

A village in the heart of Cheshire

.....

SAVE OUR SOMERFORD

You may have seen our Spring Newsletter with the somewhat emotive headline of **SOMERFORD PARISH IS TO BE ABOLISHED** and you, your family and your home are moving to Congleton Town if Cheshire East Borough Council get their way! ...but it was true and accurate and now is your chance to fight back!

The Proposal

Cheshire East Borough Council (CEBC) has opened its consultation on its proposals for their changes to the town and parish boundaries which include the abolition of Somerford with a major part of it moving into Congleton Town and the little that is left being merged with various parts of Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths to form a new parish. The consultation document can be viewed here:

<https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/CGReview2/>

The Justification

The principal justification for the abolition of the parish is the Congleton Link Road which CEBC says forms a physical boundary separating the 'rural area' from the new 'town area'. Despite this, CEBC proposes to move part of Somerford which is 'outside' the Link Road into Congleton Town, thus undermining their own argument! Why would they do this, you may ask. Could it be that the area in question is the only area approved for substantial residential development "outside" the Link Road? As they said in the film *All the President's Men* – "Follow the money!"

The Cheshire East Consultation

The CEBC consultation is being conducted solely 'online'. This means that all those who cannot or do not use IT systems will not have their voices heard. Several CE councillors wanted a paper-based survey to ensure that all had an equal chance of having a say but this was voted down.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

However, CEBC **MUST** take into account the views and wishes of residents, and if enough of you vote to keep Somerford as an independent parish, then your wishes should prevail. The most important consideration is local opinion – but you must make your opinion known for it to be considered. Many people who have moved into Somerford say they did so because they wanted to live in a small community such as Somerford as opposed to a larger town. Therefore, in order to ensure that every resident has a voice, the parish council propose to consult you directly by:

1. Asking you to complete the attached response sheet **online or on paper**; and
2. Visiting every household during October to ask YOU to sign a petition headed **Save Our Somerford**.

Further information

We have kept this summary brief but realise that many of you will want more information and facts. These are set out in the following pages for those who wish to delve deeper. They cover such topics as:

1. What exactly is proposed by CEBC?
 2. What does the parish council think should happen?
-

-
3. What are the pros. and cons of the change?
 4. What has the parish council done for us?
 5. Are there any other factors to consider?
 6. Where can I get more information?

What should I do now?

If you want to help **Save Our Somerford**, please visit the parish council website at;

<https://www.somerfordparishcouncil.co.uk/>

and complete the response sheet online or fill in the paper version enclosed and return to:

The Clerk, Somerford Parish Council, 1 Overton Meadow, Smallwood, CW11 2UP

**We do propose to visit every address in the parish in the next 3-4 weeks
and will be happy to collect your response sheet then.**

