

Question(s)/Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

Having attended the LJC meeting at Westbury Village Hall on 3 October 2009, I would like the following question to be asked at the next meeting.

Background

During the formation period for the Unitary Authority the County Councillor for Alberbury with Cardeston Parish told the councillors of the plan to introduce Local Joint Committees: he was very honest; he was concerned that the LJC's would reduce the authority of Parish Councils, however, he said that he was being assured that this would not be the case.

It now seems to have been accepted that disparate groups within a parish can apply directly to their LJC for a grant without putting this request through their Parish Council.

This seems to me to be the first indication that our County Councillor's fears were valid.

Parish Councils need to be encouraged to engage with their parishioners and vice versa. It would be much better for local democracy if groups wishing to raise money channelled their request through their Parish Council. This would:-

1. Avoid potential conflict on competing grants within a parish.
2. Ensure that Councils were totally aware of applications within their parish.
3. Encourage engagement between the Parish Council and their local Community.

Question

Do other Parish Council representatives agree with this point of view?

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