

NOTICE
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Community Governance Review
Reorganisation Order

On 29th September 2022, the Council decided to what extent to give effect to the recommendations of the Community Governance Review as reported in the minutes of the Council meeting of 26th July 2022. On 29th September 2022, the Council agreed the Reorganisation Order required to give effect to these recommendations.

The Derbyshire Dales (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2022 dated 1st October 2022 gives effect to the recommendations made in the review agreed for implementation. The Order and maps referred to in the Order together with a map showing the effects of the Order in greater detail are available for public inspection at all reasonable times at the Town Hall, Bank Road, Matlock DE4 3NN

The recommendations of the Review that have been implemented by Order are set out below together with a summary of the Council's reasons for making the decision. The Report which the Council considered on 29th September 2022 contained reasons for each of the recommendations the Council decided should be made. These reasons had not changed and were still applicable in each case, as the reasons for giving effect to the recommendation by making the Order. The Council has had regard to the need to secure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community and is effective and convenient.

1. Civil Parishes of Matlock and South Darley

Alteration of part of the Oker and Snitterton ward of South Darley Parish Council and the Matlock Bank and Sheriff Fields Ward of Matlock Town Council.

(a) The area coloured blue on the Map shall cease to be part of the Oaker and Snitterton Ward of South Darley Parish Council and will become part of the Matlock Bank and Sheriff Fields Ward of Matlock Town Council.

(See Map Sheet No. 1)

(b) No changes to be made to the size of and warding arrangements of either Council. Any proposals to change the warding arrangements of Matlock Town Council to reflect the new boundaries will be the subject of further consultation and a separate Order.

Reasons

- 1) The proposal reflects the identities and interests of the Communities living in the area and will improve local democracy.
- 2) The proposal will help in the delivery of and access to local services provided by the two Councils.
- 3) There is strong support from the existing community for this proposal.

From the representations received during consultation it is clear that the current residents of the Oker and Snitterton Ward have a strong connection with the rest of South Darley. There is evidence that residents regularly use community facilities in the Parish and clearly identify with the Community. For this reason a proposal to make civil parish borders coterminous with the District Council Ward of Matlock West was rejected.

However, it was recognised that residents of the new Matlock Spa development site currently located in the Civil Parish of South Darley would be unlikely to identify with the remainder of the Parish particularly as there will not be direct road access from the development into the Parish. On this basis it is believed the proposed new parish boundaries will have a positive impact on community cohesion by embedding the new community into Matlock.

Representations received suggest that the existing governance arrangements for the South Darley Parish Council work well. It is not proposed that any changes are made to the warding arrangements for South Darley Parish Council or the number of Councillors elected to the Council.

As this Community Governance Review also included other proposals that could result in an extension to the Civil Parish of Matlock, and new housing development in the relevant area is not likely to be completed for some time, consultation on the size and warding arrangements of Matlock Town Council has been deferred until this order has been made.

2. Civil Parishes of Darley Dale and Matlock

Proposal to move the Morledge Ward of Darley Dale Town Council into the civil parish of Matlock.

In the initial consultation feedback from Darley Dale Town Council and Matlock Town Council suggested support for changing the civil parish boundary between Darley Dale and Matlock by moving properties in the Morledge Estate from the civil parish of Darley Dale into the civil parish of Matlock. In light of the support for this option the District Council agreed to consult on a proposal to include this change in a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order to be implemented from the Parish Council elections in 2023.

The arguments in support of this proposal included:

- Greater community cohesion - residents of the Morledge Estate in Darley Dale consider themselves to live in Matlock as will the residents in new housing developments in the Oker and Snitterton Ward of the parish of South Darley. In the case of Morledge the nearest primary school is in Matlock which has strong connections to the Matlock Parish Church of All Saints. The school also has a gate directly into the estate.
- Improved local democracy – the councillors appointed to the new Matlock West ward would only need to engage with one local council rather than three.

However during the second round of conciliation the Council did not receive any positive or negative representations on this proposal. As this suggests that there is little appetite for change in the relevant community this proposal does not form part of the Order.

Reasons

There is limited evidence from the local community to suggest that a boundary change would strengthen community engagement and participation, generate a positive impact on community cohesion or deliver significant improvements to effective and convenient local government.

2. Civil Parishes of Darley Dale and Northwood and Tinkersley

Proposal to merge the Civil Parish of Northwood and Tinkersley into the Civil Parish of Darley Dale.

In their submission in the first stage of consultation Darley Dale Town Council proposed that, as the civil parish of Northwood and Tinkersley was included in the new District Council Ward of Darley Dale, it should be merged with the civil parish of Darley Dale to restore the historic boundaries of Darley Dale. As Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council strongly objected to this suggestion the second round of consultation was used to explore the views of local residents on this proposal

During the second round of conciliation the Council did not receive any positive representations on this proposal. As this suggests that there is little appetite for change in the relevant community this proposal does not form part of the Order.

Reasons

There is no evidence from the local community or the affected Councils to suggest that a boundary change would strengthen community engagement and participation, generate a positive impact on community cohesion or deliver significant improvements to effective and convenient local government.

The guidance on Community Governance Reviews states that as a general rule a Parish should be based on an area which reflects community identity and interest and be of a size which is viable as an administrative unit of Local Government.

Feedback from the consultation suggests that the existing arrangements in the civil parish of Northwood and Tinkersley work well and there are no apparent issues regarding viability.

Further Information

The Report considered by Council on 29th September 2022 together with other supporting information can be viewed on the Council's website at:

<https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/community-governance-review>

29 September 2022