

# Campaign for a Shipley Town Council

## Petition Submission Supporting Information

May 2019

This document provides background information about the petition for a Shipley Town Council and is intended to support BMDC in preparing for a Governance Review.

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Contents

**Introduction**..... 3

    Submission Details .....3

    Submission Contents .....3

**Petition Request** ..... 4

    Area to be Parished .....4

    Petition Format .....4

    Petition Numbers and Data Validation .....4

    Campaign Group .....5

**Community Engagement** ..... 6

    Public Engagement.....6

    Community Support .....7

**Precept** ..... 10

**Acknowledgements** ..... 11

**Appendices** ..... 11

    Summary of Public Meetings Held.....11

    Articles In Local Media .....12

    Radio Interviews .....12

## INTRODUCTION

Based on the requirements defined under Section 80 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, we are submitting a petition signed by over 7.5% of local government electors resident within Shipley Ward districts 22B, 33C, 22D, and 22E. Our petition also meets this target in each of these electoral districts, reflecting support across the whole or the proposed Parish.

These signatures were collected between May 2018 and April 2019 using a petition format reviewed by Bradford Metropolitan District Council's (BMDC). Signatures collected have been validated to exclude both addresses outside the proposed Parish and duplicate signatures. In total, we are submitting 969 signatures within the proposed Parish, representing 9.4% of the electorate. Of these, the Campaign have been able to positively match 857 (8.3%) to electoral registers and believe that the majority of the remainder represent valid electors who had not been yet listed on the registers publicly available at the point of submission.

We are pleased to have the support of a broad range of local businesses, community groups and elected representatives (including the leaders of neighbouring Town Councils). This document has been prepared to support the submission process and to provide additional information demonstrating that we have both engaged broadly with and gained the support of residents, businesses and community groups across Shipley's communities.

## SUBMISSION DETAILS

The petition is being submitted by Mr Robert (Rob) Martin on behalf of the Campaign for a Shipley Town Council (referred to throughout this document as CSTC / the Campaign). This document has been prepared by the Steering Group of the Campaign.

Signed:

Date:

The Petitioner's contact details are as follows:

<b>Name</b>	Mr Robert A. Martin
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<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:shipleytowncouncil@gmail.com">shipleytowncouncil@gmail.com</a>

## SUBMISSION CONTENTS

To aid validation of petition responses, we have numbered, scanned and transcribed all petition responses received. We are providing electronic versions of these documents to allow BMDC to process our petition as efficiently and as cost effectively as possible.

We have also produced this document to describe the process we took to ensure that our petition submission is valid, along with an overview of the ways in which we have attempted to engage with Shipley residents, businesses and community organisations. We hope that this will be a useful input into the Governance Review process.

The full submission pack includes the following documents:

Title	Paper Copy	Electronic Copy
Supporting Information (this document)	Y	Y
Original Petition Sheets	Y	-
Scanned Copies of Petition Sheets	-	Y
Transcribed and validated Petition Data	-	Y

## PETITION REQUEST

### AREA TO BE PARISHED

ShIPLEY has a clear identity and residents responded very positively to the idea of a local council providing a single, elected voice for ShIPLEY.

This “sense of place” is still strongly felt. Older residents in particular talked with genuine sadness about loss of the ShIPLEY Urban District Council following the 1974 local government reorganisation.

The town centre shops, library, town hall, open market and covered market with the clock tower are established landmarks. ShIPLEY has a diverse population and geography: housing, parks and open spaces mixed in with industrial development from the early 1800s. Saltaire World Heritage Site is within the ShIPLEY boundary.

The area requested in the Petition was agreed following consultation with local community groups and engagement of BMDC councillors. This is based on a number of considerations:

- ShIPLEY is an historic town with a strong and distinct local identity. The town was represented by an Urban District Council between 1894 and 1974.
- ShIPLEY is currently defined within BMDC by wards 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D and 22E. By creating a Parish which aligns to these wards, a future Town Council will be able to make use of existing electoral arrangements and align to areas covered by existing District Councillors for ShIPLEY
- ShIPLEY ward 22A has been excluded as this is already parished as part of Baildon Town Council

### PETITION FORMAT

All petition responses were collected using a common format including text and a boundary map which were submitted to BMDC ahead of the campaign launch to ensure that our petition would meet the statutory requirements.

The common petition format was used to capture signatures across a number of physical documents, including:

2x leaflets distributed to local shops, businesses and venues

2x Self Print PDF documents used at public meetings, door to door collection and for printing at home (from web and social media)

1x Letter sent to residents of Victoria Mills

1x Advertisement in the Saltaire Review magazine

### PETITION NUMBERS AND DATA VALIDATION

All signed petition responses have been transcribed, given a unique reference number and validated to ensure that the signatory’s address is within the area to be Parished and to exclude duplicate responses.

Where possible, signatories have been validated against the electoral register:

- A combination of the 2017, 2018 and 2019 electoral registers have been used by the Campaign to validate residence (based on data available to the Campaign at the point of validation). The electoral register used is clearly marked alongside the transcribed data.
- We have not counted petition responses where the signatory has used their married / maiden name in conflict with the name used on the latest electoral data available to us.
- We understand that a number of signatories registered at their current address after publication of the latest (2019) electoral register. As such, it may be possible for BMDC to validate these individuals even though the Campaign could not.

The Campaign are submitting our Petition now because we have been able to validate Petition responses representing more than the minimum 7.5% of registered electors across the requested Parish (including in each electoral district).

We have collected signatures for less than one full calendar year and the submission point in no way reflects on our ability to collect more signatures. We have continued to see a strongly positive response and to collect signatures when actively campaigning and have seen a steady increase in our social media footprint.

#### CAMPAIGN GROUP

We were constituted as the Campaign for a Shipley Town Council in April 2018 with the aim of securing a town council for the people of Shipley and have been funded through individual donations. We are not politically aligned and do not support or endorse any individual political party.

The Campaign's income and expenditure have been independently reviewed for the year from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 and an approved report is available on request. As of 31st March 2019, the Campaign had a funds balance of £221.28 (which will be reduced to £97.28 once known income and liabilities beyond this date are included). Subject to agreement by the Campaign Steering Group and as per the group's constitution, these funds will either be used to further the Campaign's objective of establishing a town council for Shipley, donated to a local not for profit organisation which works for the benefit of the people of Shipley.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In addition to collecting signatures from local electors, the Campaign have aimed to maximise local engagement and education as broadly as possible across Shipley's communities. This has been achieved via a number of routes:

Approach	Description
Print Media	Regular communication of our progress in local print media including the Telegraph and Argus and the Saltaire Review (see Appendix)
Broadcast Media	Steering Committee members have been interviewed by BCB local radio on a number of occasions to discuss the campaign's objectives and progress (see Appendix)
Electronic and Social Media	<p>We have developed a wide online audience across a number of channels and used these to build awareness of our campaign. Our analysis indicates that there is limited overlap between each of these channels. As of 29<sup>th</sup> May, we had the following audience for each of these channels:</p> <p>Facebook– 567 Followers</p> <p>Twitter – 248 Followers</p> <p>Instagram – 98 Followers</p> <p>MailChimp – 156 subscribers</p> <p>We also operate a website (<a href="http://www.cstc.uk">www.cstc.uk</a>) providing information about the campaign, the petition and the ability to download a self-print version of the petition.</p>
Public Meetings	The Campaign have held public meetings at venues across Shipley to engage as widely as possible with local electors. See Appendix for details.
Leaflet Distribution	<p>Petition leaflets were distributed across a wide range of venues and businesses across Shipley.</p> <p>Leaflets were also distributed door to door across Shipley by campaign volunteers and alongside communications by both Hirst Wood Regeneration Group and by Retro Republic.</p>
Door to door	<p>The Campaign team have engaged with local people via a targeted door to door campaign focused on areas where we had seen lower than average uptake of the petition.</p> <p>We experienced a strongly positive response in all areas and believe that the lower uptake via other methods can be attributed to the limited range of local businesses and venues in these areas (in particular within Nab Wood / Moorhead which are predominantly residential) where petition leaflets could be seen / returned.</p>
Market stalls	<p>The Campaign set up public market stalls on a number of dates in 2018 to meet members of the public and discuss the benefits of a Town Council. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shipley Market Place</li> <li>Shipley Glen Suffragette Celebration</li> <li>Shipley Alternative Market</li> <li>Shipley Christmas Lights</li> <li>Saltaire Christmas Lights</li> </ul>
Community Groups and Organisations	<p>We gave presentations to outline and discuss the need for a town council at formal meetings of groups including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shipley Rotary Society</li> <li>Friends of Northcliffe</li> <li>Saltaire Village Society</li> <li>Saltaire Festival</li> </ul>

The Campaign have engaged widely with community groups across Shipley (as evidenced by the meetings at which we were invited to speak). In addition, we have received the following messages of support from key community groups and representatives:

Who	Statement
Councillor Vick Jenkins (Shipley)	<p>I believe in the era of savage cuts to local services from central government a Town Council is a good way of reinstating much needed services to areas like Shipley. This could be from reopening the public toilets, to provision of more youth, elderly or community activities. As a new Councillor my experience of working with Baildon Town Council where our borders overlap has been wholly positive. A Town Council has a very long list of activities it can take control of, utilising these powers would help bring local governance much closer to the people who live in Shipley.</p>
Shipley Shopping	<p>Shipley Shopping is a local group which works to promote Shipley's Town Centre by publicising local events and supporting local retailers. We run a community page covering Shipley and involving groups and individuals throughout the area. We have a high Social Media profile in the area across both Facebook and Twitter with over 4,000 local followers of our Facebook page. Our followers are very actively engaged and have consistently told us that Shipley is important to them and that they would like to see positive improvements to the town. Our group was set up following discussions between local shopkeepers and business people about the need to create a local forum for residents and businesses.</p> <p>We fully support a Town Council and have had a positive response to messages that we have shared to our followers about the campaign. Shipley has a number of strong and active community groups which would benefit from the creation of a Town Council which would work with them and help to further their aims.</p> <p>(Meryle Holland)</p>
Shipley Rotary Club	<p>Shipley Rotary Club very much supports the prospect of a Shipley Town Council which will represent the residents of Shipley and give them (and their activities) a voice in the greater Bradford area.</p> <p>Shipley Rotary tries to help in the local community wherever it can... For example by supporting local Primary Schools—Arranging a Christmas Toy Collection at Asda for needy children and a pantomime trip. This coming Saturday we are also arranging Free Blood Pressure Tests in Shipley Library.</p> <p>Shipley Town Council will be a Forum where we can raise matters of local concern that we hear of and it will help us integrate more widely into the community. We hope you are successful in your bid to form a Shipley Town council. We have no doubt it will be of great benefit to Shipley and trust that Bradford District Councillors will look favourably on your bid.</p> <p>(Quentin MacKenzie)</p>
Hirst Wood Regeneration Group	<p><b>Transforming Lives is what we are about</b></p> <p>We are a strong community here and nothing will deter or dampen our enthusiasm from working together to make this a great place to live, play and learn whilst helping people engage with their Heritage and engaging in making it a safe, clean and friendly place to live.</p> <p>As a Group we agree on the following points that have always made us successful in obtaining funding for projects that have included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A canalside garden with flower beds and seating maintained by us</li> <li>2. A Community Orchard, a piece of derelict land made into a 'pick your own' with hedging for wild life and grassy paths maintained by us</li> <li>3. A childrens playground</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. A Macca</li> <li>5. A Youth Hut</li> <li>6. A Nature Reserve from a derelict piece of land that won a National Award</li> <li>7. Day boat trips on along with food on the canal on barges designed to take the more infirm on board</li> <li>8. Working with our local primary school on numerous projects including art work on a run down council building and art work to celebrate the bicentennial of the opening of the Leeds Liverpool canal, this too won a National award</li> <li>9. A K2 phone booth converted into a Little Free Library and stocked and maintained by us</li> </ol> <p>and many other lesser projects but just as impactful on the community that HWRG were given recognition by a Duke of York award for Community Achievements.</p> <p>We think that reducing antisocial behaviour prevents and reduces crime. Working together makes safer, stronger and self supporting communities that can be seen and felt and delivered to our residents and families.</p> <p>Our local environment impacts on our health and well being, it makes us enjoy and feel proud of our clean environment.</p> <p>We provide opportunities to play, relax, learn and enjoy by engaging with all walks of life and age groups and by working together as a group and a community.</p> <p>Identification and intervention at problem level can improve the lives and well being of our children and young people, resolving issues at an early stage and diverting people from antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>Hirst Wood is vibrant and interesting place with an ever developing living heritage, it's a place now sought after as a place to live, to achieve this we all have to work together and work with and involve other agencies along the way.</p> <p><b>We support the creation of a Town Council which we believe would help to improve Shipley's neighbourhoods and strengthen ties between these. A Town Council would:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Give Shipley and its communities, including Hirst Wood, a stronger voice within Bradford District.</b></li> <li>• <b>Be able to fund projects to improve neighbourhoods across Shipley. The impact of HWRG's shows how valuable this can be.</b></li> <li>• <b>Work to bring neighbourhoods together across Shipley and help to deliver some of the benefits HWRG has delivered in Hirst Wood to other parts of Shipley.</b></li> </ul> <p>(Pauline Bradley-Sharp B.E.M., Secretary for the Hirst Wood Regeneration Group)</p>
Kirkgate Centre	<p>STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR A SHIPLEY TOWN COUNCIL APRIL 2019</p> <p>The Kirkgate Centre is an independent charitable community organisation run by and for local people that aims to improve the quality of life for the residents of Shipley.</p> <p>It does this by supporting local people to collectively identify, understand and act on their needs and aspirations, develop empathy with their fellow townfolk and build common purpose around a sense of place. We encourage and support local organising, collective action, creativity, culture, community education and peer support.</p> <p>We achieve this by, for example, providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• space</li> <li>• practical support</li> <li>• resources such as equipment, printing and tools</li> <li>• a legal 'umbrella' for groups to operate under if they wish</li> <li>• promotion and awareness raising</li> <li>• community development work in neighbourhoods</li> </ul>

	<p>We aim to be self-sufficient and about half of our annual turnover is income generated through community enterprise such as our café, bar and room hire. The proposed Shipley Town Council shares similar aims and will help focus and garner support for building a stronger sense of place and community. It will be well placed provide a focus for local organising, consultation, coordination, addressing local planning issues, neighbourhood planning, financial support and raising the profile of local issues while empowering local people to tackle them. As a diverse community, a town council can also actively support efforts to improve cohesion while positively promoting our community's rich diversity. As such we actively support the proposal for a Shipley Town Council.</p> <p>Paul Barrett Development Manager On behalf of the Kirkgate Centre trustees</p>
<p>Saltaire Village Society</p>	<p>Saltaire Village Society was established in 1984. It is a community-based organisation with membership open to all Saltaire residents and aims to connect, support and represent the community in and around Saltaire.</p> <p>The Society's core objectives are to promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High standards of planning and architecture</li> <li>• Public education concerning the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area</li> <li>• To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historical or public interest</li> <li>• The interests of the inhabitants of the area of benefit by providing welfare, recreation and leisure facilities</li> </ul> <p>In recent years, the Village Society has been responsible for initiatives benefiting the local community including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installing defibrillators</li> <li>• Promoting a Dementia Friendly Saltaire</li> <li>• Making alternative arrangements for tourist information following closure of the Tourist Information office</li> <li>• Annual Christmas Light Switch-on event featuring stalls from local community groups</li> </ul> <p>The Society is currently working on initiatives including to promote a Dementia Friendly Saltaire, to develop business plans to re-open the Saltaire Public Toilets and to create a community hub.</p> <p>The Saltaire Village Society are strongly supportive of a Shipley Town Council which would support many of the Society's core objectives. In particular, a Town Council would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an additional, statutory local voice on planning matters</li> <li>• Bring together communities and voluntary groups across Shipley, allowing more effective cooperation and support</li> <li>• Create opportunities to fund initiatives benefiting Saltaire residents</li> </ul> <p>The Society has been pleased to provide practical support and publicity to the Campaign for a Shipley Council, including by inviting the Campaign group to speak and collect signatures at our Annual General Meeting and by promoting the Campaign's meetings and public messages.</p> <p>Ulrike Knox (Chair, Saltaire Village Society)</p>
<p>Shipley Town Partnership</p>	<p>It is my general belief that the creation of a funded Shipley Town Council, which will be run by passionate, local people, who care about the area and its future will have a significant voice and role to play within the community. The creation of such, as has been the case in areas such as Baildon &amp; Bingley will be able to provide both support and assistance to local groups, communities and projects, whilst ultimately</p>

	providing a bigger Voice for Shipley. This will hopefully make a significant difference and improvement to an area which needs in part revitalising (Stuart Illingworth)
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## PRECEPT

While CSTC have highlighted throughout the campaign that we cannot set the initial precept level, this has been a topic which has been regularly raised with the team throughout the campaign. We have communicated the average precept across Bradford District to give a reasonable indicative view (as no other data point is available to us). We recommend that in order for the council to be set up for a successful launch and to meet local expectations, the initial precept should align with this average as a maximum.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CSTC would like to express our thanks to all of the individuals, businesses and organisations which have provided help and support to the Campaign, including:

- Baildon Town Council
- Bingley Town Council
- Central Taxis
- Higher Ground Café
- Hirst Wood Regeneration Group
- Hullabaloo
- Kirkgate Centre
- National Association of Local Councils
- Perkins the Jewellers
- Rad Studio
- Retro Republic
- Saltaire Methodist Church
- Saltaire Village Society
- Shipley Print
- Shipley Rotary
- Shipley Shopping
- Shipley Town Partnership
- Tambourine
- Triangle
- Yorkshire Association of Local Councils

## APPENDICES

### SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD

Date	Venue	Summary and Speakers
20 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Saltaire Festival AGM (The Hop)	Presentation to Saltaire Festival AGM
9 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Shipley Bowling Club	Presentation to Friends of Northcliffe by Rob Martin and Chris Grogan
12 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Caroline St Social Club	Presentation to Saltaire Village Society AGM
28 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Shipley Library	Drop in Q&A to raise awareness and recruit volunteers
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Shipley Market Place	Information stall at Saturday outdoor market
28 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Shipley Glen	Information stall at Suffragette Rally Centenary event
30 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Shipley Market Place	Information stall at Shipley Street Arts Festival
2nd June 2018	Saltaire Methodist Church	Public meeting with speakers: Si Cunningham, chair of Bradford Civic Society Joe Ashton, Baildon Town Councillor Ulrike Knox, chair of Saltaire Village Society
1st July 2018	St Peter's Church	Public meeting with speakers: Peter Allison, Chair of Wilsden Parish Council Chris Pilkington, YLCA Molly Kenyon, Shipley resident
7th July 2018	Northcliffe Church	Public meeting with speakers: Ros Dawson, chair of Bingley Town Council Dave Robison, chair of Norwood Neighbourhood
23rd July 2018	Kirkgate Centre	Solstice Celebration with performances provided free by local musicians Plumhall and Gerry Cooper. This included two songs written for the campaign: "This is Our Town" by Nick Hall "Shape Up Shipley" by Eddie Lawler
3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2018	Kirkgate Centre	Stall and puppet show at Alternative Market

Date	Venue	Summary and Speakers
17 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Weaving Shed, Victoria Mill	Stall
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2018	Kirkgate Centre	Stall and puppet show at Alternative Market
4 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	ShIPLEY Rotary	Invitation to speak at meeting
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2018	ShIPLEY Market Place	Stall at ShIPLEY Christmas Light Switch-on
2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2018	Victoria Hall	Stall and puppet show at Saltaire Christmas Light Switch-on
2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2019	Caroline St Social Club	Presentation to Saltaire Village Society AGM

## ARTICLES IN LOCAL MEDIA

The following table provides a summary of key articles in local media focused on the Campaign's progress and objectives:

Publication	Date	Headline
Telegraph & Argus	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Drop in session to find out more about possible new Shipley Town Council
Telegraph & Argus	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Shipley could get new town council to provide 'greater voice'
Telegraph & Argus	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Group puts forward its case for town council for Shipley
Telegraph & Argus	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	Campaigners for Shipley town council launch next stage of effort
Bradford Zone	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Shipley Town Council Campaign Ready To Submit Petition
Telegraph & Argus	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Campaign for Shipley town council collects almost 1,000 signatures
Saltaire Review	Issue 27 Feb/Mar 2018	Should Shipley Have a Town Council
Saltaire Review	Issue 28 June/July 2018	Shipley Town Council Campaign Gathers Pace
Saltaire Review	Issue 32 Dec / Jan 2019	Have you signed for Shipley? Petition Form
Saltaire Review	Issue 34 April/May 2019	A Governance Review!

## RADIO INTERVIEWS

Station	Date	Title
BCB 106.6 FM	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Interview with James Roberts (Treasurer) on "About Bradford"
BCB 106.6 FM	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	Interview with James Roberts (Treasurer) on "About Bradford"