

Community Governance Review Engagement Programme Phase 1 Report

Report to: Keith Simmons, Assistant Director Corporate Policy & Support
Tendring District Council

Prepared by: Lisa Andrews, Chief Executive
Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST)

1. Introduction

CVST was commissioned to undertake an engagement programme aimed at speaking to local residents in Clacton, Holland-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands to capture their views as part of Tendring District Council's Community Governance Review. This work took place during September 2025 and used targeted surveys and focus groups to add value to the wider consultation and engagement to gather diverse perspectives, ensuring an inclusive and transparent review process.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the programme were to:

- Foster wider meaningful public engagement ✓
- Gather qualitative and quantitative data ✓
- Ensure representation of diverse community voices through structured discussions ✓
- Add value to the District Council's consultation programme ✓
- Promote and share details of the formal consultation events with diverse communities and encourage their involvement ✓

3. Overview

Five public engagement events were held across Clacton and surrounding areas to gauge community sentiment regarding the establishment of a Town Council. These events included focus groups, group discussions, presentations, and one-to-one conversations, engaging a diverse cross-section of residents including older adults, carers, young people, and families.

Flyers and surveys were also shared by CVST staff and volunteers through our Community Centre in Clacton and at CVST events and activities. TDC Social Media posts were also shared on CVST's Social Media pages.

The five events took place with the following groups, covering a broad range of ages, abilities and ethnicities:

Clacton Dementia Café – *Social group for people with dementia and their carers*
Summit – *Adults with Learning Disabilities*
Clacton Sister Circle – *Multicultural Women's Group*
Phoenix Explorer Scout Group – *Young people aged 14 to 17*
Afro-Caribbean Drop-in – *Family Drop-in for people of all ages from African and Caribbean backgrounds*

The total number of attendees at these events was: **111**

Age range: **14 to 80+**

Locations of residents: Clacton, Jaywick, Holland, Frinton, Kirby (note that those outside of the proposed areas (approx. 5%) all access services within the area)

Overall and across all events, there was a clear trend of support for the idea of forming a Town Council

Total Supportive Responses: 70

Total Opposed Responses: 2

Neutral Responses: 39

Some participants completed the survey online during the engagement event or confirmed their intention to do so before the closing date.

4. Key Themes from Discussions

Community Support and Representation:

- Many participants expressed that a Town Council could help address social issues more effectively, especially in Clacton.
- There was a sense that some local needs are currently unmet and that a Town Council could provide a more inclusive platform.

Awareness & Engagement:

- Awareness of the Town Council proposal varied significantly, especially among younger attendees.
- QR codes and online surveys were used to encourage further engagement, particularly among youth and carers.

Concerns Raised:

- Uncertainty about the future of community buildings under a Town Council.
- Questions around who would run the council and how it would be structured.

Demographic Insights

- Strong support from older adults and community groups.
- Youth participants (aged 14–17) showed interest in civic engagement, especially when linked to personal development (e.g., Community Impact Badge).
- Carers and individuals with learning disabilities participated actively, though some required more information to form an opinion.

5. Conclusion

This programme offers a structured, transparent, and inclusive approach to the governance review engagement process, ensuring community voices actively contribute to the future needs of Clacton, Holland-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands.

The engagement events revealed a strong lean toward establishing a Town Council, with over half of participants expressing clear support. While some concerns remain, particularly around governance and infrastructure, the overall sentiment suggests that residents see value in having a local body to represent their interests and address community challenges.

Lisa Andrews
Chief Executive
Community Voluntary Services Tendring