

**The Community Governance Review Officer
Democratic Services
Slough Borough Council
St Martins Place
51 Bath Road
Slough, Berkshire
SL1 3UF**

For the attention of:- Fiona Ahern

8th November 2018
Ref: CCP/2018/03

Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council

Dear Madam,

On behalf of the Colnbrook Community Partnership (CCP) I submit a firm positive response in favour of the retention of the Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council. The Parish Council offers a great deal of support to other Colnbrook community groups, acting in the capacity of an 'umbrella organisation' without their specific support, the future of our community groups would certainly be compromised.

The Parish Council are the first tier of local government, being made up from individuals who live or work within the Parish Boundary, and as such are both the closest and have the greater knowledge of the community and the problems that beset this community.

A strong community bond has evolved between most of the Colnbrook groups who work with the Parish Council in order to organise and structure community events throughout the year. The Parish Council are represented as a Partner with the Colnbrook Community Partnership, as is SBC, within the charity. The Parish Council have representation on the Colnbrook Residents' Association, Colnbrook Village Hall Trust, Colnbrook NAG and Colnbrook FAG. Their involvement in other issues including HGV traffic through our residential areas, Fly-tipping, highway and neglected footpath complaints are well documented and are issues to which the Parish Council have no direct responsibility for but nevertheless advocate strongly to find solutions to these problems.

If the Parish Council were to be disbanded, then I fear much of our community spirit and cohesion would be lost. It must be remembered that it was the Colnbrook Residents' Association who in 1947 brought together the three separate districts of

Colnbrook, Poyle and Brands Hill. From this in 1994 when Colnbrook with Poyle ward was the outcome of the Boundaries Commission decision to move our community into Slough Borough Council that the CRA successfully petitioned for a Parish Council. That situation has worked well for the community and it still has the potential to work. There may be some valid criticisms of the Parish Council no organisation can ever please everyone all of the time, but without that “buffer” between Community and Local authority is a situation that ultimately would not be of benefit to anyone.

I therefore strongly advocate that the future of the Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council be assured.

Yours sincerely,

Michael J. Nye
Trustee
Colnbrook Community Partnership.