

Summary of Feedback from CGR Consultation

Electors were given an opportunity to make comments when they answered the survey. A summary of the feedback given is set out below.

“Yes” response comments (316 comments made):

The YES response comments were very varied but there was a common theme from many residents who consider that Sheerness is a poor relation to Sittingbourne (and to a lesser extent Faversham) and most of the Council's money has been spent in Sittingbourne not Sheerness e.g. Sittingbourne Regeneration project.

Comments were also made on the following areas:

- the appearance of Sheerness – some residents consider that the whole town needs tidying up and cleaning; there is too much litter, dog mess, fly tipping and more bins are required.
- localism – some residents do not feel they are represented enough and a town council would give them an additional voice to tackle/raise their concerns; and money raised locally would be spent locally.
- improvement of services – some residents feel that a town council would help improve the quality of shops, restaurants, roads (including fixing potholes), car parks, education, employment, policing, tourism, anti-social behaviour, youth projects, childcare and welfare, sports & recreation, social care, social housing, facilities for the disabled and elderly, open spaces, bus shelters, public toilets and other amenities.
- some residents believe that a town council will replace the borough council and all council tax will be spent in Sheerness/Sheppey.
- some residents expressed an interest in joining the Town Council and wanted further information.
- some residents have seen that Minster Parish and Queenborough Town Councils have improved their respective areas so want to see something similar happen to Sheerness.
- A couple of residents made comments about the need to protect the Clock Tower which was featured on the consultation leaflet.

“No” response comments (173 comments made):

The vast majority of NO responses were based on not wanting to have a Town Council as they do not want to pay more council tax; and/or feel they pay enough council tax already.

Comments were also made on the following areas:

- not wishing to have an extra layer of government and there is too much bureaucracy already.
- the money should be spent elsewhere improving services on Sheerness.
- existing representation should be enough with Borough & County Councillors plus a Member of Parliament.
- a town council would have no real power.
- Swale Borough Council should do its job properly instead of trying to get more money out of residents.