

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published
No	Too much money. I'm not willing to pay more tax for something we dont actually need. Just wanted by a small proportion of the community. If they want it they should pay for it themselves. They can probably afford a rise in council tax to pay for it. Not everyone should be made to pay for the whim of a few. They could however raise the money some other way.
No	I strongly object to the idea of a town council for Whitstable - it would have no real power over and above what CCC and KCC already do but we would end up paying an extra precept on our Council Tax bill. What concerns me most is that the general public will not realise that a town council is as well as CCC, not instead of CCC. It is a ridiculous idea and I will do all I can to ensure my fellow residents understand the finer details.
No	This is double taxation - we would end up paying more for services which CCC and KCC already deliver. A town council would have no power to dictate to either CCC or KCC, only make recommendations, so it is pointless having a town council.
No	This is a small group of people who go not and will not represent Whitstable
Not sure	I think I am in favour, however, I'm concerned that the council may be geared more towards Whitstable visitors than residents. Whitstable is already overrun with tourists and is no longer the town I grew up in. I miss my old town and any move to further expand its tourism would, in my opinion, be a mistake. There are long queues of traffic coming into the town, not just in the summer but throughout the year. Although I'm sure that there are some local businesses, restaurants and pubs who are benefitting, the local people are not and therefore tend to stay away from the town. We prefer to go to neighbouring towns where it's not so crowded. This makes me very sad.
Not sure	It costs money to put in place a council. Would a focused group on the current council not be more cost effective ? We do need more focus for Whitstable , especially when there are trust issues with Canterbury council eg the selling of key land at below market rates, not managing the west beach tennis courts at a time of increasing obesity and the need for children and teenagers to get involved in sports to help With mental health - are there alterior Motives for at play?
Not sure	If it increases costs and increases beurocrycy it's not worth it, but if it can make a difference and the local voices are heard it worth it
No	Most people simply can't afford to pay more in council tax. It also seems like another level of unnecessary bureaucracy. I don't see the benefit of having one.
No	We have a council. Why should i have to pay more to have a parish council on top of my standard council tax.
No	Massive no
No	This is no requirement for this. I dont want to be forced to pay and exta approx £100 on tax.. cost of living is already hitting people. Instead of this, maybe think about having some more influential voices to make changes.
No	We already have two levels of local government in the Canterbury Council area, and with three local councillors covering my ward, and a KCC councillor also, I feel adequately represented and do not want my council tax bill to increase for another layer to be added.
No	In addition to extra council tax in these times of austerity, i dont think a town council will offer anything different to what we already have - there are already many groups and organisations that organise a variety of events and support throughout the year as well as the council. Most local businesses take pride in making sure their surroundings and premises look nice - i really dont feel that there is a need for a town council
Not sure	What are the financial implications for residents if there is an increase in council officers dedicated to the town. What are the advantages compared to a Business improvement district. Why isn't the current Council capable of providing the necessary resources and support required to service the town correctly . It is such a valuable asset to the area
No	Do not wish to pay £80 per year for the privilege. Too many layers of bureaucracy already , we could have a unitary authority and get rid of a layer rather than increase bureaucracy. I do not believe that a town council would have any real authority after all the City council has precious little when it comes to planning etc.
No	1/ I do not want to pay extra council tax to fund it. 2/ I think we should be aiming for less bureaucracy not more. Surely we don't want more unaccountable civil servants, probably working from home. 3/ £60 to £80 may be the running costs but who pays for the new / refurbished buildings to house this extra layer of bureaucracy. 4/ Also with all these powers locally how will they fund the costs. Within a few years of commencement I predict that a number of prominent places in Tankerton will have parking meters added to fund their salaries/works. Especially Marine Parade. 5/ As always there are a few narrow minded zealots with their own agendas. The make a point of getting elected and we end up, for instance, with traffic calming measures including speed bumps, very low speed limits, cycle lanes and pedestrianizing every thing in site, etc. 6/ WHITSTABLE / Tankerton is very relaxed and happy place with the number of visitors showing how popular it is. A local town council, I think will change the atmosphere for the worse.
No	The roles described should already be under the remit of the local council/government which we already pay for via taxes.
No	It is a waste of money our concerns and local issues are all met by local councillors.

No	Have experience of living in a town with town council, was expensive and ineffective. It is the job of our Canterbury Councillors to ensure the needs of Whitstable are met and that we have a fair share of resources and spending. Strongly against additional costs.
No	I really don't think people can afford the extra money at the moment. Also, we already have a voice in the existing councils. I feel this is something that people who can afford things are pushing and doesn't consider how much people are struggling at the moment. I think council meetings should come to Whitstable more and maybe the forums could come back so people have their voice heard, as travelling into Canterbury is expensive.
No	I pay enough for Council tax already and do not want pay another precept for an unnecessary town Council. I don't think that a town Council will offer anything more useful than what Canterbury Council does at the moment. Why add yet another layer of bureaucracy to local politics, when what we really need is for Canterbury Council to do its job properly, efficiently and cost-effectively.
Not sure	It will depend on what they can deliver with the funds they get. £60 to £80 is a lot of money for a lot of people to find at this time. Can we guarantee they will make the right decisions for Whitstable. Also will the annual charge increase each year as we pay over the odds with the Council tax as it is.
No	At this time of extreme financial pressure we just cannot afford to vote for another organisation which we will be asked to pay for. With no idea of cost to householders, how can we afford more on our council tax! We can barely keep our home. I am sure there would be benefits to a town council but other areas with them have not had much benefit - look at Broadstairs. We just cannot pay for more council jobs.
No	I originally thought this was a good idea but it was not made clear when the petition came round that there would be an extra charge made.
No	With the cost of living crisis hitting people hard is this the best decision to spend peoples hard earned money on, another vanity project someone has had as they think we all need it. If the precept is between £60 - £80, that's more than the funding the fire and rescue service receive from council tax!! Yet this is deemed more worthy than that?? None of the issues a town council can fix, won't rely on other services already doing it, but lets just add another unnecessary layer of bureaucracy for the sake of it. No thanks, i dont want a bunch of unqualified people wasting yet more of our money, with nothing to show for it.
No	I don't think that in the current economic crisis affecting the ordinary residents of Whitstable an increase and then subsequent further year on increases for services already met is justified.
No	Canterbury city council are doing a good enough job, we don't need more expense to our already huge council tax. More layers of administration seem counter intuitive and burdensome. It's bad enough dealing with the City Council and the County Council with neither often taking responsibility for issues of concern. And I certainly don't want to pay more in Council Tax for the privilege - if Council Tax were to increase I would want any such funds directed towards road maintenance and improvements or adult social care in the first instance, not a local vanity project.
No	I simple cant afford the added cost.
No	I am a single parent living in Whitstable, where the private rents are excruciating and every year my landlord raises it. I am at the point, where every year I am worried about whether we would end up losing our home due to not being able to afford rent. I work full time, but we are having to watch every penny we spent. There is nothing the town council will be able to change about cost of living or private rents, therefore in my particular circumstances town council will mean extra expense through council tax.
No	Not needed. More excuse to stop things being done
No	It is another level of local government, that will stop things getting done. It will add cost to the householder, without benefit. If we could have our own council that could set the council tax rate and spend all the money in Whitstable it may be worth it, but canterbury city council and kent county council, are keeping the money.
Not sure	The only information I have been given is a leaflet that is not credited to anyone with no information on it other than some spurious success stories from distant town councils.
Not sure	Will the benefit outweigh the cost? Will it just muddy the council waters further? Is it just another layer of bureaucracy? These are the questions that need to be clarified.
No	I cannot afford any extra payments
No	We had a Local Council several years ago, this was change, now Canterbury wish to pass the local problems that should have been fixed i.e. Poor roads high rates and a lack of interest in slowing the traffick down in Cromwell road, there are several more issues to many to list. XXXXX
Not sure	If it does get voted in to be impartial i think the candidates should have no family ties on canterbury council.
No	Too bureaucratic. Poor value for additional council tax. Not representative of local people.
Not sure	It might be that Whitstable residents would prefer to have their own voice.
No	Additional council tax? As if you don't take enough - the benefits do not outweigh the costs
No	I do not see why i need to pay additional monies per year when there is simply no need to do so. Any monies generated will not make the town safer, give the kids access to more clubs/facilities, put extra Police on the streets etc. It will like get wasted on things that are not needed i.e., towards the tourist industry.
No	I don't wish to pay an additional yearly fee to fund the new town council.

No	I do not believe that Whitstable requires a town council. For many reason. The most reason is local businesses aren't owned by local people local people in which struggle to purchase property in Whitstable let alone increasing their council tax to extract astronomical amount . No, I do not believe we need one
No	I don't think it would be value for money
Not sure	after reading the literature, still not sure about it. It will go ahead whatever the feeling against it. these things always do .
No	Council Tax is at an all time high along with the cost of everything else. We cannot justify having another increase for for things that don't effect everyone in the town. Paying for the promoting of cultural events and external funding bids should be optional for Whitstable residents, NOT a mandatory tax! I think it's absolutely crazy that at this time it would be proposed for every resident to pay an additional mandatory £60 - £80 per year for something that might never effect them. I would not benefit one single bit from having this council. This feels like a charity and a donation to a charity should always be a choice and never mandatory. In my opinion, I really think when costs are at an all time high in a cost of living crisis, that this proposal is outrageous.
No	There is little or no benefit for the town. The amenities mentioned in your flyer should be paid for and provided by the business particiaptng. Additional markets they do not offer increase value to the Whitsable community only another way of making a profit for themselves. Dofg wardens are already paid for by our CCC rates! Christmas markets should be again paid for my the stall holders. Whitstable is already a thriving holiday community, try and find a hotel room even in winter and you will find they are above the national average. What a\re these tourists providing to the local community excluding local business. I DO NOT wish to pay another 15-20% on my rates it is unacceptable. There are elections on 02 May nationwide, a Referundum should be held by Whistable resident and voters to finmd our if the majority wish to pay this extra tax, or if we are happy as we are! This is just anther stealth TAX on the community. for what we already pay for!
No	Will my taxes go up?
Not sure	The council tax is dear enough with out having another charge added, surely ccc is already looking after Whitstable's interests or what are we paying them for? As someone on low income and not in receipt of any benefits I cannot afford to be paying for another made up service, Whitstable is a nice place as it is
No	Don't feel it's worth it if there's an extra cost to it
No	We do not need to pay an 'extra charge' for even more politicians who only serve themselves and their own agendas. We pay enough in tax as it it for substandard services. The roads are falling apart. Crime is rife. The town looks a mess due to graffiti and litter. Use the extra £60 to £80 per annum quoted in the booklet to address these issues, not to line the pockets of even more useless politicians on top of the feckless wastrels we already have.
No	Unclear what the net benefit is versus funds required from households versus costs of running council and what will be left in terms of funds
No	Depsite the possible upsides im not willing to pay more in Council tax during a ongoing cost if living crisis
No	Council tax is high enough as it especially as theres a cost of living crisis. More money towards an already expensive council tax plus in the middle of a cost of living crisis. Cost of living chrisis and people dont want to pay more council take its too expensive as it is. The ypath and anti social behavior needs tackling first
No	Creates additional costs onto the Council tax when cost of living already high. Local consultation could be achieved using the system I'm using now. QR codes etc. Just creating another pointless bureaucracy.
No	It costs extra money which is a kick in the teeth in the cost of living crisis, these potential 'services' being offered should be provided by Canterbury City Council already.
No	I do not see any benefit of having a town council. We are already paying way too much every month for council tax. With the cost of everything increasing this extra expense will not be welcome. The best thing you can do to save money is to stop paying the top councillors ridiculously high wages!
No	The last thing people need are more demands on their ever decreasing finances. We do not need another level of bureaucracy with more councillors demanding salaries and needless expenses. The proposed town council will have no real powers, for example they could have a view on a planning application but could be overridden by the City/County Council or Government.
No	Anything that makes our already extremely high council tax higher is not acceptable!
No	I am not prepared to pay for a Town Council We have Canterbury Council. I don't think it's necessary to have an extra one! I am firmly against further costs which will be difficult to pay.
Not sure	As a single person, living alone, I feel it is totally UNFAIR and UNJUST to charge per household!
No	This is an additional cost on top of the already rising council taxes per year when we are in a cost of living crisis.
No	Uncapped precepts on council tax, high running costs based on evidence of other town and parish councils. Doesn't appear to me they'll be any more effective than what we already have in place. All vague plans about what we "could" do, nothing solid or tangible. Difficult to remove an ineffective council if we did establish one.

	Given the very limited remit and powers of a Town Council I see no good reason for adding another level of administration. Our local ward Canterbury City councillors should do what they were elected for and be committed to represent and support the interests of Whitstable residents and businesses. If residents have concerns about the state of the parks, bus services or shelters, then get the ward councillors to deal with it. To add a further £60-£80 pa to the Council Tax for this service is too much at this time when many people are already financially struggling. What safeguards are there that if Whitstable doesn't form a Town Council it will not be at a disadvantage when competing for funds with other towns who have them?
No	Definitely no it is just another way of raising council tax this has been push quickly with meeting scheduled at unreasonable times of the day for people working and families with children your target people!
No	Additional costs to be incurred by the tax payer for an already lack service.
No	We had a town council until the 80's and then it was scrapped because it would supposedly save money. So why do we need a town council now? It will cost residents more for little or no benefit. Fail to see any benefit to the local community other fulfilling some local councillors vanity project.
No	Not needed, already charge too much council tax, waste of money, wasn't asked for, poor services recieved from council anyway
No	Unsure if the advantages
No	The people of Whitstable are already well served with communication with Canterbury Council either directly or via the internet. Any issues can be raised easily. There is no need for an intermediary or a 'talking shop' to air grievances or endless debate. This comes at a price. I hear the sum of £70-80 per council tax payer will be required. I see no need for this extra bureaucracy.
Not sure	The old urban district council worked very well for whitstable but I'm not sure this could be attained again. In order to have complete control of whitstable needs the new council would need a huge amount of capital and its own premises and I don't think this is realistically achievable
No	The council works fine as it is now.. we don't heed any changes thank you
No	Waste of money Waste of time More than enough commities in this town Even if elected, all the electorate, will be white, well off and with time on their hands for busy-bodying I don't want to vote for a single one of them
No	Canterbury Cc is doing the job sufficiently,not ideal, but we don't need anymore stupid little phone booths with moldy books inside or play ground parks with tables and zero shade. Pointless All the councillors (or the ones we are allowed to 'vote' for) will be white, well off and with plenty of time on their hands It has NOTHING to add to Whitstable life There are dozens of committees doing stuff around Whitstable, please don't add another and DON'T make me fund it Just another layer of annoyance I don't want to fund it KCC do an adequate job, could do with improvement, but this would not help I am vehemently against this
No	I don't see any tangible benefits to local residents for the additional 60-120 pounds I have seen as estimated costs.
No	Is this just paying for additional level in bureaucracy?
No	With the cost of living it's not appropriate at this time
No	The reasons given for a town council are not convincing and in my view CCC is already 'been paid' to look after the town. If CCC is not doing a satisfactory job then this should be addressed and not by adding another layer of management at our cost.
No	It's another unnecessary layer of local governance mainly promoted by the local Labour party under the guise of a "people's forum", a "talking shop" for a group of people to grandstand at meetings at the community's expense - and there's no guarantee that the precept involved won't increase and become a burden for local people who are already suffering the effects of the cost of living crisis. Expenses/allowances for county councillors topped £2m last year, the new Labour city council wanted another ten councillors at a cost of £100,000 to local people, now another group of former Labour city councillors appears to be at the heart of pushing this through while trying to claim it's not political. I'm sick of listening to councillors. Save us from this, please.
No	Unknown agenda, excess cost, just another layer of local government
No	Do we really need yet another layer of bureaucracy, with an attendant hike to our Council Tax, which some are already struggling to pay?
No	I think it's the wrong time to be adding more money to council tax I object strongly to this Why should I pay extra for something I completely disagree with How can anyone think charging more money to residents is a good idea Which tells me that residents are not being thought of it's obvious it's a few peoples ego here to be on a committee And make this more Covent Garden by the sea
Not sure	The cost seems rather high
No	Another toothless level of bureaucracy which will cost us extra over what Canterbury already receives.
No	Can you provide any examples using the STAR methodology of why this will be successful and not a waste of our money ? I cant see any tangible examples in your leaflet that show any benefit to this.
Not sure	The CT5 Forum have to my knowledge not issued a plan of the areas that they would like to administer, intended actions and priorities and anticipated costs for their first year. Following this there does not seem to be a strategic plan or priorities.
No	Because it will do nothing other than increase our rates

Not sure	I'm divided on it as we pay a significant amount of council tax already, over £3000 for band F. I'm not convinced a Whitstable town council would benefit everyone or just a few people with their own agenda. For that reason I don't think a further , probably £100 a year for me, guarantees that we would benefit as a family. That's all that matters to me.
Not sure	Not enough notice given to assess the potential benefits
Not sure	I think the size and significance of Whitstable as a town that attracts many tourists, visitors and residents, warrants that it should have its own Town Council. However as a resident myself I would be concerned about the additional costs to Council tax charges.
No	The potential costs/benefits do not stack up, in my opinion. A Town Council seems an unnecessary additional layer of bureaucracy with nebulous advantages. I am not convinced that a Town Council will give value for money, particularly in these cash-strapped times in which we live.
No	Several reasons. I feel that only those with the loudest voices will be heard; this installs yet another layer of government which is not needed - is this not why we have ward councillors? Surely a local councillor can speak up for residents at CCC and (subsequently) KCC level. Adding £60 per year to people's council tax bills is inexcusable, especially at a time of financial hardship for many.
No	I do not want to pay the additional cost
Not sure	There are many reasons so this is merely an example. Whitstable is a community removed from that of Canterbury or Maidstone but still large enough to require very specific localised policy and solution. tourism and industry needing to work alongside each other in a unique manner and a huge population growth whilst Air B & B provides major income . It would be beneficial to have an elected local body to represent the continued growth of the town balanced with the need of local populace being able to live within the town.
No	The annual precept is a worrying cost which will undoubtedly increase year on year. Once established a town council, if not effective, would take a prolonged procedure with ongoing costs to dismantle. The cost of staffing a town council will use much of the money and the benefits seen will be few. From looking at other town councils achievements I doubt the worth. I worry that CCC will devolve unwanted responsibilities and services to a town council that would have neither the funds nor the professional expertise nor the stamina to deal with. I am also concerned that the town council will become a costly clique unrepresentative of the Whitstable population. As there is not to be a town-wide referendum type of vote for the people of Whitstable, I worry that the only measure of opinion on this matter will come from those folk aware enough and with online resources to respond to the consultation document, potentially a scarily low proportion of the population. This may lead to a costly, ineffective and unwanted layer of local bureaucracy at a time of cost of living issues for many people.
No	I think the councillors are adequate for the points covered by proposed Town Council. Also I think a lot of people could not afford the extra cost on Council Tax
No	We do not need a town council, plus im not prepared to pay more council tax when im already struggling to pay my bills.
No	I do not believe that this would improve anything And the extra cost is not acceptable also with a town council being able to increase the cost whenever they feel it necessary Just another level of bureaucracy at the cost to all tax payers
No	From the information shared I do not see how having an extra layer of bureaucracy adds any value for the additional money we will have to pay.
No	I can see no advantage but additional costs People have been hard pressed with inflation and cannot pay more unnecessary costs NO to a town council for whitstable
No	If Whitstable had it's own Town Council it would be a complete waste of hard pressed Whitstable esidence money, unless they had the power to raise their own council tax and more inportant ensuring these funds were only spend in Whitstable. Also ensuring that any local assets were not transferred to Canterbury. i can remember when I first moved to Whitstable, it had its own council but a short time later it was swallowed uo by Canterbury. One of the first things I noticed after this, was council workmen digging up the granite curbstones in Joy Lane and replacing them with cheap concrete ones. The granite ones were tranferred to Canterbury to make some streets in the City look more intune with what their councillors wanted!
No	Pay enough council tax already , don't need more expense on top . Will continue to increase as well. Too much council tax paid already, don't need any more expense
No	It is another level of representation which in some cases can lead to improvements in local democracy the main worry in the case of Whitstable is that it will be run by a select group of people that have recently moved into the area rather than long established locals.
Not sure	Unsure on benefits. More focus on keeping the beach clean during busy seasons would be very welcome. Unclear whether the town council could licence or properly tax/control the large number of Airbnb properties in the town, The Canterbury City Council should be looking after all of the Whitstable Town needs. They are receiving our rates payments for this purpose. We don't need an underdog Town Council to clog up the system and cost the rates payers more money for the pleasure of more debates. There is an old saying that is still true today,'Too many cooks spoil the broth'.
No	

No	Bills are high enough as it is and you're asking for more money to do jobs that should already be being done by the council we have.
Not sure	I feel quite strongly that our particular local issues have not been understood well enough in the past but appreciate that another layer of administration would cost residents a lot more in already difficult times.
Not sure	It would appear that a town council's powers would not cover areas which matter to the local community - i.e. roads planning applications street lighting and as such would not be worth the annual levy envisaged
No	During a cost of living crises it is not feasible to pay more out each month. As far as I am aware there is no cap as to how much the fee can increase each year which is very concerning.
No	Little benefit for more cost
No	I simply do not feel the additional cost to residents in the form of increased local government taxes will outweigh the benefits. Sadly there are too many 'failed' politicians involved in this town council proposal and I fear it will simply become a home for outgoing city councillors and those with previous local government experience who don't really have the interests of the local people at heart and will instead just use it as a platform for political motives and to serve themselves. I also fear it will just add a further layer of bureaucracy and things will not really get done and mean our local city councillors will be even further removed from local residents already and residents issues and problems will end up being passed around with nobody wanting to take responsibility. Unfortunately I believe the wrong people are involved in this town council already and it will therefore be floored from the very start. I just can't see how this will help to solve local issues and benefit the communities of Whitstable and Tankerton.
No	Just another layer without any powers. We would be paying for a building, a clerk plus his or her pension all added onto the council tax. If CT5 forum turned itself into a designated neighbourhood forum, they could apply for all the relevant grants and create a neighbourhood plan.
No	Just adds more to CCC tax bill
No	The added expense does not justify the requirement.
No	I think the timing is wrong. In the current economic climate we should be looking for ways to reduce peoples outgoings not increase them. With Food Banks locally providing 100's of meals every week it would be irresponsible, if not inhumane to raise people's bills at this time
No	We do not need another level of buerocracy from people whose aim is to make the town something different.I have never come across this self appointed group CT5 forum who it would appear wish to keep their ideas amongst their insulated group.
No	We already have a MP, county councillors and a couple of city councillors from Whitstable area. Why do we need yet more people to tell us what to do and think at a cost of £60-80 per year? I attended the meeting last week in whistable and it was clear that the majority of attendees were all active on a whitstable online website. It would be interesting to know how many of these people were recent arrivals to our town. A town council would be a talk shop of effectively self appointed (Only those interested would bother to vote) AND BAD VALUE FOR OUR MONEY.
No	I think that our local council currently already supplies the services we need. A town council would involve an extra cost and I don't think this would provide value for money as I am sure that we currently benefit from better deals made through the city council for services such as waste management due to the economy of scale. With crime reduction and safety measures, I don't believe that a town council would have the budget to deliver what it promises and this would lead to a dangerous depletion of key services
No	We do not need any more councillors what we have in canterbury should be quite enough. Also I do not wish to pay any more council tax of what little money I have left after bills.
No	I can't see any benefits from what I have read and been told so far, I dont want to pay more for my council tax. I think the government will use this as an excuse for giving less money to councils. Once the charge is there it will be incredibly hard to go back to have it removed.
No	Too much additional cost for no real gain
No	I don't believe we as Whitstable residents should be asked to pay extra council tax to Canterbury City Council just to be treated as equals, when WUDC was abolished , it was on a promise that CCC would take care of all our needs and concerns, since then we have become Canterbury's poor relation. But now that Whitstable has become a popular town with visitors, CCC have taken an interest and can see the £££ that has been brought in by visitors and know Whitstable is worth further investment. I don't see how an independent Whitstable Council could improve on what CCC are doing without CCC's support. A lot of the problems in Whitstable are to do with Highways & Parking. I was born in Whitstable in 1962 and lived here all my life, i still cannot believe that the inconsiderate parking in the high street is still a problem and the high street still isn't one way from Canterbury Road to Sea Street with loading bays on one side only. Such a simple remedy.
No	More bureaucracy, CCC are incompetent enough without adding another layer of numpties. Rather close CCC andfold everything into KCC, who seem more organised
No	I do not believe they will be effective and just add cost to our ever increasing bills. The way thing are governed at the moment are fine. Is it just another case of offloading responsibilities so canterbury city council does not have to fund/maintain allotments and other planned items like public toilets
No	There will be an extra Community Charge for this. I feel another layer of Bureaucracy is not good value for the extra cost to householders.

	I signed petition for review after being stopped and given a very upbeat view of a Town Council. I have since read the proposal and attended the extremely good presentation at the Umbrella Centre. 1). If I pay £75 or more on the precept, that is £75 or more that I cannot spend directly with local businesses or supporting local ventures. 2). If business rates include a precept, prices will rise and I will be less able to support them. Some businesses will fail. 3). If local groups are encouraged to use a Council Town Hall for meetings etc, other venues will suffer eg Church halls, Scout halls etc. Our local churches do a great deal for the community. Our various community venues are great assets for residents and visitors. 4). I cannot support an "uncapped" precept. Whitstable has many, many residents who are only just 'getting by". An uncapped precept is like signing a blank cheque. 5). This is unlikely to be socially cohesive across the area. There is a real risk of divisiveness between different wards. 6). We are not a small village and in this area it is likely to become party political which in itself is likely to be divisive. 7). We do not lack civic or community pride. We have great community assets, a huge range of activities, clubs and associations that run themselves. 8). We do not need to further promote the town to visitors. We have reached capacity (many would say we now have too many). 9). The staff at Canterbury City Council are knowledgeable and helpful and a resource for our area. With allotments (which would be run by a Town Council), Canterbury staff give sound advice and help both to committees dealing with issues and to individuals who may suffer from zealous committees! 10). A Town Council is another tier of bureaucracy with associated running costs and the risk of representatives pursuing personal goals or objectives whilst failing to recognise (or care) about the impact of unintended consequences.
No	They will not have any influence on any decisions that could affect the town.
No	I don't believe that a town council will be a benefit. It will cost local towns people more in the council tax.
No	I do not think whitstable would benefit as they still have to go through Canterbury council, and I do not want to pay extra on my rates
No	- Cost - I'm not sure it would represent value for money - I think that KCC does a good job and I question whether a town council and the councillors would have the skills and knowledge to ensure that current services are delivered to the current high standards. - I fear it will have one focus - holiday lets! Also those that own holiday lets won't have a voice as they don't pay council tax (as they are a business), so won't be able to vote - An additional level of bureaucracy that I feel isn't needed
No	What I think for what it's worth it will cost more money and achieve nothing, the new 'council' will have no authority and no power, no matter what they say when setting it up. I can't see any useful purpose, we just need the one we've got to be run properly, a big ask I know
No	Unnecessary.
No	People cannot afford the extra charge. We should have all been sent a yes/no vote form. Many people are not able to use online forms etc and many cannot get out to collect them from community centres. Its unfair to force SOME peoples views onto everyone especially if you cannot afford extra money to pay for it.
No	It is unnecessary and I do not want to pay more council tax for it.
No	Council tax is high enough already - most of this extra charge will go towards funding additional bureaucracy and not essential services, so it looks like poor value for money. I'm normally a Labour voter, so I'm not against tax rises as long as the money raised is used wisely. But I fear that this plan to impose a non essential tax rise on struggling residents will make any councillor supporting the proposal look out of touch with the electorate. We're in the middle of a cost of living crisis, and our council is struggling to pay for schools, bin collections and maintenance to essential infrastructure. Why is our council wasting time and resources on this proposal instead of tackling its current financial crisis? Everyone involved here is fiddling while Rome burns!
No	We already have two layers of opaque and struggling local authority. The last thing needed is another layer and more cost and higher council tax. The town council is a concept to benefit the residents of the centre of the town and cover for the abject failure if CCC/KCC over many years to do anything to maintain the fabric if seafront/high street. It will be paid for by all residents for the benefit if few.
No	I am concerned by the potential cost of these proposals, the lack of an ability to change back or remove the potential town council, the fear being they become 'just another committee or the direct and tangible benefits that this proposal entails. Furthermore, people who are elected are likely to take affirmative action or actions, to justify their position, rather than give me a direct perceivable benefit I am concerned about the negative potential impact. I am also concerned about the environmental impact that this potential group will have in terms of the communication and engagement that this group will, in all good practice, undertake. Furthermore, I cannot understand what decision that this committee could take will have a beneficial outcome that couldn't be achieved via other means or current forums. I'm also concerned that key parts of the towns spirit and commercial running will be excluded from this proposal, in short, I can see no benefit from this proposal.
No	Not enough information has been provided e.g. a breakdown of how much the £80 precept will be expected to raise, initial plans on how it is spent, what controls will their be in place to avoid wasting money. The information leaflet is vague on the specific role the town council will have in reality and what the benefit is to local people. There is a lack of transparency around the idea and the decision making on this is not really in the hands of the people who live in whitstable.
No	Absolutely not. Limited benefit, unlimited expense, £80 per year per household to fund.

No	It's hard to see exactly what the benefits are and I think Whitstable residents are very worried about the additional costs it will incur.
No	I'm happy with the council as it is. I don't want to pay more money for a town council that can raise it to a level it likes. We have an MP. County councillors and city councillor's.No to a town council and definitely no paying more money how crazy to ask people for more money when a lot of us are struggling with the cost of living. Do the right thing stop this madness set in motion by the few who want it.
No	An additional and unnecessary level of bureaucracy. Additional cost to the payers of council tax.
No	There is no requirement for a Town Council in Whitstable, another layer of administration would be too expensive - especially when it is not required. Whitstable is a charming town and does not need any radical changes. The two-way traffic system through the town, with the existing parking and loading spaces works well and is to the benefit of everyone including visitors. The small one-way system around Harbour Street/Sea Street works perfectly. Traffic through the town is kept to a sensible speed which is good for pedestrians, particularly shoppers and school children. Retailers also benefit from this slower pace, many of them are still independent small shops and the town benefits from keeping it that way. There is enough parking and car parks around the town to cope with the summer season. Large green spaces already exist and, if anything, are under-used.
No	We do not need more councillors charging more tax CCC should do its job better
No	It involves another layer of governance, that has to be paid for via the compulsory precept. In the current financial climate we already pay plenty and there are strains on household budgets. There is also no clear indication what the precept will be, other than reference to other similar towns. I want to know exactly what something WILL cost before I buy it. Too many of the reasons for having a town council revolve around vague issues, which use phrases like consulting, adding value, promoting, helping, planning etc. Furthermore, the financial arguments in favour seem to revolve around the idea that funding 'can be used' , 'could be found', etc from various sources. This is far too vague and looks like another layer of discussion, with little authority invested in the councillors to actually make decisions. In short, this looks like a talking shop, with very little of value for Whitstable. I don't see why the aims of a town council could not be achieved by other means. Those means would have to be voluntary, and so my guess is that those who are largely in favour of this proposal are those who hope to be elected and then get paid for what they do. In other words, their conversion to this idea, has more to do with their personal situation than any public duty. I am also sceptical of the idea that whatever a Town Council does achieve, assuming it is put in place, would provide widespread benefits to the people of Whitstable. More likely it will provide a platform for pushing the personal projects for those involved, leading to a very narrow spectrum of benefits to the town as a whole. I am generally in favour of small government, and for this and all the above reasons, I am NOT in favour of this idea of having a Town Council.
No	We already have a council (Canterbury City). Therefore why have a town council which we are expected to pay for? Additional council tax (precept) is not acceptable. The existing council should be providing everything listed in the proposal and the members should be doing their jobs. Another council is yet another level of bureaucracy, we do not need another council to tell the existing council what to do!
No	Unnecessary expense with little advantages
No	We don't need added expense and won't benefit the £80 extra to pay! Leave well alone! The CCC is enough when it comes to council tax and with the cost of living cannot warrant the extra cost of being a parish council! Talking to residents of Chestfield, strongly advised to oppose it!
No	Another toothless level of bureaucracy.
No	I have read the so-called arguments in favour and am not convinced this additional layer of bureaucracy offers anything tangible to the community, that it costs the residents an additional precept makes no sense to me at all.
No	I feel that the duties outlined in the proposal should already be carried out by Canterbury City Council and I do not see the need to pay additional monies, also there is no cap on this additional cost to us.
No	It's not needed, We are are also looking at a furthe in crease in Council tax . A town Council would be a further expense uncapped which will be an extra amount most people can't simply afford. I see no extra benefit from having a Town Council.
No	We do not need it !
No	I don't wish to pay for an uncapped precept. Also there seems little accountability for what a TC would do and likely to result in in fighting between vested interests of powerful groups without benefit to those struggling with social and financial disadvantage. Local city councilors already work hard for the community and are accountable to the electorate.
No	I hadn't realised there would be an increase in council tax.
Not sure	Cost and control thereof
Not sure	Of the funds raised through town council charge e.g. £60-£80 for band D. What % of that is used on services and how much on expenses e.g. meeting room hire, electoral services, expenses other likely town council running costs. Does the extra voice representing the community have any more statutory power and is it any stronger than the current councillors?

No	1.) The town council would not be representative or democratic because those who have the time and/or inclination to be involved tend to come from a small minority. In particular they would have a poor understanding of the needs of young people. 2.) The cost (precept) to households is unacceptable and cannot be justified. 3.) The town council would introduce an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy.
No	After reviewing all the pro and cons, plus hearing the views of others. I have decided against the town council, mainly because of the cost.
No	Another layer of complexity and bureaucracy
No	Another load of civil servants getting paid loads of money for nothing, Whitstable always gets left out the other towns benefit more. Maybe the local councillors we have should be doing more for the local people not just the Cornell's they do there fair share
No	As a resident of 4 years and soon to be a homeowner here I would, in principle, be happy to support a town council for Whitstable, however not under the conditions stipulated in the current proposal. An uncapped additional tax to support the council is unreasonable and hardly appropriate during a cost of living crisis that is affecting so many, especially with little guarantee beforehand as to how this money would be spent.
No	Because the main council does nothing only grant building sites to the developers who have them in their back pocket and a local council will not do any different and I am not paying through the nose for that
No	Because they have no powers
No	Cannot afford yet more money going to another council and what for? Whitstable has always been second to Canterbury.
No	CCC is a well functioning City Council. Adding additional tiers of local government is often ineffective and creates additional bureaucracy. Working in a senior leadership role in local government I have first hand experience of how ineffective town and parish councils are. They are usually underfunded and under resourced (like most tiers or local government) and struggle to implement change. They do sometimes have good ideas but lack the expertise to fully action them. We are in the middle of a cost of living crisis and the additional precept will place unwanted financial pressure on many families. The future of local government in Kent is uncertain particularly with the difficulties facing KCC and Medway and until the future of these two unitary authorities is clear no additional tiers of local government should be created. I am completely opposed to the creation of a town council and struggle to see any benefits that it may bring in the current climate.
No	Cost of living crisis means not able to pay extra for a town council who seem to keep their ideas and agendas to themselves without asking the wider population of whitstable if they agree, and who also appear to have no understanding of the difficulties experienced by those in the less affluent wards. No understanding of what the majority want as the majority appear to not have known about the original petition to set a town council up. Will only look after themselves and what they want to implement
No	Costs too much extra and will just be more extra bickering
No	COUNCIL TAX RISING SO DO NOT WISH TO PAY OUT MORE MONEY
No	Due to the additional cost, and it is unclear exactly what the town council would do.
No	Expensive and I'm not seeing the benefit
No	Extra charges were not mentioned when i signed petition
No	From what I have read the town council wouldn't have much say over CCC so what is the point? People do not want to pay extra ontop of the Council Tax which keeps going up. People are struggling to eat and keep warm so do not want extra financial pressure for little reward!!
No	I believe just because Whitstable is in a minority regarding not having a town council that we should be made to have one. Whitstable is unique. I also believe that voluntary/ community organisations contribute massively and could organise the events we require..Community groups could also establish a neighbourhood plan. I don't believe a town council would improve pride in the town. More importantly this is not the time to impose an uncapped charge onto many people who can't feed themselves or turn their heating on.
No	I can't afford to pay extra council tax. Anyway Canterbury will still have the last say
No	I do not want to pay money for something we do not need.
No	I don't believe it is necessary to add further beurocracy to the system. Neither do I believe it will cover the interests of the whole area anymore than the current situation. Furthermore the additional cost to residents is unacceptable.
No	I don't want to pay for it, I pay enough council tax
No	I don't want to pay an additional uncapped amount
No	I dont wish to pay extra for this service. Id only be happy to pay additional monies if i thought it was going to extra policing or keeping our streets clean and tidy. Whitstable has now become over developed and i have no interest or pride in our town anymore and therefore have no desire in ploughing further money into an area which has been ruined.
No	I think the cost will not gain anything let the local counsellors do there job.
No	I'm not sue I would be happy about the rise in council tax. Also not sure that I have a lot of faith in the people standing for town council.

No	Insufficient information about how an initial election of councillors would be organised if approved. Little hope there would be a cost benefit for residents from additional council tax. No information on threshold of support required for councillors to decide - referendum? No information on how to reverse a decision to form if found ineffective.
No	It will be just another layer of government that provides limited value.
No	It's an unnecessary expense during these already hard times
No	More bureaucracy and more cost to households
No	More cost and can't see any gain. I feel like Whitstable is very well looked after and prioritised by CCC.
No	No information I have read makes me believe that having a Town Council in Whitstable would be of any benefit to our town. We do not need another level of bureaucracy. Also a big worry about uncapped precept. Just because almost every other town has one doesn't mean it's good for Whitstable. Our town always has been unique, that is why it has attracted people to visit and relocate.
No	Not enough knowledge on what the extra money will be spent on , not enough knowledge on how much will be collected and the fact it is an un capped tax
No	Not needed, additional expense
No	Not needed. Just one more level of costly bureaucracy
No	There are no financial details. Is anyone being paid, costs for office/stationery/ travel/ all expenses. It is not clear and transparent. Insufficient details for me to make an informed decision. How would it differ from the support CCC should provide but don't. No cap on amount. Without further information I could not say yes to this proposal. No other business would spend money on a project without a business plan.
No	There is already too much expensive and unwieldy bureaucracy. I'd rather time and money be spent on making the city council itself much more democratic and responsive to the needs of the public rather than setting up another self important body which will absorb even more public money .
No	They are too expensive and uncapped. With the cost of living, many are having struggles already. Absolutely no is my vote.
No	This another layer of governance and bureaucracy , its costly and will almost certainly become highly political and not focussed on the peoples needs.
No	This is a duplication of roles, increasing bureaucracy, not improving representation & offering no significant benefits. Most activities are already offered by CCC, KCC or a myriad of charities & groups at no extra cost. Many groups work together. Many grants can be applied for & neighbourhood plans created by these groups already without a need for a TC. We should not be applying for loans on top of what the district already owes as was suggested at one meeting. Decisions that matter to many such as planning, schools & roads will not be under a TC's control. For 30+ years the Whitstable Society was planning consultee (removed for parish councils too by the last administration) but the WS & Chestfield PC continue to comment as do residents. Traffic is also covered by many groups. The country has the highest taxation for 70 yrs, increases in payments (however small) will have a significant impact for some. Worryingly, there is no cap on a TC charge. An outcome of this consultation should not be to reduce the TC population area as this will reduce the funds raised, either putting more financial pressure on a smaller population because the cost of staff and buildings will not be reduced or reducing the amount available to spend on projects and increasing the cost to run the TC over the already high 2/3rd of income. Not a good business model either way. CCC/KCC benefit from economies of scale & staff who can be moved eg to cover sickness/hols. Not possible with 1 paid TC clerk, so more staff and costs will be needed. It does not make sense for any existing service to be moved to a TC or residents will be paying twice. Existing Councillors are accessible face2face, online or via Facebook so no need for a middleman. They are, and should be acting on our behalf. The promotional leaflet is all very woolly about what they would actually do. It is not fair that visitors, workers & others can comment when there is no financial implication for them if a TC is formed.
No	This is not the right financial climate to add increasing costs to an increasing council tax
No	This is something else that we have to pay for, at a time when our Council Tax is increasing significantly again. It is another layer of administration & officialdom. This & other projects are generally taken over by incomers with their own agendas.
No	This is very ill timed and people simply cannot afford to have any additional costs right now. We are all having to make many sacrifices and cuts to the way we survive financially due to the cost of living crisis. People are struggling financially and this will add further pressures and distress to the majority of people in this area. At this time it would not be the responsible thing to do. This could cause people to go into arrears with their council tax, the knock on effect could be catastrophic for Canterbury city council and the people living in CT5.
No	Too much uncertainty
No	We cannot afford to pay any more money for services we should already be receiving.
No	We do not need another layer of government and there will be overlap and disputes over where responsibilities lay. Such as bin collections, car park, parking restrictions. Whitstable needs visitors and I don't want them going elsewhere because there is not enough parking spaces (I know that at busy times they are filled to capacity) and charges are exorbitant. If instigated, will Whitstable Council be empowered to stop Canterbury Council from imposing the new restrictions on cars which has recently been introduced?

No	We pay enough council tax already and Not getting a good service. So why should we throw more money at council so they go further in Debt
No	Whitstable is a very proactive community and can make a great deal happen under its own steam. The additional costs to households are not what most of us want to pay, especially with evidence of similar schemes elsewhere when costs can suddenly astronomically increase and to be paying for something that may not be relevant for you. If I had to pay additional fees I would rather it went to council tax towards social care for children and adults, and for mental health services.
No	Whitstable is too busy already so the thought of the town council promoting additional needless events is not something I want to see.
No	Whitstable is very well represented in the local community without the additional expense of requiring a separate Town Council
No	Whitstable should absolutely NOT have a town council.
Not sure	I really do not have enough information as to how the residents of Whitstable will benefit from a town council. I have concerns that it may in fact be detrimental to us. It will definitely cost us money through our council taxes!
Not sure	Whitstable is unique in many ways, given its geography, its history and its reliance on oysters. However, there must be a concern that the establishment of a town council would increase the dominance of the oyster fishery over local decisions, which it already dominates to a disproportionate degree.
No	Another layer of bureaucracy is not required; additional costs to all residents not required. A Town Council has very little power to influence the CCC. Much better to continue to improve the CCC operation via local MP's and Groups and influence the development of Whitstable in that way. There are always examples where a TC has made progress but in my experience in the majority of cases another level of bureaucracy is not beneficial to the town.
No	Another layer of bureaucracy without any real power and costing money at a time when there is a cost of living crisis: we do not need this. A more effective way forward would be to look at the existing structures and how Whitstable can be better represented within those. Sometimes, the apparently less radical solutions are the most radical.
No	As a recent student with a large student debt I am fundamentally against paying anything extra for a new Town Council. I would like to live in my home town, but the amount of deposit needed coupled with the price of properties means it is sadly highly unlikely that I will be able to afford to buy my first house or maybe any house in Whitstable, unlike my parents. I do not think anyone putting forward the notion of a Town Council has given any thought to the younger generation who have high mortgages, large student loans and the rising cost of living to deal with. Its a firm no from me.
No	Cannot afford the proposed increase to the Council Tax; it seems unfair!
No	Do not wish to pay for another council which will have governing power. I can see absolutely no benefit to residents who are already experiencing additional expenses. NO TO WHITSTABLE COUNCIL!
No	Don't think it's necessary A bit of a waste of money As a resident who struggles with money despite working as much as possible, it seems highly unnecessary to give away money to something like this
No	Don't think it is needed, plus council tax is already going up yearly and can not afford to pay more already will struggle this year.
No	Extra £80 each on council tax - not paid by the air bnb houses. This is uncapped so the potential for large rises in the future.
No	Extra expense not worth it
No	Having witnessed Ramsgate Town Council in action in its attempts to block the re-opening of Manston Airport which goes totally against a large majority of the population of Thanet I cannot support a town council for Whitstable. Also, it appears to be a duplication of what we already have and also I would strongly object to having to pay an extra £60-£80 a year on my council tax (and as I understand it, there is no cap on this?) It's one additional tax too much for those struggling to survive financially. Finally, those that support this thing appear to be busybodies, have vested interests or little understanding of what is involved. So, should Whitstable have a town council? The answer from me is NO!!!!!!
No	I am not happy that there is no cap on the precept. I am not happy that the consultation is open to anybody not just people who live or work in Whitstable. There are no plans as to what areas or policies will be priorities. I feel there should be more concrete proposals.
No	I attended the meeting in February regarding this proposal. I do not believe at this point in time and given the cost of living crisis that there would be enough benefit from having a Whitstable parish council. The important issues would still be dealt with by Canterbury.
No	I do not wish to pay additional council tax, especially as it would be an uncapped precept during a cost of living crisis. The vast majority of funds raised would be spent on staff, office space etc so I cannot see any real value for money. Also, with no long-term plans outlined by those wishing to be councillors, it is difficult to see what benefits would be seen by the community. What Whitstable really needs is the usual existing, year-upon-year, issues actually being addressed - ridiculously high cash cow parking fees, lack of larger seafront bins, proper policing of antisocial behaviour and incredibly poor roadwork planning. These are all problems that, I'm lead to believe, cannot be tackled by a town council and that we are still unfortunately left in the hands of the inept Canterbury City Council.

No	I do not wish to pay any extra council tax (which I understand there will be.) Also I do not think this council has any governing powers and we will lose out in the long run.
No	I see no need at all for a Whitstable Town Council. I am perfectly happy with the existing arrangements regarding local affairs.
No	In the current economic crisis, what I do not want is another out going from my pension which is stretched to the limit. I can not and Will not be able to pay, therefore being at risk of debt collectors . I've been a resident of Whitstable for nearly 9 years. I grew up in London and visited over the years growing up and wanted to give my children a better environment than I had. It has changed dramatically in this short period of time. More councillors at an additional cost to the resident isn't what we need. It's better responses from the current elected members, and councils. Public services should be available to the public 7 days a week. Most reasons a councillor will need to be contacted are reactive and need a quick response. Zipped hours for workers means there can be a day of the week when a certain service has no representative at all. I have three major incidences that have lost me faith in my local councillors and councils. There unfortunately isn't room to give you the full detail. One includes a danger to my property, one a danger to children's lives and one to everyone's danger including pets. I experienced 9 months of chasing for a response of "we clear drains every 2 years", my property flooding was not taken seriously. 2; my local councillor ignoring my plea for someone to attend temporary 3 way unmanned traffic lights that had been installed near a school. The timing had been set too short for one allowing cars to go through on green but travel through the next set on a blind turn that had already changed to let pedestrians cross. 3; many proposals in 2021 for yellow lines went ahead with more objections that not and others with the backing from councillors from different areas. Now your leaflet "through a range of extensive discretionary powers that they can choose to exercise" I must commend you on being truthful about the fact that you can listen to residents concerns but you have the power to do exactly what you like! "The legislation provides that the minimum number of elected members on a town council is five -There is no maximum number" it's there is black and white, How much will you charge us for these extras?The power is all in your hands.
No	No control over additional council tax we can be charged and the area would still be under canterbury overall control.
No	PETITION. Disingenuous, using contribution re the precept-it implies it's voluntary. Uncapped not mentioned. Some door to door canvassers didn't mention precept/encourage people to read the information. Many say they wouldn't have signed had they been made aware. LEAFLETS. No mention of precept on earlier material from CT5 People's Forum. Many arrived too late . MEETINGS. 5.pm was too early. No opposition voice or negatives being mentioned. PRECEPT. Amount is an estimate-it's uncapped. Other TCs have made significant increases-one by 231%. Many people can't afford additional taxes. Up to two thirds will be spent on admin & costs. HOW MONEY WILL BE SPENT. Potential benefits are aspirational, nothing that couldn't be achieved by existing groups etc at lower costs. Whitstable is well-served by local, NGOs ,churches etc. Tackling loneliness, providing Dementia Cafes, Warm Spaces were all mentioned at the meeting. The Churches, in particular All Saints provide, free regular, secular activities to combat this. The Waterloo centre has a Dementia Cafe with legal advice. Churches offered warm spaces when needed. Stream Walk Allotment, The Umbrella Centre & Revival Cafe do a lot for the town, particularly helping to tackle mental health issues. This list is by no means exhaustive. TCs can't tackle the major issues like sewage in sea, lack of affordable housing, second/holiday home problems, potholes etc-these are what many residents are concerned about. CONCLUSION. A TC could potentially lead to increased bureaucracy & inefficiency in decision-making. There is a risk that a Town Council could become politicized, leading to divisions within our community. I believe we should focus on strengthening existing community organizations with money going to them directly. By empowering local groups and encouraging active participation from residents, we can foster a sense of ownership and collective responsibility for the well-being of our town. Local Cllrs should be kept accountable.
No	There are numerous reasons. 1. £60/£80 added to my Council Tax. No thank you. 2. For what...yet another layer of bureaucracy and red tape to manouvere in order to get anything done. 3. Town Councillors who always, in the end, simply cow tow to their own political parties. Same old same old people 4. Whatever these people say i can guarantee there will be no interest. Never has been.
No	There is a cost of living crisis the majority of people simply cannot afford more taxes. A lot of people live hand to mouth. A lot of the people I have seen pushing for this are the minority that have the money to throw at this because they want to run a town council as a hobby. I think that the majority of whitstable don't even know about this.
No	Too expensive
No	Waste of time as very little say in things that really matter.

	<p>-We already have seven local counsellors representing Whitstable's interests. Local town councillors will not improve our representation and will not have more impact. -The minority promoters of this scheme are loud and vocal but the silent majority and often unaware should not be pushed into this by that minority. It is not true when promoters say that the town council will be a planning consultee for the town because CCC took away these rights of all parish, town councils and amenity organisations! -Re Planning expertise. Whitstable already has the Whitstable Society with a wealth of expertise in planning matters. Where do the promoters expect to get this expertise from - will be an expensive duplication. -Wasting CCC resources. When the promoters of this scheme met the petition criteria for this consultation 25% of their names were disqualified which I find concerning. Additionally I know that some who signed it didn't appreciate what it really meant as it was advertised as a 'Voice For Whitstable' and who would find that disagreeable -I see no net gain for residents. We already have excellent amenity societies -I am against extra costs for the population another layer of government. -I am against reducing the population area which would increase financial burden on a smaller population. -Another layer of government creates needless inefficiencies and another operational barrier between us and CCC -They will spend at least 30% of there time writing local policies and procedures that aren't really adding material value 30 % of all money will be on administration. Again not adding any actual value. -Unlike council tax that is controlled and capped this is an open ended tax with no such safe guards. -I do not think residents should be paying extra taxes for no net gains. -I am concerned that if only a small proportion of the public respond, the results will be skewed by the few folks who want the town council hence not representative of the wider community</p>
No	
No	We don't need a another layer of government we certainly don't want to pay for it.
	We have representatives already to speak and voice our views we should not have to pay more on our Council tax etc.
No	Whilst I am currently a student and do not pay council tax, I do not think having a Town Council is a good idea. I know I will be leaving university shortly with a high student debt. The prices of the houses in Whitstable are so high, that I would require a huge mortgage to get onto the housing ladder in my home town. This large mortgage and massive student debt is enough without another payment layer on top of the already large council tax and utility bills. My generation do not appear to have been considered at all. There is nothing in the leaflet about the cost to my generation, other than there are discounts potentially available for low income families, meaning I will still have to pay something. Every pound is thoughtfully spent by me as a student and I have no reason to think this action will not continue for many years to come as I start my working life. Every pound counts and perhaps those wishing to set this up should consider donating to the many groups already volunteering for Whitstable.
No	Whitstable has no need for a town council. My parents are from Whitstable and have lived there, their whole lives. The fact that having a town council ultimately increases the tax for the local residents for an uncapped amount on the council tax would be traffic, especially as currently people are struggling. Additionally the publicity of this happening has not been forth coming. The residents and workers in whitstable have only found out about this through word of mouth. No letters, leaflets have been given to the local residents through their doors. It feels very underhand. The people who are interested in having a town council is a small minority, and does not represent the population of whitstable.
No	
No	Why pay more when we have already have a local councillor already
	Concerned over the precept fee as this isn't capped. Would we be liable for any debts the council may incur through partnership events through subsequent increases in the precept fee? Would like a firmer idea of the proposals that the supporters of this would like to implement as unsure what we'd be paying the extra for However can see the benefit of being able to apply for extra funding and community support activities as well as having more input into planning as increased house building and lack of parking or road access is having a massive impact on the area.
Not sure	Would also like to see more control of holiday homes.
	I am very much in SUPPORT of the town council. However, due to the current economic climate/high cost of living, as well a forthcoming General Election, this proposal should be DEFERRED until 2025/26.
Not sure	
Not sure	I do not have enough information in order to answer this question.
	Please outline the benefits and services an introduction of a TC will benefit Whitstable residents specifically? I'm not in favour of paying a further amount of council tax without knowing the benefits and would appreciate further consultation with an option to vote out before a majority vote is taken or KCC independently decide to establish and councillors appointed! Also, am not in favour of more Councillors being elected and paid for unknown services!
Not sure	We may lose existing benefits provided by Canterbury CC also be faced with extra cots for setting up and administration of an independent council.
Not sure	
	The area that is being covered as per the map covering the CT5 area is too large to (a) be deemed to be a town council (b) and due to the size would not be represented fairly by the members of council. We are in a cost of living crisis and as I am on a state pension the council tax last year would cost £28 per week, this as we know will have increased this year without the added suggested amount for thi syear of £80+ for the town council which would then be increased annually. The original consultation was not widely known about and even this consultation was hit and miss as to how you found out and the letter advising of meetings to discuss arrived after they had been carried out - this leaves me to think that the majority of residents would not be asked their views regarding any ideas or agendas being put forward by the town council and as such I am voting no to one.
No	

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published Whilst other local areas have a town council, Whitstable is part of Canterbury City. The argument for having a Town Council is not fully articulated. There are lots of people who have the time and the money to campaign for this organisation but the benefits to local residents being more than the cost of the precept of £60 are completely unclear. I do not think that the Town Council proposition offers anything other than time spent in committees for people who want to do this. As a local resident, I would like to see a detailed plan of what will and will not be provided by the Council before any final decision is made.
No	Can't afford to pay any amount over and above the current Council Tax. Costs too much
No	I have previously lived in an area with an extra layer of local government. It simply added more bureaucracy and did very little for our town.
No	We have a council that works already! I will not be able to afford to pay more taxes to cover the town council for whitstable, the people pushing for a town council are only interested in the town and not the surrounding area so therefore intend to do nothing for my family but I'm expected to pay for them, no thank you!!
No	More cost and bureaucracy. Waste of money and duplication of duties
No	We do not need the additional cost of another administration team, when canterbury city council has enough resources and experience to manage the area.
No	Do we really need another tier of government to do what is already being achieved by others in the location. At a time when people in general are struggling with the cost of living, do we need to add a further increase on the council tax we already paid? Not many years ago the government instigated the policy of Care in the Community which encouraged Community volunteers to take up the slack. Has policy on this now changed? I cant see how this would do anything more than provide more funds for Canterbury Council through increases in Council Tax. There are already active organisations within the Whitstable area who have been doing the work that is put forward on this review. They are doing it and have been doing it for many years and very successfully without added cost to those who at this time are struggling to make ends meet. We are in the midst of a financial crisis and this is not the time to even consider such a plan, especially when it incurs a charge from residents. In 1992 the government were asking that we all come together in the community by way of volunteering etc. Many people took up the banner and moved forward with this, successfully, and still do. Now it seems that we are being asked to take a U Turn on this. Makes no sense to me at all and seems that we already have plenty of Chiefs and not enough Indians in local government. I for one will not be supporting this plan.
No	Because we don't need to be paying for more councils full of bureaucrats. We already pay for Kent county council, Canterbury council so why do we need another council taking more money from us for what? We pay enough to Canterbury council without adding another payment for Whitstable's residents who actually dont get to vote on this !!!!
No	because the council tax bill will go up in price each year, 'and no doubt more than is stated', if the town has its own council run services. Knowing someone very close to me that works for the civil service, I can state first-hand at how much money is wasted each year, especially when holding meetings. "And I don't wish to pay extra in my Council Tax so the civil servants can hold meetings in some top-notch hotel conference room, and pay for there Bacon-Rolls before they even pick-up a pen, and then the cost for there lunch-time buffet". Enough money is wasted each year by the Government and Local Councils, without adding another extra cost to the general public. Nothing will be gained from this, and nothing more will be done or improved against what's already being carried out by Canterbury City Council, "And I fully recommend any resident of Whitstable to vote against this". Thank you.
No	I had no idea that this was being proposed until receiving this letter. And by the looks of the section, information sessions, I and probably many others in Swalecliffe have received the informative letter late! I would have wanted to attend the Swalecliffe info session on the 18th. I received the letter today, the 19th January! This is typical of CCC not preempting the current Royal Mail post and ensure such letters are sent in advance to ensure delivery on time. Another info session needs to be arranged so I and others receiving the letter. My main concern here relates to the increase in cost of living, increases in every area including our council tax. I work and am struggling to cover these increases. Therefore I am reluctant to be forced to pay an additional fee annually and why should I and others that decline this move. Now is just not the time to increase costs for those struggling for more councillors, premises costs and probably DFL decisions to be made in relation to the budget given. Focus will no doubt be directed to Whitstable centrally rather than areas on the outskirts such as Seasalter and Swalecliffe. I am current %100 against this move, mainly the fact that we will be expected to find more money from already struggling family's and individuals. Please can another information session be arranged as explained above, thank you
No	Because it will breed biased and unfair representation by a minority of people, for the benefit of select groups of influential residents. It is also an unaffordable luxury. Will fringe locations like Kite Farm footways ever be made safe for its elderly pedestrians? Will it ever be free from a thick growth of vegetation throughout the year..... I doubt it!!!
No	As an aside, I received notification of the consultation, by post, on 19th January. My local information session was held on 18th January. Typical incompetence!
No	Canterbury council do a good job and so it's not necessary to have a town council plus I can't afford the extra payment each year on my council tax. I cannot see any benefit for me and my wife that a town council can give

	1, We received notice of the information session 20-01-2024. Would you kindly tell us how we could attend the session on the 18-01-2024!!! where some of our questions and missgivings could have been addressed. 2, If the local council gets the green light will the ESTIMATED £60 to £80 TAX for running it be deducted from our Canterbury Council Tax?
No	In the midst of a cost of living crisis asking residents to pay more for a new council is ridiculous. Whitstable did have a town council and it was merged with Canterbury because of additional costs and unwanted bureaucracy. This is still the case today. It is a charter for the huge number of Londoners to self manage their own interests. Whitstable is full of weekend stays, second homes and airb and b's. Many of these properties pay no council tax and do not contribute to the local economy or public purse. Allowing Whitstable to make it's own rules will be terrible for the true residents of Whitstable. Whitstable has become a gentrified ghost of what was once a vibrant fishing town. A town built around a harbour. A town where you can no longer buy fish such is the gentrification and the cost of property in Whitstable. There is absolutely nothing to show that a town council will be beneficial for the community and residents of Whitstable. The constant building of luxury apartments and expensive property proves that the town is being turned into Billingsgate-on-sea. Every year Whitstable looses more and more of the character that attracts day visitors and supports the economy. As Whitstable town were unable to decorate the high street or have any Christmas lights last year it seems unlikely that there is significant community spirit to manage a town council budget. Whitstable is far bigger than the high street and surrounding area and vital services could be lost to outlying areas when a new council struggles with its finances. This would inevitably effect the elderly and disabled members of the town. In short, the idea of a town council is ridiculous and will only suit the egos and interests of a minority, all of whom are not Whitstable Natives.
No	There is absolutely no need for a Whitstable town council. I am not prepared to pay extea council tax to fund something that is unnecessary and will not be run by the true residents of Whitstable. Many of us cannot afford the extra payments and will not benefit in any way from this. Many residents of Whitstable rarely visit the high street because it is full of visitors, second home owners and is full of useless shops. I was born in Whitstable but I am sometimes embarrassed to tell people I live here. Stop this ridiculous proposal please
No	I do not want to pay extra rates for another talking shop, when what we have is working OK.
No	Whitstable has already had its soul taken away - this is too late to get back the lovely town we had 30/40 years ago- we are now a London suburb and I'm not prepared to pay any more for the joy of visitors. Used to be able to walk the streets safely at night - not now - too many strangers.
No	Where is the budget going to come from? The only place is by further cuts to already stretched services. Cutting services to increase administration costs is a ridiculous notion!
No	Extra costs is not validated.
No	Do not need another layer of bureaucracy, or more politicians, or more council employees, or more public buildings to maintain, or an increase in council tax to fund it all. Many town councils appoint mayors and turn into dressing up clubs, or become dominated by self interested business people because so few people bother to vote at local elections.
No	It's not needed, we have a perfectly good Council handling our area day to day. We do also not need to add more expenses to our Council Tax, they are high enough as they are. Many people are struggle to pay Council Tax as it is with out, putting yet more expense on them.
No	It's not needed.
No	It's not needed.
No	Extra level of bureaucracy in local government. Potential services quoted in the pamphlet already take place + are managed by the existing council.
No	It's another layer of bureaucracy and would seemingly act as a sub-committee for CCC. Our existing council tax is poor value for money and an additional £80 on top seems wasteful. I am open to persuasion though and will keep myself informed. It should not be an arbitrary decision made on gauging the "feeling" of the people. This should be put to a democratic vote. Many of the powers are duplicated by CCC or KCC. Does this mean they would relinquish responsibilities for certain areas? If this is the case surely the council tax should go down as potentially the new Town Council would fund things through the precept. It seems to be a doubling up of red tape and personel. It would be more beneficial if CCC got their house in order.
No	We do not receive a proper service from CCC, so to ask the people of Whitstable to have their council tax increased to pay for a local council is a smack in the mouth. The only people prospering from this will be the likes of two family's (the people of Whitstable know who we mean)that seem to have the council in their pockets, and are allowed to do just as they please. Address this problem and you might have more people actually interested in making it happen.
No	For this to be successful it clearly needs to have some added value to current arrangements. This is a expensive unneeded vanity project
No	I have been a Whitstable resident for 36 years and I do not think we need one
No	Do not need one

	<p>1) I see no case for increasing council tax to fund an additional hyper-local layer of political and/or executive bureaucracy in a town that is already served by an MP, city councillors, county councillors and a Kent PCC. 2) Economic struggles are undermining the existing councils' attempts to deliver core services, and already severely impacting the lives of all residents and local businesses. An additional tax to fund a town council does nothing to address the first issue yet adds to the financial burden on Whitstable's people. 3) There should therefore be a requirement for strong, unequivocal evidence that - beyond the activists who are campaigning for it and the relative handful who signed their petition - a clear majority of the people of Whitstable are calling for this additional 'voice' and a significant proportion of the population will be meaningfully engaged with it should it be brought into being. As it stands, the evidence points entirely the other way. The turnout for the existing local elections is consistently very low, and the supply of candidates for the existing, more senior, councils is seemingly so restricted that in my own area, the city and the county councillor were the same person for several years. And yet despite wearing these two hats, how many residents could recognise him, name him or even knew of his existence, let alone what he has actually been doing, by their authority? 4) At best, we run the risk of creating, with tangible expense but no apparently tangible benefit, a hobby forum for a handful of self-selecting 'community leaders' to pursue their own enthusiasms and prejudices, each ushered in by a few hundred souls via ballots that the overwhelming majority of Whitstable people will ignore. At worst, it will be another de facto underground cabal, not subject to scrutiny or account.</p>
No	<p>The last thing we need is more boomers objecting to everything. If we need anything changing, we need an East Kent unitary authority with fewer, better paid and higher quality councillors. Please no more parish council-standard drivel.</p>
No	<p>At a time of tight finances it's not a time to set up yet another 'layer of governance'. Whitstable's affairs were combined with Canterbury in the first place to save money and centralise control. I can see this becoming an elite group with 'interested' friends!</p>
No	<p>Too expensive and the benefits are not clear</p>
No	<p>The Kent County Council and therefore CCC are continually having funding cut by central government. Therefore increasing bureaucracy and charging US another £60 to £80 to pay for it is completely unnecessary. Whitstable used to have an Urban District Council and the area benefitted from merging with Canterbury when it was disbanded.</p>
No	<p>It is not necessary and will add another tier of bureaucracy. A Town Council will provide another echelon of self important people with their own agenda. Not necessary</p>
No	<p>The cost! Its a crazy time financially for many people. The last thing we need is higher bills</p>
No	<p>More burocracy more costs more wrangling waste of time and money</p>
No	<p>It has been a very challenging few years with covid taking it's toll on people, and also the cost of living increasing month by month. I believe that the last thing people would won't, is more starff on the government pay roll for the hard working tax paying section of our community to support. If it's not broken don't fix it.</p>
No	<p>It won't make any difference</p>
No	<p>We don't need another level of bureaucracy plus extra cost, particularly, during this cost of living crisis. Without extra Government funding to local Councils nothing will change and these representatives will, as always, just end up being unable to affect local issues. Extra costs of the administration of this council is not necessary. There is not a cap on future payments and our council tax payments currently increase by approx 5% a year, a lot of local residents find just paying this very difficult.</p>
No	<p>Another level of bureaucracy busy body nosy people who we have to pay for with no power just the ability to soak up my money this is a ridiculous exercise in spending money collected by the county council through our council tax. I do hope that apathy does not prevail with this motion similarly the illegal practice that the council have of charging us to dispose of our waste at the municipal recycling centre one can live in hope but die in the knowledge that your wishes are ignored by those empowered to Tax us to death. If this form is anything to go by where I can't even proofread what I've written down we're all going to be extremely disappointed in the outcome</p>
No	<p>I have no idea what is not working with the current arrangements and why. From the subjects listed that the Town Council will undertake like : allotments, bus shelters and litter bins and lighting. What would change ? How would a Town Council reduce crime, differently to what that the Police are not doing. which is a service we are already paying for through our Council tax. ? The indication for the additional charge on the Council Tax for Band D is £60 to £80 per annum, but what is it for Bands above ? I don't think there are many Band D houses in the road I live in.</p>
Not sure	<p>I do not want to pay any more than the Council tax. I think a town council will be an expensive luxury which will have very little benefit for the ordinary resident</p>
No	<p>There are already too many money chasing politicians, there should be less councillors at the money trough, not more.</p>
No	<p>I am happy with CCC</p>
No	<p>Town council has no more powers than a parish council it will not be able to control building developments. It will be another layer of bureaucracy costing ratepayers extra money with nothing to show for it</p>
No	<p>Enough bureaucracy with Canterbury council. We do not need an increase in our rates. As an old age pensioner the rates are high enough . We will end up with a lot of do gooders who are new residents trying to alter the way the town is run. We had a town council 40 odd years ago which was taken over by Canterbury. We don't need it.</p>

No	Why incur all the additional costs relating to this issue? It appears a waste of valuable local tax payers money.
No	I don't think adding another layer of bureaucracy is justified and I worry that any small advantages it would provide would be outweighed by a small group with their own agenda having control over some aspects of the town. I would rather this stayed with the larger grouping of Canterbury City Council where more voices can be heard.
No	Currently opposed for the following reasons: 1 - No indication of what controls would be in place to limit future financial demands on households. The charge levied will not be subject to the same legal constraints as the current District and County charges. The information provided indicates a charge of £60 - £80 for a Band D property based on other Town Council levels, this is conjecture 2 - The amount of budget available for use on Town Council projects is unclear to those being asked to consider the proposal. There is a suggestion that operational and administration costs could take over 60% of the total budget. This detail needs to be in the consultation information 3 - It is not clear what additional benefits could be provided by the Town Council that could not be provided by the District or County councils if the proposed funding was available to either or both of those authorities 4 - Given the typically low level of engagement in local politics it would be possible for a minority group to determine the outcome for a fundamental change to local democracy. That applies to those supporting or opposing the proposal. It is not clear whether a minimum level of engagement of Whitstable residents and workers is required. 5 - It is understood the petition to initiate the Town Council process collected over 1700 signatures with over 90% supporting the proposal. This represents ca. 5% of the population of Whitstable (assuming ca. 32k residents) it is NOT clear what proportion of those surveyed were actually resident or working within the proposed Town Council catchment 6 -Using the indicated lower charge of £60 for a Band D property would represent an additional 'tax' of ca. 2.8%, A list of typical and achievable target projects with associated benefits must be available Summarising, there is insufficient information for an informed consultation leading to an informed decision
No	Whitstable Town council XXXXX Whitstable parkrun Event Director We have a long standing agreement and very good relationship with Canterbury city council. Over 90% of our runners/walkers live in the CT5 area, so keeping this relationship is not only beneficial but important to both parties. We take our responsibilities seriously and have rigorous procedures in place to ensure our environmental footprint is as light as possible. Parkrun is free and inclusive, The mental and physical health benefits of regular exercise are very well documented. We would like assistances that the setting up of a town council wouldn't have a detrimental impact on our ongoing relationship with the council. On behalf of parkrun XXXXXX
Not sure	Costs to household unclear, costs of running a town council unclear, benefits to town not specific. Who will be appointed and how not clear. Very disappointed to be informed with very little notice , 2 previous meetings have already been held , rather concerned that there is a clique making decisions without sufficient involvement of wider community does not represent themselves as being transparent and keen to inform the whole community.
Not sure	We have a Canterbury County Council that is enough, we do not need wannabe politicians getting involved in situations that should be undertaken by professional institutions. Then in this time of finical crisis to add extra expenses to households is a little insensitive, and we all know that once people have the power over funding we all know that it never goes down.
No	Too many financial implications.
No	Canterbury band C £1864.53 Wandsworth £844.54 What do we get for the extra money.....NOTHING pot holes go unrepaired fly tipping doesnt get removed when reported for a month.....Wandsworth just 24 hrs. There is no comparison for the extra money just a poorer service. So wht go for more bureauracy and expense. Get what we have to give value for money first.
No	Council tax is already paid for what we should already have. Don't believe it will be extra money well spent when looking at Faversham Town Council residents comments about feeling they don't take action or do enough. If I can be assured that it would make a difference to things like southern water polluting our shores then I might consider it worth the extra money on council tax.
Not sure	It would cost residents yet more hard earned money and would not be of benefit to us. I definitely do not want Whitstable to have a town council.
No	How much governance will be given to the town council , and the decisions it makes , will it employ its own clerk , treasurer and council members. What decisions the council be able to make. and be able to control its own budget. Who will give the town its budget. Is this another layer of bureaucracy for CCC.? How many people will actually turn out to vote for the Town Council . and who will fund the voting? There are many more questions that need to be answered about the Town Council , before it is laid out clearly for the residents of Whitstable to vote.
Not sure	Media and Advertising is a must to make sure all the resident know what is happening.
No	The views and needs of Whitstable residents should be represented and met by the existing Canterbury city councillors. There is no justification for the additional costs associated with the creation and annual running of a Whitstable town council, especially with the existing high council tax levels. Given the example taxes quoted for other town councils, I estimate that for our Band G property we could be charged an additional £120 annually. On a cost/benefit basis there should definitely not be a Whitstable town council.
No	An additional layer of bureaucracy incurring costs to all residents with no clear benefits in my view.
No	Too many layers of government already

No	Will bring another hurdle to jump through and delay any decisions as will have to be discussed by both councils and delay any decisions that have to be made and also add to our tax burden
No	We do not need another level of bureaucracy, nor more elections for councillors. Council tax bills are high enough already, have no wish to pay more. We already have local elected Councillors to represent Whitstable. Whitstable is very good at present at promoting itself. Look at the number of visitors it gets every year. Canterbury City Council does a pretty good job at present - Tankerton Slopes are very well maintained for example. Why change something that works well. Is it to reduce workload for CCC?
No	We have a council in Canterbury with local representatives on this council, a local council is just a forum for local busybodies to try and influence direction in their own interests.
No	Yet more beurocracy and expense which will continue to rise
No	We are already paying an exorbitant amount of council tax every year. Whilst I agree that a Town Council for Whitstable is a good idea, I think it should be paid for out of the current Council tax budget
Not sure	I find it difficult to believe that we need an additional body, and am worried that partys will grasp it as an electoral opportunity.
No	Unnecessary bureaucracy. Constantly rising cost of council tax has correlated with a sustained deterioration in public services. Existing councillors should be held accountable for representing and promoting the interests of the local area throughout the election cycle, opposed to just at election time.
Not sure	I can see the benefits of a local council, people that live and work in Whitstable and have an understanding of the local area and its needs. However I am sure that this will impact on our Council Tax, and as a single pensioner living in a band D property even with my 25% discount I am still paying 12.5% of my income to Canterbury city council. So bearing this in mind I am against a local council, any changes bought about always in-cure a cost, and I for one cannot afford the current rise in the cost of living, let alone more increases by CCC.
No	I do not want Whitstable to have its own council because as a pensioner money is very tight and I can not afford more monies to support the new council. Having recently retired I would find it difficult to find the extra monies to fund a needless Whitstable town council. I believe our current council tax is very poor value for money Our local roads and pavements are in a terrible state, grass verges only seem to be cut when the grass has overgrown. Please no more bills , I struggle now XXXXX
No	An unnecessary level of bureaucracy driven by people out of self interest that will further increase the cost of living and line the pockets of those who are driving the agenda.
Not sure	At this time I can't see the benefits of a town council and there is an additional council tax cost which increases year on year. I would need to fully understand the benefits of having a localised council. As a Whitstable resident we have managed well enough with out this Whitstable Town Council
No	I don't see the real world value that would be generated to offset the costs. Very sceptical it would be able to draw in grants and funds that CC could already apply for. The costs to locsl residents would far outstrip any marginal benefit.
Not sure	Not enough knowledge regarding last council
No	Another layer of government should not be necessary. There are existing councillors, voted for by Whitstable residents, who should already perform the duties that would be undertaken by town councillors. There is no guarantee that precepts would not be largely used for administrative expenses as indicated by looking at the accounts for other town councils in Kent. There is a likelihood that this additional precept will be raised year after year in additional to existing council tax.
Not sure	We need to address the litter problem on the seafront in peak season but the council tax cost is already high so I'm unsure.
Not sure	This appears to be an additional layer of bureaucracy. Furthermore, increasing the sums local people have to pay, even by a small amount, in a cost-of-living crisis feels unwise.
No	Cost, Beuracrachy, and we need less layers of government not more! Also Whitstable includes Chestfield in local people's cognitive map and you will be splitting a community!
No	I don't feel that it's necessary as CCC already carry out many of the duties proposed town council duties. I feel a extra £60-£80 precept will be beyond most peoples budget, especially pensioners.
No	In todays day and age I would rather combat the cost of living crisis than spend out for another level of bureaucracy which is or could be covered by existing elected officials. I note that little has been said of the other options should the council decide that another form of bureaucracy is necessary then something more targeted or localised like a residents Association or an area forum would be more suitable and appropriate than a costly and repetitive town council.
No	We have had good representation on the city's council for years. On occasions a local busybody has made public statements as though he had consulted most of the local residents. From the reaction of friends and neighbours it seems he had not. We have no need of another layer between residents and the people who make major decisions for this area. Some residents of the affected area have, like my wife and I, bought our houses here more than half a century ago and many are on limited resources. I find it hard to believe that most of us would want to spread increasing money year after year to satisfy people whose only desire is to raise the amount they get when they move on in a couple of years.

No	Whilst I would love to see increased representation of Whitstable- often the poor relation locally in funding and attention- not enough clear and transparent information has been given upon which to support the idea. I already have a city councillor who I haven't seen or heard from in any format at all since election. There isn't enough information about what percentage of revenue will go on offices, expenses and a town clerk. There is no guarantee that any one elected as a town councillor will offer any greater representation than my currently non existent city councillor. Why can't he just be tasked with the roles suggested for a town councillor? Too much is going to be decided after the election by those elected.
No	Those on lower incomes can't afford the extra cost of council tax.
No	What's the point of another layer of bureaucracy that you want the residents to pay for. It's a ridiculous idea and at a time when everyone is struggling financially your timing couldn't be worse. Please spend your time and importantly tax payers money on something more meaningful than this nonsense.
Not sure	Require further information. Do not want to add further to residents Council Tax because of a Whitstable Town Council.
No	We already have city councillors to represent the interests of whitstable. We do not need to pay for another layer of bureaucracy which will actually have no more power than our city councillors.
No	The town has been run by Canterbury council just fine. We do not need another council making decisions, which lead to another consultation, before anything gets done My experience of parish/ Town councils, is they spend most of their time arguing amongst themselves. Having a Town council is an extra expense I do not want
No	the last thing we need is yet another level of governance
No	It will cost residents money for little benefit.
No	Unnecessary extra costs. We are in a financial crisis as a country. WHERE are we supposed to find the extra money for something we DON'T need.
No	This will simply add an additional layer of bureaucracy and administration at the expense of council tax payers. It will be another group of Councillors who, although initially probably well meaning, will end up spending taxpayers money on their own administrative processes (offices, staff, expenses etc) and on their personal pet projects whilst ignoring the views of the majority of residents. Rather than increasing bureaucracy we should be reducing it so that the limited amount of money realistically available can be used for essential services.
No	Council tax is high enough without paying more for another layer of unnecessary bureaucracy.
No	it is not necessary and will divert funding from somewhere else
No	will have no use or benefits, who needs a whole town council to manage a handful of overgrown allotments?
No	Many people would find the extra cost a burden. I am curious about the motives of the people who are putting this forward.
Not sure	Essentially, I think Whitstable should have a town council. However, there should be robust checks and balances in place to guard against corruption and cronyism in planning and development cases.
No	This iss going to cost households extra money, at a time when we know that many households in Whitstable are struggling to afford basic essentials. They should not be forced into making extra payments for a Town Council. Whitstable is already well-provided for. Enough is sufficient. I have lived in Whitstable for 41 years as a householder and rate-payer. I think many of the extra things which a town council might provide are not of any direct benefit to me, possibly not to many other residents either. I do not want to see more council money spent on big entertainments such as large summer fairs and on-street events, decorations, fairy lights, fireworks, cosmetic flowerbeds in public areas and the like. In lean times like this, we cannot all afford these things, neither do we need them. Some public events in recent years have resulted in offensive behaviour in our community's streets, which are in no-one's interest. It is highly debatable whether such large public outdoor gatherings should be encouraged in this town at all. There used to be a strong charity element to the stalls and displays. Now it's mostly about dealers, tat and wasting people's money. The majority or residents I speak to seem to think that these events have now become a nuisance. There was a time when it was argued that most council money was spent on improving Canterbury and that Whitstable was missing out. I do not consider that this is any longer the case. I am quite satisfied with what is currently provided to us by CCC.
No	More money for more burocracy and the views of a select few. Eg the 1.6 million spent on the town centre in Canterbury and the controversial sea front changes in Herne Bay.
No	I don't want an extra layer of councillors
No	I believe we are already paying too much council tax for what CCC provides & to suggest we pay more at this time is wrong.
No	I feel I pay more than enough money to KCC and cannot afford to pay anymore which I'm sure a lot of local residents will feel the same .
No	No point in another layer of governance. Our cointy and city councillors for whitstable do a great job already

No	Things work ok as they are. I have no wish to spend any more money to pay KCC. Now, I worked for Faversham town council as town sergeant to two Mayors. Faversham being a subsidiary of swale council. So all I saw in the time I worked for Faversham was councillor's who had no idea of community needs and we're there for their own public standing. Grant being given to the Mayor's of the day, Monies given to carnival.fund. Monies spent on food and booze for the after council meetings get together. Planning permission given out Willy Nilly. I could go on but I'm sure you get my point. So it's a big fat NO from me. Thank you.
No	Due to cost. Everyone is struggling and to add an additional precept right now is financially irresponsible. In addition, whilst the concept is admirable it won't give us any more money or say as to what happens as it is strictly governed by CCC, KCC and central government.
No	My concern is around the uncapped cost per household and how much of the income raised will be spent on buildings and wages.
No	We do not need a town council which will mean more financial burden on Whitstable residents. There is nothing set out in the arguments for a town council that are not already being achieved by CCC, all the various charities and voluntary groups, businesses, for example look at what Tankerton high st businesses are doing to promote and maximise the appeal of their businesses. The oyster company is the reason the town has a thriving tourist industry as well as all the diverse range of shops and restaurants in the area. A town council will never achieve most peoples real issues within CT5 which is anti social behaviour by the younger generation, parking issues which will never be resolved due to the nature of terrace streets with no driveways, and no one can force people to use their homes as residential properties and not B&B etc. Volunteering community groups like revival and other youth groups will achieve more than a town council. They will become just another body of people that love a meeting and claim expenses and achieve nothing except for things that suit them well to do friends with art and culture which usually only benefits the few. The people who are behind this group along with CCC have proven already their ineptness by sending out letters dated 8th January with community meeting dates which have already taken place by the time most people even received the letter at the back end of the month. I say NO TO A TOWN COUNCIL
Not sure	Concerned about the increased cost as an individual. Lack of support from Canterbury city council means that we are in a position where we would benefit from Whitstable having a town council but unless this is reflected as a discount in our council tax bill to offset the cost of this then I have serious concerns about the cost to households as we are all already struggling.
No	The cost of living is expensive enough without having extra Council Tax bills.
No	I'm not sure what we gain except more to pay out!
No	Living on the outskirts of Whitstable (Swalecliffe) I don't feel like we or our immediate area would benefit from a town council but we would be forced to pay the increased council tax.
No	Not enough information given about cost, who will stand for the council and how they are selected, number of councillors for each ward
No	The cost is too high. Adding £60 plus to people's council tax bills is too much for many people who are struggling. The fact that there is no cap to this makes it an uncertain financial obligation.
No	Waste of money, we need less government not more and it's needs to be more efficient with spending tax payers money
No	Can't see the point and not value for money
No	I'm happy for it to remain under the umbrella of CCC. I know we'll be paying more per month if we change. I live in Swalecliffe and I know money will favour Whitstable Town over my village. I can afford to pay anymore in tax. Nope no way.
No	Looking at other councils and costing it's a no from me
No	More expense for what? I'm sure we will have the same pot holes and poor road conditions.
Not sure	Of the NALC list of Local Council powers totalling 35 of statutory provisions dating from 1878 to 1997 14 are of questionable benefit to the community with 16 that can be regarded as a direct benefit although 5 are unlikely to be financially realistic. Without knowing the number of properties and future properties at £80 p.a. would raise against the cost of running a local council an assessment cannot be made whether a Local Council financially can be a benefit. If a Local Council in itself is regarded as a benefit to the community how can this be justified against the cost?
No	There is limited areas the town council has a say on, and I do not feel this is worth the extra council tax I would pay.
No	I do not believe that a town council will deliver any more benefit OR VALUE FOR MONEY than Canterbury city council. The annual council tax is already becoming unaffordable. I will not support an increase to the council tax which is already high enough and when we already have a parish council. It should be funded elsewhere if necessary, which I do not feel it is.
No	I do not feel this is needed as we are represented on both City, County and National Governments by elected representatives, and it will be a financial burden to the residents of Whitstable.
Not sure	Another level of bureaucracy to get involved before the final agreement made at council level
No	Cost, no clearly defined benefit and we shouldn't need another layer of council above what we already have.

	There are much more important directions that local politics should go. A seperate town council is completely unnecessary when you look at the bigger picture. We DO NOT NEED canterbury city council passing matters onto a compilation of middle class, out of touch, unrealistic "counsellors". Canterbury City Council has more than enough departments to call on for different issues. They need to stop looking to outsource issues and do what we get taxed for...their jobs.
No	
No	I am not convinced that adding another layer of governance will add value to the norm.
	I think it is a waste of money and whatever Whitstable Town Council put forward Canterbury Council could just vote against it. I think that the people that would put themselves down to be a Councillor would be business people and be trying out to get something to benefit themselves or their business and not necessarily for the benefit of the residence.
No	
No	Economic climate is hard not wanting to pay .. principle is good though
	I see the creation of a town council as yet another layer of bureaucracy within an already bloated and costly administration and with so many households already struggling to pay their essential bills the last thing anybody needs is another extra amount added to their already overinflated council tax .
No	
	We both agree that this would be a waste of money. We do not believe that we need another layer of bureaucracy used to determine aspects of local government which can easily be dealt with by Canterbury. Overall the cost of local government should be reduced not increased.
No	
No	This feels like a duplication of services at the tax payer's expense.
Not sure	Extra cost
	Can't see any benefit only more cost especially to the residents of the town. Council tax will be going up enough over the next few years so don't need any extra cost by having to pay salaries to elected councillors who won't have the power to make the required changes.
No	
No	We pay enough rates at the moment
No	It will be a waste of time
	1) Council tax already accounts for a large proportion of household monthly expenditure. Why does a precept need to be levied? why can't whatever funds Whitstable has available via the existing Canterbury council not be allocated to it? 2)what exactly will the town council do that CCC isn't doing? I cannot feel sure that a town council will achieve anything more than CCC does or can achieve through working closely with the town on what its needs and priorities are. 3)I do not understand why we need a tow council when we have CCC running services here. How will a tow council serve the area any better remains a question unanswered.
No	
No	More expense for no benefit. There are enough power crazy groups around as it is!
No	Run by people only interested in their own area or agenda. We are fine as we are.
No	Too many administrators etc already.
No	It would just be another level of bureaucracy and cost to Whitstable residence.
	Based on professional experience of other town council's in Kent, I do not support a town council being introduced in Whitstable.
No	It will only provide a number of positions for people who mainly wish to further their own business agenda or to allow them a situation for self agrandisement. Further more it will add further Local taxation increases with little or no ability to improve the areas that require such improvements.
No	
	I assume a town council would not be covering areas already under CCC remit? So what would they be responsible for?
Not sure	
No	More tax. No proof that a town council would be any better than canterbury council
No	Unnecessary cost for little reward, with no power over Canterbury city council
	I have never needed help from the council before or needed to contact them so feel there would be no benefit to me to have a town council as they would not be used enough to warrant the extra money we would have to pay
No	
No	Satisfied with what we have via Canterbury council. Cannot afford to pay for a town council
	The additional expense is not a welcome addition to the cost of living. Council tax is expensive enough and should automatically include Whitstable being appropriately represented at CCC and KCC. Existing CCC and KCC governance should change, if it is felt that Whitstable does not currently have an adequate voice. Remedy what is already in place, not increase bureaucracy!
No	
No	Unnecessary bureaucracy, total waste of money.
	The charges and cost of living in Whitstable are high enough, we dont need to have them increased further by introducing another layer of bureaucracy
No	
No	It is unnecessary and will incur an additional cost for residents.
	Initially I thought this might be a good idea. However I have changed my view. In my opinion a Town Council will add another layer of bureaucracy to governance and at an additional cost. It is my understanding that this cost can rise each year and in the current climate this is not affordable. As residents we should be ensuring our local elected councillors work for us and our community. I cannot see anything that tells me where these Town Councillors will come from and I feel they will be no different in the long term to ccc councillors - (the majority of whom pick and choose what they respond to and are often invisible)
No	

	I do not feel a Town Council in Whitstable is necessary or that it would be cost effective to the consumer ie residents. Offices would need to be purchased, heated & maintained, staff employed - at what cost to the residents? The estimate is approx £80 per household this year but like everything else it will go up year on year. Canterbury council seem to grant housing planning permission wherever there is a spare field or plot of land but have done little or nothing to improve the infrastructure in the area - no extra schools, Doctors surgeries, hospitals and all the other essential services that this growing population need, residents are already getting poorer essential services for ever increasing Council Tax payments. If CCC believes we need a Town Council in Whitstable is it because they took on more than they could chew & are unable to do the job they were elected to do? I say NO to yet another money making scheme which I cannot see making improvements in Whitstable or my life in any way whatsoever.
No	I cannot see any additional benefit and will increase council tax. I have lived in an area with a town or parish council before and not noticed anything that could be specifically attributed to this additional layer.
No	We dont need another layer of bureaucracy adding to already expensive bills.
	Cost of living has not eased yet every bill including council tax, food costs, petrol costs, travel costs, parking and other mere basic life needs continue to rise. Most people are struggling to meet the demands of their essential bills let alone other costs and with no commitment to increasing wages in line with cost of living it is simply unaffordable, unreasonable and irresponsible at this time to ask households to agree to something that will increase outgoings further. Even more irresponsible if you plough ahead despite these facts from your residents. In addition we would be agreeing to something that could continue to rise in cost year after year. We will not be able to afford this additional cost so what are the consequences for people like us who simply cannot pay it?
No	We already have county council and city council representatives to support their constituents. Residents should not have to pay more money to support a town council as well.
No	We shouldn't need one with county council and city council members representing residents already. We already pay enough. Don't wish to pay more for a town council as well.
	The costs outweigh the benefits. The type of politician these positions attract are not of the calibre I would like to be represented by. If Chris Cornell cannot advocate for us (currently) he needs to be ousted not simply add an extra layer.
No	Its not needed and will enable rate rises in the future uncapped .
	We have Kent Council/Canterbury City Council and local councillors, there appears little in the benefits of a local town council that is not already covered by the existing council structures. It seems to create another level of bureaucracy (and costs) in a time when existing services are being cut due to cost pressures. I appreciate that the rate rises a council can impose are limited by central government, but I feel, as I suspect do many other residents, that if a local precept of £80 is needed, it be used to protect front line services, rather than fund another level of bureaucracy.
No	The proposed town council will not enhance the town. It will not improve local democracy by adding more elected positions with no power or responsibility. The cost of the council is unnecessary. Any functions proposed to be undertaken by the proposed town council can already be done by individuals, existing organisations and existing layers of government. Adding a town council will add expense. This project is a vanity project for a small number of people who will already have the required power to campaign for things they may want. It is not necessary for these people to tax the entire town to fund their personal ambitions.
No	Because we are already paying council tax why should we pay more for something that we don't need, our existing council should do a better job. The our thing is we have no control over this cost.
No	It just adds another layer of bureaucracy and expense without enough benefit
No	Additional cost to all households at a time of financial challenge.
	Additional Cost to council tax is the main concern. Whitstable has had a town council previously which was consolidated with CCC with the promise of better organization and management. Do not believe the extra cost to residents will be good value for money.
No	When i found about the precept is not being capped which makes me a solid NO to this ridiculous idea we pay enough council tax now thanks, and I like Whitstable the way it is, Why pay twice for a job that isn't being done now, I for one won't be paying it ,or using what ever mad cap ideas they come up with(jobs for the boys) NO NO NO
No	I believe that Whitstable has indeed been denied its proper voice and this directly through the past / recent actions of CCC in firstly abolishing the CCC Area Member Panels and then also the CCC Forum groups, which they themselves had introduced to replace the AMPs. However, I'm not sure that progressing to the establishment of a formal Town Council is necessarily what all of the initiators of the CT5 People's Forum necessarily envisaged. Whilst there are concerns about the additional precept costs attached to the establishment of a TC it's also not necessarily clear what actual as opposed to possible proposals for services / benefits would be let alone to see these presented in any priority order. I find worrying the concepts of the high costs of the inevitable bureaucracy (eg staff, premises) and the apparent assertion that much extra income can be obtained by a TC, and in particular thoughts that a TC could take out perhaps quite significant and far-reaching loans, which could tie down future years in the way that this has also impacted CCC.
Not sure	
	At the moment, I'm not sure, but I am leaning towards "Yes". I like the idea of Whitstable residents having more control, and being able to apply for funding that would otherwise not be available, but would not wish a second-tier arrangement if Canterbury City Council would need to rubber-stamp any decisions made by a parish council.
Not sure	

	<p>There is no evidence to support contention of campaign group that Whitstable does not have a voice . Every resident is already represented by CCC and KCC Councillors and we have a cabinet member for the coast. A third level of bureaucracy to duplicate services already covered by other layers of local govt and our vibrant vol sector is an ill judged idea. Why on earth do we need to pay for a Town Clerk, a Townhall, a Mayor etc when families are struggling to make ends meet. Evidence shows it can cost £500k just to set up and run a Town Council every year - around 70% of total budget for Faversham Town Council goes on staffing and buildings and they are servicing a significant debt for upkeep of buildings. . No cap on precept that can be charged or control over extent to which a Town Council could burden our community with debt. Faversham precept for 2024/25 will be over £90 for band D an uplift of 9% and Frome is rising by 29% from £218 to £281. So already the £60 to £80 figure being quoted for a Whitstable TC is misleading. All local authorities are struggling to balance their budgets with costs escalating - Whitstable TC will be no different Access to external funding can be achieved by other organisations already set up in our Town. . We could have a neighbourhood plan and access to CiL money without a town Council . There are other effective ways for CCC ,KCC, Police, Health etc to engage with Whitstable residents and these need to be fully examined before any decision to set up a new Town Council is taken. I am not persuaded a TC would in any way improve community governance. . Most TCs and PCs were set up in 1894 and are not the solution for a modern world. Evidenced by 29 of the 31 Town and Parish Council elections in the CCC area being uncontested in 2023 .there is no business case for a TC to take over public realm services already provided by CCC/KCC with their resilient and flexible workforce . Why should we pay twice and more for the same ?</p>
No	<p>A Town Council is totally unnecessary. We already have local councillors, county councillors and an MP. We do not need a fourth layer of costly representation. Of all the people not to notice there's a cost of living crisis we can always count on politicians to be oblivious to it and want to increase taxes. Which is what this is — a tax on living in Whitstable. What are the people behind this even thinking? Everything a Town Council is supposed to be able to do can already be done by the existing City Council. We have already had a Whitstable Area Member Panels as part of the City Council. No one went to it but they were cheap. We don't need an expensive version of the same thing. There is no limit to how much this will cost local taxpayers. A few pounds one year can become as much as they like the next. What is to stop new Town Councillors voting to give themselves a pay rise? Or to raise the "precept" as a back door way to top up misspent council funds? This is a Parish Council by another name. No power (thank goodness) but which will cost £150,000 of taxpayer money so a group of politics enthusiasts can vote on a new park bench. Let us keep our money so we can spend it on what we choose. In general, the world is better when we limit the number, and power, of politicians. Please, no more.</p>
No	Additional council tax
No	All governance and distribution of local services should be by Canterbury City Council
No	Another layer of administration and cost that I feel is unnecessary.
No	Because I cannot afford any more taxes! I do not see why we need another layer of government.
No	<p>Because of cost. We all have access by ward councillors, county councillors and CCC itself. Also we have this service free from The Whitstable Society. Therefore there is no need for added ??? and more jargon by more interference. Bullet points reer to a range of discretionary powers that a town council can provide. - Allotments a statutory service of CCC. - Parks and open spaces. CCC or in some cases trusts. - Community centres and leisure facilities. CCC or trusts. - Bus shelter and transport schemes. Google says KCC, CCC and Stagecoach. Some were provide by KCC members grants. - Crime reduction. CCC and Police precept. - Festivals and celebrations (tourism activities = VisitKent). Festivals now outsourced by CCC. - Whitsparkle, a community group provide parade and lights in Whitstable as well as Tankerton traders at Tankerton. - Carnival Labour Group LED. - Bins and street cleaning CCC, street lighting KCC. A town council charges a precept. KCC, CCC, Police, Fire Authority - all charge for services. This is just another layer of government.</p>
No	<p>CT5 is already served (in most cases) by elected members to both KCC and CCC and does not need yet another layer of minor politicians! Having serviced as the Whitstable East KCC Member for over 25 years I like to think I know how things work. There will be no 'new' money to run this town council let alone finding fund to run it! Then there is the question of 'ongoing' costs such as an office staff etc plus I for one do not wish to pay for anymore local activists to run my town. Tighten up on what we have, check on already elected member to make sure they doing what they were elected for.</p>
No	disagree with extra charges, council tax is high enough as it is
No	Don't need an additional layer of governance taking more money from our pockets
No	Don't want to pay more money to council tax.
No	<p>From the information given, I don't believe that a specific Whitstable town council would improve services in the area. The information provided does not suggest how the extra money will be spent in any different ways to how Canterbury city council already spends the money.</p>

No	<p>I am a public servant with 2 children, and a mortgage. We are already facing a cost of living crisis and i am fully aware that a local MP will recieve at least £3000 a year for their work. MPs can have full time jobs alongside being a local councillor. There is no benefit of this council. As seen in nearby Herne Bay, regardless of local views the council will do what they want. So what will we be paying for? Our views to be unheard and dismissed, and lining the pockets of those that are as politically corrupt as the PM. It will bring no benefit to the local area and will put more pressure on already struggling families. If people really cared about the local town they would do it voluntarily, thereby, not putting financial pressure on the residents they claim to care for. If it were to go ahead the amount needs to be capped! We should be paying for change not some councillors expenses and mortgage.</p>
No	<p>I am happy with Canterbury City Council and the existing representation on this. I believe that it does a good job and is accountable. At a time when there are significant financial pressures for all, I do not believe that the additional cost of a further layer will add significant benefit to the community. I believe that the risk of a Unitary Council has diminished and is now low.</p>
No	<p>I am not convinced by the arguments put forward by those in favour that a town council will instil a more robust civic pride and sense of community. I don't believe this positive feeling is created by an additional layer of local governance. Rather, this identity is an amalgam of many things, including organisations doing great work in Whitstable, the business community, social events and a shared pride in our town's heritage and how it has changed and improved over the last several decades. Although some individual local politicians have made great contributions to this improvement and continue to work hard for the community, I do not believe we need more councillors representing our interests . It has been suggested that we have been neglected by CCC and have not had our fair share of funding and access to grants etc. (Apparently we are now considered better off and therefore less deserving of funding; I remember being told decades ago ,when the area was much less affluent, that we were being treated unfairly as the poor neighbour of Canterbury! I view both claims with equal scepticism.) I am not convinced that we will be "better off" because of increased access to grants. Increased spending for services in less well off areas would be welcome, but I fear headline projects, albeit well meaning, in spheres that need no interference from local politics. The potential precept of £80 will , almost inevitably , become more, and I just don't think that is justifiable or desirable.. It is ,of course, impossible to know what the silent majority think, but I would suggest that if you have a very small response to this review it is probable that they have little interest in this idea.</p>
No	<p>I am strongly opposed to the suggested Whitstable Town Council. In my view it will add nothing to the services currently provided by Canterbury City Council. It covers too big an area, Yorkletts, Seasalter, Whitstable, Tankerton, Swalecliffe. A Town Council for Tankerton and Swalecliffe, or for Chestfield and Swalecliffe might make sense, but this plan does not make sense.</p>
No	<p>I can't afford an extra tax and we already have a council even if it is terrible.</p>
No	<p>I do not think that we need yet another layer of government bureaucracy.</p>
No	<p>I have lived in Whitstable for 20 years and I believe that I have adequate representation on CCC already. I have lived in several other boroughs and believe that CCC is well run and community orientated toward Whitstable, which is only 7 miles away from the Canterbury. I do not want to pay any higher level of Council Tax.</p>
No	<p>I think the cost is too much for the small benefit it brings. I fear it would become another layer of governance and we're unusual in already having KCC and CCC on this patch. I like the idea of a town council that is local independent people having a say on our town, and if we could get rid of CCC and only have KCC and a town council I'd be all for it! But that's not an option. I worry that we'd just get more politically elected councillors while good local people who are not political would have no support to get elected. It's ridiculous that we might end up with councillors working for KCC and CCC and a town council all at once. We have some good local councillors who ought to be looking out for a town, and this negates the need for a town council.</p>
No	<p>It is more expensive for residents with no clarity as to what they will gain from it</p>
No	<p>It will add to the cost of paying council tax for council tax payers. It is not necessary, we have a thriving town and do not need an extra layer of expensive bureaucracy. I do not trust the motives of those pushing for this change. I fear they may be acting in their own best interests and may stay in post for a long time.</p>
No	<p>More costs and bureaucracy as far as I am concerned. Use the money to maintain roads etc.</p>
No	<p>More tax for what seems little gain. Lots of people can't afford the additional cost right now.</p>
No	<p>No need for another layer of bureaucracy. Canterbury City Council is enough.</p>
No	<p>Only duplicating tasks that should be performed by CCC</p>
No	<p>Quite simply I already pay the highest band of council tax - even though I am not living in a particularly large house for some historical reason the band level is high - and I'm not prepared to pay any more. Not sure who would run it - probably a little clique of Whitstable residents.</p>
No	<p>The current system works as well as expected. A parish council is just another layer of government, another layer of bureaucracy. Its powers are limited. It does allow more people to be involved in the governance of the potential parish, but in some cases this can be counterproductive, preventing decisions from being taken. Finally, Council Tax is too high at the moment, and an extra £50+ additional requirement is not , in my opinion, justified in addition to current taxation as negative considerations outweigh any benefits.</p>

No	The precept is unset and predicted to be £80 a month with no guidance or control on how that will be spent. There are also no controls on rises to the precept. I think this ignores the basic needs of many Whitstable residents who are struggling financially. It brings them no practical benefit.
No	There is no clear business plan for what will be achieved. Also the extra charge would be uncapped which is unacceptable
No	This should be duplicating the present system, as long as the Councillors are doing their duty for us.
No	Too many levels of Local Government brings dissension and confusion. We already have two levels in Kent and Canterbury. A third level is totally unnecessary, and will end up as a vanity project for those involved. If there is a real demand for Whitsable's needs to be recognised as being different to those of Canterbury (and Herne Bay) then this should be done through the medium of the existing Canterbury City Council and our representatives to that Council.
No	Uncapped increased taxes. No plan
No	Very concerned about: - additional cost to residents over and above council tax; - uncapped additional cost over council tax; - lack of detail as to what additional cost will be and precisely what will be provided to residents for any additional cost.
No	Waste of money. Nearby town councils have demonstrated bureacracy, not fit for purpose and an unnecessary additional layer. A definite no from me!
No	We do not know what changes a Town Council will make other than our current council tax is likely to increase. Until we know what good a Town Council can do we should not appoint one.
No	We managed without one before so why do we need one now?
No	We pay a lot of money for council tax.Many people cannot afford to pay more money for something that might not be beneficial to them..
No	We pay enough council tax already without having further expense.
No	Who determines the powers of the council? Who sets the precept and who can challenge the amount? Who can dispense with the council? To whom are they accountable if they are subordinate to Canterbury Council?.
No	Will cost us more and I can't see the advantage of having another layer for decision making etc
No	Will include extra expense to residents
Not sure	Concern about cost and bureacracy
Not sure	Concern that we will get very little for the additional costs per household. In the current financial climate this proposal will be difficult for some people to finance.
Not sure	Concerned about: the cost whether a council would actually get anything done or would just talk a lot whether there would be a range of people taking part- I imagine it would be the same old committee busybodies I can imagine it fizzling out after a few years might slow down any actions by CCC as extra layer of bureacracy
Not sure	How will the needs of the community be assessed? When KCC and CCC haven't enough money where will money for additional needs come from? How will the benefits of a TC be judged? How will exclusion from paying the precepts be judged? Will doing more, for example youth clubs, preschool and early years stop central government from increasing money to local authorities? This may lead to advantages to some TC but less for those without TCs . Will Town councillors make sure the areas with less voice but greater needs are heard. With voting in district elections often lower what percentage vote in TC will make it viable. How will those standing as councillors be judged eligible to stand....will party politics play a part? Is there an easily available list of charities and voluntary groups working already in within the TC proposed boundaries? Will the TC have more power than Government CCC and KCC have already to pursue companies compromising areas within the boundaries ? If necessary services such as food banks are given more when will poverty be reduced by governments? Tourism, litter, libraries, street cleaning depend already on economic provision....sewage affects tourism, street cleaning needs to be financed. TC will be another tier of bureacracy. What percentage of voting will there need to be for aTC to be truly democratic? Will the precept need to be raised if running and meeting improvements hasn't enough money? From the experience of other TC are there conflicting political views? Let us have more citizens' groups discussing needs before setting increasing tax bills.
Not sure	I could have ticked 'yes' as it all sounds as though it would give us greater control over services, building etc which would be great, but I 'm still not totally sure about benefits v costs.
Not sure	It probably means a whole Committee made up of new Councillors and apparently they can increase the annual fees when they like. And would they still have a say in what the Canterbury Councillors discuss?
Not sure	Its unclear whether the investment through Council Tax increase relates proportionally to the benefits that residents will receive from having a town council. The examples of what other Town Councils in East Kent do at the moment is a little underwhelming on the CT5 Forum, and there appears to be no focus on tangible improvements to problems that need fixing today, most of which is managed at CCC level. The need for a voice in these issues is important though, and for this reason there a sway towards supporting it. The proposal needs to position itself by stating aims and objectives up-front, thereby giving residents a forward looking outlook where they can get behind the idea. An idea of number of officials to be put in place, tenure, remit & proposed governance structure is needed to make a more informed decision. I also question why this important decision, with financial implications for all residents, is not being put to a vote following this consultation. If part of the remit is devolved ownership and increase in democratic representation for the local community it seems contradictory to have the ultimate decision in the hands of the CCC as opposed to local residents.

Not sure	Not enough information as yet
No	A town council won't have any real powers. The ct5 area doesn't have a coherent identity and people are well served by existing ward councillors.
No	An additional charge at a time of financial hardship. Some neighbours spoken to unaware of this consultation. From reports from other areas little contact for views on matters by operating group. CCC will have final say in matters irrespective of a view by a local council.
No	Believe just an extra layer of bureaucracy with unknown cost with no guarantee of success no clear information on town council mandates
No	Cannot see the benefit for the area for additional payment for Council tax.
No	Do not feel necessary.
No	Don't try to fix what is not broken.
No	Extra tax
No	Hidden cost i.e. no cap on Council Tax. Administration costs. Not a good thing for Whitstable
No	I believe in the ct5 Area which I have lived all of my life we have enough support and guidance regarding all areas of our daily living . We have groups I e neighbourhood watch , business groups, residents groups , we have councillors who we can discuss concerns. We have family groups and much more that are able to support and raise awareness of our area that need to be. I do not believe in the long run this will benefit our community. I think there are other options that could be considered before you put more financial burden on us residents.
No	I do not want another layer of pointless ineffective bureaucracy. We have Councillors who should be representing the interests of Whitstable and they need to step up to the mark. Some are more effective at doing this than others but ours seems pretty invisible. The figures quoted on the information leaflet about a precept are miss leading they have already risen in the areas the "average" was taken from and that was relatively selective. It is also uncapped and people cant afford any increases at the moment in council tax. Also it seems to be aimed at a talking shop for washed up councillors who failed to get elected in some of the recent elections, amongst a few misguided others. The previous local area panels/forums were a useful tool to take issues to and did work if you had anything of importance to raise. Also i would be more inclined to vote in favour of a Town Council if it reported into a unitary authority like the one at one time planned for East Kent ie replacing a layer with the East Kent Authority being stand alone a kin to KCC and Medway Council. Otherwise it has little power and all the money raised will go on staff wages and expenses and there actual sphere of influence and ability to do anything is quite frankly very limited and pretty pointless.
No	In an ideal economic situation a Town Council for Whitstable would be beneficial to pursue projects helpful to the Whitstable community, however in the current financial environment of a cost of living crisis, many residents cannot afford extra charges, especially uncapped ones. Many people are already struggling to pay for necessities and this could push even more people into hardship.
No	It is not needed and the cost for such a vanity project has not been clear, open or truthful therefore I do not believe further time, effort or valuable resources should be wasted on this project. I believe if Canterbury Council cannot deal with a small parish they are not fit for purpose and should resign on mass and allow competent organised people the opportunity to run the council.
No	It will be more costly and CCC do an adequate job at present.
No	Not a good idea, the ordinary person who is struggling to keep their families fed, pay bills etc., Cannot afford an increase in Council Tax.
No	Pay enough in council tax already
No	The process of application is flawed. There is misleading and inaccurate information in A Voice for Whitstable A.4 campaign leaflet, and social media suggests petitioners were not all aware of a cost. A Town Council would add another costly level of local government which cannot be justified in terms of sustainability, viability or economic cost benefit. This would fall on residents. What weight is being given to responses from those who would not pay the precept? Great emphasis has been given to obtaining grants, at a time of economic disaster. Likelihood of grant funding success is minimal to a new Council. Increased Town Council funded schemes would result in a higher precept, as would duplication of service or filling gaps. There is a lack of interest, shown by uncontested Parish Council elections and public attendance at meetings. No evidence that Town Council would make any significant contribution to community cohesion. The application seems town-centric. Should a smaller boundary area be considered at a Phase 2, this would be divisive to Whitstable. There is currently a shared sense of community. Whitstable has an aptitude to form local associations, partnerships and volunteer groups to address local issues; many groups covering whole area, e.g. The Whitstable Society, Red Zebra, Rotary Clubs, Whitstable Community Museum, Whitstable Improvement Trust etc. There is a shared identity in community interest. Dissatisfaction with CCC and perceived lack of voice for Whitstable could be resolved by reintroduction of Area Committees and planning consultation status, increased Councillor surgeries, a determination by local CCC Councillors to fight for Whitstable within CCC system to influence quality of services, equal availability of funding to local projects to improve our area, rather than unequal provision to Canterbury. Now the political balance is more evenly spread, these should be viable possibilities without extra cost to Whitstable residents.

No	The proposed new town council will require extra costs per household that is uncapped. Costs could be increased at any time. There is no guarantee that the new council would be of additional benefit to Whitstable. Based on the cost I say no to the proposed new council.
No	This happened when I used to live in Swanscombe and even now it is the "lost city: This would not only create another layer of bureaucracy, but also a further expense to the homeowners of Whitstable. There seems to be little or no support for the true inhabitants of the town, but plenty of pampering to the wealthy who have bought up what used to be the towns starter homes and turned them into overpriced Air BnB's.
No	Totally unnecessary and a waste of money.
No	We already have local council
No	We already pay council tax which should cover our needs, a Town council cannot promise to make any significant changes other than that we will pay more into our council tax. Until I know what good a town council can or will do I am a No.
No	We are in recession! People are struggling with the cost of living. The last thing we need is another level of bureaucracy. Maybe when things are more settled but not at the moment. PS Why charge per value of property anyway, it should be per person!
No	Whitstable is very lucky in having a thriving community with a huge range of extra curricular activities. I believe we have one of the only libraries that is open 7days a week. We have a theatre, swimming pool, bowling - indoor and outdoor. Numerous premises that allow extra activities to take place. We have the castle which provides spectacular events throughout the summer season. Within the CT5 area we also have great areas of green open spaces as well as our fabulous harbour. I really don't think the cost of, perhaps £80 added to our council tax, will improve to any great extent, what we already have. Baring in mind, the cost of living crisis. Will our council tax be going up this year. Yes!!!
No	Worried that it would be just another layer of committees and bureaucracy at a further cost
No	I have not seen or read any concrete evidence about how this would benefit the townspeople of Whitstable. I have concerns that the proposed precept is only loosely based on other areas and is therefore only a suggested amount and how this cost may rise when me and other families in the town are already struggling to pay our bills. I am happy to contribute to the many local voluntary and charitable organisations who offer real support to the town when I can afford it and have a clear understanding of what they are striving to achieve. There has not been an opportunity to discuss these concerns at any meetings a) due to the leaflet arriving after the date of the meetings and b) no opportunity for disabled or housebound people to air their views. Finally, I have also been utterly aghast at reading some of the comments from the people who are FOR a town council in their poor responses on social media. These have been petty, bullying and abusive to those with opposing views or who have submitted genuine questions. What we need as a community is for everyone to be treated with respect!
Not sure	I object to the 'precept' which would be raised to fund a further level of democracy. Especially as a town council would have negligible effect on life in Whitstable. I have always found our county and city councillors responsive and effective to any possible local issues where they have had any responsibility. A vanity talking shop!
No	After Brexit this would be once again stepping into the unknown. Not enough info to make a safe choice. Where would we find enough people with local government knowledge? The last thing we would need is a committee of enthusiastic amateurs trying to put Whitstable 'on the map'. When recent events caused frightening overcrowding - the object was to get Whitstable 'off the map'.
No	

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published This will add another layer of unnecessary beauracray to an decisions to be made. Likely to be made up of people who have ideas that suit themselves but not all of the electorate. Really not needed and who wants the extra cost at this time! If this does go ahead it should not cost local residents to finance someone's crackpot ideas
No	
No	Can see no benefit to having a town council but a cost implication to fund this. I have no wish for another layer of bureaucracy run by people who think they know what's best for others. An additional £60-£90 per year will quickly end up being much more in a few years. I find it astonishing that it only takes a tiny 7.5% of the locals to want this for the proposals to be seriously considered.
No	From the information provided, it appears only 7% of the local residents vote that Whitstable should have a town council. Either this is not a strong indication of the need or desire, or a poor turnout for the survey resulted in the low number. Additionally, there seem to be other options available to residents that appear not to have been explored in detail yet. However, I am a new resident to Whitstable, less than 3 months, and so I have yet to see any indication of a lack of civic pride or a need for the town council, so I may be missing why this is needed.
Not sure	Whitstable originally had its own council which was disbanded in 1974 it didn't work then and it won't work now. Also with an increase of £60-80 pounds a year not everyone can't afford this everyone is struggling now with the cost of living. There are NO benefits for Whitstable having its own council.
No	
Not sure	More questions to be asked and answered. In view of the current economic crisis in the country another tier of government at a cost of £80 per annum when we have adequate representation with the existing Canterbury city council seems to be totally unnecessary and unaffordable for the average hard working resident of whitstable. In the current economic climate when we have a perfectly good elected councillor representing our ward would I wish to pay a further £80 a year to pay some one else to act as my representative when I am more than pleased with the work the current Canterbury city councillor is doing already. As a resident of whitstable for more than seventy years I am more than satisfied with the democratic representation of our local council representatives and another layer of council to be put on the hard working people at a cost of £80 per annum I find totally unacceptable.
No	
No	Dont want to pay anymore tax, paying to much council tax as it is.
No	Dont want to pay extra as we pay enough council tax All the important things that will actually make a difference to the local community will still be handled by Canterbury City Council, Kent County Council, or Parliament. Besides, Whitstable already elects councillors who are supposed to represent the views and interests of Whitstable to Canterbury City Council. The purposed town council will not have the power to solve the real issues affecting residents of Whitstable. It will just add more bureaucracy, with the extra cost covered by local residents.
No	
No	With current the cost of living crisis, it seems ridiculous to add another level of bureaucracy which will be funded by increased council tax bills.
No	It will be spending more public money.

No	Waste of money, creating jobs for the boys.
No	We have enough organisations that have an input into whitstable we do not need a council I don't see why we need another layer of live off the rate payers in Whitstable as the Canterbury Council has already staff to look after the residents needs and this includes the people running the Parish Council who also take precious rate payers money but at least show they can be of use to the community. I demand that you please delete my name and address from the list of any future tax payments for this proposed gravy train that you propose to set up as I will not be paying for something that is not required. XXXXX
No	I am quite happy with Canterbury City Council and have desire for another layer of bureaucracy or the additional costs involved.
Not sure	Although it would be good to have more say for Whitstable, I am very concerned about an extra cost and personally wouldn't want to pay more. I feel that our elected councillors should represent Whitstable.
No	Do not want to pay higher council tax I pay for a chestfield parish council tax already and do not see any benefits from paying it, I would not want to pay another £60-80 for an area I don't live in. Your consultation circular arrived on the 24/01/24, was dated on the 08/01/24 and two of the informations have been and gone. Why would I need a town council who can't organize an information circular 😞
No	Waste of money with no powers
No	I do not want a Town Council because I am against paying more Council Tax , which is how it will be funded.. We pay too much already.
No	I am not happy to pay more Council Tax, which is how it will be funded. Town and parish councils add another costly bureaucratic layer of governance. Although they no doubt try to provide benefit, inevitably they increase costs to residents, often for services that are already provided and paid for through other local authority taxes, (as is clearly demonstrated by the list contained in the consultation leaflet). Town and parish councils consume well over 50% of their raised precept charges in paying for administrative functions and on-costs. Larger towns might be able to recoup a little of that through successful bids for grants and handouts but I doubt that Whitstable would fall into that category.
No	All these small Councils were abolished in the 1970's so that the larger District could be managed more efficiently from one centre-Canterbury. New premises will have to be found and paid for, extra people will have to be elected and staff paid and services will remain exactly the same. If the promotion of Whitstable is the only extra service really to be provided then the local business people should be providing this. All this and we are told that the Council tax will be increased to pay for it. I am totally against it. I think we already pay enough council tax so although in principle i dont object I am unwilling to pay further charges . I also think Whitstable is already 'on the map' and thats in part why we have such ridiculous house prices which many people cant afford.
Not sure	Needs to be run by locals who have lived locally for a certain amount of time
Not sure	.But during a cost of living is it a good idea to put council tax up even more

Not sure	I am not currently persuaded that a town council would have any real power to be able to do anything that would benefit the residents of Whitstable. I also feel that the extra council tax payment would be very difficult to find for some residents. However if the town council could help with Crime, community safety, Fly tipping and potholes I might be persuaded.
No	Another cost for another layer of bureaucracy that will make no difference to the town whatsoever. The same problems will still be unresolved so all that will happen is that more councillors will make silly decisions with the little money we have allocated to the town. It will not improve Whitstable in any way. It will be a waste of money for all residents.
No	Don't want to pay extra money for nothing
No	Extra unnecessary cost for no additional benefits. What's the point?
No	In a cost of living crisis a pointless extra layer of a town council is not justifiable. A few extra lib dem councillors arguing over putting up a flower planter in tge high street will not hafe any positive impact and only take much needed money away from people.
No	I don't think we need yet another layer of local government. As a resident I am not convinced that there will be any meaningful benefit to me or my family by the addition of a town council. At a time when people are struggling with the cost of living, increasing council tax to pay for this proposal feels entirely inappropriate.
No	Unnecessary. Cost of living is unaffordable for many and extra expense however small or large will tip many over the edge financially.
No	I don't feel it's needed. I would not be happy to pay for this.
No	Canterbury CC established a long term strategic plan for the development of Whitstable some years ago. It has been successful and future development should be in line with that plan The last thing we need is another body - adding cost and with the power to make changes that are not in line with strategy, "If it ain't broke don't fix it!"
No	I feel that local Councillors have sufficient knowledge of the Town to determine key issues. Existing Councillors could form a Town Forum based on the CT5 model.
No	I don't think that having one would achieve anything over and above that which is already achieved. The councillors would spend their time trying to do things that, ultimately, would just end up being rejected. As such, it would just be wasted money, the majority of which would go toward maintaining a premises; staffing and for providing free 'functions' for the councillors to enjoy at the tax payers expense.
No	We already pay a high council tax in the Canterbury area so dont want to pay more. All I have seen is cuts, the road where I live used to be gritted as is a bus route, but no longer gritted the buses do struggle in heavy frost. We have to pay extra for green bin collection and that is so wrong. So promoting cultural events, representing local and business issues etc is not of any concern to me as a resident. Paying a extra £60 to £80 a year would help raise money etc and I will not see any benefit for residents outside the town area. So definitely no town council needed.
No	The area of Whitstable does not include Chestfield we would pay for something that does not affect Chestfield

No I do not want another layer of bureaucracy and associated costs to my Council Tax unless there is strong evidence to support this. I have not seen any evidence that this proposal is required or justified; wishful thinking and aspirations about `the community` are not a strong basis for this proposal. We do not live in a perfect world but generally I am very satisfied with the current administration of services and I have not seen any evidence to the contrary.

No Nothing gets done anyway and most councillors have no interest in what the public have to say, this will be another waste of public money

No More expense for local council tax payers with little or no gain. Usual suspects who have made an abject job of running CCC likely to be the candidates appearing on any ballot paper. CCC has already had to waste valuable public funds in carrying out this consultation process because of a vocal minority of residents.

No The constantly rising council tax is a real cause for concern as it is without having to pay extra for a town council that quite frankly given most of our current Whitstable MPs are pretty useless

No I don't want the tax increase that comes with it

No Cost

No I am totally against Whitstable having a town council. If this goes ahead the people of Tankerton, Seasalter and Swalecliffe will completely lose their identity. The focus will be to promote everything about Whitstable Town, leaving the rest behind. All monies from the precept will be allocated to the town and I would not be surprised if the elected council members will be made up of all Whitstable Town residents. I see in the most recent material distributed that the CT5 forum would look to promote cultural events. I for one have had enough of pride marches and we do not need another addition to this already crazy pastime of scantily clad gay, lesbian and trans people parading their wares through city centres. The burden of further money being extracted from people's already dwindling finances is a further reason this absolutely bonkers idea to be stopped in its tracks before the wheels start turning and before we know it the demand is no longer £60 to £80 extra a year it will be in the hundreds. You will probably agree with that statement as Canterbury City Council are currently in debt to the tune of several million. How long before the Whitstable Town Council's budget deficit goes down a similar road.

No To must red tape and costing

No We pay too much Canterbury council!!!!for our council tax at the moment..... Everything that you are proposing should be covered by Canterbury, I don't want to pay another payment on any extra tax set as a Precept... For a local council.... This will not benefit me and my family.. I think you just leave it the way it is.. I was told by a friend of mine about this I was not sent any paperwork... To find out that two information sessions have passed there date's ... Thanks Regards XXXXX

No We pay too much council tax already

No Not willing to pay for a service I didn't ask for

No For what it will cost I do not feel they will be able to do very much more than is already done

No Not value for money in the current financial climate

No	I don't wish to pay extra and fear it will dilute democracy from the elected councillors, with inexperienced people. I have no confidence that its benefits would be fairly distributed between central Whitstable and the rest of the area.
No	What benefits to resident?
No	Because they would increase our council tax, which is already excessive (and we don't exactly get value for money already!)
No	By the title of this proposal - Whitstable Town Council - and indeed the way that this response is worded in question 1 it is quite clear that Whitstable is the priority. Chestfield would be an also ran. Also we object to having to pay yet more council tax to CCC when it takes no notice of public opinion nor its complaints.
No	Whitstable Town Council will not be autonomous like the old Whitstable Urban District Council. There will be no Public voting so it will have no elected members. It will remain advisory to Canterbury City Council who, just like now, always has the final decision in anything, regardless of public opinion to the contrary. No opinion expressed will be taken by the City Council as an agreement in principle - reference Public consultation on traffic calming on Millstrad Hill where there was no Public vote. I am registering my objection as one of the wider Whitstable Community who contributes to Whitstable by carrying out volunteer work in two establishments and considers Whitstable as 'my town'.
No	Council tax is far too high and is going up 5 per cent every year. Times are very hard at the moment and surely nobody will want to pay an extra tax
No	There is no need, and I do not want to pay more on my council tax
No	We do not want to pay extra on our council tax
No	Dont want to pay more council tax
No	What is the point of charging people more money in this time of austerity to put unelected people in charge with limited powers.
No	We already have councillors, we do not want to pay for a local council in these days of cut backs. KCC are short of cash so how is a local council going to survive? Five more councillors claiming expenses that's the money gone straight away. Waste of time
No	We pay enough in council tax as it is for not much of an outcome. We shouldn't have to pay more on top of this, especially in a cost of living crisis - even the suggestion that we'll have to pay more is in such bad taste considering how hard it is for everyone at the moment. We can't afford the bills we have at the moment, please don't make it harder for us
No	We have good local councillors, another grouping is not required.
No	As a resident I'm not prepared to pay an additional cost for a town council on top of council tax.
No	As a cost saving venture many years ago it was decided to pool resources and combine with Canterbury. This seems to have turned out well. I now live in Chestfield so am not affected. So yet another group of government who have little control is a waste of taxpayers money especially during these difficult times. Costs would spiral as there are always those councillors who want to make a mark. Take over and overspend other peoples money.

Not sure	Because the benefits have not been properly articulated through your consultation. This means the consultation process hasn't been appropriately robust and any outcome is potentially biased. Residents should have been given full information in terms of benefits and shortcomings, rather than documentation which only seems to focus on an increase in council tax.
No	I can't afford any extra on my council tax bill at the moment
No	Whitstable had a town council previously and this was closed based on the premise of saving money although I am sceptical that this was overly successful and any monies saved will have been absorbed over time by the city. My feeling is that having a new town council would merely add more cost for residents, more bureaucracy but limited value for that extra cost.
No	The information provided in the consultation about what difference a town council could make is not very persuasive. There is little benefit for the extra money that residents would have to pay. Cultural events are already well supported through existing community groups, Whitstable has a lot more going on than most communities in Kent. Local councillors get heavily involved in local issues and champion residents and local businesses, they provide information for the community, support events and act as a voice at Canterbury city council. Commenting on planning applications is open to all members of the community anyway and I don't want another group representing me during that process if I choose to comment. External funding bids can be submitted by existing community groups and organisations and there is no information in the consultation to show a town council would be more successful. The consultation does not confirm the amount of money residents would have to pay. Any costs should be linked to the number of people in a household and not linked to council tax which is based on house size/value. There no information on reductions for those on benefit or single occupier households. We often hear about the need to support local food banks and that local people are struggling, why then require them to spend even more money they don't have. I am surprised by the boundary of the proposed town council, just because your postcode is CT5 it does not mean you live in Whitstable. Yorkletts for example is not in Whitstable and is a town council really going to promote cultural events in the village. Finally I am disappointed that my letter notifying me of this consultation arrived after all of the in person engagement events had taken place. The letter is dated 8 January 2024 but it arrived 1st February 2024 and I only got it when I returned from work that evening after the Umbrella Centre event had finished.
No	Why should you burden residents with another expense for a select few to decide on whats best for a town whole claiming expenses for lunches!.
No	We are already paying council tax to ccc but we will be expected to pay more. This will move some responsibility of services to the town council but it will not be removed from ccc and still be part of it
No	We do not need this as this will incur extra expenses at a time when residents cannot afford additional outgoing money on limited funds for which we will not see any benefits. Canterbury City Council gets a huge income from ever increasing Council Tax, car parks from Whitstable, Herne Bay, Canterbury and Park and Ride sites The amount of around £60-£80 per year cannot be justified at this time ,as this will be increased over a period of time with inflation.

No	It is another cost for local residents. Not needed as we already have councillors representing us. I have also found local campaigners for the town council to be slightly over bearing they are pushy and not willing to listen. I have not found them very convincing in their attempts to make me vote in favour of their proposal.
No	Because it will cost us more money for services that the council should be doing anyway.
No	I cannot see any advantage to Whitstable having a town council. Surely the system we have should work giving Whitstable a fair representation within CCC without more bureaucracy causing delays and further burden to the tax payer by increasing costs .
No	Just a forum for for more useless political debate, we have a parish council (Chestfield) a City Council ,who increase rates by maximum every year. Services decrease no benefit will be felt by local residents as Westminster hold the purse strings and have any final say on what and anything will be built and will carry on concreting over our countryside.. A Town council would be a Complete toothless paper tiger, just adding more expence to already hard pushed households
No	Would be very happy to have (and support) one but, like a lot of people, simply cannot afford any more on top of the never ending price increases for everything. We have a lot of voluntary groups doing a lot for the Community already, people happily get involved or not. Seems more appreciated, as there's no expectation when it's not paid for through taxes. Not convinced that a Town Council would actually have any true influence. It would seem they could "choose to maintain/support at their discretion" (?), services that should be covered by existing Council Tax payments. Like man, I can't afford any more monthly costs, especially if they're not essential. I don't like the idea that we've no idea how much the charge may be and that there will be no control on how much they can increase year by year
No	We do not need another layer of governance at extra cost to residents.
No	We do not need an additional Council at additional costs for residents.
No	I don't see that it will improve our town. I am also concerned that it will increase our council tax. As a disabled person unable to work, this is a real worry. There hasn't been nearly enough advertising and communication about this to Whitstable residents, very few have received anything through the post or leaflet drop. Your leaflet states that people have asked for this change but what people? I am Whitstable born and bred, no one has asked me, will there be a proper public vote to see if it is what the people of Whitstable want and will there be an opt out clause for those of us who do not wish to have Parish Council status? This has been very poorly communicated or rather not communicated to the people of Whitstable whom it effects. Is this yet another idea to appease the incomers, DFL's and second home owners who want to take over our town.
No	Another level of governance is not required
No	Don't believe it will make any difference.

Not sure	<p>Insufficient information, i.e., you have identified that a cost is involved in running the new town council but have not said if a similar cost reduction would come from the reduced work at Canterbury. How much say would Whitstable have in planning proposals, would they be retrospective or would Canterbury have its own way in the end anyway. Our initial view is another layer of bureaucracy and the potential increased cost is not worth it unless real local points of view are upheld.</p>
No	<p>We do not need another layer of local government . Residents pay enough already in Council and this would be an unnecessary extra burden for many people</p>
Not sure	<p>We would be in support of Whitstable having its own town council, provided that we do not have to pay extra on top of what we already in our Council Tax, as we already additional tax for Chestfield Parish Council, and we would be excluded from voting for Whitstable council members.</p>
Not sure	<p>Whitstable already has a diverse number of voluntary groups and new ones pop up as new issues arise. An advantage is that they can raise money for projects, which perhaps a town council couldn't fund Social media is a great way for residents to participate in issues . An alternative would be a register of all Societies, groups and Friends, to enable the public to access them. Therefore there may not be any benefit to the town in having a town council, which would be no more than a parish council.</p>
No	<p>We do not need another layer of bureaucracy, especially one that has such limited power for the costs involved</p>
No	<p>Do not want extra cost on top of council tax bill</p>
No	<p>Do not want extra expense on top of council tax bill</p>
No	<p>They will carry no powers and i am not paying any more council tax so somebody can say that theyre a councillor, probably a stuck up resident who wants a new tree outside their house</p>
No	<p>As it will not have an impact on local residents, as it has no powers over parking, planning etc. it's lovely to have events but this can be funded in other ways - like Tankerton do. Although they can put a voice forward for some issues, but we no power it will have no impact. We can all write objections and also speak to our local councillor.</p>
No	<p>A waste of money</p>
No	<p>As far as I can see there will be no benefit to me. The new Whitstable Town Council will be providing the same service at Canterbury City Council but at an added cost/increase to our Council Tax bill. I understand this is £60 - £80</p>
No	<p>Because a lot of people are struggling to pay their bills and we know the council tax is going up considerable amount, so having to pay extra for town council will add more stress. I cannot see what they going to achieve for the town.</p>

No	<p>The Canterbury Council are here to govern this area, why would we pay extra within our council tax for still nothing to be done. It's an extra way for more money to come to council and very little to be done. As a community Whitstable already achieved so much without a town council, there is no need for the added expenditure. I am sure they will achieve still as much without a town council now and in the future. The more concern is within this current climate, who wants to or can pay more through their council tax for something, which may very little or no difference. The town council would be like any other council, creates promises but you will never see the changes. Any changes that would want to be made, would still need to go through Canterbury council, so why pay extra when we can go directly to the source whom make the final decision. I believe the majority of the residents would rather see our current council to work correctly and efficiently, before we see another unnecessary implementation of this council going forward.</p>
No	<p>I do not want to pay any more tax for services that I do not feel will offer any significant benefit or improvement for myself or the majority, from that which is already established.</p>
No	<p>The current city council deals with all the issues that affect me and my family. Any extra committee would be a waste of time and money.</p>
No	<p>It is the job of Canterbury City Council to advocate for Whitstable. There is no need for another layer of bureaucracy and the extra cost that this would entail. Canterbury and Whitstable are only approximately seven miles apart. There is simply no good reason why Canterbury City Council cannot adequately look after Whitstable.</p>
No	<p>Do not want to pay higher council tax</p> <p>There is no need or justification for this. Local services will not benefit, local residents will have to pay more for what seems like a development of basic community necessities. Bus stops, play areas, litter management- surely KCC have an existing responsibility to invest the extortionate council tax rates they charge into these areas. Or are these just being poured into filling the enormous pit of debt that they have carefully created? Perhaps we should avoid throwing more money at a clearly mismanaged and poorly organised financial system. Who would be in control of monitoring these councillors, who would be accountable for their impact and more importantly in what way do these chosen few become more qualified to make decisions than the already existing councillors.</p>
No	<p>Why can KCC not fulfill their obligations to the people of Whitstable? It will cost extra money to what is already a huge council tax and is disproportionate to what it will effect. I strongly oppose this suggestion.</p>
Not sure	<p>It is not necessary. The system functions perfectly well as it is. An unnecessary cost at the moment.</p>
No	<p>Didn't get any reason why TC would be beneficial to Whitstable, only examples from other TC. The charge on council tax is uncapped and so nothing stops people in TC to raise money higher. People who started the petition got just 7.5% signatures. This doesn't give me the confidence in CT5 People's Forum. Also, some of the comments from them put me off the idea of having TC.</p>

No	<p>Another layer of council means more council tax. This should be funded by directing council tax from CCC or KCC to a new town council to cover the services the current two layers of council will no longer be providing. You provided a link to a document of what a town council may provide, but how many of those services will they actually be allowed to provide by the existing councils - car parking for example. Will CCC really release control of the car parks for which they receive a large income from?</p> <p>Depends on how it's funded & how the town council is appointed. Yes if funds come from existing council tax funds & no if extra charges are applied to council tax bills. How the council is appointed will be another factor that determines whether i would want it or not.</p>
Not sure	
No	<p>I live in Chestfield where we have a very effective parish council. Chestfield does not need another level of bureaucracy with its accompanied extra cost. We are living in Chestfield with a very active and successful Parish Council which we support through an extra charge on our council tax. We do not require a further broader Whitstable council with extra cost no doubt.</p>
No	<p>Extra cost to residents should be deducted from already very high council tax paid to CCC/KCC. Extra costs to already struggling residents</p>
No	<p>Cannot justify extra cost in the current economic climate</p>
No	<p>Seems unnecessary, and insufficient justification (none, really) was given for setting up a aeparate body.</p> <p>It will cost us more and I can't see that there will be added value. It will add an extra layer of bureaucracy which will need to be paid for by a part of the precept. Without taking on concurrent functions it will have little to do. As I understand it Canterbury City Council is withdrawing its concurrent functions funding so if the Town Council wants to take on such as grounds maintenance it will need to fund the cost of this via the precept and the cost will be more than £60 to £80. There is no limit on how high the precept can go. I feel the ward councillors provide an appropriate level of community governance for Whitstable and there is no need for an extra layer of bureaucracy with a limited ability to do things differently unless the precept is much higher than the £60 to £80 mentioned in the consultation leaflet. I do not consider it will be worth the extra cost.</p>
No	<p>Never felt the need to seek these specialist services Suffiently covered by aternative means Cost of living already hard! to add these charges would make it worse</p>
No	<p>Absolutely no need at all!</p>
No	<p>i am happy with things as they are.. i don't want to pay extra in tax. as a disabled. retired person I have no way to supplement my income. thank you.</p>
Not sure	<p>Concern above cost and iv there with be an overlap with CCC .</p> <p>I think there are too many layers of local government as it is. The demand for a town council in Whitstable would be a lot less if Canterbury City Council took more interest in places like Whitstable and Herne Bay and were less focussed on Canterbury.</p>
No	<p>With the cost of living becoming increasingly difficult for some residents, it is not the right time to be doing this, introducing another hike in council tax will be detrimental to people's lives. I would imagine that those who's idea this is are not effected by financial constraints and are failing to see the bigger picture.</p>
No	

No	Cost and additional red tape / confusion of responsibility. I am of the opinion that if its not broke, don't try to fix it, and I think this council does pretty good, apart from the potholes, which go from bad to
No	worse. So in a nutshell. NO THANKS LEAVE WELL ALONE, PLEASE. Whilst in an ideal world it would be nice to have decisions on spending money on projects decided by a more localised based management team that might better understand the needs of local people, the cost of setting this up may be too much for many elderly pensioners given the recent inflation of energy and fuel costs. Another level of management may possibly make decisions less efficient e.g "too many cooks spoiling the broth". Apart from anything else, half of the CT5 postcode has not been included in the proposed area for a Whitstable Town Council. So many households will feel deliberately left out of the new proposed arrangement.
No	Unnecessary with limited powers, plus they would have an agrnda i disagree with, e.g. trying to halt housing which is clearly needed, and its not the councils fault 90% of people dont even understand what affordable housing even means
No	I feel strongly that the extra costs would send some people into more financial difficulty and this would outweigh any benefit involved. As far as I can see the money would go towards putting some different people in an extra office for no seemingly good reason. There is a cost of living crisis.
No	Its like brexit Mk.2. Its an idiot idea. Just so some people can feel self important whilst i pay for them to faff about in a village hall. Then next year when they realise theyve got no money they will want me to pay even more for their little meetings. Ridiculous idea.
No	Can't see the extra cost to residents justifying the need. Citizens are already disadvantaged by too many levels of government and a sclerotic bureaucracy, from Westminster and Whitehall to county and parish. It's one of the main reasons why UK plc is so inefficient. How many examples do we need? HS2, house building, planning consent, A303 at Stonehenge, Heathrow's third runway, delayed compensation payments to maliciously convicted Post Office staff, inability to recruit military personnel, pothole repairs, NHS mismanagement, school and hospital buildings crumbling, petty political infighting at national and local level. Let's stop there. So, in summary, a firm NO to adding another layer of government - to add more bureaucracy, more talk, more costs, more delays, more petty politics. Our existing councils simply need to work better.
No	As the cost to households is not set it is difficult to know how much this could cost people..The cost of an office and a town clerk is an extra cost to be taken into account.We already have councillors for our area who would work to promote our area so is this needed?It is also not very clear what the town council would be in charge of.It seems unlikely that parking will be given to the town council which is one of the things that I see as an issue as in my mind I would want the charges brought down to keep the town vibrant and appealing and keep people coming into our town.
Not sure	

Not sure	<p>Unsure of the real benefits. The main concerns are around this being another level of governance, but it has less accountability and could be influenced too much by small collectives who are only looking out for their own agendas. Who are the "WE", I.e. the people who have been leading and driving this to get the initial number of signatures, this is news to many people in Whitstable. Not nearly enough hard information regarding costs/benefits to residents in the longer term. Sounds like uncapped admin costs could be excessive. Not sure how this would benefit areas outside the immediate town centre e.g</p>
Not sure	Yorklets.
No	<p>As Canterbury City Council will still be responsible for all major decisions and services I can see no benefit in having a town council which will just cost us ever increasing sums of money which the majority of us can ill afford.</p>
No	<p>Council tax is already extortionate we already pay extra for Chestfield parish council. I dont feel throwing more money at the council will improve their management of public services</p>
No	<p>Events are published on social media etc Local councillors deal with issues Planning applications - if a local council could stop more housing that would be amazing but I fear it may go the other way I'd be interested in funding bids that do what they were supposed to (local cinema on harbour turned into more food outlets)</p>
No	<p>Extra (uncapped!) cost for zero committed benefits</p>
No	<p>Firstly, the original vote that prompted this proposal was not run or organised very well at all. There was no information through doors, no canvassers knocking and from what I have learned, a lot of people who voted yes when they signed the petition in the high street were not told there would be an extra cost on top of council tax. This has all be handled very badly by the people's forum campaigning for a Town Council and I certainly would not trust them to spend these extra funds where they are most needed. There are lots of charity (non profit) groups in whitstable who do a fantastic job at organising events even though Whitstable has had funding cut from Canterbury. The information letters that were posted were in majority received late and after the date of the information sessions. The people's forum blamed the post office for this. How very grown up of them passing the blame. We are a family of 6 with a disabled child. My husband works full time and I work part time as I am the main cater for our son. To have to find extra funding on top of a very tight budget due to rising costs would be hard for us. I feel extremely sorry for families who are on a single or low income who definitely could not afford this. And we have no control on how much this will rise each year. In some towns it doubles if not more. This has all been rushed through without enough Whitstable residents being consulted (majority of the signatures were from non-residents and although these could not be counted, it just shows the poor inexperience of the canvassers) and also very underhanded. To now be told it doesn't matter at this stage if we vote NO, it will be the council who decide. Why wasn't all this information, leaflets and meetings not be offered to residents at the first vote? Then there would definitely have been a NO vote.</p>
No	<p>This has all been a waste of the councils time and money.</p>
No	<p>I am certainly not interested in paying for a town council that has no powers, especially as the council tax will be going up as well. Where do you think local residents can keep finding more money from in a time like this.</p>
No	<p>I cannot afford to pay any more for this.</p>

No	It's just an additional uncapped cost on residents with little or no benefit. We pay enough council tax already for a poor service, we would only be repeating the process and having to endure the bureaucracy of another council. It will have no benefit to the town and is a system for extracting money from residents, the majority of whom cannot afford it in these difficult times.
No	Not necessary
No	Not prepared to pay more without any benefits
No	Our household cannot afford an extra outgoing of an as yet unknown amount on top of council tax that rises each year too. I don't feel having a Town Council will have a majorly beneficial impact for the increased outgoings for everyone at this current time, especially as it cannot be opted out of for those already struggling to make ends meet at the moment.
No	Potential uncapped rises in extra charge. Not clear what the fixed costs will be. Not clear what benefits the council will actually bring.
No	The cost is not worth the benefit. The added cost to council tax will only increase the cost of living here and drive more young working families away, myself included
No	There is no need for this, it will just result in increasing council tax.
No	Due to the cost of living crisis, we believe this proposal to set up a local Council for Whitstable is totally unnecessary and wrong. The added expense to local residents who will have to cover this cost on top of the already increased council tax, is totally inappropriate. It will not have any real power to affect real issues or make decisions to protect our local environment, it will still fall to the existing City Council and Country Council to authorise anything. Once again, we believe the added cost to everyone and with no power to protect the remaining local environment, there is no real benefit to having a local Council for Whitstable
No	We already pay enough for council tax
No	We pay enough already to Canterbury council and life is getting more expensive by the day
No	We pay enough in council tax
No	Whitstable does not need its own council. Causing more problems within the community. I have lived in Whitstable all my life and don't see why I should start paying more council tax for the benefit of newer residents and visitors.
No	Whitstable is already represented by local councillors elected to Canterbury City Council and they should be speaking up for the town and residents they have been elected to serve. A further level of bureaucracy of town council is unnecessary and would result in additional financial cost to residents. I did not sign the petition when asked and I do not know if those who did were also informed about the potential additional cost that would arise.
Not sure	Not sure if the cost to each household outweighs any benefit.
Not sure	The thought of having to pay more money is totally unreasonable as most of us are struggling financially. The cost of living is hard.
No	additional costs
No	Additional expenses with no cap in place.
No	An additional council will incur additional costs. In the current financial climate and pressure on services it does not make sense.

	Another level of bureaucracy like a town council is unnecessary and the cost to those on low incomes is going to be a further burden on their already stretched finances. As the town council can set its precept this will only increase in the future. Whitstable councillors elected to Canterbury City Council should be speaking up for the town and residents they have been elected to serve. Were those asked to sign the petition aware that this was going to cost them more money for very little benefit? If there is a requirement for additional public involvement in Whitstable matters then the City Council should reinstate the Area Member Panel. This would cost considerably less than a town council as there would not need to be any elections etc. Members of the community could be co-opted on to the panel for specific projects, if this was deemed necessary.
No	
No	Extra cost when people are already struggling to live
	I already pay council tax and am not prepared to pay an uncapped fee to another organisation. I don't feel the monies paid would be put to best use...
No	after wages and admin fees. Struggle to afford council tax as it is.
	I do not see how the benefits outweigh the cost to residents, particularly during a cost of living crisis and rising bills including Council Tax. Many people, especially young people who have grown up in Whitstable, have been priced out of the area in recent years and rising costs will only add to this. I feel
No	families could put the money to much better use.
	I think it will create an expense for the residents which is unnecessary. I would rather see the existing voted for councillors lobbying for Whitstable's specific requirements and that investment in the town is seriously considered by Canterbury City Council. There has been a view that for many decades, Whitstable and Herne Bay have been the 'poor relatives' of Canterbury. The council should consider all three towns /city and their needs.
No	
No	More bureaucracy is not needed CCC is overloaded with it already
	Not enough information has been given. Extra cost is not welcome especially during the current state of the economy. If ever, now is not the time...
No	
No	People are struggling enough financially, this only adds more strain on them. Residents are already struggling with the cost of living and rising city council taxes, having a town council will result in more cost for residents who will be paying for services we are already paying the city council to perform. There is zero financial benefit for residents in appointing a town council
No	
No	Waste of money and no one knows if we will have anymore say than we already do.
No	
No	We already have sufficient layers of local authority
	Whitstable is best served by the current City Council. In the current economic climate placing an additional financial burden on the residents of Whitstable is unnecessary.
No	

Should Whitstable have a town council?	<p>Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published I dont believe this would be any better value for money than the existing arrangement. The same "local voice could be created with existing Whitstable councillors being given their own seperate department/committee within the City Council. They could then be given a proportion of the CCC community charge to spend as they see fit. A town council precept of £60 to £80 pounds would barely cover the running costs of the council itself , let alone add to any serious increase in expenditure in local services. What guarantee would there be that the City council wouldnt just reduce its expenditure on Whitstable if a town council had its own (very limited) funds I am concerned that other town councils tend to be run by a small group of councillors elected by their friends and acquaintances alone due to the disinterest of the general population. They then use the compulsorily charged funds to finance their own pet projects. Efforts would be better spent on increasing the towns influence over the City council and its use of its budget.</p>
No	<p>The devolved powers are relatively inor and it will cost each house occupier £80 plus per yer to see them exercised. It is a further layer of bureauocacy added toan allready bureaucratically loaded system. A pointless exercise . Yet another layer of political Bureaucracy at the tax payers expense and unnnecessary. Also this consultation is flawed as this is the second time ive responded. This is the third time that I have completed the questionnaire. In my opinion this is a flawed process.</p>
No	<p>Cost of living crisis and you want us to pay extra tax for a council that will not have any benefit to the area?</p>
No	<p>Not required. I have lived in the area since 1987</p>
No	<p>Residents do not need additional charges to be levied to pay for a Town Council. This will esblish another layer of burocracy. No financial plan is provided. A town council will result in unwelcome added taxation to residents through increased council tax. We elect councillors to represent us so should not need to double up.</p>
No	<p>In the current economic climate with continual cost of living increases outpacing wages, I do not see what this extra cost will deliver as an improvement on current civic governance. If there is a gap or even failing in town governance then I would like to see Canterbury city Council resolve that using the money we are already paying them via council tax, rather than charging us more money for a new council. Having been reading the proposed literature and commentary from supporters of the town council, I cannot support it as I do not know what I am supporting. All of the proposed deliverables are what other towns have done. No plan or intended focus for Whitstable. It feels like brexit unicorns again - we can do all this great stuff, vote for it, then we will worry about if we stand a chance of delivering any of it. Also at a time when many people are choosing to heat or eat and with further increases in cost of living and council tax likely coming, I do not think any additional mandatory charges should be made to residents without a clear plan of what this money will actually deliver in return, indeed it should even be an optional charge. I had previously responded "don't know" but am now convinced it's a firm "no" hence updating my vote here.</p>
No	<p>People have already had the chance to vote on this , probably adding @ £100 a year to 100% of the poulation when only 7.5 % of the population have asked for it , (guessing existing councillors friends and family) why is this still being considered, why are we still having the expense of the consultation before we even get the expense of running it. This was asked for by a minority facebook page - 1.3 k members last time i looked , a very small number were aware and even less responded . The vast majority of people were unaware that they were even asking , this should not be left up to which facebook page shouts the loudest , this should be put to the vote with invites going out to people whos name is on the existing council tax bill to ensure people that are shouting are even from the affected area , what with the current financial climate and local food banks being pushed to the limit the last thing people need is this on top of their current council tax (no doubt going up again this year anyway)</p>
No	<p>We do not need more taxing, the council already takes too much and it's ridiculous that we need a parish and parish tax. It's laughable that we should want for anything with the amount we pay in tax already. It's criminal to ask this during a cost of living crisis</p>
No	<p>This is disgraceful behaviour for busy body's that want to create more taxation during a cost of living crisis. How dare they. Maybe holiday homes need to be taxed at 100 percent.</p>
No	<p>We need more information. Not everyone uses Social Media lots of people do not realise this is happening, I only found out 2 days ago. This proposal is not being publicised enough to though. Maybe each household should receive a leaflet through their doors, as if it goes through everyone will have to pay the extra council tax.</p>
Not sure	

	An extra layer of governance will not make things more efficient, quite the contrary. The current structures need to serve their purpose and deliver efficiently all the services that the residents of Whitstable are already paying for. Nobody has extra cash to pay on the extra tax that will inevitably ensue, especially in the current very difficult financial circumstances that the majority of people are struggling with. This proposal makes no sense and it strikes me as some people trying to make jobs for themselves. Added bureaucracy and public expenditure will not help any current issues. The current authorities responsible for Whitstable should work as intended and Whitstable residents should choose their local councillors and MPs with that in mind, and hold them accountable through existing democratic channels if their needs are not met and voices not heard. An extra cost for everyone is the last thing people need right now in the current difficult financial circumstances. Any local initiatives and needs that are not met should be fundraised for and implemented in the not-for-profit space, not by creating an added layer of governance which will only make the whole system even more inefficient. If everyone put £80 a year in a pot that is managed by a community-led NGO it would be more effective! Not by forcing people to pay extra through tax with dubious and questionable benefits in sight.
No	Don't need another level of local government. We already have a democratically elected council and do not need another level of beurocracy at an extra expense to the council tax payer.
No	In this current economic climate I do not understand what benefit this would have for residents.
No	Don't need one, waste of money. I've experienced these before... A small groups vanity project.
	It is absolutely the wrong time to be proposing this. Perhaps in a few years IF the economy improves and there is public demand. But in the current economic climate when council taxes are going up; food and energy bills are going up and the cost of living crisis is still in full swing, to add another tax on people who are barely making do is unnecessary and unethical.
No	Whitstable's ward councillors are effective communicators of pressing issues and do a reasonable job of keeping people up to date mainly through social media. Another level of bureaucracy seems pointless and i would be concerned that the election process would not be democratic as no real information as to the selection process is available as yet.To ensure fairness everybody who lives within the proposed boundary area must have the opportunity to become a councillor. If the funding for this could be found from existing budgets then a trial would surely be the best way forward,a mandatory additional charge for an untested project is unjustified. A mandatory extra payment on top of existing council tax for non essential services is unacceptable especially as the benefits are at best marginal. Please note these comments are additional to ones i have already submitted and are as a result of attending an information session
No	People cannot afford added cost to an already extortionate bill. Also having lived in a parish council area, only a selected few seem to get their say in matters.
No	Already paying a ridiculous amount of council tax, if it carries on going up the way it does people simply will not be able to pay. Been in a area ie a parish council and did not approve the way it was run .
	I don't believe anything will change to the town. Especially Seasalter where i live. I believe it will focus on the higher paid community. I don't want to pay extra council tax each year, when i genuinely believe it won't make any difference. I don't believe it will change anything. I live in Seasalter and we are the poor relation that gets left behind.
No	I don't feel paying extra on my council tax will benefit me at all.
	Council tax is already extortionate. The CT5 forum a proposing the town council haven't lived in Whitstable long enough to understand what Whitstable needs I was born in Whitstable 37 years ago and I'm unable to afford a house here and can barely afford to rent here because of the smalbusinesses that have taken over with DFLs.
No	It would just be another group of people doing nothing beneficial for the town as they did have when it was Whitstable Urban District Council The Council just needs to get its act together and stop spending millions on Canterbury and peanuts on Whitstable & Herne Bay concentrate on stopping all building until the sewage problem has been sorted instead of adding to the problem by allowing mor housing development's
No	Not necessary and many would struggle to pay the extra precept.
No	Cannot afford another £80 bill. Too expensive and too much governance thank you
No	Additional costs for something that we are already paying for in council tax

	Whitstable would benefit from having a town council. However, is this the right time to impose additional charges on the community? Families are struggling to feed themselves and keep warm. The rise in the community needs for food banks and extra help with day to day running costs for heating etc., is unprecedented. The public meeting held at 5 pm on Monday 22nd January notice of which was received by flyer, just 2 or 3 days prior to the meeting was not representative of the wide demography of all of Whitstable district. A town council needs to have young dynamic members! Where are the 18-20 year old, those in their 30's or 40's ? The young folks were not there! They would have been travelling home from work, rushing to make an evening meal for the family! If only the senior citizens engage in this consultation and show favour for having a town council, this is hardly a democratic method to impose a monetary precept on younger folks who would be paying for many more years than senior citizens who could sway a decision take by a cross section of city councillors. There should be vote by the local electorate to determine the outcome. Whilst the consultation process is trying to be all encompassing, I am less than convinced by the range of folks engaging in the process thus far. The presentation by Matthew for CCC was excellent, with supported commentary from the KALC representative. If notifications in writing are given to all community charge bill payers, about this exercise, to accompany the charge notice about to be dispatched, then I will be happier that ALL concerned will have been given full and proper notice to engage in the process. On seeing evidence of inclusive engagement by all age ranges concerned, then I may well change my view to support the Town Council creation.
No	Thank you.
No	Cannot see what benefits it could bring.
	Another unnecessary expense that people cannot afford. It will just end up being a select group of friends running it to their own advantage and no improvement to the town. We have local councillors that are involved in the area and are doing their best, the issue isn't getting more people in politics it's funding everything correctly. Charging us more for a local council is ridiculous as we already pay for a council that should be providing support. It's very out of touch with most of the residents to propose this at a time people are struggling to pay even basic bills. Not everyone here has a airbnb second income to prop up their lifestyles. Normal people live here too and that seems to be regularly forgotten.
No	I do not want own council as I think it will cost us more money
No	I do not think it would benefit my neighbourhood just cost us more money
	The added expense when budgets are as stretched as they are at the present time is not appropriate. The benefits for an ageing population do not make the cost of having a voice of value .
No	Extra cost and would not necessarily mean better services
No	I feel that the council tax will increase more
No	The town is ok as it is
	This is a money making scheme for council members, not a scheme to enhance whitstable in general. They will get more funding than the whole county fire service. Disgrace!!!
No	The additional cost is something that would add a burden to my income that I would not be able to sustain. For me, I get very little back from my council tax as it is. I now have to pay for my green bin, roads and drains are rarely maintained, we pay for the police that are selective in what they respond to. I do not use any other services but have to pay for them. I think that the Canterbury City Council as is, should be able to make sensible decisions that best suit our town. We have councillors that can represent our views and assist in any views that households may have.
No	I do not wish to pay any more money to any council Or increase my already very high tax bills
	The town is represented on the City council by elected representatives who can promote its interests. A town council would probably largely attract the same people and parties, doubling up the beauracracy and increasing the expense to taxpayers.
No	There is already too much local authority bureaucracy. Just calling this proposal " local democracy" is not a justification for more costs to be levied on the people. Nothing has been mentioned in the proposal that in any way justifies more jobs for more busy bodies to spend time telling us what we must do. This proposal needs squashing before it begins.
No	Cannot afford it, along with many people I have spoken to, not on benefits but living near to the bone. Been told they will not be able to help with buses, police, doctors or hospitals. SO NO TO TOWN COUNCIL
No	Going backwards we already have elected councillors
	Firstly I did not know that a petition has been submitted or seen any indication of one. I do not use Facebook or any of the online means of chat communications... So, at the outset, I have been in the dark about this propasal. I today Friday 26th January received a pamphlet Consultation on propasals for a Whitstable Town Council with an official letter dated Monday 8th January 2024; that is, three weeks later. I shall not support these proposals. Yours sincerely Raymond Lee
No	There is no need for another layer of government at a local level which will cost taxpayers more and deliver very little. Looking at what it can control taxpayers would be getting very little if anything for their money. If the town council could control parking charges, on street parking regulations and yellow lines then perhaps it would be worth something

No	A town council does sound reasonable and I'm not hostile to it, but on balance I believe that it isn't necessary as we are reasonably well served by the existing City Council, and a town council would simply require additional resources from the local community - of cost and energy - which are already in short supply, without providing any corresponding additional benefits of any significance.
No	Unnecessary expense and added tier of local government, not wanted.
No	Waste of time and public money adding extra layers of bureaucracy only makes bureaucrats happy and lines their pockets empty the bins on time keep the beach tidy and fill in the potholes CCC can do that if it has the will WTC is not necessary just make sure CCC spend their money wisely
No	The additional cost will not justify its existence.
No	Added layer of bureaucracy at council tax payers expense.
No	Few points against from my point of view: 1) Review process isn't robust or transparent and is based on a petition from a small % of Whitstable people. I personally haven't received a mailshot and wonder how many people in Whitstable are actually aware of this? It wasn't clear from the meeting I attended how decisions will be made or whether majority view will be considered, therefore it's an undemocratic process in my opinion. Information on this process is difficult to find. How many people will find themselves paying an increase on their council tax, without having a say in this process as they are unaware it's happening. 2) Consultation meetings held at a time when working people/families are not available, therefore predominantly only reached those aged 55 and over. 3) People will be paying a mandatory increase in council tax for a non-essential service, when the country is still in a cost of living crisis 4) All councils are struggling and are considering cutting services, devolving some services down to town council level has the potential to allow local authorities to absolve responsibilities which they would otherwise be incumbent to maintain.
No	We are only five miles from Canterbury and so local knowledge already exists within the City Council. Adding an extra layer of administration and bureaucracy with no obvious gains to be made, seems ill conceived at a time of economic hardship. Adding more to people's bills unnecessarily, to me, indicates a lack of appreciation of the financial pressures that people are facing. This is not making local people more powerful as the main power remains with CCC. I can see no cost saving benefits of a Town Council that will outweigh the funding required to have one. The fact that we received the letter informing us of the proposal and of the public consultation, after two of the meetings had taken place, is perhaps an indication of the lack of forward thinking, organisation and bureaucracy that I fear would increase with the introduction of an additional administrative layer. Couple that with the fact that nobody thought about working people or parents, when deciding that the public meetings should be held over a mealtime or when most working people are still at work, simply reinforces my view that this proposal will serve only to drain the limited funds of locals and take money out of the local economy rather than actually supporting residents. I am happy to see evidence of this project's worth, but I have seen absolutely none so far. I assume that because this will potentially affect my finances, there will be a public vote on this proposal rather than consultation process that already smacks of a rubber stamping process.
No	The cost of adding yet another layer of management would outweigh any benefits that the town might achieve.
No	It will be expensive and not add any value
No	Because we don't want to pay any extra in our council tax or for other costs involved. We can't afford the extra charges, council tax is already too expensive, and the people of Whitstable will struggle to fund the extra cost of having a town council. Whitstable is a very transient place with lots of Air Bn B and people with second homes. There are not enough permanent residents to be passionate about the council project to make it work. It will be a very costly experiment that we simply don't need.
No	People do not require this added expense with the cost of living as high as it. Some older people simply cannot afford this. A lot of people I have spoken to are not aware of this. May I propose a copy of this form is posted to every resident in the area. How much revenue will this raise and what will the money be used for. Where will the council offices be how much will they cost also the added cost of councilors wages. I think it will be a waste of tax payers money. Will the revenue raised cover the overheads or will it just cause more tax rises. With a lot of councils asking Government for more money I do not think this should go ahead. Maybe better management would help.
No	Could be abused by local businesses with an agenda. Cannot see local council having any influence on horrendous extension of house building without corresponding growth in infrastructure. Additional cost to already very high Council Tax.
No	The current level of bureaucracy is more than enough to undertake all functions. Also the additional financial burden upon a society that is getting poorer is unacceptable. It is inevitable that the loss of functions by existing authorities would not lead to a reduction in taxes levied by them on the population.
No	Not cost effective £60 to £80 extra is too much especially in the current financial climate
No	Extra costs addition to Council taxes
No	I think it's a waste of time and money it is actually going to put more money on the council tax and like all extra charges for council tax nothing really changes.

	I cannot see the point in adding another layer of bureaucracy to the local government. I cannot see the point of paying even more money out to establish an additional level of local government which, in the case of Whitstable, is not required. My experience is that we already have very effective local councillors who are fully responsive to local issues. What is the point in having even more? I would say that the current batch of councillors are very adept at representing local residents and championing Whitstable's interest to other organisations.. Does the existing planning system need another layer of approval? My view is that the current system is perfectly satisfactory. The town is already a successful place to do business with a thriving high street. I cannot think of another nearby town that has so few unoccupied shops. The whole town with its marvellous harbour is already a massive tourist draw and needs no additional advertising as far as I can see. Why would we want even more cultural events that will only cause overcrowding and traffic issues. MP's yes, County Councillors yes, City Councillors yes, Town Councillors - No thank you we do not need them.
No	This will add between £60 to £80 per annum to our Council tax bill. As I am retired and on a fixed budget I see this just as an additional expenditure for little or no benefit to me. I do not support an additional layer of bureaucracy. I see this as an outlet for local fuss pots to make a name for themselves, and get a 'badge', THE GREAT I AM, elevating themselves along with the do-gooders who like the Sound of their own voices. NO, NO, NO.
No	Cannot see the benefit of a Town Council
	My main concern for having a town council would be that the people who hold those posts may try and push forward plans that benefit themselves rather than the community. I would want to know that the companies commissioned to do any work create an opportunity to feather their own nests or that of close friends/relatives. Transparency and a strong moral compass must be paramount. I believe that as a community we need to focus on our young people including young parents; help them to find life skills, cooking on a budget, education around parenting and many more areas that are needed in life. The possibilities to provide a purse to put our youngsters through apprenticeship style training thereby giving them skills to work and provide for themselves which will then enrich our community further.
Not sure	
No	I don't agree with it
No	another level of money making schemes are not going to make any difference to the NHS - Transport and policing
No	canterbury city council already provides adequate support & needs for this community
No	It's going to cost more that we can not afford
No	The extra cost, I'm not willing to pay this
	Why do we need to pay extra for a council when our needs should be fulfilled by Canterbury? As a resident of Seasalter I can see why it would be called Whitstable Town Council as the towns needs are not the same as residents of Seasalter. In fact I would say Whitstable is a no go area to Seasalter residents in summer due to parking costs and crowds of Tourists. Whitstable only becomes relevant in winter. One reason given for having a Town Council was we could have a Community Hall. I think this is covered in Seasalter by the Christian centre and the WI Hall, in fact I believe Whitstable has at least two. Also mentioned was a community Bus, I would think that the local No 5 Bus was under used as it was. The new town council would require furnished offices and staff, all paid for before any funds were spent on local issues. If Whitstable wants a Town Council fine but do not include Seasalter.
No	I live in Seasalter which is mainly residential and not the same as Whitstable its self. I would suggest Whitstable might need a Town Council but Seasalter and perhaps Yorkletts do not so these areas should not be included in Plan. Ideas put forward such as Community Hall and Bus service are not a requirement for Seasalter as this area is covered. The extra cost of a Town Council is just a payment for more bureaucracy and not required. All other items covered at meeting should come out of funds already paid to Canterbury and not from extra charges.
No	Whitstable is a unique coastal location with it's own identity completely different from the city of Canterbury which currently has full council control of the area. A town council would provide a local perspective to potential development whilst providing the local electorate with a say in local issues affecting the area which may not be obvious to Canterbury councillors.
Not sure	KKC & CCC are two elected councils that serve Whitstable, why do we need a THIRD? Whitstable Town Council would have to get permission from CCC & KKC on any large and meaningful projects that they wished to carry out, so all they would be able to do is anything that did not cost too much? With the state of the countries finances, I do not think that a lot of people have an extra £80 PLUS to spend on council tax for a Vanity project. KKC & CCC would like to spend more on Whitstable, but with the Budget they have how can they achieve the things that the people need? So how is Whitstable Town Council going to change anything unless they have some hidden money? How do you expect the people of Whitstable find the extra money? We have elected councillors on KKC & CCC to carry out our requirements, we do not need more.
No	
No	In the current climate people cannot afford to pay out more money .
	We cannot afford the added cost on top of our council tax. We use to have council offices in the town years ago and it was taken away from us. We've managed without them all these years, so we see no point in reinstating them. The Council currently look after our parks etc. So why would we want a new council to take care of the. Its all extra expense we can't afford. No thank you.
No	

	I would not as it would be an additional charge on an already expensive council tax bill, & I believe that Canterbury City council should be doing more for the money they already get, such as policing the town, how on earth can Whitstable not have a police station or regular police presence, especially with the increasing population with all the new developments happening. Where are the new school places for this increased population & why are the developers not paying section 106 to pay for the additional infrastructure in areas such as policing & education.
No	
No	With the current times as they are, why change what isnt broken. Leave Whitstable as it is.
No	Cost more money and doing nothing different
No	No advantage cost more
No	Don't have money to pay extra and it's a waste of time
	This is a relatively small area to support a Town Council and I am concerned that people will not come forward to stand as Councillors. I know Parish Councils have this difficulty finding new councillors and many have to serve more than one term. Councillors and MP's are reported to suffer abuse from dissatisfied residents so this is not an easy role . The Council "would be responsible for raising the money it spends" how will this be done? The people of Whitstable support local mental health charities, the FoodBank and other desperately needed facilities. There is no spare money and adding a precept to the Council Tax bills when people are struggling in a cost of living crisis is shortsighted. After years of austerity this is not the time. I would like to know if our County Councillors support this change.
No	Can not afford the council tax now,so any rise at all i would not be able to pay. I can not and will not pay any more money than i do now for council tax,its already far to much for the depleted service we get.
No	Too expensive
No	It will cost more and still be f**k up
	Already pay a substantial amount of council tax the potential benefits that are highlighted should be offered by Canterbury city council
No	Another tier of bureaucracy is not needed. I'd rather not see my council tax go up like this. The people who want this new talk shop are quite annoying "look at me" types. Whitstable is a middle class ghetto full of air b and b second homers that don't pay in their full whack of taxes. The beaches get trashed by entitled scum every summer. Potholes are never repaired. Bent councillors and planners conspire to build what the they like where they like. Parking is through the roof screwing trade. Leisure facilities are poor and nothing some woke idea pushing wannabee will ever change this. Don't do it. There's too much of my tax being given away to non working ponces and scroungets, along with too many services being cut to justify a vanity project like this.
No	We pay enough in tax and I wouldn't personally see any benefit from this I can't see the difference other than it costs more.
No	We do not need to add another layer of bureaucracy. In fact we should be reducing it and the cost's associated. The benefits that are described SHOULD be delivered by the city and county councils!
	We don't need more layers of bureaucracy. Sounds more like make work for people who want to get involved in others business.
No	More cost to families when times are hard. Not enough of a change to make the extra money worth it.
	Seems like additional cost for another layer of admin/bureaucracy. Whitstable's needs are served by the existing council services.
No	No need for more councillors with no real influence. It will just create extra cost for no real benefit. Existing councillors on the City Council should already be acting on behalf of Whitstable.
	I can't afford my council tax now without additional fee added on top. In a cost of living crisis with every bill at maximum and wages not keeping up . I feel this is the wrong time . Also it's £60-80 this year (which is only a guess by sounds of it) if we vote yes , what's to stop it being £100 next year , £200 the following year and so on . We can't then say no thanks .
No	In this present financial climate any additional monies set would not be acceptable Also the duties of the Town Council with an assumed budget of £1m most of which would be spent on accommodation, Town Clerk etc when in the main County and City do the job Citing diminishing monies at these two establishments seem to prove that another layer of governance is unnecessary to prop up perceived service needed by a few
	Too many tiers of power already. Whitstable thinks its hip and wants to promote that side. Art shops, cafes, restaurants absolutely no help to those that live here in relative poverty. Those that end up elected will be the namby pamby elite of whitstable who think they know best and the rest of us will be paying for their 5 minutes of fame
No	Extra cost and feel that the type of extra facilities mentioned in leaflet and at the meeting in Seasalter we already has these. Whitstable has a festival and can't see any benefits for me and my family. Currently we have a Ward councillors and they should be fighting for these extra for us. Would they become redundant and would our share to CCC be reduced, I don't think so? I think the whole process has been exclusive and the likes of Seasalter residents not even considered. The meetings have been held at impossible times for families with school children and working folks. The documents supporting your campaign have arrived after all the consultation meetings dates. I have read that you sent these to Royal Mail three weeks ago but clearly you're putting the blame on them and not yourselves.
No	Again, feels that the majority have been left out of the loop.

No	Another layer of dead wood on the ply board of democracy. The local elected councillors should do this job, if needed, in the first place. Another level of tax for those self gratifying is not required. Or wanted. Another layer of dead wood in the ply board of democracy is not required. Especially when most councils are cutting back. The money could be better spent elsewhere. If there is a vacuum to fill, get those already elected to plug the gap.
No	Another layer of useless bureaucracy - busybodies funded by us. Cost - why add more cost when we are already hard pressed financially.
No	We do not need a Town council.
No	A town council for Whitstable would add an unnecessary layer of management and administration at extra cost to the ratepayers. The town's registered electors voted for 9 Ward Councillors in 2023 to represent their interests at Canterbury City Council meetings etc. Any matters requiring particular attention regarding the town's residents, its infrastructure, environment and the services provided should therefore be addressed to them. It would seem to me that a sector of the community believes that either the views of the electorate are not being adequately voiced by the Ward Councillors, or if they are, they are not receiving any support from the Council as a whole. I would suggest that the reason for this is the lack of adequate funds and resources to implement any changes or improvements voiced by our Ward Councillors. Realistically having a town council in addition to CCC and KCC will not change this situation unless the town council can generate sufficient regular income to support any of their initiatives. It is true that some funding will be forthcoming from the precept but town council running costs are likely to take a significant proportion of this, leaving inadequate funds for major changes and improvements. Obtaining grant funding, I would agree, is another source but it is impractical to expect such an income stream to be sustained over time. The obvious course to try meet those needs of the towns residents which are currently not being met, is to secure more funds for CCC by raising the rate of Council Tax but unfortunately this option is restricted by central government. It is somewhat ironic that the Council Tax can be raised considerably to cover the cost of a town council (for which the electorate seem happy to pay) but not to help CCC provide the money and resources necessary to do more for the community. The way forward is for CCC to more positively support the many volunteer groups within the town to deliver services they can't afford.
No	I'm not convinced that adding yet another layer of bureaucracy into local government is necessarily a good idea. My Council tax bill for a modest 2 bed bungalow is already in tax band E, which I already consider to be extortionate, so the £60-£80 cost is likely to be higher, for what I perceive to be very little benefit. If this is approved we will be answerable to, and paying for a Town Council, Local Council and Kent County Council. So many layers of bureaucracy that will talk much and achieve little more, if anything, than that already delivered. With so many other cost of living issues to deal with I cannot see that this additional burden will deliver any benefits.
No	Having lived in chestfield for 8years with a parish council and not been aware of any benefits from paying the additional council tax unsure it would prove beneficial to the town .
No	Don't need another layer of government, with the added costs to our council tax .
No	Unhappy about the increase in council tax for services that should be covered by Canterbury council.
No	Not happy with cost added to council tax
No	I'm a pensioner balancing a tight budget and do not want to commit more than I can afford. The local Church is our regular meeting place and cover most social events for the community .
No	As I am not aware of a petition for a Town Council, I can't say what the thinking is behind having one. It seems to me that Whitstable is quite successful as it is and the residents already have ways of making changes, all as described in the councils pamphlet. If the people who signed the petition really want a Town Council , that's fine by me as long as they are prepared to pay for the whole cost of it themselves. I do not want to contribute to another layer of bureaucracy and the fact that there is no Whitstable Town Council at present suggests there is no need for it.
No	I believe another tier of government as a waste of money. The positions filled by the elected town council should be volunteers from local established charitable organisations. Such as lions, rotary club chambers of commerce. And not be a further cost to the community. I imagine the cost of £60-80 will not be deducted from what we already pay to CCC.waste of money, I shall forward this transcript to Rosie Duffield for her veiw.
No	Canterbury City Council already provides most of these services but in joined up manner with Canterbury and Herne Bay eg the Active Life leisure centres.
No	No one wants to pay even more money to their council tax or even more money out of the hard-working pay . Dont want to pay more on council tax.
No	We already have a district council
No	It's ridiculous to suggest local residents should have to pay more council tax for this. We already have town councillors to represent local residents, we would be better off if we concentrated on ensuring they are doing their jobs and actually representing the interest of ALL local residents and not just the holiday/second home owners. Rather than impose an additional council tax maybe introduce a double council tax for second homes owners(like Brighton) and get all AirBnBs registered to pay their fair dues (maybe a tourist tax). That might reduce the council tax for everyone and provide funding for local issues.
No	Council tax is so expensive in Canterbury. An extra payment is unaffordable.
No	I do not want this to happen

No	As an oap managing rates are bad enough with an sum on top of that, how are we supposed to live. Thats what I thought my rates were for. No thank you.
No	Pointless and I don't want to pay more to have one
No	Vote based purely on extra cost to residents in a cost of living crisis
No	It is unnecessary duplication. My councillor represents me well enough. I'd rather the funding for a town council and a tax went to community groups and charities, as well as to pay the cost of my ever expanding utility bills.
No	I believe we have sufficient representation and an extra layer does not offer value for money.
No	We have City Councillors and County Councillors we do not need the expense of another tier of expenditure added on to our Council Tax which is already very hard for people to afford. In my opinion the last thing Whitstable needs is another clique of self opinionated people taking our money and achieving little or nothing effective. Our City Councillors are very accessible and approachable in getting answers to any query or problem as far as I can see, so a Town Council would be a very expensive and unnecessary exercise in futile money wastage.
No	I'm not convinced that the arguments justify the setting up of a new town council at this present time. Whitstable has strong links with Canterbury that benefit both (in terms of tourism, business and shared resources). The costs of the new town council have not been explained in enough detail. The list of aspirations are laudable but are already being addressed by either exiting local government, church or charitable agencies and community groups.
No	Our council tax is expensive and I don't a further layer of a town council being beneficial or effective.
No	I can see NO benefit to this. All I can see is another layer of "red tape" that is not needed. I certainly don't want to pay for it.
No	I don't feel that it is needed.
No	It will be an extra layer of unnecessary beaurocracy which we will have to pay extra for. Waste of time and money
No	It would not benefit live in a private road and most of us are OAP think it's disgusting that you are asking us to pay it would make no difference to all of us things are expensive now and we can't afford to pay more money on our council tax . You should only be charging the people that agree this but speaking for myself and others that live here it' a big NO
No	In the current cost of living crisis and with council tax rising by the highest amount I think people have enough to pay out, particularly for things the council should provide within the council tax
No	I feel that the expense associated with it will not represent good value for money. We already pay a significant annual tax for Police & Crime Commissioners and i am not convinced the cost returns the difference in crime improvement beyond what would happen as a matter of course anyway. If I am paying that extra money, for me, i would want it spent on public services generally. These additional costs would be fine in more affluent times but feel like an indulgence at the moment. Also, I can imagine who will dominate the committees and the agendas they persue. That is to say, i doubt they will reflect the diverse socio-economic population of Whitstable.
No	We pay more than enough for a useless City Council without having to fork out for another layer of bureaucracy which at the end of the day will be ruled by CCC and can be abolished at their whim just as it was in 1974! At that time all the local council's plans, approvals and schemes were dumped overnight, some to the detriment of residents. Who's to say this won't happen again?
No	Consultation notice arrived on 3 Feb after all 3 info sessions had taken place. If a town council was able to take some work/decisions away from CCC, how to justify such an additional charge to householders? More representation for locals by elected members must equate to devolved decisions on matters particularly affecting us
Not sure	Like the idea of having representation for whitstable but think the extra charges are a worry. Would it stop certain people seemingly able to get around planning laws!!!
Not sure	Won't have any power, waste of community funds, extra cost on council tax
No	The benefits from another layer of local administration will not outweigh the additional costs. My council tax creeps up every year and the proposed council will not address any issues that would put more money in my pocket.
No	Whilst the estimated cost has been established no clear calculation on the return of investment has been made. It is not clear how much revenue in total would be expected, how much would be needed for administration and how much would be available for projects. All benefits described are coached in broad sweeping vague terms without clarity on the priorities of those championing this move. There is no clarity on which services would need to be covered by a town council because Canterbury City Council would no longer provide them.
No	Is a Whitstable town council going to make any difference? No. Is it going to cost us more money? Yes. We already have a council in Canterbury, for better or for worse. And we have local elected officials on that council. If a Whitstable council still needs to defer to KCC in Canterbury to get anything done or get funding, then what use is it? Will a Whitstable council be able to cancel the gross expansion of Whitstable (Whitstable Heights, Pearsons Heights etc) that is currently going on, without improvements to sewage, schools and basic infrastructure? No. This council will be peopled by DFLs and representatives of the Greens and Wilsons to progress their agendas. The real people of Whitstable, those who were born here and who now can't afford to buy here, don't want more expense for the sake of giving bored wealthy DFLs something else to campaign for.
No	We already come under Canterbury council
No	Too expensive with no discernible benefits

No	Canterbury council already deals with Whitstable, we do not need any more red tape and we certainly do not need the extra cost
No	We pay enough in council tax and do not want to fork out any more money for useless things.
No	Town councillors are not elected like district councillors and they only represent a very small proportion of residents. They don't necessarily have the right knowledge or skills needed for the role and enter-it to serve their own interests or those of a select few. Devolving powers to a town council costs more money, doesn't come with any extra funding to deliver anything. End up with more chiefs than Indians to achieve same objectives
No	Council tax is already high and increasing each year so I don't want to have it increase further still with a town council precept. A town council will add further unnecessary administrative costs and I am happy for the district council to continue providing services to Whitstable.
No	We do not require another, expensive set of councillors to further add to the bureaucrats we already have. What we do require is a Council sub-committee to have responsibility for Whitstable.
No	At this time of inflation, families are struggling with paying their council tax and do NOT need an extra charge for something that will have no power over the council and will just fudge what the residents of Whitstable really want. They will not be speaking for the majority and will not be representing the majority of residents in their views. I see not need for a town council and will vote against it at every stage. Cant afford and not needed. Group of people who are looking at their own importance - if they want the best for Whitstable then stand as a councillor. This will NOT give the general public of Whitstable a voice.
No	I do not believe an additional layer of governance is desirable or necessary. I particularly object to the increase in council tax caused by the addition of a precept, which will be unaffordable for many residents. I oppose the proposal.
No	Another layer of bureaucracy for us to cope with , in these financially difficult days .
No	We do not want another layer of bureaucratic, pretentiousness, puffing up political parties and pompous individuals who do not represent the public on any level, producing nothing but hot air and pompous pronouncements. Make Canterbury Council do its job properly! Hold Canterbury Council to account for rotten borough governance!
No	we already pay enough council tax and i cannot afford an extra cost
No	We already pay enough council tax for little return without having to fork out for even more councillors. I cannot see any benefit whatsoever. There is a cost of living crisis at the moment so any extra bills would be most unwelcome. Let people pay if they want but don't force other people who don't want to pay it.
No	Lack of benefit. Costs for no reason
No	We already have elected local councillors who, if they are carrying out their duties responsibly, should be perfectly capable of representing the concerns of the residents of Whitstable. To add a further layer of bureaucracy into the mix would only, in my opinion, make everything take even longer than it does already. Furthermore, I have yet to meet anyone who feels that they get value for money from their Council Tax payments so to add a further tax this would be madness.
No	I'm not in favour of the additional bureaucracy, we should just make the council representation that we already have work, we will have no control over what the cost to us will be, and there are no clear tangible benefits that I can see.
No	Comparing with other town councils in the area, they seem to have brought very little practical benefit vs cost.
No	Not prepared to increase Council Tax, for someone to run allotments.
No	We already pay enough council tax and believe our elected councillors should already be looking after Whitstable wards. A lot of people are unable to afford any more and with no cap on the amount it can go up each year and would put to much pressure on household budgets
No	I do not think it will befit any of the residents in Seasalter.
No	Cost and effectiveness
No	I don't see the need when we are properly represented already especially as this proposal means increasing our own costs in a financial climate which is challenging and unlikely to improve soon if at all. Disappointed to receive notice of the proposal two days after the last local meeting was held as well so no chance to attend and hear and offer input we already have a Council ,Canterbury. I see no benefit to have another in nearby Whitstable. The benefits to all residents, Council tax payers, would be negligible. This includes our elderly. being in this category, I cannot see what having additional Council official/s to pay for, would be of benefit to us. next we will be asked if we want our very own Mayor... what we do want is safer streets, clean road verges, more police presence, road repairs, more affordable housing for our younger generations.
No	Times are very hard currently financially for residents. Whitstable is already very expensive to live in and having this extra council tax burden is not fair on people. My main worry is that the local council precept within our council tax can be upped at any time by any amount - it is not restricted in the same way as normal council tax. Taunton council have just upped theirs from £107 to £299 per annum. I feel very strongly against having a Whitstable Town Council

No	<p>Having resided in Whitstable for 30 years the town as coped under City council. What is being offered by a town council will only add further costing to residents. For those who can afford the initial precept i can well understand your focus with having a town council. However what will be the cost to residence in 5 years time? The powers of a town council, to run allotments, maintenance of civil memorials, public toilets and play parks is already carried out by city council. I would like to add from my point of view that the monies raised by all those who pay council tax will in the main benefit tourists. Your argument would be that tourists are the main structure that keeps Whitstable ticking. Therefore would it be acceptable that they pay a percentage towards the precept through monies raised with parking in the local area. Finally i feel that this proposal as been put forward at the wrong time. Cost of living is extremely difficult at this present time and any further tax added to council tax payers is not a morale builder.</p> <p>I am aware that some residents resent the fact that tourism/airB&B/second home owners are part of the population of Whitstable. I understand that this does have an impact on housing/accommodation etc. However, I am also conscious of the need for tourism otherwise Whitstable will become a ghost town. If it is decided that a Town Council should be set up, it should not be set up in a 'vigilante' DFL group. I hear it all the time, DFLs are the cause of ALL ills that befalls Whitstable, and yet without them.....who knows!</p>
Not sure	
No	We do not wish to pay any more council tax.
No	Not needed
No	It seems a lot of the things listed that a town council will do are things that should be done by the city council already, such as maintaining parks, litter bins and lighting. Seems like a scam to get us to pay again for these services. We already have a council and pay too much for their services already. To pay more money to a town council would be a waste of overstretched income without being given enough information about how they would be good for the town and value for money.
No	
No	I still remember the last one
No	We already have County and City council councillors representing local people and elected by them. A town council introduces another level of bureaucracy and with it added costs for the local community. In the leaflet provided to households, a number of examples were provided of what a town council could promote. The services listed are already provided by the Canterbury City council and should further provision be sought, local city council councillors should be lobbied.
No	What a waste of our money. We already have Whitstable councillors on the city council and Whitstable councillors on the county council.
No	Only if it reports directly to KCC. Otherwise it is just more bureaucracy and adds cost to residents. Woodbridge in Suffolk is similar to Whitstable and has a town council reporting to Suffolk CC. It is an excellent example of how a town should be, run by its own people focussed purely on their interests, rather being treated as a satelite to a larger more important town.
No	It is just an additional layer of bureaucracy that we don't need and quite frankly can't afford, it'll be the same people on the council that are already both councillors for CCC and KCC.
No	This is not a right time, already people are struggling to live now don't make another burden to them.Please stick with Canterbury city council, please avoid the extra expenses try to give them better services without extras.So stop thinking about whitstable Town Council
No	I strongly oppose a town council. At a time of a cost of living crisis where it is already difficult to make ends meet, this is not a justifiable cost. This is not an essential service and would be irresponsible to form a town council which will cost whitstable residents significantly more money and the amount is not currently clear and there is no cap on what can be charged.
No	just another way of getting extra money for the council officials for there pet projects.
No	I do not agree with paying yet more tax for tasks that Canterbury Council should undertake. If necessary, a special representative for Whitstable could attend Canterbury Council meetings rather than expenditure on extra buildings etc.
No	We have enough government already. And council tax is high enough.
No	It will cost people more money when times are hard enough. I believe its main aim is towards the arts, how does that benefit locals? I cannot see it would benefit us at all as it would not gave any powers over they way Canterbury City Council spend our hard earned taxes.
No	Another layer of bouracracy which isn't needed ..very limited ability on making or changing decisions ...more expense on council tax
No	Don't want the extra cost or another layer of bureaucracy.

No	I received notification of this on the 8th Feb via the late maildrop, meaning I could not attend any of the advertised information sessions. Indeed, as the video on the relevant website (at approx. 25 min) says that the maildrop did not start until 22nd Jan, all residents will not have had advance notice of at least 2 of the information sessions, and people like myself no advance notification of any of them. On watching the video I have learned for the first time of the existence of a group called the CT5 People's Forum. Who are they? What is their agenda? Why am I being asked to contribute more tax? (It is no good saying information was available via social media because social media only reaches particular groups -- often already linked to on another -- and not all tax paying residents). So far the consultation has in my view failed to be effective, and probably already cost money. It does not inspire confidence in what is being proposed.
No	Canterbury council should still control whitstable, i do not wish to have another council as we pay enough council tax already.
No	Pay to much council taxes already don't need any more councils want to leave as before
No	I feel like the additional expense outweighs any benefits that a town council may bring. Kent County Council seems to be doing a good job and I like to believe they would listen and help if any issues were to arise
No	I feel we already pay a huge amount of council tax, let alone adding more on top for a town council. I do not feel a town council will benefit the town as all decisions of major funding and what to do with it would have to go through Canterbury Council still.
No	Because, it is not needed, we already have plenty of local councillors here doing a job for the whole community. This is not needed a waste of tax payer money. In the present economic climate money is tight for many and an additional charge on top of the proposed increase in council tax is really not appropriate. Instead of waste time any money on these silly scheme's perhaps the money could be spent on more important things, like repairing the pots holes in the local roads. Not charging for the collection of garden waste.
No	Extra cost not justified
No	We do not want to pay extra taxes.
No	I feel the town council will be a waste of tax payers money for the following reasons: - the services which the town council would take on are currently carried out by CCV already. - Paying an additional £60-£80 + per annum is not value for money. - A town council will provide yet another layer of bureaucracy of which we have plenty already. - The town council would still be under the jurisdiction of CCC. Therefore very little independence.
No	I personally do not see what benefit it would bring. The extra council tax charges would not be welcome in the current climate.
No	With a widely acknowledged cost of living crisis, it is most definitely NOT the right time to be considering an action that will add £60, £80, and who knows how much in future years, to our already ridiculously expensive Council Tax - and for what? I see this as a vanity project by a vocal minority that will do little to serve the majority of local inhabitants. Whitstable's populace ranges from single pensioners, struggling on basic State Pension to young, two car, two incomes families. One of those can easily afford any proposed precept. The other definitely cannot. We vote for local councillors to represent our local issues, needs and requests. They are the people who should be working for the benefit of CT5. Just adding another layer of bureaucracy (a town council) will likely take up any and all of the extra revenues raised, and to achieve what? To quote the Whitstable Community magazine - "...to run allotments, and take on maintenance of civic memorials, public toilets and play parks..." (hah! WHAT public toilets?!) Those are all resources that our council tax should ALREADY be funding. That should ALREADY be managed. The problem here, like so many petitions, is the people who receive them can be misled into thinking the presenters have unanimous support. The proposers will be erudite, forceful and committed. It's their baby. They want to see it succeed. At any cost. But please bear in mind the silent majority. Add some reasonable weighting to your considerations. Acknowledge the many who aren't even aware of these proposals, but even if they are, that they don't really understand what it is they're voting for.
No	Can not afford to pay anymore council tax.
No	Families and individuals are under enough financial pressure to pay mortgages, utilities and existing council tax commitments. I feel the timing of campaigning for a town council, and requesting people's support for what will be an additional levy on already high bills is very out of touch with the struggles of the community. Decisions like these should be made in times of prosperity and not poverty. This feels like a passion project of the few who are likely wanting to be elected and paid as town councillors.
No	I dont support an individual, We have more than enough governance.
No	We dont need more layers of Political decisions
No	More people making wring decisions - another money making scheme
No	We will not see a benefit in this as a resident, its just going to cost us more money. The only people who will be befitting from this, is the people who come up with this absolutely ridiculous idea. People at the top benefit not us, 100% disagree with own town council, leave things as they are, ccc are doing just fine.
No	I really feel that with the present conditions regarding peoples expenditure it is not the time to set up another council which residents have to find even more money. I do not think it is going to make much difference to the ordinary residents and there are many who do not even know anything about it. Yes notification has been sent out but unfortunately there are some who do not realise it will impact on their pocket and what is involved.

No	With rising Council tax and cost of living crisis I would not be in a position to increase my outgoings. Also feel we are doubling up on council/staffing/premises costs which can ill be afforded financially.
No	Who's going to pay for it? Waste of money. What's the point? Another level of bureaucracy unnecessary.
No	£80 extra on top of our council tax already, no we cannot afford it.
No	Doubling up on costs, and at this time unwarranted and unnecessary extra government and bureaucracy. I personally can't understand why we need a town council.
No	People don't need anymore quangos
No	They wouldn't do anything that isn't done by Canterbury CC. Just add more bureaucracy and costs.
No	I'm not sure we get value for money as it is from CCC. I really don't approve of paying more. If CCC can demonstrate value for money then I'd be more open to the idea. For example, bin collections a real issue this year. The notice about the final green bin collection was put out of social media after the last collection date for Seasalter and when I was away on holiday. It's a complete shambles at the moment so why should I pay for more of the same?
No	Receiving my letters after any consultations meetings took place, not sure anyone would be able to run it efficiently .
No	This was pushed through by a very small minority website devoted to it that only has 1.4k members and street canvassing , the only question the street canvassing was based on was would you be interested in having a town council with no mention of costs , this interest has been taken as a yes vote for the council . The last thing anyone needs in this time of financial hardship with food banks being pushed to the limits with record high demand is another cost being added to their budget with another level of bureaucracy taking their own slice of the funds with additional costs/ expenses being claimed , this will come on top of the no doubt increase in council tax coming our way this year seem to remember a very large campaign being pushed through by the tv , press ,leaflets and social media
No No means No
No	Perhaps I have not been given enough information to make an informed decision as I received the letter in the mail concerning this on February 9th which is after all the information sessions had already taken place despite the letter being dated January 8th. With the limited information that I have I am not convinced that we need a town council or that it would prove to be value for money. We certainly do not need the additional expense with the spiralling cost of living.
No	It is not needed and the future cost of this is undetermined. Other regions where this has been implemented have seen sharp rises in costs to residents.
No	Undetermined future costs Not a necessity on top of existing council support Other areas that this has been introduced it has seen a steep rise in costs for residents
No	Canterbury City Council serves the Whitstable community well. Furthermore it would be a further unnecessary burden financially on us the rate payer. The is particularly relevant in this cost of living crisis which is likely to continue for some time.
No	Council tax increase especially during difficult times
No	Can not justify the cost to each household with no real improvement. Personally would not be able to afford extra money on top of everything else as cost increase I'm looking to lessen my outgoings not increase them.
No	I did not receive the information pack until Febtuary 9th. Therefore, I was unable to attend any meetings to gather further information on the merits of this proposal. However, reading how a town council would benefit Whitstable I don't see where the added costs are justified. Also any added costs during this cost of living crises would cause additional hardship for the residents of Whitstable.
No	Happy with things as they are.
No	I am new to the area, but feel if the Parish and Town councils have the same powers why do we need both? As a senior citizen living off a state pension I cannot afford increased council tax. This could continue to rise if the cost of running a separate town council escalates. Would a town council really make a huge difference to the residents of Whitstable? I am not sure the possible benefits would be worth the increase costs. It seems that parking charges are to be increased imminently, making it very difficult for local residents and visitors alike. Could locals be allowed a parking discount?
No	Waste of money
No	Waste of money
No	More tax paying fat wages. Im in my own struggling to pay the council tax as it is. Im widowed and have less then £1000 a month to live on. Bills included. So no. More councillors and staff etc earning more then me. BIG FAT NO
No	Extra costs do not justify the jurisdiction
No	In the times we are in I do not think this is the right time to be increasing our Council tax to fund a Whitstable town council. Many people are struggling as it is with the constant increases in bills. 7.5 percent of the local population should not make this decision on behalf of the rest of the population. I also feel there is Kent county council , Canterbury City Council if we also have a Whitstable town council it is another layer of bureaucracy.
No	We don't need it, and it's just another way to collect money that you haven't stated we will be charged, you have stated other councils, we are in reseasion and most people cannot pay this
No	Because of the cost, i.e. an uncapped precept.
No	I have heard council tax will go up! As it is I can barely afford it!

No	Where will finance for this come from? Canterbury Council Tax is already significant, as is inflation and cost of living. I can't support an increase to our bill to pay for a town council which I am unconvinced will deliver much value.
No	No I do not think we need or should have a Town council.
No	Precept is uncapped. Another layer of governance we are paying for. It has not been demonstrated to me that I will receive anything useful to me for the money. We are already paying a huge amount for our council tax and for this we have no police presence, inconsistent and unsatisfactory bin collections, potholes in the roads to name but a few. These basic services should be addressed before we pump everybody's money into allotments and outreach projects. There are plenty of charities that do this work. During a cost of living crisis it is tone deaf to expect people to pay more money for a small group's aspirations.
No	I cannot see as a resident of Seasalter we will benefit from a Whitstable Town Council we are to far removed from the town all the advantages would be for people living close to the centre of Whitstable . We would not have value for money from the uncontrolled precept. The Council would become a talking shop for people who have nothing better with their time. Some young families would in this time for restraint could not afford the extra £60-£80 a year which would undoubtedly continue to rise in coming years .
No	There is little point of a local representation when they have no local infrastructure to support them, The things that need doing are too tied into KCC contracted third parties, and contractors who waste huge sums on re-equipment and poor service.. Roads pavements footpaths passage's and the like need major attention but that wont change with a local council as words wont fix anything only money or equipment, and they wont have that. We already het poor service from the KCC and Canterbury CC and having to pay for another layer of tax payer funded people when the ones that exist working only to suit themselves already cost a fortune in pensions perks salaries' and jollies. Too much is already being given over by KCC to woke ideology and services best suited to those least deserving, and benefit cheats, scroungers and illegal migrant, at the expense of normal people and the real needs of taxpayers Planning has already been blighted by countless projects determined by KCC as wanted, but aimed mostly at satisfying GOV.com targets and enforcements driven from the EU and Central Government. What chance a local council would have is very limited I seriously believe whoever started d this off has forgotten how the old town and parish councils worked. The resources they had and the employees were dedicated local people with dedicated local offices, yards equipment and did a job in real time when needed and it lasted. Town Council planning was relative not run by backhanders and other dubious involvements of councilors Civic pride wont return until education is put back 50 years, Streets wont get cleaned any better, Policing wont improve, graffiti will remain, and the continuance of a never ending explosion of the unwanted population from outside the county will continue. Promoting bidding and then losing is all I can see.
No	Already have a voice for matters via the Canterbury Office plus Rosie Duffield
No	Can not afford higher tax
No	It has no relevance to the local community. Our services are governed by CCC and we pay accordingly .Someone is in the process of making money here and its not the ratepayer .If people want things done differently let this cashflow come from there own pockets as i dont see any benefit .
No	The elected members for Whitstable on Canterbury city council should always have Whitstables interests their main priority.
No	When you look at the figures the money will just go on wages and not to the benefit of the local area. There is a lot of dishonesty here and the people pushing this are not being honest about the costs here involved to residents during a time of financial hardship.
No	1/ Simply do not want to pay more money than we already do for services, Council Tax is already ridiculously expensive given the lack of services we have. Paying more will not guarantee any better service 2/ Paying for a Whitstable Town Council is a fallacy in itself, this is essentially to make up for what Canterbury City Council are unable to do - this seems wasteful, surely this is a case of making Canterbury City Council more efficient, less wasteful and improve how the authority is run. Setting up a Whitstable Town Council is a sticky plaster option to make up for a wider issue. In other words a complete waste. 2a/ To the point above - tackle the root cause of the problem instead, a deep dive into the local authority, costs, decisions and respective business outcomes, would seem more prudent, than throwing resources at another project (Town Council). 3/ Having seen the list of potential benefits offered by a Whitstable Town Council, I could see very little new "worthy" items, that we should not already have from the local authority. Essentially what is the point, maybe better to give some level of power in decision making terms to a group of select people living and working in Whitstable - let them operate a budget that would normally be spent in whitstable anyways, but simply make the decision a local residents decision. Better than adding new charges, to increase wastefulness.
No	More tax and we don't need it!
No	It is unnecessary as we already have councillors who can adequately represent the town. In addition it will end up with the public having to pay even more money for just another form of bureaucracy. When adopted in other towns the precept rose far above what was originally suggested. The exception might be if you could opt out. Question re age and gender are not relevant.
No	A town council will increase our council tax bills burden for little return. It will turn into an unnecessary cost for households and families already stretched with the cost of living crisis.
No	Not needed and in time of financial strife not welcomed by a majority

	At a time of people struggling with the cost of living WE DO NOT NEED MORE TAXES in the form of a precept added to the Council Tax. All this will do is add more layers of cost and bureaucracy while achieving little apart from becoming a 'talking shop'
No	Total waste of money and time.
No	It is uncertain what the benefits to the town will be. Those in favour talk about options e.g. to bid for funding, but those options are already available in the current structure. In addition, a town council will add a financial burden to residents, and there is no cap on the amount - in these straitened times we can do without further burden on our stretched household budgets. This feels like adding a layer of bureaucracy which we do not need, I am uncertain about the accountability for the town council - once it's set up, how could we change our minds and decide we no longer want a town council?
No	Extra money on the rates Canterbury will have the final say on most issues.
No	I already pay for a Council. A proposal for a Whitstable Town Council is probably a reflection of how ignored Whitstable feels. I implore the Councillors we already have to stop ignoring the mess the town is in. The centre is being ruined by Air B and B, antisocial behaviour, congestion and poor planning. The outskirts of the town are just building sites with continuous road/lane closures, roads covered in mud, verges ruined and never repaired. When you go through Blean, Canterbury etc. verges have tress and grass, we have mud baths and weeds. The exit from the Thanet Way is dangerous. This gets so congested that people are left sitting in their cars on the motorway, looking in their rear view mirrors, praying they won't get hit by another car. People have lost their lives as a result of the poor traffic planning shown when the Bornans Way shops were introduced. Air pollution in this area is awful and vehicles are allowed to travel at 40mph in a highly pedestrianised area. Efforts have been made in Canterbury to reduce pollution, why not here? We are also plagued by low flying aircraft and local pubs/hotels playing obscenely loud music. The sea is a sewage outlet. We intend to leave the area, as many of our friends have as soon as our child finishes school here. Poor planning has ruined the town in the 20 years that I have lived here. We need you to be our council please. I do not want to pay for another ineffective layer of bureaucracy, I would rather the current Council do as they were elected and paid to do please.
No	I cannot afford it with the cost of living crisis. The council tax is already unaffordable and rising again. The admin costs of having a town council far outweigh any benefits.
No	We the people are struggling enough without another layer of tax for very little or even nothing, just the people who will run it getting richer. The very ordinary people of Whitstable will see no benefit.
No	The idea of an extra, new, uncapped tax with the current financial situation is ridiculous. I see no benefit to the the town.
No	We do not need a town council, it will just be yet another cost that us residents cannot afford, and will not benefit us. I am currently unsure as to whether or not Whitstable should have a town council. The benefits of having a town council are clearly set out in a leaflet that was circulated, eg greater local decision-making in particular around planning and development and greater access to funds/funding applications that are otherwise unavailable. This might also benefit the wider CCC insofar as funds are brought into the area. However, I have two concerns. The first concern is financial. While an annual cost of £60-£80 may not appear a lot to many residents, this is likely to have a significant impact on very low income households. Once council tax rises are factored in (which are predicted to be at the maximum amount of 4.99% this coming financial year) and the continuing rising cost of living this is a large burden on many households. I doubt that those households will see/feel the benefits of having more local control/democracy, and I doubt that the possible additional funding that can be raised through a town council will offset those costs for those residents. My second concern is less 'real', and possibly misplaced, but it is a nagging concern of a possible creeping NIMBYism that local control might have particularly around planning. On the one hand local say in matters of planning and licensing is important. On the other hand, it may lead to too much conservatism (with a small 'c') and not wanting change or development, particularly the need to build local affordable housing. Too often I overhear people saying 'Whitstable isn't the place it was' and that there are too many people here etc, but change is inevitable and Whitstable is thriving because there are people here - and if affordable houses aren't built then Whitstable might go into decline.
Not sure	higher council tax bills will we get better services not sure i want more money spent on festivals etc
Not sure	It is another layer of staff and surely the staff of Canterbury council are not that removed from Whitstable to appreciate what the area needs. Even if they were, I am sure residents of Whitstable could campaign effectively and be listened to. Also I understand that the annual extra charge can be increased by any amount. Given what we know about all other costs, the increase may not be reasonable. In an ideal world it seems a good idea, but the cost isn't something we could all bear.
Not sure	*This is NOT a resubmission- previous vote was discredited due to not having updated myself on the electoral after very recently moving. Please accept this as an update response now I have corrected my electoral roll* Additional monthly cost is an absurd suggestion during a cost of living crisis with many people throughout whitstable being heavily dependent on food banks and living in poverty. There is no way this should be enforced, on top of the increase in council tax that has now been announced. Also a local council will cover many areas that KCC are already meant to be in charge of eg street furniture. We need to be more concerned about a lack of funding and attention from KCC and the money we already pay them to work on this area. Instead of, paying two separate bodies to cover the same work.
No	

	1. The potential benefits listed on the literature don't justify an extra £60 to £80 a month per household. Especially in the current economic climate where people are struggling to make ends meet. 2. Considering all the cuts that are being made to core services, money and time could be better spent elsewhere. The current financial difficulties economically, make it highly unlikely that a new town council is going to be given any funding to make any positive change, rendering it pointless. 3. Despite what the literature says, there will inevitably be an additional layer of bureaucracy in a council system which is already cumbersome. Surely time (and money) would be well spent improving and stream lining the system that already exists rather than making it worse with more people involved. 4. The website refers to how town councils 'can' do positive things and 'could' make a difference. There is no evidence to say it will and I don't feel that people should have to pay more council tax for a new town council that isn't really a fundamental need at this time.
No	Additional cost to council tax payers for limited benefit. Another layer of bureaucracy.
No	Another layer of expensive bureaucracy that won't have any meaningful power and has no limit to the future cost.
No	Another layer of people sitting by a phone not actually doing anything useful! We just need more skilled workpeople to mend the roads and keep the drains clean etc.
No	Because I cannot afford to live now. So cant afford more unnecessary tax. Canterbury city council are quite adequate and sufficient.
No	Because of the extra cost and the fact there is no limit to how much it can be increased by. Even £80 a year is a lot in the current financial crisis. This is my main reason for saying no. I also think it will potentially increase divisiveness between areas of the Canterbury district. It would be far better if one council were equally supportive of all areas.
No	Because the extra charge / tax can't be capped so there's no guarantee it won't increase
No	Cannot afford any more charges hasn't anybody told these people there's a cost of living crisis?
No	Cannot see any positives only cost
No	Cannot see how it will benefit us. Just another layer to pay for.
No	Canterbury City Council is perfectly able to deal with the needs of Whitstable. In the leaflet that was posted to us it stated that a band D home would incur a charge of £60-£80. We are band E. Already our council tax is being hiked to the highest percentage anyway. Surely you realise most people are struggling already to pay their endless bills.
No	Whitstable DOES NOT NEED a town council.
No	Canterbury concil have no funds available for any work that is now not necessary. I fail to see how having a town council will help resolve getting more funds to do work such as potholes street cleaning etc. Holding meetings at 5pm and only receiving the letter with only one date available. People are at work or travelling home from work. Cooking their familys dinner.
No	Consider it to be a duplication of existing resources. Additional tier of authority. Additional ongoing annual cost if TC in place allows CCC to devolve services to TC.
No	Cost
No	Cost of it, cannot see any benefit.
No	Cost of living crisis for so many families, how can a small minority think this is the right time to place extra stress on these families by adding to the CCC tax. A very small minority less than 2,000 residents put forward this proposal for a Town Council. Could CCC listen to the 90%+ householders (around 30,000+) who have not been asked their opinion. Do they think this is the way forward? To date, 31/01/24, I have not received notification of public information meetings.
No	Costs to individual households is unclear as the precept will not be capped. Wrong time to consider a Town Council when many households are struggling with increased cost of living. Many pensioners would struggle to pay the precept if it were to increase as much as the one for Taunton
No	Council tax is going up by 5% and I do not wish to pay an extra £60 - £80 per year, a tax which is uncapped, for a parish council whose objectives, parameters and budgets are not clearly defined.
No	Do not want to pay extra money for an extra council we don't need. Another layer of bureaucracy
No	Do not want to pay more council tax
No	don't want to pay extra tax
No	During the cost of living crisis when everything is so expensive and people are struggling to make ends meet, it really is unacceptable to add another £60-£80 to peoples council tax just so Whitstable can have their own council. I for one would not be happy paying it.
No	Extra cost per household/far too expensive. What are we paying ridiculous amounts of council tax for - not a lot.
No	Large increase coming this April. Canterbury Council needs new ideas not Whitstable town councils.

No	I am 100% against having a Parish Council. Not everyone who lives here is rich. I live on a very low income and am struggling to pay my bills, so I can not afford this additional amount. Also, you state the cost could be £80 but this is only an estimate. My understanding is this cost has no cap, so it could realistically be much higher. Also, the Parish Council members don't have to be residents, they just have to work here, so they have a different agenda. The differences or "advantages" you state in the leaflet are in the scheme of things very arbitrary. The Whitstable Society is already active on providing views to the CCC, which does not cost anything to us. Also, the Parish Council would not have any control of the planning applications or process. Therefore, is completely pointless. The eagerness of CCC of promoting this Parish Council looks like an effort to dump costs they are currently responsible for, onto Whitstable households. It appears to me as just a way for CCC to cut their costs during a time when many of us struggling.
No	I am concerned that this will add a layer of costly administration and feel that the possible benefits don't outweigh the additional cost. Our local councillors do an excellent job and I feel that Whitstable is very well represented at CCC.
No	I cannot afford to pay more council tax so I do not want a separate Whitstable town council.
No	I cannot see what benefits to the residents, the majority of whom do not visit or shop in the town due to the congestion caused by tourists. Any money spent by the Town Council is going to cater for them. Whitstable has lost its charm and the majority of businesses serve the tourist. There are many residents who are on the poverty line and will already be saddled with increase of 6% water rates and council tax. In this economic climate there is no logical reason to burden people further. In any event we cannot afford the parking charges being imposed.
No	I can't see any benefit for me.
No	I do not feel it would be beneficial to Whitstable having it's own council. Just an excuse to pay someone extortionate amounts in salary, whilst the residents have to cover the cost. People cannot afford it with the cost of living..me included.
No	I do not want to pay an uncapped charge for a town council on top of a council tax that is already too expensive. The charge for a council can go up at an uncapped rate and you have no idea what the town is going to receive for this or what policies will be implemented.
No	I do not want to pay anymore money.
No	I don't believe a town council would be suitable for Whitstable because there seems to be a faction of people who make decisions without taking the residents views into consideration. I can see this happening with a self appointed town council. Also why should we pay uncapped sum of money in addition to our rates. CCC and KCC should be providing our town with adequate policing, adequate refuse collections, adequate roads etc. This town seems to be overrun by a huge amount of dog lovers who seem to think it's fine to allow their dogs to roam and foul everywhere without consequence. There seems to no responsibility by CCC regarding the huge amount of second homes/rentals.
No	The planning processes are inadequate and the drainage and roads are in poor quality.
No	I don't believe it will help the town and only incur more costs to the residents.
No	I don't think it brings anything to the town other than additional expenses for the residents
No	I don't want to pay for it Won't directly affect me and my family Don't trust town councils Once in, you can get rid No cap on the cost of it!
No	I don't believe they will have anymore power off their own backs without still consulting the main council. I also think most of the services you say they will cover should be covered by our existing councillors and paid for in our existing council tax. I'm not prepared to pay out anymore and quite frankly see this as a complete waste of time and money and no doubt it will be something else that would just keep going up year after year. As for festivals, celebrations and tourism activities Whitstable definitely does not need any help there as it's already too overcrowded with tourists any time of year, but obviously the summer and school holidays are worse. As a resident of Whitstable I can't ever get into town so we don't need to attract anymore tourists. NO. We are against it, an dif it gets voted in we shall not pay it. Also where was this so called petition you have as we have never seen one and how many signatures did it have?
No	I don't feel this is the right timing for such a consultation when we are still within a cost of living crisis. I worry it will price people out of Whitstable. I worry for our own future as our finances are stretched enough as it is, especially knowing council tax will soon go up anyway. It may be a good idea but it doesn't feel to be in good taste at this present moment.
No	I don't think we need a Town Council in Whitstable. We have managed for the past 20 years I have lived here without one. People are having a struggle now to pay for food, heating, council tax etc and it will put a lot more people into debt without havign to pay for more councillors and staff, also I understand more council tax. No to a town council in Whitstable.
No	I have not agreed nor will i agree to paying additional council tax for a town council we do not need
No	I pay enough to the council. I can't afford anymore. What happens if it's voted in, will I have to pay?
No	I previously responded yes, but on further information coming to light have changed my mind. I was unaware that the charge for this town council would be uncapped, so could potentially increase significantly. While I can see some benefits for a town council, I think the challenges facing local families who are struggling with the cost of living must be prioritised at this time. Therefore I do not agree with the proposal to set up a town council at this time.

No	I think that while I and many others in the town can afford the extra council tax for this, there are many households for whom it would be a great burden at the moment and one unlikely to be offset to any potential new developments. It would be grossly unfair to load any extra costs on such households and individuals at the moment. If we had been in a time of economic prosperity/stability, then I would probably have voted for a council. At the moment, and in the foreseeable future, that is sadly not the case.
No	I would rather a rate increase to council rates so that the elected council can fulfill its obligations to the residents. This appears to be another layer of bureaucracy and I am not convinced that town will benefit sufficiently.
No	It would be an expensive anachronism. There is really no need for a de facto parish council in a town already well governed by its neighbouring city. I would rather my council tax was spent of services rather than a toothless tier of bureaucracy.
No	Just an additional layer of bureaucracy. Extra cost to retired residents or those on fixed and limited income. I see no overall benefit to me or my family.
No	Living in Seasalter, I do not believe having a Whitstable Town Council would benefit be personally. Also, the precept could become unaffordable for some people on limited incomes as it would, no doubt, increase year on year.
No	Mainly cost as I'm a pensioner. Nothing to stop costs escalating each year.
No	Many can't afford to pay for it in my community. Their existing builds are a struggle. When speaking to the people proposing it, it seemed they had a focus on restricting any new housing. I have adult children both of who have moved away from me due to lack of affordable housing. So don't want to fund a group that had an anti housing agenda.
No	More expense, with unlimited future rises, for an administration that in my opinion will not benefit Whitstable for the costs involved.
No	My spouse and I, both employed and responsible for two children, are facing financial challenges exacerbated by soaring mortgage rates, energy expenses, fuel prices, and food expenditures. The proposed increase of £60 to £80 in our council tax bill is an additional burden we cannot currently bear. Those advocating for a town council may not fully comprehend the financial strain experienced by individuals and families amidst the existing cost-of-living crisis.
No	No extra tax!!!
No	No, don't want it, just another level of bureaucracy and another way to get more money out of us. So I shan't be voting for it and don't expect us to pay for it either if it's voted in. Also the letter from the council came to us after the information session dates due to the Post Office not delivering quick enough these days. I have never seen or heard about this petition.
No	not needed
No	Not needed
No	Not needed.
No	Not want to have to pay any more tax, don't think we will benefit anything from the extra payment.
No	So far in the 30 years I have lived here, we did not want the houses built apron the grass land. Or the new houses coming to the area. Parking charges on the beach the solar farm this was all discussed in the council but they do as they want regardless and paying more on my Council Tax bill will change nothing but give the council more money !!
No	The cost would be to much and it will only focus on the older generation when the younger generation are the ones in need of support which they are not receiving in!!
No	The council wont be able to make key decisions e.g. parking rates, the harbour etc. It will cost me extra money each year which I dont think is good value. I would rather spend 2k over 20 year's on lobbying or giving to charity.
No	The current council tax is already far too high.
No	The extra cost seems complete madness. Most of it will go on admin and I cannot see any benefit.
No	The potential additional cost to the townspeople.
No	There is no need for another layer of bureaucracy. I dont want to pay extra council tax for this pointless council.
No	To me this is nothing more than a back door tax.
No	Too expensive at a time when everyone is struggling and no cap on the extra spending. CT is already too high with very little to show for it.
No	Too much uncapped money and not convinced of their effectiveness
No	Unfair to put an extra charge on residents in order to fund what could turnout to be another talking shop. The new council would only be as good as the people running it and the evidence seen in other areas indicates that there is a lot of room for things to go wrong as seen with Thanet District Council.
No	unnecessary addition expense.
No	We already have a council in place, this is not necessary.
No	We can't afford it.

	WE do not want a town council as there would be a "precept" to pay which I think is wrong as it is advertised as having more say in Whitstable but why should we pay more to have a voice and the reasons outlined at the meeting in Whitstable for the town council were all things that should be covered by our existing council tax or as stated by the woman who runs other parish councils in Kent are basically covered by charities or the goodness of peoples hearts ie food banks which she said the money would go towards. As stated by another resident at the same meeting, up to 70% of the total precept for the area could go towards the administrative costs of having a town council.
No	
No	We do not need an extra layer of bureaucracy and it would result in greater financial costs to residents.
No	We don't need a separate council and would involve additional unnecessary costs for all residents with no actual benefit.
No	We don't need the additional charges. Many people find it hard to afford council tax. I don't believe the council members would be likely to be representative of all the population of our town, not least, young people. The consultation meetings have been held at times many couldn't make with no attempt to consider making them on different times to allow more people to go. I'm against this expense.
No	We elect enough Town Councillors they should be doing the job they were elected for, which to represent the views and needs of the residents of our town. The extra charge on the Community Charge will not stay at the suggested charge but will increase year by year. It will cause some residents whether single or with families hardship - which is certainly going to cause more worry and concerns in these difficult times. There are many good people of the town doing a great job in volunteering to help the community without the interference of another layer of bureaucracy which this proposal will undoubtedly bring. Reading the information sheet put through my door many days after the local meetings dates , there seems be no talk of what this Town Council will do for the residents of the town except initiating monetary funding and grants from various sources - this should be done by C.C.C with the local councillors initiatives, we do not need a "Town Council" to do that. Due to the enormous housing developments in our town it seems to me that there will be an ever changing memberships of this so called town council , which will have a detrimental effect on the continuity of of this new council itself and the residents of the town. This town like all others should always be making plans for the future of the town , no town should stand still, but again I say this responsibility should rest with the elected councillors and C.C.C. members. There is no mention that I can see of what the responsibilities of this proposed scheme will be nor if the members will be paid a salary or have some sort of remuneration for their time and efforts. The towns people really need to asking many more questions before the City Council can consider this proposal,
No	
No	We have already got a good selection of councillors
No	We have enough councillors on Canterbury City Council to represent our needs regarding all aspects of Whitstable.
No	Therefore we don't need a Town Council which in a period of rising costs will just increase our council tax.
No	We struggle enough with bills and taxes
No	What's the point. We already have local councillors in place, maybe they should be doing more. Also we do not need an increase in our council tax.
No	Whitstable has 7 elected councillors excluding Chestfield to represent Whitstable on the CCC. We do not need any additional levy on our rates to support a Town Council.
No	Why do we need one
No	With a cost of living crisis local people do not have the extra money to pay for Whitstable to have it's own town council. We already pay a huge amount for council tax and don't get the services we pay for. I also think sending out information too late for people to attend public meetings was underhand.
Not sure	Another layer of government - to go with Canterbury City Council, Kent County Council, MP for Canterbury? I wasn't on balance in favour of Brexit, but I could see why people voted for it, to try and streamline the number of governmental bodies. Am all for people having a voice, but the more layers of government you have to go through, the less chance of anything being passed through in a reasonable length of time.
Not sure	Difficult to make a balanced decision on something new and what value it would bring when it will give to unknown cost to each resident in Whitstable. It is important for constructive argument and discussion before any final decision. In principle I think a town council could (possibly) be of great benefit to Whitstable, Especially with the capability of calling in additional grant money, however, having a precept that is not capped is not acceptable. It's like asking people to sign a blank cheque and, especially in these current economic climate, this is naturally very unsettling for residents. I think the proposal has come at a bad time. Asking people to pay additional charges for fairly undefined benefits during a recession is likely to get a fairly negative response. Would it be possible to have a cap built-in to the town council constitution so that charges are kept in line with inflation or Bank of England base rate?
Not sure	It would be good, but I don't want to pay any more tax to fund it! I feel that, as a single person, that didn't have children, so shouldn't pay for schools & police to try & control the youths terrorising the town. I cycle nearly everywhere locally, so don't wear out the roads, I hardly ever put a bin out as I compost & recycle & feed the birds food scraps etc. etc. I think I should pay a quarter of the council tax, rather than having a quarter off!?
Not sure	
Not sure	Not sure how much weight a town council will have.
Not sure	The cost my council tax I pay over 12 months because how it has risen.
Not sure	Worried that the extra cost will be a burden for poor people in the area

No	1) in this financial climate we do not need to be having to find extra money. 2) we have an MP to contact if we feel there are any issues to be raised 3)if people want a parish council then it should a voluntary payment and not forced on people by adding it to council tax. 4)looking at the area to be covered by a parish council it is to big and certain parts would always be neglected 5) on the financial side this would always be an expense to residents that would go up every year causing hardship to for many residents
No	1. It would require residents to pay more in taxation, those who observe such things claim the tax burden in the UK is the heaviest in 70 years, 2. It would probably divide on political grounds, and, 3. It would merely be a talking shop
No	1. Whitstable residents do not need the extra expense of another council! 2. Whitstable is already a pleasant, well-provided for town with no need of extra amenities. 3. I'm very contented with the service we get from Canterbury city council. (e.g. when we welcomed a Ukrainian family into our home, the council checked up on us and them. They provided weekly meetings we could all attend and kept us informed of all the help we were entitled to.)
No	Another layer of bureaucracy, more expense to the community. Cannot see any benefit.
No	Another layer of government at an extra cost is unnecessary. More efficient and sensitive government from Canterbury City Council and KCC would be more preferable.
No	Can't afford additional out goings
No	CCC get enough of our money and should be held responsible for managing it fairly and not leave Whitstable and Herne Bay as the poor relations. Why should we be liable to another stealth tax for poor financial management by CCC?
No	Cost
No	Council tax is already too expensive. I have seen nothing to persuade me that a Town Council is worth the extra charges to residents.
No	Do not agree it is necessary to have a Whitstable Council. Just a waste of money.
No	do not need it, just another cost to find
No	Do not want any further costs on my already burdened household. Far to easy for monies to be raised from the pockets of locals by unnecessary people.
No	Do not want to pay more council tax
No	Extra cost for staff out ways benefits for the local area No business plan - what the money left after wages etc would be spent on ? Leaflet arrived too late to attend any of the consultations!!
No	Firstly no one seems to know what services a town council will provide. Will it help stop anti social behaviour that seems to happen every summer without fail? Secondly people are already struggling with the cost of living and the every increasing price increases of every bill going up this april. And now we're expected to pay an additional £60/£80 on our council tax which we already dont see where the benefits of that are going
No	Having another chamber of local council staff will add additional local cost. This will offer little benefit with a smaller local budget. Continuing to be combined with Canterbury will ensure that any Council tax is spent where it is most needed across the region not just in a smaller area. Whitstable has a large proportion of Second Properties. I'll like to see them double taxed as in other regional councils.
No	I am against adding a further level of local administration. I do not agree that it will improve the local amenities. I also object that I will have to pay for the pleasure of this. The reforms to local government in 1974 were meant to simplify the system. Changes like this have only added to the duplication and unnecessary local management.
No	I am quite happy with things as they are.
No	I am sympathetic to the idea of devolving power down to 'lower' levels, closer to the communities represented. In principle, such a development might suit a community like Whitstable very well. However, the current proposal, if I understand it correctly, involves an additional cost burden ('the precept') rather than simply a relocation of existing responsibilities within the same overall funding. Although I can afford the additional precept that's estimated, and am sceptical about some of the more feverish predictions of 'no cap, no limit', I still think in the current economic climate now is not the time to introduce such a scheme, if for no other reason than it would have too much of a fight to prove its worth against its cost. Perception is not everything, but the idea would be damned in too many eyes even before it started. The proposal is worthy, not but not worth it for now.
No	I believe this to be an extra layer of administration that is not required or that I wish to pay for when local council tax is already due to rise. A Town Council tax is not subject to the 5% cap in the same way council tax is and with a current cost of living crisis and rising inflationary costs on many necessity items, to propose an additional charge is crass and indicative of how out of touch the people proposing to implement this are. They are not a diverse group who wish to represent the town for the benefit of all but a minority group with a biased agenda to fit their egotistical, political whims.
No	I do not think that such a council would be value for money. Information on the 'A voice for Whitstable' is not much use. What is relavant about the amount of money that Frone obtained? A town council in Kent used 'a low interest loan'. What on earth is 'a low interest loan'? In the current climate, 'low interest' is fairly meaningless. To be relevant we need to know what the interest rate was and if it was fixed at a low value. What increase to council tax did residents incur because of this loan? Finally, will councilors receive payment for attending meetings and site visits and, if so, at what rate will they be paid?

No	I don't believe this group is democratic and would serve the wealthiest groups of Whitstable
No	I don't see any benefit to having yet another tier to local bureaucracy and it will cost us for the privilege.
No	I have no confidence that a town council, in addition to CCC's overview, will not result in more and more charges to me as a resident.
No	In these times of financial hardship and cutbacks, another tier of burocracy is not a good idea. Those that have been already elected may have to redouble their efforts. As do we all in these times.
No	Increases in the precept are not capped in the way that the main council tax charge is, so the precept element of the charge could rise significantly. It should be that the coastal towns and their interests are represented by the elected councillors for those wards. At a time when many families are short of money, it is not a good idea to require an additional charge from them. The commercial interests of Whitstable town centre should be looked after by a revitalised chamber of commerce. A town council would be an additional layer of bureaucracy.
No	It would create a cost duplication for no additional service. We already have elected councillors for each ward.
No	Council Tax rises have limits, but there will be no limits on town council increases of income.
No	It's just another layer of bureaucracy and taxes. The current system is fine. It's not broken so don't try to fix it.
No	Its unaffordable in the current climate. Families are budgeting to survive every month and the extra costs would not be seen back in the pockets of these families. Once mortgage and interest rates decline I think the idea could be revisited. Its just very bad timing
No	Just because we don't have a town council doesn't mean we have to have one Whitstable is unique and its needs one not the same as other areas .
No	No business plan 75% of the extra money raised through council tax will be spent on wages etc
No	Not sure it will make any difference and we will have to pay more for the "privilege".
No	Nothing to be gained.
No	The cost to residents is too much at this present time
No	Think we can/should do more to improve ccc links with whitstable to negate such a need
No	This will be a further burden financially especially on those on lower incomes. The council tax is about to increase to the maximum they can raise it to. More bureaucracy.
No	Too expensive and still run by council
No	Too many departmental sections @ present,I wouldn't want to add another.For example about three years ago builders were given permission to use a paved and tarmac area at the side of my garden and opposite opposite bungaloes.It was chaos for three years,and permission was given not by CCC but Highways who didn't even know the area,two different administrations.We had a burst water main in the road and CCC had no responsibility,Southern Water and South EastWater argiuedwho was liable while the water flowed away again who was responsible.A Whitstable Town Council would be one more level of responsibility and problems would be postponed while it was argued who was responsible.It seems to be one more layer of admin,not really needed.
No	Until such times as the council have a full financial budget and carry out there responsibilities as was before the cuts, the idea of yet another expensive to try to cover that absents of services is just playing into the hands of the spend thrift governments.
No	Unwilling to pay more Council Tax and will not be able to control future increases
No	We do not need another level of bureaucracy. The extra money that we would have to pay would make it very difficult for many people to afford; it starts at £80 but would increase over time. I also feel like this is a vanity project for people with too much money and too much time on their hands; this was proven by the timing of the meetings- during the week at 5pm when most people who work would struggle to be in attendance. Whitstable does not need a town council.
No	We do not want another level of bureaucracy
No	We have an elected council that we already pay to look after our local interests. If they are not performing their duties with the best interests of the town that elected them then they should not be in office. Why should we pay more money to elect and pay for more people to do the same thing. £3000 has already been paid to distribute leaflets and arrange meetings. I am a resident of Whitstable and I did not receive the leaflet until two of the meetings had already happened and I was not able to attend the final meeting. First show of wasting money. We want more action not more expense sheets. I do not want to pay even higher council tax with no say in how much more money would be demanded. My household income is stretched as it is.
No	We have enough councillors already,this is Canterbury City Council abdicating responsibilities that we are already paying for in our community taxes. Also expecting us to pay more in precepts.
No	We have managed without a town council for several years. I do not wish to have any extra layers of administration nor the extra cost that this incurs.
No	We were not advised in adequate time for the consultation meetings and they were all at an inconvenient time for many people. I do not wish to have to pay more in council tax, especially as it would go up without our agreement. I do not think it would benefit myself and many others.

	<p>Whilst representation from interested locals is not normally a bad thing, I'm not at all convinced that charging an additional aprx £1m to CT5 households is going to bring great value. I've read the literature available locally and have not seen any appealing evidence or suggestion that Whitstable will benefit from a Town Council. We already have a local process for managing allotments and litter and toilets and bus stops...! We already have a process of electing local people to sit on the local council and represent local needs...I have not seen any evidence in the TC proposals that suggest the local councillors are not effective....are the people requesting a TC suggesting that our local councillors are ineffective? Of course there is too much littler and bus shelters could look more appealing, but why on earth in a cost of living crisis should households spend on another layer of local bureaucracy? Promoting town events is great, but look what happened when extra promotion was given a few ago to the oyster festival....its increased popularity made a few locals scared by the idea of so many people, locals and visitors alike, being in town having fun. Wouldn't locals prefer to spend on a small increase in council tax ring fenced to improve basic local district services such as litter and graffiti removal, allotments, toilets etc etc? This would mean households are not wasting valuable funding on the legal costs, admin and office space etc etc specifically for the creation and operation of a CT5 TC. Instead of an £70-80 suggestion make is substantially less, protect it from being spent elsewhere and cut out the bureaucracy... Remember years ago the Canterbury councillor who instructed the road sweepers to regularly cleanse his route into work...? A very cynical view, that I will not shy away from expressing, is that perhaps some of those most vocal about wanting to be a TC member actually want to do so to advance the position somehow of themselves and their chums.</p>
No	Whitstable is currently well cared for and I am pleased with the work done by our councillors (just picked up a book from the telephone box "library"). There is already a Cabinet member for Coastal Towns. Should a Town Council be established with tax-raising powers, this would enable CCC to reduce its spend here, knowing that the TC could fill the gap. Although a precept of £60-£80 is mentioned in the flyer, it does not mention that there is no upper limit. A TC with powers to set their own precept without upper limit is an invitation to set grandiose objectives. Many young (and old) residents are already financially stressed. Adding further to this is a retrograde step.
No	My answer was not sure. But after finding out it could start 60-80 pounds it's no. Most people will not be able to afford it. It will go up each year like council tax. If you take it from the council that would be yes.
Not sure	On balance I think the negatives outweigh the positives. The Positives are more money for local projects and (most importantly) more influence over CCC decisions affecting Whitstable. Negatives include : another layer of bureaucracy. The expense needed to run it - I understand most town councillors act on a voluntary basis with a small allowance to cover expenses. To get a good, representative cross section of the community they may need to consider higher allowances to compensate people for time off work or caring responsibilities. This would diminish the amount of money available to spend. Otherwise, we may be left with 'the usual suspects'. As the next round of austerity hits (and it will) I am concerned that CCC may drop some services and the Town Council will pick them up (or be expected to) rather than complementing and expanding services. Whitstable has a number of assets that are currently owned by the Council. What would happen to them if we have a town council? What say would they have on how they are used, funded and, if necessary, disposed of? Or would they somehow be expected to pick up the tab or shortfall without having a say? The town council needs to have the necessary powers, structure, teeth, funding and assets to make it worthwhile. I fear it may get responsibility without much to fuel it.
Not sure	Unsure of benefits of this Do not want this to have any associated increase in council taxes
Not sure	Whilst I want to know that the needs of local residents in Whitstable are well represented and that we can access funding specifically for local improvement projects I am not sure it is the right time to increase the overall council tax charges for families who are already overstretched.
Not sure	Do not want to pay extra for town council on top of my council tax! Consensus of opinion amongst my other acquaintances re the above.
No	

Should Whitstable have a town council?	Why? Please write in below - please do not include any personal information as these responses will be published There could be a much larger consequence to residents of this, than residents realise... Double taxation, no control over spending, lack of democracy with co-opted members, very little scrutiny, no control over extra financial burden on all households in the affected area, unrestricted increases in the precept for projects that very few may have agreed to, lack of understanding that this is in addition to City Council and not instead of.
No	
No	What next - street wardens!! A bonkers policy. Should canterbury have a town council ... no! Dealing with Whitstable in isolation is a mistake. There may be benefits in Town Councils but they may well apply to each of the unparished urban centres and should be considered collectively. The knock-on effect for other parts of the District should also be considered. In addition, there is an arguable case that the whole of third-tier (Town and Parish) council arrangements in the District require review to improve efficiency and effectiveness. To spend money on establishing a Town Council for only one part of the District is both wasteful and would pre-empt such a wider review.
No	We have councils in place already failing to deliver and wasting money we do not need more councils costing us more money delivering poor value or even cutting back more services whilst over paying wages to poor performing so called community representatives
No	I have recently left Whitstable to move to another Parish in the area & feel the size of the area proposed is to large & will not benefit the outlying areas of the town. Areas like seasalter, south Tankerton & swalecliff all have different needs to the town centre. Smaller parish councils would be more beneficial to the areas concerned if they want it as it does put another layer of taxation in. My view is that this is a vanity project but the people behind it & would it bring any long term benefit to all areas of CT5?
No	This proposal is a preference of a minority who reside in Whitstable. Many in the town do not need the additional financial burden. It seems unfair to impose this on those who live in the boundary outlined in this consultation.
No	I am rather concerned of extra costs for families on low incomes in and around Whitstable with their council tax bills. We already have Canterbury City Council, why is it necessary to spend more money on resources such as this. I believe it's an utter waste of time.
No	It's an unnecessary cost that the people of Whitstable don't need. CCC can manage everything for this town effectively We already have ward representatives on CCC as well as County representatives on KCC we don't need another layer of governance. It would also cause confusion about who does what and where. For instance there has been continued traffic problems in Whitstable due to poorly planned roadworks. But it's a KCC decision although affects at local level. I also think that considering charging a precept during a cost of living crisis is foolish.
No	This is already paid for in CCC's role! It's not fair to add premiums to the Council Tax to pay for more red tape! We already have two tiers of local government and a third will confuse issues as it will have no decision making powers. The idea was modeled partly on Faversham Town Council and I served on this for 4 years a lot of its business was around having 700+ years of mayoral history and played a massive function in its day to day business. Large balances were held year on year and not spent and planning applications were discussed but more often than not had little or no effect. The above will cost the Whitstable tax payer on average another £80 a year for what. My experience of highways issues as the present holder with that responsibility has been messy and already having political pressure affecting well thought out ideas. However with difficult local government finances it could very well be the case that a Unitary option could be introduced and this would totally change my thoughts on a Whitstable Town Council. By combining the County and the City Council would then allow a full and proper role for a local WTC properly funded with powers and responsibility giving us full recognition of a meaningful organisation. The question for me is do we do this now in preparation for a potential change and run as a shadow authority in preparation for a unitary option. The answer would have to be yes. On the basis of WTC running as a shadow group for an impending unitary council plan from government lets also consider the net loss of present Councillors in those two tiers would be around 300 for the County of Kent.
Not sure	
No	No extra tax!!
No	Residents would have to pay for the Town Council. Don't really think Whitstable needs one.
No	The proposed town council will have little to no power, adds another layer of bureaucracy and cost while providing a forum for a small number of new councillors to play politics.
No	This is an unnecessary expense which the people of Whitstable should not have to pay extra for.

Organisation (if relevant)	<p>Written rep</p> <p>I have read the documentation supplied and I have been aware of the activities of the Whitstable lam opposed to the idea of Whitatable having a Town Council. Canterbury Council is big enough to I am not in favour of the setting up of a Whitstable Town Council in view of the extra financial My husband and I think that Whitstable does not need a town council as we are represented Good day. Further to your above consultation document requesting our comments.</p> <p>I received the pamphlet dated Monday 8th January 2024, pm today Friday 26th January, We do not see the need for a Town Council in Whitstable. We are well enough represented through Good Morning,</p> <p>Against introducing further layer of government. Pointless organisation. Further costs for residents Thank you for the information you have provided regarding setting a new town council in As a young family trying to save money, the extra £60+ a year is not something we are happy with. I I have served in senior leadership roles on Unitary, County and National government bodies and I have read the article in the Whitstable Community Magazine. Are you willing to pay for a new Thank you for your letter dated 08/01/24 received end of January. Rather late for the meetings, but Regarding the above proposal, we have given the matter some thought and have come to the</p>
Chestfield Parish Council	<p>Chestfield Parish Council is of course supportive of parish and Town councils and the benefits that</p>
Chestfield Parish Council	<p>Brooklands Farm was a strategic site for housing in the previous administration's Canterbury District</p>
Chestfield Parish Council	<p>At its consultation events, CCC put up a series of PowerPoint slides, among which there was the One is the cost. People are struggling to pay essential bills as it is. There's no guarantee the cost will Dear XXXXX XXXXX, I have lived in Whitstable for over 50 years and strongly disagree that we need a My view of the proposal for a Whitstable Town Council is against. The people (whoever they are) We, XXXXX and XXXXX, wish it to known that we would not have signed the original petition if we I am not in favour of a Town Council for Whitstable. I see no advantage in having another 'arm' of Hello,</p> <p>I live at XXXXX and do not want a town council as I think we pay enough as it is</p> <p>I do not agree to a Whitstable Town Council</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>My husband,XXXXX, and myself,XXXXX wish to register our choice/vote of NO to the formation of a I hereby object strongly to the suggestion that a Town Council should be set up for Whitstable. I do I strongly oppose the idea of setting up another Council for our area. We already have two Councils I would like to raise my objection to the formation of a Town Council in Whitstable.</p> <p>I would like to register my opposition to the setting up of a further council group for the town I am not in favour of a Whitstable Council.</p> <p>I am strongly opposed to a town council: (1) Yet another bureaucratic layer to supplement the local In three words "No Thank You". I can see no gain for Whitstable to have a town council, all it will do I am writing as I have received a leaflet on consultation on proposal for a Whitstable Town Council.</p>