

Cheshire East

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

To whom it may concern ,

I am writing to you as a resident of Dumbah Lane ([REDACTED]) in connection with the proposed changes included within the Cheshire East boundary review.

On the 27th February 2024 Cheshire East Council (CEC) ruled, at a full assembly of its councillors: -

The Bollington parish border and those of its residents, south of the Silk Road (A523), should be moved from the parish of Bollington into the parish of Macclesfield.

I am writing to oppose the ruling by Cheshire East Council and instead to support an extension of the Prestbury Ward boundary line to the end of Dumbah Lane/Tytherington Lane as per the attached plan highlighted in yellow.

This is unanimously supported by the other residents along Dumbah Lane and also by Prestbury Parish Council Members. I have attached a supporting letter from the Dumbah Association and a letter from Prestbury Council Members to the Places Directorate, Cheshire East Council, dating back to 13.09.21 when the matter was reviewed as part of the Cheshire East Community Review. Indeed Mike Adley attended a meeting of Prestbury Council on 13.03.24 where council members yet again promised to offer their support to this proposal.

Half of the houses along Dumbah Lane currently lie within the civil Parish of Prestbury and the other half (10 houses) within the civil Parish of Bollington.

I have listed a some arguments to support the extension of the Prestbury Parish boundary line:

- All of the houses along Dumbah Lane already lie within the ecclesiastical parish of Prestbury.
- There is a consensus amongst the residents of Dumbah Lane that there is a close kinship to Prestbury, with Prestbury amenities all within walking distance; we feel part of the Prestbury community.
- There doesn't seem to be any natural boundary line down the middle of Dumbah Lane to create a boundary here.
- Our houses lie on the Prestbury side of the Silk Road, rather than the Bollington side. I understand that many of the houses have Prestbury landline numbers.

- None of the houses along Dumbah Lane are part of the Tytherington development and are outside the Business Village.

On a personal note our family feel part of the Prestbury community as both my daughters attend school in Prestbury, attend tennis classes at Prestbury Tennis club, we used the amenities in the village, attend the Church, use the playground every week. My parents live in the centre of the village. We go to all the venues in the village regularly. As such we know many residents of the village and feel part of the community. We don't have the same connection with Bollington or Tytherington.

Our campaign to transfer all of the houses on Dumbah Lane into the Prestbury Ward was discussed and reviewed as part of the Community Governance Review in March 2022. The final recommendations assessment report stated the following :

"The residents of properties in the Dumbah Lane area each submitted a joint message (by email), stating that they identified with Prestbury and that they wished for the Bollington (eastern) part of their road to be moved into that parish (a proposal that has the support of Prestbury Parish Council and the borough ward Member for Prestbury). These households noted they were closer to the centre of Prestbury than to Bollington and were within walking distance of Prestbury's amenities."

Response

"On the issue of Dumbah Lane, the Borough recognises that the current boundary line (cutting the street in two) is confusing and does not reflect community identity and acknowledges the preference of its residents (and some adjacent properties) to be moved to Prestbury. However, such a change to the Bollington/Prestbury boundary would again involve electoral risk (as the parish of Prestbury is in a separate borough ward). On balance, therefore, the Borough Council does not consider a change to this boundary can be justified, given the small number of properties (around 10) for which additional polling facilities would be required. This does mean, though, that it may be appropriate to reconsider the boundary in this area after the next borough ward review."

Page 90, appendix 3 <https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=93568&ISATT=1#search=%22appendix%201%22>

Following this, the minutes of a meeting of the Community Governance Review Sub-Committee held on Monday, 4th April, 2022 in the The Assembly Room - Town Hall, Macclesfield Councillor P Findlow asked that the proposal to include the whole of Dumbah Lane within the parish of Prestbury (which was not recommended in the report), be supported for reasons of community cohesion and the electoral risk referred to in the report as a reason for not supporting the proposal be mitigated.

Link : <https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/g9237/Printed%20minutes%2004th-Apr-2022%2014.00%20Community%20Governance%20Review%20Sub-Committee.pdf?T=1>

Given the small number of houses involved I don't agree that this would create enough of an imbalance to the electoral representation or that additional polling facilities would need to be provided !

Quoting the website - the purpose of the public consultation is to make " sure that its proposals reflect community ties and identities."

Our proposal does reflect community ties and identities. I hope our views will be taken into consideration and that the commission will support the wishes of the residents along Dumbah Lane and the proposal of Prestbury Parish Council members by not proceeding with the ruling of Cheshire East Council and instead grant the extension of the Prestbury Parish boundary line to the southern boundary of the Silk Road and Tytherington Lane.

Attached Documents:

- 13-sep-21---prestbury-p.c.-response-to-2nd-cec-consultation-on-community-governance,-september-2021-(3[2].docx
- dumbah-association-25.03.24.pdf

DUMBAH ASSOCIATION

Established 1985

Chairman:

Mike Adley

[REDACTED]

Secretary:

Brian Jones

[REDACTED]

25 March 2024

TO: Local Government Boundary Commission
CC: Dumbah Association, Bollington members only
REF **Cheshire East: Bollington/Macclesfield boundary**

Dear Sirs,

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL'S: POSITION

On the 27th February 2024 Cheshire East Council (CEC) ruled, at a full assembly of its councillors: -

The Bollington parish border and those of its residents, south of the Silk Road (A523), should be moved from the parish of Bollington into the parish of Macclesfield.

DUMBAH ASSOCIATION'S: POSITION

The Dumbah Association (DA) strongly opposes CEC's resolution. We have canvassed all DA's Bollington residents (14 properties) for their preferences. None wish a transfer to Macclesfield; all prefer Prestbury over Bollington. Of the 14 Bollington properties; 10 sit within Dumbah Lane which, itself, is currently split between the parishes of Prestbury and Bollington.

By **Oct 2021**, CEC's Community Boundary Review (CGR) had formally registered and mapped an option to transfer 11 DA Bollington properties into Prestbury (see Map-BOL4), but this option was eliminated at the Cheshire East Council meeting of **27th Feb. 2024**. We were informed of this meeting **25th Feb:** Worse, these CEC-CGR meetings had reconvened effective **1st Jan 2024** --- unbeknown to us.

Individual letters/emails will be sent to the Local Boundary Commission (LGBC) stating each property's preference. The following pages give detail to Dumbah Association's position.

Signed **Mike Adley**

Chairman – Dumbah Association

DUMBAH ASSOCIATION: OUR POSITION

TRANSFERRING to PRESTBURY

The Dumbah Association is a residents' organisation of some 40 years standing and was formed by Mike Adley and the late Derek Gower (Prestbury parish councilor) - both of Dumbah Lane. It represents the interests of all residents living along: Dumbah, Ball and Tytherington Lanes and some parts of Manchester Road. Of DA's Bollington contingent of 14-properties; Dumbah Lane holds 10 of them.

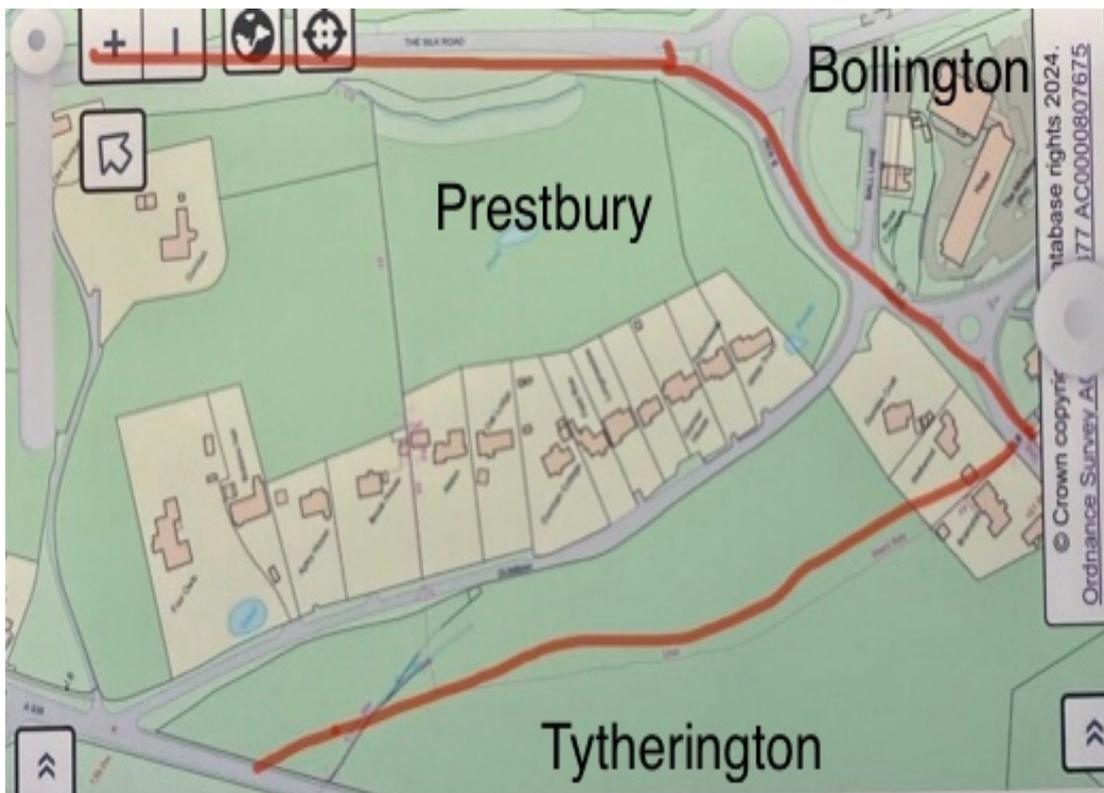
Dumbah Lane is a small country lane, divided by the existing Prestbury/Bollington parish borders. Some 7-houses to its west sit in Prestbury and 10 to its east sit in Bollington. An unsatisfactory situation for such a close community.

With the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), we have the chance to put the road together again.

Both halves of Dumbah Lane's residents, over the years had children of similar age who, when young trekked daily to Bollin Grove School in the heart of Prestbury village. This became the hub of their families' social lives. They met at the school or Village Hall; the children played on the swings and roundabouts and the adults either shopped at Conways or were playing bridge, tennis, crown green bowls, golf and cricket - all in the heart of the village. Social evenings were, and still are at The Club, The Admiral Rodney, Butley Ash, Leigh Arms or dining at one of the many well-appointed restaurants. Prestbury has been kind to us over the years with most friends outside of our Dumbah community still living in the village, but until now we have never had the chance to affect its governance.

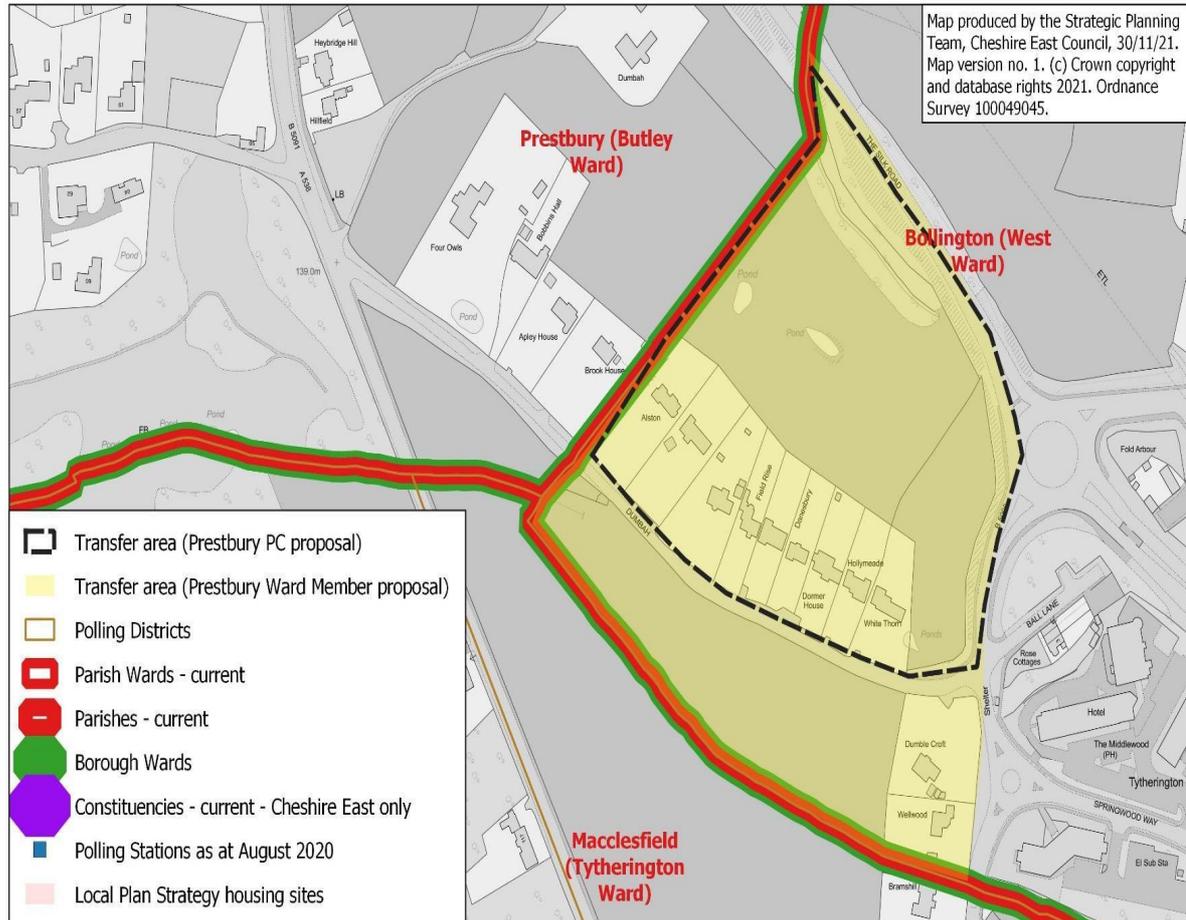
Dumbah Association suggested new strong hard borders adjacent to the extended Prestbury

Boundary, between Tytherington and Prestbury follows current border
Bollington and Prestbury follows Silk Road and Tytherington Lane



TRANSFERRING to PRESTBURY: OFFICIAL CEC Community Boundary Review at Oct 2021

Below is CEC's official map, shown as **MAP-BOL4** on page-88 of their Community Boundary Review (CGR) document circa OCT 2021. It formally registers an option for transferring 11 of DA's Bollington properties into Prestbury parish and includes the whole of Dumbah Lane.



This map, with its YELLOW shading, is favoured by our DA residents and was proposed by the then (2021) Prestbury CE-ward councillor (now retired) after his site visit circa Sept 2021. This Prestbury CE-councillor had, in the past, been both a Cheshire County (CC) and Macclesfield Borough (MCB) councillor for Macclesfield (Tytherington) under the now defunct CC/MCB regimes. Therefore, he knew the area well.

As shown, this map uses the existing Bollington boundary (running away from Dumbah Lane) and terminating at Tytherington Lane. It maintains the greatest separation between Dumbah Lane and Macclesfield's existing border.

DA sincerely and respectfully asks that LGBC take a compassionate view on OUR 3 Ball Lane properties whose residents have been excluded. We believe the curtilage of Tytherington Business Village presents an identifiable separation boundary from Ball Lane's 150-year old cottages.

From DA's perspective, we believe the above map provides: -

- 1) The greatest protection for the Green Belt land in front and behind Dumbah Lane
- 2) Offers the greatest protection for existing Prestbury Dumbah Lane residents
- 3) Item-2 is significant. Bollington Town Council has tried to expand into Prestbury!
- 4) If DA's Bollington residents are a target now, then: -
 - a) DA's Prestbury residents along **Dumbah Lane** (7) could be a future target
 - b) And, DA's Prestbury residents along **Manchester Road** (4) could also be a future target

DECOUPLING BALL LANE from TYTHERINGTON BUSINESS VILLAGE



The Dumbah Association modification to the Bollington /Tytherington boundary to incorporate Ball Lane cottages into Bollington

Critical to DA's position of transferring to Prestbury Parish is the absolute need to decouple our members from those Bollington residents (**70+**) living within boundaries of the Tytherington Business Village (TBV). TBV's residents have lived within this village for, at most, some 10-years: the last built was circa 2021. Whereas, DA's residents' houses were built in the 1950s with many residents occupying them for several decades. Essentially, we were here before the Silk Road (A523) or the TBV were built.

Tytherington Business Village is entered through Springwood Way, with its name illuminated on both sides of the road. Springwood Way is an **unadopted road**, owned by the Emerson Group, and likely to remain unadopted. The right side of Springwood Way has only office buildings; the left side starts with a hotel, followed by an office building with the first house appearing some 400-meters deep from the entrance. The rear of this village is bounded by a huge earth mound; the north side bounded by the 4-lane Silk Road (A523). It is therefore cocooned by commercial office buildings, a mound and the Silk Road.

From DA's perspective the name ***Tytherington Business Village*** (TBV) is, by itself, self-defining. These two discrete and separate hamlets are of completely different character and heritage. We are in Green Belt; theirs not. Each of our houses are of unique design; theirs not. The A523 is 2-lane behind us; theirs 4-lane.

There are no TBV residential properties/houses adjacent to any of DA's Bollington residents and that includes DA's members on Ball Lane - which are clearly outside the curtilage of the TBV.

It is for TBV's residents to voice their own opinions. Our focus is on our DA residents. Hence we should be decoupled from TBV. Something of an approach that CEC/Macclesfield and should have considered.

We believe, CEC's position of coupling two discrete hamlets is a blunt tool to gain turf. It is crude, indiscriminate and totally insensitive to our residents and CEC's responsibility to us.

DUMBAH ASSOCIATION: Why not Macclesfield (Tytherington ward)?

A description of Tytherington can be obtained from Wikipedia viz:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tytherington,_Cheshire

Taken in the round, Wiki describes Tytherington as being an affluent area of housing. Apart from its prestigious Tytherington Club and golf course, it has but 1 pub/restaurant 'The Brocklehurst Arms'. It lacks any sense of character; fails to facilitate places of social community interaction, combined with the critical weakness of not being a parish. It is but a ward of Macclesfield Town Council.

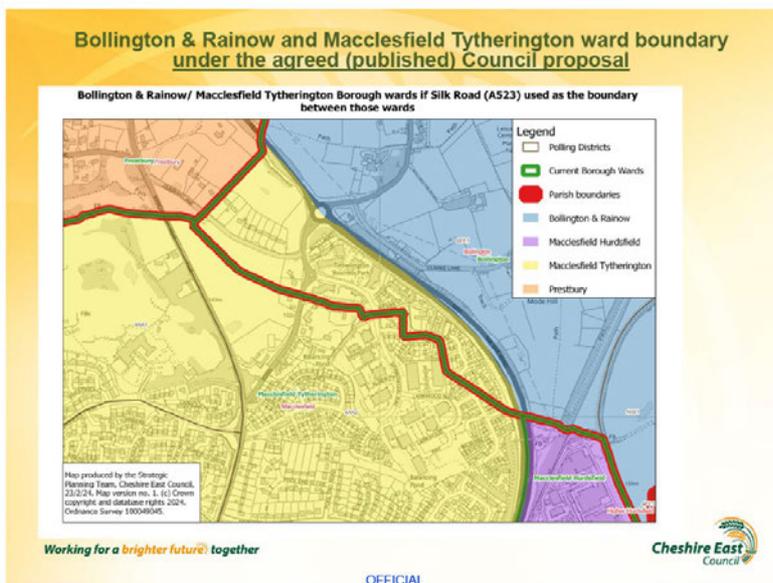
Macclesfield Town Council (MTC) is an amorphous mix of disparate wards: some the most deprived in Cheshire East; others affluent like Tytherington. Tytherington's voice is lost in the crossfire of competing MTC objectives. This point is not lost on existing Tytherington residents who sometimes voice on Facebook: why isn't Tytherington a parish like Bollington and Prestbury? Also, CEC recently conducted a *peoples survey* based on its wards: again, Tytherington's residents expressed their desire for it to be a parish. Tytherington certainly has the numbers (electors) to do it and HM Gov. promotes the idea of Parishes and localism. Tytherington could be a powerful and discerning voice for its community. But it isn't!

From DA's perspective, the bull-dozer effect of Macclesfield Town Council's sheer volume of councillors (12) has blasted through an indiscriminate and insensitive turf war which includes OUR DA Bollington members. We are but collateral damage to them. MTC wants possession of Bollington's Tytherington Business Village residents (70+ properties) and insists on taking OUR Bollington members (14 properties), outside of the TBV, with it!

DUMBAH ASSOCIATION: Why Prestbury instead of Bollington?

Why NOT should be the REAL QUESTION? How dare WE, question CEC's authority? This is the collective view of DA's Bollington residents and is best expressed by individual letters to LGBC.

CEC's POSITION: BOLLINGTON South of A523 -> TYTHERINGTON



FINALLY: THIS IS OUR POSITION

We respectfully request that LGBC consider OUR views.



Prestbury Parish Council

Places Directorate,
Cheshire East Council,
Westfields,
Middlewich Road,
Sandbach,
Cheshire, CW11 IHZ.

September 14th, 2021

Dear Community Governance Team,

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW CONSULTATION

At a time when there are so many major issues for local authorities to deal with, let alone funding constraints, it does seem to be somewhat anomalous that Cheshire East Council is persisting with a community governance review. However, it is and it is very important that we engage with it.

This is Prestbury Parish Council's second input on community governance. We responded to the previous consultation in December 2019 and we enclose the submission we made then on line (Appendix 1). At that time, when there weren't any recommendations from CEC on the table to comment upon, our thinking was that it was not fair to Fallibroome Ward residents to only have one Parish Councillor officially representing them. We therefore suggested that Fallibroome and Prestbury Wards be merged and that that the newly merged Ward should have six councillors representing it, as is the case for Butley Ward in Prestbury Parish. As the River Bollin marks the boundary between Prestbury Ward and Butley Ward, that has always been well understood and there did not appear to be any reason to suggest a change to that.

However, having now been presented with your recommendations that Prestbury Parish should not retain a warding system, we are in general terms, in agreement with this policy which would enable all Councillors to represent any parishoners.

The Community Governance Review has also raised a response from the residents on Dumbah Lane, part of which currently lies within the Prestbury Parish and part within Bollington. Prestbury Parish Council, having considered their comments, accept that this does seem to be a logical proposal. We would therefore like you to consider an extension to the Prestbury Parish boundary to include all the properties on Dumbah Lane. This would require a redrawing of our parish boundary to be now bounded by Dumbah Lane, part of the B 5090 which runs from the Ball Lane roundabout on to the A523 and the A 523 upto the current Prestbury Parish boundary.

Yours sincerely,

KEITH PODMORE
Chairman

c.c. Councillor Paul Findlow Cheshire East Councillor

Clerk: Mark Wheelton e: Clerk@prestbury.gov.uk
Prestbury Village Hall, Macclesfield Road, Prestbury, Cheshire, SK10 4BW

APPENDIX 1

PRESTBURY PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CEC COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW, 2019

1. Please choose the town/parish council ward you are submitting a response for:
 - A. Prestbury Parish Council – three wards: Fallibroome, Butley and Prestbury
2. Which of the following best describes how you are responding to this survey: Tick one box only:
 - A. (3rd box) - On behalf of a town/parish council
3. How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within the town/parish council ward you are responding about ...
 - ... reflects local identities and interests?
 - A. (1st option) – ‘Strongly agree’
 - ... provides an effective and convenient local government?
 - A. (1st option) – ‘Strongly agree’

Please explain the reason for your answer:

- A. Throughout its long existence, Prestbury has been a logical entity as a first-tier governmental unit – going back to when it was first settled by priests nearly 10 centuries ago! (The name Prestbury – originally Preosta burgh – is Anglo Saxon). The ancient ecclesiastical parish was formed prior to 1312. That was the centre of a very extensive ecclesiastical parish that consisted of 35 ‘townships’ and covered an area 20 miles long from north to south and an average of 10 miles across.

The modern day, far more compact, administrative parish was formed following the Local Government Act of 1894. It covers 1,165 hectares or 2,880 acres and the built part of the parish is defined these days by Green Belt which separates it from surrounding settlements. It has had continuously serving Parish Councils throughout its 125-year existence and it has developed a very strong and individual identity. In recent times the Parish Council was the driving force behind a Village Design Statement and a Parish Plan, both of which led to Supplementary Planning Documents and both of which describe in great detail the physical, social and cultural features which make Prestbury the very distinctive place it is.

4. Are you able to provide examples of community governance arrangements, within Cheshire East, which have enabled successful opportunities for engagement, empowerment and co-ordination?

- A. No, and in fact Prestbury Parish Council, along with many other Local Councils, is critical of the way that the New Homes Bonus (NHB) has been distributed by the principal authority and the fact that Local Councils were not given due representation on the distributing body. We note the Holmes Chapel Parish Council suggestion for an alternative distribution process. In view of the number of houses that that Local Service Centre has been required to accept within and close to its boundaries, it is quite understandable that their system should be based solely on houses. However, Prestbury Parish Council believes that a fairer system would be one which also took into account the allocation of employment and educational sites, new highway capacity and new car parks (private and public). Prestbury Parish has lost 50 acres of Green Belt due to the construction of a large new educational establishment. The development includes significant areas of hard surfaces including car parking and an internal road system. Site construction work, (it is on a hill), has already caused flooding lower down from it. When the school is open, there will be significant extra traffic movements within the parish. The NHB should compensate Parish Councils for this type of development so that they could fund or part fund some mitigation measures.
- 5. A community governance review can make a number of changes to parish governance when there is clear evidence to do so. For the town/parish council ward you are responding about please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change or not.**

- A. (1st option) 'Change' – which would affect two of the three Prestbury wards – Fallibroome and Prestbury – but not Butley.

According to Cheshire East's statistics, there are 142 parishes in the borough, 27 of which are sub-divided into wards for election purposes. This gives a total of 186 council wards. Background documents provide two different figures but there are either 134 or 135 parishes which have Town or Parish Councils or Parish Meetings. (Sixteen of these represent 44 grouped parishes). There are a total of 1,018 parish councillors across the Borough and each parish councillor represents an average of 296 electors. However, the ratio of electors to councillors varies from one councillor to eight voters to one councillor to 3,703 electors.

The smallest of Prestbury's three wards, Fallibroome, has just 85 electors. This number is expected to reduce very slightly by 2025, although it is not clear why. These voters are represented by one Councillor. Butley ward has 1,322 electors and six Councillors, which means they represent 220 each. A very moderate increase in voters is predicted. Prestbury ward has 1,441 electors and five Councillors, which means they represent 228 voters each. Again, a very moderate increase in voters is anticipated by 2025.

There does seem to be a logic in combining Fallibroome and Prestbury wards, which adjoin each other, and having a total of six councillors for the combined new ward. They would then each represent 254 electors. In view of how close Prestbury's (then) two wards would both be to the borough average electoral quota and taking into consideration possible modest increases in the number of houses and voters in the next 10 years, the total number of councillors on Prestbury Parish Council should remain the same (ie. 12). (N.B. Based on predicted population growth, Prestbury is only anticipated to have an increase of 0.5% in the number of electors between 2018 and 2025, ie. up by just 17 from 3,623 to 3,640 – but there is an unknown factor in the outcome of the Local Plan, Part 2, which is unresolved).

There does not appear to be any case for grouping Prestbury with other Councils. Certainly, Prestbury Parish Council, at the time of answering this consultation, are unaware of any case for grouping or clustering. (However, if any other Council makes a suggestion in this respect which involves Prestbury, the Parish Council would expect to be notified of the fact). Nor is there any foundation for changing the name of this historic parish.

6. How many more town/parish council wards would you like to give your views on?

A. (1st option) 'None'.

