Public Consultation on the Community Governance Reviews for Salisbury & Laverstock
18 May 2016 Notes

6pm	WC In attendance: Cllr Stuart Wheeler (Chairman), Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Ricky Rogers. Ian Gibbons, John Watling, Lisa Moore
1	The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting and explained the purpose and procedures of the meeting.
2	Laverstock & Ford gave a presentation providing arguments against the full merger and in support of scheme 3.
3	Andrew Roberts, Leader of Salisbury City Council, gave a presentation in support of the Salisbury/ Laverstock & Ford full merger.
4	Comments from the public against the full merger included: • A public vote run by the L&F parish magazine had shown that the majority of residents wished to retain as a parish. • Where do you draw the line, why stop at Laverstock, why not include other neighbouring parishes such as the winterbournes, Idmiston, Clarendon, Britford and Netherhampton. All of which pay their local taxes through Wilts Council tax and PC precept. • The L&F response had come from the people that mattered, the residents, where as the city support had only come from Cllrs and ex Cllrs, reflecting how important the issue was to the citizens of L&F. • Representation in a merged parish would mean that L&F would only have 3 Cllrs out of around 29. This would be like the EU, and could see L&F being outvoted every time an interest of the City came into conflict. • There was a lack of understanding of local needs. • There was no political biased on the L&F pc as it was non partisan and conducts its business purely in the interest of all residents. The City runs on party lines and consequently there would always be subject to outside influence and persuasion. • The success of the River Bourne Community Farm would not have been possible without the support of the L&F PC. The farm was not urban L&F took on derelict land and developed the farm, which had improved quality of life for many residents. • L&F was geographically distinct from SCC – chalk landscape; clearly defined semi rural parish complements Salisbury. • The Parish Magazine – connect residents and businesses; in the

	vibrant friendly community. • Developers advertised the new houses as being in Salisbury; this is why we need our PC to stand up for us. • We have the new country park at Riverdown. • WC recognised a genuine case of localism in action. • A resident in Roman Road asked friends from other parishes outside the city such as Harnham and Stratford Sub Castle whether they thought L&F should be incorporated into the City. Their response was no, and that L&F should fight for their parish. • Salisbury is urban and we are rural, the differences and needs of the two are completely different. • SCC struggles to meet its responsibilities; taking on L&F would increase difficulties despite our income. • Our Cllrs all live within the community and volunteer their services to the community. • Residents bought their houses in the parishes decades ago purposely because they were not in the city. • We live in a democracy where the process should be to listen to the people who are affected by the proposal. We do not want to merge. • We would lose much more than we would gain. • A comparison to Hitler's AR tanks rolling through the parish was made. • The council's strap line 'Where everybody matters' should include us. • As residents we are very well looked after by L&F PC, many components form our PC. L&F is very cost effective, efficient and an effective public body, it should be allowed to remain so. • SCC needs 60 staff for 23 cllrs, where L&F has one. • There had been no discussions with L&F from SCC to plan how we would benefit. • SCC was wasteful with their finances on the Market square. • The process here is depressing, 99% of residents wanted to stay independent from Salisbury, but WC have ignored them. • Comments of the Chairman being biased with Robert Mugabe style politics was made. As an elected cllr, he should listen to the electorate. • In this parish we offer an alternative form of civil politics. Our records show 7 years of decision making entirely driven by what residents want, not by political persuasion. • SCC is the aggressors in this matter. We wanted to live in harmony but SCC has forced this on us. • SCC bid has come from their desire for our funds to finance asset transfers from WC. • Having originally saying that she would not speak at the debate, immediately before the Unitary Authority took their vote, Baroness Scott said that in her experience parishes such as ours get used to being amalgamated with larger administration. She may as well as said 'its a storm in a teacup, get on with it'. • The unitary council will vote in favour of the takeover as many WC Cllrs will be obliged to vote as their leader would wish them to. • It was believed that the future of the parish had already been decided by WC irrespective of the working group recommendations.

	WC Cllr Ian McLennan • After reading the guidance on this process, it states that in previous years before the Act, there had only been 4 requests and 1 application. On pages 120 & 122 it stated that for a parish to be abolished, the first thing to look at was that the residents had called for it and that the parish should be in disarray for a minimum of 2 terms. He asked if there was any point to consider the proposal when this did not apply? The Chairman noted that the Working Group had been specifically mandated to look at the proposal. This point would be looked at by the Monitoring Officer.
5	Comments from the public in support of the merger included: • PC's can add a tremendous amount of capacity and value, L&F was a well run pc which did good work. SCC also well run and gave a great deal to the community. • The merger would allow residents to take part in public participation and have a say in how local services were run. • L&F could still have the fantastic news letter and meeting rooms. • L&F have the option to share in the great amalgamation of the Salisbury City. • Funding from Central Gov would continue to decrease, leaving the need for more to be done by the community. • In the future fire and flood prevention would need updating and you would look to your parish for those improvements. • If you were a bigger parish you could have developed a Neighbourhood Plan. With more capacity to safeguard key areas you are interested in.
6	John Watling spoke on schemes 2 & 3 and showed a slide depicting the proposal.
7	Comments from the public against scheme 3 included: • A resident living in the green hatched area shown on the slide, noted his disappointment in WC. He was totally opposed to the merger detailed in scheme 3. He did not use the majority of the services listed on the SCC website.

8	**Roundup and Close.** The Chairman noted that all three schemes would be on the agenda when it reached Full Council. All of the proposals across Wiltshire had been submitted for consideration and were not the creation of WC. The process was being conducted in a fair way as possible, with the working group trying to listen to all residents involved. The comments submitted on the online survey would be presented to the working group for consideration along with all comments received at the public consultation events. The working group would make its recommendation to Full Council In July?? For final decision. Close: 7.32pm