

Agenda Item 6

NOT CONFIDENTIAL – For Public Release

Council

26 July 2022

Report of Director of Corporate and Customer Services

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AND POLLING ARRANGEMENT REVIEWS (UPDATE REPORT)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

A report was circulated with the agenda for this meeting providing an update on feedback from the first stage of the Community Governance Review in respect of the Parishes of Darley Dale, Matlock and South Darley. The report advised that any additional responses received between the statutory deadline for publishing the agenda and the deadline for consultation responses would be reported to the Council.

This report provides details of additional responses, including South Darley Parish and Darley Dale and Matlock Town Councils and proposes additional recommendations to reflect this feedback.

ADDITIONAL/AMENDED RECOMMENDATION(S)

Delete the existing recommendation 3 and replace with the following:

3. That the Director of Corporate and Customer Services be authorised to carry out further consultation on a proposal to move the shaded area identified in Appendix 9 from the Parish of Darley Dale to the Parish of Matlock.
4. That the Director of Corporate and Customer Services be authorised to carry out further consultation on a proposal to incorporate the Parish of Northwood and Tinkersley in to the Parish of Darley Dale.
5. That any changes required as a result of this review be brought back to Council before 1 October 2022 to consider any proposed changes and any representations received before the arrangements are approved by Members.

WARDS AFFECTED

Darley Dale
Matlock All Saints
Matlock St Giles

STRATEGIC LINK

Establishing effective arrangements for the delivery of electoral events across the district underpins confidence from the citizens of the Derbyshire Dales in the democratic legitimacy of the Council and other public institutions.

1. BACKGROUND

1.2 On 18 July 2022, the agenda was published for this meeting in accordance with statutory deadlines. This included a report on feedback received on the first stage of consultation on a Community Governance Review in respect of the parishes of Darley Dale, Matlock and South Darley. This was before the deadline for responses which had been set to maximise the timeframe available for interested parties to make representations.

1.3 Since the 18 July further representations have been received from:

South Darley Parish Council (Appendix 5)
Darley Dale Town Council (Appendix 6)
Matlock Town Council (Appendix 7)
Residents of South Darley (Appendix 8)

1.4 In light of the representations received this report makes additional recommendations for proposals to be consulted on during the next stage of the Review.

2. REPORT

Parish Council Electoral Arrangements

2.1. Parish of South Daley

2.1.1 Since the agenda was published a formal response has been received from South Darley Parish Council. A copy of this is attached to this report labelled as Appendix 5.

2.1.2 Further representations have been received from residents of the Parish of South Darley these are summarised in Appendix 8 of this report

2.1.3 The views of the Parish Council and the feedback from residents reflect the recommendation in the original report. Therefore it is proposed that recommendation 2 in the original report remains as it is.

2.1.4 We have received one representation suggesting that each parish ward should have an equal number of Councillors but as this proposal is not supported by other respondents and would create a large imbalance in the ratio of electors per Councillor in the South Darley Ward.

2.2 Parish of Darley Dale.

2.2.1 Paragraph 2.10.1 of the original report stated that:

“The Council has not received any representations seeking changes to the arrangements in place for Darley Dale Town Council. It is therefore proposed that no further action be taken in respect of the number of councillors or the warding arrangements for the Town Council.”

2.2.2 Since the report was published a response has been received from Darley Dale Town Council. A copy of this response is attached to this report and labelled as Appendix 6. In summary their response is:

- I. There is clearly a case for moving Morledge into Matlock if that is in line with residents wishes.
- II. If Morledge is moved into Matlock Town boundary, our Council would like to maintain 12 councillors in Darley Dale due to the number of housing developments that have been taking place recently and are planned in the future.
- III. There is also a case for moving Northwood and Tinkersley parish into Darley Dale (as it was previously) to compensate for the loss of Morledge and to reinstate the historic boundary of Darley Dale.

2.2.3 It is therefore proposed that the existing recommendation becomes recommendation 6 and replaced with new recommendations 3 and 4 as follows:

3. That the Director of Corporate and Customer Services be authorised to carry out further consultation on a proposal to move the shaded area identified in Appendix 9 from the Parish of Darley Dale to the Parish of Matlock.
4. That the Director of Corporate and Customer Services be authorised to carry out further consultation on a proposal to incorporate the Parish of Northwood and Tinkersley in to the Parish of Darley Dale.

2.2.4 Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council were notified of the Review but have not made any representations. The Council would however have an opportunity to make representations on this proposal during the next stage of the consultation.

2.3 Parish of Matlock

2.3.1 Paragraph 2.11.1 of the original report stated that:

“The Council has not received any representations seeking changes to the arrangements in place for Matlock Town Council. It is therefore proposed that no further action be taken in respect of the number of councillors or the warding arrangements for the Town Council.”

2.3.2 Since the report was published a response has been received from Matlock Town Council. A copy of this response is attached to this report and labelled as Appendix 7. In summary their response is:

- I. We would like propose that the Matlock and South Darley parish boundaries be re-drawn so that Oker & Snitterton remain within South Darley parish but the new housing developments in the former quarries be located in Matlock parish.
- II. In April 2021 the Council considered the proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission with regard to both Derbyshire Dales District Council and Matlock Town Council. An extract of the submission is provided.

2.3.3 The first issue is the same proposal put forward by South Darley Parish Council as set out in recommendation 2 in the original report. The submission document also supports the proposal to change the border between the Parish Matlock and Darley Dale set out in the new recommendation 3.

2.3.4 Looking at 2026 electorate projections, if approved recommendations 2 and 3 would bring just under 600 electors into the Civil Parish of Matlock therefore it is proposed that the next stage of the consultation will also examine the number of Councillors elected to the Town Council and the areas they represent.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

Legal

3.1 The issues considered in this report are within the powers and functions of the District Council. Such changes may be made by the District Council following the undertaking of a Community Governance Review (CGR). Legislation in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets out the process which a CGR must follow.

3.2 Where a CGR is carried out, the legislation requires that the Council has regard to the need to secure that any community governance for the area under review:-

- reflects the identities and interests of the local community in that area; and
- that it is effective and convenient.

3.3 A CGR can be carried out at any time, either as a result of the Council deciding to do so of its own volition, or as a result of a request from a parish council or local residents. The relevant powers are contained within the body of the report. The legal risk is therefore low.

Financial

- 3.5 There are no significant financial implications as these reviews can be carried out in house and the costs covered by existing budgets. The financial risk is assessed as low.

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 In preparation of this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.
- 4.2 The approved Climate Change Impact Assessment Tool has been completed for this report. There are no climate change implications associated with this report.

5. CONTACT INFORMATION

- 5.1 James McLaughlin, Director of Corporate and Customer Services
Tel: 01629 761281
Email: james.mclaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk
- 5.2 Jason Spencer, Electoral and Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 01629 761300
Email: jason.spencer@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 None

7. ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 5: Response from South Darley Parish Council

Appendix 6: Response from Darley Dale Town Council

Appendix 7: Response from Matlock Town Council.

Appendix 8: Additional representations received from residents of South Darley

Appendix 9: Area Proposed to move from the Parish of Darley Dale to the Parish of Matlock.



Community Governance Review South Darley Parish

Dear Sirs,

South Darley Parish Council wishes to make the following representation concerning parish boundary and warding arrangements for the parish, following the decision of the Local Government Boundary Commission to include the South Darley Parish ward of Oker and Snitterton within the District Council ward of Matlock West. The representations relate to:

1. Whether Oker and Snitterton should be transferred to Matlock Town, taking account of the proposed development at Cawdor Quarry;
2. The warding arrangements for South Darley Parish, and
3. The numbers of parish councillors.

1. Oker and Snitterton

There appears to be three possible solutions for Oker and Snitterton ward:

- a) Transfer Oker and Snitterton from South Darley Parish to Matlock Town;
- b) Leave Oker and Snitterton, with existing boundaries, in South Darley Parish, and
- c) Leave Oker and Snitterton within South Darley Parish but revise the boundary at Cawdor Quarry.

South Darley Parish is a long-standing rural parish with a distinct shared identity. It covers the four small rural settlements of Darley Bridge, Oker, Snitterton and Wensley which share common facilities such as parish church, primary school and village hall, and forming a coherent rural area. To hive off two of the four settlements of South Darley and place them under a different representative jurisdiction flies in the face of an established common identity and shared history. Oker and Snitterton would be split off from the rest of South Darley and be subsumed into the bulk of Matlock Town. The needs of these two hamlets, containing about 50 houses, would be swamped by the differing needs of the urban area.

Furthermore, It should be noted that about half of Oker and Snitterton ward lies within the Peak District National Park and is thus subject to Peak Park planning rules. From a planning perspective, it would make sense to keep this together with the rest of South Darley Parish (around two-thirds of which lies in the Peak Park) rather than to move it to an essentially urban parish which has no Peak Park territory.

In a recent poll of South Darley residents' opinions of the Boundary Commission's decision to include Oker and Snitterton within the new Matlock West DDDC ward, 118 of the 121 respondents strongly objected to the decision.

It would, therefore, be wrong to transfer the ward of Oker and Snitterton to Matlock Town.

To leave Oker and Snitterton as a ward of South Darley Parish, with its existing boundaries, would not be acceptable when the development of Cawdor Quarry progresses. Some 230 of the properties in the new development would lie within the parish, which would add about 550 residents to an existing parish population of just over 700.

In accordance with the Local Plan, there will be no direct vehicular access from the new development into the parish. The new development will form a coherent whole with common needs and would be expected to identify with the town of Matlock rather than the surrounding rural villages. To split the development

arbitrarily in two, with half forming part of Matlock Town and half part of South Darley Parish would be contrary to common sense.

It would, therefore, be wrong to leave the ward of Oker and Snitterton, with its existing boundaries, in South Darley Parish.

The third alternative is to leave Oker and Snitterton within South Darley Parish, but to revise the boundary between South Darley and Matlock such that the whole of the new development at Cawdor Quarry lies within Matlock Town. The boundary should be redrawn to skirt around the development, as indicated on the enclosed plan. No existing properties (other than the derelict Permanite plant) would be affected by this change.

We therefore strongly urge that this third alternative be adopted.

2. Warding Arrangements for South Darley Parish

Since one of the wards of South Darley Parish is to come within Matlock West while the other two wards will be part of Bonsall and Winster, it is necessary for the parish to remain warded.

Because South Darley consists of a group of small villages, it is logical to divide the parish into wards which approximate to these. The various councillors can, to a degree, concentrate on particular needs of their wards: they are likely to live within their wards and be well known to the residents. It also gives residents the confidence that their part of the parish is not being neglected.

3. Number of Councillors

The present complement of eight councillors would appear to be about the correct number for a parish of this size. There are sufficient councillors to provide a variety of skills, interests and enthusiasms to enable the council to function effectively and efficiently.

With fewer councillors there would be the danger of too much falling onto one or two individuals. With many more, the discussions would be in danger of becoming too protracted and there would be the need to form numerous committees and sub-committees.

Cllrs Haymes, Wallbank, Fuller, Glasson, Higham, Judson, Wayman and Wilks.

South Darley Parish Councillors

Subject: FW: Community Governance Review District (Wards of Matlock East, Matlock and Tansley and Darley Dale)

From: townclerk@darleydale.gov.uk [mailto:townclerk@darleydale.gov.uk]

Sent: 21 July 2022 12:50

To: Spencer, Jason <Jason.Spencer@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Community Governance Review District (Wards of Matlock East, Matlock and Tansley and Darley Dale)

Warning External

Dear Jason,

At our Town Council meeting last night [REDACTED] was tasked by councillors to respond to you on the boundary review [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] I shall do my best to convey the councillors thoughts.

- I. There is clearly a case for moving Morledge into Matlock if that is in line with residents wishes.
- II. If Morledge is moved into Matlock Town boundary, our Council would like to maintain 12 councillors in Darley Dale due to the number of housing developments that have been taking place recently and are planned in the future.
- III. There is also a case for moving Northwood and Tinkersley parish into Darley Dale (as it was previously) to compensate for the loss of Morledge and to reinstate the historic boundary of Darley Dale.
- IV. Darley Dale Town Council would be willing to send representatives to have a face to face meeting with you to discuss at your convenience.

Our Chair, Dave Oakley has verbally briefed Ash Watts this morning on our Town Council's views.

Jason Hedley
Assistant Town Clerk
Darley Dale Town Council
01629 735248



Serving the People of Darley Dale



Mayor 2022-2023 – Councillor Paul Cruise – 07403 445672
Town Clerk – Susan Smith

Appendix 7

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Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire, DE4 3NN

Attention: Jason Spencer, Electoral and Democratic Services Manager

BY EMAIL

21 July 2022

Dear Jason

**Re: Community Governance Review District
(Wards of Matlock East, Matlock and Tansley and Darley Dale)**

I write on behalf of Matlock Town Council.

Following our meeting on Monday evening when the Council once more considered the proposals for ward boundary changes in Matlock, we would like to propose that the Matlock and South Darley parish boundaries be re-drawn so that Oker & Snitterton remain within South Darley parish but the new housing developments in the former quarries be located in Matlock parish.

In April 2021 we considered, at length, the proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission with regard to both Derbyshire Dales District Council and Matlock Town Council and I have taken the liberty of attaching an extract of the submission with regard to Matlock Town Council parish, also for your reference.

I feel certain that Cllr David Hughes, the author of the report, would be happy to explain further should it require clarification.

Yours sincerely

S. C. Smith.

Susan Smith
Town Clerk

Encs.

Town Clerk – Susan Smith



**EXTRACT FROM THE MATLOCK TOWN COUNCIL SUBMISSION
TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION RE
WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES FOR MATLOCK TOWN COUNCIL.**

4. MATLOCK TOWN COUNCIL WARDS

General comments

1. Para 70 refers. The Town Council is reported as having 12 councillors with no change in the number of councillors. **The current number of town councillors is in fact 11**, therefore the LGBC proposal would add one parish councillor.
2. The map of proposed civil parish wards provided by LGBC on its website is not clear: the names of the wards are misplaced, and it is not clear therefore what the LGBC intends. The naming confusion seems to emanate from the large map covering all Derbyshire Dales entitled “Draft recommendations for ward boundaries in the district of Derbyshire Dales February 2021”. The table below shows ward names on that map in relation to the current ward names and the area covered by the ward.

Map ref.	LGBC name	Current name	Area covered
I	Chesterfield Road East	Hurst Farm	Hurst Farm estate
J	Cuckoostone	New ward formed from North of Jackson Road	Cuckoostone
K	Highfields	Chesterfield Road East	Asker Lane & Bentley Bridge
L	Hurst Farm	Matlock Bank & Sheriff Fields	Matlock Bank & Sheriff Fields
M	Jackson Tor	North of Jackson Road	Jackson Tor
N	Lumsdale	New ward formed from Chesterfield Road East	Chesterfield Road East
O	Matlock Green	Matlock Green	Matlock Green
P	Riber	New ward formed from Riber and Starkholmes	Riber
Q	Smedley Street	Smedley Street	Smedley Street
R	Starkholmes	Riber and Starkholmes	Starkhomes

In the follow discussion we have adopted the current names except for the proposed new wards when we have taken the LGBC proposals since using the names proposed by LGBC for existing wards would lead to confusion.

3. LGBC has not had the benefit of up to date information about the developments in Cawdor Quarry, the Wolds (Gritstone Road), Halldale Quarry, Harveydale Quarry, the RBS site and Causeway Lane.

Recommendations concerning Matlock civil parish wards

We propose the following instead of the LGBC proposal.

1. We propose taking the names as specified in the “Area covered” column of the table above since these names directly relate to areas known to the people of Matlock.
2. We propose that the Cuckoostone ward combines LGBC’s Cuckoostone and Lumsdale wards. This would be consistent with our proposed Matlock East and Tansley district ward. We do not think that the area covered by the Cukooostone ward will have sufficient population to warrant a ward of its own since it has approximately 120 houses in total with about 200 on the electoral roll.
3. We do not think that a separation of Riber from Starkholmes civil parish ward is necessary if the proposed LGBC Matlock Rural and Cromford district ward is abandoned as we recommend. Riber may have a small electorate, even though it covers a large area. However, if LGBC is minded to create a ward for Riber, we suggest, subject to discussion with Tansley Parish Council and the residents of Riber, that an alternative would be to include Riber in the Tansley Parish Council area, to create a civil parish comprising Tansley and Riber. Access to Riber is easiest via Tansley, and the two communities may have common issues and requirements, both having a large rural hinterland as well as being villages.
4. We believe that there may be the need to create a ward to cover the Cawdor development and the rest of the Matlock Bank and Sheriff Fields civil parish ward south of the river Derwent.

Cawdor is developing rapidly, and it is likely to have sufficient electorate with the rest of the area to warrant a civil parish ward of its own before 2026.

5. The inclusion of Moreledge in the proposed Matlock West district ward suggests that the border between Darley Dale civil parish and Matlock civil parish should be altered to include Moreledge in Matlock. If that happened, we suggest that a separate Moreledge civil parish ward would be needed in Matlock.
6. Given the planned development in the proposed Matlock West and Matlock East and Tansley wards, we believe that any boundaries fixed in this review may need to be revisited before 2030.

The above proposals will add three parish councillors – one for the proposed Cuckoostone ward, one for the Cawdor ward and one for the Moreledge ward.

APPENDIX: MATLOCK WARD BOUNDARIES

Morledge development to be transferred from Darley Dale South to Matlock All Saints / Matlock West

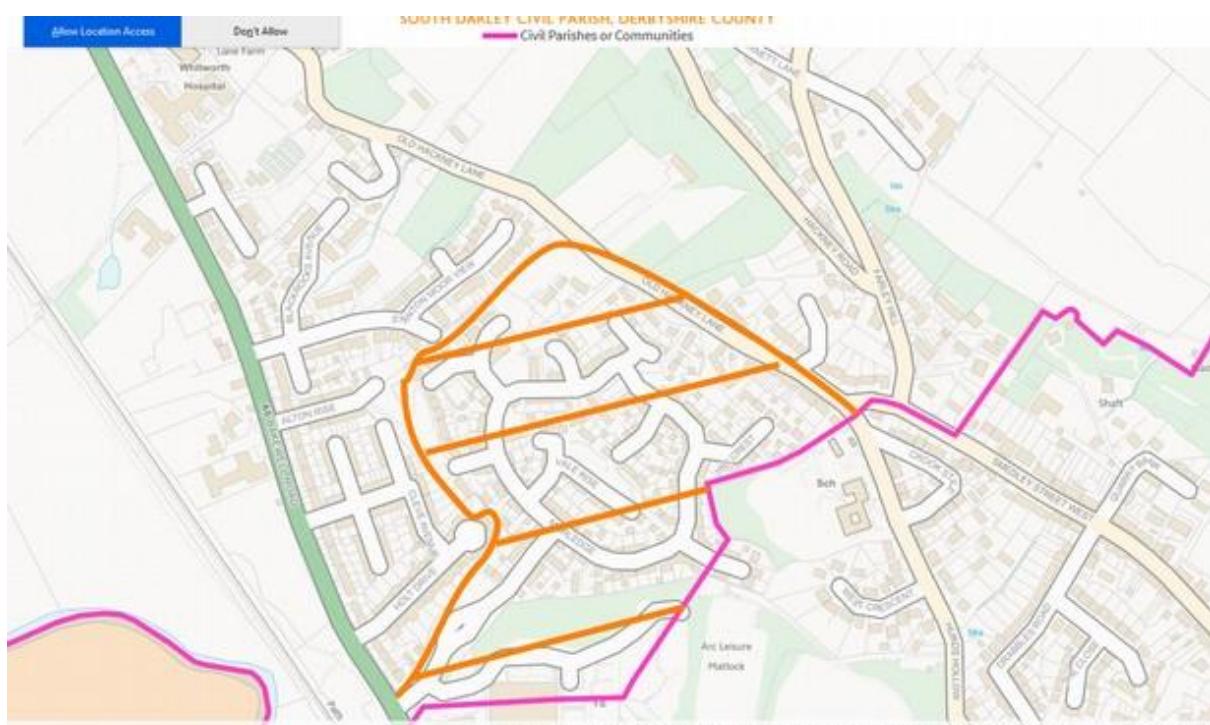


Figure 1: Morledge development to be transferred from Darley Dale South to Matlock All Saints / Matlock West

Figure 1 shows the proposed area to be transferred from Darley Dale South to Matlock West that will result in the transfer of approximately 440 electors.

Cawdor Quarry area of Oker and Snitterton to be transferred to Matlock All Saints / Matlock West

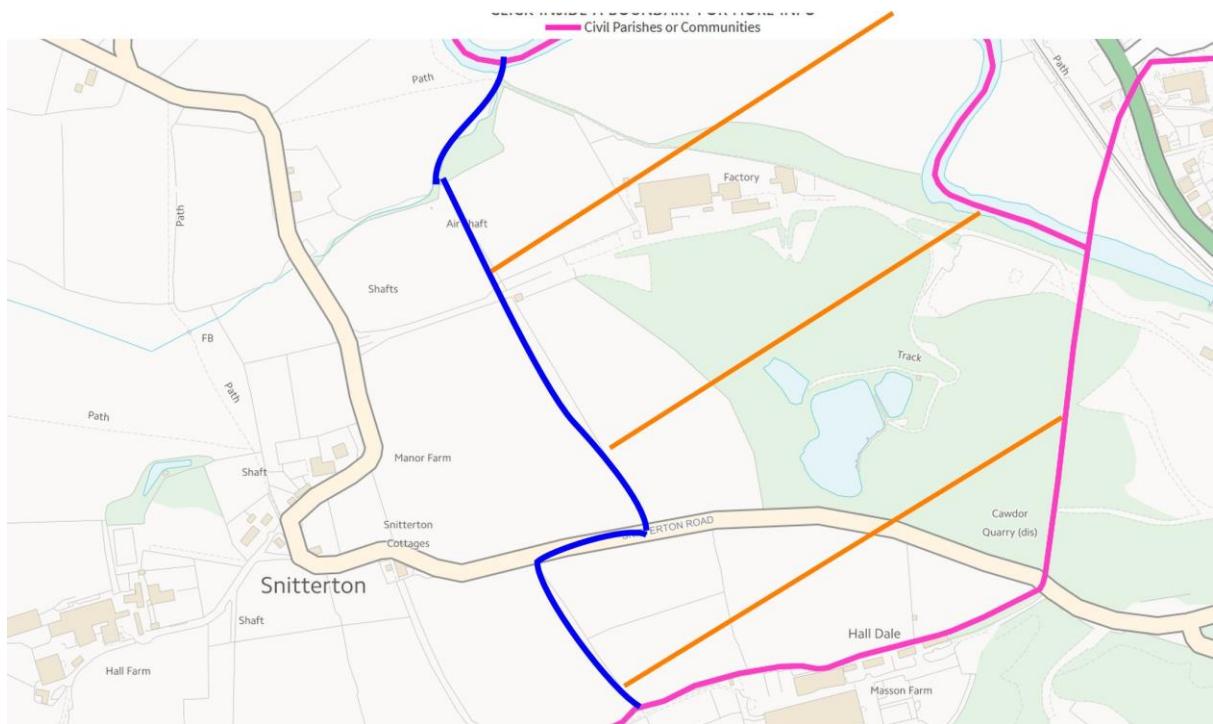


Figure 2: Cawdor Quarry area of Oker and Snitterton to be transferred to Matlock All Saints / Matlock West

Figure 2 shows the Cawdor Quarry area proposed to be transferred from Oker and Snitterton to Matlock West. This transfer would allow all of the approximately 482 homes scheduled for development in this area to be part of Matlock and would form the basis of a new civil parish ward.

Comments received (19/7/22 to 14/7/22)

As residents of Oker we do not want to move out of South Darley Parish Council.

We would prefer that the Parish boundaries are re-drawn so that Oker and Snitterton remain within South Darley parish, and the new housing developments in the former quarries are located in Matlock Town parish.

This is because Oker is a rural development with strong links to the church, school, village hall and pub in South Darley – all of which are within walking distance. We do not have the same links to Matlock which is an urban community and not within easy walking distance.

We do not wish to become part of Matlock Town Council, as we do not have any links to Matlock.

We are very happy with the present arrangement of three wards in South Darley Parish Council. This is because all areas are slightly different in make-up e.g. more houses and parking problems in Wensley, congestion with lorries over Darley Bridge in South Darley, and rural issues in Oker and Snitterton.

We believe that the current number of 8 parish councillors for South Darley is appropriate. This number allows for a Parish Councillor from each ward to be absent from the Parish Council meeting and still have that ward represented

We are very happy with the actions of the Parish Council.

The current arrangements are working fine and as most of South Darley is very rural it would seem nonsensical to align it with an urban conurbation

As there has to the best of my knowledge never been any issue with the number of councillors it seems strange to wish to change it .Clearly what works should be left alone.

The demonstrable logic for selecting the second option above [To move new housing development to Matlock] is:

1. The Parish of South Darley is a predominantly rural and ‘population-stable’ constituency consisting of the discreet communities of Darley Bridge, Oker, Snitterton and Wensley. The built environment of the constituent parts is substantially ‘traditional’ and it certainly contains relatively few examples of what might be termed ‘modern housing’. Its cultural homogeneity must be maintained and would very likely be fractured if any of the wards were to be geographically reassigned, to be combined with a modern development of more than 400 newly built dwellings.

2. The cultural, historical and geographical needs of Snitterton and Oker are far more closely aligned with those of Darley Bridge and Wensley than of the new housing development in the former quarries which lie closer to Matlock and are also accessed from Matlock.
3. The suburban nature of the new housing development is more likely to resemble and relate to that of Matlock Town.
4. The creation of the new community known as Matlock Spa, a community of more than 400 densely built and formally-sited suburban properties will assimilate far more harmoniously into the suburban Ward known as Matlock West whose parish councillor(s) would not need to be bound or concerned by the needs of perhaps conflicting demands of adjacent rural communities.
5. The incoming population of the new housing development are unlikely to want their needs to be expressed against a back-drop of historical constraints.

The current [warding] arrangements operate effectively and conveniently.

The reason I have responded **YES** [number of councillors] is because the present system works well and has done so in my experience as a resident for the twenty years we have lived here. The number of Councillors elected to South Darley Parish Council should therefore remain at it is.

I feel that Oker and Snitterton will be swallowed up into Matlock and will totally lose their identity. It is also removing a local hamlet from a rural environment into an urban environment.

The amount of officers seems to be quite adequate for our needs.

The new Cawdor quarry developments will look towards the urban settlement of Matlock and form part of that community.

Oker and Snitterton are small rural hamlets which lie mostly in the Peak District National Park (none of the Peak District in in Matlock Town parish) and have a longstanding and on-going relationship with the villages of Wensley (all of which is in the Peak District) and Darley Bridge i.e. the rural parish of South Darley.

The parish boundary should be redrawn to reflect the above.

The existing three-ward system works well.

2 [councillors] for Oker and Snitterton; 2 for Wensley and 4 for Darley Bridge seems about the right and proportionate number to me.

It is illogical for Oker and Snitterton to be taken out of South Darley parish as the children from these hamlets attend the South Darley School as their nearest school and St Mary's church is the local church for residents. Residents of Oker and Snitterton belong fully to the parish of South Darley and participate in all the parish activities. However residents of the new developments in the quarries are much nearer to the facilities of Matlock town and therefore should belong to that parish.

[warding] Why change an arrangement which works perfectly well for local residents, there would be no additional positive benefits.

Surely it would be fairer to have 2 councillors per ward with regard to representation for voting etc., i.e. 6 in total.

I agree that residents in new housing developments in the Oker and Snitterton Ward of the parish of South Darley will indeed consider themselves to live in Matlock but at the same time the residents of Oker and Snitterton clearly consider themselves to live in and identify with the rural parish of South Darley.

There are many substantive, cultural, logistic and democratic reasons why it does not make sense to locate the two small rural hamlets in with urban Matlock, against community wishes.

In addition, it should be noted that about half of the rural 'Oker and Snitterton' ward of South Darley Parish lies within the Peak District National Park and is thus subject to Peak Park planning rules. From a planning perspective, I believe that it would make sense to keep this together with the rest of South Darley Parish (around two-thirds of which lies in the Peak Park) rather than to move it to an essentially urban parish which has no Peak Park territory.

Given that the community governance review invites any representations on the 'alteration of existing Parish Boundaries', I believe that the Matlock and South Darley parish boundaries should be re-drawn so that Oker & Snitterton remain within South Darley parish but also that the new housing developments in the former quarries be located in Matlock parish.

Yes, the existing ward patterns works well and gives clearly identifiable local ward councillors for the three settlement areas.

It [the current warding arrangements] results in 2 councillors for each of the two smaller wards (Oker & Snitterton; Wensley) and 4 to cover Darley Bridge and Cross Green

I think the current South Darley Ward should remain the same but it would make sense that new builds in Matlock should come under any Matlock boundary.

I see no reason for any change to the current warding arrangements as they seem quite logical from a map perspective.

I see no reason for any change to the current system.

Seems the most logical in terms of connecting communities that identify with each other. In addition Oker and Snitterton are more rural in character relating more to the rural nature of Winster and south darley.

See comment on first page re new development at matlock spa which does feel more linked to matlock for those residents – although I think the views of those residents should be weighted as they are the ones affected.

Councillors are all volunteers and as long as they have the interests of the community at heart I don't mind how many there are.

Oker and Snitterton have always been part of the South Darley community, the children attend South Darley School and the church in South Darley. They are impacted and involved with local issues which wouldn't be of concern to residents in the Matlock area. It would be like putting a small community at the bottom of the list of priorities, whereas our small communities are currently united in supporting each other as a whole.

As previously outlined

There is only one parish councillor I know of, who is very active in emailing residents of ongoing situations and seems to get information to a decent area, and that is Colin Swindell. No idea who the other parish councillors are. So not sure why we have 4 in Darley Bridge? What do they do? Who are they?

Oker & Snitterton are rural and a collection of detached houses with some terraces. The new housing developments are being marketed as 'benefits of urban living with countryside views', and are multi tenanted units plus terraces. These are fundamentally different settings.

Not a strong view, but these are four rural communities with similar issues: access to shops/doctors, public transport?, isolation. Stronger together.

We need a team of councillors that can get things done. Eight seems a good number to represent four communities, allocate tasks/get things done and have a reasonable debate about priorities/options. I wouldn't have a problem if there were ten: more than ten would I think be overkill.

The Oker and Snitterton communities are focused on South Darley. All the social functions/activities that make up the community are in South Darley and not in Matlock. Although relatively near to Matlock this is essentially a rural community and to link it in with Matlock would I fear result in many of the issues here being 'swept under the proverbial carpet'. Thus, to split the existing community would disenfranchise and

alienate the community. The development in the quarries feels closer to Matlock and those people living there would benefit from being part of Matlock. However I am open to either of options two and three.

Yes [to existing warding] because these are all separate communities

I don't think there is a strong need for more councillors

The Oker and Snitterton settlements are long established integral parts of South Darley parish, sharing a common identity, culture, history and landscape setting with their companion rural communities of Wensley and Darley Bridge.

Any proposal that would hive off Oker and Snitterton and be enveloped within a ward of Matlock town, with its own distinct urban identity and interests, would have harmful cultural, logistical, democratic and administrative effects on these smaller rural communities, substantial portions of which lie within the Peak District National Park, as does the sister ward of Wensley.

For these reasons, I consider it important for the cohesive integrity of the existing and established components of South Darley to remain undisturbed and for Oker and Snitterton to be contained within the redrawn boundary described in the second option above, and with the whole of the residential development on the former Cawdor Quarry to be made part of new Matlock West urban ward.

The current warding arrangements operate effectively and conveniently, and should remain

It has been demonstrated that the current arrangements and number of councillors are appropriate

The parish of South Darley is primarily a rural area, the residents of which have largely rural interests. The proposed changes of the parish boundary would push Oker and Snitterton into Matlock which is an urban area. In addition our children go to school in the opposite direction to Matlock hence their friendships are formed in that area, not Matlock. The church, a centre of the community activity of a large number of the residents is in South Darley - another reason to remain as one parish

There are no reasons to alter a system which delivers for the needs of the community.

The division seems to represent the communities

I feel strongly that the parish boundary of the South Darley should be redrawn to exclude the entirety of the quarry and thus the new housing development would become part of Matlock. It is likely that the inhabitants of the new houses will be drawn to the facilities in Matlock town for education and their social lives whereas those of

us who live in Oker, Snitterton and South Darley gravitate to the South Darley area of our social events, education etc. It is much easier for us to walk to South Darley to use the parish hall and the church than Matlock. The residents of Oker, Snitterton and South Darley are much more of a rural based community with rural interests as opposed to Matlock which is an urban community.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my feelings and concerns.

The system works well as it is.

The present division works.

Oker and Snitterton are rural areas. The issues and concerns here will be the same as in the rest of South Darley Parish. Its residents will therefore be much better represented alongside those of the existing parish. The new developments in the quarries are urban in character and so its residents interests and concerns are likely to align with those of Matlock town.

If Oker and Snitterton were brought in to Matlock town parish their concerns are likely to be subsumed by those of the much large population of Matlock. This is not a criticism of councillors, simply a recognition that they will have to spend their time on the large majority of the people they represent.

I do not have a strong view on this. Ideally both Snitterton and Oker should be represented by their own councillor but this is of far less concern to me than the boundaries of the parish

I suppose if there is a over-riding financial issue then the numbers could be reduced but this number seems reasonable to ensure a range of views are brought to the Council and that appropriate debate and discussion occurs.

1. Historic Boundary

2 Physically split from the new development by open Country

3 Parish Facilities ie School, Village Hall, Reading Room, Church, Pub would be split off from the village based community

[Warding} No reason to change fine as it is

Gives full representation to the 3 wards

It would be inappropriate for Oker to be part of Matlock Town Parish due to the significant distance between the new housing development and Oker/Snitterton. Also, no properly reasoned argument has been forwarded to explain the benefits of any Boundary changes.

I am unaware of any arguments or reasons why a change in the existing warding arrangements would benefit me as a local resident.

Assuming that the ratio of Councillors per ward is based on number of households/properties then I see no reason to change.

The people of Oker and Snitterton feel an affinity with South Darley parish as it is set up at the present, as well as its long historical context. It goes without saying that the site of the new quarry development as a feeling of being geographically linked to Matlock.

The present {warding] system appears to work perfectly adequately

[size] Basically the same answer as above.

The new housing development in the quarries near Matlock should not be part of Snitterton.

Because we have our own Parish Church, School and Village Hall. We do not want to be part of Matlock.

They [Councillors] just need to be better organised and find out from the residents what we want.

Cawdor Housing Development is not Part of Snitterton

Because we have our own Parish Church and School.

{Councillors] need to be better organised.

I and my family have lived in Oker for 43 years. Our children went to South Darley School. We have attended local events at South Darley Village Hall, attended meetings in Wensley Reading Room, attended our local church, St Helens on numerous occasions and sporting events at Darley Bridge cricket ground. As a Parish councillor in the 1980s I was acutely aware of the notion of a linked, living community within our present borders – and equally aware that our Parish boundary helped to give the population, which was diverse in its livelihoods a sense of unity. This is also something which, if the history is examined, of Snitterton, Oker, South Darley and Wensley – goes back to their development along the old coaching route to Buxton out of Matlock, and the hillside of lead mining and medieval ridge and farrow cultivation provides a unity that stretches back a long time. The character of the area is something worth preserving as a whole and the unity of its governance is a critical aspect of it.

I very much doubt that the new residents of the new developments in the quarries will look towards Oker and Snitterton for their community life. Their proximity to Matlock Town clearly indicates that their perception of community will be one of an

outlier of the town and that decisions as to schools, and community life will be as part of Matlock rather than towards the 'distant' countryside.

The parish boundary for South Darley should remain as it is...

Matlock slowly but surely works its way along the A^ and will eventually envelop Darley Dale and its environs. I think it is important that a local identity and a local voice on important matters is retained for the future. The slow and relentless morphing into one metropolitan "blob" will benefit nobody.

The parish boundary for South Darley should remain as it is...

I can see no reason for change. The inclusion of further people/properties could be advantageous in financial/ facilities terms in so far as we could get much needed school extension, perhaps one shop, a doctors, bus services etc. Instead of always having to travel (and not have to beg of Matlock/Darley Dale for money) would have continuing benefit of Peak Park Board to help us.

Warding – Can see no reason to change other than to perhaps trim over-heavy Darley Bridge element

Council size – Need mixed representation in view of various different hamlets/elements involved perhaps redistribute a little as above.

Other issues – I am secretary of local "South Darley" Charity which helps needy people in the Parish could possibly help more people if more in the parish

Oaker and Snitterton should remain as they are. Their removal will affect our church, village hall, our school, the community and a trust that has been in existence since 1721

Warding – It seems to work well as it is

Size – I cannot see a reason for changing it

APPENDIX 9

