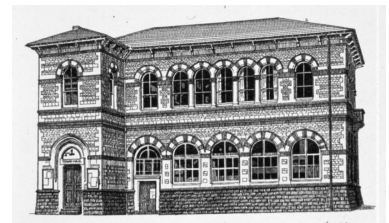


Campaign for an independent Midsomer Norton Town Council

www.MidsomerNortonTownCouncil.co.uk



Midsomer Norton Town Hall

Statement to be presented to B&NES Council Meeting, Thursday 14th May 2009

Why we want an independent Midsomer Norton Town Council

Norton Radstock has consistently failed to realise the potential of Midsomer Norton and its people. But we don't need to tell you this – it's plain to see that Norton Radstock Town Council:

- is riven with infighting based on rivalries
- lacks focus on either Radstock or Midsomer Norton, which has held back development
- is too party political, blocking genuine community engagement
- has a poor track record on delivery
- doesn't represent anywhere– Norton Radstock simply does not exist.

Where did Norton Radstock come from?

Both towns had their own urban district councils until 23rd March 1933 when, despite bitter opposition and a public enquiry, a merger was forced under the Local Government Act 1929 to create Norton Radstock Urban District Council. The inspector's report at the time was eerily prophetic “... *the chief argument against amalgamation lay in the existing jealousies and lack of cooperation between the two towns and the sooner they get together the better it will be ...*”

It's time to move on

Our vision is to have our own Midsomer Norton Town Council that people can identify with and which can truly represent and work for the greater good of the people living in Midsomer Norton; is proactive and positive in its approach to resolving issues and can take our town forward. Radstock and Westfield are free to determine their own destiny.

Community Governance Review

We hand delivered a letter to the 8500 electors in the two Midsomer Norton Wards on the 10th January 2009 and in just two weeks received back 900 signatures to our petition.

With proposals before you tonight on how a Community Governance Review will be carried out we appeal to you to free Midsomer Norton from the “albatross” that is Norton Radstock and allow us to move forward and build a brighter future for our community.

We sincerely hope that the outcome of the Community Governance Review will be an independent Town Council for Midsomer Norton and look forward to the newly founded body having a long and fruitful positive working relationship with its residents and Bath & North East Somerset Council.

Yours sincerely

Paul Myers

Midsomer Norton Resident