs.
- Q There are 315 TCs and PCs overseen by KALC. Are residents in support of TCs and PCs now they have one? Are any TCs abolished?
- MA: Other TC councillors can be elected if the electorate is unhappy with them. It's rare for TCs to be abolished but the process is the same as the process for creating them. Put a petition together for the abolition.
- Q: Is it correct to say that we don't need a TC to have a Neighbourhood Plan (NP)?
- MA: We can access Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and be a consultee
- Q: how are they going to judge whether the TCs are delivering value for money? Froome is putting charges up by 29%. Faversham is spending £520k running their TC. The overall budget is £750k. This is troubling as it leaves £200k for actual projects. THis means Faversham TC is spending 30% on local services and 70% on running their TC.
- Chris Cornell: Local residents can create a NP, and any such proposal will go through full referendum. The process takes a while and a NP allows a body to take a portion of CIL which comes from developments in the area. PCs get a 16% chunk from developers and having a NP brings it up to 25%. They don't get all of the CIL, but they do get a chunk of it. You don't need a TC for this. Whistable tried before to

get a NP, and it was complicated. I think it's fair to say that a NP wasn't created partly because of the complexity of the process.

- CHL: I'm not familiar with Faversham. Their running costs are a big part of the services they provide so it's somewhat unfair to imply that staff costs are helping the community. The Guildhall has a shop below, loneliness services and the staff cost is part of the service that is being given. They offer community wardens, and help with climate change measures. They enable the community. The running costs might be high but they still deliver valuable services.
- Q: It concerns me that last year about 26 councils went bust or are on the verge of going bust according to The Guardian. Are you going to go bust? It's quite a leap of faith to propose a body that can increase its charges by an uncapped amount each year, given the financial pressure that different bodies are under.
- MA: It's a challenge to make our budgets balance every year. We must do that and deliver the services that are a priority.
- Q: Somebody in Canterbury will pay council tax in total less than those in Whitstable. I don't think this is fair.
- MA: If you are struggling you might not be paying the precept (council tax charges) in full as there are income exemptions. There are processes in place for some people to get support if they are struggling to pay their council tax charges.
- Q: The first election to put TC councillors forward is in 2025. If we then find the TC is not good value for money, can we then say we don't want a TC?
- MA: Yes you can abolish a TC through the same process that was used to create it.
- Q: Having a TC is a good way to get feedback on local issues like one way systems. As a taxi driver I think such a system would be a good idea.
- Q: A TC might have duplicate an input into the planning process that we already have from Whitstable Society. Would Whitstable Society still be needed if we had a TC?
- Q:Whitstable Society and Thanet Way Residents Association were against an application but CCC approved the application as we are in presumption. Would the TC have more influence than these groups?
- Chris Cornell: If a TC is created but it doesn't cover all the unparished areas around Whitstable, the Whitstable Society could have a role in these unrepresented areas.
- Q: What criteria will the group use to make recommendations to CCC. Will there be a cost benefit analysis of these recommendations?
- Chris Cornell: Whatever we get out of Phase 1 will influence Phase 2. TC we don't know what the TC will want, they could refuse some services offered by CCC. We will work this out at stage 2 working with other groups. We don't know enough at this stage and who will be elected. It depends on the nature of what they propose and we have to wait who is elected and how the negotiation goes.
- Q: The original petition said it would ask for residents' contributions which is an uncapped tax. Contribution is not an accurate description as it implies it's an optional payment, when it's not optional.
- MA: The precept for a TC would not be optional if a TC were to be created. It's a group of volunteers that have put forward this proposal. It is not CCC's proposal.

- CK: We don’t often use percentages as they are large to describe increase as they are misrepresented, due to the small absolute size of the charges. It makes the increases sound worse than they are, relative to the other services. We tend to use absolute amounts for this reason.
- Q: I am the lead petitioner, please look at our website, we discuss things like eco groups, TC. For 2 years we have done lots of research including TCs visits, discussions with KALC and we really think a TC is a really good idea. We started up the petition and achieved enough signatures. The benefits are greater than disadvantages. We want to know what's bad about TCs so we can address all the issues. We hope you will support the proposal.
- Q: Lots of things you said TC may do, lots of these things are done already by community groups. The volunteers do a lot of this already. Some of the people would be kicked out by TC. Faversham TC ,spends ⅔ this of their income on staff, buildings, professional fees, and has 8 members of staff. Faversham owns a lot of buildings and can get mooring fees unlike a Whitstable TC. You can only apply for a grant once. I don’t think it will be economically sustainable.
- Q: when it gets to stage 2 the Swalecliffe and Seaslate need to be able to attend a meeting like this. (comments from other attendees that there were meetings available). Kent is making redundancies. TC will engage with voluntary organisations to fund their activities. Most of Canterbury has a local government, Whistable wants the same. Previously the council had area forums and community trusts and these are under the control CCC and the area forum was abolished. Anyone on electoral register can stand. What the council can do is lobby strongly for the area. Action for what people want.
- MA: We did hold an event in Seasalter last week.
- Q: I’m a member of CT5 forum. I wasn't sure about a TC at first, but the more I researched it, the more I thought it was a good idea. I want to address the comments about Faversham. Last year generated 1 million from central government to develop pedestrian facilities. Type of money wasn’t available to CCC. There’s nothing about Whistable in CCCs active travel policies. The staff that Faversham have bring in lots of money. A TC would make Whitstable a better place.
- Q: Maureen Smith trustee of CT5 forum. All money raised by TC charges is ring fenced and only goes into CT5. TC councillors work only for the CT5 area. They don’t get involved with the district affairs, usually voluntarily and solely for our town.
- Q: I’m confused about how you decide about TC if it affects all residents so they should all vote. There’s a lot of people who can’t get to the meetings. People who have the time and energy to present their support will be overrepresented in the consultation.
- MA: There is no duty to hold a referendum and no way to do so.
- Q: You can’t just do it?
- MA: No legally we cannot just do it.
- Q cost benefit analysis must be done, if it costs £3 to get £1 of benefit it shouldn't go ahead.

- MA: The way the TC conducts itself will define the value for money that it delivers to the local area. I’m aware that people are starting to leave now, so I will bring matters to a close. Thank you everyone for attending.

5. Conclusions

Overall, the survey results show that most respondents do not support the idea of a town council for Whitstable.

This report provides a range of information about the levels of support for a Whitstable town council as well as reasons cited by respondents, both for and against.

Findings have been analysed by postcode and also by ward, along with additional heat map analysis to help visualise and contextualise the responses. These heat maps can be found at the end of this report.

The main areas which support the idea of a Whitstable town council are ‘Tankerton’ and the previously known ‘Harbour’ ward which now forms part of the northern site of the current ‘Gorrell’ ward (above the railway line). This is also broadly contiguous with the CT5 1 postcode area. These respondents felt that a town council would provide Whitstable with a voice of its own and have a positive impact on the local community.

Across all postcode areas, those against the prospect of a town council were concerned about additional financial burden and many stated that this extra layer of governance was unnecessary considering existing structures.

Compared to other consultations, the response rate and overall engagement during the consultation period was significant which suggests residents seem engaged with their local governance structure.

However, when comparing the response rate to the electoral population in Whitstable, approximately 8% of those affected by the proposal took part in this consultation. This suggests that despite the various engagement methods utilised, a degree of apathy exists.

These findings are predicated on the proposal that was put forward at this stage of the community governance review. Those that responded to this consultation, answered on the basis of the boundary proposed. Should Stage 2 commence and this boundary be amended, it cannot be assumed that the same trend will be noticeable.

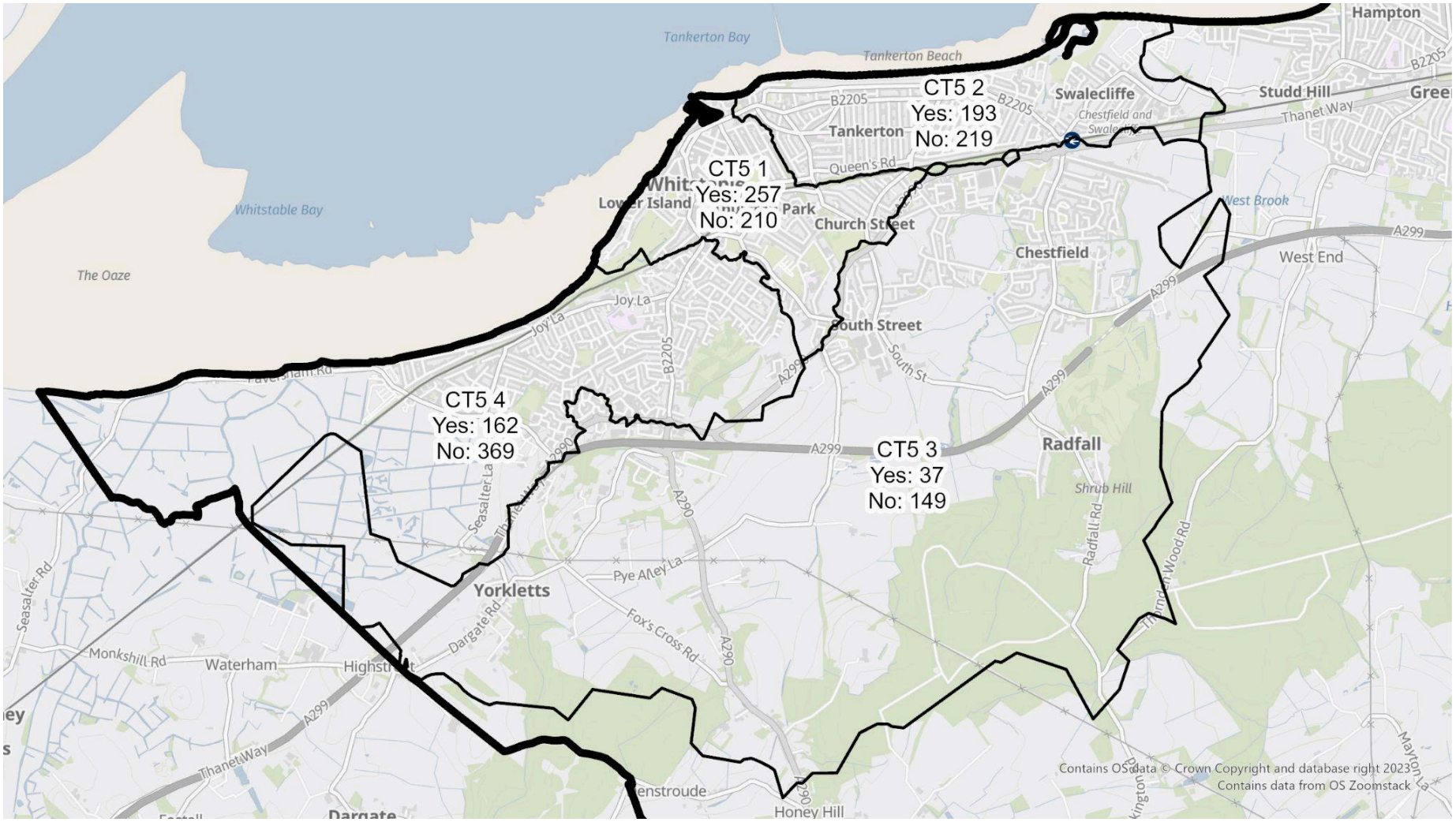
It is hoped that the findings from this consultation provide useful insight as to how the council will proceed during the next stage of its community governance review.

6. Appendices

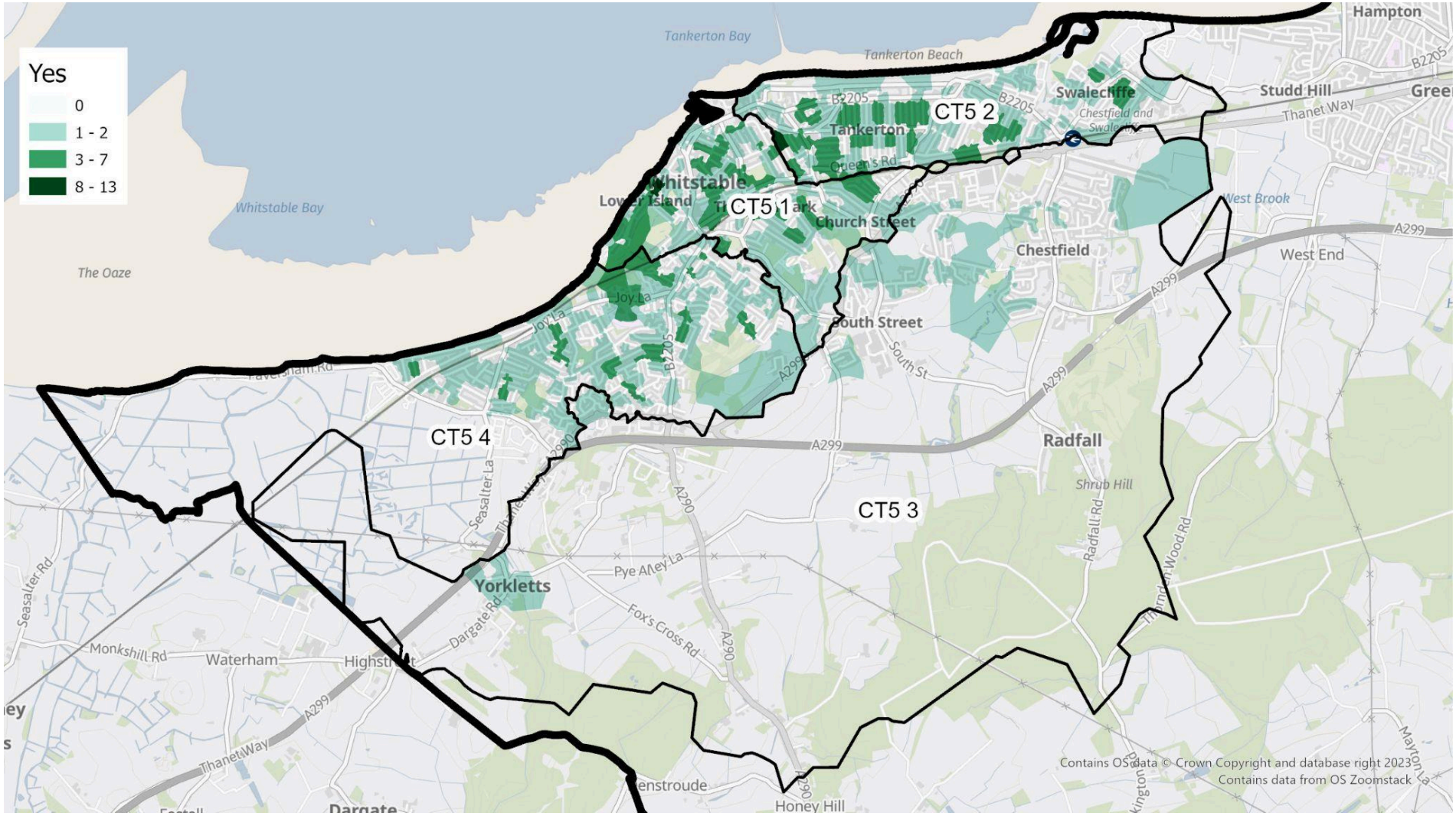
In some of the following appendices, the coloured maps, or ‘heat maps’ show how responses to the proposal varied by postcode area.

The legend in the top left of the heat maps explains how each shade of colour relates to a certain number of responses. For instance, with the maps showing ‘No’ responses, darker red means there were more ‘No’ responses in a postcode area than another area with a lighter shade of red.

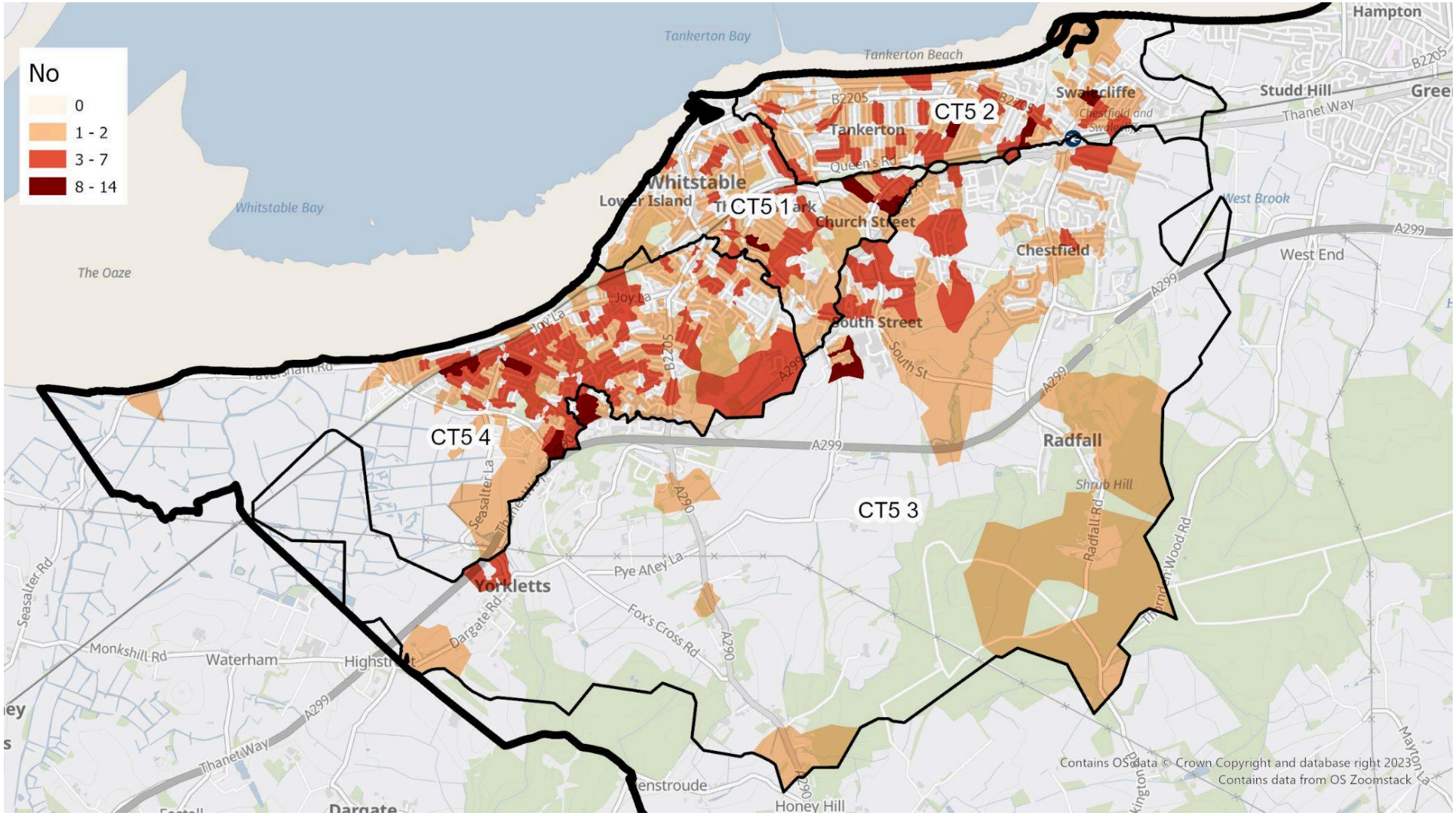
Appendix 1 - Whitstable by postcode area



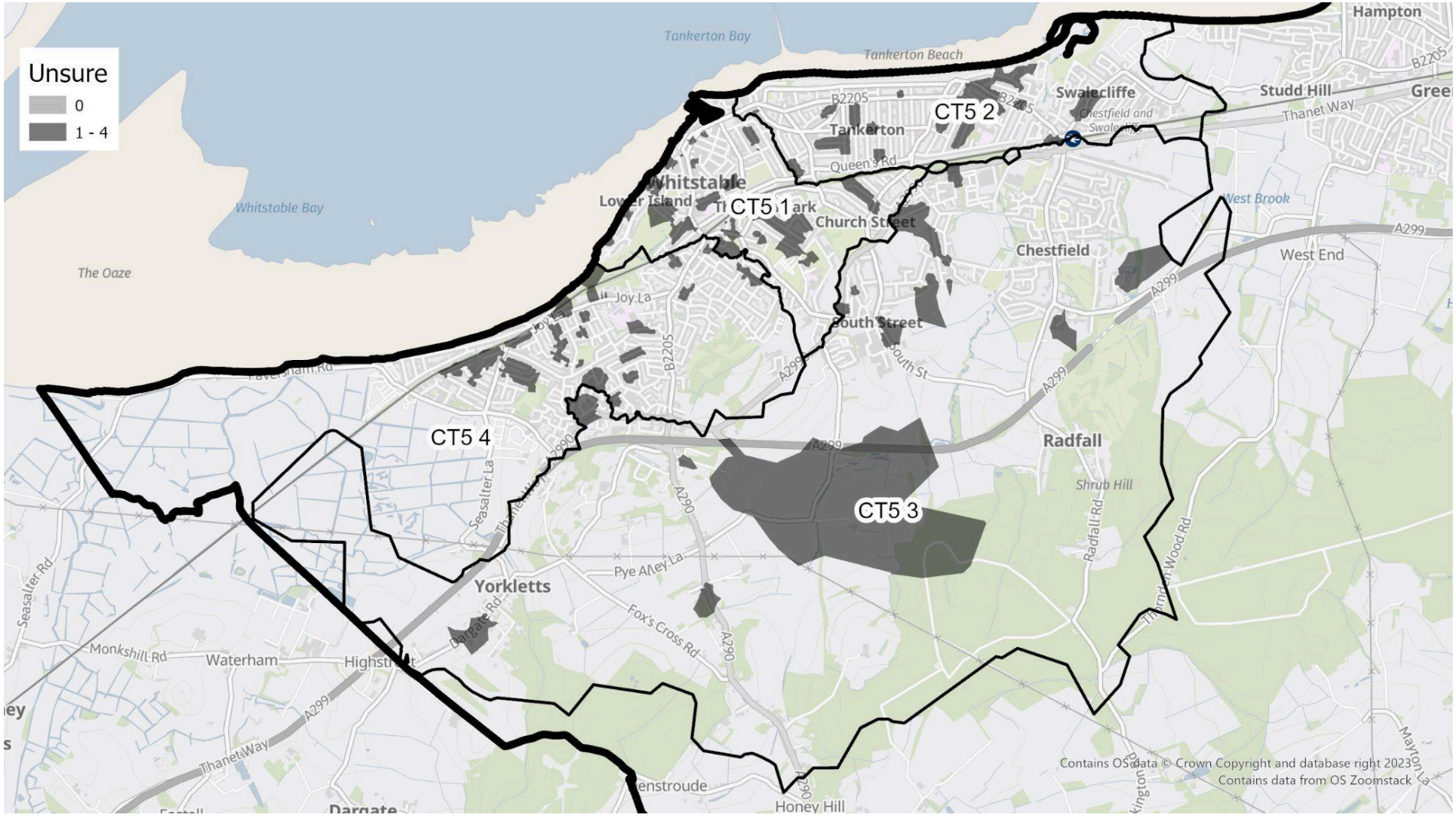
Appendix 1.1 - ‘Yes’ town council (by postcode area)



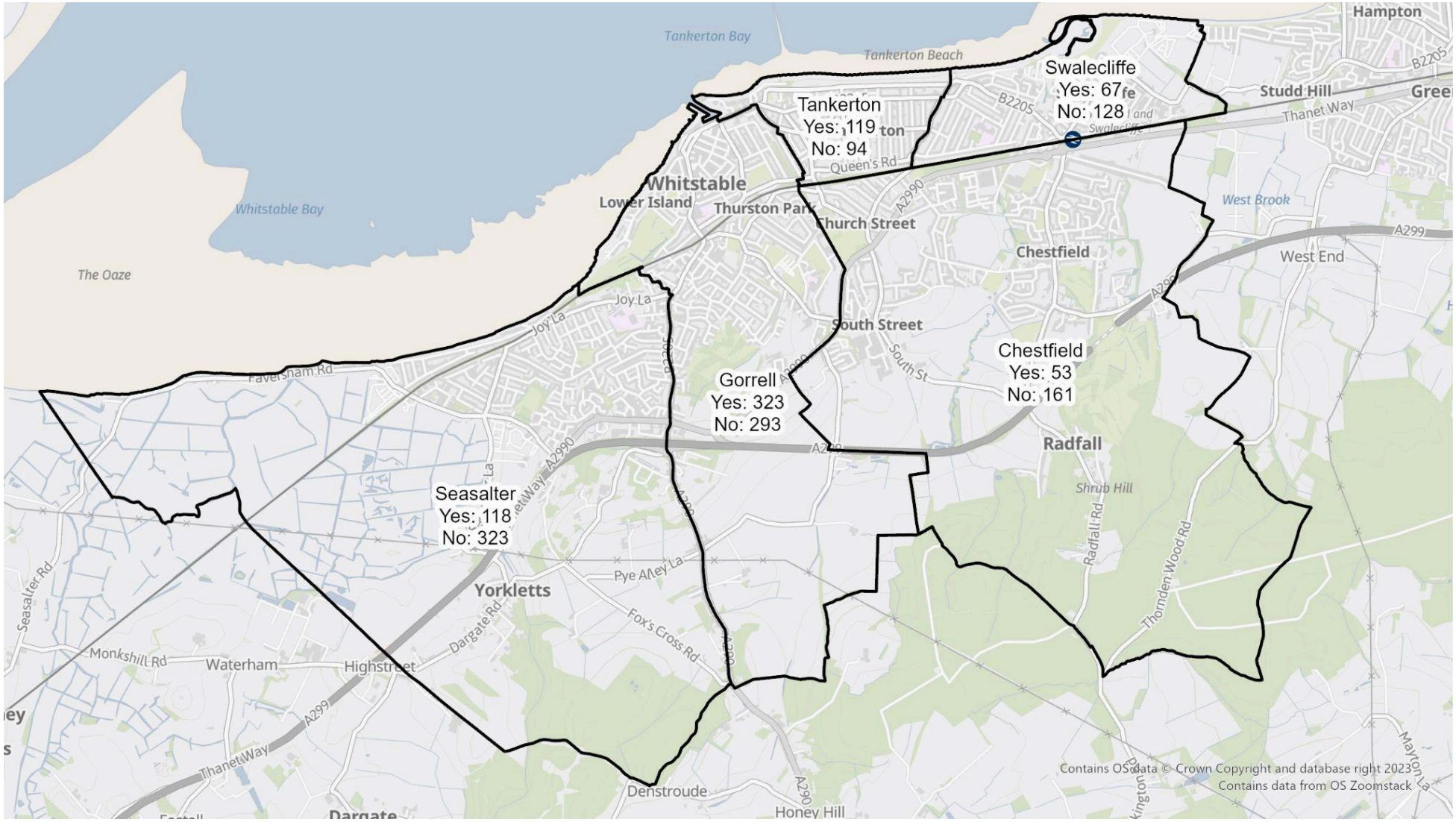
Appendix 1.2 - ‘No’ town council (by postcode area)



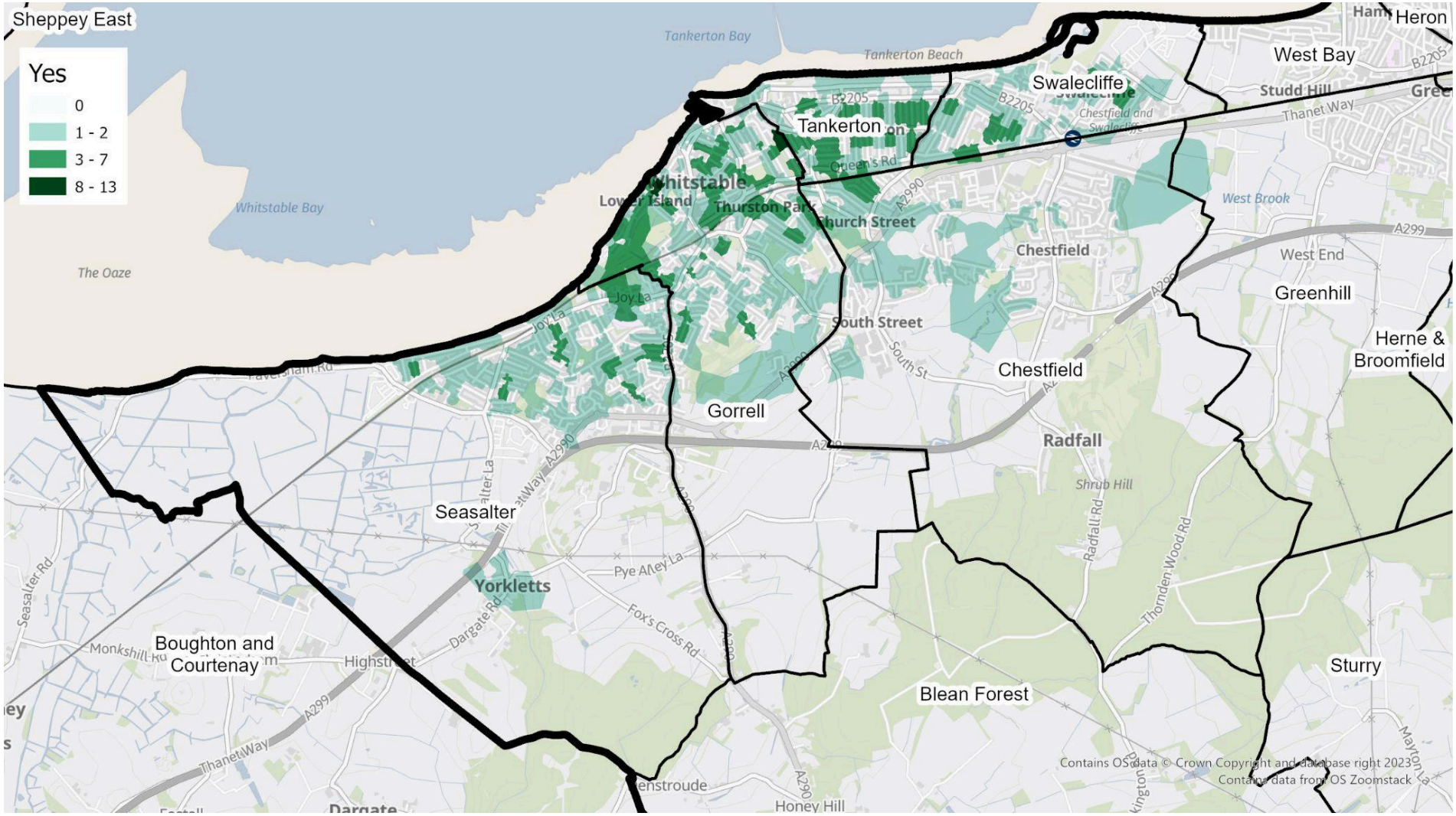
Appendix 1.3 - ‘Not sure’ town council (by postcode area)



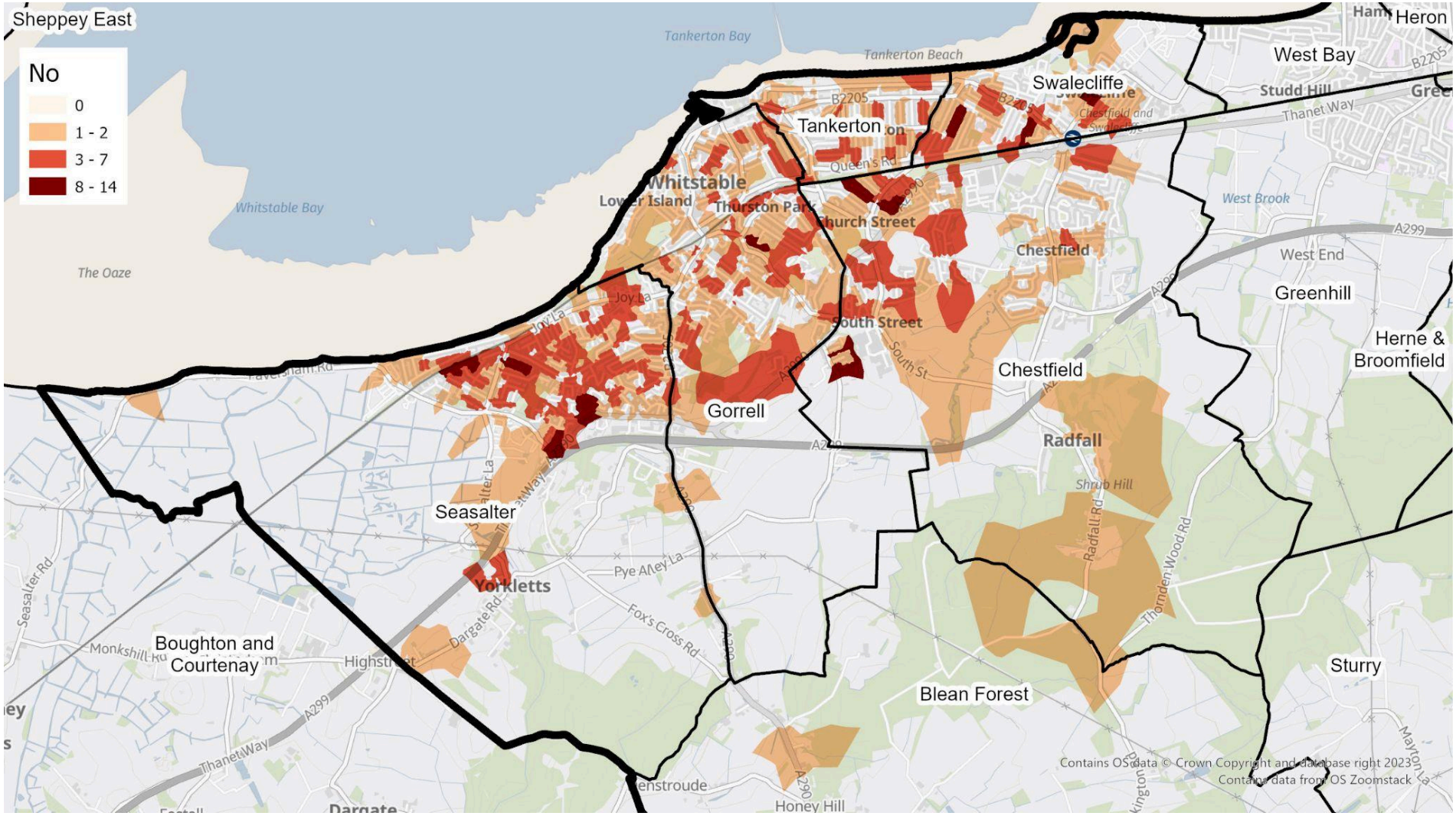
Appendix 2 - Whitstable by ward



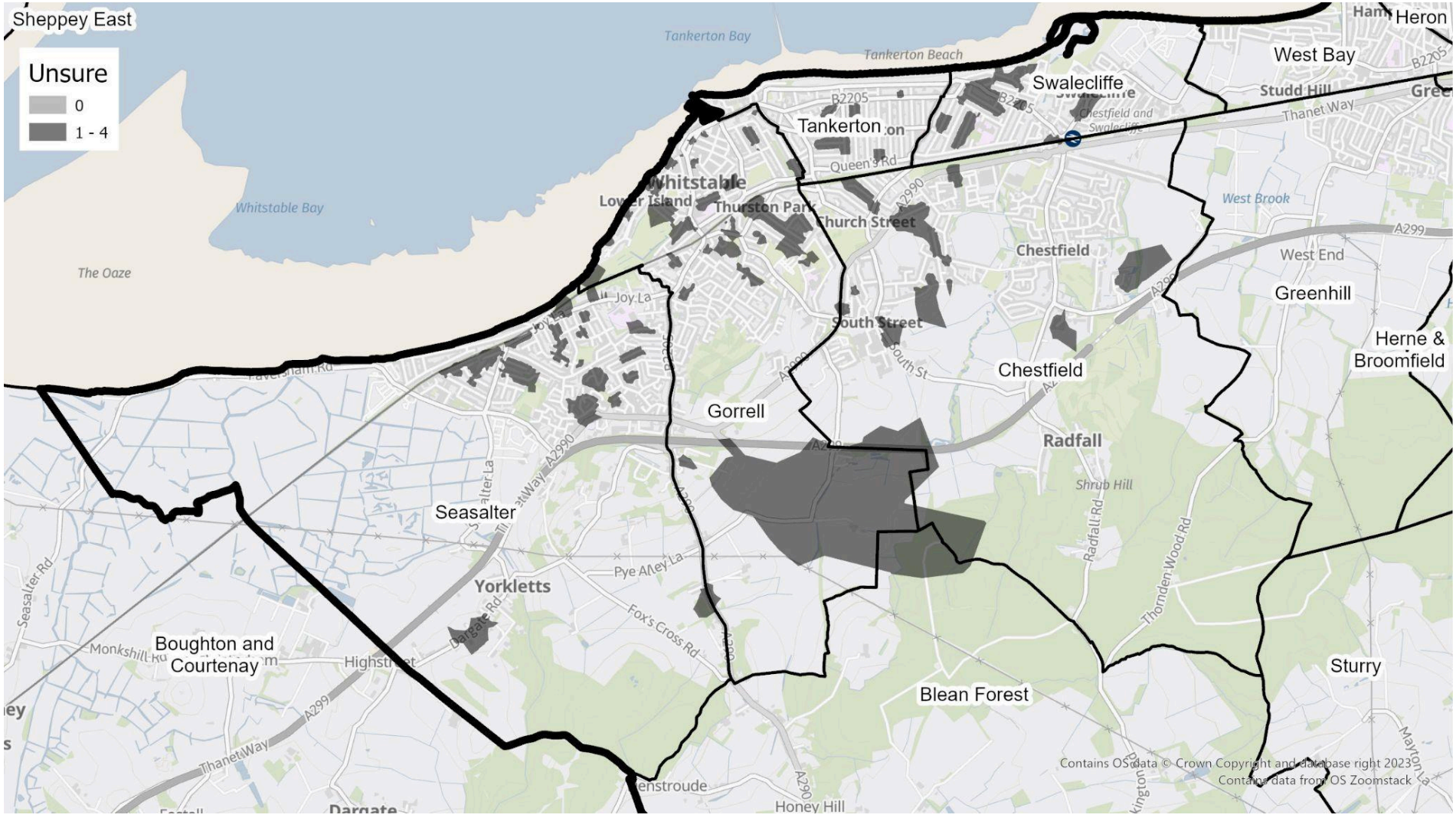
Appendix 2.1 - ‘Yes’ town council (by ward)



Appendix 2.2 - ‘No’ town council (by ward)



Appendix 2.3 - ‘Not sure’ town council (by ward)



Appendix 3 - Consultation responses (raw data)

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published
No	Too much money. I'm not willing to pay more tax for something we dont actually need. Just wanted by a small proportion of the community. If they want it they should pay for it themselves. They can probably afford a rise in council tax to pay for it. Not everyone should be made to pay for the whim of a few. They could however raise the money some other way.
No	I strongly object to the idea of a town council for Whitstable - it would have no real power over and above what CCC and KCC already do but we would end up paying an extra precept on our Council Tax bill. What concerns me most is that the general public will not realise that a town council is as well as CCC, not instead of CCC. It is a ridiculous idea and I will do all I can to ensure my fellow residents understand the finer details.
No	This is double taxation - we would end up paying more for services which CCC and KCC already deliver. A town council would have no power to dictate to either CCC or KCC, only make recommendations, so it is pointless having a town council.
No	This is a small group of people who go not and will not represent Whitstable
Not sure	I think I am in favour, however, I'm concerned that the council may be geared more towards Whitstable visitors than residents. Whitstable is already overrun with tourists and is no longer the town I grew up in. I miss my old town and any move to further expand its tourism would, in my opinion, be a mistake. There are long queues of traffic coming into the town, not just in the summer but throughout the year. Although I'm sure that there are some local businesses, restaurants and pubs who are benefitting, the local people are not and therefore tend to stay away from the town. We prefer to go to neighbouring towns where it's not so crowded. This makes me very sad.
Not sure	It costs money to put in place a council. Would a focused group on the current council not be more cost effective ? We do need more focus for Whitstable , especially when there are trust issues with Canterbury council eg the selling of key land at below market rates, not managing the west beach tennis courts at a time of increasing obesity and the need for children and teenagers to get involved in sports to help With mental health - are there alterior Motives for at play?
Not sure	If it increases costs and increases beurocrycy it’s not worth it, but if it can make a difference and the local voices are heard it worth it
No	Most people simply can’t afford to pay more in council tax. It also seems like another level of unnecessary bureaucracy. I don’t see the benefit of having one.
No	We have a council. Why should i have to pay more to have a parish council on top of my standard council tax. Massive no
No	This is no requirement for this. I dont want to be forced to pay and exta approx £100 on tax.. cost of living is already hitting people. Instead of this, maybe think about having some more influencial voices to make changes.
No	We already have two levels of local government in the Canterbury Council area, and with three local councillors covering my ward, and a KCC councillor also, I feel adequately represented and do not want my council tax bill to increase for another layer to be added.
No	In addition to extra council tax in these times of austerity, i dont think a town council will offer anything different to what we already have - there are already many groups and organisations that organise a variety of events and support throughout the year as well as the council. Most local businesses take pride in making sure their surroundings and premìses look nice - i really dont feel that there is a need for a town council
Not sure	What are the financial implications for residents if there is an increase in council officers dedicated to the town. What are the advantages compared to a Business improvement district. Why isn’t the current Council capable of providing the necessary resources and support required to service the town correctly . It is such a valuable asset to the area
No	Do not wish to pay £80 per year for the privilege. Too many layers of bureaucracy already , we could have a unitary authority and get rid of a layer rather than increase bureaucracy. I do not believe that a town council would have any real authority after all the City council has precious little when it comes to planning etc.
No	1/ I do not want to pay extra council tax to fund it. 2/ I think we should be aiming for less bureaucracy not more. Surely we don’t want more unaccountable civil servants, probably working from home. 3/ £60 to £80 may be the running costs but who pays for the new / refurbished buildings to house this extra layer of bureaucracy. 4/ Also with all these powers locally how will they fund the costs. Within a few years of commencement I predict that a number of prominent places in Tankerton will have parking meters added to fund their salaries/works. Especially Marine Parade. 5/ As always there are a few narrow minded zealots with their own agendas. The make a point of getting elected and we end up, for instance, with traffic calming measures including speed bumps, very low speed limits, cycle lanes and pedestrianizing every thing in site, etc. 6/ WHITSTABLE / Tankerton is very relaxed and happy place with the number of visitors showing how popular it is. A local town council, I think will change the atmosphere for the worse.
No	The roles described should already be under the remit of the local council/government which we already pay for via taxes.
No	It is a waste of money our concerns and local issues are all met by local councillors.
No	Have experience of living in a town with town council, was expensive and ineffective. It is the job of our Canterbury Councillors to ensure the needs of Whitstable are met and that we have a fair share of resources and spending. Strongly against additional costs.
No	I really don't think people can afford the extra money at the moment. Also, we already have a voice in the existing councils. I feel this is something that people who can afford things are pushing and doesn't consider how much people are struggling at the moment. I think council meetings should come to Whitstable more and maybe the forums could come back so people have their voice heard, as travelling into Canterbury is expensive.
No	I pay enough for Council tax already and do not want pay another precept for an unnecessary town Council. I don't think that a town Council will offer anything more useful than what Canterbury Council does at the moment. Why add yet another layer of bureaucracy to local politics, when what we really need is for Canterbury Council to do its job properly, efficiently and cost-effectively.

Not sure	It will depend on what they can deliver with the funds they get. £60 to £80 is a lot of money for a lot of people to find at this time. Can we guarantee they will make the right decisions for Whitstable. Also will the annual charge increase each year as we pay over the odds with the Council tax as it is.
No	At this time of extreme financial pressure we just cannot afford to vote for another organisation which we will be asked to pay for. With no idea of costa to householders, how can we afford more on our council tax! We can barely keep our home. I am sure there would be benefits to a town council but other areas with them have not had much benefit - look at Broadstairs. We just cannot pay for more council jobs.
No	I originally thought this was a good idea but it was not made clear when the petition came round that there would be an extra charge made.
No	With the cost of living crisis hitting people hard is this the best decision to spend peoples hard earned money on, another vanity project someone has had as they think we all need it. If the precept is between £60 - £80, thats more than the funding the fire and rescue service receive from council tax!! Yet this is deemed more worthy than that?? None of the issues a town council can fix, wont rely on other services already doing it, but lets just add another unnecessary layer of bureaucracy for the sake of it. No thanks, i dont want a bunch of unqualified people wasting yet more of our money, with nothing to show for it.
No	I don't think that in the current economic crisis affecting the ordinary residents of Whitstable an increase and then subsequent further year on increases for services already met is justified.
No	Canterbury city council are doing a good enough job, we don’t need more expense to our already huge council tax.
No	More layers of administration seem counter intuitive and burdensome. It’s bad enough dealing with the City Council and the County Council with neither often taking responsibility for issues of concern. And I certainly don’t want to pay more in Council Tax for the privilege - if Council Tax were to increase I would want any such funds directed towards road maintenance and improvements or adult social care in the first instance, not a local vanity project.
No	I simple cant afford the added cost.
No	I am a single parent living in Whitstable, where the private rents are excruciating and every year my landlord raises it. I am at the point, where every year I am worried about whether we would end up losing our home due to not being able to afford rent. I work full time, but we are having to watch every penny we spent. There is nothing the town council will be able to change about cost of living or private rents, therefore in my particular circumstances town council will mean extra expense through council tax.
No	Not needed. More excuse to stop things being done
No	It is another level of local goverment, that will stop things getting done. It will add cost to the householder, without benefiet. If we could have our own council that could set the coincil tax rate and spend all the money in Whitstable it may be worth it, but canterbury city council and kent county council, are keeping the money.
Not sure	The only information I have been given is a leaflet that is not credited to anyone with no information on it other than some spurious success stories from distant town councils.
Not sure	Will the benefit outweigh the cost? Will it just muddy the council waters further? Is it just another layer of bureaucracy? These are the questions that need to be clarified.
No	I cannot afford any extra payments
No	We had a Local Council several years ago, this was change, now Canterbury wish to pass the local problems that should have been fixed i e Poor roads high rates and a lack of interest in slowing the traffick down in Cromwell road, there are several more issues to many to list. XXXXX
Not sure	If it does get voted in to be impartial i think the candidates should have no family ties on canterbury council.
No	Too bureaucratic. Poor value for additional council tax. Not representative of local people.
Not sure	It might be that Whitstable residents would prefer to have their own voice.
No	Additional council tax? As if you don't take enough - the benefits do not outweigh the costs
No	I do not see why i need to pay additional monies per year when there is simply no need to do so. Any monies generated will not make the town safer, give the kids access to more clubs/facilities, put extra Police on the streets etc. It will like get wasted on things that are not needed i.e., towards the tourist industry.
No	I don’t wish to pay an additional yearly fee to fund the new town council.
No	I do not believe that Whitstable requires a town council. For many reason. The most reason is local businesses aren’t owned by local people local people in which struggle to purchase property in Whitstable let alone increasing their council tax to extract astronomical amount . No, I do not believe we need one
No	I don’t think it would be value for money
Not sure	after reading the literature, still not sure about it. It will go ahead whatever the feeling against it. these things always do .
No	Council Tax is at an all time high along with the cost of everything else. We cannot justify having another increase for for things that don't effect everyone in the town. Paying for the promoting of cultural events and external funding bids should be optional for Whitstable residents, NOT a mandatory tax! I think it's absolutely crazy that at this time it would be proposed for every resident to pay an additional mandatory £60 - £80 per year for something that might never effect them. I would not benefit one single bit from having this council. This feels like a charity and a donation to a charity should always be a choice and never mandatory. In my opinion, I really think when costs are at an all time high in a cost of living crisis, that this proposal is outrageous.

	There is little or no benefit for the town. The ammenities mentioned in your flyer should be paid for and provided by the busisness particiapting. Additonal markets they do not offer increase value to the Whitsable community only another way of making a profit for themselves. Dofg wardens are already paid for by our CCC rates! Christmas markets should be again paid for my the stall holders. Whitstable is already a thriving holiday community, try and find a hotel room even in winter and you will find they are above the national average. What a\re these tourists providing to the local community excluding local business. I DO NOT wish to pay another 15-20% on my rates it is unacceptable. There are elections on 02 May nationwide, a Referundum should be held by Whistable resident and voters to finmd our if the majority wish to pay this extra tax, or if we are happy as we are! This is just anther stealth TAX on the
No	community. for what we aleady pay for!
Not sure	Will my taxes go up?
No	The council tax is dear enough with out having another charge added, surely ccc is already looking after Whitstable's interests or what are we paying them for? As someone on low income and not in receipt of any benefits I cannot afford to be paying for another made up service, Whitstable is a nice place as it is
No	Don't feel it's worth it if there's an extra cost to it
No	We do not need to pay an 'extra charge' for even more politicians who only serve themselves and their own agendas. We pay enough in tax as it it for substandard services. The roads are falling apart. Crime is rife. The town looks a mess due to graffiti and litter. Use the extra £60 to £80 per annum quoted in the booklet to address these issues, not to line the pockets of even more useless politicians on top of the feckless wastrels we already have.
No	Unclear what the net benefit is versus funds required from households versus costs of running council and what will be left in terms of funds
No	Depsite the possible upsides im not willing to pay more in Council tax during a ongoing cost if living crisis
No	Council tax is high enough as it especially as theres a cost of living crisis. More money towards an already expensive council tax plus in the middle of a cost of living crisis. Cost of living chrisis and people dont want to pay more council take its too expensive as it is. The yputh and anti social behavior needs tackling first
No	Creates additional costs onto the Council tax when cost of living already high. Local consultation could be achieved using the system I'm using now. QR codes etc. Just creating another pointless bureaucracy.
No	It costs extra money which is a kick in the teeth in the cost of living crisis, these potential 'services' being offered should be provided by Canterbury City Council already.
No	I do not see any benefit of having a town council. We are already paying way too much every month for council tax. With the cost of everything increasing this extra expense will not be welcome. The best thing you can do to save money is to stop paying the top councillors ridiculously high wages!
No	The last thing people need are more demands on their ever decreasing finances. We do not need another level of bureaucracy with more councillors demanding salaries and needless expenses. The proposed town council will have no real powers, for example they could have a view on a planning application but could be overridden by the City/County Council or Government.
No	Anything that makes our already extremely high council tax higher is not acceptable!
No	I am not prepared to pay for a Town Council We have Canterbury Council. I don't think it's necessary to have an extra one! I am firmly against further costs which will be difficult to pay.
Not sure	As a single person, living alone, I feel it is totally UNFAIR and UNJUST to charge per household!
No	This is an additional cost on top of the already rising council taxes per year when we are in a cost of living crisis.
No	Uncapped precepts on council tax, high running costs based on evidence of other town and parish councils. Doesn't appear to me they'll be any more effective than what we already have in place. All vague plans about what we "could" do, nothing solid or tangible. Difficult to remove an ineffective council if we did establish one.
No	Given the very limited remit and powers of a Town Council I see no good reason for adding another level of administration. Our local ward Canterbury City councillors should do what they were elected for and be committed to represent and support the interests of Whitstable residents and businesses. If residents have concerns about the state of the parks, bus services or shelters, then get the ward councillors to deal with it. To add a further £60-£80 pa to the Council Tax for this service is too much at this time when many people are already financially struggling. What safeguards are there that if Whitstable doesn't form a Town Council it will not be at a disadvantage when competing for funds with other towns who have them?
No	Definitely no it is just another way of raising council tax this has been push quickly with meeting scheduled at unreasonable times of the day for people working and families with children your target people!
No	Additional costs to be incurred by the tax payer for an already lack service.
No	We had a town council until the 80's and then it was scrapped because it would supposedly save money. So why do we need a town council now? It will cost residents more for little or no benefit. Fail to see any benefit to the local community other fulfilling some local councillers vanity project.
No	Not needed, already charge too much council tax, waste of money, wasn't asked for, poor services recieved from council anyway
No	Unsure if the advantages
No	The people of Whitstable are already well served with communication with Canterbury Council either directly or via the internet. Any issues can be raised easily. There is no need for an intermediary or a 'talking shop' to air grievances or endless debate. This comes at a price. I hear the sum of £70-80 per council tax payer will be required. I see no need for this extra bureaucracy.
Not sure	The old urban district council worked very well for whitstable but I'm not sure this could be attained again. In order to have complete control of whitstable needs the new council would need a huge amount of capital and its own premises and I don't think this is realistically achievable
No	The council works fine as it is now.. we don't heed any changes thank you

	Waste of money Waste of time More than enough commities in this town Even if elected, all the electorate, will be white, well off and with time on their hands for busy-bodying I don't want to vote for a single one of them Canterbury Cc is doing the job sufficiently,not ideal, but we don't need anymore stupid little phone booths with moldy books inside or play ground parks with tables and zero shade. Pointless All the councillors (or the ones we are allowed to 'vote' for) will be white, well off and with plenty of time on their hands It has NOTHING to add to Whitstable life There are dozens of committees doing stuff around Whitstable, please don't add another and DON'T make me fund it Just another layer of annoyance I don't want to fund it KCC do an adequate job, could do with improvement, but this would not help I am
No	vehemently against this
No	I don’t see any tangible benefits to local residents for the additional 60-120 pounds I have seen as estimated costs. Is this just paying for additional level in bureaucracy?
No	With the cost of living it’s not appropriate at this time
No	The reasons given for a town council are not convincing and in my view CCC is already ‘been paid’ to look after the town. If CCC is not doing a satisfactory job then this should be addressed and not by adding another layer of management at our cost.
No	It's another unnecessary layer of local governance mainly promoted by the local Labour party under the guise of a "people's forum", a "talking shop" for a group of people to grandstand at meetings at the community's expense - and there's no guarantee that the precept involved won't increase and become a burden for local people who are already suffering the effects of the cost of living crisis. Expenses/allowances for county councillors topped £2m last year, the new Labour city council wanted another ten councillors at a cost of £100,000 to local people, now another group of former Labour city councillors appears to be at the heart of pushing this through while trying to claim it's not political. I'm sick of listening to councillors. Save us from this, please.
No	Unknown agenda, excess cost, just another layer of local government
No	Do we really need yet another layer of bureaucracy, with an attendant hike to our Council Tax, which some are already struggling to pay?
No	I think it’s the wrong time to be adding more money to council tax I object strongly to this Why should I pay extra for something I completely disagree with How can anyone think charging more money to residents is a good idea Which tells me that residents are not being thought of it’s obvious it’s a few peoples ego here to be on a committee And make this more Covent Garden by the sea
Not sure	The cost seems rather high
No	Another toothless level of bureaucracy which will cost us extra over what Canterbury already receives.
No	Can you provide any examples using the STAR methodology of why this will be successful and not a waste of our money ? I cant see any tangible examples in your leaflet that show any benefit to this.
Not sure	The CT5 Forum have to my knowledge not issued a plan of the areas that they would like to administer, intended actions and priorities and anticipated costs for their first year. Following this there does not seem to be a strategic plan or priorities.
No	Because it will do nothing other than increase our rates
Not sure	I'm divided on it as we pay a significant amount of council tax already, over £3000 for band F. I'm not convinced a Whitstable town council would benefit everyone or just a few people with their own agenda. For that reason I don't think a further , probably £100 a year for me, guarantees that we would benefit as a family. That's all that matters to me.
Not sure	Not enough notice given to assess the potential benefits
Not sure	I think the size and significance of Whitstable as a town that attracts many tourists, visitors and residents, warrants that it should have its own Town Council. However as a resident myself I would be concerned about the additional costs to Council tax charges.
No	The potential costs/benefits do not stack up, in my opinion. A Town Council seems an unnecessary additional layer of bureaucracy with nebulous advantages. I am not convinced that a Town Council will give value for money, particularly in these cash-strapped times in which we live.
No	Several reasons. I feel that only those with the loudest voices will be heard; this installs yet another layer of government which is not needed - is this not why we have ward councillors? Surely a local councillor can speak up for residents at CCC and (subsequently) KCC level. Adding £60 per year to people's council tax bills is inexcusable, especially at a time of financial hardship for many.
No	I do not want to pay the additional cost
Not sure	There are many reasons so this is merely an example. Whitstable is a community removed from that of Canterbury or Maidstone but still large enough to require very specific localised policy and solution. tourism and industry needing to work alongside each other in a unique manner and a huge population growth whilst Air B & B provides major income . It would be beneficial to have an elected local body to represent the continued growth of the town balanced with the need of local populace being able to live within the town.
No	The annual precept is a worrying cost which will undoubtedly increase year on year. Once established a town council, if not effective, would take a prolonged procedure with ongoing costs to dismantle. The cost of staffing a town council will use much of the money and the benefits seen will be few. From looking at other town councils achievements I doubt the worth. I worry that CCC will devolve unwanted responsibilities and services to a town council that would have neither the funds nor the professional expertise nor the stamina to deal with. I am also concerned that the town council will become a costly clique unrepresentative of the Whitstable population. As there is not to be a town-wide referendum type of vote for the people of Whitstable, I worry that the only measure of opinion on this matter will come from those folk aware enough and with online resources to respond to the consultation document, potentially a scarily low proportion of the population. This may lead to a costly, ineffective and unwanted layer of local bureaucracy at a time of cost of living issues for many people.
No	I think the councillors are adequate for the points covered by proposed Town Council. Also I think a lot of people could not afford the extra cost on Council Tax

No	We do not need a town council, plus im not prepared to pay more council tax when im already struggling to pay my bills.
No	I do not believe that this would improve anything And the extra cost is not acceptable also with a town council being able to increase the cost whenever they feel it necessary Just another level of bureaucracy at the cost to all tax payers
No	From the information shared I do not see how having an extra layer of bureaucracy adds any value for the additional money we will have to pay.
No	I can see no advantage but additional costs People have been hard pressed with inflation and cannot pay more unnecessary costs NO to a town council for whitstable
No	If Whitstable had it's own Town Council it would be a complete waste of hard pressed Whitstable esidence money, unless they had the power to raise their own council tax and more inportant ensuring these funds were only spend in Whitstable. Also ensuring that any local assets were not transferred to Canterbury. i can remember when I first moved to Whitstable, it had its own council but a short time later it was swallowed uo by Canterbury. One of the first things I noticed after this, was council workmen digging up the granite curbstones in Joy Lane and replacing them with cheap concrete ones. The granite ones were tranferred to Canterbury to make some streets in the City look more intune with what their councillors wanted!
No	Pay enough council tax already , don't need more expense on top . Will continue to increase as well. Too much council tax paid already, don't need any more expense
No	It is another level of representation which in some cases can lead to improvements in local democracy the main worry in the case of Whitstable is that it will be run by a select group of people that have recently moved into the area rather than long established locals.
Not sure	Unsure on benefits. More focus on keeping the beach clean during busy seasons would be very welcome. Unclear whether the town council could licence or properly tax/control the large number of Airbnb properties in the town,
No	The Canterbury City Council should be looking after all of the Whitstable Town needs. They are receiving our rates payments for this purpose. We don't need an underdog Town Council to clog up the system and cost the rates payers more money for the pleasure of more debates. There is an old saying that is still true today,'Too many cooks spoil the broth'.
No	Bills are high enough as it is and you’re asking for more money to do jobs that should already be being done by the council we have.
Not sure	I feel quite strongly that our particular local issues have not been understood well enough in the past but appreciate that another layer of administration would cost residents a lot more in already difficult times.
Not sure	It would appear that a town council’s powers would not cover areas which matter to the local community - i.e. roads planning applications street lighting and as such would not be worth the annual levy envisaged
No	During a cost of living crises it is not feasible to pay more out each month. As far as I am aware there is no cap as to how much the fee can increase each year which is very concerning.
No	Little benefit for more cost
No	I simply do not feel the additional cost to residents in the form of increased local government taxes will outweigh the benefits. Sadly there are too many ‘failed’ politicians involved in this town council proposal and I fear it will simply become a home for outgoing city councillors and those with previous local government experience who don’t really have the interests of the local people at heart and will instead just use it as a platform for political motives and to serve themselves. I also fear it will just add a further layer of bureaucracy and things will not really get done and mean our local city councillors will be even further removed from local residents already and residents issues and problems will end up being passed around with nobody wanting to take responsibility. Unfortunately I believe the wrong people are involved in this town council already and it will therefore be floored from the very start. I just can’t see how this will help to solve local issues and benefit the communities of Whitstable and Tankerton.
No	Just another layer without any powers. We would be paying for a building, a clerk plus his or her pension all added onto the council tax. If CT5 forum turned itself into a designated neighbourhood forum, they could apply for all the relevant grants and create a neighbourhood plan.
No	Just adds more to CCC tax bill
No	The added expense does not justify the requirement.
No	I think the timing is wrong. In the current economic climate we should be looking for ways to reduce peoples outgoings not increase them. With Food Banks locally providing 100’s of meals every week it would be irresponsible, if not inhumane to raise people’s bills at this time
No	We do not need another level of buerocracy from people whose aim is to make the town something different.I have never come across this self appointed group CT5 forum who it would appear wish to keep their ideas amongst their insulated group.
No	We already have a MP, county councillors and a couple of city councillors from Whitstable area. Why do we need yet more people to tell us what to do and think at a cost of £60-80 per year? I attended the meeting last week in whistable and it was clear that the majority of attendees were all active on a whitstable online website. It would be interesting to know how many of these people were recent arrivals to our town. A town council would be a talk shop of effectively self appointed (Only those interested would bother to vote) AND BAD VALUE FOR OUR MONEY.
No	I think that our local council currently already supplies the services we need. A town council would involve an extra cost and I don’t think this would provide value for money as I am sure that we currently benefit from better deals made through the city council for services such as waste management due to the economy of scale. With crime reduction and safety measures, I don’t believe that a town council would have the budget to deliver what it promises and this would lead to a dangerous depletion of key services
No	We do not need any more councillors what we have in canterbury should be quite enough. Also I do not wish to pay any more council tax of what little money I have left after bills.
No	I can’t see any benefits from what I have read and been told so far, I dont want to pay more for my council tax. I think the government will use this as an excuse for giving less money to councils. Once the charge is there it will be incredibly hard to go back to have it removed.

No	Too much additional cost for no real gain
No	I don't believe we as Whitstable residents should be asked to pay extra council tax to Canterbury City Council just to be treated as equals, when WUDC was abolished , it was on a promise that CCC would take care of all our needs and concerns, since then we have become Canterbury's poor relation. But now that Whitstable has become a popular town with visitors, CCC have taken an interest and can see the £££ that has been brought in by visitors and know Whitstable is worth further investment. I don't see how an independent Whitstable Council could improve on what CCC are doing without CCC's support. A lot of the problems in Whitstable are to do with Highways & Parking. I was born in Whitstable in 1962 and lived here all my life, i still cannot believe that the inconsiderate parking in the high street is still a problem and the high street still isn't one way from Canterbury Road to Sea Street with loading bays on one side only. Such a simple remedy.
No	More bureaucracy, CCC are incompetent enough without adding another layer of numpties. Rather close CCC andfold everything into KCC, who seem more organised
No	I do not believe they will be effective and just add cost to our ever increasing bills. The way thing are governed at the moment are fine. Is it just another case of offloading responsibilities so canterbury city council does not have to fund/maintain allotments and other planned items like public toilets
No	There will be an extra Community Charge for this. I feel another layer of Bureaucracy is not good value for the extra cost to householders.
No	I signed petition for review after being stopped and given a very upbeat view of a Town Council. I have since read the proposal and attended the extremely good presentation at the Umbrella Centre. 1). If I pay £75 or more on the precept, that is £75 or more that I cannot spend directly with local businesses or supporting local ventures. 2). If business rates include a precept, prices will rise and I will be less able to support them. Some businesses will fail. 3). If local groups are encouraged to use a Council Town Hall for meetings etc, other venues will suffer eg Church halls, Scout halls etc. Our local churches do a great deal for the community. Our various community venues are great assets for residents and visitors. 4). I cannot support an “uncapped” precept. Whitstable has many, many residents who are only just ‘getting by”. An uncapped precept is like signing a blank cheque. 5). This is unlikely to be socially cohesive across the area. There is a real risk of divisiveness between different wards. 6). We are not a small village and in this area it is likely to become party political which in itself is likely to be divisive. 7). We do not lack civic or community pride. We have great community assets, a huge range of activities, clubs and associations that run themselves. 8). We do not need to further promote the town to visitors. We have reached capacity (many would say we now have too many). 9). The staff at Canterbury City Council are knowledgeable and helpful and a resource for our area. With allotments (which would be run by a Town Council), Canterbury staff give sound advice and help both to committees dealing with issues and to individuals who may suffer from zealous committees! 10). A Town Council is another tier of bureaucracy with associated running costs and the risk of representatives pursuing personal goals or objectives whilst failing to recognise (or care) about the impact of unintended consequences.
No	They will not have any influence on any decisions that could affect the town.
No	I don't believe that a town council will be a benefit. It will cost local towns people more in the council tax.
No	I do not think whitstable would benefit as they still have to go through Canterbury council,and I do not want to pay extra on my rates
No	- Cost - I’m not sure it would represent value for money -I think that KCC does a good job and I question whether a town council and the councillors would have the skills and knowledge to ensure that current services are delivered to the current high standards. - I fear it will have one focus - holiday lets! Also those that own holiday lets won’t have a voice as they don’t pay council tax (as they are a business), so won’t be able to vote - An additional level of bureaucracy that I feel isn’t needed
No	What I think for what it’s worth it will cost more money and achieve nothing, the new ‘council’ will have no authority and no power, no matter what they say when setting it up. I can’t see any useful purpose, we just need the one we’ve got to be run properly, a big ask I know
No	Unnecessary.
No	People cannot afford the extra charge. We should have all been sent a yes/no vote form. Many people are not able to use online forms etc and many cannot get out to collect them from community centres. Its unfair to force SOME peoples views onto everyone especially if you cannot afford extra money to pay for it.
No	It is unnecessary and I do not want to pay more council tax for it.
No	Council tax is high enough already - most of this extra charge will go towards funding additional bureaucracy and not essential services, so it looks like poor value for money. I’m normally a Labour voter, so I’m not against tax rises as long as the money raised is used wisely. But I fear that this plan to impose a non essential tax rise on struggling residents will make any councillor supporting the proposal look out of touch with the electorate. We’re in the middle of a cost of living crisis, and our council is struggling to pay for schools, bin collections and maintenance to essential infrastructure. Why is our council wasting time and resources on this proposal instead of tackling its current financial crisis? Everyone involved here is fiddling while Rome burns!
No	We already have two layers of opaque and struggling local authority. The last thing needed is another layer and more cost and higher council tax. The town council is a concept to benefit the residents of the centre of the town and cover for the abject failure if CCC/KCC over many years to do anything to maintain the fabric if seafront/high street. It will be paid for by all residents for the benefit if few.

	I am concerned by the potential cost of these proposals, the lack of an ability to change back or remove the potential town council, the fear being they become 'just another committee or the direct and tangible benefits that this proposal entails. Furthermore, people who are elected are likely to take affirmative action or actions, to justify their position, rather than give me a direct perceivable benefit I am concerned about the negative potential impact. I am also concerned about the environmental impact that this potential group will have in terms of the communication and engagement that this group will, in all good practice, undertake. Furthermore, I cannot understand what decision that this committee could take will have a beneficial outcome that couldn't be achieved via other means or current forums. I'm also concerned that key parts of the towns spirit and commercial running will be excluded from this proposal, in
No	short, I can see no benefit from this proposal.
	Not enough information has been provided e.g. a breakdown of how much the £80 precept will be expected to raise, initial plans on how it is spent, what controls will their be in place to avoid wasting money. The information leaflet is vague on the specific role the town council will have in reality and what the benefit is to local people. There is a lack of transparency around the idea and the decision making on this is not really in the hands of the people who live in
No	whitstable.
No	Absolutely not. Limited benefit, unlimited expense, £80 per year per household to fund.
	It's hard to see exactly what the benefits are and I think Whitstable residents are very worried about the additional
No	costs it will incur.
	I'm happy with the council as it is. I don't want to pay more money for a town council that can raise it to a level it likes. We have an MP. County councillors and city councillor's.No to a town council and definitely no paying more money how crazy to ask people for more money when a lot of us are struggling with the cost of living. Do the right thing stop
No	this madness set in motion by the few who want it.
No	An additional and unnecessary level of bureaucracy. Additional cost to the payers of council tax.
	There is no requirement for a Town Council in Whitstable, another layer of administration would be too expensive - especially when it is not required. Whitstable is a charming town and does not need any radical changes. The two-way traffic system through the town, with the existing parking and loading spaces works well and is to the benefit of everyone including visitors. The small one-way system around Harbour Street/Sea Street works perfectly. Traffic through the town is kept to a sensible speed which is good for pedestrians, particularly shoppers and school children. Retailers also benefit from this slower pace, many of them are still independent small shops and the town benefits from keeping it that way. There is enough parking and car parks around the town to cope with the summer season.
No	Large green spaces already exist and, if anything, are under-used.
No	We do not need more councillors charging more tax CCC should do its job better
	It involves another layer of governance, that has to be paid for via the compulsory precept. In the current financial climate we already pay plenty and there are strains on household budgets. There is also no clear indication what the precept will be, other than reference to other similar towns. I want to know exactly what something WILL cost before I buy it. Too many of the reasons for having a town council revolve around vague issues, which use phrases like consulting, adding value, promoting, helping, planning etc. Furthermore, the financial arguments in favour seem to revolve around the idea that funding 'can be used' , 'could be found', etc from various sources. This is far too vague and looks like another layer of discussion, with little authority invested in the councillors to actually make decisions. In short, this looks like a talking shop, with very little of value for Whitstable. I don't see why the aims of a town council could not be achieved by other means. Those means would have to be voluntary, and so my guess is that those who are largely in favour of this proposal are those who hope to be elected and then get paid for what they do. In other words, their conversion to this idea, has more to do with their personal situation than any public duty. I am also sceptical of the idea that whatever a Town Council does achieve, assuming it is put in place, would provide widespread benefits to the people of Whitstable. More likely it will provide a platform for pushing the personal projects for those involved, leading to a very narrow spectrum of benefits to the town as a whole. I am generally in favour of small
No	government, and for this and all the above reasons, I am NOT in favour of this idea of having a Town Council.
	We already have a council (Canterbury City). Therefore why have a town council which we are expected to pay for? Additional council tax (precept) is not acceptable. The existing council should be providing everything listed in the proposal and the members should be doing their jobs. Another council is yet another level of bureaucracy, we do not
No	need another council to tell the existing council what to do!
No	Unnecessary expense with little advantages
	We don't need added expense and won't benefit the £80 extra to pay! Leave well alone! The CCC is enough when it comes to council tax and with the cost of living cannot warrant the extra cost of being a parish council! Talking to
No	residents of Chestfield, strongly advised to oppose it!
No	Another toothless level of bureaucracy.
	I have read the so-called arguments in favour and am not convinced this additional layer of bureaucracy offers anything
No	tangible to the community, that it costs the residents an additional precept makes no sense to me at all.
	I feel that the duties outlined in the proposal should already be carried out by Canterbury City Council and I do not see
No	the need to pay additional monies, also there is no cap on this additional cost to us.
	It's not needed, We are are also looking at a furthe in crease in Council tax . A town Council would be a further expense uncapped which will be an extra amount most people can't simply afford. I see no extra benefit from having a Town
No	Council.
No	We do not need it !
	I don't wish to pay for an uncapped precept. Also there seems little accountability for what a TC would do and likely to result in in fighting between vested interests of powerful groups without benefit to those struggling with social and financial disadvantage. Local city councilors already work hard for the community and are accountable to the
No	electorate.
No	I hadn't realised there would be an increase in council tax.
Not sure	Cost and control thereof

Not sure	Of the funds raised through town council charge e.g. £60-£80 for band D. What % of that is used on services and how much on expenses e.g. meeting room hire, electoral services, expenses other likely town council running costs. Does the extra voice representing the community have any more statutory power and is it any stronger than the current councillors?
No	1.) The town council would not be representative or democratic because those who have the time and/or inclination to be involved tend to come from a small minority. In particular they would have a poor understanding of the needs of young people. 2.) The cost (precept) to households is unacceptable and cannot be justified. 3.) The town council would introduce an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy.
No	After reviewing all the pro and cons, plus hearing the views of others. I have decided against the town council, mainly because of the cost.
No	Another layer of complexity and bureaucracy
No	Another load of civil servants getting paid loads of money for nothing, Whitstable always gets left out the other towns benefit more. Maybe the local councillors we have should be doing more for the local people not just the Cornell's they do there fair share
No	As a resident of 4 years and soon to be a homeowner here I would, in principle, be happy to support a town council for Whitstable, however not under the conditions stipulated in the current proposal. An uncapped additional tax to support the council is unreasonable and hardly appropriate during a cost of living crisis that is affecting so many, especially with little guarantee beforehand as to how this money would be spent.
No	Because the main council does nothing only grant building sites to the developers who have them in their back pocket and a local council will not do any different and I am not paying through the nose for that
No	Because they have no powers
No	Cannot afford yet more money going to another council and what for? Whitstable has always been second to Canterbury.
No	CCC is a well functioning City Council. Adding additional tiers of local government is often ineffective and creates additional bureaucracy. Working in a senior leadership role in local government I have first hand experience of how ineffective town and parish councils are. They are usually underfunded and under resourced (like most tiers or local government) and struggle to implement change. They do sometimes have good ideas but lack the expertise to fully action them. We are in the middle of a cost of living crisis and the additional precept will place unwanted financial pressure on many families. The future of local government in Kent is uncertain particularly with the difficulties facing KCC and Medway and until the future of these two unitary authorities is clear no additional tiers of local government should be created. I am completely opposed to the creation of a town council and struggle to see any benefits that it may bring in the current climate.
No	Cost of living crisis means not able to pay extra for a town council who seem to keep their ideas and agendas to themselves without asking the wider population of whitstable if they agree, and who also appear to have no understanding of the difficulties experienced by those in the less affluent wards. No understanding of what the majority want as the majority appear to not have known about the original petition to set a town council up. Will only look after themselves and what they want to implement
No	Costs too much extra and will just be more extra bickering
No	COUNCIL TAX RISING SO DO NOT WISH TO PAY OUT MORE MONEY
No	Due to the additional cost, and it is unclear exactly what the town council would do.
No	Expensive and I'm not seeing the benefit
No	Extra charges were not mentioned when i signed petition
No	From what I have read the town council wouldn't have much say over CCC so what is the point? People do not want to pay extra ontop of the Council Tax which keeps going up. People are struggling to eat and keep warm so do not want extra financial pressure for little reward!!
No	I believe just because Whitstable is in a minority regarding not having a town council that we should be made to have one.Whitstable is unique. I also believe that voluntary/ community organisations contribute massively and could organise the events we require..Community groups could also establish a neighbourhood plan. I don't believe a town council would improve pride in the town. More importantly this is not the time to impose an uncapped charge onto many people who can't feed themselves or turn their heating on.
No	I can't afford to pay extra council tax. Anyway Canterbury will still have the last say
No	I do not want to pay money for something we do not need.
No	I don't believe it is necessary to add further beurocracy to the system. Neither do I believe it will cover the interests of the whole area anymore than the current situation. Furthermore the additional cost to residents is unacceptable.
No	I don't want to pay for it, I pay enough council tax
No	I don't want to pay an additional uncapped amount
No	I dont wish to pay extra for this service. Id only be happy to pay additional monies if i thought it was going to extra policing or keeping our streets clean and tidy. Whitstable has now become over developed and i have no interest or pride in our town anymore and therefore have no desire in ploughing further money into an area which has been ruined.
No	I think the cost will not gain anything let the local counsellors do there job.
No	I'm not sue I would be happy about the rise in council tax. Also not sure that I have a lot of faith in the people standing for town council.
No	Insufficient information about how an initial election of councillors would be organised if approved. Little hope there would be a cost benefit for residents from additional council tax. No information on threshold of support required for councillors to decide - referendum? No information on how to reverse a decision to form if found ineffective.
No	It will be just another layer of government that provides limited value.
No	It's an unnecessary expense during these already hard times

No	More bureaucracy and more cost to households
No	More cost and can't see any gain. I feel like Whitstable is very well looked after and prioritised by CCC.
No	No information I have read makes me believe that having a Town Council in Whitstable would be of any benefit to our town. We do not need another level of bureaucracy. Also a big worry about uncapped precept. Just because almost every other town has one doesn't mean it's good for Whitstable. Our town always has been unique, that is why it has attracted people to visit and relocate.
No	Not enough knowledge on what the extra money will be spent on , not enough knowledge on how much will be collected and the fact it is an un capped tax
No	Not needed, additional expense
No	Not needed. Just one more level of costly bureaucracy
No	There are no financial details. Is anyone being paid, costs for office/stationery/ travel/ all expenses. It is not clear and transparent. Insufficient details for me to make an informed decision. How would it differ from the support CCC should provide but don't. No cap on amount. Without further information I could not say yes to this proposal. No other business would spend money on a project without a business plan.
No	There is already too much expensive and unwieldy bureaucracy. I'd rather time and money be spent on making the city council itself much more democratic and responsive to the needs of the public rather than setting up another self important body which will absorb even more public money .
No	They are too expensive and uncapped. With the cost of living, many are having struggles already. Absolutely no is my vote.
No	This another layer of governance and bureaucracy , its costly and will almost certainly become highly political and not focussed on the peoples needs.
No	This is a duplication of roles, increasing bureaucracy, not improving representation & offering no significant benefits. Most activities are already offered by CCC, KCC or a myriad of charities & groups at no extra cost. Many groups work together. Many grants can be applied for & neighbourhood plans created by these groups already without a need for a TC. We should not be applying for loans on top of what the district already owes as was suggested at one meeting. Decisions that matter to many such as planning, schools & roads will not be under a TC's control. For 30+ years the Whitstable Society was planning consultee (removed for parish councils too by the last administration) but the WS & Chestfield PC continue to comment as do residents. Traffic is also covered by many groups. The country has the highest taxation for 70 yrs, increases in payments (however small) will have a significant impact for some. Worryingly, there is no cap on a TC charge. An outcome of this consultation should not be to reduce the TC population area as this will reduce the funds raised, either putting more financial pressure on a smaller population because the cost of staff and buildings will not be reduced or reducing the amount available to spend on projects and increasing the cost to run the TC over the already high 2/3rd of income. Not a good business model either way. CCC/KCC benefit from economies of scale & staff who can be moved eg to cover sickness/hols. Not possible with 1 paid TC clerk, so more staff and costs will be needed. It does not make sense for any existing service to be moved to a TC or residents will be paying twice. Existing Councillors are accessible face2face, online or via Facebook so no need for a middleman. They are, and should be acting on our behalf. The promotional leaflet is all very woolly about what they would actually do. It is not fair that visitors, workers & others can comment when there is no financial implication for them if a TC is formed.
No	This is not the right financial climate to add increasing costs to an increasing council tax
No	This is something else that we have to pay for, at a time when our Council Tax is increasing significantly again. It is another layer of administration & officialdom. This & other projects are generally taken over by incomers with their own agendas.
No	This is very ill timed and people simply cannot afford to have any additional costs right now. We are all having to make many sacrifices and cuts to the way we survive financially due to the cost of living crisis. People are struggling financially and this will add further pressures and distress to the majority of people in this area. At this time it would not be the responsible thing to do. This could cause people to go into arrears with their council tax, the knock on effect could be catastrophic for Canterbury city council and the people living in CT5.
No	Too much uncertainty
No	We cannot afford to pay any more money for services we should already be receiving.
No	We do not need another layer of government and there will be overlap and disputes over where responsibilities lay. Such as bin collections, car park, parking restrictions. Whitstable needs visitors and I don't want them going elsewhere because there is not enough parking spaces (I know that at busy times they are filled to capacity) and charges are exhorbitant. If instigated, will Whitstable Council be empowered to stop Canterbury Council from imposing the new restrictions on cars which has recently been introduced?
No	We pay enough council tax already and Not getting a good service. So why should we throw more money at council so they go further in Debt
No	Whitstable is a very proactive community and can make a great deal happen under its own steam. The additional costs to households are not what most of us want to pay, especially with evidence of similar schemes elsewhere when costs can suddenly astronomically increase and to be paying for something that may not be relevant for you. If I had to pay additional fees I would rather it went to council tax towards social care for children and adults, and for mental health services.
No	Whitstable is too busy already so the thought of the town council promoting additional needless events is not something I want to see.
No	Whitstable is very well represented in the local community without the additional expense of requiring a separate Town Council
No	Whitstable should absolutely NOT have a town council.
Not sure	I really do not have enough information as to how the residents of Whitstable will benefit from a town council. I have concerns that it may in fact be detrimental to us. It will definitely cost us money through our council taxes!

Not sure	Whitstable is unique in many ways, given its geography, its history and its reliance on oysters. However, there must be a concern that the establishment of a town council would increase the dominance of the oyster fishery over local decisions, which it already dominates to a disproportionate degree.
No	Another layer of bureaucracy is not required; additional costs to all residents not required. A Town Council has very little power to influence the CCC. Much better to continue to improve the CCC operation via local MP's and Groups and influence the development of Whitstable in that way. There are always examples where a TC has made progress but in my experience in the majority of cases another level of bureaucracy is not beneficial to the town.
No	Another layer of bureaucracy without any real power and costing money at a time when there is a cost of living crisis: we do not need this. A more effective way forward would be to look at the existing structures and how Whitstable can be better represented within those. Sometimes, the apparently less radical solutions are the most radical.
No	As a recent student with a large student debt I am fundamentally against paying anything extra for a new Town Council. I would like to live in my home town, but the amount of deposit needed coupled with the price of properties means it is sadly highly unlikely that I will be able to afford to buy my first house or maybe any house in Whitstable, unlike my parents. I do not think anyone putting forward the notion of a Town Council has given any thought to the younger generation who have high mortgages, large student loans and the rising cost of living to deal with. Its a firm no from me.
No	Cannot afford the proposed increase to the Council Tax; it seems unfair!
No	Do not wish to pay for another council which will have governing power. I can see absolutely no benefit to residents who are already experiencing additional expenses. NO TO WHITSTABLE COUNCIL!
No	Don't think it's necessary A bit of a waste of money As a resident who struggles with money despite working as much as possible, it seems highly unnecessary to give away money to something like this
No	Don't think it is needed, plus council tax is already going up yearly and can not afford to pay more already will struggle this year.
No	Extra £80 each on council tax - not paid by the air bnb houses. This is uncapped so the potential for large rises in the future.
No	Extra expense not worth it
No	Having witnessed Ramsgate Town Council in action in its attempts to block the re-opening of Manston Airport which goes totally against a large majority of the population of Thanet I cannot support a town council for Whitstable. Also, it appears to be a duplication of what we already have and also I would strongly object to having to pay an extra £60-£80 a year on my council tax (and as I understand it, there is no cap on this?) It's one additional tax too much for those struggling to survive financially. Finally, those that support this thing appear to be busybodies, have vested interests or little understanding of what is involved. So, should Whitstable have a town council? The answer from me is NO!!!!!!
No	I am not happy that there is no cap on the precept. I am not happy that the consultation is open to anybody not just people who live or work in Whitstable. There are no plans as to what areas or policies will be priorities. I feel there should be more concrete proposals.
No	I attended the meeting in February regarding this proposal. I do not believe at this point in time and given the cost of living crisis that there would be enough benefit from having a Whitstable parish council. The important issues would still be dealt with by Canterbury.
No	I do not wish to pay additional council tax, especially as it would be an uncapped precept during a cost of living crisis. The vast majority of funds raised would be spent on staff, office space etc so I cannot see any real value for money. Also, with no long-term plans outlined by those wishing to be councillors, it is difficult to see what benfits would be seen by the community. What Whitstable really needs is the usual existing, year-upon-year, issues actually being addressed - ridiculously high cash cow parking fees, lack of larger seafront bins, proper policing of antisocial behaviour and incredibly poor roadwork planning. These are all problems that, I'm lead to believe, cannot be tackled by a town council and that we are still unfortunately left in the hands of the inept Canterbury City Council.
No	I do not wish to pay any extra council tax (which I understand there will be.) Also I do not think tjis council has any governing powers and we will lose out in the long run.
No	I see no need at all for a Whitstable Town Council. I am perfectly happy with the existing arrangements regarding local affairs.
No	In the current economic crisis, what I do not want is another out going from my pension which is stretched to the limit. I can not and Will not be able to pay, therefore being at risk of debt collectors .
No	I've been a resident of Whitstable for nearly 9 years. I grew up in London and visited over the years growing up and wanted to give my children a better environment than I had. It has changed dramatically in this short period of time. More councillors at an additional cost to the resident isn't what we need. It's better responses from the current elected members, and councils. Public services should be available to the public 7 days a week. Most reasons a councillor will need to be contacted are reactive and need a quick response. Zipped hours for workers means there can be a day of the week when a certain service has no representative at all. I have three major incidences that have lost me faith in my local councillors and councils. There unfortunately isn't room to give you the full detail. One includes a danger to my property, one a danger to children's lives and one to everyones danger including pets. I experienced 9 months of chasing for a response of "we clear drains every 2 years", my property flooding was not taken seriously. 2; my local councillor ignoring my plea for someone to attend temporary 3 way unmanned traffic lights that had been installed near a school. The timing had been set too short for one allowing cars to go through on green but travel through the next set on a blind turn that had already changed to let pedestrians cross. 3; many proposals in 2021 for yellow lines went ahead with more objections that not and others with the backing from councillors from different areas. Now your leaflet"through a range of extensive discretionary powers that they can choose to exercise" I must commend you on being truthful about the fact that you can listen to residents concerns but you have the power to do exactly what you like! "The legislation provides that the minimum number of elected members on a town council is five -There is no maximum number" it's there is black and white, How much will you charge us for these extras?The power is all in your hands.
No	No control over additional council tax we can be charged and the area would still be under canterbury overall control.

	PETITION. Disingenuous, using contribution re the precept-it implies it's voluntary. Uncapped not mentioned. Some door to door canvassers didn't mention precept/encourage people to read the information. Many say they wouldn't have signed had they been made aware. LEAFLETS. No mention of precept on earlier material from CT5 People's Forum. Many arrived too late . MEETINGS. 5.pm was too early. No opposition voice or negatives being mentioned. PRECEPT. Amount is an estimate-it's uncapped. Other TCs have made significant increases-one by 231%. Many people can't afford additional taxes. Up to two thirds will be spent on admin &costs. HOW MONEY WILL BE SPENT. Potential benefits are aspirational,nothing that couldn't be achieved by existing groups etc at lower costs. Whitstable is well-served by local, NGOs ,churches etc. Tackling loneliness, providing Dementia Cafes,Warm Spaces were all mentioned at the meeting. The Churches, in particular All Saints provide, free regular, secular activities to combat this. The Waterloo centre has a Dementia Cafe with legal advice. Churches offered warm spaces when needed. Stream Walk Allotment, The Umbrella Centre& Revival Cafe do a lot for the town, particularly helping to tackle mental health issues. This list is by no means exhaustive. T Cs can't tackle the major issues like sewage in sea, lack of affordable housing, second/holiday home problems, potholes etc-these are what many residents are concerned about. CONCLUSION. A TC could potentially lead to increased bureaucracy & inefficiency in decision-making.There is a risk that a Town Council could become politicized, leading to divisions within our community. I believe we should focus on strengthening existing community organizations with money going to them directly. By empowering local groups and encouraging active participation from residents, we can foster a sense of ownership and collective responsibility for the well-being
No	of our town. Local Cllrs should be kept accountable.
	There are numerous reasons. 1. £60/£80 added to my Council Tax. No thank you. 2. For what...yet another layer of bureaucracy and red tape to manouvere in order to get anything done. 3. Town Councillors who always, in the end, simply cow tow to their own political parties. Same old same old people 4. Whatever these people say i can guarantee
No	there will be no interest. Never has been.
	There is a cost of living crisis the majority of people simply cannot afford more taxes. A lot of people live hand to mouth. A lot of the people I have seen pushing for this are the minority that have the money to throw at this because
No	they want to run a town council as a hobby. I think that the majority of whitstable don’t even know about this.
No	Too expensive
No	Waste of time as very little say in things that really matter.
	-We already have seven local counsellors representing Whitstable’s interests. Local town councillors will not improve our representation and will not have more impact. -The minority promoters of this scheme are loud and vocal but the silent majority and often unaware should not be pushed into this by that minority. It is not true when promoters say that the town council will be a planning consultee for the town because CCC took away these rights of all parish, town councils and amenity organisations! -Re Planning expertise. Whitstable already has the Whitstable Society with a wealth of expertise in planning matters. Where do the promoters expect to get this expertise from - will be an expensive duplication. -Wasting CCC resources. When the promoters of this scheme met the petition criteria for this consultation 25% of their names were disqualified which I find concerning. Additionally I know that some who signed it didn't appreciate what it really meant as it was advertised as a 'Voice For Whitstable' and who would find that disagreeable -I see no net gain for residents. We already have excellent amenity societies -I am against extra costs for the population another layer of government. -I am against reducing the population area which would increase financial burden on a smaller population. -Another layer of government creates needless inefficiencies and another operational barrier between us and CCC -They will spend at least 30% of there time writing local policies and procedures that aren't really adding material value 30 % of all money will be on administration. Again not adding any actual value. -Unlike council tax that is controlled and capped this is an open ended tax with no such safe guards. -I do not think residents should be paying extra taxes for no net gains. -I am concerned that if only a small proportion of the public respond, the
No	results will be skewed by the few folks who want the town council hence not representative of the wider community
No	We don’t need a another layer of government we certainly don’t want to pay for it.
No	We have representatives already to speak and voice our views we should not have to pay more on our Council tax etc.
	Whilst I am currently a student and do not pay council tax, I do not think having a Town Council is a good idea. I know I will be leaving university shortly with a high student debt. The prices of the houses in Whitstable are so high, that I would require a huge mortgage to get onto the housing ladder in my home town. This large mortgage and massive student debt is enough without another payment layer on top of the already large council tax and utility bills. My generation do not appear to have been considered at all. There is nothing in the leaflet about the cost to my generation, other than there are discounts potentially available for low income families, meaning I will still have to pay something. Every pound is thoughtfully spent by me as a student and I have no reason to think this action will not continue for many years to come as I start my working life. Every pound counts and perhaps those wishing to set this
No	up should consider donating to the many groups already volunteering for Whitstable.
	Whitstable has no need for a town council. My parents are from Whitstable and have lived there, their whole lives. The fact that having a town council ultimately increases the tax for the local residents for an uncapped amount on the council tax would be traffic, especially as currently people are struggling. Additionally the publicity of this happening has not been forth coming. The residents and workers in whitstable have only found out about this through word of mouth. No letters, leaflets have been given to the local residents through their doors. It feels very underhand. The people who are interested in having a town council is a small minority, and does not represent the population of
No	whitstable.
No	Why pay more when we have already have a local councillor already
	Concerned over the precept fee as this isn’t capped. Would we be liable for any debts the council may incur through partnership events through subsequent increases in the precept fee? Would like a firmer idea of the proposals that the supporters of this would like to implement as unsure what we’d be paying the extra for However can see the benefit of being able to apply for extra funding and community support activities as well as having more input into planning as increased house building and lack of parking or road access is having a massive impact on the area. Would also like to
Not sure	see more control of holiday homes.

Not sure	I am very much in SUPPORT of the town council. However, due to the current economic climate/high cost of living, as well a forthcoming General Election, this proposal should be DEFERRED until 2025/26.
Not sure	I do not have enough information in order to answer this question.
Not sure	Please outline the benefits and services an introduction of a TC will benefit Whitstable residents specifically? I'm not in favour of paying a further amount of council tax without knowing the benefits and would appreciate further consultation with an option to vote out before a majority vote is taken or KCC independently decide to establish and councillors appointed! Also, am not in favour of more Councillors being elected and paid for unknown services!
Not sure	We may lose existing benefits provided by Canterbury CC also be faced with extra cots for setting up and administration of an independent council.
No	The area that is being covered as per the map covering the CT5 area is too large to (a) be deemed to be a town council (b) and due to the size would not be represented fairly by the members of council. We are in a cost of living crisis and as I am on a state pension the council tax last year would cost £28 per week, this as we know will have increased this year without the added suggested amount for thi syear of £80+ for the town council which would then be increased annually. The original consultation was not widely known about and even this consultation was hit and miss as to how you found out and the letter advising of meetings to discuss arrived after they had been carried out - this leaves me to think that the majority of residents would not be asked their views regarding any ideas or agendas being put forward by the town council and as such I am voting no to one.

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published
No	Whilst other local areas have a town council, Whitstable is part of Canterbury City. The argument for having a Town Council is not fully articulated. There are lots of people who have the time and the money to campaign for this organisation but the benefits to local residents being more than the cost of the precept of £60 are completely unclear. I do not think that the Town Council proposition offers anything other than time spent in committees for people who want to do this. As a local resident, I would like to see a detailed plan of what will and will not be provided by the Council before any final decision is made.
No	Can't afford to pay any amount over and above the current Council Tax. Costs too much
No	I have previously lived in an area with an extra layer of local government. It simply added more bureaucracy and did very little for our town.
No	We have a council that works already! I will not be able to afford to pay more taxes to cover the town council for whitstable, the people pushing for a town council are only interested in the town and not the surrounding area so therefore intend to do nothing for my family but I'm expected to pay for them, no thank you!!
No	More cost and burocracy. Waste of money and duplication of duries
No	We do not need the additional cost of another administration team, when canterbury city council has enough resources and experience to manage the area.
No	Do we really need another tier of govenrment to do what is already being achieved by others in the location. At a time when people in general are struggling with the cost of living, do we need to add a further increase on the council tax we already paid? Not many years ago the govenrment instigated the policy of Care in the Community which encouraged Community volunteers to take up the slack. Has policy on this now changed? I cant see how this would do anything more than provide more funds for Canterbury Council through increases in Council Tax. There are already active organisations within the Whitstable area who have been doing the work that is put forward on this review. They are doing it and have been doing it for many years and very successfully without added cost to those who at this time are struggling to make ends meet. We are in the midst of a financial crisis and this is not the time to even consider such a plan, especially when it incurs a charge from residents. In 1992 the government were asking that we all come together in the community by way of volunteering etc. Many people took up the banner and moved forward with this, successfully, and still do. Now it seems that we are being asked to take a U Turn on this. Makes no sense to me at all and seems that we already have plenty of Chiefs and not enough Indians in local government. I for one will not be supporting this plan.
No	Because we don't need to be paying for more councils full of bureaucrats.We already pay for Kent county council, Canterbury council so why do we need another council taking more money from us for what ? We pay enough to Canterbury council without adding another payment for Whitstable's residents who actually dont get to vote on this !!!!
No	because the council tax bill will go up in price each year, 'and no doubt more than is stated', if the town has its own council run services. Knowing someone very close to me that works for the civil service, I can state first-hand at how much money is waisted each year, especially when holding meetings. "And I don't wish to pay extra in my Council Tax so the civil servants can hold meetings in some top-notch hotel conference room, and pay for there Bacon-Rolls before they even pick-up a pen, and then the cost for there lunch-time buffet". Enough money is waisted each year by the Government and Local Councils, without adding another extra cost to the general public. Nothing will be gained from this, and nothing more will be done or improved against what's already being carried out by Canterbury City Council, "And I fully recommend any resident of Whitstable to vote against this". Thank you.
No	I had no idea that this was being proposed until receiving this letter. And by the looks of the section, information sessions, I and probably many others in Swalecliffe have received the informative letter late! I would have wanted to attend the Swalecliffe info session on the 18th. I received the letter today, the 19th January! This is typical of CCC not preempting the current Royal Mail post and ensure such letters are sent in advance to ensure delivery on time. Another info session needs to be arranged so I and others receiving the letter. My main concern here relates to the increase in cost of living, increases in every area including our council tax. I work and am struggling to cover these increases. Therefore I am reluctant to be forced to pay an additional fee annually and why should I and others that decline this move. Now is just not the time to increase costs for those struggling for more councillors, premises costs and probably DFL decisions to be made in relation to the budget given. Focus will no doubt be directed to Whitstable centrally rather then areas on the outskirts such as Seasalter and Swalecliffe. I am current %100 against this move, mainly the fact that we will be expected to find more money from already struggling family's and individuals. Please can another information session be arranged as explained above, thank you
No	Because it will breed biased and unfair representation by a minority of people, for the benefit of select groups of influential residents. It is also an unaffordable luxury. Will fringe locations like Kite Farm footways ever be made safe for its elderly pedestrians? Will it ever be free from a thick growth of vegetation throughout the year..... I doubt it!!! As an aside, I received notification of the consultation, by post, on 19th January. My local information session was held on 18th January. Typical incompetence!
No	Canterbury council do a good job and so it's not necessary to have a town council plus I can't afford the extra payment each year on my council tax. I cannot see any benefit for me and my wife that a town council can give
No	1, We received notice of the information session 20-01-2024. Would you kindly tell us how we could attend the session on the 18-01-2024!!! where some of our questions and missgivings could have been addressed. 2, If the local council gets the green light will the ESTIMATED £60 to £80 TAX for running it be deducted from our Canterbury Council Tax?

	In the midst of a cost of living crisis asking residents to pay more for a new council is ridiculous. Whitstable did have a town council and it was merged with Canterbury because of additional costs and unwanted bureaucracy. This is still the case today. It is a charter for the huge number of Londoners to self manage their own interests. Whitstable is full of weekend stays, second homes and airb and b's. Many of these properties pay no council tax and do not contribute to the local economy or public purse. Allowing Whitstable to make it's own rules will be terrible for the true residents of Whitstable. Whitstable has become a gentrified ghost of what was once a vibrant fishing town. A town built around a harbour. A town where you can no longer buy fish such is the gentrification and the cost of property in Whitstable. There is absolutely nothing to show that a town council will be beneficial for the community and residents of Whitstable. The constant building of luxury apartments and expensive property proves that the town is being turned into Billingsgate-on-sea. Every year Whitstable looses more and more of the character that attracts day visitors and supports the economy. As Whitstable town were unable to decorate the high street or have any Christmas lights last year it seems unlikely that there is significant community spirit to manage a town council budget. Whitstable is far bigger than the high street and surrounding area and vital services could be lost to outlying areas when a new council struggles with its finances. This would inevitably effect the elderly and disabled members of the town. In short, the idea of a town council is ridiculous and will only suit the egos and interests of a minority, all of whom are not Whitstable
No	Natives.
	There is absolutely no need for a Whitstable town council. I am not prepared to pay extea council tax to fund something that is unnecessary and will not be run by the true residents of Whitstable. Many of us cannot afford the extra payments and will not benefit in any way from this. Many residents of Whitstable rarely visit the high street because it is full of visitors, second home owners and is full of useless shops. I was born in Whitstable but I am sometimes
No	embarrassed to tell people I live here. Stop this ridiculous proposal please
No	I do not want to pay extra rates for another talking shop, when what we have is working OK.
	Whitstable has already had its soul taken away - this is too late to get back the lovely town we had 30/40 years ago- we are now a London suburb and I'm not prepared to pay any more for the joy of visitors. Used to be able to walk the
No	streets safely at night - not now - too many strangers.
	Where is the budget going to come from? The only place is by further cuts to already stretched services. Cutting
No	services to increase administration costs is a ridiculous notion!
No	Extra costs is not validated.
	Do not need another layer of bureaucracy, or more politicians, or more council employees, or more public buildings to maintain, or an increase in council tax to fund it all. Many town councils appoint mayors and turn into dressing up clubs,
No	or become dominated by self interested business people because so few people bother to vote at local elections.
	It’s not needed, we have a perfectly good Council handling our area day to day. We do also not need to add more expenses to our Council Tax, they are high enough as they are. Many people are struggle to pay Council Tax as it is with
No	out, putting yet more expense on them.
No	It’s not needed.
No	It’s not needed.
	Extra level of bureaucracy in local government. Potential services quoted in the pamphlet already take place + are
No	managed by the existing council.
	It’s another layer of bureaucracy and would seemingly act as a sub-committee for CCC. Our existing council tax is poor value for money and an additional £80 on top seems wasteful. I am open to persuasion though and will keep myself informed. It should not be an arbitrary decision made on gauging the "feeling" of the people. This should be put to a democratic vote. Many of the powers are duplicated by CCC or KCC. Does this mean they would relinquish responsibilities for certain areas? If this is the case surely the council tax should go down as potentially the new Town Council would fund things through the precept. It seems to be a doubling up of red tape and personel. It would be more
No	beneficial if CCC got their house in order.
	We do not receive a proper service from CCC, so to ask the people of Whitstable to have their council tax increased to pay for a local council is a smack in the mouth. The only people prospering from this will be the likes of two family’s (the people of Whitstable know who we mean)that seem to have the council in their pockets, and are allowed to do just
No	as they please. Address this problem and you might have more people actually interested in making it happen.
	For this to be successful it clearly needs to have some added value to current arrangements. This is a expensive
No	unneeded vanity project
No	I have been a Whitstable resident for 36 years and I do not think we need one
No	Do not need one
	1) I see no case for increasing council tax to fund an additional hyper-local layer of political and/or executive bureaucracy in a town that is already served by an MP, city councillors, county councillors and a Kent PCC. 2) Economic struggles are undermining the existing councils' attempts to deliver core services, and already severely impacting the lives of all residents and local businesses. An additional tax to fund a town council does nothing to address the first issue yet adds to the financial burden on Whitstable's people. 3) There should therefore be a requirement for strong, unequivocal evidence that - beyond the activists who are campaigning for it and the relative handful who signed their petition - a clear majority of the people of Whitstable are calling for this additional 'voice' and a significant proportion of the population will be meaningfully engaged with it should it be brought into being. As it stands, the evidence points entirely the other way. The turnout for the existing local elections is consistently very low, and the supply of candidates for the existing, more senior, councils is seemingly so restricted that in my own area, the city and the county councillor were the same person for several years. And yet despite wearing these two hats, how many residents could recognise him, name him or even knew of his existence, let alone what he has actually been doing, by their authority? 4) At best, we run the risk of creating, with tangible expense but no apparently tangible benefit, a hobby forum for a handful of self-selecting 'community leaders' to pursue their own enthusiasms and prejudices, each ushered in by a few hundred souls via ballots that the overwhelming majority of Whitstable people will ignore. At worst, it will be another de facto
No	underground cabal, not subject to scrutiny or account.

No	The last thing we need is more boomers objecting to everything. If we need anything changing, we need an East Kent unitary authority with fewer, better paid and higher quality councillors. Please no more parish council-standard drivel.
No	At a time of tight finances it's not a time to set up yet another 'layer of governance'. Whitstable's affairs were combined with Canterbury in the first place to save money and centralise control. I can see this becoming an elite group with 'interested' friends!
No	Too expensive and the benefits are not clear
No	The Kent County Council and therefore CCC are continually having funding cut by central government. Therefore increasing bureaucracy and charging US another £60 to £80 to pay for it is completely unnecessary. Whitstable used to have an Urban District Council and the area benefitted from merging with Canterbury when it was disbanded.
No	It is not necessary and will add another tier of bureaucracy.A Town Council will provide another eschelon of self important people with their own agenda. Not necessary
No	The cost! Its a crazy time financially for many people. The last thing we need is higher bills
No	More burocracy more costs more wrangling waste of time and money
No	It has been a very challenging few years with covid taking it's toll on people, and also the cost of living increasing month by month. I believe that the last thing people would won't, is more starff on the government pay roll for the hard working tax paying section of our community to support. If it's not broken don't fix it.
No	It won't make any difference
No	We don't need another level of bureaucracy plus extra cost, particularly, during this cost of living crisis. Without extra Government funding to local Councils nothing will change and these representatives will, as always, just end up being unable to affect local issues. Extra costs of the administration of this council is not necessary. There is not a cap on future payments and our council tax payments currently increase by approx 5% a year, a lot of local residents find just paying this very difficult.
No	Another level of bureaucracy busy body nosy people who we have to pay for with no power just the ability to soak up my money this is a ridiculous exercise in spending money collected by the county council through our council tax. I do hope that apathy does not prevail with this motion similarly the illegal practice that the council have of charging us to dispose of our waste at the municipal recycling centre one can live in hope but die in the knowledge that your wishes are ignored by those empowered to Tax us to death. If this form is anything to go by where I can't even proofread what I've written down we're all going to be extremely disappointed in the outcome
Not sure	I have no idea what is not working with the current arrangements and why. From the subjects listed that the Town Council will undertake like : allotments, bus shelters and litter bins and lighting. What would change ? How would a Town Council reduce crime, differently to what that the Police are not doing. which is a service we are already paying for through our Council tax. ? The indication for the additional charge on the Council Tax for Band D is £60 to £80 per annum, but what is it for Bands above ? I don't think there are many Band D houses in the road I live in.
No	I do not want to pay any more than the Council tax. I think a town council will be an expensive luxury which will have very little benefit for the ordinary resident
No	There are already too many money chasing politicians, there should be less councillors at the money trough, not more.
No	I am happy with CCC
No	Town council has no more powers than a parish council it will not be able to control building developments. It will be another layer of bureaucracy costing ratepayers extra money with nothing to show for it
No	Enough bureaucracy with Canterbury council. We do not need an increase in our rates. As an old age pensioner the rates are high enough . We will end up with a lot of do gooders who are new residents trying to alter the way the town is run. We had a town council 40 odd years ago which was taken over by Canterbury. We don't need it.
No	Why incur all the additional costs relating to this issue? It appears a waste of valuable local tax payers money.
No	I don't think adding another layer of bureaucracy is justified and I worry that any small advantages it would provide would be outweighed by a small group with their own agenda having control over some aspects of the town. I would rather this stayed with the larger grouping of Canterbury City Council where more voices can be heard.
No	Currently opposed for the following reasons: 1 - No indication of what controls would be in place to limit future financial demands on households. The charge levied will not be subject to the same legal constraints as the current District and County charges. The information provided indicates a charge of £60 - £80 for a Band D property based on other Town Council levels, this is conjecture 2 - The amount of budget available for use on Town Council projects is unclear to those being asked to consider the proposal. There is a suggestion that operational and administration costs could take over 60% of the total budget. This detail needs to be in the consultation information 3 - It is not clear what additional benefits could be provided by the Town Council that could not be provided by the District or County councils if the proposed funding was available to either or both of those authorities 4 - Given the typically low level of engagement in local politics it would be possible for a minority group to determine the outcome for a fundamental change to local democracy. That applies to those supporting or opposing the proposal. It is not clear whether a minimum level of engagement of Whitstable residents and workers is required. 5 - It is understood the petition to initiate the Town Council process collected over 1700 signatures with over 90% supporting the proposal. This represents ca. 5% of the population of Whitstable (assuming ca. 32k residents) it is NOT clear what proportion of those surveyed were actually resident or working within the proposed Town Council catchment 6 -Using the indicated lower charge of £60 for a Band D property would represent an additional 'tax' of ca. 2.8%, A list of typical and achievable target projects with associated benefits must be available Summarising, there is insufficient information for an informed consultation leading to an informed decision
Not sure	Whitstable Town council XXXXX Whitstable parkrun Event Director We have a long standing agreement and very good relationship with Canterbury city council. Over 90% of our runners/walkers live in the CT5 area, so keeping this relationship is not only beneficial but important to both parties. We take our responsibilities seriously and have rigorous procedures in place to ensure our environmental footprint is as light as possible. Parkrun is free and inclusive, The mental and physical health benefits of regular exercise are very well documented. We would like assistances that the setting up of a town council wouldn't have a detrimental impact on our ongoing relationship with the council. On behalf of parkrun XXXXXX

Not sure	Costs to household unclear, costs of running a town council unclear, benefits to town not specific. Who will be appointed and how not clear. Very disappointed to be informed with very little notice , 2 previous meetings have already been held , rather concerned that there is a clique making decisions without sufficient involvement of wider community does not represent themselves as being transparent and keen to inform the whole community.
No	We have a Canterbury County Council that is enough, we do not need wannabe politicians getting involved in situations that should be undertaken by professional institutions. Then in this time of finical crisis to add extra expenses to households is a little insensitive, and we all know that once people have the power over funding we all know that it never goes down.
No	Too many financial implications.
No	Canterbury band C £1864.53 Wandsworth £844.54 What do we get for the extra money.....NOTHING pot holes go unrepaired fly tipping doesnt get removed when reported for a month.....Wandsworth just 24 hrs. There is no comparison for the extra money just a poorer service. So wht go for more bureauracy and expense. Get what we have to give value for money first.
Not sure	Council tax is already paid for what we should already have. Don't believe it will be extra money well spent when looking at Faversham Town Council residents comments about feeling they don't take action or do enough. If I can be assured that it would make a difference to things like southern water polluting our shores then I might consider it worth the extra money on council tax.
No	It would cost residents yet more hard earned money and would not be of benefit to us. I definitely do not want Whitstable to have a town council.
Not sure	How much governance will be given to the town council , and the decisions it makes , will it employ its own clerk , treasurer and council members. What decisions the council be able to make. and be able to control its own budget. Who will give the town its budget. Is this another layer of bureaucracy for CCC.? How many people will actually turn out to vote for the Town Council . and who will fund the voting? There are many more questions that need to be answered about the Town Council , before it is laid out clearly for the residents of Whitstable to vote. Media and Advertising is a must to make sure all the resident know what is happening.
No	The views and needs of Whitstable residents should be represented and met by the existing Canterbury city councillors. There is no justification for the additional costs associated with the creation and annual running of a Whitstable town council, especially with the existing high council tax levels. Given the example taxes quoted for other town councils, I estimate that for our Band G property we could be charged an additional £120 annually. On a cost/benefit basis there should definitely not be a Whitstable town council.
No	An additional layer of bureaucracy incurring costs to all residents with no clear benefits in my view.
No	Too many layers of government already
No	Will bring another hurdle to jump through and delay any decisions as will have to be discussed by both councils and delay any decisions that have to be made and also add to our tax burden
No	We do not need another level of bureaucracy, nor more elections for councillors. Council tax bills are high enough already, have no wish to pay more. We already have local elected Councillors to represent Whitstable. Whitstable is very good at present at promoting itself. Look at the number of visitors it gets every year. Canterbury City Council does a pretty good job at present - Tankerton Slopes are very well maintained for example. Why change something that works well. Is it to reduce workload for CCC?
No	We have a council in Canterbury with local representatives on this council, a local council is just a forum for local busybodies to try and influence direction in their own interests.
No	Yet more beurocracy and expense which will continue to rise
No	We are already paying an exorbitant amount of council tax every year. Whilst I agree that a Town Council for Whitstable is a good idea, I think it should be paid for out of the current Council tax budget
Not sure	I find it difficult to believe that we need an additional body, and am worried that partys will grasp it as an electoral opportunity.
No	Unnecessary bureaucracy. Constantly rising cost of council tax has correlated with a sustained deterioration in public services. Existing councillors should be held accountable for representing and promoting the interests of the local area throughout the election cycle, opposed to just at election time.
Not sure	I can see the benefits of a local council, people that live and work in Whitstable and have an understanding of the local area and its needs. However I am sure that this will impact on our Council Tax, and as a single pensioner living in a band D property even with my 25% discount I am still paying 12.5% of my income to Canterbury city council. So bearing this in mind I am against a local council, any changes bought about always in-cure a cost, and I for one cannot afford the current rise in the cost of living, let alone more increases by CCC.
No	I do not want Whistable to have its own council because as a pensioner money is very tight and I can not afford more monies to support the new council. Having recently retired I would find it difficult to find the extra monies to fund a needless Whitstable town council. I believe our current council tax is very poor value for money Our local roads and pavements are in a terrible state, grass verges only seem to be cut when the grass has overgrown. Please no more bills , I struggle now XXXXX
No	An unnecessary level of bureaucracy driven by people out of self interest that will further increase the cost of living and line the pockets of those who are driving the agenda.
Not sure	At this time I can't see the benefits of a town council and there is an additional council tax cost which increases year on year. I would need to fully understand the benefits of having a localised council. As a Whitstable resident we have managed well enough with out this Whitstable Town Council
No	I don't see the real world value that would be generated to offset the costs. Very sceptical it would be able to draw in grants and funds that CC could already apply for. The costs to locsl residents would far outstrip any marginal benefit.
Not sure	Not enough knowledge regarding last council

No	Another layer of government should not be necessary. There are existing councillors, voted for by Whitstable residents, who should already perform the duties that would be undertaken by town councillors. There is no guarantee that precepts would not be largely used for administrative expenses as indicated by looking at the accounts for other town councils in Kent. There is a likelihood that this additional precept will be raised year after year in additional to existing council tax.
Not sure	We need to address the litter problem on the seafront in peak season but the council tax cost is already high so I'm unsure.
Not sure	This appears to be an additional layer of bureaucracy. Furthermore, increasing the sums local people have to pay, even by a small amount, in a cost-of-living crisis feels unwise.
No	Cost, Beuracrachy, and we need less layers of government not more! Also Whitstable includes Chestfield in local people's cognitive map and you will be splitting a community!
No	I don't feel that it's necessary as CCC already carry out many of the duties proposed town council duties. I feel a extra £60-£80 precept will be beyond most peoples budget, especially pensioners.
No	In todays day and age I would rather combat the cost of living crisis than spend out for another level of bureaucracy which is or could be covered by existing elected officials. I note that little has been said of the other options should the council decide that another form of bureaucracy is necessary then something more targeted or localised like a residents Association or an area forum would be more suitable and appropriate than a costly and repetitive town council.
No	We have had good representation on the city's council for years. On occasions a local busybody has made public statements as though he had consulted most of the local residents. From the reaction of friends and neighbours it seems he had not. We have no need of another layer between residents and the people who make major decisions for this area. Some residents of the affected area have, like my wife and I, bought our houses here more than half a century ago and many are on limited resources. I find it hard to believe that most of us would want to spread increasing money year after year to satisfy people whose only desire is to is to raise the amount they get when they move on in a couple of years.
No	Whilst I would love to see increased representation of Whitstable- often the poor relation locally in funding and attention- not enough clear and transparent information has been given upon which to support the idea. I already have a city councillor who I haven't seen or heard from in any format at all since election. There isn't enough information about what percentage of revenue will go on offices, expenses and a town clerk. There is no guarantee that any one elected as a town councillor will offer any greater representation than my currently non existent city councillor. Why can't he just be tasked with the roles suggested for a town councillor? Too much is going to be decided after the election by those elected.
No	Those on lower incomes can't afford the extra cost of council tax.
No	What's the point of another layer of bureaucracy that you want the residents to pay for. It's a ridiculous idea and at a time when everyone is struggling financially your timing couldn't be worse. Please spend your time and importantly tax payers money on something more meaningful than this nonsense.
Not sure	Require further information. Do not want to add further to residents Council Tax because of a Whitstable Town Council.
No	We already have city councillors to represent the interests of whitstable. We do not need to pay for another layer of bureaucracy which will actually have no more power than our city councillors.
No	The town has been run by Canterbury council just fine. We do not need another council making decisions, which lead to another consultation, before anything gets done My experience of parish/ Town councils, is they spend most of their time arguing amongst themselves. Having a Town council is an extra expense I do not want
No	the last thing we need is yet another level of governance
No	It will cost residents money for little benefit.
No	Unnecessary extra costs. We are in a financial crisis as a country. WHERE are we supposed to find the extra money for something we DON'T need.
No	This will simply add an additional layer of bureaucracy and administration at the expense of council tax payers. It will be another group of Councillors who, although initially probably well meaning, will end up spending taxpayers money on their own administrative processes (offices, staff, expenses etc) and on their personal pet projects whilst ignoring the views of the majority of residents. Rather than increasing bureaucracy we should be reducing it so that the limited amount of money realistically available can be used for essential services.
No	Council tax is high enough without paying more for another layer of unnecessary bureaucracy.
No	it is not necessary and will divert funding from somewhere else
No	will have no use or benefits, who needs a whole town council to manage a handful of overgrown allotments?
No	Many people would find the extra cost a burden. I am curious about the motives of the people who are putting this forward.
Not sure	Essentially, I think Whitstable should have a town council. However, there should be robust checks and balances in place to guard against corruption and cronyism in planning and development cases.
No	This iss going to cost households extra money, at a time when we know that many households in Whitstable are struggling to afford basic essentials. They should not be forced into making extra payments for a Town Council. Whitstable is already well-provided for. Enough is sufficient. I have lived in Whitstable for 41 years as a householder and rate-payer. I think many of the extra things which a town council might provide are not of any direct benefit to me, possibly not to many other residents either. I do not want to see more council money spent on big entertainments such as large summer fairs and on-street events, decorations, fairy lights, fireworks, cosmetic flowerbeds in public areas and the like. In lean times like this, we cannot all afford these things, neither do we need them. Some public events in recent years have resulted in offensive behaviour in our community's streets, which are in no-one's interest. It is highly debatable whether such large public outdoor gatherings should be encouraged in this town at all. There used to be a strong charity element to the stalls and displays. Now it's mostly about dealers, tat and wasting people's money. The majority or residents I speak to seem to think that these events have now become a nuisance. There was a time when it was argued that most council money was spent on improving Canterbury and that Whitstable was missing out. I do not consider that this is any longer the case. I am quite satisfied with what is currently provided to us by CCC.

No	More money for more burocracy and the views of a select few. Eg the 1.6 million spent on the town centre in Canterbury and the controversial sea front changes in Herne Bay.
No	I don’t want an extra layer of councillors
No	I believe we are already paying too much council tax for what CCC provides & to suggest we pay more at this time is wrong.
No	I feel I pay more than enough money to KCC and cannot afford to pay anymore which I’m sure a lot of local residents will feel the same .
No	No point in another layer of governance. Our cointy and city councillors for whitstable do a great job already
No	Things work ok as they are. I have no wish to spend any more money to pay KCC. Now, I worked for Faversham town council as town sergeant to two Mayors. Faversham being a subsidiary of swale council. So all I saw in the time I worked for Faversham was councillor',s who had no idea of community needs and we’re there for there own public standing. Grant being given to the Mayor’s of the day, Monies given to carnival.fund. Monies spent on food and booze for the after council meetings get together. Planning permission given out Willy Nilly. I could go on but I’m sure you get my point. So it’s a big fat NO from me. Thank you.
No	Due to cost. Everyone is struggling and to add an additional precept right now is financially irresponsible. In addition, whilst the concept is admirable it won’t give us any more money or say as to what happens as it is strictly governed by CCC, KCC and central government.
No	My concern is around the uncapped cost per household and how much of the income raised will be spent on buildings and wages.
No	We do not need a town council which will mean more financial burden on Whitstable residents. There is nothing set out in the arguments for a town council that are not already being achieved by CCC, all the various charities and voluntary groups, businesses, for example look at what Tankerton high st businesses are doing to promote and maximise the apeal of their businesses. The oyster company is the reason the town has a thriving tourist industry as well as all the diverse range of shops an restaurants in the area. A town council will never achieve most peoples real issues within CT5 which is anti social behaviour by the younger generation, parking issues which will never be resolved due to the nature of terrace streets with no driveways, and no one can force people to use their homes as residential properties and not B&B etc. Volunteering community groups like revival and other youth groups will achieve more than a town council. The will become just another body of people that love a meeting and claim expenses and achive nothing except for things that suit their well to do friends with art and culture wich usualy only benifits the few. The people who are behind this group along with CCC have proven already their ineptness by sending out lettters dated 8th January with community meeting dates which have already taken place by the time most people even received the letter at the back end of the month. I say NO TO A TOWN COUNCIL
Not sure	Concerned about the increased cost as an individual. Lack of support from Canterbury city council means that we are in a position where we would benefit from whitstable having a town council but unless this is reflected as a discount in our council tax bill to off set the cost of this then i have serious concerns about the cost to households as we are all already struggling.
No	The cost of living is expensive enough without having extra Council Tax bills.
No	I’m not to sure what we gain except more to pay out!
No	Living on the outskirts of Whitstable (Swalecliffe) I don’t feel like we or our immediate area would benefit from a town council but we would be forced to pay the increased council tax.
No	Not enough information given about cost, who will stand for the council and how they are selected, number of councillors for each ward
No	The cost is too high. Adding £60 plus to people’s council tax bills is too much for many people who are struggling. The fact that there is no cap to this makes it uncertain financial obligation.
No	Waste of money, we need less government not more and it’s needs to more efficient with spending tax payers money
No	Can't see the point and not value for money
No	I’m happy for it to remain under the umbrella of CCC. I know we’ll be paying more per month if we change. I live in Swalecliffe and I know money will favour Whitstable Town over my village. I can afford to pay anymore in tax. Nope no way.
No	Looking at other councils and costing it’s a no from me
No	More expence for what? I’m sure we will have the same pot holes and poor road conditions.
Not sure	Of the NALC list of Local Council powers totalling 35 of statutory provisions dating from 1878 to 1997 14 are of questionable benefit to the community with 16 that can be regarded as a direct benefit although 5 are unlikely to be financially realistic. Without knowing the number of properties and future properties at £80 p.a. would raise against the cost of running a local council an assessment cannot be made whether a Local Council financially can be a benefit. If a Local Council in itself is regarded as a benefit to the community how can this be justified against the cost?
No	There is limited areas the town council has a say on, and I do not feel this is worth the extra council tax I would pay.
No	I do not believe that a town council will deliver any more benefit OR VALUE FOR MONEY than Canterbury city council.
No	The annual council tax is already becoming unaffordable. I will not support an increase to the council tax which is already high enough and when we already have a parish council. It should be funded elsewhere if necessary, which I do not feel it is.
No	I do not feel this is needed as we are represented on both City, County and National Governments by elected representatives, and it will be a financial burden to the residents of Whitstable.
Not sure	Another level of bureaucracy to get involved before the final agreement made at council level
No	Cost, no clearly defined benefit and we shouldn't need another layer of council above what we already have.

No	There are much more important directions that local politics should go. A seperate town council is completely unneccesary when you look at the bigger picture. We DO NOT NEED canterbury city council passing matters onto a compilation of middle class, out of touch, unrealistic "counsellors". Canterbury City Council has more than enough departments to call on for different issues. They need to stop looking to outsource issues and do what we get taxed for....their jobs.
No	I am not convinced that adding another layer of governance will add value to the norm.
No	I think it is a waste of money and whatever Whitstable Town Council put forward Canterbury Council could just vote against it. I think that the people that would put themselves down to be a Councillor would be business people and be trying out to get something to benefit themselves or their business and not necessarily for the benefit of the residence.
No	Economic climate is hard not wanting to pay .. principle is good though
No	I see the creation of a town council as yet another layer of bureaucracy within an already bloated and costly administration and with so many households already struggling to pay their essential bills the last thing anybody needs is another extra amount added to their already overinflated council tax .
No	We both agree that this would be a waste of money. We do not believe that we need another layer of bureaucracy used to determine aspects of local government which can easily be dealt with by Canterbury. Overall the cost of local government should be reduced not increased.
No	This feels like a duplication of services at the tax payer's expense.
Not sure	Extra cost
No	Can’t see any benefit only more cost especially to the residents of the town. Council tax will be going up enough over the next few years so don’t need any extra cost by having to pay salaries to elected councillors who won’t have the power to make the required changes.
No	We pay enough rates at the moment
No	It will be a waste of time
No	1) Council tax already accounts for a large proportion of household monthly expenditure. Why does a precept need to be levied? why can't whatever funds Whitstable has available via the existing Canterbury council not be allocated to it? 2)what exactly will the town council do that CCC isn't doing? I cannot feel sure that a town council will achieve anything more than CCC does or can achieve through working closely with the town on what its needs and priorities are. 3)I do not understand why we need a tow council when we have CCC running services here. How will a tow council serve the area any better remains a question unanswered.
No	More expense for no benefit. There are enough power crazy groups around as it is!
No	Run by people only interested in their own area or agenda. We are fine as we are.
No	Too many administrators etc already.
No	It would just be another level of bureaucracy and cost to Whitstable residence.
No	Based on professional experience of other town council’s in Kent, I do not support a town council being introduced in Whitstable.
No	It will only provide a number of positions for people who mainly wish to further their own business agenda or to allow them a situation for self agrandisement. Further more it will add further Local taxation increases with little or no ability to improve the areas that require such improvements.
Not sure	I assume a town council would not be covering areas already under CCC remit? So what would they be responsible for?
No	More tax. No proof that a town council would be any better than canterbury council
No	Unnecessary cost for little reward, with no power over Canterbury city council
No	I have never needed help from the council before or needed to contact them so feel there would be no benefit to me to have a town council as they would not be used enough to warrant the extra money we would have to pay
No	Satisfied with what we have via Canterbury council. Cannot afford to pay for a town council
No	The additional expense is not a welcome addition to the cost of living. Council tax is expensive enough and should automatically include Whitstable being appropriately represented at CCC and KCC. Existing CCC and KCC governance should change, if it is felt that Whitstable does not currently have an adequate voice. Remedy what is already in place, not increase bureaucracy!
No	Unnecessary bureaucracy, total waste of money.
No	The charges and cost of living in Whitstable are high enough, we dont need to have them increased further by introducing another layer of bureaucracy
No	It is unnecessary and will incur an additional cost for residents.
No	Initially I thought this might be a good idea. However I have changed my view. In my opinion a Town Council will add another layer of bureaucracy to governance and at an additional cost. It is my understanding that this cost can rise each year and in the current climate this is not affordable. As residents we should be ensuring our local elected councillors work for us and our community. I cannot see anything that tells me where these Town Councillors will come from and I feel they will be no different in the long term to ccc councillors - (the majority of whom pick and choose what they respond to and are often invisible)
No	I do not feel a Town Council in Whitstable is necessary or that it would be cost effective to the consumer ie residents. Offices would need to be purchased, heated & maintained, staff employed - at what cost to the residents? The estimate is approx £80 per household this year but like everything else it will go up year on year. Canterbury councilseem to grant housing planning permission wherever there is a spare field or plot of land but have done little or nothing to improve the infrastructure in the area - no extra schools, Doctors surgeries, hospitals and all the other essential services that this growing population need, residents are already getting poorer essential services for ever increasing Council Tax payments. If CCC believes we need a Town Council in Whitstable is it because they took on more than they could chew & are unable to do the job they were elected to do? I say NO to yet another money making scheme which I cannot see making improvements in Whitstable or my life in any way whatsoever.
No	I cannot see any additional benefit and will increase council tax. I have lived in an area with a town or parish council before and not noticed anything that could be specifically attributed to this additional layer.

No	We dont need another layer of bureaucracy adding to already expensive bills.
No	Cost of living has not eased yet every bill including council tax, food costs, petrol costs, travel costs, parking and other mere basic life needs continue to rise. Most people are struggling to meet the demands of their essential bills let alone other costs amd with no commitment to increasing wages in line with cost of living it is simply unaffordable, unreasonable and irresponsible at this time to ask households to agree to something that will increase outgoings further. Even more irresponsible if you plough ahead despite these facts from your residents. In addition we would be agreeing to something that could continue to rise in cost year after year. We will not be able to afford this additional cost so what are the consequences for people like us who simply cannot pay it?
No	We already have county council and city council representatives to support their constituents. Residents should not have to pay more money to support a town council as well.
No	We shouldn’t need one with county council and city council members representing residents already. We already pay enough. Don’t wish to pay more for a town council as well.
No	The costs outweigh the benefits. The type of politician these positions attract are not of the calibre I would like to be represented by. If Chris Cornell cannot advocate for us (currently) he needs to be ousted not simply add an extra layer.
No	Its not needed and will enable rate rises in the future uncapped .
No	We have Kent Council/Canterbury City Council and local councillors, there appears little in the benefits of a local town council that is not already covered by the existing council structures. It seems to create another level of bureaucracy (and costs) in a time when existing services are being cut due to cost pressures. I appreciate that the rate rises a council can impose are limited by central government, but I feel, as I suspect do many other residents, that if a local precept of £80 is needed, it be used to protect front line services, rather than fund another level of bureaucracy.
No	The proposed town council will not enhance the town. It will not improve local democracy by adding more elected positions with no power or responsibility. The cost of the council is unnecessary. Any functions proposed to be undertaken by the proposed town council can already by done by individuals, existing organisations and existing layers of government. Adding a town council will add expense. This project is a vanity project for a small number of people who will already have the required power to campaign for things they may want. It is not necessary for these people to tax the entire town to fund their personal ambitions.
No	Because we are already paying council tax why should we pay more for something that we don’t need, out existing council should do a better job. The our thing is we have no control over this cost.
No	It just adds another layer of bureaucracy and expense without enough benefit
No	Additional cost to all households at a time of financial challenge.
No	Additional Cost to council tax is the main concern. Whitstable has had a town council previously which was consolidated with CCC with the promise of better organization and management. Do not believe the extra cost to residents will be good value for money.
No	When i found about the precept is not being capped which makes me a solid NO to this ridiculous idea we pay enough council tax now thanks,and I like Whitstable the way it is,Why pay twice for a job that isn't being done now,I for one won't be paying it ,or using what ever mad cap ideas they come up with(jobs for the boys) NO NO NO
Not sure	I believe that Whitstable has indeed been denied its proper voice and this directly through the past / recent actions of CCC in firstly abolishing the CCC Area Member Panels and then also the CCC Forum groups, which they themselves had introduced to replace the AMPs. However, I'm not sure that progressing to the establishment of a formal Town Council is necessarily what all of the initiators of the CT5 People's Forum necessarily envisaged. Whilst there are concerns about the additional precept costs attached to the establishment of a TC it's also not necessarily clear what actual as opposed to possible proposals for services / benefits would be let alone to see these presented in any priority order. I find worrying the concepts of the high costs of the inevitable bureaucracy (eg staff, premises) and the apparent assertion that much extra income can be obtained by a TC, and in particular thoughts that a TC could take out perhaps quite significant and far-reaching loans, which could tie down future years in the way that this has also impacted CCC.
Not sure	At the moment, I'm not sure, but I am leaning towards "Yes". I like the idea of Whitstable residents having more control, and being able to apply for funding that would otherwise not be available, but would not wish a second-tier arrangement if Canterbury City Council would need to rubber-stamp any decisions made by a parish council.
No	There is no evidence to support contention of campaign group that Whitstable does not have a voice . Every resident is already represented by CCC and KCC Councillors and we have a cabinet member for the coast. A third level of bureaucracy to duplicate services already covered by other layers of local govt and our vibrant vol sector is an ill judged idea. Why on earth do we need to pay for a Town Clerk, a Townhall, a Mayor etc when families are struggling to make ends meet. Evidence shows it can cost £500k just to set up and run a Town Council every year - around 70% of total budget for Faversham Town Council goes on staffing and buildings and they are servicing a significant debt for upkeep of buildings. . No cap on precept that can be charged or control over extent to which a Town Council could burden our community with debt. Faversham precept for 2024/25 will be over £90 for band D an uplift of 9% and Frome is rising by 29% from £218 to £281. So already the £60 to £80 figure being quoted for a Whitstable TC is misleading. All local authorities are struggling to balance their budgets with costs escalating - Whitstable TC will be no different Access to external funding can be achieved by other organisations already set up in our Town. . We could have a neighbourhood plan and access to CiL money without a town Council . There are other effective ways for CCC ,KCC, Police, Health etc to engage with Whitstable residents and these need to be fully examined before any decision to set up a new Town Council is taken. I am not persuaded a TC would in any way improve community governance. . Most TCs and PCs were set up in 1894 and are not the solution for a modern world. Evidenced by 29 of the 31 Town and Parish Council elections in the CCC area being uncontested in 2023 .there is no business case for a TC to take over public realm services already provided by CCC/KCC with their resilient and flexible workforce . Why should we pay twice and more for the same ?

No	A Town Council is totally unnecessary. We already have local councillors, county councillors and an MP. We do not need a fourth layer of costly representation. Of all the people not to notice there's a cost of living crisis we can always count on politicians to be oblivious to it and want to increase taxes. Which is what this is — a tax on living in Whitstable. What are the people behind this even thinking? Everything a Town Council is supposed to be able to do can already be done by the existing City Council. We have already had a Whitstable Area Member Panels as part of the City Council. No one went to it but they were cheap. We don't need an expensive version of the same thing. There is no limit to how much this will cost local taxpayers. A few pounds one year can become as much as they like the next. What is to stop new Town Councillors voting to give themselves a pay rise? Or to raise the "precept" as a back door way to top up misspent council funds? This is a Parish Council by another name. No power (thank goodness) but which will cost £150,000 of taxpayer money so a group of politics enthusiasts can vote on a new park bench. Let us keep our money so we can spend it on what we choose. In general, the world is better when we limit the number, and power, of politicians. Please, no more.
No	Additional council tax
No	All governance and distribution of local services should be by Canterbury City Council
No	Another layer of administration and cost that I feel is unnecessary.
No	Because I cannot afford any more taxes! I do not see why we need another layer of government.
No	Because of cost. We all have access by ward councillors, county councillors and CCC itself. Also we have this service free from The Whitstable Society. Therefore there is no need for added ??? and more jargon by more interference.
No	Bullet points reer to a range of discretionary powers that a town council can provide. - Allotments a statutory service of CCC. - Parks and open spaces. CCC or in some cases trusts. - Community centres and leisure facilities. CCC or trusts. - Bus shelter and transport schemes. Google says KCC, CCC and Stagecoach. Some were provide by KCC members grants. - Crime reduction. CCC and Police precept. - Festivals and celebrations (tourism activities = VisitKent). Festivals now outsourced by CCC. - Whitsparkle, a community group provide parade and lights in Whitstable as well as Tankerton traders at Tankerton. - Carnival Labour Group LED. - Bins and street cleaning CCC, street lighting KCC. A town council charges a precept. KCC, CCC, Police, Fire Authority - all charge for services. This is just another layer of government.
No	CT5 is already served (in most cases) by elected members to both KCC and CCC and does not need yet another layer of minor politicans! Having serviced as the Whitstable East KCC Member for over 25 years I like to think I know how things work. There will be no 'new' money to run this town council let alone finding fund to run it! Then there is the question of 'ongoing' costs such as an office staff etc plus I for one do not wish to pay for anymore local activists to run my town.
No	Tighten up on what we have, check on already elected member to make sure they doing what they were elected for.
No	disagree with extra charges, council tax is high enough as it is
No	Don't need an additional layer of governance taking more money from our pockets
No	Don't want to pay more money to council tax.
No	From the information given, I don't believe that a specific Whitstable town council would improve services in the area. The information provided does not suggest how the extra money will be spent in any different ways to how Canterbury city council already spends the money.
No	I am a public servant with 2 children, and a mortgage. We are already facing a cost of living crisis and i am fully aware that a local MP will recieve at least £3000 a year for their work. MPs can have full time jobs alongside being a local counsillor. There is no benefit of this council. As seen in nearby Herne Bay, regardless of local views the council will do what they want. So what will we be paying for? Our views to be unheard and dismissed, and lining the pockets of those that are as politically corrupt as the PM. It will bring no benefit to the local area and will put more pressure on already struggling families. If people really cared about the local town they would do it voluntarily, thereby, not putting financial pressure on the residents they claim to care for. If it were to go ahead the amount needs to be capped! We should be paying for change not some counsillors expenses and mortgage.
No	I am happy with Canterbury City Council and the existing representation on this. I believe that is does a good job and is accountable. At a time when there are significant financial pressures for all, I do not believe that the additional cost of a further layer will add significant benefit to the community. I believe that the risk of a Unitary Council has diminished and is now low.
No	I am not convinced by the arguments put forward by those in favour that a town council will instil a more robust civic pride and sense of community. I don't believe this positive feeling is created by an additional layer of local governance. Rather, this identity is an amalgam of many things, including organisations doing great work in Whitstable, the business community, social events and a shared pride in our town's heritage and how it has changed and improved over the last several decades. Although some individual local politicians have made great contributions to this improvement and continue to work hard for the community, I do not believe we need more councillors representing our interests . It has been suggested that we have been neglected by CCC and have not had our fair share of funding and access to grants etc. (Apparently we are now considered better off and therefore less deserving of funding; I remember being told decades ago ,when the area was much less affluent, that we were being treated unfairly as the poor neighbour of Canterbury! I view both claims with equal scepticism.) I am not convinced that we will be "better off" because of increased access to grants. Increased spending for services in less well off areas would be welcome, but I fear headline projects, albeit well meaning, in spheres that need no interference from local politics. The potential precept of £80 will , almost inevitably , become more, and I just don't think that is justifiable or desirable.. It is ,of course, impossible to know what the silent majority think, but I would suggest that if you have a very small response to this review it is probable that they have little interest in this idea.
No	I am strongly opposed to the suggested Whitstable Town Council. In my view it will add nothing to the services currently provided by Canterbury City Council. It covers too big an area, Yorkletts, Seasalter, Whitstable, Tankerton, Swalecliffe. A Toiwn Council for Tankerton and Swalecliffe, or for Chestfield and Swalecliffe might make sense, but this plan does not make sense.
No	I can't afford an extra tax and we already have a council even if it is terrible.
No	I do not think that we need yet another layer of government bureaucracy.

No	I have lived in Whitstable for 20 years and I believe that I have adequate representation on CCC already. I have lived in several other boroughs and believe that CCC is well run and community orientated toward Whitstable, which is only 7 miles away from the Canterbury. I do not want to pay any higher level of Council Tax.
No	I think the cost is too much for the small benefit it brings. I fear it would become another layer of governance and we're unusual in already having KCC and CCC on this patch. I like the idea of a town council that is local independent people having a say on our town, and if we could get rid of CCC and only have KCC and a town council I'd be all for it! But that's not an option. I worry that we'd just get more politically elected councillors while good local people who are not political would have no support to get elected. It's ridiculous that we might end up with councillors working for KCC and CCC and a town council all at once. We have some good local councillors who ought to be looking out for a town, and this negates the need for a town council.
No	It is more expense for residents with no clarity as to what they will gain from it
No	It will add to the cost of paying council tax for council tax payers. It is not necessary, we have a thriving town and do not need an extra layer of expensive bureaucracy. I do not trust the motives of those pushing for this change. I fear they may be acting in their own best interests and may stay in post for a long time.
No	More costs and bureaucracy as far as I am concerned. Use tthe money to maintain roads etc.
No	More tax for what seems little gain. Lots of people cant afford the additonal cost right now.
No	No need for another layer of bureaucracy. Canterbury City Council is enough.
No	Only duplicating tasks that should be performed by CCC
No	Quite simply I already pay the highest band of council tax - even though I am not living in a particularly large house for some historical reason the band level is high - and I’m not prepared to pay any more. Not sure who would run it - probably a little clique of Whitstable residents.
No	The current system works as well as expected. A parish council is just another layer of government, another layer of bureaucracy. Its powers are limited. It does allow more people to be involved in the governance of the potential parish, but in some cases this can be counterproductive, preventing decisions from being taken. Finally, Council Tax is too high at the moment, and an extra £50+ additional requirement is not , in my opinion, justified in addition to current taxation as negative considerations outweigh any benefits.
No	The precept is unset and predicted to be £80 a month with no guidance or control on how that will be spent. There are also no controls on rises to the precept. I think this ignores the basic needs of many Whitstable residents who are struggling financially. It brings them no practical benefit.
No	There is no clear business plan for what will be achieved. Also the extra charge would be uncapped which is unacceptable
No	This should be duplicating the present system, as long as the Councillors are doing their duty for us.
No	Too many levels of Local Government brings dissension and confusion. We already have two levels in Kent and Canterbury. A third level is totally unnecessary, and will end up as a vanity project for those involved. If there is a real demand for Whitsable's needs to be recognised as being different to those of Canterbury (and Herne Bay) then this shoukd be done through the medium of the existing Canterbury City Council and our representatives to that Council.
No	Uncapped increased taxes. No plan
No	Very concerned about: - additional cost to residents over and above council tax; - uncapped additional cost over council tax; - lack of detail as to what additional cost will be and precisely what will be provided to residents for any additional cost.
No	Waste of money. Nearby town councils have demonstrated bureacracy, not fit for purpose and an unnecessary additional layer. A definite no from me!
No	We do not know what changes a Town Council will make other than our current council tax is likely to increase. Until we know what good a Town Council can do we should not appoint one.
No	We managed without one before so why do we need one now?
No	We pay a lot of money for council tax.Many people cannot afford to pay more money for something that might not be beneficial to them..
No	We pay enough council tax already without having further expense.
No	Who determines the powers of the council? Who sets the precept and who can challenge the amount? Who can dispense with the council? To whom are they accountable if they are subordinate to Canterbury Council?.
No	Will cost us more and I can’t see the advantage of having another layer for decision making etc
No	Will include extra expense to residents
Not sure	Concern about cost and bureacracy
Not sure	Concern that we will get very little for the additional costs per household. In the current financial climate this proposal will be difficult for some people to finance.
Not sure	Concerned about: the cost whether a council would actually get anything done or would just talk a lot whether there would be a range of people taking part- I imagine it would be the same old committee busybodies I can imagine it fizzling out after a few years might slow down any actions by CCC as extra layer of bureaucracy

	How will the needs of the community be assessed? When KCC and CCC haven't enough money where will money for additional needs come from? How will the benefits of a TC be judged? How will exclusion from paying the precepts be judged? Will doing more, for example youth clubs, preschool and early years stop central government from increasing money to local authorities? This may lead to advantages to some TC but less for those without TCs . Will Town councillors make sure the areas with less voice but greater needs are heard. With voting in district elections often lower what percentage vote in TC will make it viable. How will those standing as councillors be judged eligible to stand….will party politics play a part? Is there an easily available list of charities and voluntary groups working already in within the TC proposed boundaries? Will the TC have more power than Government CCC and KCC have already to pursue companies compromising areas within the boundaries ? If necessary services such as food banks are given more when will poverty be reduced by governments? Tourism, litter, libraries, street cleaning depend already on economic provision….sewage affects tourism, street cleaning needs to be financed. TC will be another tier of bureaucracy. What percentage of voting will there need to be for aTC to be truly democratic? Will the precept need to be raised if running and meeting improvements hasn't enough money? From the experience of other TC are there conflicting political
Not sure	views? Let us have more citizens' groups discussing needs before setting increasing tax bills.
Not sure	I could have ticked 'yes' as it all sounds as though it would give us greater control over services, building etc which would be great, but I 'm still not totally sure about benefits v costs.
Not sure	It probably means a whole Committee made up of new Councillors and apparently they can increase the annual fees when they like. And would they still have a say in what the Canterbury Councillors discuss?
	Its unclear whether the investment through Council Tax increase relates proportionally to the benefits that residents will receive from having a town council. The examples of what other Town Councils in East Kent do at the moment is a little underwhelming on the CT5 Forum, and there appears to be no focus on tangible improvements to problems that need fixing today, most of which is managed at CCC level. The need for a voice in these issues is important though, and for this reason there a sway towards supporting it. The proposal needs to position itself by stating aims and objectives up-front, thereby giving residents a forward looking outlook where they can get behind the idea. An idea of number of officials to be put in place, tenure, remit & proposed governance structure is needed to make a more informed decision. I also question why this important decision, with financial implications for all residents, is not being put to a vote following this consultation. If part of the remit is devolved ownership and increase in democratic representation for the local community it seems contradictory to have the ultimate decision in the hands of the CCC as opposed to
Not sure	local residents.
Not sure	Not enough information as yet
No	A town council won't have any real powers. The ct5 area doesn't have a coherent identity and people are well served by existing ward councillors.
No	An additional charge at a time of financial hardship. Some neighbours spoken to unaware of this consultation. From reports from other areas little contact for views on matters by operating group. CCC will have final say in matters irespective of a view by a local council.
No	Believe just an extra layer of bureaucracy with unknown cost with no guarantee of success no clear information on town council mandates
No	Cannot see the benefit for the area for additional payment for Council tax.
No	Do not feel necessary.
No	Don't try to fix what is not broken.
No	Extra tax
No	Hidden cost i.e. no cap on Council Tax. Administration costs. Not a good thing for Whitstable
No	I believe in the ct5 Area which I have lived all of my life we have enough support and guidance regarding all areas of our daily living . We have groups I e neighbourhood watch , business groups, residents groups , we have councillors who we can discuss concerns. We have family groups and much more that are able to support and raise awareness of our area that need to be. I do not believe in the long run this will benefit our community. I think there are other options that could be considered before you put more financial burden on us residents.
No	I do not want another layer of pointless ineffective bureaucracy. We have Councillors who should be representing the interests of Whitstable and they need to step up to the mark. Some are more effective at doing this than others but ours seems pretty invisible. The figures quoted on the information leaflet about a precept are miss leading they have already risen in the areas the "average" was taken from and that was relatively selective. It is also uncapped and people cant afford any increases at the moment in council tax. Also it seems to be aimed at a talking shop for washed up councillors who failed to get elected in some of the recent elections, amongst a few misguided others. The previous local area panels/forums were a useful tool to take issues to and did work if you had anything of importance to raise. Also i would be more inclined to vote in favour of a Town Council if it reported into a unitary authority like the one at one time planned for East Kent ie replacing a layer with the East Kent Authority being stand alone a kin to KCC and Medway Council. Otherwise it has little power and all the money raised will go on staff wages and expenses and there actual sphere of influence and ability to do anything is quite frankly very limited and pretty pointless.
No	In an ideal economic situation a Town Council for Whitstable would be beneficial to pursue projects helpful to the Whitstable community, however in the current financial environment of a cost of living crisis, many residents cannot afford extra charges, especially uncapped ones. Many people are already struggling to pay for necessities and this could push even more people into hardship.
No	It is not needed and the cost for such a vanity project has not been clear, open or truthful therefore I do not believe further time, effort or valuable resources should be wasted on this project. I believe if Canterbury Council cannot deal with a small parish they are not fit for purpose and should resign on mass and allow competent organised people the opportunity to run the council.
No	It will be more costly and CCC do an adequate job at present.
No	Not a good idea, the ordinary person who is struggling to keep their families fed, pay bills etc., Cannot afford an increase in Council Tax.
No	Pay enough in council tax already

	The process of application is flawed. There is misleading and inaccurate information in A Voice for Whitstable A.4 campaign leaflet, and social media suggests petitioners were not all aware of a cost. A Town Council would add another costly level of local government which cannot be justified in terms of sustainability, viability or economic cost benefit. This would fall on residents. What weight is being given to responses from those who would not pay the precept? Great emphasis has been given to obtaining grants, at a time of economic disaster. Likelihood of grant funding success is minimal to a new Council. Increased Town Council funded schemes would result in a higher precept, as would duplication of service or filling gaps. There is a lack of interest, shown by uncontested Parish Council elections and public attendance at meetings. No evidence that Town Council would make any significant contribution to community cohesion. The application seems town-centric. Should a smaller boundary area be considered at a Phase 2, this would be divisive to Whitstable. There is currently a shared sense of community. Whitstable has an aptitude to form local associations, partnerships and volunteer groups to address local issues; many groups covering whole area, e.g. The Whitstable Society, Red Zebra, Rotary Clubs, Whitstable Community Museum, Whitstable Improvement Trust etc. There is a shared identity in community interest. Dissatisfaction with CCC and perceived lack of voice for Whitstable could be resolved by reintroduction of Area Committees and planning consultation status, increased Councillor surgeries, a determination by local CCC Councillors to fight for Whitstable within CCC system to influence quality of services, equal availability of funding to local projects to improve our area, rather than unequal provision to Canterbury. Now the
No	political balance is more evenly spread, these should be viable possibilities without extra cost to Whitstable residents.
	The proposed new town council will require extra costs per household that is uncapped. Costs could be increased at any time. There is no guarantee that the new council would be of additional benefit to Whitstable. Based on the cost I say
No	no to the proposed new council.
No	This happened when I used to live in Swanscombe and even now it is the "lost city:
	This would not only create another layer of bureaucracy, but also a further expense to the homeowners of Whitstable. There seems to be little or no support for the true inhabitants of the town, but plenty of pampering to the wealthy who
No	have bought up what used to be the towns starter homes and turned them into overpriced Air BnB's.
No	Totally unnecssary and a waste of money.
No	We already have local council
	We already pay council tax which should cover our needs, a Town council cannot promise to make any significant changes other than that we will pay more into our council tax. Until I know what good a town council can or will do I am
No	a No.
	We are in recession! People are struggling with the cost of living. The last thing we need is another level of bureaucracy. Maybe when things are more settled but not at the moment. PS Why charge per value of property anyway, it should be
No	per person!
	Whitstable is very lucky in having a thriving community with a huge range of extra curricular activities. I believe we have one of the only libraries that is open 7days a week. We have a theatre, swimming pool, bowling - indoor and outdoor. Numerous premises that allow extra activities to take place. We have the castle which provides spectacular events throughout the summer season. Within the CT5 area we also have great areas of green open spaces as well as our fabulous harbour. I really don't think the cost of, perhaps £80 added to our cancel tax, will improve to any great extent,
No	what we already have. Baring in mind, the cost of living crisis. Will our council tax be going up this year. Yes!!!
No	Worried that it would be just another layer of committees and bureaucracy at a further cost
	I have not seen or read any concrete evidence about how this would benefit the townspeople of Whitstable. I have concerns that the proposed precept is only loosely based on other areas and is therefore only a suggested amount and how this cost may rise when me and other families in the town are already struggling to pay our bills. I am happy to contribute to the many local voluntary and charitable organisations who offer real support to the town when I can afford it and have a clear understanding of what they are striving to achieve. There has not been an opportunity to discuss these concerns at any meetings a) due to the leaflet arriving after the date of the meetings and b) no opportunity for disabled or housebound people to air their views. Finally, I have also been utterly aghast at reading some of the comments from the people who are FOR a town council in their poor responses on social media. These have been petty, bullying and abusive to those with opposing views or who have submitted genuine questions. What
Not sure	we need as a community is for everyone to be treated with respect!
	I object to the 'precept' which would be raised to fund a further level of democracy. Especially as a town council would have negligible effect on life in Whitstable. I have always found our county and city councillors responsive and effective
No	to any possible local issues where they have had any responsibility. A vanity talking shop!
	After Brexit this would be once again stepping into the unknown. Not enough info to make a safe choice. Where would we find enough people with local government knowledge? The last thing we would need is a committee of enthusiastic amateurs trying to put Whitstable 'on the map'. When recent events caused frightening overcrowding - the object was
No	to get Whitstable 'off the map'.

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published
No	This will add another layer of unnecessary beauracray to an decisions to be made. Likely to be made up of people who have ideas that suit themselves but not all of the electorate. Really not needed and who wants the extra cost at this time! If this does go ahead it should not cost local residents to finance someone's crackpot ideas
No	Can see no benefit to having a town council but a cost implication to fund this.
No	I have no wish for another layer of bureaucracy run by people who think they know what's best for others. An additional £60-£90 per year will quickly end up being much more in a few years. I find it astonishing that it only takes a tiny 7.5% of the locals to want this for the proposals to be seriously considered.
Not sure	From the information provided, it appears only 7% of the local residents vote that Whitstable should have a town council. Either this is not a strong indication of the need or desire, or a poor turnout for the survey resulted in the low number. Additionally, there seem to be other options available to residents that appear not to have been explored in detail yet. However, I am a new resident to Whitstable, less than 3 months, and so I have yet to see any indication of a lack of civic pride or a need for the town council, so I may be missing why this is needed.
No	Whitstable originally had its own council which was disbanded in 1974 it didn't work then and it won't work now. Also with an increase of £60-80 pounds a year not everyone can't afford this everyone is struggling now with the cost of living. There are NO benefits for Whitstable having its own council.
Not sure	More questions to be asked and answered.
No	In view of the current economic crisis in the country another tier of government at a cost of £80 per annum when we have adequate representation with the existing Canterbury city council seems to be totally unnecessary and unaffordable for the average hard working resident of whitstable. In the current economic climate when we have a perfectly good elected councillor representing our ward would I wish to pay a further £80 a year to pay some one else to act as my representative when I am more than pleased with the work the current Canterbury city councillor is doing already. As a resident of whitstable for more than seventy years I am more than satisfied with the democratic representation of our local council representatives and another layer of council to be put on the hard working people at a cost of £80 per annum I find totally unacceptable.
No	Dont want to pay anymore tax, paying to much council tax as it is.
No	Dont want to pay extra as we pay enough council tax
No	All the important things that will actually make a difference to the local community will still be handled by Canterbury City Council, Kent County Council, or Parliament. Besides, Whitstable already elects councillors who are supposed to represent the views and interests of Whitstable to Canterbury City Council. The purposed town council will not have the power to solve the real issues affecting residents of Whitstable. It will just add more bureaucracy, with the extra cost covered by local residents.
No	With current the cost of living crisis, it seems ridiculous to add another level of bureaucracy which will be funded by increased council tax bills.
No	It will be spending more public money.
No	Waste of money, creating jobs for the boys.
No	We have enough organisations that have an input into whitstable we do not need a council

No	I don’t see why we need another layer of live off the rate payers in Whitstable as the Canterbury Council has already staff to look after the residents needs and this includes the people running the Parish Council who also take precious rate payers money but at least show they can be of use to the community. I demand that you please delete my name and address from the list of any future tax payments for this proposed gravy train that you propose to set up as I will not be paying for something that is not required. XXXXX
No	I am quite happy with Canterbury City Council and have desire for another layer of bureaucracy or the additional costs involved.
Not sure	Although it would be good to have more say for Whitstable, I am very concerned about an extra cost and personally wouldn’t want to pay more. I feel that our elected councillors should represent Whitstable.
No	Do not want to pay higher council tax
No	I pay for a chestfield parish council tax already and do not see any benefits from paying it, I would not want to pay another £60-80 for an area I don't live in. Your consultation circular arrived on the 24/01/24, was dated on the 08/01/24 and two of the informations have been and gone. Why would I need a town council who can't organize an information circular
No	Waste of money with no powers
No	I do not want a Town Council because I am against paying more Council Tax , which is how it will be funded.. We pay too much already.
No	I am not happy to pay more Council Tax, which is how it will be funded.
No	Town and parish councils add another costly bureaucratic layer of governance. Although they no doubt try to provide benefit, inevitably they increase costs to residents, often for services that are already provided and paid for through other local authority taxes, (as is clearly demonstrated by the list contained in the consultation leaflet). Town and parish councils consume well over 50% of their raised precept charges in paying for administrative functions and on-costs. Larger towns might be able to recoup a little of that through successful bids for grants and handouts but I doubt that Whitstable would fall into that category.
No	All these small Councils were abolished in the 1970's so that the larger District could be managed more efficiently from one centre-Canterbury. New premises will have to be found and paid for, extra people will have to be elected and staff paid and services will remain exactly the same. If the promotion of Whitstable is the only extra service really to be provided then the local business people should be providing this. All this and we are told that the Council tax will be increased to pay for it. I am totally against it.
Not sure	I think we already pay enough council tax so although in principle i dont object I am unwilling to pay further charges . I also think Whitstable is already 'on the map' and thats in part why we have such ridiculous house prices which many people cant afford.
Not sure	Needs to be run by locals who have lived locally for a certain amount of time . But during a cost of living is it a good idea to put council tax up even more
Not sure	I am not currently persuaded that a town council would have any real power to be able to do anything that would benefit the residents of Whitstable. I also feel that the extra council tax payment would be very difficult to find for some residents. However if the town council could help with Crime, community safety, Fly tipping and potholes I might be persuaded.
No	Another cost for another layer of bureaucracy that will make no difference to the town whatsoever. The same problems will still be unresolved so all that will happen is that more councillors will make silly decisions with the little money we have allocated to the town. It will not improve Whitstable in any way. It will be a waste of money for all residents.
No	Don’t want to pay extra money for nothing

No	Extra unnecessary cost for no additional benefits. What's the point?
No	In a cost of living crisis a pointless extra layer of a town council is not justifiable. A few extra lib dem councillors arguing over putting up a flower planter in tge high street will not hafe any positive impact and only take much needed money away from people.
No	I don’t think we need yet another layer of local government. As a resident I am not convinced that there will be any meaningful benefit to me or my family by the addition of a town council. At a time when people are struggling with the cost of living, increasing council tax to pay for this proposal feels entirely inappropriate.
No	Unnecessary. Cost of living is unaffordable for many and extra expense however small or large will tip many over the edge financially.
No	I don’t feel it’s needed. I would not be happy to pay for this.
No	Canterbury CC established a long term strategic plan for the development of Whitstable some years ago. It has been successful and future development should be in line with that plan The last thing we need is another body - adding cost and with the power to make changes that are not in line with strategy, “If it ain’t broke don’t fix it!”
No	I feel that local Councillors have sufficient knowledge of the Town to determine key issues. Existing Councillors could form a Town Forum based on the CT5 model.
No	I don't think that having one would achieve anything over and above that which is already achieved. The councillors would spend their time trying to do things that, ultimately, would just end up being rejected. As such, it would just be wasted money, the majority of which would go toward maintaining a premises; staffing and for providing free 'functions' for the councillors to enjoy at the tax payers expense.
No	We already pay a high council tax in the Canterbury area so dont want to pay more. All I have seen is cuts, the road where I live used to be gritted as is a bus route, but no longer gritted the buses do struggle in heavy frost. We have to pay extra for green bin collection and that is so wrong. So promoting cultural events, representing local and business issues etc is not of any concern to me as a resident. Paying a extra £60 to £80 a year would help raise money etc and I will not see any benefit for residents outside the town area. So definitely no town council needed.
No	The area of Whitstable does not include Chestfield we would pay for something that does not affect Chestfield
No	I do not want another layer of bureaucracy and associated costs to my Council Tax unless there is strong evidence to support this. I have not seen any evidence that this proposal is required or justified; wishful thinking and aspirations about `the community` are not a strong basis for this proposal. We do not live in a perfect world but generally I am very satisfied with the current administration of services and I have not seen any evidence to the contrary.
No	Nothing gets done anyway and most councillors have no interest in what the public have too say, this will be another waste of public money
No	More expense for local council tax payers with little or no gain. Usual suspects who have made an abject job of running CCC likely to be the candidates appearing on any ballot paper. CCC has already had to waste valuble puplic funds in carrying out this consultation process because of a vocal minority of residents.
No	The constantly rising council tax is a real cause for concern as it is without having to pay extra for a town council that quite frankly given most of our current Whitstable MPs are pretty useless
No	I don't want the tax increase that comes with it

No	Cost
	I am totally against Whitstable having a town council. If this goes ahead the people of Tankerton, Seasalter and Swalecliffe will completely lose their identity. The focus will be to promote everything about Whitstable Town, leaving the rest behind. All monies from the precept will be allocated to the town and I would not be surprised if the elected council members will be made up of all Whitstable Town residents. I see in the most recent material distributed that the CT5 forum would look to promote cultural events. I for one have had enough of pride marches and we do not need another addition to this already crazy pastime of scantily clad gay, lesbian and trans people parading their wares through city centres. The burden of further money being extracted from people's already dwindling finances is a further reason this absolutely bonkers idea to be stopped in it's tracks before the wheels start turning and before we know it the demand is no longer £60 to £80 extra a year it will be in the hundreds. You will probably agree with that statement as Canterbury City Council are currently in debt to the tune of several million. How long before the
No	Whitstable Town Council's budget deficit goes down a similar road.
No	To must red tape and costing
	We pay to much Canterbury council!!!!for our council tax at the moment..... Everything that you are proposing should be covered by Canterbury, l don't want to pay another payment on any extra tax set as a Precet... For a local council.... This will not benefit me and my family.. I think you just leave it the way it is.. I was told by a friend of mine about this I was not sent any paperwork... To find out that two information sessions have pass there date's ...
No	Thanks Regards XXXXX
No	We pay too much council tax already
No	Not willing to pay for a service i didnt ask for
	For what it will cost i do not feel they will be able to do very much more than is
No	already done
No	Not value for money in the current financial climate
	I don’t wish to pay extra and fear it will dilute democracy from the elected councillors, with inexperienced people. I have no confidence that its benefits
No	would be fairly distributed between central Whitstable and the rest of the area.
No	What benefits to resident?
	Because they would increase our council tax, which is already excessive (and we
No	don’t exactly get value for money already!)
	By the title of this proposal - Whitstable Town Council - and indeed the way that this response in worded in question1 it is quite clear that Whitstable is the priority. Chestfield would be an also ran. Also we object to having to pay yet more council tax to CCC when it takes no notice of public opinion nor its
No	complaints.
	Whitstable Town Council will not be autonomouus like the old Whitstable Urban District Council. There will be no Public voting so It will have no elected members. It will remain advisory to Canterbury City Council who, just like now, always has the final decision in anything , regardless of public opinion to the contrary. No opinion expressed will be taken by the City Council as an agreement in principle - reference Public consultation on traffic calming on Millstrrod Hill where there was no Public vote. I am registering my objection as one of the wider Whitstable Community who contributes to Whitstable by carrying out volunteer work in two establishments and considers Whitstable as
No	'my town'.
	Council tax is far too high and is going up 5 per cent every year.Times are very
No	hard at the moment and surely nobody will want to pay an extra tax
No	There is no need, and I do not want to pay more on my council tax

No	We do not want to pay extra on our council tax
No	Dont want to pay more council tax
No	What is the point of charging people more money in this time of austerity to put unelected people in charge with limited powers.
No	We already have councillors, we do not want to pay for a local council in these days of cut backs. KCC are short of cash so how is a local council going to survive? Five more councillors claiming expenses that's the money gone straight away. Waste of time
No	We pay enough in council tax as it is for not much of an outcome. We shouldn't have to pay more on top of this, especially in a cost of living crisis - even the suggestion that we'll have to pay more is in such bad taste considering how hard it is for everyone at the moment. We can't afford the bills we have at the moment, please don't make it harder for us
No	We have good local councillors, another grouping is not required.
No	As a resident I'm not prepared to pay an additional cost for a town council on top of council tax.
No	As a cost saving venture many years ago it was decided to pool resources and combine with Canterbury. This seems to have turned out well. I now live in Chestfield so am nit affected So yet another group of government who have little control is a waste of taxpayers money especially during these difficult times. Costs would spiral as there are always those councillors who want to make a mark. Take over and overspend other peoples money.
Not sure	Because the benefits have not been properly articulated through your consultation. This means the consultation process hasn't been appropriately robust and any outcome is potentially biased. Residents should have been given full information in terms of benefits and shortcomings, rather than documentation which only seems to focus on an increase in council tax.
No	I can't afford any extra on my council tax bill at the moment
No	Whitstable had a town council previously and this was closed based on the premise of saving money although I am sceptical that this was overly successful and any monies saved will have been absorbed over time by the city. My feeling is that having a new town council would merely add more cost for residents, more bureaucracy but limited value for that extra cost.

	The information provided in the consultation about what difference a town council could make is not very persuasive. There is little benefit for the extra money that residents would have to pay. Cultural events are already well supported through existing community groups, Whitstable has a lot more going on than most communities in Kent. Local councillors get heavily involved in local issues and champion residents and local businesses, they provide information for the community, support events and act as a voice at Canterbury city council. Commenting on planning applications is open to all members of the community anyway and I don't want another group representing me during that process if I choose to comment. External funding bids can be submitted by existing community groups and organisations and there is no information in the consultation to show a town council would be more successful. The consultation does not confirm the amount of money residents would have to pay. Any costs should be linked to the number of people in a household and not linked to council tax which is based on house size/value. There no information on reductions for those on benefit or single occupier households. We often hear about the need to support local food banks and that local people are struggling, why then require them to spend even more money they don't have. I am surprised by the boundary of the proposed town council, just because your postcode is CT5 it does not mean you live in Whitstable. Yorkletts for example is not in Whitstable and is a town council really going to promote cultural events in the village. Finally I am disappointed that my letter notifying me of this consultation arrived after all of the in person engagement events had taken place. The letter is dated 8 January 2024 but it arrived 1st February 2024 and I only got it when I returned from work that evening after the Umbrella Centre
No	event had finished.
No	Why should you burden residents with another expense for a select few to decide on whats best for a town whole claiming expenses for lunches!.
No	We are already paying council tax to ccc but we will be expected to pay more. This will move some responsbility of services to the town council but it will not be removed from ccc and still be part of it
No	We do not need this as this will incur extra expenses at a time when residents cannot afford additional outgoing money on limited funds for which we will not see any benefits. Canterbury City Council gets a huge income from ever increasing Council Tax, car parks from Whitstable, Herne Bay, Canterbury and Park and Ride sites The amount of around £60-£80 per year cannot be justified at this time ,as this will be increased over a period of time with inflation.
No	It is another cost for local residents. Not needed as we already have councillors representing us. I have also found local campaigners for the town council to be slightly over bearing they are pushy and not willing to listen. I have not found them very convincing in their attempts to make me vote in favour of their proposal.
No	Because it will cost us more money for services that the council should be doing anyway.
No	I cannot see any advantage to Whitstable having a town council. Surely the system we have should work giving Whitstable a fair representation within CCC without more bureaucracy causing delays and further burden to the tax payer by increasing costs .
No	Just a forum for for more useless political debate, we have a parish council (Chestfield) a City Council ,who increase rates by maximum every year. Services decrease no benefit will be felt by local residents as Westminster hold the purse strings and have any final say on what and anyting will be built and will carry on concreting over our countryside.. A Town council would be a Complete toothless paper tiger, just adding more exspence to already hard pushed households

	Would be very happy to have (and support) one but, like a lot of people, simply cannot afford any more on top of the never ending price increases for everything. We have a lot of voluntary groups doing a lot for the Community already, people happily get involved or not. Seems more appreciated, as there's no expectation when it's not paid for through taxes. Not convinced that a Town Council would actually have any true influence. It would seem they could "choose to maintain/support at their discretion" (?), services that should be covered by existing Council Tax payments. Like man, I can't afford any more monthly costs, especially if they're not essential. I don't like the idea that we've no idea how much the charge may be and that there will be no control on how
No	much they can increase year by year
No	We do not need another layer of governance at extra cost to residents.
No	We do not need an additional Council at additional costs for residents.
	I don't see that it will improve our town. I am also concerned that it will increase our council tax. As a disabled person unable to work, this is a real worry. There hasn't been nearly enough advertising and communication about this to Whitstable residents, very few have received anything through the post or leaflet drop. Your leaflet states that people have asked for this change but what people? I am Whitstable born and bred, no one has asked me, will there be a proper public vote to see if it is what the people of Whitstable want and will there be an opt out clause for those of us who do not wish to have Parish Council status? This has been very poorly communicated or rather not communicated to the people of Whitstable whom it effects. Is this yet another idea to appease the incomers, DFL's and second home owners who want to take
No	over our town.
No	Another level of governance is not required
No	Don’t believe it will make any difference.
	Insufficient information, i.e., you have identified that a cost is involved in running the new town council but have not said if a similar cost reduction would come from the reduced work at Canterbury. How much say would Whitstable have in planning proposals, would they be retrospective or would Canterbury have its own way in the end anyway. Our initial view is another layer of bureaucracy and the potential increased cost is not worth it unless real local
Not sure	points of view are upheld.
	We do not need another layer of local government . Residents pay enough already in Council and this would be an unnecessary extra burden for many
No	people
	We would be in support of Whitstable having its own town council, provided that we do not have to pay extra on top of what we already in our Council Tax, as we already additional tax for Chestfield Parish Council, and we would be
Not sure	excluded from voting for Whitstable council members.
	Whitstable already has a diverse number of voluntary groups and new ones pop up as new issues arise. An advantage is that they can raise money for projects, which perhaps a town council couldn't fund Social media is a great way for residents to participate in issues . An alternative would be a register of all Societies, groups and Friends, to enable the public to access them. Therefore there may not be any benefit to the town in having a town council, which would
Not sure	be no more than a parish council.
	We do not need another layer of bureaucracy, especially one that has such
No	limited power for the costs involved
No	Do not want extra cost on top of council tax bill
No	Do not want extra expense on top of council tax bill

No	They will carry no powers and i am not paying any more council tax so somebody can say that theyre a councillor, probably a stuck up resident who wants a new tree outside their house
No	As it will not have an impact on local residents, as it has no powers over parking, planning etc. it's lovely to have events but this can be funded in other ways - like Tankerton do. Although they can put a voice forward for some issues, but we no power it will have no impact. We can all write objections and also speak to our local councillor.
No	A waste of money
No	As far as I can see there will be no benefit to me. The new Whitstable Town Council will be providing the same service at Canterbury City Council but at an added cost/increase to our Council Tax bill. I understand this is £60 - £80
No	Because a lot of people are struggling to pay their bills and we know the council tax is going up considerable amount, so having to pay extra for town council will add more stress. I cannot see what they going to achieve for the town.
No	The Canterbury Council are here to govern this area, why would we pay extra within our council tax for still nothing to be done. It's an extra way for more money to come to council and very little to be done. As a community Whitstable already achieved so much without a town council, there is no need for the added expenditure. I am sure they will achieve still as much without a town council now and in the future. The more concern is within this current climate, who wants to or can pay more through their council tax for something, which may very little or no difference. The town council would be like any other council, creates promises but you will never see the changes. Any changes that would want to be made, would still need to go through Canterbury council, so why pay extra when we can go directly to the source whom make the final decision. I believe the majority of the residents would rather see our current council to work correctly and efficiently, before we see another unnecessary implementation of this council going forward.
No	I do not want to pay any more tax for services that I do not feel will offer any significant benefit or improvement for myself or the majority, from that which is already established.
No	The current city council deals with all the issues that affect me and my family. Any extra committee would be a waste of time and money.
No	It is the job of Canterbury City Council to advocate for Whitstable. There is no need for another layer of bureaucracy and the extra cost that this would entail. Canterbury and Whitstable are only approximately seven miles apart. There is simply no good reason why Canterbury City Council cannot adequately look after Whitstable.
No	Do not want to pay higher council tax
No	There is no need or justification for this. Local services will not benefit, local residents will have to pay more for what seems like a development of basic community necessities. Bus stops, play areas, litter management- surely KCC have an existing responsibility to invest the extortionate council tax rates they charge into these areas. Or are these just being poured into filling the enormous pit of debt that they have carefully created? Perhaps we should avoid throwing more money at a clearly mismanaged and poorly organised financial system. Who would be in control of monitoring these councillors, who would be accountable for their impact and more importantly in what way do these chosen few become more qualified to make decisions than the already existing councillors.
No	Why can KCC not fulfill their obligations to the people of Whitstable? It will cost extra money to what is already a huge council tax and is disproportionate to what it will effect. I strongly oppose this suggestion.

Not sure	It is not necessary. The system functions perfectly well as it is. An unnecessary cost at the moment.
No	Didn’t get any reason why TC would be beneficial to Whitstable, only examples from other TC. The charge on council tax is uncapped and so nothing stops people in TC to raise money higher. People who started the petition got just 7.5% signatures. This doesn’t give me the confidence in CT5 People’s Forum. Also, some of the comments from them put me off the idea of having TC.
No	Another layer of council means more council tax. This should be funded by directing council tax from CCC or KCC to a new town council to cover the services the current two layers of council will no longer be providing. You provided a link to a document of what a town council may provide, but how many of those services will they actually be allowed to provide by the existing councils - car parking for example. Will CCC really release control of the car parks for which they receive a large income from?
Not sure	Depends on how it's funded & how the town council is appointed. Yes if funds come from existing council tax funds & no if extra charges are applied to council tax bills. How the council is appointed will be another factor that determines whether i would want it or not.
No	I live in Chestfield where we have a very effective parish council. Chestfield does not need another level of bureaucracy with its accompanied extra cost.
No	We are living in Chestfield with a very active and successful Parish Council which we support through an extra charge on our council tax. We do not require a further broader Whitstable council with extra cost no doubt.
No	Extra cost to residents should be deducted from already very high council tax paid to CCC/KCC. Extra costs to already struggling residents
No	Cannot justify extra cost in the current economic climate
No	Seems unnecessary, and insufficient justification (none, really) was given for setting up a aeparate body.
No	It will cost us more and I can't see that there will be added value. It will add an extra layer of bureaucracy which will need to be paid for by a part of the precept. Without taking on concurrent functions it will have little to do. As I understand it Canterbury City Council is withdrawing its concurrent functions funding so if the Town Council wants to take on such as grounds maintenance it will need to fund the cost of this via the precept and the cost will be more than £60 to £80. There is no limit on how high the precept can go. I feel the ward councillors provide an appropriate level of community governance for Whitstable and there is no need for an extra layer of bureaucracy with a limited ability to do things differently unless the precept is much higher than the £60 to £80 mentioned in the consultation leaflet. I do not consider it will be worth the extra cost.
No	Never felt the need to seek these specialist services Suffiently covered by aternative means Cost of living already hard! to add these charges would make it worse
No	Absolutely no need at all!
No	i am happy with things as they are.. i don't want to pay extra in tax. as a disabled. retired person I have no way to supplement my income. thank you.
Not sure	Concern above cost and iv there with be an overlap with CCC .
No	I think there are too many layers of local government as it is. The demand for a town council in Whitstable would be a lot less if Canterbury City Council took more interest in places like Whitstable and Herne Bay and were less focussed on Canterbury.

No	With the cost of living becoming increasingly difficult for some residents, it is not the right time to be doing this, introducing another hike in council tax will be detrimental to people's lives. I would imagine that those who's idea this is are not effected by financial constraints and are failing to see the bigger picture.
No	Cost and additional red tape / confusion of responsibility.
No	I am of the opinion that if its not broke, don't try to fix it, and I think this council does pretty good, apart from the potholes, which go from bad to worse. So in a nutshell. NO THANKS LEAVE WELL ALONE, PLEASE.
No	Whilst in an ideal world it would be nice to have decisions on spending money on projects decided by a more localised based management team that might better understand the needs of local people, the cost of setting this up may be too much for many elderly pensioners given the recent inflation of energy and fuel costs. Another level of management may possibly make decisions less efficient e.g "too many cooks spoiling the broth". Apart from anything else, half of the CT5 postcode has not been included in the proposed area for a Whitstable Town Council. So many households will feel deliberately left out of the new proposed arrangement.
No	Unnecessary with limited powers, plus they would have an agrnda i disagree with, e.g. trying to halt housing which is clearly needed, and its not the councils fault 90% of people dont even understand what affordable housing even means
No	I feel strongly that the extra costs would send some people into more financial difficulty and this would outweigh any benefit involved. As far as I can see the money would go towards putting some different people in an extra office for no seemingly good reason. There is a cost of living crisis.
No	Its like brexit Mk.2. Its an idiot idea. Just so some people can feel self important whilst i pay for them to faff about in a village hall. Then next year when they realise theyve got no money they will want me to pay even more for their little meetings. Ridiculous idea.
No	Can’t see the extra cost to residents justifying the need.
No	Citizens are already disadvantaged by too many levels of government and a sclerotic bureaucracy, from Westminster and Whitehall to county and parish. It's one of the main reasons why UK plc is so inefficient. How many examples do we need? HS2, house building, planning consent, A303 at Stonehenge, Heathrow's third runway, delayed compensation payments to maliciously convicted Post Office staff, inability to recruit military personnel, pothole repairs, NHS mismanagement, school and hospital buildings crumbling, petty political infighting at national and local level. Let's stop there. So, in summary, a firm NO to adding another layer of government - to add more bureaucracy, more talk, more costs, more delays, more petty politics. Our existing councils simply need to work better.
Not sure	As the cost to households is not set it is difficult to know how much this could cost people..The cost of an office and a town clerk is an extra cost to be taken into account.We already have councillors for our area who would work to promote our area so is this needed?It is also not very clear what the town council would be in charge of.It seems unlikely that parking will be given to the town council which is one of the things that I see as an issue as in my mind I would want the charges brought down to keep the town vibrant and appealing and keep people coming into our town.
Not sure	Unsure of the real benefits. The main concerns are around this being another level of governance, but it has less accountability and could be influenced too much by small collectives who are only looking out for their own agendas. Who are the “WE”, I.e. the people who have been leading and driving this to get the initial number of signatures, this is news to many people in Whitstable.

Not sure	Not nearly enough hard information regarding costs/benefits to residents in the longer term. Sounds like uncapped admin costs could be excessive. Not sure how this would benefit areas outside the immediate town centre e.g Yorkletts.
No	As Canterbury City Council will still be responsible for all major decisions and services I can see no benefit in having a town council which will just cost us ever increasing sums of money which the majority of us can ill afford.
No	Council tax is already extortionate we already pay extra for Chestfield parish council. I dont feel throwing more money at the council will improve their management of public services
No	Events are published on social media etc Local councillors deal with issues Planning applications - if a local council could stop more housing that would be amazing but I fear it may go the other way I'd be interested in funding bids that do what they were supposed to (local cinema on harbour turned into more food outlets)
No	Extra (uncapped!) cost for zero committed benefits
No	Firstly, the original vote that prompted this proposal was not run or organised very well at all. There was no information through doors, no canvassers knocking and from what I have learned, a lot of people who voted yes when they signed the petition in the high street were not told there would be an extra cost on top of council tax. This has all be handled very badly by the people's forum campaigning for a Town Council and I certainly would not trust them to spend these extra funds where they are most needed. There are lots of charity (non profit) groups in whitstable who do a fantastic job at organising events even though Whitstable has had funding cut from Canterbury. The information letters that were posted were in majority received late and after the date of the information sessions. The people's forum blamed the post office for this. How very grown up of them passing the blame. We are a family of 6 with a disabled child. My husband works full time and I work part time as I am the main cater for our son. To have to find extra funding on top of a very tight budget due to rising costs would be hard for us. I feel extremely sorry for families who are on a single or low income who definitely could not afford this. And we have no control on how much this will rise each year. In some towns it doubles if not more. This has all been rushed through without enough Whitstable residents being consulted (majority of the signatures were from non-residents and although these could not be counted, it just shows the poor inexperience of the canvassers) and also very underhanded. To now be told it doesn't matter at this stage if we vote NO, it will be the council who decide. Why wasn't all this information, leaflets and meetings not be offered to residents at the first vote? Then there would definitely have been a NO vote. This has all been a waste of the councils time and money.
No	I am certainly not interested in paying for a town council that has no powers, especially as the council tax will be going up as well. Where do you think local residents can keep finding more money from in a time like this.
No	I cannot afford to pay any more for this.
No	It's just an additional uncapped cost on residents with little or no benefit. We pay enough council tax already for a poor service, we would only be repeating the process and having to endure the bureaucracy of another council. It will have no benefit to the town and is a system for extracting ing money from residents, the majority of whom cannot afford it in these difficult times.
No	Not necessary
No	Not prepared to pay more without any benefits

No	Our household cannot afford an extra outgoing of an as yet unknown amount on top of council tax that rises each year too. I don't feel having a Town Council will have a majorly beneficial impact for the increased outgoings for everyone at this current time, especially as it cannot be opted out of for those already struggling to make ends meet at the moment.
No	Potential uncapped rises in extra charge. Not clear wheat the fixed costs will be. Not clear what benefits the council will actually bring.
No	The cost is not worth the benefit. The added cost to council tax will only increase the cost of living here and drive more Yong working families away, myself included
No	There is no need for this, it will just result in increasing council tax.
No	ue to the cost of living crisis, we believe this proposal to set up a local Council for Whitstable is totally unnecessary and wrong. The added expense to local residents who will have to cover this cost on top of the already increased council tax, is totally inappropriate. It will not have any real power to affect real issues or make decisions to protect our local environment, it will still fall to the existing City Council and Country Council to authorise anything. Once again, we believe the added cost to everyone and with no power to protect the remaining local environment, there is know real benefit to having a local Council for Whitstable
No	We already pay enough for council tax
No	We pay enough already to canterbury council and life is getting more exspensive by the day
No	We pay enough in council tax
No	Whitstable does not need it's own council Causeing more problems with in the community. I have lived in whitsable all my life and don't see why i should start paying more council tax for the benefit of newer residents and visitors.
No	Whitstable is already represented by local councillors elected to Canterbury City Council and they should be speaking up for the town and residents they have been elected to serve. A further level of bureaucracy of town council is unnecessary and would result in additional financial cost to residents. I did not sign the petition when asked and I do not know if those who did were also informed about the potential additional cost that would arise.
Not sure	Not sure if the cost to each household outways any benefit.
Not sure	The thought of having to pay more money is totally unreasonable as most of us are struggling financially. The cost of living is hard.
No	additional costs
No	Additional expenses with no cap in place.
No	An additional council will incur additional costs. In the current financial climate and pressure on services it does not make sense.
No	Another level of bureaucracy like a town council is unnecessary and the cost to those on low incomes is going to be a further burden on their already stretched finances. As the town council can set its precept this will only increase in the future. Whitstable councillors elected to Canterbury City Council should be speaking up for the town and residents they have been elected to serve. Were those asked to sign the petition aware that this was going to cost them more money for very little benefit? If there is a requirement for additional public involvement in Whitstable matters then the City Council should reinstate the Area Member Panel. This would cost considerably less that a town council as there would not need to be any elections etc. Members of the community could be co-opted on to the panel for specific projects, if this was deemed necessary.
No	Extra cost when people are already struggling to live
No	I already pay council tax and am not prepared to pay an uncapped fee to another organisation. I don’t feel the monies paid would be put to best use… after wages and admin fees. Struggle to afford council tax as it is.

No	I do not see how the benefits outweigh the cost to residents, particularly during a cost of living crisis and rising bills including Council Tax. Many people, especially young people who have grown up in Whitstable, have been priced out of the area in recent years and rising costs will only add to this. I feel families could put the money to much better use.
No	I think it will create an expense for the residents which is unnecessary. I would rather see the existing voted for councillors lobbying for Whitstable'specific requirements and that investment in the town is seriously considered by Canterbury City Council. There has been a view that for many decades, Whitstable and Herne Bay have been the 'poor relatives' of Canterbury. The council should consider all three towns /city and their needs.
No	More bureaucracy is not needed CCC is overloaded with it already
No	Not enough information has been given. Extra cost is not welcome especially during the current state of the economy. If ever, now is not the time...
No	People are struggling enough financially, this only adds more strain on them.
No	Residents are already struggling with the cost of living and rising city council taxes, having a town council will result in more cost for residents who will be paying for services we are already paying the city council to perform. There is zero financial benefit for residents in appointing a town council
No	Waste of money and no one knows if we will have anymore saynthan we already do.
No	We already have sufficient layers of local authority
No	Whitstable is best served by the current City Council. In the current economic climate placing an additional financial burden on the residents of Whitstable is unnecessary.

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published
No	I dont believe this would be any better value for money than the existing arrangement. The same "local voice could be created with existing Whitstable councillors being given their own seperate department/committee within the City Council. They could then be given a proportion of the CCC community charge to spend as they see fit. A town council precept of £60 to £80 pounds would barely cover the running costs of the council itself , let alone add to any serious increase in expenditure in local services. What guarantee would there be that the City council wouldnt just reduce its expenditure on Whitstable if a town council had its own (very limited) funds I am concerned that other town councils tend to be run by a small group of councillors elected by their friends and acquaintences alone due to the disinterest of the general population. They then use the compulsorily charged funds to finance their own pet projects. Efforts would be better spent on increasing the towns influence over the City council and its use of its budget.
No	The devolved powers are relatively inor and it will cost each house occupier £80 plus per yer to see them exercised. It is a further layer of bureauocacy added toan allready bureaucratically loaded system. A pointless exercise . Yet another layer of political Bureaucracy at the tax payers expense and unnnecessary. Also this consultation is flawed as this is the second time ive responded. This is the third time that I have completed the questionairre. In my opinion this is a flawed process.
No	Cost of living crisis and you want us to pay extra tax for a council that will not have any benefit to the area?
No	Not required. I have lived in the area since 1987
No	Residents do not need additional charges to be levied to pay for a Town Council. This will esblish another layer of burocracy. No financial plan is provided. A town council will result in unwelcome added taxation to residents through increased council tax. We elect councillors to represent us so should not need to double up.
No	In the current economic climate with continual cost of living increases outpacing wages, I do not see what this extra cost will deliver as an improvement on current civic governance. If there is a gap or even failing in town governance then I would like to see Canterbury city Council resolve that using the money we are already paying them via council tax, rather than charging us more money for a new council. Having been reading the proposed literature and commentary from supporters of the town council, I cannot support it as I do not know what I am supporting. All of the proposed deliverables are what other towns have done. No plan or intented focus for Whitstable. It feels like brexit unicorns again - we can do all this great stuff, vote for it, then we will worry about if we stand a chance of delivering any of it. Also at a time when many people are choosing to heat or eat and with further increases in cost of living and council tax likely coming, I do not think any additional mandatory charges should be made to residents without a clear plan of what this money will actually deliver in return, indeed it should even be an optional charge. I had previously responded "don't know" but am now convinced it's a firm "no" hence updating my vote here.
No	People have already had the chance to vote on this , probably adding @ £100 a year to 100% of the poulation when only 7.5 % of the population have asked for it , (guessing existing councillors friends and family) why is this still being considered, why are we still having the expense of the consultation before we even get the expense of running it. This was asked for by a minority facebook page - 1.3 k members last time i looked , a very small number were aware and even less responded . The vast majority of people were unaware that they were even asking , this should not be left up to which facebook page shouts the loudest , this should be put to the vote with invites going out to people whos name is on the existing council tax bill to ensure people that are shouting are even from the affected area , what with the current financial climate and local food banks being pushed to the limit the last thing people need is this on top of their current council tax (no doubt going up again this year anyway)
No	We do not need more taxing, the council already takes too much and it's ridiculous that we need a parish and parish tax. It's laughable that we should want for anything with the amount we pay in tax already. It's criminal to ask this during a cost of living crisis
No	This is disgraceful behaviour for busy body's that want to create more taxation during a cost of living crisis. How dare they. Maybe holiday homes need to be taxed at 100 percent.
Not sure	We need more information. Not everyone uses Social Media lots of people do not realise this is happening, I only found out 2 days ago. This proposal is not being publicised enough to though. Maybe each household should receive a leaflet through their doors, as if it goes through everyone will have to pay the extra council tax.
No	An extra layer of governance will not make things more efficient, quite the contrary. The current structures need to serve their purpose and deliver efficiently all the services that the residents of Whitstable are already paying for. Nobody has extra cash to pay on the extra tax that will inevitably ensue, especially in the current very difficult financial circumstances that the majority of people are struggling with. This proposal makes no sense and it strikes me as some people trying to make jobs for themselves. Added bureaucracy and public expenditure will not help any current issues. The current authorities responsible for Whitstable should work as intended and Whitstable residents should choose their local councillors and MPs with that in mind, and hold them accountable through existing democratic channels if their needs are not met and voices not heard. An extra cost for everyone is the last thing people need right now in the current difficult financial circumstances. Any local initiatives and needs that are not met should be fundraised for and implemented in the not-for-profit space, not by creating an added layer of governance which will only make the whole system even more inefficient. If everyone put £80 a year in a pot that is managed by a community-led NGO it would be more effective! Not by forcing people to pay extra through tax with dubious and questionable benefits in sight.
No	Don't need another level of local government. We already have a democratically elected council and do not need another level of beurocracy at an extra expense to the council tax payer.
No	In this current economic climate I do not understand what benefit this would have for residents.
No	Don't need one, waste of money. I've experienced these before... A small groups vanity project.
No	It is absolutely the wrong time to be proposing this. Perhaps in a few years IF the economy improves and there is public demand. But in the current economic climate when council taxes are going up; food and energy bills are going up and the cost of living crisis is still in full swing, to add another tax on people who are barely making do is unnecessary and unethical.

	Whitstable's ward councillors are effective comminicators of pressing issues and do a reasonable job of keeping people up to date mainly through social media. Another level of bureaucracy seems pointless and i would be concerned that the election process would not be democratic as no real information as to the selection process is available as yet.To ensure fairness everybody who lives within the proposed boundary area must have the opportunity to become a councillor. If the funding for this could be found from existing budgets then a trial would surely be the best way forward,a mandatory additional charge for an untested project is unjustified. A mandatory extra payment on top of existing council tax for non essential services is unacceptable especially as the benefits are at best marginal. Please note
No	these comments are additional to ones i have already submitted and are as a result of attending an information session
No	People cannot afford added cost to an already extortionate bill. Also having lived in a parish council area, only a selected few seem to get their say in matters.
No	Already paying a ridiculous amount of council tax, if it carries on going up the way it does people simply will not be able to pay. Been in a area ie a parish council and did not approve the way it was run .
No	I don't believe anything will change to the town. Especially Seasalter where i live. I believe it will focus on the higher paid community. I don't want to pay extra council tax each year, when i genuinely believe it won't make any difference. I don't believe it will change anything. I live in Seasalter and we are the poor relation that gets left behind. I don't feel paying extra on my council tax will benefit me at all.
No	Council tax is already extortionate. The CT5 forum a proposing the town council haven't lived in Whitstable long enough to understand what Whitstable needs I was born in Whitstable 37 years ago and I'm unable to afford a house here and can barely afford to rent here because of the smalbusinesses that have taken over with DFLs.
No	It would just be another group of people doing nothing beneficial for the town as they did have when it was Whitstable Urban District Council The Council just needs to get its act together and stop spending millions on Canterbury and peanuts on Whitstable & Herne Bay concentrate on stopping all building until the sewage problem has been sorted instead of adding to the problem by allowing mor housing development’s
No	Not necessary and many would struggle to pay the extra precept.
No	Cannot afford another £80 bill. Too expensive and too much governance thank you
No	Additional costs for something that we are already paying for in council tax
No	Whitstable would benefit from having a town council. However, is this the right time to impose additional charges on the community? Families are struggling to feed themselves and keep warm. The rise in the community needs for food banks and extra help with day to day running costs for heating etc., is unprecedented. The public meeting held at 5 pm on Monday 22nd January notice of which was received by flyer, just 2 or 3 days prior to the meeting was not representative of the wide demography of all of Whitstable district. A town council needs to have young dynamic members! Where are the 18-20 year old, those in their 30's or 40's ? The young folks were not there! They would have been travelling home from work, rushing to make an evening meal for the family! If only the senior citizens engage in this consultation and show favour for having a town council, this is hardly a democratic method to impose a monetary precept on younger folks who would be paying for many more years than senior citizens who could sway a decision take by a cross section of city councillors. There should be vote by the local electorate to determine the outcome. Whilst the consultation process is trying to be all encompassing, I am less than convinced by the range of folks engaging in the process thus far. The presentation by Matthew for CCC was excellent, with supported commentary from the KALC representative. If notifications in writing are given to all community charge bill payers, about this exercise, to accompany the charge notice about to be dispatched, then I will be happier that ALL concerned will have been given full and proper notice to engage in the process. On seeing evidence of inclusive engagement by all age ranges concerned, then I may well change my view to support the Town Council creation. Thank you.
No	Cannot see what benefits it could bring.
No	Another unnecessary expense that people cannot afford. It will just end up being a select group of friends running it to their own advantage and no improvement to the town. We have local councillors that are involved in the area and are doing their best, the issue isn't getting more people in politics it's funding everything correctly. Charging us more for a local council is ridiculous as we already pay for a council that should be providing support. It's very out of touch with most of the residents to propose this at a time people are struggling to pay even basic bills. Not everyone here has a airbnb second income to prop up their lifestyles. Normal people live here too and that seems to be regularly forgotten.
No	I do not want own council as I think it will cost us more money
No	I do not think it would benefit my neighbourhood just cost us more money
No	The added expense when budgets are as stretched as they are at the present time is not appropriate. The benefits for an ageing population do not make the cost of having a voice of value .
No	Extra cost and would not necessarily mean better services
No	I feel that the council tax will increase more
No	The town is ok as it is
No	This is a money making scheme for council members, not a scheme to enhance whitstable in general. They will get more funding than the whole county fire service. Disgrace!!!
No	The additional cost is something that would add a burden to my income that I would not be able to sustain. For me, I get very little back from my council tax as it is. I now have to pay for my green bin, roads and drains are rarely maintained, we pay for the police that are selective in what they respond to. I do not use any other services but have to pay for them. I think that the Canterbury City Council as is, should be able to make sensible decisions that best suit our town. We have councillors that can represent our views and assist in any views that households may have.
No	I do not wish to pay any more money to any council Or increase my already very high tax bills
No	The town is represented on the City council by elected representatives who can promote its interests. A town council would probably largely attract the same people and parties, doubling up the beauracracy and increasing the expense to taxpayers.

No	There is already too much local authority bureaucracy. Just calling this proposal " local democracy" is not a justification for more costs to be levied on the people. Nothing has been mentioned in the proposal that in any way justifies more jobs for more busy bodies to spend time telling us what we must do. This proposal needs squashing before it begins.
No	Cannot afford it, along with many people I have spoken to, not on benefits but living near to the bone. Been told they will not be able to help with buses, police, doctors or hospitals. SO NO TO TOWN COUNCIL
No	Going backwards we already have elected councillors
No	Firstly I did not know that a petition has been submitted or seen any indication of one. I do not use Facebook or any of the online means of chat communications... So, at the outset, I have been in the dark about this propsal. I today Friday 26th January recevied a pamphlet Consultation on propsals for a Whitstable Town Council with an offiucal letter dated Monday 8th January 2024; that is, three weeks later. I shall not support these proposals. Yours sincerely Raymond Lee
No	There is no need for another layer of government at a local level which will cost taxpayers more and deliver very little. Looking at what it can control taxpayers would be getting very little if anything for their money. If the town council could control parking charges, on street parking regulations and yellow lines then perhaps it would be worth something
No	A town council does sound reasonable and I'm not hostile to it, but on balance I believe that it isn't necessary as we are reasonably well served by the existing City Council, and a town council would simply require additional resources from the local community - of cost and energy - which are already in short supply, without providing any corresponding additionall benefits of any significance.
No	Unnecessary expense and added tier of local government, not wanted.
No	Waste of time and public money adding extra layers of bureaucracy only makes bureaucrats happy and lines their pockets empty the bins on time keep the beach tidy and fill in the potholes CCC can do that if it has the will WTC is not necessary just make sure CCC spend their money wisely
No	The additional cost will nut justify its existence.
No	Added layer of bureaucracy at council tax payers expense.
No	Few points against from my point of view: 1) Review process isnt robust or transparent and is based on a petition from a small % of whitstable people. I personally havent recieved a mailshot and wonder how many people in whitstable are accually aware of this? It wasnt clear from the meeting i attended how decisions will be made or whether majority view will be considered, therefore its an undemocratic process in my opinion. Infomation on this process is difficult to find. How many people will find themself paying an increase on their council tax, without having a say in this process as they are unaware its happening. 2) Consultation meetings held at a time when working people/families are not available, therefore predominately only reached those aged 55 and over. 3)People will be paying a mandatory increase in council tax for an non-essential service, when the country is still in a cost of living crisis 4) All councils are struggling and are considering cutting services, devolving some services down to town council level has the potential to allow local authoritys to absolve responsibilies which they would otherwise be encumbent to maintain.
No	We are only five miles from Canterbury and so local knowledge already exists within the City Council. Adding an extra later of administration and beurocracy with no obvious gains to be made, seems ill conceived at a time of economic hardship. Adding more to people's bills unnecessarily, to me, indicates a lack of appreciation of the financial pressures that people are facing. This is not making local people more powerful as the main power remains with CCC. I can see no cost saving benefits of a Town Council that will outweigh the funding required to have one. The fact that we received the letter informing us of the proposal and of the public consultation, after two of the meetings had taken place, is perhaps an indication of the lack of forward thinking, organisation and beurocracy that I fear would increase with the introduction of an additional administrative layer. Couple that with the fact that nobody thought about working people or parents, when deciding that the public meetings should be held over a mealtime or when most working people are still at work, simply reinforces my view that this proposal will serve only to drain the limited funds of locals and take money out of the local economy rather than actually supporting residents. I am happy to see evidence of this projects'' worth, but I have seen absolutely none so far. I assume that because this will potentially affect my finances, there will be a public vote on this proposal rather than consultation process that already smacks of a rubber stamping process.
No	The cost of adding yet another layer of management would outway any benefits that the town might achieve.
No	It will be expensive and not add any value
No	Because we don't want to pay any extra in our council tax or for other costs involved. We can't afford the extra charges, council tax is already too expensive, and the people of Whitstable will struggle to fund the extra cost of having a town council. Whitstable is a very transient place with lots of Air Bn B and people with second homes. There are not enough permanent residents to be passionate about the council project to make it work. It will be a very costly experiment that we simply dont need.
No	People do not require this added ex pence with the cost of living as high as it. Some older people simply cannot afford this. A lot of people I have spoken to are not aware of this. may I propose a copy of this form is posted to every resident in the area. How much revenue will this raise and what will the money be used for. Where will the council offices be how much will they cost also the added cost of councilors wages. I think it will be a waste of tax payers money. Will the revenue raised cover the overheads or will it just cause more tax rises. With a lot of councils asking Goverment for more money I do not think this should go ahead. May be better management would help.
No	Could be abused by local businesses with an agenda. Cannot see local council having any influence on horrendous extension of house building without corresponding growth in infrastructure. Additional cost to already very high Council Tax.
No	The current level of bureaucracy is more than enough to undertake all functions. Also the additional financial burden upon a society that is getting poorer is unacceptable. It is inevitable that the loss of functions by existing authorities would not lead to a reduction in taxes levied by them on the population.
No	Not cost effective £60 to £80 extra is too much especially in the current financial climate
No	Extra costs addition to Council taxes
No	I think it's a waste of time and money it is actually going to put more money on the council tax and like all extra charges for council tax nothing really changes.

No	I cannot see the point in adding another layer of bureaucracy to the local government. I cannot see the point of paying even more money out to establish an additional level of local government which, in the case of Whitstable, is not required. My experience is that we already have very effective local councillors who are fully responsive to local issues. What is the point in having even more? I would say that the current batch of councillors are very adept at representing local residents and championing Whitstable's interest to other organisations.. Does the existing planning system need another layer of approval? My view is that the current system is perfectly satisfactory. The town is already a successful place to do business with a thriving high street. I cannot think of another nearby town that has so few unoccupied shops. The whole town with its marvellous harbour is already a massive tourist draw and needs no additional advertising as far as I can see. Why would we want even more cultural events that will only cause overcrowding and traffic issues. MP's yes, County Councillors yes, City Councillors yes, Town Councillors - No thank you we do not need them.
No	This will add between £60 to £80 per annum to our Council tax bill. As I am retired and on a fixed budget I see this just as an additional expenditure for little or no benefit to me. I do not support an additional layer of bureaucracy. I see this as an outlet for local fuss pots to make a name for themselves, and get a 'badge', THE GREAT I AM, elevating themselves along with the do-gooders who like the Sound of their own voices. NO, NO, NO.
No	Cannot see the benefit of a Town Council
Not sure	My main concern for having a town council would be that the people who hold those posts may try and push forward plans that benefit themselves rather than the community. I would want to know that the companies commissioned to do any work create an opportunity to feather their own nests or that of close friends/relatives. Transparency and a strong moral compass must be paramount. I believe that as a community we need to focus on our young people including young parents; help them to find life skills, cooking on a budget, education around parenting and many more areas that are needed in life. The possibilities to provide a purse to put our youngsters through apprenticeship style training thereby giving them skills to work and provide for themselves which will then enrich our community further.
No	I don't agree with it
No	another level of money making schemes are not going to make any difference to the NHS - Transport and policing
No	canterbury city council already provides adequate support & needs for this community
No	It's going to cost more that we can not afford
No	The extra cost, I'm not willing to pay this
No	Why do we need to pay extra for a council when our needs should be fulfilled by Canterbury? As a resident of Seasalter I can see why it would be called Whitstable Town Council as the towns needs are not the same as residents of Seasalter. In fact I would say Whitstable is a no go area to Seasalter residents in summer due to parking costs and crowds of Tourists. Whitstable only becomes relevent in winter. One reason given for having a Town Council was we could have a Community Hall. I think this is covered in Seasalter by the Christian centre and the WI Hall, in fact I believe Whitstable has at least two. Also mentioned was a community Bus, I would think that the local No 5 Bus was under used as it was. The new town council would require furnished offices and staff, all paid for before any funds were spent on local issues. If Whitstable wants a Town Council fine but do not include Seasalter.
No	I live in Seasalter which is mainly residential and not the same as Whitstable its self. I would suggest Whitstable might need a Town Council but Seasalter and perhaps Yorkletts do not so these areas should not be included in Plan. Ideas put forward such as Community Hall and Bus service are not a requirement for Seasalter as this area is covered. The extra cost of a Town Council is just a payment for more bureaucracy and not required. All other items covered at meeting should come out of funds already paid to Canterbury and not from extra charges.
Not sure	Whitstable is a unique coastal location with it's own identity completely different from the city of Canterbury which currently has full council control of the area. A town council would provide a local perpective to potential development whilst providing the local electorate with a say in local issues affecting the area which may not be obvious to Canterbury councillors.
No	KKC & CCC are two elected councils that serve Whitstable, why do we need a THIRD? Whitstable Town Council would have to get permission from CCC & KKC on any large and meaningful projects that they wished to carry out, so all they would be able to do is anything that did not cost to much? With the state of the countries finances, I do not think that a lot of people have an extra £80 PLUS to spend on council tax for a Vanity project. KKC & CCC would like to spend more on Whitstable, but with the Budget they have how can they achieve the things that the people need? So how is Whitstable Town Council going too change anything unless they have some hidden money? How do you expect the people of Whitstable find the extra money? We have elected councillors on KKC & CCC to carry out our requirements, we do not need more.
No	In the current climate people cannot afford to pay out more money .
No	We cannot afford the added cost on top of our council tax. We use to have council offices in the town years ago and it was taken away from us. We've managed without them all these years, so we see not piint in reinstating them. The Council currently look after our parks etc. So why would we want a nee council to take care of the. Its all extra expense we cat afford. No thank you.
No	I would not as it would be an additional charge on an already expensive council tax bill, & I believe that Canterbury City council should be doing more for the money they already get, such as policing the town, how on earth can Whitstable not have a police station or regular police presence, especially with the increasing population with all the new developments happening. Where are the new school places for this increased population & why are the developers not paying section 106 to pay for the additional infrastructure in areas such as policing & education.
No	With the current times as they are, why change what isnt broken. Leave Whitstable as it is.
No	Cost more money and doing nothing different
No	No advantage cost more
No	Don't have money to pay extra and it's a waste of time

No	This is a relatively small area to support a Town Council and I am concerned that people will not come forward to stand as Councillors. I know Parish Councils have this difficulty finding new councillors and many have to serve more than one term. Councillors and MP's are reported to suffer abuse from dissatisfied residents so this is not an easy role . The Council "would be responsible for raising the money it spends" how will this be done? The people of Whitstable support local mental health charities, the FoodBank and other desperately needed facilities. There is no spare money and adding a precept to the Council Tax bills when people are struggling in a cost of living crisis is shortsighted. After years of austerity this is not the time. I would like to know if our County Councillors support this change.
No	Can not afford the council tax now,so any rise at all i would not be able to pay. I can not and will not pay any more money than i do now for council tax,its already far to much for the depleted service we get.
No	Too expensive
No	It will cost more and still be f**k up
No	Already pay a substantial amount of council tax the potential benefits that are highlighted should be offered by Canterbury city council
No	Another tier of bureaucracy is not needed. I'd rather not see my council tax go up like this. The people who want this new talk shop are quite annoying "look at me" types. Whitstsble is a middle class ghetto full of air b and b second homers that don't pay in their full whack of taxes. The beaches get trashed by entitled scum every summer. Potholes are never repaired. Bent councillors and planners conspire to build what the they like where they like. Parking is through the roof screwing trade. Leisure facilities are poor and nothing some woke idea pushing wannabee will ever change this. Don't do it. There's too much of my tax being given away to non working ponces and scroungets, along with too many services being cut to justify a vanity project like this.
No	We pay enough in tax and I wouldn't personally see any benefit from this I can't see the difference other than it costs more.
No	We do not need to add another layer of bureaucracy. In fact we should be reducing it and the cost's associated. The benefits that are described SHOULD be delivered by the city and county councils!
No	We don't need more layers of bureaucracy. Sounds more like make work for people who want to get involved in others business.
No	More cost to families when times are hard. Not enough of a change to make the extra money worth it.
No	Seems like additional cost for another layer of admin/bureaucracy. Whitstable's needs are served by the existing council services.
No	No need for more councillors with no real influence. It will just create extra cost for no real benefit. Existing councillors on the City Council should already be acting on behalf of Whitstable.
No	I can't afford my council tax now without additional fee added ontop. In a cost of living crisis with every bill at maximum and wages not keeping up . I feel this is the wrong time . Also it's £60-80 this year (which is only a guess by sounds of it) if we vote yes , what's to stop it being £100 next year , £200 the following year and so on . We can't then say no thanks .
No	In this present financial climate any additional monies set would not be acceptable Also the duties of the Town Council with an assumed budget of £1m most of which would be spent on accommodation, Town Clerk etc when in the main County and City do the job Citing diminishing monies at these two establishments seem to prove that another layer of governance is unnecessary to prop up perceived service needed by a few
No	Too many tiers of power already. Whitstable thinks its hip and wants to promote that side. Art shops, cafes, restaurants.absolutely no help to those that live here in relative poverty. Those that end up elected will be the namby pamby elite of whitstable who think they know best and the rest of us will be paying for their 5 minutes of fame
No	Extra cost and feel that the type of extra facilities mentioned in leaflet and at the meeting in Seasalter we already has these. Whitstable has a festival and can't see any benefits for me and my family. Currently we have a Ward councillors and they should be fighting for these extra for us. Would they become redundant and would our share to CCC be reduced, I don't think so? I think the whole process has been exclusive and the likes of Seasalter residents not even considered. The meetings have been held at impossible times for families with school children and working folks. The documents supporting your campaign have arrived after all the consultation meetings dates. I have read that you sent these to Royal Mail three weeks ago but clearly you're putting the blame on them and not yourselves. Again, feels that the majority have been left out of the loop.
No	Another layer of dead wood on the ply board of democracy. The local elected councillors should do this job, if needed, in the first place. Another level of tax for those self gratifying is not required. Or wanted. Another layer of dead wood in the ply board of democracy is not required. Especially when most councils are cutting back. The money could be better spent elsewhere. If there is a vacuum to fill, get those already elected to plug the gap.
No	Another layer of useless bureaucracy - busybodies funded by us. Cost - why add more cost when we are already hard pressed financially.
No	We do not need a Town council.

No	A town council for Whitstable would add an unnecessary layer of management and administration at extra cost to the ratepayers. The town's registered electors voted for 9 Ward Councillors in 2023 to represent their interests at Canterbury City Council meetings etc. Any matters requiring particular attention regarding the town's residents, its infrastructure, environment and the services provided should therefore be addressed to them. It would seem to me that a sector of the community believes that either the views of the electorate are not being adequately voiced by the Ward Councillors, or if they are, they are not receiving any support from the Council as a whole. I would suggest that the reason for this is the lack of adequate funds and resources to implement any changes or improvements voiced by our Ward Councillors. Realistically having a town council in addition to CCC and KCC will not change this situation unless the town council can generate sufficient regular income to support any of their initiatives. It is true that some funding will be forthcoming from the precept but town council running costs are likely to take a significant proportion of this, leaving inadequate funds for major changes and improvements. Obtaining grant funding, I would agree, is another source but it is impractical to expect such an income stream to be sustained over time. The obvious course to try meet those needs of the towns residents which are currently not being met, is to secure more funds for CCC by raising the rate of Council Tax but unfortunately this option is restricted by central government. It is somewhat ironic that the Council Tax can be raised considerably to cover the cost of a town council (for which the electorate seem happy to pay) but not to help CCC provide the money and resources necessary to do more for the community. The way forward is for CCC to more positively support the many volunteer groups within the town to deliver services they can't afford.
No	I'm not convinced that adding yet another layer of bureaucracy into local government is necessarily a good idea. My Council tax bill for a modest 2 bed bungalow is already in tax band E, which I already consider to be extortionate, so the £60-£80 cost is likely to be higher, for what I perceive to be very little benefit. If this is approved we will be answerable to, and paying for a Town Council, Local Council and Kent County Council. So many layers of bureaucracy that will talk much and achieve little more, if anything, than that already delivered. With so many other cost of living issues to deal with I cannot see that this additional burden will deliver any benefits.
No	Having lived in chestfield for 8years with a parish council and not been aware of any benefits from paying the additional council tax unsure it would prove beneficial to the town .
No	Don’t need another layer of government, with the added costs to our council tax .
No	Unhappy about the increase in council tax for services that should be covered by Canterbury council.
No	Not happy with cost added to council tax
No	I’m a pensioner balancing a tight budget and do not want to commit more than I can afford. The local Church is our regular meeting place and cover most social events for the community .
No	As I am not aware of a petition for a Town Council, I can’t say what the thinking is behind having one. It seems to me that Whitstable is quite successful as it is and the residents already have ways of making changes, all as described in the councils pamphlet. If the people who signed the petition really want a Town Council , that’s fine by me as long as they are prepared to pay for the whole cost of it themselves. I do not want to contribute to another layer of bureaucracy and the fact that there is no Whitstable Town Council at present suggests there is no need for it.
No	I believe another tier of government as a waste of money. The positions filled by the elected town council should be volunteers from local established charitable organisations. Such as lions, rotary club chambers of commerce. And not be a further cost to the community. I imagine the cost of £60-80 will not be deducted from what we already pay to CCC. waste of money, I shall forward this transcript to Rosie Duffield for her veiw.
No	Canterbury City Council already provides most of these services but in joined up manner with Canterbury and Herne Bay eg the Active Life leisure centres.
No	No one wants to pay even more money to their council tax or even more money out of the hard-working pay . Dont want to pay more on council tax.
No	We already have a district council
No	It's ridiculous to suggest local residents should have to pay more council tax for this. We already have town councillors to represent local residents, we would be better off if we concentrated on ensuring they are doing their jobs and actually representing the interest of ALL local residents and not just the holiday/second home owners. Rather than impose an additional council tax maybe introduce a double council tax for second homes owners(like Brighton) and get all AirBnBs registered to pay their fair dues (maybe a tourist tax). That might reduce the council tax for everyone and provide funding for local issues.
No	Council tax is so expensive in Canterbury. An extra payment is unaffordable.
No	I do not want this to happen
No	As an oap managing rates are bad enough with an sum on top of that, how are we supposed to live. Thats what I thought my rates were for. No thank you.
No	Pointless and I don’t want to pay more to have one
No	Vote based purely on extra cost to residents in a cost of living crisis
No	It is unnecessary duplication. My councillor represents me well enough. I’d rather the funding for a town council and a tax went to community groups and charities, as well as to pay the cost of my ever expanding utility bills.
No	I believe we have sufficient representation and an extra layer does not offer value for money.
No	We have City Councillors and County Councillors we do not need the expense of another tier of expenditure added on to our Council Tax which is already very hard for people to afford. In my opinion the last thing Whitstable needs is another clique of self opinionated people taking our money and achieving little or nothing effective. Our City Councillors are very accessible and approachable in getting answers to any query or problem as far as I can see, so a Town Council would be a very expensive and unnecessary exercise in futile money wastage.
No	I'm not convinced that the arguments justify the setting up of a new town council at this present time. Whitstable has strong links with Canterbury that benefit both (in terms of tourism, business and shared resources). The costs of the new town council have not been explained in enough detail. The list of aspirations are laudable but are already being addressed by either exiting local goverenment, church or charitable agencies and commumity groups.
No	Our council tax is expensive and I don’t a further layer of a town council being beneficial or effective.

No	I can see NO benefit to this. All I can see is another layer of "red tape" that is not needed. I certainly don't want to pay for it.
No	I don't feel that it is needed.
No	It will be an extra layer of unnecessary beaurocracy which we will have to pay extra for. Waste of time and money
No	It would not benefit live in a private road and most of us are OAP think it's disgusting that you are asking us to pay it would make no difference to all of us things are expensive now and we can't afford to pay more money on our council tax . You should only be charging the people that agree this but speaking for myself and others that live here it' a big NO
No	In the current cost of living crisis and with council tax rising by the highest amount l think people have enough to pay out, particularly for things the council should provide within the council tax
No	I feel that the expense associated with it will not represent good value for money. We already pay a significant annual tax for Police & Crime Commissioners and i am not convinced the cost returns the difference in crime improvement beyond what would happen as a matter of course anyway. If I am paying that extra money, for me, i would want it spent on public services generally. These additional costs would be fine in more affluent times but feel like an indulgence at the moment. Also, I can imagine who will dominate the committees and the agendas they persue. That is to say, i doubt they will reflect the diverse socio-economic population of Whitstable.
No	We pay more than enough for a useless City Council without having to fork out for another layer of bureaucracy which at the end of the day will be ruled by CCC and can be abolished at their whim just as it was in 1974! At that time all the local council's plans, approvals and schemes were dumped overnight, some to the detriment of residents. Who's to say this won't happen again?
Not sure	Consultation notice arrived on 3 Feb after all 3 info sessions had taken place. If a town council was able to take some work/decisions away from CCC, how to justify such an additional charge to householders? More representation for locals by elected members must equate to devolved decisions on matters particularly affecting us
Not sure	Like the idea of having representation for whitstable but think the extra charges are a worry. Would it stop certain people seemingly able to get around planning laws!!!
No	Won't have any power, waste of community funds, extra cost on council tax
No	The benefits from another layer of local administration will not outweigh the additional costs. My council tax creeps up every year and the proposed council will not address any issues that would put more money in my pocket.
No	Whilst the estimated cost has been established no clear calculation on the return of investment has been made. It is not clear how much revenue in total would be expected, how much would be neded for administration and how much would be available for projects. All benefits described are coached in broad sweeping vague terms without clarity on the priorities of those championing this move. There is no clarity on which services would need to be covered by a town council because Canterbury City Council would no longer provide them.
No	Is a Whitstable town council going to make any difference? No. Is it going to cost us more money? Yes. We already have a council in Canterbury, for better or for worse. And we have local elected officials on that council. If a Whitstable council still needs to defer to KCC in Canterbury to get anything done or get funding, then what use is it? Will a Whitstable council be able to cancel the gross expansion of Whitstable (Whitstable Heights, Pearsons Heights etc) that is currently going on, without improvements to sewage, schools and basic infrastructure? No. This council will be peopled by DFLs and representatives of the Greens and Wilsons to progress their agendas. The real people of Whitstable, those who were born here and who now can't afford to buy here, don't want more expense for the sake of giving bored wealthy DFLs something else to campaign for.
No	We already come under Canterbury council
No	Too expensive with no discernible benefits
No	Canterbury council already deals with Whitstable, we do not need any more red tape and we certainly do not need the extra cost
No	We pay enough in council tax and do not want to fork out any more money for useless things.
No	Town councillors are not elected like district councillors and they only represent a very small proportion of residents. They don't necessarily have the right knowledge or skills needed for the role and enter-it to serve their own interests or those of a select few. Devolving powers to a town council costs more money,doesn't come with any extra funding to deliver anything. End up with more chiefs than Indians to achieve same objectives
No	Council tax is already high and increasing each year so I don't want to have it increase further still with a town council precept. A town council will add further unnecessary administrative costs and I am happy for the district council to continue providing services to Whitstable.
No	We do not require another, expensive set of councillors to further add to the bureaucrats we already have. What we do require is a Council sub-committee to have responsibility for Whitstable.
No	At this time of inflation, families are struggling with paying their council tax and do NOT need an extra charge for something that will have no power over the council and will just fudge what the residents of Whitstable really want. They will not be speaking for the majority and will not be representing the majority of residents in their views. I see not need for a town council and will vote against it at every stage. Cant afford and not needed. Group of people who are looking at their own importance - if they want the best for Whitstable then stand as a councillor. This will NOT give the general public of Whitstable a voice.
No	I do not believe an additional layer of governance is desirable or necessary. I particularly object to the increase in council tax caused by the addition of a precept, which will be unaffordable for many residents. I oppose the proposal.
No	Another layer of bureaucracy for us to cope with , in these financially difficult days .
No	We do not want another layer of bureaucratic, pretentiousness, puffing up political parties and pompous individuals who do not represent the public on any level, producing nothing but hot air and pompous pronouncements. Make Canterbury Council do its job properly! Hold Canterbury Council to account for rotten borough governance!
No	we already pay enough council tax and i cannot afford an extra cost

No	We already pay enough council tax for little return without having to fork out for even more councillors. I cannot see any benefit whatsoever. There is a cost of living crisis at the moment so any extra bills would be most unwelcome. Let people pay if they want but don't force other people who don't want to pay it.
No	Lack of benefit. Costs for no reason
No	We already have elected local councillors who, if they are carrying out their duties responsibly, should be perfectly capable of representing the concerns of the residents of Whitstable. To add a further layer of bureaucracy into the mix would only, in my opinion, make everything take even longer than it does already. Furthermore, I have yet to meet anyone who feels that they get value for money from their Council Tax payments so to add a further tax this would be madness.
No	I'm not in favour of the additional bureaucracy, we should just make the council representation that we already have work, we will have no control over what the cost to us will be, and there are no clear tangible benefits that I can see.
No	Comparing with other town councils in the area, they seem to have brought very little practical benefit vs cost.
No	Not prepared to increase Council Tax, for someone to run allotments.
No	We already pay enough council tax and believe our elected councillors should already be looking after Whitstable wards. A lot of people are unable to afford any more and with no cap on the amount it can go up each year and would put to much pressure on household budgets
No	I do not think it will befit any of the residents in Seasalter.
No	Cost and effectiveness
No	I don't see the need when we are properly represented already especially as this proposal means increasing our own costs in a financial climate which is challenging and unlikely to improve soon if at all. Disappointed to receive notice of the proposal two days after the last local meeting was held as well so no chance to attend and hear and offer input
No	we already have a Council ,Canterbury. I see no benefit to have another in nearby Whitstable. The benefits to all residents, Council tax payers, would be negligeable. This includes our elderly. being in this category, I cannot see what having additional Council official/s to pay for, would be of benefit to us. next we will be asked if we want our very own Mayor... what we do want is safer streets, clean road verges, more police presence, road repairs, more affordable housing for our younger generations.
No	Times are very hard currently financially for residents. Whitstable is already very expensive to live in and having this extra council tax burden is not fair on people. My main worry is that the local council precept within our council tax can be upped at any time by any amount - it is not restricted in the same way as normal council tax. Taunton council have just upped theirs from £107 to £299 per annum. I feel very strongly against having a Whitstable Town Council
Not sure	Having resided in Whitstable for 30 years the town as coped under City council. What is being offered by a town council will only add further costing to residents. For those who can afford the initial precept i can well understand your focus with having a town council. However what will be the cost to residence in 5 years time? The powers of a town council, to run allotments, maintenance of civil memorials, public toilets and play parks is already carried out by city council. I would like to add from my point of view that the monies raised by all those who pay council tax will in the main benefit tourists. Your argument would be that tourists are the main structure that keeps Whitstable ticking. Therefore would it be acceptable that they pay a percentage towards the precept through monies raised with parking in the local area. Finally i feel that this proposal as been put forward at the wrong time. Cost of living is extremely difficult at this present time and any further tax added to council tax payers is not a morale builder.
No	I am aware that some residents resent the fact that tourism/airB&B/second home owners are part of the population of Whitstable. I understand that this does have an impact on housing/accommodation etc. However, I am also conscious of the need for tourism otherwise Whitstable will become a ghost town. If it is decided that a Town Council should be set up, it should not be set up in a 'vigilante' DFL group. I hear it all the time, DFLs are the cause of ALL ills that befalls Whitstable, and yet without them.....who knows!
No	We do not wish to pay any more council tax.
No	Not needed
No	It seems a lot of the things listed that a town council will do are things that should be done by the city council already, such as maintaining parks, litter bins and lighting. Seems like a scam to get us to pay again for these services.
No	We already have a council and pay too much for their services already. To pay more money to a town council would be a waste of overstretched income without being given enough information about how they would be good for the town and value for money.
No	I still remember the last one
No	We already have County and City council councillors representing local people and elected by them. A town council introduces another level of bureaucracy and with it added costs for the local community. In the leaflet provided to households, a number of examples were provided of what a town council could promote. The services listed are already provided by the Canterbury City council and should further provision be sought, local city council councillors should be lobbied.
No	What a waste of our money. We already have Whitstable councillors on the city council and Whitstable councillors on the county council.
No	Only if it reports directly to KCC. Otherwise it is just more bureaucracy and adds cost to residents. Woodbridge in Suffolk is similar to Whitstable and has a town council reporting to Suffolk CC. It is an excellent example of how a town should be, run by its own people focussed purely on their interests, rather being treated as a satelite to a larger more important town.
No	It is just an additional layer of bureaucracy that we don't need and quite frankly can't afford, it'll be the same people on the council that are already both councillors for CCC and KCC.
No	This is not a right time, already people are struggling to live now don't make another burden to them.Please stick with Canterbury city council, please avoid the extra expenses try to give them better services without extras.So stop thinking about whitstable Town Council

No	I strongly oppose a town council. At a time of a cost of living crisis where it is already difficult to make ends meet, this is not a justifiable cost. This is not an essential service and would be irresponsible to form a town council which will cost whitstable residents significantly more money and the amount is not currently clear and there is no cap on what can be charged.
No	just another way of getting extra money for the council officals for there pet projects.
No	I do not agree with paying yet more tax for tasks that Canterbury Council should undertake. If necessary, a special representative for Whitstable could attend Canterbury Council meetings rather than expenditure on extra buildings etc.
No	We have enough government already. And council tax is high enough.
No	It will cost people more money when times are hard enough. I believe its main aim is towards the arts, how does that benefit locals? I cannot see it would benefit us at all as it would not gave any powers over they way Canterbury City Council spend our hard earned taxes.
No	Another layer of bouracracy which isn't needed ..very limited ability on making or changing decisions ...more expense on council tax
No	Don’t want the extra cost or another layer of bureaucracy.
No	I received notification of this on the 8th Feb via the late maildrop, meaning I could not attend any of the advertised information sessions. Indeed, as the video on the relevant website (at approx. 25 min) says that the maildrop did not start until 22nd Jan, all residents will not have had advance notice of at least 2 of the information sessions, and people like myself no advance notification of any of them. On watching the video I have learned for the first time of the existence of a group called the CT5 People's Forum. Who are they? What is their agenda? Why am I being asked to contribute more tax? (It is no good saying information was available via social media because social media only reaches particular groups -- often already linked to on another -- and not all tax paying residents). So far the consultation has in my view failed to be effective, and probably already cost money. It does not inspire confidence in what is being proposed.
No	Canterbury council should still control whitstable, i do not wish to have another council as we pay enough council tax already.
No	Pay to much council taxes already don’t need any more councils want to leave as before
No	I feel like the additional expense outweighs any benefits that a town council may bring. Kent County Council seems to be doing a good job and I like to believe they would listen and help if any issues were to arise
No	I feel we already pay a huge amount of council tax, let alone adding more on top for a town council. I do not feel a town council will benefit the town as all decisions of major funding and what to do with it would have to go through Canterbury Council still.
No	Because, it is not needed, we already have plenty of local councillors here doing a job for the whole community. This is not needed a waste of tax payer money. In the present economic climate money is tight for many and an additional charge on top of the proposed increase in council tax is really not appropriate. Instead of waste time any money on these silly scheme's perhaps the money could be spent on more important things, like repairing the pots holes in the local roads. Not charging for the collection of garden waste.
No	Extra cost not justified
No	We do not want to pay extra taxes.
No	I feel the town council will be a waste of tax payers money for the following reasons: - the services which the town council would take on are currently carried out by CCV already. - Paying an additional £60-£80 + per annum is not value for money. - A town council will provide yet another layer of bureaucracy of which we have plenty already. - The town council would still be under the jurisdiction of CCC. Therefore very little independence.
No	I personally do not see what benefit it would bring. The extra council tax charges would not be welcome in the current climate.
No	With a widely acknowledged cost of living crisis, it is most definitely NOT the right time to be considering an action that will add £60, £80, and who knows how much in future years, to our already ridiculously expensive Council Tax - and for what? I see this as a vanity project by a vocal minority that will do little to serve the majority of local inhabitants. Whitstable's populace ranges from single pensioners, struggling on basic State Pension to young, two car, two incomes families. One of those can easily afford any proposed precept. The other definitely cannot. We vote for local councillors to represent our local issues, needs and requests. They are the people who should be working for the benefit of CT5. Just adding another layer of bureaucracy (a town council) will likely take up any and all of the extra revenues raised, and to achieve what? To quote the Whitstable Community magazine - "...to run allotments, and take on maintenance of civic memorials, public toilets and play parks..." (hah! WHAT public toilets?!) Those are all resources that our council tax should ALREADY be funding. That should ALREADY be managed. The problem here, like so many petitions, is the people who receive them can be misled into thinking the presenters have unanimous support. The proposers will be erudite, forceful and committed. It's their baby. They want to see it succeed. At any cost. But please bear in mind the silent majority. Add some reasonable weighting to your considerations. Acknowledge the many who aren't even aware of these proposals, but even if they are, that they don't really understand what it is they're voting for.
No	Can not afford to pay anymore council tax.
No	Families and individuals are under enough financial pressure to pay mortgages, utilities and existing council tax commitments. I feel the timing of campaigning for a town council, and requesting people’s support for what will be an additional levy on already high bills is very out of touch with the struggles of the community. Decisions like these should be made in times of prosperity and not poverty. This feels like a passion project of the few who are likely wanting to be elected and paid as town councillors.
No	I dont support an individual, We have more than enough governance.
No	We dont need more layers of Political decisions
No	More people making wring decisions - another money making scheme

No	We will not see a benefit in this as a resident, its just going to cost us more money. The only people who will be befitting from this, is the people who come up with this absolutely ridiculous idea. People at the top benefit not us, 100% disagree with own town council, leave things as they are, ccc are doing just fine.
No	I really feel that with the present conditions regarding peoples expenditure it is not the time to set up another counciil which residents have to find even more money. I do not think it is going to make much difference to the ordinary residents and there are many who do not even know anything about it. Yes notification has been sent out but unfortunately there are some who do not realise it will impact on their pocket and what is involved.
No	With rising Council tax and cost of living crisis I would not be in a position to increase my outgoings. Also feel we are doubling up on council/staffing/premises costs which can ill be afforded financially.
No	Who's going to pay for it? Waste of money. What's the point? Another level of bureaucracy unnecessary.
No	£80 extra on top of our council tax already, no we cannot afford it.
No	Doubling up on costs,and at this time unwarranted and unnecessary extra government and bureaucracy.I personally can't understand why we need a town council.
No	People don't need anymore quangos
No	They wouldn't do anything that isn't done by Canterbury CC. Just add more bureaucracy and costs.
No	I'm not sure we get value for money as it is from CCC. I really don't approve of paying more. If CCC can demonstrate value for money then I'd be more open to the idea. For example, bin collections a real issue this year. The notice about the final green bin collection was put out of social media after the last collection date for Seasalter and when I was away on holiday. It's a complete shambles at the moment so why should I pay for more of the same?
No	Receiving my letters after any consultations meetings took place, not sure anyone would be able to run it efficiently .
No	This was pushed through by a very small minority website devoted to it that only has 1.4k members and street canvassing , the only question the street canvassing was based on was would you be interested in having a town council with no mention of costs , this interest has been taken as a yes vote for the council . The last thing anyone needs in this time of financial hardship with food banks being pushed to the limits with record high demand is another cost being added to their budget with another level of bureaucracy taking their own slice of the funds with additional costs/ expenses being claimed , this will come on top of the no doubt increase in council tax coming our way this year seem to rember a very large campaign being pushed through by the tv , pess ,leaflets and social media .... No means No
No	Perhaps I have not been given enough information to make an informed decision as I received the letter in the mail concerning this on February 9th which is after all the information sessions had already taken place despite the letter being dated January 8th. With the limited information that I have I am not convinced that we need a town council or that it would prove to be value for money. We certainly do not need the additional expense with the spiralling cost of living.
No	It is not needed and the future cost of this is undetermined. Other regions where this has been implemented have seen sharp rises in costs to residents.
No	Undetermined future costs Not a necessity on top of existing council support Other areas that this has been introduced it has seen a steep rise in costs for residents
No	Canterbury City Council serves the Whitstable community well. Furthermore it would be a further unnecessary burden financially on us the rate payer. The is particularly relevant in this cost of living crisis which is likely to continue for some time.
No	Council tax increase especially during difficult times
No	Can not justify the cost to each household with no real improvement. Personally would not be able to afford extra money on top of everything else as cost increase I'm looking to lessen my outgoings not increase them.
No	I did not receive the information pack until Febtuary 9th. Therefore, I was unable to attend any meetings to gather further information on the merits of this proposal. However, reading how a town council would benefit Whitstable I don't see where the added costs are justified. Also any added costs during this cost of living crises would cause additional hardship for the residents of Whitstable.
No	Happy with things as they are.
No	I am new to the area, but feel if the Parish and Town councils have the same powers why do we need both? As a senior citizen living off a state pension I cannot afford increased council tax. This could continue to rise if the cost of running a separate town council escalates. Would a town council really make a huge difference to the residents of Whitstable? I am not sure the possible benefits would be worth the increase costs. It seems that parking charges are to be increased imminently, making it very difficult for local residents and visitors alike. Could locals be allowed a parking discount?
No	Waste of money
No	Waste of money
No	More tax paying fat wages. Im in my own struggling to pay the council tax as it is. Im widowed and have less then £1000 a month to live on. Bills included. So no. More councellors and staff etc earning more then me. BIG FAT NO
No	Extra costs do not justify the jurisdiction
No	In the times we are in I do not think this is the right time to be increasing our Council tax to fund a Whitstable town council. Many people are struggling as it is with the constant increases in bills. 7.5 percent of the local population should not make this decision on behalf of the rest of the population. I also feel there is Kent county council , Canterbury City Council if we also have a Whitstable town council it is another layer of bureaucracy.
No	We don't need it, and it's just another way to collect money that you haven't stated we will be charged, you have stated other councils, we are in reseaion and most people cannot pay this
No	Because of the cost, i.e. an uncapped precept.
No	I have heard council tax will go up! As it is I can barely afford it!
No	Where will finance for this come from? Canterbury Council Tax is already significant, as is inflation and cost of living. I can't support an increase to our bill to pay for a town council which I am unconvinced will deliver much value.
No	No I do not think we need or should have a Town council.

No	Precept is uncapped. Another layer of governance we are paying for. It has not been demonstrated to me that I will receive anything useful to me for the money. We are already paying a huge amount for our council tax and for this we have no police presence, inconsistent and unsatisfactory bin collections, potholes in the roads to name but a few. These basic services should be addressed before we pump everybody's money into allotments and outreach projects. There are plenty of charities that do this work. During a cost of living crisis it is tone deaf to expect people to pay more money for a small group's aspirations.
No	I cannot see as a resident of Seasalter we will benefit from a Whitstable Town Council we are to far removed from the town all the advantages would be for people living close to the centre of Whitstable . We would not have value for money from the uncontrolled precept. The Council would become a talking shop for people who have nothing better with their time. Some young families would in this time for restraint could not afford the extra £60-£80 a year which would undoubtedly continue to rise in coming years .
No	There is little point of a local representation when they have no local infrastructure to support them, The things that need doing are too tied into KCC contracted third parties, and contractors who waste huge sums on re-equipment and poor service.. Roads pavements footpaths passage's and the like need major attention but that wont change with a local council as words wont fix anything only money or equipment, and they wont have that. We already het poor service from the KCC and Canterbury CC and having to pay for another layer of tax payer funded people when the ones that exist working only to suit themselves already cost a fortune in pensions perks salaries' and jollies. Too much is already being given over by KCC to woke ideology and services best suited to those least deserving, and benefit cheats, scroungers and illegal migrant, at the expense of normal people and the real needs of taxpayers Planning has already been blighted by countless projects determined by KCC as wanted, but aimed mostly at satisfying GOV.com targets and enforcements driven from the EU and Central Government. What chance a local council would have is very limited I seriously believe whoever started d this off has forgotten how the old town and parish councils worked. The resources they had and the employees were dedicated local people with dedicated local offices, yards equipment and did a job in real time when needed and it lasted. Town Council planning was relative not run by backhanders and other dubious involvements of councilors Civic pride wont return until education is put back 50 years, Streets wont get cleaned any better, Policing wont improve, graffiti will remain, and the continuance of a never ending explosion of the unwanted population from outside the county will continue. Promoting bidding and then losing is all I can see.
No	Already have a voice for matters via the Canterbury Office plus Rosie Duffield
No	Can not afford higher tax
No	It has no relevance to the local community. Our services are governed by CCC and we pay accordingly .Someone is in the process of making money here and its not the ratepayer .If people want things done differently let this cashflow come from there own pockets as i dont see any benefit .
No	The elected members for Whitstable on Canterbury city council should always have Whitstables interests their main priority.
No	When you look at the figures the money will just go on wages and not to the benefit of the local area. There is a lot of dishonesty here and the people pushing this are not being honest about the costs here involved to residents during a time of financial hardship.
No	1/ Simply do not want to pay more money than we already do for services, Council Tax is already ridiculously expensive given the lack of services we have. Paying more will not guarantee any better service 2/ Paying for a Whitstable Town Council is a fallacy in itself, this is essentially to make up for what Canterbury City Council are unable to do - this seems wasteful, surely this is a case of making Canterbury City Council more efficient, less wasteful and improve how the authority is run. Setting up a Whitstable Town Council is a sticky plaster option to make up for a wider issue. In other words a complete waste. 2a/ To the point above - tackle the root cause of the problem instead, a deep dive into the local authority, costs, decisions and respective business outcomes, would seem more prudent, than throwing resources at another project (Town Council). 3/ Having seen the list of potential benefits offered by a Whitstable Town Council, I could see very little new "worthy" items, that we should not already have from the local authority. Essentially what is the point, maybe better to give some level of power in decision making terms to a group of select people living and working in Whitstable - let them operate a budget that would normally be spent in whitstable anyways, but simply make the decision a local residents decision. Better than adding new charges, to increase wastefulness.
No	More tax and we don't need it!
No	It is unnecessary as we already have councillors who can adequately represent the town. In addition it will end up with the public having to pay even more money for just another form of bureaucracy. When adopted in other towns the precept rose far above what was originally suggested. The exception might be if you could opt out. Question re age and gender are not relevant.
No	A town council will increase our council tax bills burden for little return. It will turn into an unnecessary cost for households and families already stretched with the cost of living crisis.
No	Not needed and in time of financial strife not welcomed by a majority
No	At a time of people struggling with the cost of living WE DO NOT NEED MORE TAXES in the form of a precept added to the Council Tax. All this will do is add more layers of cost and bureaucracy while achieving little apart from becoming a 'talking shop'
No	Total waste of money and time.
No	It is uncertain what the benefits to the town will be. Those in favour talk about options e.g. to bid for funding, but those options are already available in the current structure. In addition, a town council will add a financial burden to residents, and there is no cap on the amount - in these straitened times we can do without further burden on our stretched household budgets. This feels like adding a layer of bureaucracy which we do not need, I am uncertain about the accountability for the town council - once it's set up, how could we change our minds and decide we no longer want a town council?
No	Extra money on the rates Canterbury will have the final say on most issues.

	I already pay for a Council. A proposal for a Whitstable Town Council is probably a reflection of how ignored Whitstable feels. I implore the Councillors we already have to stop ignoring the mess the town is in. The centre is being ruined by Air B and B, antisocial behaviour, congestion and poor planning. The outskirts of the town are just building sites with continuous road/lane closures, roads covered in mud, verges ruined and never repaired. When you go through Blean, Canterbury etc. verges have tress and grass, we have mud baths and weeds. The exit from the Thanet Way is dangerous. This gets so congested that people are left sitting in their cars on the motorway, looking in their rear view mirrors, praying they won't get hit by another car. People have lost their lives as a result of the poor traffic planning shown when the Bornans Way shops were introduced. Air pollution in this area is awful and vehicles are allowed to travel at 40mph in a highly pedestrianised area. Efforts have been made in Canterbury to reduce pollution, why not here? We are also plagued by low flying aircraft and local pubs/hotels playing obscenely loud music. The sea is a sewage outlet. We intend to leave the area, as many of our friends have as soon as our child finishes school here. Poor planning has ruined the town in the 20 years that I have lived here. We need you to be our council please. I do not want to pay for another ineffective layer of bureaucracy, I would rather the current Council do as they were elected and paid to do
No	please.
No	I cannot afford it with the cost of living crisis. The council tax is already unaffordable and rising again. The admin costs of having a town council far outweigh any benefits.
No	We the people are struggling enough without another layer of tax for very little or even nothing, just the people who will run it getting richer. The very ordinary people of Whitstable will see no benefit.
No	The idea of an extra, new, uncapped tax with the current financial situation is ridiculous. I see no benefit to the the town.
No	We do not need a town council, it will just be yet another cost that us residents cannot afford, and will not benefit us.
	I am currently unsure as to whether or not Whitstable should have a town council. The benefits of having a town council are clearly set out in a leaflet that was circulated, eg greater local decision-making in particular around planning and development and greater access to funds/funding applications that are otherwise unavailable. This might also benefit the wider CCC insofar as funds are brought into the area. However, I have two concerns. The first concern is financial. While an annual cost of £60-£80 may not appear a lot to many residents, this is likely to have a significant impact on very low income households. Once council tax rises are factored in (which are predicted to be at the maximum amount of 4.99% this coming financial year) and the continuing rising cost of living this is a large burden on many households. I doubt that those households will see/feel the benefits of having more local control/democracy, and I doubt that the possible additional funding that can be raised through a town council will offset those costs for those residents. My second concern is less 'real', and possibly misplaced, but it is a nagging concern of a possible creeping NIMBYism that local control might have particularly around planning. On the one hand local say in matters of planning and licensing is important. On the other hand, it may lead to too much conservativism (with a small 'c') and not wanting change or development, particularly the need to build local affordable housing. Too often I overhear people saying 'Whitstable isn't the place it was' and that there are too many people here etc, but change is inevitable and Whitstable
Not sure	is thriving because there are people here - and if affordable houses aren't built then Whitstable might go into decline.
Not sure	higher council tax bills will we get better services not sure i want more money spent on festivals etc
Not sure	It is another layer of staff and surely the staff of Canterbury council are not that removed from Whitstable to appreciate what the area needs. Even if they were, I am sure residents of Whitstable could campaign effectively and be listened to. Also I understand that the annual extra charge can be increased by any amount. Given what we know about all other costs, the increase may not be reasonable. In an ideal world it seems a good idea, but the cost isn't something we could all bear.
No	*This is NOT a resubmission- previous vote was discredited due to not having updated myself on the electoral after very recently moving. Please accept this as an update response now I have corrected my electoral roll* Additional monthly cost is an absurd suggestion during a cost of living crisis with many people throughout whitstable being heavily dependent on food banks and living in poverty. There is no way this should be enforced, on top of the increase in council tax that has now been announced. Also a local council will cover many areas that KCC are already meant to be in charge of eg street furniture. We need to be more concerned about a lack of funding and attention from KCC and the money we already pay them to work on this area. Instead of, paying two separate bodies to cover the same work.
No	1. The potential benefits listed on the literature don't justify an extra £60 to £80 a month per household. Especially in the current economic climate where people are struggling to make ends meet. 2. Considering all the cuts that are being made to core services, money and time could be better spent elsewhere. The current financial difficulties economically, make it highly unlikely that a new town council is going to be given any funding to make any positive change, rendering it pointless. 3. Despite what the literature says, there will inevitably be an additional layer of bureaucracy in a council system which is already cumbersome. Surely time (and money) would be well spent improving and stream lining the system that already exists rather than making it worse with more people involved. 4. The website refers to how town councils 'can' do positive things and 'could' make a difference. There is no evidence to say it will and I don't feel that people should have to pay more council tax for a new town council that isn't really a fundamental need at this time.
No	Additional cost to council tax payers for limited benefit. Another layer of bureaucracy.
No	Another layer of expensive bureaucracy that won't have any meaningful power and has no limit to the future cost.
No	Another layer of people sitting by a phone not actually doing anything useful! We just need more skilled workpeople to mend the roads and keep the drains clean etc.
No	Because I cannot afford to live now.So cant afford more unnecessary tax.Canterbury city council are quite adequate and sufficient.
No	Because of the extra cost and the fact there is no limit to how much it can be increased by. Even £80 a year is a lot in the current financial crisis. This is my main reason for saying no. I also think it will potentially increase divisiveness between areas of the Canterbury district. It would be far better if one council were equally supportive of all areas.
No	Because the extra charge / tax can't be capped so there's no guarantee it won't increase
No	Cannot afford any more charges hasn't anybody told these people there's a cost of living crisis?
No	Cannot see any positives only cost

No	Cannot see how it will benefit us. Just another layer to pay for.
No	Canterbury City Council is perfectly able to deal with the needs of Whitstable. In the leaflet that was posted to us it stated that a band D home would incur a charge of £60-£80. We are band E. Already our council tax is being hiked to the highest percentage anyway. Surely you realise most people are struggling already to pay their endless bills.
No	Whitstable DOES NOT NEED a town council.
No	Canterbury concil have no funds available for any work that is now not necessary. I fail to see how having a town council will help resolve getting more funds to do work such as potholes street cleaning etc. Holding meetings at 5pm and only receiving the letter with only one date available. People are at work or travelling home from work. Cooking their familys dinner.
No	Consider it to be a duplication of existing resources. Additional tier of authority. Additional ongoing annual cost if TC in place allows CCC to devolve services to TC.
No	Cost
No	Cost of it, cannot see any benefit.
No	Cost of living crisis for so many families, how can a small minority think this is the right time to place extra stress on these families by adding to the CCC tax. A very small minority less than 2,000 residents put forward this proposal for a Town Council. Could CCC listen to the 90%+ householders (around 30,000+) who have not been asked their opinion. Do they think this is the way forward? To date, 31/01/24, I have not received notification of public information meetings.
No	Costs to individual households is unclear as the precept will not be capped. Wrong time to consider a Town Council when many households are struggling with increased cost of living. Many pensioners would struggle to pay the precept if it were to increase as much as the one for Taunton
No	Council tax is going up by 5% and I do not wish to pay an extra £60 - £80 per year, a tax which is uncapped, for a parish council whose objectives, parameters and budgets are not clearly defined.
No	Do not want to pay extra money for an extra council we don’t need. Another layer of bureaucracy
No	Do not want to pay more council tax
No	don't wnat to pay extra tax
No	During the cost of living crisis when everything is so expensive and people are struggling to make ends meet, it really is unacceptable to add another £60-£80 to peoples council tax just so Whitstable can have their own council. I for one would not be happy paying it.
No	Extra cost per household/far too expensive. What are we paying ridiculous amounts of council tax for - not a lot. Large increase coming this April. Canterbury Council needs new ideas not Whitstable town councils.
No	I am 100% against having a Parish Council. Not everyone who lives here is rich. I live on a very low income and am struggling to pay my bills, so I can not afford this additional amount. Also, you state the cost could be £80 but this is only an estimate. My understanding is this cost has no cap, so it could realistically be much higher. Also, the Parish Council members don't have to be residents, they just have to work here, so they have a different agenda. The differences or "advantages" you state in the leaflet are in the scheme of things very arbitrary. The Whitstable Society is already active on providing views to the CCC, which does not cost anything to us. Also, the Parish Council would not have any control of the planning applications or process. Therefore, is completely pointless. The eagerness of CCC of promoting this Parish Council looks like an effort to dump costs they are currently responsible for, onto Whitstable households. It appears to me as just a way for CCC to cut their costs during a tine when many of us struggling.
No	I am concerned that this will add a layer of costly administration and feel that the possible benefits don’t outweigh the additional cost. Our local councillors do an excellent job and I feel that Whitstable is very well represented at CCC.
No	I cannot afford to pay more council tax so I do not want a separate Whitstable town council.
No	I cannot see what benefits to the residents, the majority of whom do not visit or shop in the town due to the congestion caused by tourists. Any money spent by the Town Council is going to cater for them. Whitstable has lost its charm and the majority of businesses serve the tourist. There are many residents who are on the poverty line and will already be saddled with increase of 6% water rates and council tax. In this economic climate there is no logical reason to burden people further. In any event we cannot afford the parking charges being imposed.
No	I can't see any benefit for me.
No	I do not feel it would be beneficial to Whitstable having it's own council. Just an excuse to pay someone extortionate amounts in salary, whilst the residents have to cover the cost. People cannot afford it with the cost of living..me included.
No	I do not want to pay an uncapped charge for a a town council on top of a council tax that is already too expensive. The charge for a council can go up at an uncapped rate and you have no idea what the town is going to receive for this or what policies will be implemented.
No	I do not want to pay anymore money.
No	I don’t believe a town council would be suitable for Whitstable because there seems to be a faction of people who make decisions without taking the residents views into consideration. I can see this happening with a self appointed town council. Also why should we pay uncapped sum of money in addition to our rates. CCC and KCC should be providing our town with adequate policing, adequate refuse collections, adequate roads etc. This town seems to be overrun by a huge amount of dog lovers who seem to think it’s fine to allow their dogs to roam and foul everywhere without consequence. There seems to no responbility by CCC regarding the huge amount of second homes/rentals. The planning processes are inadequate and the drainage and roads are in poor quality.
No	I don’t believe it will help the town and only incur more costs to the residents.
No	I don’t think it brings anything to the town other than additional expenses for the residents
No	I don’t want to pay for it Won’t directly affect me and my family Don’t trust town councils Once in, you can get rid No cap on the cost of it!

No	I don't believe they will have anymore power off their own backs without still consulting the main council. I also think most of the services you say they will cover should be covered by our existing councillors and paid for in our existing council tax. I'm not prepared to pay out anymore and quite frankly see this as a complete waste of time and money and no doubt it will be something else that would just keep going up year after year. As for festivals, celebrations and tourism activities Whitstable definitely does not need any help there as it's already too overcrowded with tourists any time of year, but obviously the summer and school holidays are worse. As a resident of Whitstable I can't ever get into town so we don't need to attract anymore tourists. NO. We are against it, an dif it gets voted in we shall not pay it. Also where was this so called petition you have as we have never seen one and how many signatures did it have?
No	I don't feel this is the right timing for such a consultation when we are still within a cost of living crisis. I worry it will price people out of Whitstable. I worry for our own future as our finances are stretched enough as it is, especially knowing council tax will soon go up anyway. It may be a good idea but it doesn't feel to be in good taste at this present moment.
No	I don't think we need a Town Council in Whitstable. We have managed for the past 20 years I have lived here without one. People are having a struggle now to pay for food, heating, council tax etc and it will put a lot more people into debt without havign to pay for more councillors and staff, also I understand more council tax. No to a town council in Whitstable.
No	I have not agreed nor will i agree to paying additional council tax for a town council we do not need
No	I pay enough to the council. I can't afford anymore. What happens if it's voted in, will I have to pay?
No	I previously responded yes, but on further information coming to light have changed my mind. I was unaware that the charge for this town council would be uncapped, so could potentially increase significantly. While I can see some benefits for a town council, I think the challenges facing local families who are struggling with the cost of living must be prioritised at this time. Therefore I do not agree with the proposal to set up a town council at this time.
No	I think that while I and many others in the town can afford the extra council tax for this, there are many households for whom it would be a great burden at the moment and one unlikely to be offset to any potential new developments. It would be grossly unfair to load any extra costs on such households and individuals at the moment. If we had been in a time of economic prosperity/stability, then I would probably have voted for a council. At the moment, and in the foreseeable future, that is is sadly not the case.
No	I would rather a rate increase to council rates so that the elected council can fulfill its obligations to the residents. This appears to be another layer of bureaucracy and I am not convinced that town will benefit sufficiently.
No	It would be an expensive anachronism. There is really no need for a de facto parish council in a town already well governed by its neighbouring city. I would rather my council tax was spent of services rather than a toothless tier of bureaucracy.
No	Just an additional layer of bureaucracy. Extra cost to retired residents or those on fixed and limited income. I see no overall benefit to me or my family.
No	Living in Seasalter, I do not believe having a Whitstable Town Council would benefit be personally. Also, the precept could become unaffordable for some people on limited incomes as it would, no doubt, increase year on year.
No	Mainly cost as I’m a pensioner. Nothing to stop costs escalating each year.
No	Many can't afford to pay for it it in my community. Their existing builds are a struggle. When speaking to the people proposing it, it seemed they had a focus on restricting any new housing. I have adult children both of who have moved away from me due to lack of affordable housing. So don't want to fund a group that had an anti housing agenda.
No	More expense, with unlimited future rises, for an administration that in my opinion will not benefit Whitstable for the costs involved.
No	My spouse and I, both employed and responsible for two children, are facing financial challenges exacerbated by soaring mortgage rates, energy expenses, fuel prices, and food expenditures. The proposed increase of £60 to £80 in our council tax bill is an additional burden we cannot currently bear. Those advocating for a town council may not fully comprehend the financial strain experienced by individuals and families amidst the existing cost-of-living crisis.
No	No extra tax!!!
No	No, don't want it, just another level of bureaucracy and another way to get more money out of us. So I shan't be voting for it and don't expect us to pay for it either if it's voted in. Also the letter from the council came to us after the information session dates due to the Post Office not delivering quick enough these days. I have never seen or heard about this petition.
No	not needed
No	Not needed
No	Not needed.
No	Not want to have to pay any more tax, don't think we will benefit anything from the extra payment.
No	So far in the 30 years I have lived here, we did not want the houses built apron the grass land. Or the new houses coming to the area. Parking charges on the beach the solar farm this was all discussed in the council but they do as they want regardless and paying more on my Council Tax bill will change nothing but give the council more money !!
No	The cost would be to much and it will only focus on the older generation when the younger generation are the ones in need of support which they are not receiving in!!
No	The council wont be able to make key decisions e.g. parking rates, the harbour etc. It will cost me extra money each year which I dont think is good value. I would rather spend 2k over 20 year's on lobbeying or giving to charity.
No	The current council tax is already far too high.
No	The extra cost seems complete madness. Most of it will go on admin and I cannot see any benefit.
No	The potential additional cost to the townspeople.
No	There is no need for another layer of bureaucracy. I dont want to pay extra council tax for this pointless council.
No	To me this is nothing more than a back door tax.
No	Too expensive at a time when everyone is struggling and no cap on the extra spending. CT is already too high with very little to show for it.

No	Too much uncapped money and not convinced of their effectiveness
No	Unfair to put an extra charge on residents in order to fund what could turnout to be another talking shop. The new council would only be as good as the people running it and the evidence seen in other areas indicates that there is a lot of room for things to go wrong as seen with Thanet District Council.
No	unnecessary addition expense.
No	We already have a council in place, this is not necessary.
No	We can't afford it.
No	WE do not want a town council as there would be a "precept" to pay which I think is wrong as it is advertised as having more say in Whitstable but why should we pay more to have a voice and the reasons outlined at the meeting in Whitstable for the town council were all things that should be covered by our existing council tax or as stated by the woman who runs other parish councils in Kent are basically covered by charities or the goodness of peoples hearts ie food banks which she said the money would go towards. As stated by another resident at the same meeting, up to 70% of the total presept for the area could go towards the administrative costs of having a town council.
No	We do not need an extra layer of bureaucracy and it would result in greater financial costs to residents.
No	We don’t need a separate council and would involve additional unnecessary costs for all residents with no actual benefit.
No	We don't need the additional charges. Many people find it hard to afford council tax. I don't believe the council members would be likely to be representative of all the population of our town, not least, young people. The consultation meetings have been held at times many couldn't make with no attempt to consider making them on different times to allow more people to go. I'm against this expense.
No	We elect enough Town Councillors they should be doing the job they were elected for, which to represent the views and needs of the residents of our town. The extra charge on the Community Charge will not stay at the suggested charge but will increase year by year. It will cause some residents whether single or with families hardship - which is certainly going to cause more worry and concerns in these difficult times. There are many good people of the town doing a great job in volunteering to help the community without the interference of another layer of bureaucracy which this proposal will undoubtably bring. Reading the information sheet put through my door many days after the local meetings dates , there seems be no talk of what this Town Council will do for the residents of the town except initiating monetary funding and grants from various sources - this should be done by C.C.C with the local councillors initiatives, we do not need a "Town Council" to do that. Due to the enormous housing developments in our town it seems to me that there will be an ever changing memberships of this so called town council , which will have a detrimental effect on the continuity of of this new council itself and the residents of the town. This town like all others should always be making plans for the future of the town , no town should stand still, but again I say this responsibility should rest with the elected councillors and C.C.C. members. There is no mention that I can see of what the responsibilities of this proposed scheme will be nor if the members will be paid a salary or have some sort of remuneration for their time and efforts. The towns people really need to asking many more questions before the City Council can consider this proposal,
No	We have already got a good selection of councillors
No	We have enough councillors on Canterbury City Council to represent our needs regarding all aspects of Whitstable. Therefore we don’t need a Town Council which in a period of rising costs will just increase our council tax.
No	We struggle enough with bills and taxes
No	What's the point. We already have local councillors in place, maybe they should be doing more. Also we do not need an increase in our council tax.
No	Whitstable has 7 elected councillors excluding Chestfield to represent Whitstable on the CCC. We do not need any additional levy on our rates to support a Town Council.
No	Why do we need one
No	With a cost of living crisis local people do not have the extra money to pay for Whitstable to have it's own town council. We already pay a huge amount for council tax and don't get the services we pay for. I also think sending out information too late for people to attend public meetings was underhand.
Not sure	Another layer of government - to go with Canterbury City Council, Kent County Council, MP for Canterbury? I wasn't on balancein favour of Brexit, but I could see why people voted for it, to try and streamline the number of governmental bodies. Am all for people having a voice, but the more layers of government you have to go through, the less chance of anything being passed through in a reasonable length of time.
Not sure	Difficult to make a balanced decision on something new and what value it would bring when it will give to unknown cost to each resident in Whitstable. It is important for constructive argument and discussion before any final decision.
Not sure	In principle I think a town council could (possibly) be of great benefit to Whitstable, Especially with the capability of calling in additional grant money, however, having a precept that is not capped is not acceptable. It’s like asking people to sign a blank cheque and, especially in these current economic climate, this is naturally very unsettling for residents. I think the proposal has come at a bad time. Asking people to pay additional charges for fairly undefined benefits during a recession is likely to get a fairly negative response. Would it be possible to have a cap built-in to the town council constitution so that charges are kept in line with inflation or Bank of England base rate?
Not sure	It would be good, but I don’t want to pay any more tax to fund it! I feel that, as a single person, that didn't have children, so shouldn’t pay for schools & police to try & control the youths terrorising the town. I cycle nearly everywhere locally, so don’t wear out the roads, I hardly ever put a bin out as I compost & recycle & feed the birds food scraps etc. etc. I think I should pay a quarter of the council tax, rather than having a quarter off!?
Not sure	Not sure how much weight a town council will have.
Not sure	The cost my council tax I pay over 12 months because how it has risen.
Not sure	Worried that the extra cost will be a burden for poor people in the area

No	1) in this financial climate we do not need to be having to find extra money. 2) we have an MP to contact if we feel there are any issues to be raised 3)if people want a parish council then it should a voluntary payment and not forced on people by adding it to council tax. 4)looking at the area to be covered by a parish council it is to big and certain parts would always be neglected 5) on the financial side this would always be an expense to residents that would go up every year causing hardship to for many residents
No	1. It would require residents to pay more in taxation, those who observe such things claim the tax burden in the UK is the heaviest in 70 years, 2. It would probably divide on political grounds, and, 3. It would merely be a talking shop
No	1. Whitstable residents do not need the extra expense of another council! 2. Whitstable is already a pleasant, well-provided for town with no need of extra amenities. 3. I`m very contented with the service we get from Canterbury city council. (e.g. when we welcomed a Ukrainian family into our home, the council checked up on us and them. They provided weekly meetings we could all attend and kept us informed of all the help we were entitled to.)
No	Another layer of bureaucracy, more expense to the community. Cannot see any benefit.
No	Another layer of government at an extra cost is unnecessary. More efficient and sensitive government from Canterbury City Council and KCC would be more preferable.
No	Can’t afford additional out goings
No	CCC get enough of our money and should be held responsible for managing it fairly and not leave Whitstable and Herne Bay as the poor relations. Why should we be liable to another stealth tax for poor financial management by CCC?
No	Cost
No	Council tax is already too expensive. I have seen nothing to persuade me that a Town Council is worth the extra charges to residents.
No	Do not agree it is necessary to have a Whitstable Council. Just a waste of money.
No	do not need it, just another cost to find
No	Do not want any further costs on my already burdened household. Far to easy for monies to be raised from the pockets of locals by unnecessary people.
No	Do not want to pay more council tax
No	Extra cost for staff out ways benefits for the local area No business plan - what the money left after wages etc would be spent on ? Leaflet arrived too late to attend any of the consultations!!
No	Firstly no one seems to know what services a town council will provide. Will it help stop anti social behaviour that seems to happen every summer without fail? Secondly people are already struggling with the cost of living and the every increasing price increases of every bill going up this april. And now we're expected to pay an additional £60/£80 on our council tax which we already dont see where the benefits of that are going
No	Having another chamber of local council staff will add additional local cost. This will offer little benefit with a smaller local budget. Continuing to be combined with Canterbury will ensure that any Council tax is spent where it is most needed across the region not just in a smaller area. Whitstable has a large proportion of Second Properties. I'l like to see them double taxed as in other regional councils.
No	I am against adding a further level of local administration. I do not agree that it will improve the local amenities. I also object that I will have to pay for the pleasure of this. The reforms to local government in 1974 were meant to simplify the system. Changes like this have only added to the duplication and unnecessary local management.
No	I am quite happy with things as they are.
No	I am sympathetic to the idea of devolving power down to 'lower' levels, closer to the communities represented. In principle, such a development might suit a community like Whitstable very well. However, the current proposal, if I understand it correctly, involves an additional cost burden ('the precept') rather than simply a relocation of existing responsibilities within the same overall funding. Although I can afford the additional precept that's estimated, and am sceptical about some of the more feverish predictions of 'no cap, no limit', I still think in the current economic climate now is not the time to introduce such a scheme, if for no other reason than it would have too much of a fight to prove its worth against its cost. Perception is not everything, but the idea would be damned in too many eyes even before it started. The proposal is worthy, not but not worth it for now.
No	I believe this to be an extra layer of administration that is not required or that I wish to pay for when local council tax is already due to rise. A Town Council tax is not subject to the 5% cap in the same way council tax is and with a current cost of living crisis and rising inflationary costs on many necessity items, to propose an additional charge is crass and indicative of how out of touch the people proposing to implement this are. They are not a diverse group who wish to represent the town for the benefit of all but a minority group with a biased agenda to fit their egotistical, political whims.
No	I do not think that such a council would be value for money. Information on the 'A voice for Whitstable' is not much use. What is relavant about the amount of money that Frome obtained? A town council in Kent used 'a low interest loan'. What on earth is 'a low interest loan'? In the current climate, 'low interest' is fairly meaningless. To be relevant we need to know what the interest rate was and if it was fixed at a low value. What increase to council tax did residents incur because of this loan? Finally, will councilors receive payment for attending meetings and site visits and, if so, at what rate will they be paid?
No	I don’t believe this group is democratic and would serve the wealthiest groups of Whitstable
No	I don't see any benefit to having yet another tier to local bureaucracy and it will cost us for the privilege.
No	I have no confidence that a town council, in addition to CCC's overview, will not result in more and more charges to me as a resident.
No	In these times of financial hardship and cutbacks, another tier of burocracy is not a good idea. Those that have been already elected may have to redouble their efforts. As do we all in these times.

No	Increases in the precept are not capped in the way that the main council tax charge is, so the precept element of the charge could rise significantly. It should be that the coastal towns and their interests are represented by the elected councillors for those wards. At a time when many families are short of money, it is not a good idea to require an additional charge from them. The commercial interests of Whitstable town centre should be looked after by a revitalised chamber of commerce. A town council would be an additional layer of bureaucracy.
No	It would create a cost duplication for no additional service. We already have elected councillors for each ward. Council Tax rises have limits, but there will be no limits on town council increases of income.
No	It's just another layer of bureaucracy and taxes. The current system is fine. It's not broken so don't try to fix it.
No	Its unaffordable in the current climate. Families are budgeting to survive every month and the extra costs would not be seen back in the pockets of these families. Once mortgage and interest rates decline I think the idea could be revisited. Its just very bad timing
No	Just because we don't have a town council doesn't mean we have to have one Whitstable is unique and its needs one not the same as other areas .
No	No business plan 75% of the extra money raised through council tax will be spent on wages etc
No	Not sure it will make any difference and we will have to pay more for the "privilege".
No	Nothing to be gained.
No	The cost to residents is too much at this present time
No	Think we can/should do more to improve ccc links with whitstable to negate such a need
No	This will be a further burden financially especially on those on lower incomes. The council tax is about to increase to the maximum they can raise it to. More bureaucracy.
No	Too expensive and still run by council
No	Too many departmental sections @ present,I wouldn't want to add another.For example about three years ago builders were given permission to use a paved and tarmac area at the side of my garden and opposite opposite bungaloes.It was chaos for three years,and permission was given not by CCC but Highways who didn't even know the area,two different administrations.We had a burst water main in the road and CCC had no responsibility,Southern Water and South EastWater argiuedwho was liable while the water flowed away again who was responsible.A Whitstable Town Council would be one more level of responsibility and problems would be postponed while it was argued who was responsible. It seems to be one more layer of admin,not really needed.
No	Until such times as the council have a full financial budget and carry out there responsibilities as was before the cuts, the idea of yet another expensive to try to cover that absents of services is just playing into the hands of the spend thrift governments.
No	Unwilling to pay more Council Tax and will not be able to control future increases
No	We do not need another level of bureaucracy. The extra money that we would have to pay would make it very difficult for many people to afford; it starts at £80 but would increase over time. I also feel like this is a vanity project for people with too much money and too much time on their hands; this was proven by the timing of the meetings- during the week at 5pm when most people who work would struggle to be in attendance. Whitstable does not need a town council.
No	We do not want another level of bureaucracy
No	We have an elected council that we already pay to look after our local interests. If they are not performing their duties with the best interests of the town that elected them then they should not be in office. Why should we pay more money to elect and pay for more people to do the same thing. £3000 has already been paid to distribute leaflets and arrange meetings. I am a resident of Whitstable and I did not receive the leaflet until two of the meetings had already happened and I was not able to attend the final meeting. First show of wasting money. We want more action not more expense sheets. I do not want to pay even higher council tax with no say in how much more money would be demanded. My household income is stretched as it is.
No	We have enough councillors already,this is Canterbury City Council abdicating responsibilities that we are already paying for in our community taxes. Also expecting us to pay more in precepts.
No	We have managed without a town council for several years. I do not wish to have any extra layers of administration nor the extra cost that this incurs.
No	We were not advised in adequate time for the consultation meetings and they were all at an inconvenient time for many people. I do not wish to have to pay more in council tax, especially as it would go up without our agreement. I do not think it would benefit myself and many others.
No	Whilst representation from interested locals is not normally a bad thing, I'm not at all convinced that charging an additional aprx £1m to CT5 households is going to bring great value. I've read the literature available locally and have not seen any appealing evidence or suggestion that Whitstable will benefit from a Town Council. We already have a local process for managing allotments and litter and toilets and bus stops…! We already have a process of electing local people to sit on the local council and represent local needs…I have not seen any evidence in the TC proposals that suggest the local councillors are not effective….are the people requesting a TC suggesting that our local councillors are ineffective? Of course there is too much littler and bus shelters could look more appealing, but why on earth in a cost of living crisis should households spend on another layer of local bureaucracy? Promoting town events is great, but look what happened when extra promotion was given a few ago to the oyster festival….its increased popularity made a few locals scared by the idea of so many people, locals and visitors alike, being in town having fun. Wouldn't locals prefer to spend on a small increase in council tax ring fenced to improve basic local district services such as litter and graffiti removal, allotments, toilets etc etc? This would mean households are not wasting valuable funding on the legal costs, admin and office space etc etc specifically for the creation and operation of a CT5 TC. Instead of an £70-80 suggestion make is substantially less, protect it from being spent elsewhere and cut out the bureaucracy… Remember years ago the Canterbury councillor who instructed the road sweepers to regularly cleanse his route into work…? A very cynical view, that I will not shy away from expressing, is that perhaps some of those most vocal about wanting to be a TC member actually want to do so to advance the position somehow of themselves and their chums.

No	Whitstable is currently well cared for and I am pleased with the work done by our councillors (just picked up a book from the telephone box “library”). There is already a Cabinet member for Coastal Towns. Should a Town Council be established with tax-raising powers, this would enable CCC to reduce its spend here, knowing that the TC could fill the gap. Although a precept of £60-£80 is mentioned in the flyer, it does not mention that there is no upper limit. A TC with powers to set their own precept without upper limit is an invitation to set grandiose objectives. Many young (and old) residents are already financially stressed. Adding further to this is a retrograde step.
Not sure	My answer was not sure. But after finding out it could start 60-80 pounds it's no. Most people will not be able to afford it. It will go up each year like council tax. If you take it from the council that would be yes.
Not sure	On balance I think the negatives outweigh the positives. The Positives are more money for local projects and (most importantly) more influence over CCC decisions affecting Whitstable. Negatives include : another layer of bureaucracy. The expense needed to run it - I understand most town councillors act on a voluntary basis with a small allowance to cover expenses. To get a good, representative cross section of the community they may need to consider higher allowances to compensate people for time off work or caring responsibilities. This would diminish the amount of money available to spend. Otherwise, we may be left with ‘the usual suspects’. As the next round of austerity hits (and it will) I am concerned that CCC may drop some services and the Town Council will pick them up (or be expected to) rather than complementing and expanding services. Whitstable has a number of assets that are currently owned by the Council. What would happen to them if we have a town council? What say would they have on how they are used, funded and, if necessary, disposed of? Or would they somehow be expected to pick up the tab or shortfall without having a say? The town council needs to have the necessary powers, structure, teeth, funding and assets to make it worthwhile. I fear it may get responsibility without much to fuel it.
Not sure	Unsure of benefits of this Do not want this to have any associated increase in council taxes
Not sure	Whilst I want to know that the needs of local residents in Whitstable are well represented and that we can access funding specifically for local improvement projects I am not sure it is the right time to increase the overall council tax charges for families who are already overstretched.
No	Do not want to pay extra for town council on top of my council tax! Consensus of opinion amongst my other acquaintances re the above.

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published
No	There could be a much larger consequence to residents of this, than residents realise… Double taxation, no control over spending, lack of democracy with co-opted members, very little scrutiny, no control over extra financial burden on all households in the affected area, unrestricted increases in the precept for projects that very few may have agreed to, lack of understanding that this is in addition to City Council and not instead of.
No	What next - street wardens!! A bonkers policy. Should canterbury have a town council … no!
No	Dealing with Whitstable in isolation is a mistake. There may be benefits in Town Councils but they may well apply to each of the unparished urban centres and should be considered collectively. The knock-on effect for other parts of the District should also be considered. In addition, there is an arguable case that the whole of third-tier (Town and Parish) council arrangements in the District require review to improve efficiency and effectiveness. To spend money on establishing a Town Council for only one part of the District is both wasteful and would pre-empt such a wider review.
No	We have councils in place already failing to deliver and wasting money we do not need more councils costing us more money delivering poor value or even cutting back more services whilst over paying wages to poor performing so called community representatives
No	I have recently left Whitstable to move to another Parish in the area & feel the size of the area proposed is to large & will not benefit the outlying areas of the town. Areas like seasalter, south Tankerton & swalecliff all have different needs to the town centre. Smaller parish councils would be more beneficial to the areas concerned if they want it as it does put another layer of taxation in. My view is that this is a vanity project but the people behind it & would it bring any long term benefit to all areas of CT5?
No	This proposal is a preference of a minority who reside in Whitstable. Many in the town do not need the additional financial burden. It seems unfair to impose this on those who live in the boundary outlined in this consultation.
No	I am rather concerned of extra costs for families on low incomes in and around Whitstable with their council tax bills. We already have Canterbury City Council, why is it necessary to spend more money on resources such as this. I believe it's an utter waste of time.
No	It's an uneccesary cost that the people of Whitstable don't need. CCC can manage everything for this town effectively
No	We already have ward representatives on CCC as well as County representatives on KCC we don't need another layer of governance. It would also cause confusion about who does what and where. For instance there has been continued traffic problems in Whitstable due to poorly planned roadworks. But it's a KCC decision although affects at local level. I also think that considering charging a precept during a cost of living crisis is foolish.
No	This is already paid for in CCC's role! It's not fair to add premiums to the Council Tax to pay for more red tape!
Not sure	We already have two tiers of local government and a third will confuse issues as it will have no decision making powers. The idea was modeled partly on Faversham Town Council and I served on this for 4 years a lot of its business was around having 700+ years of mayoral history and played a massive function in its day to day business. Large balances were held year on year and not spent and planning applications were discussed but more often than not had little or no effect. The above will cost the Whitstable tax payer on average another £80 a year for what. My experience of highways issues as the present holder with that responsibility has been messy and already having political pressure affecting well thought out ideas. However with difficult local government finances it could very well be the case that a Unitary option could be introduced and this would totally change my thoughts on a Whitstable Town Council. By combining the County and the City Council would then allow a full and proper role for a local WTC properly funded with powers and responsibility giving us full recognition of a meaningful organisation. The question for me is do we do this now in preparation for a potential change and run as a shadow authority in preparation for a unitary option. The answer would have to be yes. On the basis of WTC running as a shadow group for an impending unitary council plan from government lets also consider the net loss of present Councillors in those two tiers would be around 300 for the County of Kent.
No	No extra tax!!
No	Residents would have to pay for the Town Council. Don't really think Whitstable needs one.
No	The proposed town council will have little to no power, adds another layer of bureaucracy and cost while providing a forum for a small number of new councillors to play politics.
No	This is an unnecessary expense which the people of Whitstable should not have to pay extra for.

Organisation (if relevant)	Written rep
	I have read the documentation supplied and I have been aware of the activities of the Whitstable CT5
	Iam opposed to the idea of Whitatable having a Town Council. Canterbury Council is big enough to
	I am not in favour of the setting up of a Whitstable Town Council in view of the extra financial
	My husband and I think that Whitstable does not need a town council as we are represented through
	Good day. Further to your above consultation document requesting our comments.
	I received the pamphlet dated Monday 8th January 2024, pm today Friday 26th January,
	We do not see the need for a Town Council in Whitstable. We are well enough represented through
	Good Morning,
	Against introducing further layer of government. Pointless organisation. Further costs for residents of
	Thank you for the information you have provided regarding setting a new town council in Whitstable.
	As a young family trying to save money, the extra £60+ a year is not something we are happy with. I
	I have served in senior leadership roles on Unitary, County and National government bodies and never
	I have read the article in the Whitstable Community Magazine. Are you willing to pay for a new town
	Thank you for your letter dated 08/01/24 received end of January. Rather late for the meetings, but I
	Regarding the above proposal, we have given the matter some thought and have come to the
Chestfield Parish Council	Chestfield Parish Council is of course supportive of parish and Town councils and the benefits that this
Chestfield Parish Council	Brooklands Farm was a strategic site for housing in the previous administration’s Canterbury District
Chestfield Parish Council	At its consultation events, CCC put up a series of PowerPoint slides, among which there was the
	One is the cost. People are struggling to pay essential bills as it is. There's no guarantee the cost will
	Dear XXXXX XXXXX, I have lived in Whitstable for over 50 years and strongly disagree that we need a
	My view of the proposal for a Whitstable Town Council is against. The people (whoever they are)
	We, XXXXX and XXXXX, wish it to known that we would not have signed the original petition if we had
	I am not in favour of a Town Council for Whitstable. I see no advantage in having another 'arm' of
	Hello,
	I live at XXXXX and do not want a town council as I think we pay enough as it is
	I do not agree to a Whitstable Town Council
	Hello,
	My husband,XXXXX, and myself,XXXXX wish to register our choice/vote of NO to the formation of a
	I hereby object strongly to the suggestion that a Town Council should be set up for Whitstable. I do
	I strongly oppose the idea of setting up another Council for our area. We already have two Councils
	I would like to raise my objection to the formation of a Town Council in Whitstable.
	I would like to register my opposition to the setting up of a further council group for the town
	I am not in favour of a Whitstable Council.
	I am strongly opposed to a town council: (1) Yet another bureaucratic layer to supplment the local
	In three words "No Thank You". I can see no gain for Whitstable to have a town council, all it will do is
	I am writing as I have received a leaflet on consultation on proposal for a Whitstable Town Council. To

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published
Yes	We need a local body to serve the interests of the local community. We are all too remote for a centralised body based in Canterbury
Yes	Local governance for local area. Autonomy
Yes	Because decisions taken by CCC are impacted upon Whitstable's residents that are not always in their best interests. Local decisions are best dealt with by local people
Yes	It's blindingly obvious that Whitstable should have a town council because most Kent towns, and all coastal Kent towns except Margate, have their own town councils. Whitstable has a unique set of sociological, economical and geographical needs that require local democratic representation. The most obvious being it's coastal location and issues to do with its coast, foreshore and other maritime concerns. It's clear that Whitstable is under-represented by CCC, even though it has a population of 32K+.
Yes	It is appropriate that the Town has representation on matters relating to the Town itself and not just be dependant on CCC to fight our corner as members of CCC can't be expected to have the same appetite for resolving issues regarding Whitstable as residents of the Town, the Town Council being composed of some of those residents.
Yes	A Town the size of Whitstable should have better representation that will enable local issues to be better addressed and advocated for. Whitstable should have access to all the resources available to a Town Council that will enable initiatives important to the Town to be enacted. For too long Canterbury has dominated and the specific needs of Whitstable as a coastal Town have been largely ignored. Whitstable has a vibrant community who are well placed to run a dynamic Town Council, I can think of no reason against.
Yes	Whitstable has a distinct identity and community. It exists separately to Canterbury not just by its physical location but in its character and functions. It is time for Whitstable to be able to manage its affairs without the dominance of Canterbury focussing on the City's needs rather than Whitstable's.
Yes	The approx cost of £80 pa appears to be very good value for money. This will bring in about £900, 000 pa to the Whitstable area to be spent just in Whitstable. This is each year. Additional funds could be brought in by grants and charges. Canterbury can only dream of doing this. The use of these funds is a matter for the Town Council and therefore it is not possible to say for certain how the money will be spent at this stage. There are many good possibilities. Examples include: Community bus service linking the main stores and medical centres in the CT5 area, this could access some minor roads not served by current bus services. Funding from KCC and Dept of Transport could be sought. Investment in Youth Services as requested by young people themselves. A Visitor Centre run by volunteers and partly funded by the sale of goods, located in the Harbour. Work to prompt whole Town/area. There are many examples of the good work that can be done. Another example maybe to take over the running of the Oyster festival to the benefit of the whole area. We have a lovely town, lets work to keep it. More TLC can be provided by a Town Council- elected from local people, directly accountable to local people. A look at the accounts of other Town Councils show that very little needs to be spent on admin costs and staffing. Don't forget it will be the staff that will actually get things done with our support. Lots of community groups already do so much . Co-ordination will improve the output and help promote and enhance their work. Rome was not built in a day-it will take time to see the full benefits but lets start on that road sooner rather than later. Canterbury and KCC have no spare cash, by their own admission. If we want improvements we shall have to accept that this is by far and away the best way forward. The Town Council will be run by locals for locals. The sooner the better I say!
Yes	I think it is important that local people have more of a say in decisions affecting Whitstable and the local people. I also believe that the council does not give issues affecting the local population the time or focus needed, Canterbury is always the priority. Whitstable is a special place to the locals but suffers from vandalism, petty crime, rubbish and parking issues. It is very popular with day visitors and we need special focus on how we can all benefit from the tourism trade.
Yes	More autonomy Greater awareness of the towns need. The advantages are considerable and well evidenced by looking at how other towns, such as Faversham, have very effective Town Councils. I have never had the feeling that Whitstable featured high on CCC lists for planning improvements etc. so would welcome a more accessible and pertinent group of representatives for our town. Since I moved here 30 years ago , there has been a considerable increase in tourists visiting Whitstable and I think we could make it much more attractive for them if local people, on a Town Council, were to be involved in planning for our town ,with an awareness of the benefits such visitors can bring.
Yes	Because the town needs an independent council to oversee the relevant things that need to enacted upon. It is so inportant.
Yes	Whitstable has become popular and busier than ever with many visitors from all over the world. However the local residents seem to have become a secondary rather than the most important people in the opinion of many as to how their town should maintain itself and what is important to them . A town council made up of only concerned residents should be allowed and able to address this balance .
Yes	Whitstable is losing out by not having a town council. Town councils can access funding that CCC and Kent County Council cannot. Currently there is no Whitstable community organisation with which CCC is legally obliged to consult on planning matters, including new developments. However, a town council for Whitstable would have to be consulted A town council for Whitstable we can add value to the work of CCC councillors by making Whitstable a better place to live, work and enjoy. So many great things already happen in this town through the amazing efforts of local groups and individuals – a town council can bring these efforts together and bid for more funding.
Yes	For the reasons set out by ct5 People's Forum on their website.

Yes	Not 'a' town council but several councils; one covering the centre and one or more parish councils covering extremities such as Seasalter if people wanted them . Chestfield has a successful PC and there are larger communities in Whitstable but not in the centre; eg Swalecliffe. There is a risk that one town council would focus the precept on the centre alone. There is a risk that one town council for a larger town would be dominated by national parties. This questionnaire is wrong in precluding the above or not including it as an option. Many respondents will not know it can be considered and vote 'no' simply because they don't want one council for the whole area.
Yes	The town needs to be able to have more autonomy and control over the things that matter to residents, businesses and visitors. Canterbury City Council is too far removed from the day to day stuff that makes a town work - or not.
Yes	provide additional services for whitstable-over those by kcc and ccc. good vfm. £900k pa just for CT5
Yes	For all the reasons described on the CT5 website
Yes	For the reasons described on the CT5 website
Yes	To hear our voices heard
Yes	I think it would be good to have a body that is purely focussed on the needs of Whitstable. Most towns in East Kent have a town council (and therefore must see a benefit to that), and I think that Whitstable risks being disadvantaged if we rely solely on Canterbury Council making decisions in our best interest.
Yes	Although Whitstable is a much visited town fr those of who live here there has been a visible deterioration in the general condition of the town. Nothing gets done about the appalling state of the pavements and condition of the roads, litter is everywhere. The small open spaces in the town are neglected. There used to be floral displays in the centre in the summer making the town a pretty and inviting place. Now it seems the town is full of coffee shops/ facilities for visitors and I feel that residents are totally neglected. I see no evidence of work done by local councillors to improve life for residents. Compare the town centre in Faversham where there is a very active Town Council. The Xmas lights in Whitstable are pathetic. I hope that a Town Council will be more "hands on" with an eye on matters for residents than just visitors.
Yes	The individual character of the town is best understood by people who live and work in it, and its best interests are likely to be served by people with local knowledge and concerns. There are many committed and experienced people who are dedicated to creating a town council, and they would be very well placed to serve on it. Most similar towns have town councils and express and demonstrate positive reactions to the extra layer of local government.
Yes	We do not need an additional level of bureaucracy. We already have a local City Council with Councillors representing Wards in the Town. I would sooner spend my money on things or causes of my own choice.
Yes	To address any issues or matters requiring attention from insider perspective; as the CT council seem to have been ignoring or neglecting a lot from what needs attention.
Yes	Because, in creating an additional layer of local governance, Whitstable Town Council will be best placed to advocate the specific social, economic and environmental needs of Whitstable.
Yes	Whitstable as any large town has it's own specific needs. Policing issues during the summer evenings on the beach. Better provision of refuse bins paying particular attention to separate recycling bins again in the beach area. The potential for cultural events particularly a reinvigorated oyster festival to rival Herne Bays festival. Parking issues, preservation of green areas such as church street playing fields. The recognition of the importance for wildlife of Duncan Downs and pilgrims way. Whitstable is large enough and with it's own individual economic and social demands that it would greatly benefit from a town council focused on it.
Yes	Because Whitstable is so different and unique to its surrounding towns and city, it deserves to have its own voice.
Yes	It will involved more the local population on the governance of Whitstable and will make decision masking process quicker. The fact to have a Town Council will make enhancement plans of the town a bigger priority. It is to be noted that in the last few years, no investment have been allocated in the maintenance and refurbishment of several important public installations.
Yes	Would like to feel have access to someone who cares. Have been try to talk to Council about West Beach tennis courts (I am a coach) and no joy.
Yes	We are one of the few areas without a local town/parish council. We need local representation by people who live here -as the 27 or so other canterbury areas have. Feel that CCC is Canterburycentric and doesn't have the knowledge of a tourist seaside town's needs They are very specific and unique and have become more so as the tourist numbers have increased. I believe a TC could help with planning plans and would be a statutory consultee / could apply for grants for the town / handle the neighbourhood plan / support the innumerable volunteer community groups who work hard for the benefit of the town: Beach cleaning, tree wardens, biodiversity issues, CT 5 People's Forum, whistsparkle, wild about Whitstable week, Stream Walk community gardens, open gardens, community meeting points, manage traffic and parking issues, public toilets issues…water fountains, help support carnival and local festivals and art trails … , tennis courts…beach issues…connect us formally with the scores of other local town/parish councils so we can benefit from others knowledge and experience / help the town with sustainability and becoming plastic free. Most importantly apply pressure to ensure council taxes paid by local residents benefits residents. The list of positive possibilities is endless. This town needs a locally led coordinating body which will encourage ALL residents to contribute their skills and knowledge. The model of sitting back and waiting for your needs to be met by others without civic involvement doesn't work. The beauty of a TC is that everyone and anyone can get involved. I have met with many other people who live under a TC and never heard anything negative. For me it's a no brainer and I hope that the majority of residents will agree

Yes	A more locally focussed council could decide more accurately and with more accurate contextual information on local issues. More local choices for local people
Yes	Whitstable is an indvidual, unique town and as such has specific needs and qualities it wants to maintain.
Yes	It provides an extra voice to represent the community on cultural, business and local issues.
Yes	We need to be in control of our own destiny.
Yes	It is much better for people living in Whitstable to be responsible for what happens in their town. The people of Whitstable will have more control over what happens in Whitstable.
Yes	Local answers to local problems. Not just Canterbury
Yes	Whitstable is a significant size of population and the local people needs to be able to make local decisions. Many parish councils are significantly smaller than whitstable
Yes	Whitstable is a place that has its own identity and atmosphere. It would be best served by local involvement in developing local issues. Ive had very little contact with Cant CC in my 40 years here. I travel widely and am often struck by how poorly Canterbury looks and feels compared to other historic cities. The council seem to be oblivious to the potential of Whitstable to develop into a really exciting destination. A local focus may change this neglect.
Yes	I believe there should be a town council to represent the issues encountered by local residents, including increasing crime and anti-social behaviour, repeated pollution in the sea, and seemingly uncontrolled building on open spaces.
Yes	Whitstable Residents & Businesses need a more powerful voice and the ability to make key decisions on a local basis. For far too long CCC have largely ignored and de-prioritised local concerns in my opinion.
Yes	Whitstable should have its own Town council like years ago. Whitstable is ever increasing in population and wants to have it own voice be heard.
Yes	Might give us a bit more redress on the amount of second homes and short term lets. Which unfortunately in my view are making the centre of town into a weekend venue.Which has a major impact on both businesses and permanent residents.
Yes	Other towns if similar size in the area have one
Yes	To give the residents more control over their locality.
Yes	Whitstable quite often gets ignored and this is a way to help rebalance the system.
Yes	Would be good to have a representative for local issues and champion local business.
Yes	It could provide greater community contribution into locally specific issues in this unique area. I hope it would offer a diverse range of views and prioritise engagement and education about local governance.
Yes	More autonomy easier to access and better proportional representation
Yes	There are issues specific to whitstable as a seaside community which are different to canterbury as a whole
Yes	A Whitstable Council will deal with our issues and not a blanket response for all.
Yes	Whitstable is a unique town with very different needs and priorities than Canterbury City, and currently has a limited voice in decisions that affect access to funding and policies impacting on the quality of life in our town. We are one of very few towns without a town council in East Kent, and would greatly benefit from the opportunity to look after our own concerns.
Yes	would benefit local residents
Yes	Because Whitstable does not have a community voice. No money is spent on our amenities. Plenty of revenue is generated in Whitstable but it is always spent in Canterbury and elsewhere in the District. Having a Town Council will enable Whitstable to have specific funding to spend locally. WTC as an entity will be able to apply for loans which would be spent only in Whitstable and not spent in the District as CCC sees fit. WTC would have a greater influence in Planning as a compulsory consultative body. Lobby for regulation and licensing of second home owners and airb&b. Increase CTax for second home owners. Make sure they pay for their rubbish collection. Stop Brett's from using our high street as their works entrance to their works in the harbour. Put a weight limit on vehicles in the centre of Whitstable. Make sure that Brett's stop the pollution they creat in the heart of Whitstable. Whitstable has been purposely under represented at Canterbury Council. A Gorrel Ward councillor has to get over 2000 votes to be elected while a councillor from Hernebay 300 votes has just as much say in what happens in Whitstable. A WTC would give us louder Polictical voice which would be heard by CCC.
Yes	To give us more of a say on what goes on. We are the only town of this size in Kent which has not got one. Whitstable residents need to have more of a say in what goes on. Whitstable and Hernebay are the only towns in Kent which do not have a TC.
Yes	The town is willing and ready to take charge of its community safety, environmental improvement, environmental development, arts and events. With strong local businesses, community groups and artists, we have the ability to enable the town to thrive whilst creating a better environment for residents. Calmer traffic (20mph limits) cleaner streets and beaches, safe neighbourhoods, youth engagement, and support for healthy living.
Yes	We are a thriving town with not obly a fantastic local communicty but also a popular tourist destination. I feel that we get lost within Canterbury City Council, especially when they do things like take away the funding for the Oyster Festival - which was such an important event to the town. The residents of whitstable should be able to have more say and involvement over how their town grows.
Yes	It would be good to have more local focused representation, plans and action. It would help support local events such as the oyster festival, Christmas parade etc.
Yes	We need to have a say about our town.

Yes	Canterbury city council does not represent the residents of whitstable
Yes	I have lived in Whitstable since 1981. Then it was a small sleepy town, with frankly not much going for it. It has grown immensely since then, not in size but in terms of facilities. It now attracts an enormous amount of visitors , winter and summer. It would be an advantage if the residents of Whitstable could have a greater say in how their town is run.
Yes	It can only be a positive option to have councillors dealing directly with local issues and people - specifically engaged on residents interests.
Yes	It is long overdue, Whitstable needs proper local representation, most Towns in Kent and far smaller villages have Town Councils or Parish Councils. Whitstable has a population of over 35k and growing, we need to have proper local representation. We have issues as a coastal Town that are ignored by Canterbury and are loosing out on all manner of opportunities for funding for projects local people identify that the Town needs.
Yes	To provide a voice for local residents who are invested in the community. To ensure any decisions support the needs of the residents in Whitstable. To further build a sense of community.
Yes	Whitstable has a distinctive character with a distinctive economy, and its size means its community is an active agent in shaping and envisioning the very appeal and economic activity that brings people to it. Stewardship is key, which is why a Town Council for Whitstable is essential.
Yes	To much money going to Canterbury
Yes	Local people know what happens locally, it will give the locals more say over things which concern them.
Yes	1. Whitstable is very different to Canterbury, and its needs haven't been met and maybe they are not even properly understood unless you live here. 2. It was the corrupt Canterbury City Council that sold the community land to the Greens for a meagre amount. The court found that the council did wrong and us residents have to live with it. That is unforgivable. A local council will hopefully stop the spread of their empire that is contributing to point 3, below. 3. A local council may be able to stop the spread of air b n b and the likes, that like in other seaside or popular places are ruining the town. Which together with insanely high rents for shops with barely legal contracts are turning it into a holiday resort, stripping it of the community for people who live here. 4. A whitstable council will be able to plan new buildings with knowledge of the local geology, on where there is strain on infrastructure, and where essential green spaces are.
Yes	For local residents views as town is now a very popular destination around the world also the streets Have very few people actually living here as mostly now Airbnb with the issues these cause Also been to object to the mass building around Whitstable which causes issues with the water quality in the sea, as being a civil engineer I know the knock on affect. More visible policemen on the street to deter the daily issues in the street mainly the surge of drug taking in summer.
Yes	We are a fast growing town with concerns that need addressing on a local level. I feel for too long we have shared with Canterbury Council which has left us overlooked and underfunded.
Yes	A town council could focus more on day to day issues that only affect Whitstable, and should generally be more approachable for residents.
Yes	Because we are neglected by CCC. We need a stronger voice and more funding.
Yes	To prioritise and address Whitstable relevant issues.
Yes	Canterbury council is rubbish.
Yes	Because Canterbury city council are inept. I have absolute faith that almost anyone could deliver a better and more focussed approach and impact to local issues and governance than the current Canterbury based shambles.
Yes	I think it would be beneficial for the town
Yes	Whitstable is a town with a strong sense of its own identity. A town council would build on this well by adding an extra layer of democracy so that Whitstable can develop and grow stronger as a community.
Yes	So that residents have a voice that is not ignored. Local buisnesses in the town are supported. Canterbury City Council do not seemto support the town and look at it only to income from. The town has a voice
Yes	To give the town, its residents and local businesses a voice which is heard in local government decision making so the interests of the town and its community can be safe guarded and maintained as much as possible. To give the town (its residents and businesses) a voice when there is so much drain on local provision of services and how to support tourism and protecting if possible the local community.
Yes	To have more ownership over what happens in our community
Yes	There are many volunteer groups and small businesses in this area who work with very few resources on projects that help to make Whitstable a vibrant town . The possibility of maintaining these activities and developing others could be facilitated with the backing of a local council. There are times when a spate of vandalism crops up , and other anti social behaviour is noted . These activities can be recorded far more effectively by local residents and dealt with appropriately. The beaches are still suffering from dogs being allowed to chase birds across the mud, dog poo in evidence at all times of the year. This needs to be handled at a local level to have any influence.
Yes	I think it's important that Whitstable had its own voice & town council to look after the town at a more local level. Whitstable is a busy seaside town with independent shops, local amenities & community groups, a working harbour, huge amounts of visitors & think to protect all that the town councillors could focus more on our town with access to more funding & investment.

Yes	Whitstable is one of only a few towns in Kent not to have a Town Council. Representation at this level of local government would facilitate the focus of elected town councillors on their immediate locality. Though elected to wards or divisions of their council Councillors at the higher levels of local government are required to consider the needs and services of the whole area covered by their authority. Town councillors live in their town, know the people and their concerns. They are able to draw funding into their council for projects that district councils cannot. There is evidence from existing town councils to support this fact. With cash strapped district councils struggling to deliver services town councils can fill a gap in provision. This can be done for a precept of between (for band D properties - not per person) of £60 to £80 that is £5.00 to £6.67 per month or £1.15 to £1.53 per week and the usual discounts (e.g. single person households) will apply. That is less than the price of a cup of coffee. In addition town councils can support local community organisations and local events. Again, district councils have been needing to withdraw such funding. Receiving such help can make a difference between survival or closure. Town councils can provide local hopper buses - a great boon to people when bus routes have been withdrawn - as in Estuary View Health Centre. Chestfield Parish Council has introduced crime prevenrion measures e.g. lighting. With a Town Council this could be widened to the existing unparished areas of Whitstable including those on the periphery of CT5. In short, having a Town Council can make for creating a greater sense of comfort for local people at reasonable cost. It would be an extension of democracy facilitating a closer relationship between council and resident in their own area with an office and meeting place in their own area easier to visit and raise issues. A Town Council would not replace the City Council but work alongside.
Yes	We residents of Whitstable need a more effective way to express our views to Canterbury City Council and Kent County Council, and also to mobilise efforts for local initiatives. Having lived here for 40 years, we still hear older neighbours recalling the time when Whitstable had its own council, and the feeling of local control - or at least that views would be heard. To take a current example, here in the centre of town residents are currently concerned about problems with a nearby pub, that conservation status is not enforced, and that Sea Street is in dire need of repair and traffic calming: if we had a Town Council to focus residents' views and press these issues it would increase the likelihood of positive action.
Yes	So that Whitstable can have more say, especially for water pollution, litter, policing & building infrastructure.
Yes	Whitstable has too much that is independent, different and distinct from Canterbury, and needs a dedicated system of governance that has the area's specific needs at the centre. Decision-making should, surely, as far as possible, always take place as close as possible to the areas and people affected by those decisions. Canterbury is a city with its own needs and requirements. It is wrong to expect the needs of a town the size of Whitstable to be fairly represented in its shadow. Important planning decisions that take into account the area's unique and characteristic heritage and culture also need to be made by people properly familiar with the community, not removed from it. Too many Canterbury councillors have little or no stake in our town, and yet take hugely important decisions about its future and general governance. These councillors are not properly accountable to the local people whose lives they impact upon. That can' t be right. It is well past time that this change came about, and I am very glad to see CCC taking residents' views seriously. Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the consultation.
Yes	Whitstable has many unique issues that Canterbury does not.
Yes	Local governance & involvement is crucial. I've been by the absence of response to local issues by CCC
Yes	It would be good for the people of the town to have more say in how things are run. There is a stong sense of community in Whitstable and I believe that locally elected people would be much better placed to understand the real needs of the commumity.
Yes	We need to have issues responded to by people who live in whitstable ,understand our community and concerns. A local council that would be approachable for it's residents, we need to feel cared for again.
Yes	Whitstable has specific issues - for example, the lack of residential parking near the town centre, sewage being dumped in the sea, AirBNBs pushing rents up, and the management of tourist events like the Oyster Festival - that don't apply to Canterbury and seem to be ignored by Canterbury council. A local council could focus on these specific issues, it might be very helpful to people who live here.
Yes	Decisions can be made by people closer to the town, who understand local concerns.
Yes	It's a diverse town with a distinct identity. Local residents will have a better understanding of needs, problems and solutions.
Yes	Whitstable residents have a very good understanding of their own town, better managed by a local town council rather than a regional council.
Yes	For community safety such as greater safety for cyclists on the narrow town roads and improvements in parking restrictions on pavements because wheel users are forced off the pavements (wheelchair users babies in buggies etc) and into the roads. Reduce waste generated by shops and takeaway vendors to improve the environment. Support community transport initiatives.
Yes	With a more local body overseeing local issues, it will be more focussed on the needs of the people of Whitstable.
Yes	Whitstable is unique and a town council would enable local issues and projects to be prioritised
Yes	A council to speak just for the people of Whitstable has been needed for a long time.
Yes	To have more control over local issues, anti-social behaviour etc
Yes	Whitstable is a large and ever growing town and therefore needs autonomy from Canterbury. As a town, the people who live here should have more of a say in how the town is run and more say on how the money it receives is spent.

Yes	So the interests and concerns of the people of Whitstable are heard, considered and acted upon. Whitstable should have a Town Council to enable funding - which is at present not accessible to us - to be spent to benefit of the Residents.
Yes	It would give residents more say and control over much needed services which could have immediate impact on the quality of life in Whitstable.
Yes	With a population of 35,000 and many varying issues, the area would be better served by a more agile organisation capable of making quick decisions
Yes	I think it will be good to spend money raised for local Whitstable projects in Whitstable. People work really hard on these projects, and I think it would give people a sense of community.
Yes	A town council will be beneficial to Whitstable as it would be able to respond to the priorities for our community and make decisions based on our specific requirements.
Yes	The divergence and needs in comparison to Canterbury and Whitstable of vast thusly. Having its own parish council, would enable a more dedicated view at the needs of Whitstable, trade and individuals.
Yes	A Town Council will give people in Whitstable more say over their own affairs, be closer to the community, support us to deliver local priorities and especially environmental improvements, and give us the potential to bring more resources into the town.
Yes	To allow residents more say on how the council tax is spent and engender a feeling of involvement in the local community
Yes	We need a local organisation focused on the needs of Whitstable residents.
Yes	We have a number of local issues that I believe get missed in the greater borough of Canterbury such as roads, local traffic issues, sea side issues and I think a local council would be more mindful of these local problems and be able to address them more efficiently.
Yes	I am convinced of the benefit of having a Town Council, after listened to the research carried out by that the CT5 forum into the working of other Town Councils.
Yes	Whitstable is a very popular destination for visitors and for families resettling from London. It needs a strategic plan to ensure that the needs of local families are considered in decisions, especially in new property developments.
Yes	It's it own little town that is key to the area for tourism and work for this area - anything makes Whitstable have its own views and thoughts is great for the environment to continue the reputation it has and to not let it become a rundown sea side resort
Yes	I believe a town council would be able to focus speeding on the areas residents feel have the greatest value (subject to the services in scope). Particularly as Whitstable is one of the few areas where this does not already exist.
Yes	I think it would give a more visible look at Whitstable as long as the representatives were local people. There are issues over things such as litter etc that could have a better local monitoring.
Yes	As a resident I would like to have a Town Council for Whitstable so that residents can have a proper input concerning community infrastructure, services, crime reduction and safety measures to a local elected council that is accountable to the community.
Yes	CCC feels remote from Whitstable and having a town council would enable us to exercise more influence and some control over issues and services in a limited remit that would enable the improvement of everyday life. There is scope for better engagement of the local community in shaping and supporting business, community and social activities. A town council could be particularly helpful in providing a focus on the many small businesses in Whitstable, which drive the local economy. The strong art, craft, music and cultural scene in Whitstable could also benefit from, for example, an impetus to seek external sources of funding and provide support in making bids to further develop activities and create new opportunities and events which is something other town councils have successfully done. The thriving tourism here has its downsides and this too might be better addressed by more local focus and control eg through small practical changes to the water and beach front that might not be conceived of at the higher tiers of local government. Overall, 'small is beautiful' might sum up both Whitstable and the need for a better local focus on developing our community.
Yes	Whitstable is a unique and thriving town and community, known all over the UK via the media, attracting visitors and keeping the town vibrant as well as the property market. With its quirky line of independent shopping, few chains, own Whitstable Choral Society and a working Harbour with its own needs, it is paramount that it has its own dedicated team and budget to maintain the town developing in its unique way and continue to thrive, together with its sister neighborhood Tankerton - with so much promise to make it a wonderfully attractive costal town by the sea (free is sewage!).
Yes	I want more say in how our taxes are used to support public amenities such as roads, pavements and tree planting that are in obvious neglect in comparison to Canterbury for example. Whitstable raises huge revenue for Canterbury Council and I don't see a fair proportion being reinvested in its services for residents in Whitstable who near the brunt of tourism, such as … increased car parking fees and lack of residents parking. Roads, alleyways and pavements are in such poor repair it's a public liability in some parts of town. May elderly people are afraid to walk the pavements as they once have done. My mother in Law died as a consequence of tripping over neglected surfaces in a local alleyway. I want a say in how the town is used as a cash cow for Canterbury City Council and I wants steps taken to protect our town from being overwhelmed by rather than in a heathy balance with tourism. I want to see more spending on social housing and a crack down on air b&b and holiday property investment.

Yes	Whitstable has a unique character and set of circumstances, as a seaside town that attracts high numbers of visitors. This can give challenges with additional litter, parking and so on, and I know there are concerns in regard to the increase in Airbnb prooerties. As a recent resident and incomer to the town, I think an additional layer in the form of a town council would be a positive benefit to the town
Yes	The town warrants a specific decision making body to keep the community thriving. I am concerned about keeping the high street thriving and also general issues related to sustainability and the environment
Yes	This is a unique community with unique needs. Only governance at grassroots level can only truly know, understand and make decisions regarding these needs.
Yes	Provide a focus for representing local issues and the areas identity.
Yes	I have also felt that we needed greater representation and involvement in governance on a local level. There used to be a local Whitstable council as I have taken funerals for people who served on it and I think repeating it would be a good idea. Chestfield council seems to be very busy and I am sure they have enhanced the community of Chestfield a great deal. Having local governance does make a big difference. There has been a lot of cynical coments written online but I do hope the community will get behind it.
Yes	It would improve local accountability and enable decisions to be made which better reflect the need of needs of whitstable
Yes	Whitstable has a population that is both diverse and opinionated, we want to have a say in governing our town! Many of us feel that Canterbury City Council has made many errors of judgement that have impacted Whitstable badly, plus we feel marginalised and placed in second, or maybe third place to the needs of Canterbury residents. Give us the right represent our residents needs and concerns. It's worked well for Faversham, now it's our turn.
Yes	Having local people decide on local events and issues is a very good idea. Who knows what an area wants or needs best, than local people.
Yes	Because l could get in touch with the council for anything that I was concerned about and I believe l would get l hope a response and if not l believe the local council would in their interest want to resolve the issue.
Yes	Local knowledge is essential to optimising local government. A Town Council will provide the coherent Whitstable voice on planning and other such issues which Canterbury needs to take into account in its decisions. Currently only the Whitstable Society does this, and a Council will provide a vpoice that cannot be ignored. A town council would also provide locally-informed leadership and well designed interventions in areas such as: events and visitor management (avoiding the debacles of past Oyster Festivals for instance); open space strategy, foreshore management and responsible SSSI interventions; public safety; traffic and parking management; playground redesign; youth activities; public transport issues; environmment management. Whistable has a vibrant and strong volunteer culture (from beach cleans to foodbank) which a responsible Town Council can promote and foster. A Town Council can also make applications to national charities and other public funds for Whitstable initiatives. There is currently no organisation or body that can do this for the town as a whole.
Yes	It would give us more control over local decisions and amenities. We, as residents, know what is needed and important to the community.
Yes	A specific focused council for Whitstable will allow resources to be targeted more effectively. Community development and services will be enhanced by a dedicated council. Members who sit on the council will have local understanding and expertise and should be in a position to put forward strategic plans for specifically improving Whitstable and the infrastructure that supports the community
Yes	Increase civic pride in Whitstable. Ability to better represent local issues. Ability to make external funding bids for capital improvements and local projects. Represent Whitstable's interests & champion local groups/businesses/social enterprises/individuals.
Yes	Hello, The town has grown and requires representation on a local level to handle issues. Regards, Daniel.
Yes	As a unique community with high numbers of visitors, Whitstable’s needs are different from some other parts of Kent and a more devolved & locally accountable decision making body can better address this
Yes	Local control of & knowledge of local problems. The ability to process & act on local complaints quickly. Promote & development better communication to lower crime & increase resident’s ability to feel safe . Keep our town greener and cleaner .
Yes	Whitstable is quite a special seaside town and community and needs a council that will be knowledgeable and sympathetic to local needs .
Yes	I think that Whitstable should have a town council in order to have a voice in very local issues and decisions. I do not feel the Canterbury Council is particularly concerned with local issues.
Yes	Because we used to and with an ever expanding town, should have proper representation. Canterbury City Council only wants to make money out of Whitstable tourism
Yes	Local community safety. Support local artists. We definitely need to look at environmental improvements the sea needs to be cleaned up.
Yes	Having attended a meeting to discuss this issue I was impressed with the reasoning as to exactly why it would be beneficial, and therefore give it my full support. Being able to acquire community assets and putting the interest of Whitstable as an individual area forward for the people of the town, by people who know immediate locality and problems and benefits thereof.
Yes	To represent the specific needs of the local community such as having influence on the harbour and its management, and the high street, beach, developments etc, informed by local knowledge.

Yes	It would allow Whitstable to have a greater say in how funding is spent locally.
Yes	I feel that Whitstable is overlooked by the city council. Whenever there are works being done in the town, Canterbury has to have better. The city council sees the town as a cash cow and puts up parking charges at will. They pander to certain businesses and allow so rather dodgy planning schemes. We as residents need a larger voice for our town, and a town council is one way this can happen
Yes	Simply to give local people much more ownership and responsibility for important decisions affecting our community. As a Whitstable resident of over 25 years I believe the town has suffered from decisions being taken by those who don't really connect with local people or fully align with what is really in the best interests of the town
Yes	Whitstable is a unique town, with needs and requirements not needed elsewhere. Especially Canterbury. There is a very loyal nucleus of permanent residents who care deeply about the town, and the problems, needs and improvements this town has, and will experience. To deal with these issues, there is a need for an opinion and ideas from people who are directly affected. Listening to their observations, and maybe benefit from their solutions is a far healthier route to take, than having those decisions dealt with 'off site', in Canterbury.
Yes	To provide a more town-oriented set of opinions and to further the ambitions of the community and business here. To manage amenities locally. To provide alternatives in relation to public transport. To better understand the local pressures in crime prevention. To promote local events. To better represent the needs of local people, companies and organisations where they interact outside the local community. To add to the ability of locals in the effort of fundraising and funding bids. To better manage matters such as tourist centred refuse collections. To promote ecological agendas.
Yes	Greater control for local residents
Yes	To distance ourselves from Canterbury who have sold their soul to the university.
Yes	I feel that Canterbury City Council doesn't always act or have the best interests of the town whereas a local Whitstable Town Council would.
Yes	We should be able to have a better say about what happens in our town.
Yes	As a Town Council the residents of Whitstable would have a stronger voice in the policies and decisions made by the City Council that would directly affect the town and its residents. The Town Council would be a statutory consultee. As Canterbury City Council is a CIL Charging authority the Town Council would also receive the Neighbourhood Portion of any CIL charge received by the City Council from development within Whitstable. The Town Council would then be able to spend this funding on local projects that would improve the area and benefit the local community. Residents of Whitstable have felt poorly served by the City Council over a number of years. The City Council has consistently used both Whitstable and Herne Bay as locations to allow large scale developments for housing to meet its housing needs requirements. Yet there does not appear to be any comparable improvements to service provision to support the growth in population that has occurred as a result and little in the way of development that would create jobs ensuring that such growth in housing is sustainable. This imbalanced approach to growth has seen house prices increase beyond the reach on many young people and low income families. Schools and health care facilities are over stretched despite having been expanded as demand has outstripped capacity. The lack of planning for a further Secondary School to serve the growing population of Whitstable and Herne Bay means that pupils have little choice than to travel outside the area for their continued education. The City Council cannot argue that there is neither the demand nor space for a new Secondary School when it seems it can easily allocate sites for new housing. The formation of a Town Council for Whitstable would enable the residents to have a voice on such matters and hold the City Council to account.
Yes	Being a seaside town, we think it is important to be in charge of our own affairs and what goes on in Whitstable. In particular, we can control things like street cleaning, parking and hopefully other important issues.
Yes	Apologies I ticked the incorrect box earlier this is a duplicate n.b. previous response meant to ticked box YES to have a town council. I feel Whitstable needs a voice in the form of a town council, as priority in decision making and expenditure for this area is often overridden in favour of Canterbury and consequently Whitstable town is often forgotten or placed down the pecking order. From personal experience the majority of Whitstable residents are passionate about their town and consequently need a voice to represent them and act upon along with residents of nearby areas and to have a real say on how money is spent and used for local people and local projects.
Yes	To protect and enhance the heritage and history of Whitstable, and to give residents an active voice as to how funds are utilised.
Yes	Because this town has been neglected by Canterbury City Council by being treated like a village i.e. Herne Bay has a Police Station (as does Faversham albeit small). We have no police nor a town hall but are a similar size to Herne Bay. CCC should fund our Town council as compensation and not ask us to pay more!
Yes	the town council will will qualify for access to extra grants, etc. It should also create more interest by residents in local activities etc.
Yes	Whitstable is the jewel of the Kent coast, or should I say the pearl. It needs careful curating to stop it from becoming an identikit, bland and generic town. It thrives on its diversity of shops, arts, interests and hospitality, and all of which brings in tourists and those who want a better life. I am a 'DFL' of just under three years. Whitstable is a wonderful place to live, with such a great community spirit. However, with a town council, it could be even better, with the possibility of further transport links for those of limited mobility, would have a say on unscrupulous planners and be able to apply for specific funding for town centric initiatives. For the popularity of town councils in neighbouring towns, it seems crazy we don't have one ourselves.
Yes	As local government is more effective than central government

	It is essential that Whitstable has more clout when it comes to Council Decision making. Residents should be able to contact the equivalent of a Parish Office manned by a Clerk and Secretary whenever they have issues of concern e.g planning applications, litter, graffiti, dog mess, antisocial behaviouretc. Although their powers and remit would be limited nevertheless they would be able to represent the voice of the people of the town. I have recently attended some Planning/ review meetings at the Guildhall and have been appalled by the lack of knowledge, interest and concern shown by the councillors who do make decisions which have implications for our lives in Whitstable. Our ward councillors do a valiant job but frankly are outnumbered by the rest of the councillors. I am not sure that some of these decision makers have ever even visited Whitstable!! A Town council rep would be able to present a united front- hopefully free from party politics, which at local level is largely irrelevant. Residents would have one point of call and not have to negotiate the tangled web of bureacracy in order to move things on in a timely manner. I recognise that there will be arguments against but frankly almost anything is worth a try and must be better than our present
Yes	arrangements
Yes	Whitstable needs town council so it can have say in operation of local matters
Yes	For such a small cost, much can be done to improve life for Whitstable's residents. A more focussed and Whitstable centered group may bring extra funds to improve the town...
Yes	I believe there are a lot of active and interested people in Whitstable whose voluntary work could be harnessed and co-ordinated more effectively through such a new structure. I believe Whitstable deserves its own council to give it more status in dealings with other local authorities and national government.
Yes	I think we should have some sort of say in the way our town is run. It seems to me that it is always Canterbury first Herne Bay second and whitstable last Canterbury is just a city for students very lucrative I am sure and Herne Bay was built as a 'seaside town' just concrete we have many many visitors loads more than Herne Bay surely we are 'quaint' It isn't fair. No one bothers with us except for parking tickets and they get plenty of those so we're useful for something if only filling Canterburys coffers.
Yes	Whitstable is a special place and local governance will maintain that character
Yes	I believe that Whitstable should have it's own town council because generally they are more responsive than higher tier authorities to community needs and interests, and to the diversity of interests and needs within a community. A town council is a vehicle for the representation of local interests to external bodies. As Whitstable becomes more popular year by year in relation to tourism, having a town council will provide the infrastructure and services that local people need as well as tourists visiting the town, whilst also ensuring that community resources are managed responsibly.
Yes	To have a voice in the planning of our town To support the promotion of local services for local people To access funding that currently they cannot
Yes	This collection of wards should be recognised officially as a ‘town’. Until that is realised the area will remain an afterthought of Canterbury officials - ‘The Canterbury coast’- ‘A dormitory town for Canterbury etc. - or just not in mind at all. Historically, changes to road networks via access - especially Warwick Rd, (to stop the non- existent problem of ‘Rat running’) and the issue of residents parking have taken place without reference to those who live or work in the town; until we react with anger. Right now CCC have omitted to include those with resident parking permits in a consultation about these permits and again this has had to be pointed out to the Canterbury centric officials; I think that less likely to occur if Whitstable had ‘home rule’.
Yes	I think there will be more chances for community projects and funding and also the town will have more of a say to get things done around the town
Yes	To get funding and for the community
Yes	It would be so beneficial to enable the community to access funding and assistance to unlock the further potential the town has to offer for residents and visitors. It would mean less competition in accessing funding which at present is shared with Canterbury and Herne Bay. People in Whitstable deserve to have more of a say regarding Civic and public amenity issues, which will in turn promote pride within the community.
Yes	Local residents should have more say about Whitstable. At the moment the town is used as a cash cow by Canterbury City Council who do not have the residents concerns at heart. Unwanted and un-needed planning goes through without robust consultation and the views of residents are dismissed. Developed is allowed with no regard whatsoever to safety, the environment and infrastructure. Local traffic management is appalling and the harbour needs development. A town council would open up opportunities for funding streams that, at present, go purely to Canterbury. Local residents should have the opportunity to have their say on local matters, to be involved in local democracy and have pride in their town.
Yes	Local matters in local hands
Yes	The benefits of having a Town council seem to easily outweigh any negatives or cost as a resident. I think this could be particularly important in obtaining additional funds for projects relating to local infrastructure which will even more important as the town grows and new housing is established.
Yes	Promoting services for local people. Civiv pride.
Yes	It appears that whitstable is always overlooked in favour of other towns, Herne bay, Canterbury etc. it would be good to have a local voice that residents can speak to and believe that they are listened to.there are many decisions that are taken by the city council which affect whitstable but we seem to be overlooked as residents.
Yes	Having lived in this beautiful town for over 50 years it seems always to have been that we residents have no voice. By having our own town council it would go a long way to changing this. We are in a unique town but ruled by Canterbury councillors who don’t take our views into account.

Yes	Gives us more say over how resources are used to benefit our immediate community. More say over local planning issues as CCC will need to consult us. More opportunities to enhance civic pride, which in turn benefits both residents and visitors. Gives us a collective voice to lobby on matters beyond our direct control.
Yes	Have more of a say in Whitstable issues and can also flag up local problems.
Yes	Important for the town to be able to raise revenue and qualify for grants which can help improve the lives of residents. Canterbury seems to get the lion.s share of funding so if we had a town council it could truly reflect the needs of the people who actually live here.
Yes	Whitstable is large enough to warrant a town council. Neighbouring towns in the area have seen recent uplifts and improvements that Whitstable should also consider but in the last 10 years it feels as if the town has rested on its laurels. A town council should be instigated to reinvigorate the area.
Yes	Só residents are empowered to speak and vote for things that matter to them That they empowered to champion the towns own choices for improvement development and support required local charities.
Yes	To have a say on infrasyructure needs and to try and mitigate the damage caused by excessive housing develipments
Yes	Different needs to Canterbury. Specific tourism issues that would be better handled by a town council that had greater oversight and understanding of both the opportunities and the challenges that arise from coastal tourism. Would also give access to funds only an available to parish and town councils. Could operate as a valuable hub in bringing local groups together to access and bid for funding. Would also be consulted on planning matters and have a say in proposed developments which we currently do not have. An effective council could improve infrastructure (working with Kent CC) and add to the work of CCC councillors, working together to improve the town for local people. Local people love our town but often feel our voice (and needs) are not prioritised by CCC. A town council will make sure our voices are heard. And count.
Yes	To enable some input into the issues in the area. Although the scope of influence is currently very limited, over time more areas of concern could be added to the new town councils remit.
Yes	Those who are living in town have a much greater understanding of its needs, the problems that occur with it being a popular coastal town and what is required to benefit the area. The town needs its own voice.
Yes	The needs of small towns and communities are best served by a locally elected council whose sole purpose is to serve that community. It will encourage much greater participation of people living in those areas, it will promote innovative solutions to local problems and opportunities, it brings decision making closer to the people. It’s an exciting opportunity for everyone to get involved. Please agree to it.
Yes	I feel Whitstable would be better served with it’s own town council problems would be dealt with quicker.
Yes	We are one of the only towns in Kent not to have one and we need a local council that can be more responsive than higher tier authorities to community needs and interests, and to the diversity of interests and needs within our community. a vehicle for the representation of local interests to external bodies.
Yes	Local decisions made by local people who have a vested interest in the exact area
Yes	Because Whitstable's concerns are not adequately addressed by the current set up. For instance, the proposed increases to car parking charges in Whitstable will help to fund Canterbury's Park and Ride service and to refurbish Canterbury's car parks.
Yes	because maybe we can have a say in how many houses are being built in the town and possible put a cap on the number of AirBNB or put up their rates. On a flippant side maybe more money to spend on the town that has probably more visitors that most in Canterbury City Council area
Yes	A better local council with the interests of local people at its heart.
Yes	A Whitstable Town Council would enable people of Whitstable to feed their local needs and preferences back up the council structure. It would also provide an extra source of fund raising for local projects.
Yes	Ability to strengthen local community groups and support community engagement.
Yes	As city council decisions are so frequently made with a high preference for Canterbury over Whitstable - whitstable needs its own representation of and by the town by the people who know it.
Yes	Because CCC look in Whitstable as a cash cow, only good for drawing in tourists & second home owners. A Town Council will put the needs & wants of the people living & working in Whitstable first. A TC will importantly be able to access funds which are not available to CCC from Charities, Lotteries Local Businesses etc. Will be a voice for Whitstable if city councils are abolished. A %C will be made of of people who actually live & care about Whitstable and are not accounyg to any othe governing body.
Yes	Because someone living in Whitstable should have a say regarding decisions that affect us
Yes	Each town inherently have their own needs, challenges and opportunities. Having a local response to each specific area makes sense. Forming a council that understands and is of the specific area seems to be good idea.
Yes	Factors that make Whitstable needs / priorities / issues distinct from Canterbury.
Yes	For all of the reasons as given in the Canterbury City Council Consultation Pamphlet and the Voice for Whitstable campaign flyer. Many people feel the town was better represented during the days of the Old Whitstable Urban district council and miss its passing. Providing a new town council was effectively run and didn't become just another layer of bureaucracy, this should definitely be to the towns advantage.
Yes	For too long Whitstable has been considered a second rate citizen by CCC, getting the scraps from Canterbury’s plate. A local town council will put Whitstable first with voluntary staff working to make Whitstable a better place.

Yes	I believe that local concerns are best understood by a council made up of people who live and work in Whitstable. Also that any revenue collected in Whitstable is awarded to Whitstable should be spent on projects only for the benefit of towns people.
Yes	I feel that important decisions regarding the future of Whitstable should be made by Whitstable people.
Yes	I fully support there being a CT5 town council (with or without the parished part of Chestfield). A town council would give us access to more sources of finance. It could provide a catalyst and support for voluntary organisations and individuals to contribute to the local area. Overall, it would provide a focus for locals concerned about the area and help to improve the town for the benefit of residents. CT5/Whitstable is geographically and culturally distinct from the other towns in the CCC area. CT5 residents very much identify with Whitstable and see Herne Bay and Canterbury as different. This is not surprising in relation to Canterbury, which differs substantially in terms of demography and economy (Canterbury having major education and public sector employment, a large student population, a far smaller older population and so on). The three towns each have their own town centre, which forms the focus for residents. There is a long-standing feeling that Canterbury City dominates the focus of local government action and that Whitstable is overlooked – and when it is not overlooked, Whitstable residents' needs are not taken sufficiently into account. Whether or not this is correct, it is a common perception. A CT5 Town Council would act solely in the interests of the town. It would provide a much-needed voice to represent the town's interests to CCC, KCC and elsewhere. I see it as essential that the town council covers the CT5 area (with or without the parished part of Chestfield). The area consists of its town centre and hinterland: separating these into individual parished areas makes no economic sense, nor cultural sense as people identify with Whitstable as a whole. I recognise that there would be an additional precept, but see this and providing additional necessary funds for public expenditure in the town. I cannot see why we should not have the same rights of representation as the parished parts of Canterbury and much of the rest of Kent (and England)
Yes	i miss events like the regatta and different events on the slopes such as the oyster festival. i miss the old oyster festival
Yes	I would like Whitstable to have its own voice and more influence than it currently has. Whitstable has its own unique character and needs which are different to the other parts of Canterbury.
Yes	It would give a voice to Whitstable to tackle problems that are important to Whitstable. Local knowledge would beneficial. Able to apply for grants for Whitstable that may not be available from Canterbury CC
Yes	It would make Whitstable more independent of Canterbury, free to make our own local decisions to benefit the town. It could then receive local funds from local developments. Planning could be monitored for the benefit of Whitstable residents. Local groups could bid for funding. CCC would be legally obliged to consult Whitstable on planning matters.
Yes	It's a bit silly to need a reason but maybe not being governed by a council that has to deal with a city full of students and doesn't know the intricacies of what happens here in town. Plus, you know...corruption and such. We need to take this for ourselves
Yes	Local community is best placed to make decisions that affect local people. The added capacity to apply for additional funds will be helpful.
Yes	Promote cultural events, represent local issues and encourage residents and local businesses in Whitstable's interests.
Yes	The issues facing Whitstable are different to those facing Canterbury.
Yes	The people of Whitstable need a voice. We are not just 'Canterbury's beach'. We are a town that needs direct representation. There are issues concerning the town which Canterbury is not wholly aware of.
Yes	The town has unique challenges - flood risks, anti-social summer drinkers and tourism related litter, a need for green spaces that survive salt laden winds - that could be better contained locally. Our older residents would be best served locally as they face barriers to physically or virtuallyaccessing CCC with any issues.
Yes	The town needs a group focused on Whistable needs only.
Yes	To access government funding and grants to support developments in whitstable. To encourage civic pride and make improvements into the town for this who live, work and visit. Support the development of facilities. Support local planning including improvements to walking and cycling routes. To have a council representing the issues people living here value and care about. To have a local 'voice' and an opportunity to iced back on planning issues affecting whitstable.
Yes	To be there for residents. Be aware of our needs and represent Whitstable's concerns in Canterbury. We are only town without one in Kent and have growing population of varied demographic. Old, young, working, retired as well as the unemployed.
Yes	To give the local people of Whitstable a better voice in maters concerning them
Yes	To improve independent decision making in Whitstable
Yes	To meet the particular needs of Whitstable residents.
Yes	To provide a focus on Whitstable.
Yes	To represent the will of the local population.
Yes	Whitstable has a thriving community. The town has an eclectic mix of small owner businesses which offer an interesting and diverse range of produce, services and hospitality to both locals and visitors. Whitstable is overlooked and under rated by CCC who do not acknowledge the charm and character of our town. CCC has made decisions detrimental to the community and local businesses also effecting visitors to the town. A Parish Council will benefit Whitstable by focussing and prioritising the needs of the community and the town. As Whitstable is a seaside town, the problems and issues are not comparable to Canterbury city centre and can only be understood by the local community. Whitstable's popularity and economy can only be sustained by an independent Parish Council concentrating on our town

Yes	Whitstable has suffered from underfunding by CCC over many years and we should have a say on how our money is spent on improving Whitstable.
Yes	Whitstable is a coastal town and has very different needs from Canterbury. Our town is really struggling - we regularly see local businesses closing down and our infrastructure is poor. We need better public transport and community resources. I believe we need to be able to manage some of our own resources and know we could apply for funding from various bodies e.g. Central Government, planning levies etc. I believe we are suffering as a town by being tacked on as some kind of afterthought to Canterbury and its needs. We would have a stronger sense of community if we had a Town Council that could address the specific needs of this seaside holiday destination town, including the problem of poverty juxtaposed with expensive second homes/Air BnB's. Traffic, antisocial behaviour and litter are getting much worse. We need help which we are not going to get from Central Government or from Canterbury. A Town Council would help us tackle issues ourselves - the people who live here who know what the town needs - we could address all these issues constructively and restore a sense of civic pride.
Yes	Whitstable is very distinct from the rest of the Canterbury District and a town council will hopefully work to nurture and further improve the town. I also hope the town council would be able to control some of the indiscriminate house building plans including the loss of Brooklands farm which is an area of outstanding natural beauty for the town and also making sure that planned developments such as the school in Church Street cannot happen with the loss of widely used green space in the town
Yes	Whitstable needs a local voice for local people. Far too often in the past Whitstables needs have been overlooked in favour of schemes in other areas under CCC control. Improved access to funding will better allow the needs and wishes of Whitstable residents to be met Major housing development has been promoted. in Whitstable damaging the character of the tow,n overloading roads and other facilities especially healthcare and education. Local control of planning would ensure that residents needs and wishes receive priority.
Yes	Yes but not this sham though. We would like a proper independent town council separate from Canterbury city council
Yes	A Town Council would benefit residents by providing a specific forum for planning consultation, attract funds to help boost finances for local initiatives and facilities, develop further the positive impact of community involvement and promote Whitstable as a thriving town.
Yes	A Whitstable Town Council will give a more effective voice for Whitstable residents to express their feelings and priorities. A Town Council would ensure a more equitable distribution of CCC funds.
Yes	As a trader in Whitstable , it would be helpful with planning our shop openings when road works are taking place and if any planning applications have been presented . Currently as traders we have no warning about road works , closures or applications for planning ?
Yes	Because Whitstable deserves its own voice and funding for local issues We have missed out on opportunities because we come under the Canterbury umbrella
Yes	I believe a town council will improve local governance and provide a vehicle for improvements locally. While the funding will pay for staffing it will also enable the locality to apply for funding for particular priorities long the line seen in Faversham.
Yes	I believe that Whitstable as a thriving seaside town has its own unique wants and needs that aren't always considered by Canterbury City Council. It can easily be overlooked due to the demands of Canterbury itself and the residents often feel that we come a poor second. This includes planning, law enforcement, waste and recycling, road and pavement condition and route management. For a town that generates such a high level of income and wealth I believe that the residents of Whitstable need to have a say in how that money is spent and to be able to help focus that revenue into areas that will help to develop and improve the environment for those residents.
Yes	I don’t think Canterbury City Council is providing an adequate service to the town of Whitstable. I think the town should have a say in how and where the spending is allocated
Yes	I have never lived anywhere where the people of the town understood and cared so deeply for their habitat. Residents of Whitstable are specialists of Whitstable. It is an utterly unique place that can only be nurtured by making the right decisions for the benefit of the People, Businesses and Environment that make up Whitstable and those decisions therefore need expert input. I grew up and went to school in Canterbury - it is an entirely different playing field and requires different skill sets to govern it to those required to govern Whitstable. I have lived abroad and in London. Never, have I felt the case for local governance so required or appropriate.
Yes	I think a town council will identify and respond to local issues and might enhance the sense of community. I am aware there are a lot of issues that residents feel are not getting the attention they deserve from Canterbury council
Yes	I think Whitstable would benefit a great deal by having a town council. Canterbury City Council has a very wide area to cover. A Whitstable Town Council would have the direct views and opinions of local people especially in the promotion and support of local cultural events and the support of our high street with its small independent shops. Only a local town council can support the views of local people.
Yes	I would like Whitstable to be independent, such as granting planning applications for new developments
Yes	Independent funding and local planning decisions made on a local level,
Yes	Issues concerning local matters will, I hope, have a louder voice. Also ,if I read correctly gives us the opportunity to take what’s on offer.
Yes	It is important for Whitstable to deceide on local issues, not to have everything determined by Canterbury City Council.

Yes	It provides the opportunity of local people taking local matters into their own hands if they so wish. It also seems strange that Whitstable town is the only area where that is not the case, with surrounding villages all having their Parish Council.
Yes	Local autonomy, and decision making
Yes	Much smaller areas have more localised and specific representation in the form of town or parish councils and Whitstable has a range of features, issues and , hence, needs that would be better addressed by a smaller governance body. I understand that the areas that would fall under the remit of a town council are fairly limited, in comparison to the city council's scope, but a town council would still make a positive difference to Whitstable.
Yes	Potentially, it 'could' be more responsive to local grass-roots needs and wishes.
Yes	Since moving to Whitstable more than a decade ago, I have felt that Whitstable issues are being badly addressed by the Canterbury Council. We need a more local representation which is more thoughtfully integrated into Whitstable life.
Yes	So we would have more opportunities to have the council money allocated to Whitstable and improvements rather than the majority being spent in Canterbury and Herne Bay
Yes	The needs of Whitstable are not fully met by Canterbury City Council because Whitstable is is a community with very different priorities to the broader area covered by the city council
Yes	To better represent the views and needs of Whitstable residents and to promote local services for local people.
Yes	To go back to what it was Whitstable making its own decisions not relying on Canterbury to make it for them
Yes	To make sure planning works with local needs and additional funds cam be secured for local projects.
Yes	To take on and co ordinate practical issues closer to home in Whitstable. An arena where groups and new groups can get support and advice re funding and how to apply for this. Smaller initiatives can benefit local people much more easily when co ordination is geographically closer. Local people may have more incentive to get involved in specific projects. Some good examples of the positive benefits of Town Councils in Faversham and other coastal areas near Whitstable.
Yes	Whitstable has unique characteristics and therefore unique needs, different to Canterbury. Canterbury has consistently overlooked or misunderstood Whitstable in decidion making. Also,I remember Canterbury referring to Whitstable as "The Canterbury Coast", highlighting the attitude of the current Council to the very existence of Whitstable as a separate entity. When resources ard limited it is even more important to use them wisely and the current situation proves this has not been done.
Yes	Whitstable is faced with a number of issues which are both negative and positive to the town depending on your point of view. A local representation of views at a local level would, I believe be good.
Yes	Whitstable needs to be able to make its own decisions to accelerate positive outcomes - in my community’s experience, going ‘back and forth’ with Canterbury City Council’s planning department regarding a dispute with a local building firm was extremely frustrating - we faced a myriad of hurdles: countless different points of contact, lengthy response timeframes and conflicting information. We are now, thankfully, close to dispute resolution; however, much time, energy and sanity could have been preserved if we had had local town councillors available to advise, assist and support us ‘on the ground’ from the beginning. PLEASE consider this consultation seriously and allow Whitstable its rightful position in being an autonomously governed town, so that it can develop, thrive and flourish independently and successfully, as it truly deserves.
Yes	Whitstable should have some autonomy and be the conduit for responding to issues that are unique to this town (ie sea pollution and flooding).

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published
Yes	The needs of Whitstable and Tankerton are very different from other parts of Canterbury and surrounding areas, so it should be the local people who make decisions based on what we feel is in our best interests.
Yes	The needs of Whitstable are best understood by those who live or work in the town.
Yes	It needs better local decision making
Yes	Whitstable has a distinct and different identity from Canterbury, with specific local issues; sewage, beach front development etc. Having a town council would better represent the weight of local opinion.
Yes	More control of the outrageous amount of air BnB properties and second homes . No extra should be paid by residents for a town council
Yes	I believe we would be better represented by a town council should any future merger of councils in Kent or creation of a larger unitary authority take place in the future. Therefore I wouldI support the creation of a town council now.
Yes	So we can be represented when KCC is allocating funds for projects
Yes	1 Local autonomy. Whitstable and Canterbury are very different communities with different agendas. 2 Equity with other parts of CCC ie Herne Bay.
Yes	we have particular needs and requirements, different from Canterbury and the rest of the area, and these should be considered locally
Yes	We have a strong identity in Whitstable. Visitors power much of the economy but this has to be balanced with needs of residents. We need the community to move forward with optimism. Representation can help with this.
Yes	Expressions of despair/lack of civic pride such as huge volume of litter needs to be addressed.
Yes	It has never been treated fairly or equitably compared to Canterbury and it is an equitable partner.
Yes	I would like a local voice to represent the town.
Yes	Because we need local representation. CCC focuses on Canterbury and give little help to Whitstable
Yes	A local council for local people to champion whitstable in thec right way To make better decisions for whitstable by people of whitstable
Yes	It will help Whitstable be in control of what is most important to the town.
Yes	We need to be in control.Sick and tired of Canterbury City Council.The worst Council I have come across.Be it bins parking or the environment. People's voices needed to be heard at a more local level.Not very impressed with Canterbury Councils performance. Bin strikes ,car parking charges. Long rock site of special scientific interest,the lack of interest shown by the County Council in letting Southern Water dump raw sewage straight into the sea is deplorable and they should be ashamed of themselves,but they are not.
Yes	Whitstable is unique. It is facing particular issues with water quality and reputation damage from southern water. We need our own representation and agency to manage our future
Yes	From the i formation I have been given I believe this could only be an added advantage to Whitstable residents
Yes	We need to say and control over what happens in our town and surrounding area.
Yes	It will help promote a sense of community and address specific Whitstable needs and ambitions. It should help promote cultural and artistic events.
Yes	Provided town councillors are elected, are local residents and want the best for the town i think this would be a good idea.
Yes	More input from local residents and businesses on housing development (including increased flood risk and pressure on schools and health care), traffic schemes and parking.
Yes	A more concentrated approach with councillors closer to Whitstable and it's needs would be welcome.
Yes	I believe a town council would enable whitstable to focus on the unique needs a coastal town presents and enable the community's voice to be heard clearly.
Yes	Gives the community more say
Yes	Better control by local residents rather than bureaucrats in City Council
Yes	Whitstable is a unique area and a Town Council would ensure that services meet the needs of local residents.
Yes	More local representation recognising specific needs of residents.
Yes	our town has changed considerably over the last few decades some for the good and some for the not so good e.g high rents and house prices in the town local familes have no chance of living in their home town A town council could be representative of those who live in our town come to work in our town and new residents who come because they love what they see so hopefully a town council can preserve what we have
Yes	Whitstable needs its own town council as it is a a seaside community that is different in many ways to that of Canterbury. The town needs to make its own decisions about its future as its residents know best what is best for Whitstable.
Yes	To ensure Whitstable is appropriately represented by Whitstable people, and they can be held to account by the people of Whitstable.
Yes	To have more localised input and support.
Yes	Whitstable has it's own unique community and this should be reflected locally not by a monolithic area council such as Canterbury.
Yes	To hopefully promote better facilities and community projects to support the local community.

Yes	The town isn't properly represented or looked after by Canterbury council. With the rise in population we need our own council so maybe we can actually get some police in the town.
Yes	Because CCC cares more about Canterbury, whereas, a Whitstable council would care more about Whitstable. It did this perfectly well in the past when it was based at Whitstable castle.
Yes	To support the council and reflect the community. There are a lot of things going on in Whitstable that don't feel like they are representing the wider community. An elected group who could engage with the local authorities and help focus on local issues could only be an improvement
Yes	Whitstable should be able to make its own descions, not have the views of CCC thrust upon us. A town council will be able to join up all parts of the society, raise funds for local projects and people. Provide all the amenities we had that CCC has removed. Be in the town, so we don't have go into Canterbury. We would have local people looking after local people, who would know what the town needs. Local organisation would have some where to go for support. Better promote the town.
Yes	I often feel that Whitstable is taken for granted as a key tourist destination in Kent and some decisions that are made are not in its best interests. Traffic and car parking spring to mind.
Yes	Whitstable has a sizeable population and I believe would welcome as much delegated powers as possible.
Yes	Having come from a town which had a town council I believe that they do good for the environment, people and community.
Yes	Local representatives for local people
Yes	I'd like to see more local representation.
Yes	I think it would be good for the area as we need local people on the council making decisions for residents and not someone in Canterbury council. It would give residents more say in public spending and changes.
Yes	I believe it would give residents a stronger voice when determining matters that impact the local community whether that be services or festivals. I also believe it would be beneficial to have strong local representation in the context of planning decisions which affect us.
Yes	Beacause its important that residents in Whitstable has influence in the decision-making in their local area.
Yes	To better represent the interests of Whitstable, I believe Whitstable often comes a poor third after Canterbury and Herne Bay in the decisions taken by the city council. Hopefully it will improve street cleaning and litter collection, better crime reduction and maintenance of public facilities.
Yes	It's important that people who live in Whitstable can be involved in decisions that affect the town.
Yes	It should help improve local services in particular festivals and tourist attractions which would support the growth of local businesses, jobs and the economy. It would represent residents priorities and give us more of a voice.
Yes	I believe that a town council would be of benefit to Whitstable so there would better direction of services and community facilities tailored to those who live within the town and surrounding area. I think local businesses would benefit from a town council and residents would also feel that their voice and concerns in regards to facilities would be greatly improved by a localised approach.
Yes	I think it makes sense for every town to have a council - so for Whitstable, as one with over 30,000 people, and who knows how many visitors a year, it seems a no brainer! I think it would be a real help with having somewhere to go about local issues, particularly currently the water situation and the slow trickle into the town of higher shop rents and therefore chain shops on our high street, as well as a more local place for people in need to go to about things like benefits and safety.
Yes	Population is growing, a very popular holiday/visited town, therefore there is a need for better representation for the area's requirements to grow in the right way.
Yes	We do not seem to be connected to Canterbury City Council at all. They are using Whitstable as a money maker by putting the price of car parking. We were always the poor relation and I haveived in Whitstable a long time.
Yes	Whitstable is constantly overlooked by Canterbury council, this may address that issue
Yes	would be better for Whitstable residents to submit their ideas without feeling like they are only submitting them for Canterbury.
Yes	To promote the unique potential of the town. To lobby effectively for new investment. To provide a focus on local issues. Potential for less political grandstanding. To ensure the town as a greater say in local decision making. However as a caveat it is critical the town council does not become a vehicle for nimbyism.
Yes	Whitstable has specific needs, concerns and issues that can only be addressed by a council at the town level.
Yes	I do not believe that we have sufficient representation or understanding of our local needs by Canterbury City Council. We need local leaders and community involvement to develop a coherent development plan to improve Whitstable for its residents and manage visitors.

Yes	Whitstable has its individual identity as a town. Currently it does not live up to what is expected with the Whitstable residents and the town itself. It needs careful attention in a different alternative manner to cater what the town true identity. Till this day Whitstable have not explore its potential for what it is, it is ashame that the infrastructure does not meet the town requirements. As a resident, there are things should have grown but directed to things that it does not serve the town justice, as short sighted vision. Canterbury city council do not have a clue they have put things in place where they can make money, not the best intention, put hideous ideas like the South Quay and change the harbour into what used to be good to something which is meaningless, design and layout has killed the vibe of what it was once upon a time been. The decision made was not the best interest for residence, shop keepers and the town itself. So we should have a Whitstable councillor.
Yes	Whitstable is a unique place that needs it's own council to ensure the challenges we face as a community are met with the best results for everyone
Yes	Canterbury too large to deal with all the issues. Our own council would be more knowledgable and aware of the problems that arise in the area. Residents who have lived here will have grown to know in more detail the issues that are of concern. The fact that there is a core of people willing to initiate this proposal is an indication of how they could make a difference in improving Whitstable, Swalecliffe and Seasalter.
Yes	Local control, promote more cultural activity and support residents on local issues
Yes	Localised knowledge and data for local decision making. I would be happy to be considered for involvement.
Yes	Whitstable has particular problems which aren’t always recognised by KCC or CC.
Yes	Greater local decision-making.
Yes	To help improve Whitstable & Tankerton facilities, policing, refuse collection, bus timetables, bus shelters with digital displays, Cleaner sea,. Improve the harbour surrounding area & buildings. Planting of more trees, improving park & green areas, Tankerton slopes etc.
Yes	Decisions made by local people on issues that affect them directly makes sense. The downside is that very often these councils get bogged down by pettiness and in-fighting. Whitstable used to have a town council. We need to know the reason for disbanding it.
Yes	I think it would be better for Whitstable to be treated as separate from Canterbury city council as local councillors will have more understanding of local issues, I was previously a resident of another area where we had a town council & found they worked as an advantage to the town
Yes	I do not approve of decisions made by Canterbury City Council in regard to the Whitstable area.
Yes	I think the specific needs of Whitstable are sometimes overlooked as part of the larger council area. It would be good to have a local council where the needs of local residents can be aired and taken forward to Canterbury council in a coordinated way.
Yes	More automomy
Yes	Mote accointability. Resources geared at local need.
Yes	To take decisions faster and more effectively on issues that benefit the town and its residents
Yes	Decisions can be made that affect every day life by the people that live there. Concentrating on placing funding in the right places to positively impact residents and not just consider tourism.
Yes	I don't believe that Whitstable is well represented by Canterbury City Council and do not seem to have any idea of what is needed in Whitstable. All that Canterbury to be interested in is the status of having a lot of foriegn visitors and the university students, also holding the local motorist to ransom by having to pay excess parking fees, by management of a third party, paying £3-50p for a quick five minute trip to the bank is extortion. Whitstable on the other hand , is proud of the fact that it can do without the Canterbury City status and has many clubs and institutions that do not appear to have any assistance from the Canterbury, I also believe that although Chestfield has it's own parish council, should not be excluded from the proposed Whitstable catchment area. Kind Regards
Yes	I believe that a local town council will be the voice of the local community representing what is important to our area.
Yes	I think that Whitstable needs an independent and democratically elected body to represent its separate and distinct identity within the Canterbury district. I have experience of parish councils for very small areas, where the cost of elections and lack of community engagement result in self-selecting groups of unelected individuals (often, including district councillors) spending all the income they can raise on their own administrative arrangements. I am cautious about the proposal for Whitstable because I would oppose anything that reproduced that model. However, I am prepared to assume that Whitstable is a large enough area with a sufficiently large and politically diverse population to make it possible for a town council to raise enough money, and to do enough with it, to produce genuine public engagement and contested elections. I believe the success of any such proposal is highly dependent on a willingness by the district council to exercise such powers of devolution and delegation to the town council as it has in a generous manner, and with fair arrangements around the funding of any devolved or transferred functions.
Yes	I’m in favour of decisions such as planning being taken with a clear obligation to consult locally which is missing at present.
Yes	Support community schemes including traditional festivals Ensure museum Castle and other local charitable trusts and societies are fairly funded and given adequate leases to attract grants etc Maintain open spaces and ensure they are kept for sport and recreation and not sold for development

Yes	A local council should be able to provide support for the museum, green spaces,litter collection also monitoring the beaches and promenade.It should also be able to ensure that the roads are maintained and speed limits installed in the appropriate areas.
Yes	More devolved government, even at a local level, brings more people into direct involvement in local decisions.
Yes	Parking on Marine Parade is terrible now. The car park is empty around the corner. I would like it raised and dealt with locally.
Yes	So that local issues can be addressed promptly and residents have an input into likely decisions.
Yes	A greater degree of democratic representation on local issues.
Yes	It would be good to have a specific voice for whitstable that can bring up issues like the lack of policing and bins on the beaches with the main county council. We live in an area that is popular with tourists. If it's not deemed to be safe and clean they will stop coming and the towns economy will suffer as a result of that. More needs to be done in both these areas and the town council should be used to champion these matters with the main council that more often than not pay no attention outside of the larger city area.
Yes	An area the size of Whitstable has it's own identity and civic needs and these are best represented by its own elected councillors. A sense of community is fostered by engagement of local residents so the more means there are to do so the better.
Yes	An area the size of Whitstable has it's own identity and civic needs and these are best represented by its own elected councillors. A sense of community is fostered by engagement of local residents so the more means there are to do so the better.
Yes	A town council could focus on local issues relevant to Whitstable. A town council could more easily engage with Whitstable residents and work together to address issues that concern residents.
Yes	I feel that the character of Whitstable is so different from that of Canterbury, it has very different and specific needs that are not wholly understood and therefore are not prioritised for funding. Having independence to make our own decisions about spending and events could really improve and enliven the town. Having more power to lobby on certain planning applications would also be advantageous.
Yes	To have more control in our area by councillors who live and know the area. Whitstable is ignored by Canterbury council.
Yes	Whitstable has an active community, and should have its own governance, so that it can represent the priorities of residents.
Yes	we need a stronger local voice for environmental issues, planning, active travel, community services and support for local people in need. Kent County Council does not represent Whitstable well in any of these matters. We need a strong local council to offer networking and support for the many positive local voluntary group and initiatives
Yes	a local council, with local representatives and with the interests of the local people.
Yes	It's important that the local community has a voice about issues that affect us including littering, policing, open spaces, etc.
Yes	We should have a council representative of the local area so that the best interests of the area are served
Yes	I think Whitstable issues should be decided upon by Whitstable folk.
Yes	Decisions need to be made by people who live and work in the town. However, I worry that the extra cost will be an issue for those who are already struggling.
Yes	Local issues are best solved by locally based decisions. Whitstable has an identity distinct from the city of Canterbury. A town council would provide very localised representation which could focus better outcomes for the town. A town council could also better inform the decisions of City and County councils.
Yes	To enable the decisions taken for the Whitstable area to be aired,debated and enacted by the people living in the area
Yes	To help promote the town and local events. Moniter and comment on planning applications that effect the town's identity. Support local businesses and residents.
Yes	I think it would encourage greater participation in democracy and local politics. The town is full of learned and dedicated people who if empowered could benefit the community greatly.
Yes	Whitstable is a distinct area within the overall Canterbury district and there are matters in which a more local consultation would be appropriate.
Yes	A town council for Whitstable would be accountable to local residents. An authority we could appeal to and put pressure on to deal with specific local issues. East Kent is Canterbury centric even the Whitstable Gazette is dominated by Canterbury news and issues. As an ever growing town the problems we confront increase year on year. Not that we agree with the 'ever growing' nature of our existence. That is part of the current problem. Too many people and too few amenities. Infrastructure breakdown and lack of services across the age range. The continued building and development is not enhancing the town to say the least. Localism was for a short time the watch word, but that soon disappeared. We need more input from the town for the town. Democracy needs to start from the base and work up. Too often decisions which effect the town seem to have empty 'consultations' from Canterbury City Council. The decisions have already been taken an it is just an empty gesture. The planning department in particular seems to be the 'build it anywhere' department. The town seems disenfranchised.

Yes	Whitstable has been turning more into a tourist destination and there are multiple second homes, which are left empty for long periods or are let as Airbnb properties. My daughter, her partner and baby have moved to Whitstable and are currently renting. We desperately need to hang on to our community hubs and public areas. I believe a town council will ensure the local community will have the opportunity to access funding and have a say in future developments and local planning.
Yes	To help all the residents to be well informed & stop being sucked into Canterbury
Yes	To better reflect local needs especially with regards to the coast natural history and rourism
Yes	Because the needs of the local people need to directly influence the policies that affect our town.
Yes	It is important that democracy is as local to the people as possible. Our voice is certainly not heard in Canterbury.
Yes	We need local decision making to tackle local issues. Whitstable should be in control of its own budget.
Yes	Be good for the area/local residents
Yes	I feel we need to have a say on the future planning of our town and the infrastructure. The water companies cannot cope at the moment and further development will be to the detriment of our beaches and coastline. We welcome thousands of tourists every year but the residents needs are not being addressed, for example extortionate parking charges means I cannot support our local shops in the summer. I would also like to see tighter rules on dogs along the seafront, they must be on a lead along all of the seafront and not to have access to the beach at anytime of the year. Cycling along the coast also needs to be moderated.
Yes	Simply, it is our town, we have to live with the changes and decisions made and we need to have a voice. The town has an identity and a character which is known best of those who live and work here.
Yes	Whitstable is a popular destination but local people need more say about development in the area. I'd like to see all bus shelters lit by solar power so that it's obvious people are there. This would help prevent anti social behaviour and be safer. More litter bins would be fantastic and control over policing of the many beach huts along the sea front
Yes	A lot of well intentioned local people feel very strongly we should have a town council as we used to. I fully support the democratic process and think more power should be devolved to those elected. I am willing to put my money where my mouth is.
Yes	Can control local issues
Yes	We must have more control over planning and the infrastructure needs to support the extra pressure on our groaning services, e.g. sewage treatment is below third world standards. Medical, dental and other neccessary structures cannot keep pace with the expanding population without local oversight to make sure funding is in place to protect the quality of life of all our residents.
Yes	Ensure services and local projects can be established and maintained. It would be nice to have a voice in Canterbury council for matters that affect us as residents.
Yes	Consultation on planning and new developments. Better/self managed funding.
Yes	The population of Whitstable is sufficiently large and its character is sufficiently distinct from the inland region to make the local needs special and in need of local representation. Despite recent popularity as a visitor destination it will have to manage itself very carefully as times and circumstance change in the foreseeable future. A responsible and involved local voice is essential in the aim to maintain and develop its vibrant character.
Yes	To enable whitstable to have a voice over planning developments, access additinal funding and fund /support local initiatives
Yes	So we can have more say and control on what happens in the Whitstable area
Yes	A Town Council would benefit Whitstable by giving it a bigger voice and would enable more funding to make positive changes for the town and its local community.
Yes	So our needs are looked out for by those who live here rather than Canterbury
Yes	I believe that it is important that Whitstable residents should have more say in matters that affect them and their town. Local input to decisions, especially regarding planning and services, and the ability to identify and implement small improvements can only be a good thing. Money is tight across the UK and available funding for local projects is limited. It is only right that local residents are able to put their arguments forward for consideration in order to be awarded on merit a small part of this funding.
Yes	Local issues will be top of the agenda. That's my No.1 Promote Whitstable in a more cohesive manner. Extern Funding bids would be high on the agenda if we get the chance to highlight the importance to support various initiatives which help local needs. Providing an extra voice, which we've been lacking for years and years. This opportunity shouldn't be missed, it can make a real difference for the future health and wellbeing of all Whitstable residents by having our own dedicated Town Council. I (even in my dotage) will help in any way to support this amazing opportunity.
Yes	It provides more opportunity for: 1) input into building development applications. 2) applying for funding to support projects within the town 3) providing support for the community
Yes	Coordinated consultation on planning for new building developments Ability to apply for funding not currently available to it May be better able to promote the town both for tourism and new businesses
Yes	Whitstable and Tankerton are popular places for tourists and yet Canterbury Council do little to support the area, it is us residents who work hard to make the town and area popular not Canterbury Council who sell off land to build more houses that we do not want, so they can make money one way or another!!!!

Yes	To deal with matters relating to the specific area re beach front, harbour, town
Yes	Because Whitstable should govern itself instead of being tagged onto Canterbury. Whitstable has never got the attention it deserves from Canterbury City Council and is treated as an afterthought.
Yes	I understand Whitstable may benefit from access to different funding streams that CCC and the county council cannot access. I believe that the residents of Whitstable will be able to see that their town council has more influence over planning issues and there will be a greater sense of civic ownership and pride .
Yes	\-to give people of whitstable more say in decisions which affect us, we can also decide on local community projects which are separate to decisions made in and for Canterbury, Restore a sense of pride in our town encouraging our identity as a separate community not an add on to Canterbury. Many other Kent towns have their own council, why not Whitstable.A town council could access fundingfrom cental government in it's own right.We could also benefit from payments from developers for our town if we can have a Whitstable neighbourhood plan. A town council will restore confidence in local democracy. Canterbury City Council feels remote and lacks accountability to Whitstable residents. We feel a secondary thought for Canterbury Council members. We want stronger Whitstable representation in decision affecting our town.
Yes	A Town Council will allow more decision making by residents to help achieve local objectives and priorities whilst also improving the democratic process. Residents currently feel disenfranchised with minimal expenditure or any improvement schemes funded through the current arrangements. A Town Council should see this situation improved.
Yes	Because a council made up from people living in Whitstable have a better understanding of it's needs and issues.
Yes	I have been a Parish Councillor in the past and I feel that we did a very good job in bringing ideas to the County Council. This was in Staffordshire. I feel that a Town Council is very similar.
Yes	Decide many town matters locally.
Yes	A local town council would have good knowledge of local issues and a better idea of solutions to those problems that would benefit the local community. It would also give the town a sense of pride.
Yes	Although I am not in favour of any council tax increase and it could be considered an unnecessary overhead, I believe Whitstable should have a Town Council. It will allow the people of CT5 more autonomy over local issues and a direct influence and say in where and what our tax money is spent on. Additionally and more importantly, the Town Council will have the role of statutory planning consultee, which enables local people to have a candid involvement on planning applications affecting the local area, ensuring that the proposed development will improve and blend with the surrounding area rather than just giving approval to meet Government targets. I want a Whitstable Town Council to apply for the additional government funds available each year to fund valuable projects, which hopefully will be used wisely for important schemes to improve the daily lives of local people and enhance the CT5 area. We need a Town Council to improve the area and attract visitors to maintain the local economy and not waste valuable funding on not voted for ‘green’, ‘climate emergency’ net zero nonsense or continually penalising the motorist to fund council services. Whilst Canterbury City Council does a reasonably good job of keeping the tourist areas clean and tidy especially the seafront, generally the rest of the central streets are dirty and full of litter or every available space covered in graffiti. I would like a Town Council to help keep the whole area clean and tidy all year round.
Yes	Better able to focus on, promote and protect the interests of the local community.
Yes	Canterbury City Council spend money on Canterbury, not Whitstable. A town council will increase the representation and the voice of Whitstable.
Yes	Having previously lived in a village with a parish council I was surprised when moving here that there was no local voice. An elected town council would provide the residents with the opportunity to have a say on issues pertinent to them, working with other agencies and groups on issues that impact on the day to day living of the residents , roads, parking, planning, unsociable behaviour , improving the ‘look ‘ of the town , litter , dog poo , also the social side , the Christmas lights etc that reinforce the community spirit of the town. It will also enable the town to bid for funds that will support our local community , with councils struggling with funding it is important that Whitstable has a say in how the Town is managed and supported .
Yes	I am in agreement with accessing funding to support local 'assets' and initiatives
Yes	I feel a town council will have a better understanding of what the people of Whitstable need and will be able to work closer with the local community and community groups. Whitstable needs a town council to develop a neighbourhood plan, the large developments that are being carried out don't feel as if they are taking into account the local people and the constraints of the current infrastructure we are in danger of losing what makes whitstable such a great place to live
Yes	It will give the residents of Whitstable a more granular say over issues pertaining to the town. It also offers scope for the town to use the precept to match fund grants which will enrich facilities in Whitstable and to access funding not open to either Canterbury council or KCC. I have been very interested in the ways other towns have used their town council in very imaginative, thoughtful, locally-focussed ways. Most importantly for me is the fact that having a town council will ensure that Whitstable is consulted on planning matters, including new developments. With the best will in the world, the City Council does not fill this gap for us.
Yes	It’s important that Whitstable has a voice, a town council is the best way forward for the future of the town.
Yes	Needs for town being addressed by local residents.
Yes	So that instead of being the poor relation to Canterbury we would have a voice and be in control of local issues.

	So that local residents can have more say upon planning and infrastructure provisions. So that improvements to local facilities can be carried out and grants can be put in place for such works. A Town Council will provide better
Yes	opportunities for involving the local commumity in all projects and proposals that affect the town.
Yes	Such an unique town with countless visitors
Yes	The ability to focus on issues of local concern rather than government targets.
Yes	The Town needs community focus
Yes	The town needs to have 20mph in all streets and crucially the turn into Church Lane from the Thanet Way. The recreation ground adjacent to All Saints Cemetery should not be built on. No further encroachment of new housing developments either side of the Thanet Way reducing the land on Duncan Downs even more.
Yes	To access more funding and to have more say about our town
Yes	To allow the people who live and work here a say in what happens in the area. Hopefully allowing this unique area with substantial history not to be turned into a 'new town' Also to facilitate more of the funds that go to ccc to be allocated to the area that generates them.
Yes	We are a large, vibrant, seaside town with particular needs regarding tourism and how the town is managed.
Yes	We are one of the few towns in East Kent without our own town council. We lose out on funding. We lack power: eg; to block some of the terrible new build housing estates that the county council (steered by Tory government) has ruined our local countryside with, handing vast profits to a tiny monopoly of dodgy 'developers'; Bellway, Redrow etc. Local people have huge resources of local knowledge with which to apply to forms of self-governance and autonomy; comparatively Canterbury council lacks knowledge of Whitstable.
Yes	Whitstable has different interests than Canterbury, it has an independent, thriving, economy. We are more 'green' than Canterbury.
Yes	Whitstable is a town with a growing population which needs to be able to have more say about issues that matter to us. I strongly support all efforts to encourage more local democracy and especially here in my home town. I understand that, as a rate payer I will have to pay more but I am willing to do so because I believe Whitstable Town Council will be of benefit to all local residents.
Yes	Whitstable is growing fast. The new build area is enormous. I don't believe the current infrastructure can cope so I think a town council might be able to help implement necessary changes to manage the gowing number of occupants and their local needs.
Yes	Whitstable is one of the few towns in East Kent without a Town Council and I feel that this wrong, and that it should have a formal body as a focus for the community.
Yes	Whitstable is very low on CCC priority list. A strong, local voice is required.
Yes	Would help give focus to issues relevant to the 30k + residents in the Whitstable area
Yes	Additional funding opportunities would help to develop the assets and services of Whitstable for local people, and there should be a strong voice locally on planning matters.
Yes	Because the needs of Canterbury and Whitstable are very different and it would allow more emphasis to be focused on Whitstable's particular requirements.
Yes	Better for the town and one of the few towns in kent without a town council. Definitely in favour. We will have more of a voice and resources to support community projects.
Yes	Focus needed on Whitstable’s needs- too often they are ignored in favour of what Canterbury needs
Yes	For the reasons given in the leaflet the council distributed to all households and after reading the information and case made by the CT5 People's Forum on their website.
Yes	Good to have a focus for representing local issues but I am concerned it will cause another level of bureaucracy at a time when all councils are short of funding and also that party and local politics may cause problems.
Yes	have access to funding for local needs, by joining would safeguard any proposed closures of library etc, more local consultation on planning, Park& Ride in Whitstable, fund for pedestrianised streets
Yes	have been told there will be opportunities for town council to apply for additional funding only available to town council. Hope it will provide a voice for local people when it comes to housing needs/development & community facilities.
Yes	I feel it is important that we have more control over what residents in the area need, how our community functions more efficiently. We the residents value our area and its community and collectively the more we have a say the better for Whitstable.
Yes	I feel that the interests of Whitstable would be better served locally.
Yes	I feel Whitstable would be better served by having a local town council where the town’s needs and issues can be given more weight and due consideration.
Yes	I have always felt that Whitstable and Tankerton have always had a real social coherence and a town council would contribute to this.

Yes	I strongly believe all of the CT5 area should be parished. We already have a very successful and effective parish council in Chestfield and other East Kent coastal towns already benefit from their own town councils providing effective community governance for their towns. Whitstable is missing out and needs the same. What I find lacking in Whitstable is a sense of place. There is: - nowhere locally for residents to be signposted to public services; - no local organisation to take the lead on setting the agenda for the important things that matter to local people including on the economy, tourism, or sustainability; - no community hub for people to come together and to work to bring together community organisations. A town council for Whitstable could deliver all these things. It would also provide an effective means of representing the interests of the town on planning matters and draw in additional investment and funding. None of this comes for free. The Council say a precept for a Whitstable town council would be in the range of £60-£80 for a Band D property and uncapped. 63% of properties in the unparished CT5 area are Council Tax Bands A-C and there are discounts that apply to single occupancy and those on low incomes. There has been a lot of commentary opposing the idea of a town council on social media, most of it inconsequential and some of it posted anonymously. The main objection is to paying an additional precept. What I haven't seen in literally hundreds of such posts are any alternative suggestions on how to ensure community governance in the absence of parishing. I am sure the Council will exercise due diligence in considering all the responses received and weigh up the evidence carefully before reaching a decision. The worst possible scenario is if the decision becomes some sort of political football between the different groups on the Council which will serve no one.
Yes	I strongly support the idea that Whitstable should have a town council. It's strange that a town of Whitstable's size doesn't already have one. Having a council will allow more democratic representation for residents. It will allow us to have another body to help provide, support and maintain services that we need. It will enable greater community involvement in matters that affect us all, and it will improve our area.
Yes	I think Whitstable should have it's own Town Council. Due to over development, Whitstable has expanded considerably, both in area and population, over the past few years. It is now of a size which warrants it's own Town Council to provide a strong voice to protect local interests. I would hope that local Town Councillors would be more accessible and interested in local issues which should mean more accountabilty. If Whitstable had it's own Town Council it seems we may benefit from the ability to decide how certain funds are spent in our local area which would be a good thing.
Yes	I think Whitstable should have it's own Town Council. It has expanded considerably over the last few years and is big enough to warrant it. I would hope it would provide a much needed strong local voice to protect local interests i.e. dealing with sewage discharge into the sea at Swalecliffe and how some funds are distributed and spent locally. I would hope local Town Councillors would be more accessible and accountable to local people.
Yes	It will give us residents more say regarding our community and how it is run, and give us access to funding we might not otherwise be able to receive.
Yes	More can be done around antisocial behaviour and community safety.
Yes	More control regarding plans and improvements relating to local needs
Yes	More targeted services and closer to home
Yes	Open opportunities for more local funding. The current Council seems very centred around Canterbury, having a town council should help add more of local voice, but help more with local issues. Town/Parish councils in other areas really add to the local community and it would be great to see that here. We had a town council years ago and it was great
Yes	Parish Councils in Kent have levered in, and help lever in, major amounts of funding for local initiatives. This included governmental funds (Leveling Up, Arts Council etc) and non governmental from charities etc. Without a town council Whitstable is not able to do this (and possible Canterbury Council) in a successful and informed way. The Town Council is able to look at planning issues affecting the town in a detailed manner, helping the council make better decisions about the town and the locality. This is especially important in the tiered decision making processes and help Kent County Council and Canterbury Council better meet Whitstables needs. Enable local people and community and voluntary groups have a better input into supporting Whitstable residents and the locality to be a vibrant, healthy place for the long term future of the residents and the area. Enable local people to have a greater say in how their town and the area is managed - it is well documented that communities that have greater community involvement also enable individuals have better health and more fulfilled lives.
Yes	The ability to focus on the priorities of the CT5 area which impacts the people living and working in the area is important as going forward government spending and the ability to make informed decisions will be less effective. The dynamics of the CT5 area are different to the surrounding area and will be altered quite considerable with the current focus on building new homes without the supporting infrastructure of utilities, schools and medical services. Also movement around the town by foot, bicycle, car and public transport will need to have a joined up strategy and investment. The quality of the environment in terms of sewage released into the sea, litter, dog fowling and anti social behaviour need to be addressed as left unaddressed will spoil it for those of us who call the CT5 area our home. A town council will allow for local voices to be heard and focus on priorities of the CT5 area.
Yes	To make our own decisions that are best for our town, a council led by Whitstable residents that know what Whitstable needs.

Yes	To provide a forum for the expression of views within the town, particularly on planning matters; to have the ability to access further funding for Whitstable; and to provide a body which CCC would have to consult on matters specific to the town.
Yes	We need a Town Council again so decisions affecting all aspects of Whitstable life can be made by Whitstable residents. The town is too often lumped in with Cantetbury - Whitstable residents need their own separate voice - To access different funding sources. To be involved in / make planning decisions To promote local services for the town's residents To promote civic pride
Yes	When local government was re-organised in 1974 Whitstable, unlike many other small towns such as Faversham or Dover, did not create a town council. The reason for this is not clear, but may have been because of the then size of Whitstable (including Seasalter and Chestfield) did not seem of significance. Since then Whitstable has grown considerably and continues to do so. Whitstable justifies a clearer identity. A Town Council now should include all parts of the larger Whitstable, so Chestfield Parish Council would ideally opt to be incorporated into the new council. Action by CCC is dominated by considerations of Canterbury. The recent change of political control may change something of this but the probability remains. Whitstable Councillors have gone along with the party caucus or are ignored. Two recent examples are the opportunity for levelling up money. I understand that schemes were put in for Canterbury and Herne Bay: nothing for Whitstable (Canterbury was successful). The second major example is on planning. Local organisations and individuals make a considerable effort to comment on plans. They appear to be regularly ignored. Consultation rights have been withdrawn and even if re-instated there needs to be an obligation that local views are properly taken into account. The recent District Plan said that Section 106 money from Whitstable developments would be used in Canterbury. Such money should be to the benefit of the area with the developments. Local consultation on general matters has gone with the cancellation of WAMP. The creation of a Town Council should put consultation on a statutory basis. Much of the concern about a Town Council appears to centre on how effective it might be. These are secondary considerations and should not affect the decision of principle. Costs will always be an issue, but the opportunity to improve local democracy should not be dragged down by cost concerns. Improving democracy with a Town Council will be worth the money.
Yes	Whitstable has become the poor relation of the CCC area, with facilities in decline and no money spent on the arts. Road conditions are appalling, there is little or no parking enforcement and sustaonable transport options in the town are pitiful. I am fed up of the main emphasis in the district being on Canterbury.
Yes	Whitstable has needed its own Town Council since 1974 when it was absorbed into the CCC district. Local representation and control is desperately needed, even more so since the demise of the area panel, particularly in topics like planning and development, which have a high level of impact on residents. A locally elected Town Council would have a better understanding of contentious issues like the oyster racks invading the foreshore and be able to convey this understanding to CCC. There are some vocal objectors to a Town Council on the basis of cost, particularly that it is uncapped. Although cost is a valid consideration, my view is that they are failing to consider value and that a spendthrift Town Council can be voted out.
Yes	Whitstable Town Council would be able to access additional funding to promote more local services for the local people and visitors. The elected Town Councillors would also be able to establish a neighbourhood plan that would reflect the residents opinions, re new building developments etc. Generally it would be more beneficial to have a Whitstable Town Council than currently not having one. The possibility of bringing in £1.4 million to support the town would be fantastic!
Yes	Whitstable used to have a town council which incorporated with CCC - not sure if I have seen any difference - before/after. However it would be good if local events ie Oyster Festival could be ran without CCC advising that they can't provide enough stewards to police it! Reinstate the fireworks which were so popular and help the Lions! Perhaps after writing this my answer should be yes as I have personally seen the wonderful events run by Faversham Town Council.

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published
Yes	Whitstable is a growing town that needs it's own voice. A Town Council will mean they can add value to what CCC do by brining in money that CCC can't. It also means it can cordinate community events, help communities who need it most and help with planning issues. A Town Council is a no brainer.
Yes	I strongly believe that more localism is good for democracy in general. A town council would give local residents more of a voice about issues that may affect Whitstable, but perhaps are not such a concern for other parts of the District.
Yes	We need one place, one official group, with local people, and a local base covering the whole town as it now is, having expanded from numerous villages.
Yes	greater control over matters that affect Whitstable
Yes	We need to talk about issues that affect us. We have no neighbourhood watch in Chestfield. We need to discuss infrastructure issues, local flooding, crime and the lack of local schools, doctors & dentists. Sewage being dumped in the sea - there is so much that needs to be addressed & local voices need to be heard.
Yes	Firstly to give an Extra view on planning applications. To represent Whitstable's best interests. To improve Whitstable and to do things in our best interests.
Yes	I think the cultural event such as oyster Festival, carnival etc would be much better served if they were organised locally
Yes	A representative council would be extremely helpful in lobbying for positive changes in Whitstable. In particular the creation of a healthy environment, and an appropriate redevelopment of Whitstable harbour and environs.
Yes	Devolution is always great and Whitstable is a lovely place and I think will benefit from a council
Yes	They could potentially help keep the price of parking for residents down and keep the beach clean
Yes	So local people have a say in how the local area is run.
Yes	Whitstable is a large town with a different demographic to Canterbury and Herne Bay. It can enable issues to be resolved and focus on specific areas more easily.
Yes	I like the idea of the unique demographic, tourist profile, events and heritage that Whitstable has compared to the surrounding area also having its own matching unique council.
Yes	To give a clear voice to the towns needs, support local businesses and charities. To give appropriate support to keep the town special.
Yes	Whitstable deserves its own representation as a town council as it is a unqiue town, arguably with different priorities to Canterbury and Herne Bay. Having specific representatives to make these decisions I would hope would make them more relevant to local people and aligned with their wishes. I feel the cost of the town council is worth it for its benefits of a specific Whitstable voice.
Yes	So the views of local people are better represented
Yes	Whitstable has different needs to Canterbury and its local residents should have more say in how it evolves. The coast and tourist industry is different to Canterbury and needs to be nurtured in a different way paying heed to the need for more actual residents as opposed to airbnb visitors and making the most of its unique character. No two towns are the same or have the same communities to represent.
Yes	The people within the whitstable area should be able to have a say in what happens to the town. It would give residents more pride in were they live.
Yes	I have read all the attached information and looked at what likely cost benefit is to residents including myself: It is my view that the cost of a town council is very likely not to achieve adequate desired benefit for all the residents it 'serves'. However it will certainly create another cost to all bill paying residents it serves. This is likely to simply represent fund raising / cost saving / responsibility devolving initiatives within the wider council area that helps hide the inadequacies and shortfalls of local goverment funding. It further presents the opportunity for councils, committees and sub committees to fend off responsibilities for inadequacies perceived by residents using 'not our fault and we would if we were allowed / could / doesn't come under our jurisdiction tennis' It may also create another layer of fund raising for services perceived to be appropriate by local councillers (which themselves of course have a cost) and may well have different agendas of what is important within the council run area when compared to 'non council active' residents because they are busy 'surviving'. One thing is very likely to be certain. Costings for this 'service' will only go up and up and this will include rising costs of administration of a local council. Benefits to a local town area may be very subjective according to those persons assessing them. A bad and negative idea. Much better to improve representation and accountability systems within the city council to effectively cover all areas appropriate needs according to actual funding supplied by government. Central funding should directly provide the ability for any council changes funding if wanted. (Not via local fund raising powers).Then the electorate is clear of what there is or is not in 'their piggy bank', or of any inferred additional tax costs and when appropriate can vote accordingly being better informed.
Yes	I believe we need a council dedicated to the interests of Whitstable town itrslef,
Yes	It will enable residents to access Democratic elected representatives, whose responsibility will be the the Whitstable area. Although we have representation on the city council and county council, councillors there have a larger picture to consider. It will be an advantage for residents to have a body, who will concentrate on Whitstable issues, whether it's athe environment, the history and cultural life. Obviously it has got to be paid for and although our council tax will still have to be paid to the city council, a small tax yearly to run a town council would be acceptable.

Yes	Whitstable has a sizable population and distinct local challenges to warrant its own council. At present Whitstable's particular interests - its coastal heritage, challenges of pollution, tourist economy, housing, planning, high street issues, parking and traffic flows - are not given the prominence they deserve for a town its size. In my view a Whitstable town council would act as distinct pressure group and sounding board for issues affecting the town. it would be more responsive to the particular needs of Whitstable residents than the City council.
Yes	To develop a stronger sense of identity. To access funding available only to town councils. To prevent development agreed by CCC without appropriate consultation of the townsfolk. To take greater control of local issues.
Yes	(1) The additional costs are very small. The benefits outweigh the costs. (2) Whitstable is a town of considerable size, culturally very different from Canterbury or any of the Villages. But many Canterbury voters - and I suspect some Canterbury City Councillors - have little or no knowledge of or interest in Whitstable. (3) Many of the proponents of a Whitstable town council (especially the CT5 group) are highly knowledgeable, and I trust them.
Yes	Because a town council will further support the work of the city council within the locality.
Yes	For us locals in Whitstable our voice needs to be represented please
Yes	I believe Whitstable needs its own voice. I feel that there needs to be some buffer to Canterbury City Councils idea of Whitstable as its cash cow. And I know that the ability to get funding is key, so if this is part of the role then it could help Whitstable a lot.
Yes	I have lived elsewhere where they seem to work and larger councils seem to forget the small towns
Yes	It will be positive for Whitstable and its residents.
Yes	Local people need a say for a Whitstable Town council, with the rapid change of society and social issues this has not been more relivent.
Yes	Should have at least the same level of representation as neighbouring parishes.
Yes	To protect and promote our wonderful town. Whitstable needs protecting against all the house building and traffic. Whitstable residents should be proud of their town and surroundings and should be able to gain access to continually maintain and improve itself. Whitstable needs to feel more of a community and access to additional funding and a smaller council just for the town will make people feel they have more say and belong and can shape the future.
Yes	Whitstable is a growing town with all the new developments & in the past had its own council & deserves & definitely has the right to have its own town council again to make its decisions on scenarios & events within its designated area, including all the huge new developments put forward, some by Canterbury City council, that will affect & have a huge impact on it’s residents & it’s already total lack of infrastructure at the moment.
Yes	Whitstable needs a voice when larger councils think they can change the town against the residents wishes. Whitstable councillors will be able to identify specific things in the town that need doing to keep it the success it is.
Yes	The town should have its own voice. As a number of locals have been prepared to put their efforts into it, I want to support them.
Yes	To bring benefits for all the residents of CT5, as an independent area, and not solely under the influence of Canterbury. Our area needs to benefit from local experience and knowledge.
Yes	To give the town independence and to some degree control over finance and expenditure. Prioritise where the monies are spent in the interest of the town and the residents together with sensible detailed forward planning for all to see.

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published
Yes	I would very much like to be on the town council as I was born in Whitstable, had a business in town for over 100 years, m. When the town had its own council years ago, we could sort issue's quickly. Also fed up with CCC making decisions when don't live in the area, so no idea about parking problems etc
Yes	Whitstable should have its own town council to increase the voice of the local people. The town council should replace the parish councils to avoid a 3 tier system. To be cost effective, CCC should devolve some of its powers to the town council.
Yes	So local issues can be debated, decided and actioned by local people who have a vested interested in supporting local issues and solving problems that are relevant for residents, which differ from those in the broader CCC area
Yes	Canterbury Council is currently doing a terrible job and meeting local needs and expectations.
Yes	The more local a level a decision is taken, the more beneficial the outcome is likely to be for local people. For example: There are some issues such as matters pertaining to the Harbour which are of no interest to residents of the wider Canterbury district, but are of concern to Whitstable residents. Likewise, CCC has taken the decision to hike parking charges in the town to some of the highest in the country. This will have no effect on visitors to Canterbury, but may have a detrimental effect on traders in Whitstable town centre. The excessive numbers of AirBnB's in the town is also a matter of concern for Whitstable residents, but again, of little interest to the wider Canterbury district as a whole. A local council for the town would be able to address these and other matters that are important to Whitstable residents.
Yes	It is overlooked by Canterbury too much. It is a successful town and needs its own voice
Yes	I think it will encourage an even greater sense of community in the town. I also think that having people from whitstable looking out for it's best interests can only be a good thing
Yes	The Town Council can compliment public services not adequately provided by Canterbury City Council or Kent County Council at present. I.e a funded calendar of public events with annual public liability insurance paid. And grant funding applied for. Currently the Towns carnival requires huge voluntary effort and fund raising. Most of the costs being the prohibitive insurance costs not the event itself. Would also make smaller events i.e Whitstable LGBT Pride possible. Example Faversham has a full public events calendar because it has a Town Council. This would increase tourism throughout the year not just summer. Public Landscaping and litter provision would be improved with a Town Council looking at these matters locally with powers. Improved beach cleaning could become a Town Council responsibility. At present The City Council waste services provision does not include the beach between high and low water mark. A community mobility minibus would provide not for profit transport for residents not provided by private bus services. A community cafe run by town council and volunteers could fund local projects and provide outreach services for the vulnerable. Grant funding could be applied for Whitstable projects Canterbury city council cannot do this. A Town council could ensure lighting , and rights of way are maintained and adequately provided. A Town Council would be better placed to 'green up' Whitstable and localise the City Councils declaration of a climate emergency. Green projects such as a community solar farm could become a reality. With a community power company in partnership with others. Powers for campaigning would have a Town voice. Such as a demand for double council tax for second homing in the town. Including a double precept for a future town council.
Yes	As Whitstable people know what's best for the town not a city council that has not a cue.
Yes	More autonomy for the town.
Yes	I hope it will give residents more say and control over local issues.
Yes	Whitstable is a very individual town and has very different needs to other towns. The people that live here and the people who run businesses need a council that knows the area it's positives and negatives and where improvements are needed for this very special community
Yes	We need a definite voice because of significant local issues relating to the fact that Whitstable is very well known tourist venue and increasing population into the area.
Yes	It would enable the residents of Whitstable to have a greater collective voice regarding Whitstable events, local issues and local interests.
Yes	Because the issues that a town council could affect seem to be ones that need to be dealt with by people who understand the town, and its particular characteristics. Currently it seems to be treated by Canterbury council as a cash cow re things like parking, because it attracts large numbers of visitor's , whereas there is little awareness of the other needs of the town to enable it to deal with the effect of having that many visitors - things like having no where near enough rubbish bins. That's only one example - but its indicative of the sorts of things that could potentially be resolved by a good town council.
Yes	The town has enormous untapped potential which would benefit from real focus. It also hosts festivals and events which a town council could support. I like the idea of a place-specific focus which brings an understanding of local need and potential.
Yes	Local control and easier planning. To be accountable locally.
Yes	It will help to secure a direct link to the council for local people it was much more efficient when we the urban distruct council of old.
Yes	I think a Whitstable town council would give the residents a stronger voice within CCC.
Yes	There is a delicate balance between Whitstable as a tourist resort and a place to live. Having its own council will give Whitstable residents more day on issues impacting them

Yes	We need a council to hear our views as residents and take action on our behalf when necessary. Having just had to fight an illegal build behind our house, we as residents have been appalled that no action was taken at the outset when it would have been clear that the developers were ignoring the agreed plans in blatant disregard for the law. We need greater representation.
Yes	Autonomy will help residents and serve the local economy more effectively and efficiently. There are lots of issues such an air BnB and second home ownership as well as bus routes and building and development that need to explored allowing locals a voice on matters. Too many decisions that impact on locals are made by people who do not live here or have no personal investment in the area.
Yes	I feel that a town council could represent whitstable interests better than canterbury council.
Yes	To promote the town for tourism and business. To take a wider view on planning issue rather than a few residents being consulted. To provide Christmas lights and other services for the benefit of residents and visitors.
Yes	Whitstable needs an independent council, that has Whitstable's interests at heart, and not take second place to Canterbury. Decisions have been made in the past by Canterbury Council that seem to have gone against the best interests of the town. I think if we had our own Council, the residents would have a better chance of being heard during discussions at meetings on subjects that are going to have an effect on the town as a whole.
Yes	more local influence for key issues
Yes	To improve communication with residents.
Yes	I belive that Whitstable would benefit immensely from its own Town Council and a statutory body at the most local level of government. A town council would have a vitaly important role in promoting the town, representing its interests and supporting the community, businesses and the work of different organisations within our town. I would like to think that a town council can be more responsive than City and County authorities to our specific community needs and to the diversity of interests and needs of our community. At town council is the vehicle to regain an active role in decision making that directly affects our town whereas the City Council currently has to make balanced decisions within the councils constituency.
Yes	Whitstable needs better representation for its specific needs and requirements, in particular for its unique coastal tourism, transport and infrastructure, local services, outdoor spaces and community events. Local peoples views and opinions need to be better represented, especially in regard to planning and building, to ensure future development delivers necessary infrastructure for the local community. A town council will support making this happen
Yes	There are some issues specific to Whitstable that the residents should debate amongst themselves and come to a consensus on. Having a council will also give Whitstable a louder voice in the wider Kent community.
Yes	It is often overlooked and also the residents should have their say.
Yes	Local people who are permanently residents must be able to make decisions about the town. There is too much power given to councillors who are motivated by tourism £££. While this is very important, permanent residents' needs must take priority and I'm sad to say we have been overlooked for too long. We all want Whitstable to thrive and having local people making local decisions is the way forward. Thanks
Yes	We used to have W,U.D.C. comprised of local residents who were easier to communicate with and fully aware of the town's issues and concerns. Whitstable has never been C.C.C.'s main priority and it has allowed detrimental developments to take place. We need a council with our beautiful, unique town at its heart ready to listen to its residents and sensitive to its issues developments and needs.
Yes	Whitstable has become very popular in recent years and I feel the city council has not recognised this.
Yes	A Whitstable Town Council would be beneficial in that it would represent the interests of the locals in Whitstable. It may perhaps give a "voice" to those who otherwise wouldn't. It would be assumed that Whitstable having its own town council could help alleviate some of the pressures imposed upon Canterbury council. As long as the councillors that would make up the Whitstable Town Council are actually invested in supporting the locals and local community, I can't see any reason as to why it wouldn't be beneficial?
Yes	As a whitstable resident from birth I believe that the creation of a whitstable town council would be a positive step in to preserving whitstable's heritage and also would give the local people more opportunity and power to provide more strategic, financial and administrative services to the community.
Yes	Whitstable is a unique place with unique people. I feel that it should have a more local voice in local concerns & be able to address the towns issues. Local councillors would have a better understanding of the way Whitstable works
Yes	Whitstable is a special place which needs local people who understand it to help it work for its residents & traders
Yes	Whitstable has grown in size considerably and needs to be fully represented by someone who has first hand knowledge of the arising issues. Whitstable needs to reoresented in order to ensure it maintains its uniqueness in an environment of change.
Yes	I feel that Whitstable could promote itself much better. There are numerous events that would benefit from better exposure.
Yes	We should have a council because we should be able to have a say and opinion on decisions about Whitstable made by Canterbury City Council. People stand to be elected will they be locals and not second house buyers from london?
Yes	Local works better
Yes	So that we can be control of how our money is spent and on what projects as at the moment Canterbury Council are in control and it's not in the best interest of Whitstable.
Yes	A council would have an overview of the needs and facilities specific to Whitstable. It would be a voice for the community and able to raise funds for local projects.

Yes	Whitstable needs to take back some control of what happens in Whitstable, having its own town council will be the voice of Whitstable
Yes	Whitstable is broken! Too many cars coming into the town, parking is horrendous, the visitors use and abuse the town. I've been in touch with CCC and councillor previously (re cars parked on high street and pavements) and they gave a poor, uninterested and unacceptable response. Having a more local council will bring a better focus and responsibility which hopefully will result in a nicer place to live.
Yes	So as money can be spent on what is important to Whitstable and just Whitstable. It would be fantastic to have a say in important decisions which may affect the town.
Yes	To allow Whitstable it's fair share of the annual budget
Yes	Canterbury seem too remote from whitstables issues.
Yes	I believe Whitstable needs some independence from Canterbury City council have always felt we have been treated as a poor relation by Canterbury CC , Whitstable is a unique town it's rich seaside/ fishing / harbour facilities makes it a tourist / desirable place to visit and reside in , let the people of Whitstable decide on our governance and our future .
Yes	Whitstable residents, particularly the younger ones, need to be closely involved in future plans for development in the town. A town council will have a stronger voice in any decision making.
Yes	Local people making decisions for the improvement of all.
Yes	Gives greater control and responsibility for assessing need in the area by those who live and experience living in Whitstable. Hopefully will give more cohesiveness to the town by working together to draw up plans for development and improvement for all residents. Whitstable is already thriving but it could be so much more for residents as well as visitors to the town.
Yes	To promote Whitstable's cultural life, represent and champion local interests, give its view n planning applications and make external funding bids.
Yes	To enable local issues to be addressed by people who understand the town and its occupants more. To have more joined up plan for transport and other local issues.
Yes	Greater control over local issues/faster response time to them, and the Canterbury City Council has suffered from financial mismanagement for a while (The Riverside is over budget and behind schedule and there are FAR more vital things to pump money into)
Yes	More say in how money is spent in Whitstable for the residents of Whistable. More say about the local plan, and whether there can be more publicised meetings when planning applications are submitted. More co-ordination to keep Whitstable clean, i.e funds for litter pickers. A residents card that is recognised by all establishments, maybe to enable 30 mins- 1hr free parking which would help footfall and turnaround times. Christmas lights this year were amazing - more publicity for Whitstable as being a place to visit and spend in the local economy.
Yes	It is a level of local government the town lacks and would be able to promote interest specific to Whitstable
Yes	Whitstable is a unique town and it would be nice for the community to represent itself. Plus, maybe it could do something about the dog poo…
Yes	Whitstable has a unique character which would be better developed by a group concentrating specifically on the town. At the moment it is linked to Canterbury - a larger and vastly different place.
Yes	Bring a sense of community to the area. Be more visible as feel Whitstable is often overlooked by canterbury council
Yes	I do not think Canterbury City Council is doing a very good job.
Yes	So that the residents of my home town of Whitstable can have more voice in the running of their town
Yes	I think whitstable's needs would be best represented by a town council
Yes	There are issues that arise locally that are very particular to the area and therefore these need to be managed as such. Plus, a local town council might also bring a sense of ownership to the local community giving local residents a sense of agency about how their neighbourhood is run.
Yes	Whitstable's population is growing rapidly with the new housing developments underway and I believe that the best interests of the town in the future will be served by having its own Town Council.
Yes	Because there seems to be some bad decisions being made e.g proposed increase in parking charges and a definite need to reduce anti social behaviour.
Yes	To manage the town itself by the people who live here
Yes	It would be great to have the opportunity to have more of a say on local decisions and local events which could benefit my area
Yes	Theres evidence that town councils have positive impacts for local communities. There's a strong sense of community in the town - this is an energy that would be very positively focused by a town council. The town is affected by issues deriving from tourism, which benefits yet affects local residents. There is a strong awareness of this and already, where feasible, pro active community groups tackle issues. However there is a sense of a losing battle being fought..eg litter, anti social behaviour, and a town council would potentially empower the local community to address these more strongly. I feel that the town is eager for a forum through which civic pride could flourish.
Yes	Hopefully being on our own we can get things attended to better repairs to our very busy congested roads refusal of these many houses being built causing traffic choas. The many stupid extensions to bungalows in our area I could write a book on the plans passed for building congested local roads.
Yes	Currently the Canterbury CC appears to prioritise Canterbury City and seems to take less notice of the effects some of its decisions may have on the surrounding communities, i.e., Whitstable, Herne Bay Etc.

Yes	Hopefully the town council will work to represent the best interests of the town.
Yes	Because a local council would look after projects that would benefit the townspeople.
Yes	Brings decisions closer to the local community
Yes	Better representation for Whitstable for local policy making and decisions which impact the town
Yes	why sould we have all our decisions taken by Canterbury, we're big enough to really look after ourselves and i don't think Canterbury look to us...
Yes	A town council would allow for a more personal view on what areas need improving or fixing that a more general council would have trouble providing.
Yes	I feel a council would protect the interests of Whitstable residents, especially as we are seeing some significant change in green space being taken up by housing and more demand on the local resources like doctors and dentists.
Yes	money to be spent on Whitstable chosen by those who live there.
Yes	I like the idea of a more local and accesible council. On local issues I think that a local town council will have a better feel for the issues. This of course depends upon the cost of a local council.
Yes	I think it is important that there is a local body empowered to make decisions in respect of issues specifically affecting Whitstable rather than the wider Canterbury area. There are numerous issues which have arisen in the past from subjects varied from traffic control to Christmas lights which have clearly been too parochial to be of concern to the larger Canterbury administration, but which have been very important to many people who live here. Clearly there is a very important discussion to be had about how much autonomy a Whitstable Town Council would have, and whether it would be responsible for its own budget, but in principle I think a body representing local interests is at the very least desirable and probably necessary.
Yes	I think a town council for Whitstable would be beneficial to the local community in terms of our specific community needs and provide greater influence at the county council level.
Yes	I believe Canterbury DC do not have the best Interests of the people of neighbouring towns A local council would have the best interests of its own Constituincy
Yes	I feel that Whitstable needs a bigger voice on matters concerning the town. We always seem to be the poor relation to Canterbury. After attending one of the public information sessions I feel that a town council would be able to secure funds from different sources that would directly benefit the town without any interference from Canterbury. I believe if managed properly these funds would go a long way to offset the annual extra Council tax to cover the town council and provide funding for "home grown" projects.
Yes	The town would be the priority for any decisions and would be the focus of efforts.
Yes	It would give greater say to the area, that is more specific and targeted.
Yes	A locally elected town council of representative members of all of Whitstable’s socio-economically diverse population will be better placed to allocate funds where they are needed. Hopefully a local town council would be more aware of their surroundings and be able to nip dodgy planning applications/builds in the bud, like the block of flats which has gone up on Canterbury Road recently.
Yes	I think a Town Council can help create a vision for Whitstable over the next 10 years, helping address specific issues relating to local residents. This body would help fund local projects that can contribute to this vision and bring funding into the area which the town is unable to access at present. In this way Whitstable could protect itself from cuts to services from Canterbury Council (e.g. by not funding projects which don't share the Town Council's vision) or simply to compete with established local charities.
Yes	Local control
Yes	It would be good to have our own town council to help our neglected area but at what cost. I think we pay more than enough for very little and do not think most people can afford the extra cost as everything we pay for is costing more and more.
Yes	Extra voices to represent the community. Better overview on planning.
Yes	The needs of Whitstable require more individual representation than they get just being part of Canterbury City Council. I feel Whitstable's views and needs are not addressed sufficiently.
Yes	Needs input into policing, parking, tourism, advertising the town to increase economic activity, Canterbury CC appear to hate Whitstable. Common sense needed on traffic management.
Yes	So we have reps to fight our corner and try to raise grants etc for this area. The roads are fully apart. KCC and CCC don’t do enough to help. All funding spent in Canterbury and crazy projects like the sea front disaster in Herne Bay.
Yes	Whitstable deserves representation of its own. The small additional increase will be worth it.
Yes	Council tax will go up even more, won’t see any benefits to help us living in whitstable
Yes	(a) A town council could keep residents better informed of potential implications of upcoming decisions by developers or by the city or county council which might not be obvious at the time. For example, the widening of Borstal Hill prevented a planned pedestrian/cycle crossing from being installed, which was not obvious until a planning appeal made it clear. (b) It could tackle eyesores, unemptied litter bins, overgrown paths and other issues too small for the bigger authorities. (c) It could make representations about issues like policing, bus route changes, bank and post office relocations, disability access and local facilities in general. (d) It could reward businesses and voluntary organisations which contributed positively to the local environment, by publicity if nothing else. (e) Being less remote, a town council could give people more confidence in local government.
Yes	To provide more local focus when it comes to decision making relevant to the town.

	To benefit the people of Whitstable who Canterbury seem to have forgotten. Many local events are just not supported by Canterbury council and left to the local community to fund and organise. for example Xmas lights Carnival Oyster festival Regatta The anti social behavior as well needs addressing especially along the seafronts Canterbury council distance themselves and it needs more local support and knowledge. Whitstable is a valuable asset to to Kent and
Yes	England bringing much needed revenue and jobs.
	Whitstable needs a town council because it needs to look after itself not compete with other towns for attention. Whitstable is a growing town with an increasing resident population who are keen to develop, improve, promote and
Yes	protect it .
	Funding that has not been available until now. Improved planning processes.Improved public toilet situation. Improved
Yes	support of voluntary groups.And many others.
Yes	Whitstable needs a town council so that it has a voice in lots of important issues
	To enable the towns community assets to be managed at the most local level possible. With a Town Council, decisions over what should happen to Whitstable’s assets would be taken in Whitstable and in the best interests of the people of Whitstable. There would be proper democratic oversight of those decisions and a proper degree of local accountability
Yes	for those making the decisions on our behalf.
Yes	To make more local decisions and have more control on budget
	Whitstable is a significant town in East Kent and should have a stronger identity rather than be subsumed in the Canterbury City district. Whitstable is one of the only coastal towns in Kent not to have a Town council. A Town Council can lead the process of developing a local neighbourhood plan and would become the designated body to be consulted over planning applications thus filling the current void for such a local organisation. A Town Council can be the vehicle to apply for external funds only available to local councils, to improve the town and local infrastructure, and to
Yes	coordinate issues such as traffic management.
	We always had one in the past. I was born in this town as was my husband at the moment it feels as most of our rates
Yes	go to Canterbury and Whitstable is just a poor relation.
	Lived in Whits since 1948, always had a town council who looked after all problems in the town. Since swallowed up by
Yes	Canterbury we have become the poor relation which needs to stop.
Yes	I care what happens to our town for future planning
Yes	To be able to access more funding to support local projects To be able to more directly address local concerns
Yes	To be able to make our own decisions . Not allow Canterbury to use our town as a cash cow
	We need proper representation so that district wide decisions take local views into account. Party political district council voting means Canterbury dominates. Also, so that roads issues are properly considered with KCC Whitstable can directly bid for funding to make the town centre better Decisions regarding town centre management can be taken and pushed forward with relevant authorities. eg Deal pedestrianises part of its high street during the busiest times at weekends. Given the number of visitors and narrow pavements, it is quite dangerous walking through the town when very busy. Canterbury district has a host of budget management and statutory responsibilities that it has to focus on and the resident and visitor experience is not high up the agenda as a result. It will provide a focal point for local discussions and representation eg water pollution issues where having an official body with some resources to liaise with eg southern water would add to the pressure on them. Also in terms of the timing of road works etc which have been gridlocking the town over recent days. The town has grown enormously, and is still growing, since the disestablishment of the town council a long time ago. There are many people who would like to get involved more and the new body could assist in this by having volunteer groups and discussion groups to really galvanise civic engagement. It will give the business community a way to interact with both residents and other official bodies as their views and
Yes	needs can be transmitted to other groups/organisations and discussions with residents themselves.
	Local decision making for many local issues albeit small in the context of the greater area. I would hope there is an opportunity, locally, to move away from party politics and hopefully vested interest groups. Inevitably the number of desirable issues to be looked at will exceed the capacity of the Council as constrained by available finance. I would hope the number of councillors is an odd number and contain a mixture of councillors of differing ages and of both male and female. I also feel that local representation on planning issues is important. It is also an opportunity for increased investment in the quality of local facilities (eg library, parks, litter, parking), public transport (eg buses, bus routes including access to medical facilities, train station ticket office staying open). Clearly the issues associated with climate change could be affected by local decision making. I do hope that the Council, if established will endeavour to keep their overheads to a minimum. For instance, there may be a room that can be hired at minimal charge for their
Yes	meetings or readily available places like a library or school.
	Whitstable has always needed it's own voice as being the poor relation of Canterbury. Many years ago we had a 'Whitstable District Urban Council which was led by local councillors. I would want the new council to be 'non-political
Yes	party' if possible. I do not think that a precept is too much to pay for an independent voice.
Yes	To organise and manage more localised issues, the focus being of benefit to local residents.
Yes	For reasons given in 'A voice for Whitstable' campaign leaflet

Yes	* To bring together Whitstable as a community. Something lost since the demise of the Urban district council * To boost fundraising for better facilities in Whitstable, such as a purpose built community centre, with multiple rooms for meetings and sports activities. I helped achieve this in Crowborough, which now has a modern stage, a dance studio, multiple meeting rooms and a cafe. * Other neighbouring towns such as Faversham have demonstrated how a dynamic town council can lever in funding. + Local democracy. It is not good enough to have district councillors representing all community needs in Whitstable. Town Councillors would represent residents over every day issues, such as parks, public toilets and some sports facilities.
Yes	A town council will give Whitstable a greater say in decisions which affect the town such as planning, new developments & traffic management. A town council will also be able to promote local services, projects & events to enhance the quality of life in Whitstable.
Yes	Because it is the best plan for local people
Yes	Canterbury Council is too remote from local issues.
Yes	For the funding opportunities that having a Town Council will open up for Whitstable, consultation rights around planning in the area, and engendering civic pride. Also I'd like to think that improvements to infrastructure and traffic flowthroughs would be expedited more quickly and better if a Town Council was in governance. Traffic speed issues on Borstal Hill and Joy Lane are a constant bug-bear for residents, who openly display '20 is Plenty' notices on their properties, but it's clear that nothing is being done about (or at least until a tragic accident occurs). The quality of pavements is also appalling and need to be addressed - I'm certain a Town Council would prioritise that.
Yes	Hopefully give us more say on issues that are relevant to Whitstable eg parking enforcement and available car parks, speed restrictions enforced, shop opening times.
Yes	I am in favour of local decisions being made at local level, and I speak from personal experience as I was a Parish Councillor in my former area before moving to Whitstable. Having said that, I am apprehensive about adding an extra precept to my council tax commitment that could prove a financial burden in years to come.
Yes	I believe that people who live in an area should be able to participate democratically in that area. To be part of discussions on how to improve your town from transport, parking, roads and alternatives such as cycle paths, housing so local people can find accomodation in their own town , playgrounds and leisure facilities so people can be fit and healthy, community centre provision so your town has events, films, bands, and space local groups can use so the town has a living heart of things to do, well maintained schools, advice centre provision, a sorting office so you can collect posted items locally, a police station with visible policing, council offices where you can get help and advice, a library, a park, etc. Many of these things have never happened in Whitstable or have been lost eg. police station, sorting office, cinemas, Christmas lights. These decisions were not made because the people of Whitstable wanted them but because of lack of money and little opportunity to influence a council making decisions from a distance. A town council can have access to money no one else can, for a few pence extra from me and others Whitstable town council could gain this money and we could become a better town, like Faversham has rather than the poorly resourced place we are. We do not need more expensive housing with no improved ammenities, no public transport to reach places like GP surgeries or hospitals, a water company dumping effluent into the sea and rivers which damages our environment and of course high parking charges with no reduction for local residents so we don't discriminate against visitors. At least with a town council we could have our say about these things and maybe make things better for us.
Yes	I do not feel that Canterbury city council represents Whitstable well. The Oyster festival has all but gone, the crumbling roads are literally a joke and we've had a lot of crime 'trouble' (although I did see some response to this to be fair). A town council, I hope, would represent us better and I'm willing to pay for that.
Yes	I now live in Seasalter but live never lived in a village before with no parish council, let alone no town council for the nearest town. I want better local representation and sharing of local news matters, and someone to go to with local problems.
Yes	Increased influence over local decision making and overall strategy for the good of the town and community.
Yes	More freedom and able to receive more funding for local people and projects.
Yes	On the council - I am in favour of a council but would argue that the cost should be negligible. Either A) run it with elected volunteers in the best interests of the town. Or B) whatever cost should be allocated to whitstable residents BUT I assume decisions affecting whitstable are already made by some form of body, so the cost of that should obviously be removed. With a cost of say £60,000 per year to run, that would still only be an extra £2 each (based on 30,000 population estimate.... MINUS the cost we currently allocate to canterbury council... so probably about 50p each per year in total. A small price to pay for more autonomy on decision making. And then we have the right to can the extortionate price rises.... but in exchange we have the obligation to find other ways to fund local projects ourselves.
Yes	So as to provide more local services and events more relevant to the town and local groups
Yes	This would be a positive step towards real governance of our area. FUNDING FPR COUNCIL TAX ...A say in planning which is a real necessity Roads...promoting local services and needs
Yes	We deserve to have a voice on CCC and KCC. Our traffic management is appalling and we also need to fight for better sewage management as we have so much new housing. If we had a voice maybe these things would be dealt with before instead of after things start to go dreadfully wrong.
Yes	We need local people to look after our interests
Yes	Whitstable and the people living in and visiting Whitstable will benefit from decisions that are taken by local people. They will bring to the discussions local and important knowledge that can not be know by non residents. They will understand and be able to implement needed and important changes and improvement to the town and it's people.

Yes	Whitstable consists of a large and growing community and has its own specialised , local needs.
Yes	Whitstable needs it's own voice and have more control over social and planning matters. For too long Whitstable has often suffered with decisions made by CCC
Yes	Whitstable residents have very little in the governance of the town, and its needs and requirements tend to be ignored or subjugated to those of Canterbury of Canterbury. Whitstable is or should not be a lucrative amenity for Canterbury.
Yes	Whitstable should have a voice independent from Canterbury… Whitstable should be able to input on decision making that affects local planning; infrastructure; services; grants to support services for local people and independence to look after its own special seafront. It's outrageous that so many developments have been approved by a council that doesn't directly represent the local people who are drastically affected by the impact these developments have on the local infrastructure. Without a legal requirement in place meaning the CCC has to consult a community organisation before planning matters are approved, Whitstable residents will continue to be impacted. Whitstable should not be run remotely; it is its own place with very local need. And it is important that our town has a voice that should have to be legally heard. Whitstable is important! And its success should be local and not there just to feed into a separate, and remote, 'big Daddy' council.
Yes	A Town Council can make Whitstable a better place to live work & enjoy by looking at local issues. It would support local people in saving, developing, or restoring local community assets.
Yes	As a local resident and trader of Whitstable I think it would be valuable with a town council.
Yes	As residents we need more involvement in our locality especially in connection with coastal issues. , I am aware we will have more opportunity to negotiate funding for various projects for the locality .
Yes	Be good for the local community
Yes	Deciding our our funding and spending will be beneficial to the town and local community.
Yes	Decisions concerning Whitstable will be more bespoke and appropriate taking advantage of local knowledge.
Yes	Good for the future of our local town
Yes	Having previously lived in Faversham with a town council for 20 yrs and in a local village with a Parish council for the same length of time I found the benefits of these local councils far outweighed the drawbacks. Whitstable is a discrete unit with a different outlook from Canterbury. Over the years since the 1973 local government legislation was enacted there seemed to me a have a democratic deficit (especially in the lates 1970s, early 1980s and again more recently) with CCC decisions seemingly being Canterbury centric. Ironically some of the villages bordering Whitstable have more influence in their local patch than Whitstable does. Gaining the ability to at least have some input into planning decisions and gaining the ability to apply for various grants etc for the improvement of the town will be a major benefit. Although not currently seen on the horizon, with the volatility of the political parties policy decisions at central government level and the precarious financial position of many County, District and Unitary authorities, who knows what reforms will be in the pipeline to the higher tiers of local English government. 'Better to establish a Whitstable Town council as soon as possible. I was concerned when the creation of possible east Kent unit was mooted a few years ago. Decision making would have been even more remote than now and who'd have wanted decisions for our town from Planet Thanet who seem to have been a rather dysfunctional over the years, no matter which party was in power there! I appreciate that the extra precept may not be popular in the current cost of living crisis, especially for those on low incomes but when one considers the weekly cost against the price of a lottery ticket, a coffee or a pint of beer it could be good value.
Yes	I believe that it is important for the people who live in the area and know of the needs of the area to help to make decisions with other like-minded people.
Yes	I believe Whitstable needs to be in control of its own affairs. We pay rates to Canterbury but hardly anything is done in Whitstable, but when you go into the City you can see where all OUR MONEY IS BEING SPENT. The roads are pretty good in the City here in Whitsable they are a disgrace, potholes everywhere, kerbs broken never repaired correctly, flooding as the drains are never cleaned especially at the top of Whitstable, full of leaves and mud. This happens as stupid signs saying do not park on verge Vans park all the time breaking up the soil hence mud down the drains. The verge is a waste of everyone's money as they are not grass anymore just weeds grown over mud and they are cut only about every 8-10 weeks at times outside our house they are a metre high. When the guys come most cannot speak English you tell to use the big mower slowly to cut down then trim. The big mower goes at 40 miles ph and cuts nothing next guy strimmed in the air and then some blows it all over our garden. All the gardens are full of weeds from your verges. Replace once and for all with paving which needs less attention. School traffic is a nightmare for the children. Shops closing due to high rates High Street not as good as it was.. Then the Parking charges going up no one will want to shop there as makes you purchased item expensive with high parking fees. There should be wider walkways on the beach area so many dogs and prams you cannot walk safely any more. Police the dog offenders who do not pick up the dog poo as they have let their dogs run onto beach and foul too far away from where they are. More funding for the Festival and Harbour Day shame to lose them.
Yes	I feel local control and determination are important. Whitstable is a thriving, sizable town, and I would want local accountability for decisions made about the town.
Yes	I presume the town council will be made up of people who live in Whitstable and therefore would be best suited to know where funds need to be used to improve the whole area .
Yes	I think it is important for Whitstable to have people speaking up on its behalf, rather than being grouped in (and being subservient) to Canterbury.

Yes	I wish to see the town of Whitstable regain its independance from the control of Canterbury City Council. Our beautiful seaside town should be able to plan and control its own individual activities and not be under the thumb of Canterbury bureaucrats, as it is now. By having our own town council we will be able to source funding from external bodies and use this money specifically for Whitstable projects which would benefit local interetss. Let Whitstable manage its own future!
Yes	To have a say on spending
Yes	To have greater input into development plans, and control of in town parking.
Yes	To represent and promote services and facilities specific to Whitstable and have access to and better control over finances and spending locally.
Yes	To.improve town quality and facilities make it cleaner and improve its general attractiveness.
Yes	We can choose our priorities which feel very different to those of Canterbury
Yes	When I first moved to Whitstable I was very surprised to find it didn't have a Town Council given it's size and attraction for tourism. It needs this extra layer of local governance to ensure the interests of local residents, the high street and harbour are heard. It's needed to protect the unique characteristics which make Whitstable's high street, harbour and beach front so special. It could help to make improvements around community and leisure facilities, parking, traffic, Christmas lights and sea pollution by providing a unified and amplified voice on these issues. Also, having that focal point to be able to grow and promote community festivals and celebrations, to make them even better, would be a great addition to the town.
Yes	Whitstable has become very popular and I feel that Canterbury City Council are unable to consider our seaside towns best needs. However I question the need for extra charge on our Council Tax. We will after all be proportioning less work and planning to Canterbury Council and the funding should come from our present housing tax which already rises annually . Canterbury (a shadow of its former self) has become a ghost city with all the attractions being built on the periphery perhaps we can finally have a say against huge decision making destroying Whitstable as well.
Yes	Whitstable is a rapidly expanding town and needs to be able to make decisions that best serve its community. A town council would have access to additional funding from central government. It would be central to decisions regarding any planning matters. It would have the best interests of the community in all aspects of life in Whitstable.
Yes	Whitstable is a very different community to Canterbury. Having or own town council would be beneficial as we can have more autonomy over what happens in our town, where the money should be spent and what are our priorities.
Yes	Whitstable needs a strong independent voice representing the town in line with our neighbours. I understand that parking is not something that a new Town Council will directly have a say in. However the recent decision of Canterbury City Council to raise car parking charges to an unreasonable level, whilst at the same time removing car park free times, is to the financial detriment of residents throughout our town and could be fatal to businesses in the high street. This callous treatment of Whitstable as a cash cow to Canterbury must be exposed for what it is and we need a strong town voice in future to demonstrate against and oppose where Whitstable's interest is disregarded. We need to promote Whitstable for the benefit of its residents and a Town Council will be a positive step forwards.
Yes	Whitstable should have a town council so that it can access funding that it would otherwise not be able to. The council could also specifically promote the town which is of a size that it should really have a town council.

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published
Yes	Whitstable has some unique challenges and opportunities, particularly seasonality, which are best deal with by a locally-focused council
Yes	To monitor and manage the growing stream of tourists and the community destroying presence of AirBnB.. To establish resident only parking zones l in each street as residents cannot park due to the influx of large vehicles of tourists leading in in some cases to residents vehicles being damaged. The council could also manage the litter in the interconnecting alleyways , where tourists leave black sacks full of rubbish just anywhere upon their departure, or stuff it into residents wheelie bins. And to keep the streets free of dog mess. A local Town Council could see this first hand. Also to make the footpaths more even and accessible to mothers with pushchairs and older more infirm resident. Above all a Town Council would be seen to be giving Whistable residents a voice hope and value for their Council Tax.
Yes	CCC really do not have an understanding of the needs of Whitstable. Whilst understanding that this is not a formal full council it is right that Whitstable should be able to retain it's own identity.
Yes	It would be better to be independent and feel that most of the funds that Canterbury/Whitstable/Herne bay have are mainly spent on the Canterbury area
Yes	The priorities of the town are likely to be different from those of Canterbury, and Whitstable will benefit from having more localised governance. I'd argue similar is true for Herne Bay. At the very least, residents will feel they have greater control and influence on government at a genuinely local level. This will also take the heat off Canterbury's council on issues unrelated to the city.
Yes	It gives local people more say in the running of their own locality. It also provides a small but important additional source of funding for local community projects.
Yes	More democratic than the current system.
Yes	As I believe Ccc treat Whitstable as the a town that they can profit from. The good of Whitstable is second on the agenda.
Yes	Whitstable should be able to make its own decisions rather than being governed by Canterbury City Council.
Yes	Whitstable, historically had its own Council, the Whitstable Urban District Council, I believe. It was meaningful, effective and successful. The offices were based, at least in part, at Whitstable "Castle". A WTC would preserve and protect the confines of Whitstable, Tankerton and surrounding towns, that have developed and existed over the decades and centuries. The area has a different interest to the inland towns and certainly very different from Canterbury. Residents and visitors come to Whitstable, which offers a traditional seaside experience that may not be appreciated by Canterbury Council. Better that local management, local residents and local business people, and local residents are managing a place they know and understand. Whitstable is one of Kent's most valued assets and will be all the better for local council management.
Yes	Would help with some of the protocol for events. Not keen on extra council bills.

Organisation (if relevant)	Written rep
	I have not completed the questionnaire but having carefully read your consultation document I would wish to record my support for the proposed Whitstable Town Council. In regards to establishing the Whitstable Town Council, I believe it should indeed be set up. The funds would then be allocated to the Whitstable Town Council, allowing it to prioritize its own interests such as road maintenance, community activities, and welfare initiatives. For quite some time, it's been unclear what actions the Canterbury City Council has taken for the Whitstable area. I suspect their focus is primarily on Canterbury itself rather than Whitstable. As a long standing resident of Marine Parade in Whitstable, which once had an active residents association,I think Whitstable either having it's own council or residents having a logical route to have their say is essential. One case in point, several years ago Canterbury Council proposed to make Marine Parade paid for parking. The residents association didn't agree at the time and the council took that on board. Fast forward a number of years and the parking spaces are not always being used as intended. Currently there is at least one person already known to you, who parks a camper van every single day for the whole permitted hours, and alarmingly the same person seems to have now bought an additional much larger camper van that he's doing the same thing with. He's done this for 2 years so far, for almost the whole year, and presumably will continue with 2 large vans for as long as he's permitted. This stops residents or visitors who want to use the beach, or shop locally, bringing money to the high street. It is a blatant disregard of what the residents imagined when agreeing to long-term free parking and a lot of us are upset about it. Putting a four hour limit would seem reasonable, or some measure, so that people don't take advantage in this way. It would be important that the council is representative however, for instance it wouldn't be right for either there to be either a one-sided negative or pro-holiday let view. If there is to be a council however, it is important that is is able to make rules for the area that are enforceable. Additional campaigning and the ability to raise funds to promote Whitstable as the the unique area it is would be a wonderful benefit of the council. Please add my name to any votes. Whitstable is a specific and valuable location and should be regarded and represented by local people who live in the area. I see your letter to Whitstable residents regarding the matter of the creation of a town council was dated Monday 8th January. This has reached us (and I suspect many other local residents) today Monday 12th February. This is long after your "information sessions" have apparently been carried out. If there was a low turnout and limited interest I suspect this delay in receiving notice would be why. This is clearly why Whitstable needs it's own council, as clearly the Canterbury council don't see our town as something that requires attention. If you decide to run these information sessions again, I would like to attend so please let me know the new date. I am very much in favour of a Town Council for Whitstable and fully support the aims and objectives. With our own council we could improve our local community from crime reduction to cleaning the beaches, improving the surfaces of the roads which are not good and providing benefits for the whole of Whitstable community. I think it is a very good idea for Whitstable to have a Town Council.

A Voice for Whitstable/CT5 People's Forum Town Council Group

Submission to Community Governance Review Task and Finish Advisory Group

Introduction

1. The Voice for Whitstable group very much welcomes the opportunity to set out its case to the Task and Finish Advisory Group.

2. The group is part of the CT5 People's Forum which was established after Canterbury City Council's (CCC) previous administration decided to abolish the Whitstable Forum in October 2020, the last remaining forum where residents of our town could speak freely with Councillors about the issues which mattered to them.

3. A group of residents decided to set up a new forum, the CT5 People's Forum – organised and run by local people, providing a forum where residents could link up with Councillors. It has expanded this wider role as suggested by participants to supporting, enabling and sometimes organising local activities to improve the town. Apart from this Town Council group, the two other groups are Eco which runs the now annual Wild About Whitstable biodiversity week and the Traffic and Active Travel group which has focused on speed and safety and is moving towards the broad active travel agenda re help for cyclists and Whitstable Walk Day. The Forum is always developing its information exchange and links with other organisations to support informed participation in the local community and, funded by CCC, is developing an information hub.

4. The Forum is non-party political and governed by a board of trustees. The town council group was responsible for obtaining the required number of signatures of the local electorate to trigger a Community Governance Review (CGR) into the possible establishment of a town council for the unparished areas of the CT5 postcode area. Although still part of the Forum, we have rebadged ourselves A Voice for Whitstable to make it clear that we are campaigning for a town council to be established in Whitstable.

Why should Whitstable have a town council?

5. In a nutshell:

   - Whitstable is a great place to live and work. Our town is unique and many people work hard in support, but it often feels that we are overshadowed by Canterbury City and our own personality gets lost in the big picture. We

have very different needs to the City and the town could be a whole lot better if it had the ability to care for itself.

- Whitstable is in a minority. Outside the Canterbury City Council district every urban area in East Kent has a town council, apart from Margate (where a plan to create one is currently under consideration). The map at Appendix I shows gaping holes in community governance arrangements throughout the district, including the unparished areas of CT5.

- What voice we have now could be lost, as there is the real possibility that in the future Canterbury City Council will be subsumed into an even larger unitary authority, the preferred route in central government. Any informal forum such as ours is dependent on a small group of people to keep it alive so is intrinsically vulnerable and anything led by CCC, as we have seen, could fall away to changing politics or simply cuts.

6. In addition, we feel that a town council could:

    - represent the needs of our diverse community.

    - help to administer day to day life in our town.

    - improve the quality of life for all who live, work and visit our town.

    - help fulfil the place-shaping aim as detailed in the core commitments of CCC's Parish Charter.

    - benefit the town through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds generated by the Neighbourhood Portion of CIL receipts as also detailed in the Parish Charter.

7. We also strongly feel that Whitstable is losing out:

    - town councils can access funding that CCC and Kent County Council cannot. They have a town clerk who is expert in the legal framework for local activities and in seeking funding for the plans the elected town councillors draw up.

    - currently there is no Whitstable community organisation with which CCC is legally obliged to consult on planning matters, including new developments. A town council would have to be consulted.

    - it could add value to the hard work of CCC and KCC councillors.

- so many great things already happen in our town through the amazing efforts of local groups and individuals. A town council could bring these efforts together providing a community hub they could use, expert help, coordination and help bid for more funding.

Costs and benefits

8. CCC's own figures used during the recent public information meetings has put the cost of the precept for a Council Tax Band D property at somewhere between £60 to £80 per household per annum. In addition to properties that are exempt from Council Tax, a 25% discount will apply to those households in single occupancy and other discounts apply to those in receipt of benefits. Furthermore, 63% of properties are in Council Tax Bands A-C and will pay less than the range CCC and we have quoted.

9. Parts of CT5 are very affluent and other parts much less so. This is no different to the Canterbury district as a whole and we note that households are charged precepts for parish in less affluent areas such as the A28 corridor going East, with one of those parish councils' boundaries being extended as a result of the last CGR.

10. Some of the benefits we believe this additional precept would fund include:

    - nurture the energy that exists in the town already. "The whole is greater than the sum of the parts". We have many fantastic, largely voluntary groups working hard for CT5. They need support, places to meet and capacity to co-ordinate.

    - plan for economic development including tourism and sustainability that support the uniqueness of the town and the basic needs of its people.

    - promote diverse home tenure in the town - so that all who live and work here can afford good quality housing and our streets are lived in during the week and in the winter.

    - help those who may be left behind at the moment. Bring youth work, support for the elderly and care and access for disabled people to the forefront.

    - ensure that council tax and revenue generated by the town is spent locally and wisely.

- influence planning and licensing - A town council Town Council would be a statutory consultee, could instigate neighbourhood plans for parts of the town and be involved in supplementary planning advice.

- encourage Inward investment. - A Town Council would have the ability to apply for grants or loans (like the levelling up fund) for improvements in the town. It could create a lottery to support small local voluntary groups.

- promote use of local businesses - by locals and visitors, notably independent retail and hospitality.

- promote culture. Co-ordinating festivals, fetes, themed events like nature weeks and our already fantastic arts programme.

- civic pride. Encourage pride in our town so that locals and visitors alike show respect for our environment and the town is safe.

- Wellbeing and sense of safety. Promoting enjoyment of public spaces, particularly with regard to pollution and mental wellbeing.

- provide a new community hub. A central place for the town council to meet and for people involved in the community to come together and to work to bring together community organisations, including with imaginative use of new technology.

- develop strong relationships with other councils. By having strong links with the District and County Councils as well as other town and parish councils in the area, perhaps within a formal or informal cluster.

- traffic management. Promoting walking and cycling as well as use of clean public transport. Working with the City and Kent County Councils to manage traffic and parking in the town.

- improving local facilities. Tree and other planting for biodiversity and shade and management of parks, open spaces, cemeteries, public toilets etc.

11. We are not the town council. Priorities and all other matters would be for the newly elected town councillors to take forward.

Other factors

12. There are a number of additional factors we wanted to bring to the attention of the Task and Finish Advisory Group:

- unitary local government. Since the initial push in the 1990s and 2000s, there has been a steady creep towards more two tier areas such as Kent moving to unitary status. There are currently no plans for Kent to go unitary, but it should be borne in mind that only 25 two tier areas in England remain. Councils in London, the former metropolitan boroughs and all councils in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales has been unitary for decades. The abolition of Kent County Council and the twelve Kent district councils, and the creation of one or more unitary councils, may happen sooner than any of us think. If Canterbury City Council were to be replaced by a unitary council, the likelihood is that Whistable would be even further away from its main service provider than is currently the case. This makes the need for a town council even more imperative in order to provide a central hub to signpost people to the services they need. (Some of us also remember that a self-generated merger of a group of district councils including CCC, designed to make cost savings, came close to fulfilment less than ten years ago. It would have had the same effect as a unitary re distancing the citizen from local government.)

- elections. There was discussion at the General Purposes Committee on 13 December about whether there would be sufficient candidates contesting elections to a town council. Members were concerned that this wasn't always the case for parish councils in the district. The table at Appendix II will, we hope, dispel any notion that this would happen in the case of a town council for Whitstable.

- local government funding. Funding for local authorities has been drastically cut by central government over the past decade or so. Councils have to provide certain statutory services by law. For example, adult and children's social services in the case of Kent County Council and the homelessness duty in respect of Canterbury City Council. Other non-statutory services provided by councils have been severely cut back as a result of this funding cut. For example, several years ago most councils at the district level would have had a team, leading on areas of work like economic development, tourism, sport and physical activity etc. In recent years services such as these have been reduced or stopped. At our petition launch event last summer the Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils set this out in stark terms and was very much of the view that only local councils could fill the gap.

- value added. We have looked extensively at practice by established town councils elsewhere to see the investment they have drawn into their towns to

provide added value. A few examples of what is available is given at Appendix III.

- representing all parts of CT5. The boundary of the town council will be a matter for the CGR to decide, but it has been put to us that outlying areas will not draw the same benefits as the town centre. If we are successful and elections are held in 2025, we expect, and hope, that the town council will be warded according to the number of electors in each area. This means that all areas of CT5 will have an equal and proportionate voice. In the end it will be up to the elected town councillors to decide priorities so it's really important that people take part in the elections. If people are keen to get their voices heard, we urge them to think about standing for election in May 2025. Nominations are not restricted to members of political parties.

Conclusion

13. We hope this submission clearly sets out what we believe the benefits of creating a town council for Whitstable would bring and that it informs your crucial work in advising the Council on the conduct of the CGR.

A Voice for Whitstable campaign group

13 February 2024

Appendix I

Existing parish arrangements

Appendix II

Contestability of East Kent town council elections 2019 and 2023

		2019			2023	
Town Council	**Ward**	**Seats**	**Number standing**		**Seats**	**Number standing**
Faversham	Abbey	4	12		4	9
	Priory	2	5		2	4
	St Ann's	4	9		4	12
	Watling	4	9		4	10
	Totals	**14**	**35**		**14**	**35**
Ramsgate	Central Harbour	3	9		3	8
	Eastcliff	3	8		3	7
	Nethercourt	2	5		2	6
	Newington	2	5		2	5
	Northwood	3	9		3	10
	Pegwell	1	3		1	3
	Sir Moses Montefiore	2	4		2	6
	Totals	**16**	**43**		**16**	**45**
Broadstairs and St Peters	Beacon Road	3	5		3	5
	Bradstowe	3	6		3	3
	Kingsgate	1	2		1	3
	St Peters	4	7		4	6
	Viking	4	8		4	9
	Totals	**12**	**23**		**12**	**21**
Westgate-on-Sea	**Not warded**	**10**	**11**		**10**	**10**
Folkestone	Broadmead	2	4		2	5
	Central	4	11		4	12
	Cheriton East	1	2		1	3
	Cheriton West	3	7		3	8
	East Folkestone	4	7		4	9
	Harbour	3	8		3	11
	Harvey West	1	3		1	2
	Totals	**18**	**42**		**18**	**50**

		2019			2023	
Town Council	**Ward**	**Seats**	**Number standing**		**Seats**	**Number standing**
Hythe	Hythe East	4	8		4	4
	Hythe North	4	9		4	5
	Hythe South	4	9		4	7
	Hythe West	4	8		4	6
	Totals	**16**	**34**		**16**	**22**
Dover	Buckland	4	4		4	5
	Maxton and Elms Vale	2	4		2	3
	Rokesley	1	1		1	1
	St Radigunds	4	5		4	5
	Tower Hamlets	2	6		2	4
	Town and Castle	5	9		5	13
	Totals	**18**	**29**		**18**	**31**
Deal	Middle Deal	5	11		5	5
	Mill Hill	5	6		5	10
	North Deal	5	7		5	6
	Totals	**15**	**24**		**15**	**21**
Sandwich	Sandwich North	8	13		8	11
	Sandwich South	8	10		8	9
	Totals	**16**	**23**		**16**	**20**
Walmer	Gladstone	2	2		2	3
	Lower Walmer, St Saviours	3	5		3	5
	Lower Walmer, Wellington	5	4		5	7
	Upper Walmer	5	5		5	6
	Totals	**15**	**16**		**15**	**21**

Appendix III

Examples of value added by town councils

Local councils can access significant funds each year in addition to the precept paid by households. This means that, apart from the precept being used exclusively for local needs, it can be increased through intelligent application for other funds, some of which are only available to local councils.

Community Ownership Funds - Local (parish and town) councils nationwide, including in Kent, have successfully secured around £4.5 million from this central government fund. It supports local people in saving, developing, or restoring local community assets, such as libraries, town and village halls, pubs, nature reserves, and garden projects. Only local councils may apply.

Parish Council Winter Support Grant - is a Kent County Council scheme using central government funding and providing grants to parish councils to deliver local initiatives supporting people in financial hardship. These are small grants, exclusive to local councils.

Neighbourhood Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - developer contribution to infrastructure paid to the district council (CCC). A meaningful proportion of CIL funds - known as the neighbourhood portion - is allocated to the local area where an individual development takes place to spend on infrastructure priorities. This amounts to 15% of receipts and increases to 25% in areas with a Neighbourhood Plan in place. Where development takes place in an area with a local council, the neighbourhood portion will be allocated to them.

Active travel - Perhaps one of our favourite example of local success is this from Faversham Town Council where they have worked in partnership with Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council to access central government funding of £1m for a cross town walking route to make walking safer, easier and more pleasant. https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/active-travel/cross-town-walking-route/