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15 September 2009

Dear Editor,

### **A Town Council for Whitley Bay?**

There was a North East Area Forum in March 2008 on the single topic of a Town/Parish Council for Whitley Bay. In a well attended meeting a representative of the National Association of Local Councils outlined the role and responsibilities of a Parish or Town Council.

At the end of the meeting I told the chairman, Cllr. Jackson that I would do some research on the topic during the following 2 months and let him know the outcome. The information that I obtained included advice from Alan Campbell MP and a leading councillor for Exmouth Town Council, where I lived as a child. The outcome was posted on 27 April 2008 on the LOCAL page of a website that I maintain so that it is widely available to those with an interest.

A letter from Alan Campbell gives advice on how a town council could be formed. One way is for North Tyneside Council to instigate a 'community governance review' on its own initiative. The other way, which I prefer, is for the community itself to oblige the Council to carry out a 'community governance review' through a petition that "would have to be signed by at least 10% of the electors and define the area to which the review is to relate".

I would like to gauge the views of the local community and to that end I am carrying out a survey over the next 6 months. I have created a survey form that can be accessed via the internet. The survey form allows a choice of what area a town council for Whitley Bay might cover and plenty of space for individuals to express their views.

Towards the end of the survey period I will draft a report to be submitted to NT Council. The draft report will be available to all who completed the survey form to allow them to influence the final version before it is submitted. I will also take into account ideas and opinions expressed by those who may prefer to use other means than by filling a form.

The internet address of the survey form is: -  
<http://freespace.virgin.net/smith.rob/surveyform.htm>

Yours sincerely,

Robin Smith

To:- Guardian Letters, 33-35 Park View, Whitley Bay, NE26 2TP