

Oldham Council
Corporate and Commercial
Finance – Corporate Control
Level 14
Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham OL1 1XJ

Fao John Hoskins

28th September 2016

Dear John

Re: Saddleworth Parish Council Grant

I refer to your letter dated 1st August 2016 regarding the potential withholding of all or part of the Council Tax Support Grant from the Parish Council with effect from 1st April 2016 as part of the budget reductions which Oldham Council is required to make. This proposal appears to be in direct conflict with the Government's localism policies, as is evidenced by the following 2 statements:

On 19th February 2015 Mr Kris Hopkins, Minister for Local Government, sent a letter to the Leaders of Billing Authorities which stated that the Government provides £3.3m annually to local authorities for local council tax support schemes. This includes an amount attributable to town and parish councils. The Government views that it is essential for the town and parish councils to receive all the funds due to them so that they can carry out their activities.

The attached document is the submission of Saddleworth Parish Council to demonstrate our usage of the Council Tax Support Grant.

I also attach, at Appendix A, a report by Saddleworth Parish Councillor Robert Knotts entitled "The Value and Impact of Volunteering Influenced by Saddleworth Parish Council".

The value to Oldham Borough Council of all of the above is incalculable and I believe that we have clearly demonstrated why Saddleworth Parish Council should continue to receive this grant for the foreseeable future.

Yours sincerely

Pam Bailey
Clerk to the Council

Saddleworth Parish Council consists of 20 elected members, all of who perform their duties on a voluntary, unpaid basis, for the benefit of the community. Their main priority is the wellbeing of the residents, and visitors, of Saddleworth and the protection and promotion of its historic villages and landscapes.

The Parish Council supports its communities in the following ways:

Health and Safety

The Parish Caretaker regularly undertakes the following duties, a number of which were previously undertaken by the Borough Council:

- cleaning dirty highways signs;
- clearing overgrown road junctions, pavements and highways signs;
- litter picking;
- reporting fly tipping;
- reporting the illegal tipping of bulky items such as washing machines and sofas;
- clearing public footpaths;
- repairing public seating;
- reporting blocked gullies; and
- reporting pot holes, damaged highways and pavements.

Some years ago Saddleworth Parish Council, in conjunction with the District Partnership, introduced a community toilets scheme, providing much needed public toilet facilities across the parish. Despite the subsequent withdrawal of funding by the District Partnership, the Parish Council has continued to provide this service and is currently considering the adoption of the public toilets at Wade Row, Uppermill.

An annual, week long Home Safety Exhibition is held at the Civic Hall, free of charge, for students from all the Saddleworth schools and, following the spate of burglaries in early 2016, the Parish Council, in conjunction with Greater Manchester Police, sponsored a Security Fair for local businesses and residents to speak to security professionals, free of charge.

The Parish Council was instrumental in promoting the installation of defibrillators throughout the parish, identifying suitable locations working with the District Partnership and North West Ambulance Service.

The National Blood Transfusion Service utilise the Civic Hall on a monthly basis and the District Partnership Health and Wellbeing meetings are held there free of charge.

Meetings of the District Partnership and those of the Health and Wellbeing sub-group are held at the Civic Hall, Uppermill. The Parish Council does not charge for these facilities and therefore carries the cost of heating and lighting, and the provision of staff, itself.

Community Involvement

There are now 10 Community Associations in Saddleworth representing each of the 10 villages. The Parish Council meets with representatives from each on a quarterly basis, dealing with a wide range of issues and, where appropriate, acting as a liaison point between the community and the Borough Council.

Following the Boxing Day floods, the Parish Council instigated a number of meetings with the communities and the Environment Agency to discuss flood resilience measures and has visited other areas in the country to look at potential solutions. A Flooding Conference is planned for November.

The Parish Council provides Christmas trees throughout the parish and holds an annual Saddleworth in Bloom competition for all residents. It also supports community events through the direct provision of funding, including the Rushcart, Saddleworth Folk Festival and the Whit Friday Brass Band Contests, where it also provides the Civic Hall to Greater Manchester Police, and Oldham Social Services to be used as a place of safety for vulnerable children, charging only a nominal fee to cover staffing costs.

Following lengthy discussions with Oldham Council, the Parish Council has recently signed a lease for the management of Dawson's Field at Scouthead, securing this facility as a recreation area for the community, protecting the Scouthead and Austerlands Whit Friday Brass Band competition and, hopefully, preserving this area of green belt for posterity.

The Parish Council has recently submitted a planning application to construct allotments between the River Tame and Huddersfield Narrow Canal in Uppermill. It is also hoped that a community gardening facility will be established in the vicinity.

Wellbeing

A tea dance has, for many years, been held weekly in the ballroom. This serves mainly the older residents of the community and the Parish Council charge only a nominal amount.

A legacy of the "Meals on Wheels" service which was run by the Women's' Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) (now the Royal Voluntary Service) continues as a weekly Wednesday Luncheon Club. Volunteers cook for and bring many of our elderly residents for a 3 course hot meal and companionship. The Parish Council makes no charge for the use of its facilities.

The Parish Council also provides the administrative services for the Rochdale United Charity, a hardship fund for residents of the ancient parish of Rochdale, providing white goods, carpets and furniture for those in need.

In April 2015 Oldham Council, with the demise of its Youth Service, closed the Satellite Centre in Greenfield. The Parish Council compiled a business case for it to remain open as a local facility managed by a trust and, following lengthy negotiations, on 3rd September 2016, it reopened as a community asset, providing much needed facilities for organisations within the Parish.

Conservation and Planning

There are several designated conservation areas in Saddleworth which the Parish Council, together with the Civic Trust, are dedicated to preserving, and Saddleworth has the highest number of listed buildings in the borough which should be protected. The Conservation Areas Advisory Committee, which includes councillors, members of the Civic Trust and local conservation experts, meets monthly and comments on all planning applications which fall into the conservations areas, making recommendations to both the Parish Council Planning Committee and directly to the conservation officers at Oldham Council.

The Planning Committee meets monthly to debate and make recommendations on all planning applications in Saddleworth. All the members of the committee are fully trained in planning matters and the Parish Council pays for the advice of a Planning Advisor to assist in their decision making. Members of the public are openly encouraged to attend and comment at these meetings.

Saddleworth Parish Council has recently gone out to consultation on the designated area for its Neighbourhood Plan, the consultation period ending on 29th September. If, as is anticipated, the designated area is approved, the Parish Council intend to start work on their Neighbourhood Plan from mid October. The plan is considered essential to safeguard the heritage of the parish, particularly in light of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework proposals which pose a potential threat to the valuable green belt which should be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of residents and visitors.

The Parish Council has purchased and restored several red telephone kiosks from British Telecom to preserve these historic landmarks. Two have been fitted with defibrillators and a third is being used as a mini Tourist Information Centre for visitors.

The Parish Council also owns and maintains 8 purpose built stone bus shelters to offer protection from the elements to bus users.

Initiatives

Being a pro-active organisation, the Parish Council constantly seeks ways of improving and developing its community involvement. In July, students from Saddleworth School were invited to take part in a mock Council meeting, which was chaired by the current Chairman, which debated 4 current issues which the students had devised. The event was so successful that, not only is it planned to repeat the exercise on a regular basis, the students expressed an interest in the possibility of having a “youth mayor” or “youth council” to promote the interests of the younger parish residents.

In October, the first Saddleworth Literary Festival will take place. Held over 2 days at the Civic Hall the festival will include prose, poetry, music and art, featuring many locally and nationally recognised writers, actors and artists. This is another free event for the community.

Parish Councillors

In addition to their work for Saddleworth, many of the Parish Councillors work for numerous outside bodies, to which they are appointed at the Annual General Meeting. Examples of these appointments are as follows:

- District Partnership - Cllrs. Belmore, Byrne, Curley, Fryer, Knotts & Lucas
- Standards Committee - Cllr. Knotts
- Peak Park Parishes Forum - Cllr. Beeley
- Grotton and District Residents' Association -Cllr. B. Lord.
- Home Safety Committee - Cllrs. Bingley, Heffernan & P. Lord
- Millgate Arts Centre - Cllr. Lucas
- Saddleworth & Lees Information Network - Cllr. Knotts
- Huddersfield Canal Society - Cllr. Lucas
- Boarshurst Educational Foundation - Cllr. Bingley
- Hawkyard & Whitehead Education Foundation - Cllrs. Brown, & Fryer
- Diggle Educational Trust - Cllr. Brown
- Trustees of the Rochdale United Charity - Cllrs. B. Lord and P. Byrne

Cllrs. Fryer and Roman have also been appointed as Flood Resilience champions, and are currently working with the Borough Council, United Utilities, the Environment Agency, the Unity Partnership and other interested parties, including the public, to find solutions to prevent a possible repeat of last year's Boxing Day floods.

Employment and Local Business

The Parish Council provides employment for 8 local people. It also supports local businesses through spending on repairs, refurbishments, technology upgrades, maintenance contracts, event catering, etc.

Tourism

Since the removal of the OMBC tourist budget for Saddleworth, and as tourism is a crucial part of the local economy, the Parish Council has invested in a new up-to-date website, much of which is dedicated to encouraging people from far and wide to visit Saddleworth. These visitors help to support our shops & businesses, from which flows further employment, Business Rates and Council Tax.

Conclusion

The importance of the Parish Council to the community and the impact of the loss of the grant funding would threaten many of the above activities, depriving the community of this valuable work. On top of all this, the councillors, being the most local tier of the council, are an important conduit between the people of the parish, Oldham Council and other agencies and their loss would have significant implications for the quality of life in Saddleworth.

THE VALUE AND IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERING INFLUENCED BY SADDLEWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

by

Saddleworth Parish Councillor Rob Knotts

Summary

Recently Shaw and Crompton residents, allegedly through an OMBC councillor, challenged the need for having a parish council, citing the unnecessary cost of the precept as one reason to do away with the council. Similar sentiments have been aired in Saddleworth albeit I have no idea on the strength or otherwise of such feelings. A major question is: "Does OMBC seek to dissolve the Parish Council?"

Since then a letter has been received from Oldham Council regarding the possible withdrawal of the £39,490 Council Tax Support (CTS) Grant from Saddleworth Parish Council's budget effective from 1st April 2017. Is this action also seeking to undermine and dissolve the Parish Council?

It might seem an attractive opportunity to Oldham Council to reduce the CTS grant by nearly £39,500. However, the reduction has the capability of seriously eroding the volunteer effort contributed to and influenced by Saddleworth Parish Council. The reduced CTS grant represents but a small tip of a financial iceberg compared to the potential eroding of value of volunteer activities that would undoubtedly result from Oldham's proposal. What Oldham Council has failed to consider is that the massive remainder of the iceberg lurking under the surface equates to a volunteering value of over £7 million on the part of Saddleworth Parish Council that could be seriously affected and eroded by a reduced grant.

Dissolving the Parish Council or reducing the CTS grant would impinge heavily on the wellbeing of the Saddleworth community. The wellbeing of the Saddleworth community depends heavily on volunteer activities within Saddleworth. Volunteer activities in Saddleworth depend significantly on the Parish Council.

The social value generated by volunteers is arguably very much greater than its economic value. A UK Government study carried out in 2013 entitled "Wellbeing and Civil Society - Estimating the value of volunteering using subjective wellbeing data", calculated the values of voluntary work and associated impact in community activities.

These values have been applied to the voluntary work contributed to and influenced by Saddleworth Parish Council.

It is important to note that the Government provides £3.3 billion annually to local authorities for local council tax support schemes. This includes an amount attributable to town and parish councils. The Government views that it is essential for the town and parish councils to receive all the funds due to them so that they can carry out their activities.

This document considers the value of volunteering efforts of Parish Councillors, the Chairman's Charity, Civic Hall activities, community associations and the value of living in a community of trust; all of which can be linked to volunteer effort.

Introduction

There are concerns that OMBC seeks to undermine and dissolve Saddleworth Parish Council.

Recently Shaw and Crompton residents, allegedly through an OMBC councillor, challenged the need for having a parish council, citing the unnecessary cost of the precept as one reason to do away with the council. Similar sentiments have been aired in Saddleworth albeit I have no idea on the strength or otherwise of such feelings. A major question is: "Does OMBC seek to dissolve the Parish Council?"

Since then a letter has been received from Oldham Council regarding the possible withdrawal of the £39,490 Council Tax Support (CTS) Grant from Saddleworth Parish Council's budget effective from 1st April 2017. Is this action also seeking to undermine and dissolve the Parish Council?

Either way dissolution of the Parish Council or a reduction in the CTS grant would impinge heavily on the wellbeing of the Saddleworth community. Through the volunteer efforts of the Parish Council Saddleworth residents enjoy a considerable number of activities. Apart from a handful of employees Saddleworth Parish Council relies extensively on volunteers to carry out its responsibilities and to support the Saddleworth community.

Imagine how many activities and needs would go unanswered in Saddleworth without the contribution of volunteers. Furthermore, consider the cost that would have to be incurred if the services had to be "bought in". In addition there is a need to consider the social value contributed by volunteer activities. If these volunteer activities were curtailed the social wellbeing of the community would deteriorate. It also needs to be noted that in the current austerity environment OMBC would not be able to provide and manage the resources needed to sustain the volunteer activities. We only have to consider the closure of the Satellite Centre on economic grounds to realise that a similar fete would extend to other services in Saddleworth.

It needs to be noted that the social value generated by volunteers is arguably very much greater than its economic value. Saddleworth's volunteer activities embraces a population of about 25,000 people.

Volunteering

There is no higher calling than when a person gives his or her own knowledge, skills, time and resources to help a community. This is the fundamental principle of volunteering which is at the heart of community-building. Volunteering promotes and encourages good citizenship and provides people with an environment where they can learn the responsibilities of

community and civic involvement. It enhances social solidarity, social capital and quality of life in a society. It can serve as a means of social inclusion and integration.

The social value generated by volunteers is arguably very much greater than its economic value. Saddleworth's volunteer activities embraces a population of about 25,000 people. The following provides insights into the kind of activities that contribute to the social value that Saddleworth Parish Council delivers to help and facilitate community activities:

- Financial contribution to Diggle Blues Festival.
- Financial contribution to Saddleworth Folk Festival.
- Financial contribution to Saddleworth Literary Festival.
- Financial contribution to support Saddleworth Olympics.
- Financial contribution to support Whit Friday Band Competition.
- Financial contribution to support activities for the elderly.
- Saddleworth in Bloom (time and financial contribution).
- The Chairman's Charity raises significant funds for charity.
- Time in developing Satellite Centre proposal and attending meetings.
- Time in developing Dawson's Field proposal and attending meetings.
- Time in developing Flooding plan and attending meetings.
- Time in developing Allotments plans, options and attending meetings.
- Time in developing Parish Council's website.
- Time in developing Community Toilet scheme and financial contribution made.
- Provision of the Civic Hall for numerous activities.
- Time in developing and promoting community associations.
- Time in assisting maintenance of cemetery.
- Time in developing plans for civic hall extensions.

Creating Wealth in the Community

Money spent on providing and supporting services helps create wealth in the community. This approach is adopted by Saddleworth Parish Council in procuring services and work on behalf of the council. It is very much in line with Oldham Council's Social Value Procurement Framework (SVPF) which was developed in 2013. Oldham Council aims to ensure a co-operative and socially responsible approach to commissioning and procurement of services across the borough.

Oldham Council's Social Value Procurement Framework focuses on achieving outcomes that include the following (Source: Oldham Council, 2013):

- Outcome 1: More local people in work.
- Outcome 2: A local workforce which is fairly paid and positively supported by employers.
- Outcome 3: Thriving local businesses.
- Outcome 4: Responsible businesses that do their bit for Oldham.
- Outcome 5: An effective and resilient third sector.
- Outcome 6: Individuals and communities enabled and supported to help themselves and each other.

Saddleworth Parish Council seeks similar outcomes.

The Value of Volunteers

Voluntary organizations can demonstrate the value added by volunteers by developing an Expanded Value Added Statement (EVAS). This type of statement shows how voluntary organizations use resources, including volunteer resources, to generate value.

- Number of people and hours involved.
- Non re-imbursed out of pocket expenses.
- Estimated value of skills received from volunteers.

A study carried out by the UK's Department for Work and Pensions and the Cabinet Office following in 2013 is entitled "Wellbeing and Civil Society - Estimating the value of volunteering using subjective wellbeing data". Salient findings of the study are:

- Volunteering typically falls outside market structures. In common with other non-market services it is seldom priced or valued in economic terms and is not transparently reflected in national accounts such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- The value that frequent volunteers place on volunteering is estimated to be about £13,500 per volunteer per year at 2011 prices.
- It is also estimated that not being able to volunteer equates to nearly 2 per cent reduction in life satisfaction.
- The report's model also included a number of variables that are associated with 'sense of community' and civil society. The report was able to value these elements and to present the results:
 - ❖ 'Not being able to meet up with friends a number of times per week' is equivalent to a cost of £17,300 person per year.
 - ❖ The value that people place on 'living in a society where they feel they can trust' people is about £15,900 per person per year.
 - ❖ To live in a neighbourhood with 'severe crime and vandalism problems' people would have to be compensated £33,700 per person per year.

Value of Volunteering Effort of Saddleworth Parish Councillors

The Parish Council consists of 20 councillors, all of whom act in a voluntary capacity; no payment is received for their work and they do not receive any out of pocket travel expenses to attend meetings.

Table 1 gives a breakdown of the councillors' travelling distance from residences to Uppermill.

COUNCILLORS	RESIDENCE	RETURN MILEAGE RESIDENCE TO UPPERMILL
D Heffernan & R Knotts	Austerlands	5.6
N Kirkham & G Bayley	Delph	3.8
K Roman	Denshaw	8.4
L Brown & K Lucas	Diggle	4.8
M Buckley	Dobcross	3
M Bingley	Grasscroft	4.6
N Allsopp, A Belmore, J Curley & J Hudson	Greenfield	3.6
B Beeley, S Hewitt, B Lord & P Lord	Springhead	6.2
P Byrne & G Sheldon	Uppermill	-
P Fryer	Elsewhere (estimate)	10

Table 1 - Councillors' Travelling Distance From Residences to Uppermill

Table 2 gives a breakdown of meetings scheduled for attendance by Parish councillors. If Councillors were paid for attending meetings the figures given in table 2 would be used in developing associated budget figures.

C'LLR	Planning	Cons-ervation	Estat-es	Comms	Env	Finance	T'port	SP	DP	Health & WB	Comm Ass	Full Council	Total
Allsopp	12			4		4					4	11	35
Bayley	12						6	4			4	11	37
Beeley	12		6	4							4	11	41
Belmore						4			4		4	11	23
Brown	12		6								4	11	33
Bingley	12		6				6				4	11	39
Buckley												11	11
Byrne	12		6		4				4	4	4	11	41
Curley	12				4				4	4	4	11	47
Fryer	12				4	4	6		4		4	11	49
Heffernan						4					4	11	19
Hewitt	12	12					6	4	4		4	11	53
Hudson						4					4	11	19
Kirkham											4	11	15
Knotts	12	12	6	4		4		4	4		4	11	61
Lord (B)						4					4	11	19
Lord (P)	12		6						4		4	11	37
Lucas			6	4	4		6	4	4		4	11	43
Roman				4	4						4	11	23
Sheldon			6	4			6				4	11	31
TOTAL													676

Table 2 - Number of Meetings Scheduled for Attendance by Councillors

Time is spent by Parish Councillors in attending meetings; a figure of 2 hours per meeting has been assumed except for the District Partnership meeting which is assumed at 1.5 hours.

The UK government study highlights the value that frequent volunteers place on volunteering at an estimated £13,500 per year at 2011 prices. Thus the total annual value of contribution made by the volunteer Parish Councillors is estimated to be 20 X £13,500 = £270,000.

Many parish councillors are degree qualified (graduate and post graduate) and/or have professional qualifications. Also some have special expertise and knowledge - e.g planning, conservation, transport, environment, financial, project management, business analysis, communications, IT.

Thus an extra cost of their effort has been added, The value of councillors' activities assumes a modest hourly rate of £20 as a charge covering time and expertise contributed.

Table 3 gives a breakdown of value contributed by volunteer councillors covering attendance and travel at £20 per attendance hour. Travel costs covering car mileage are calculated using the accepted Her Majesty's Customs and Exercise figure of 45 pence per mile.

COUNCILLOR	NUMBER OF MEETINGS ATTENDED PER YEAR	MEETING HOURS PER YEAR	ANNUAL MEETING "COST" AT £20 PER HOUR	ANNUAL MILEAGE TO ATTEND MEETINGS	ANNUAL MILEAGE COST AT 45p PER MILE	TOTAL MEETINGS "COST" (Hours + Mileage)
N Allsopp	35	70	£1,400	126	£57	£1,457
G Bayley	37	74	£1,480	111	£50	£1,530
B Beeley	41	82	£1,640	254	£114	£1,754
A Belmore	23	46	£880	83	£37	£917
L Brown	33	66	£1,320	158	£71	£1,391
M Bingley	39	78	£1,560	179	£81	£1,641
M Buckley	11	22	£220	33	£15	£235
P Byrne	41	82	£1,600			£1,600
J Curley	47	94	£1,440	169	£76	£1,503
P Fryer	49	98	£1,840	490	£220	£2,060
D Heffernan	19	38	£760	106	£48	£808
S Hewitt	53	106	£1,960	328	£148	£2,096
J Hudson	19	38	£760	68	£31	£791
N Kirkham	15	30	£600	57	£26	£626
R Knotts	61	122	£2,400	341	£153	£2,553
B Lord	19	38	£760	118	£53	£813
P Lord	37	74	£1,680	229	£103	£1,783
K Lucas	43	86	£1,480	206	£93	£1,573
K Roman	23	46	£920	193	£87	£1,007
G Sheldon	31	62	£1,240			£1,240
TOTAL	676	1,352	£27,040	3,121	£1,463	£28,503

Table 3 - Budgeted "Cost" of Attending Sheduled Meetngs (If Councillors "Paid" at £20 per Hour)

The estimated total value of the Parish Councillors volunteer activities is summarised in table 4.

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION	VALUE
Value of volunteer Parish Councillors contribution.	£270,000

Mileage costs	£ 1,463
Meeting "Costs"	£27,040
TOTAL VALUE	£298,503

Table 4 - Value of Parish Councillors Volunteering Effort

Not included in table 3 is the time spent on data collection, analysis and report writing associated with a number of projects. Examples of recent ones include:

- Options for allotments in Uppermill developed by members of the Estates and Finance committees.
- Continued development of Saddleworth Flooding Plan by members of the Environmental committee.
- Developing specification for Parish Council's website by members of the Communications committee.
- Developing specification for final work of Civic Hall extension by members of the Estates and Finance committees.
- Developing specification for repair of a bus shelter (owned by the Parish Council) in Austerlands by members of the Estates committee.
- Resolution of issues associated with the Parish Council's cemetery.
- Developing response to Greater Manchester Strategic Framework by members of the Strategic Planning committee.
- Developing and updating a risk assessment for the Civic Hall by members of the Estates committee.
- Development of proposals for asset transfer of the Satellite Centre by members of the Estates committee.
- Development of proposals for asset transfer of the Dawson's Field, Scouthead by members of the Estates committee.
- Development of proposals for Community Toilets in Saddleworth by members of the Estates Committee.
- Continued investigation of transport and traffic by members of the Transport committee.
- Developing response to OMBC's possible withdrawal of the £39,490 Council Tax Support Grant from Saddleworth Parish Council's budget effective from 1st April 2017.

Value of Chairman's Charity Volunteering Efforts

The Parish Council Chairman's Charity carries out numerous volunteer activities. The associated committee comprises 35 volunteers. The UK government study highlights the value that frequent volunteers place on volunteering at an estimated £13,500 per year at 2011 prices. Thus the total annual value of contribution made by volunteers in the Chairman's Charity committee is estimated to be 35 X £13,500 = £472,500.

Value of Volunteering Efforts Attributed to Civic Hall Activities

Saddleworth Parish Council's civic hall offers accommodation for organisations that include the following:

- Parish Council meetings.
- District Partnership meetings.
- Pilates.
- Yoga.
- Riki.
- Rock choir.
- Lunch club.
- Tea dance.
- 2 Gardening clubs.
- Pony club.
- Friends of Castleshaw.
- Slimming world.
- Weight watchers.
- Blood donors.
- Health and Wellbeing.
- Creative arts.
- Creative network.
- MP's and Borough Ward Councillors' surgeries.
- Flea markets.
- Wedding receptions.
- Entertainment events.

The UK government study highlights the value of friends not being able to meet up regularly to have a cost of £17,300 per person per year. Table 5 gives a breakdown of community group meetings that take place in the Civiv hall together with assumed attendance. A total of 213 people are affected giving an overall annual value of $213 \times £17,300 = £3,546,500$.

Organisation	Assumed Attendance
Pilates	12
Yoga	10
Riki	10
Rock choir	20
Lunch club	30
Tea dance	45
2 Gardening clubs.	20
Pony club	12
Friends of Castleshaw	10
Slimming world	12
Weight watchers	12
Creative arts	10
Creative network	10
TOTAL INVOLVED	213

Table 5 - Community Group Meetings and Assumed Attendance

Value of Volunteering Effort by Community Associations

The Parish Council has encouraged all communities in Saddleworth to form associations; Saddleworth now has 13 community associations. Their volunteer work covers activities that include social meetings, arranging trips, planting flowers, environmental protection, repairing and painting equipment, cleaning equipment (e.g. defibrillator installations, arranging events for the elderly. Assume each association has a committee of about 5. The total annual value of associated volunteering effort by 13 associations is estimated to be $13 \times 5 \times £13,500 = £877,500$.

Value of Living in a Community of Trust

One important element of living in closed communities such as those in Saddleworth is the value that people place in trust. The Government study places a value of this aspect of trust of people £15,900 per person per year. Perceptions are that sadly OMBC is not trusted by the people of Saddleworth; consequently it is felt that the value of trust would deteriorate under direct administration of Saddleworth by OMBC

The adult population Saddleworth is about 21,750 made up as shown in table 6.

Area	Estimated Adult Population
Saddleworth North	7,950
Saddleworth South	8,300
Saddleworth West	5,500

Table 6 - Saddleworth Adult Population Estimates

Applying the trust value figure to the adult population of Saddleworth gives a total figure of $21,750 \times £15,900 = £2,175,010$.

Sources of Information:

- Source Ward Profile 2016: Saddleworth North
file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Saddleworth_North%20(2).pdf)
- Source Ward Profile 2016: Saddleworth South
file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Saddleworth_South.pdf
- Source Ward Profile 2016: Saddleworth West and Lees
file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Saddleworth_West_and_Lees.pdf

Total Estimated Value of Volunteering Influenced by Saddleworth Parish Council

Table 7 gives the estimated value of volunteering effort influenced by Saddleworth Parish Council.

Volunteering Area	Estimated Value
Parish Councillors	£298,503
Chairman's Charity	£472,500
Civic Hall Activities	£877,500
Community Associations	£3,546,500
Living in a Community of Trust	£2,175,010
TOTAL VALUE	£7,370,013

Table 7 - Value of Volunteering Effort Influenced by Saddleworth Parish Council

Crime In Saddleworth

Not included included in this study is a value covering compensation for living in a neighbourhood with crime and vandalism. Further studies are needed to ascertain if Saddleworth crime issues merit such consideration. However, table 8 summarises recent crime issues in Saddleworth.

WARD	CRIME ISSUES
Saddleworth North	Total crime in Saddleworth North increased between 2014 and 2015; however, crime levels are still less than half the Oldham average. Number of crimes in 2015 = 414, an increase of 37.1% since 2014 Number of burglaries in 2015 = 46, an increase of 27.8 % since 2014 Anti social behaviour incidents in 2014 = 187, a decrease of 1.6% since 2014.
Saddleworth South	Total crime in Saddleworth South nearly doubled in 2015. Criminal Damage, Vehicle Crime and Burglary Dwelling crimes have increased Number of crimes in 2015 = 443, an increase of 47.7% since 2014 Number of burglaries in 2015 = 43, an increase of 48.3% since 2014 Anti social behaviour incidents in 2014 = 308, an increase of 7.3% since 2014.
Saddleworth West & Lees	Crime in Saddleworth West and Lees increased by 12.1% between 2014 and 2015, although rates are still considerably lower than the Oldham average. Number of crimes in 2015 = 601, an increase of 12.1% since 2014 Number of burglaries in 2015 = 48, a decrease of 18.6 % since 2014 Anti social behaviour incidents in 2014 = 388, a decrease of 0.3% since 2014.

Table 8 - Saddleworth Crime

Sources of information:

- Source Ward Profile 2016: Saddleworth North
file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Saddleworth_North%20(2).pdf),
- Source Ward Profile 2016: Saddleworth South
file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Saddleworth_South.pdf
- Source Ward Profile 2016: Saddleworth West and Lees
file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Saddleworth_West_and_Lees.pdf

Government Expectations

On 19th February 2015 Mr Kris Hopkins MP, a Minister for Local Government, sent a letter to the Leaders of all Billing Authorities. It stated that the Government provides £3.3 billion

annually to local authorities for local council tax support schemes. This includes an amount attributable to town and parish councils. The Government views that it is essential for the town and parish councils to receive all the funds due to them so that they can carry out their activities.

Conclusions

- There are concerns that OMBC seeks to dissolve Saddleworth Parish Council.
- Recently Shaw and Crompton residents, allegedly through an OMBC councillor, challenged the need for having a parish council, citing the unnecessary cost of the precept as one reason to do away with the council.
- A recent letter from Oldham Council highlights the possible withdrawal of the £39,490 Council Tax Support (CTS) Grant from Saddleworth Parish Council's budget effective from 1st April 2017.
- Dissolving the Parish Council or reducing the CTS grant would impinge heavily on the wellbeing of the Saddleworth community.
- The wellbeing of the Saddleworth community depends heavily on volunteer activities within Saddleworth.
- Volunteer activities in Saddleworth depend significantly on the Parish Council.
- The value that frequent volunteers place on volunteering is estimated to be about £13,500 per year at 2011 prices.
- 'Not being able to meet up with friends a number of times per week' is equivalent to a cost of £17,300 per person per year.
- The value that people place on 'living in a society where they feel they can trust' people is about £15,900 per person per year.
- To live in a neighbourhood with 'severe crime and vandalism problems' people would have to be compensated £33,700 per year.
- Total value of volunteer effort is over £7 million.
- The Government provides £3.3 billion annually to local authorities for local council tax support schemes. This includes an amount attributable to town and parish councils. The Government views that it is essential for the town and parish councils to receive all the funds due to them so that they can carry out their activities.
- Not included in this study is a value covering compensation for living in a neighbourhood with crime and vandalism. Further studies are needed to ascertain if Saddleworth crime issues merit such consideration.

