COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS AFTER FIRST CONSULTATION STAGE

Published: 24 March 2022

CONTENTS

1. Background
2. Summary of recommended changes
3. Summary of submissions to the review and responses
4. Details of initial recommendations
5. Further Consultation

1. BACKGROUND

What is a Community Governance Review?

It is a review of the whole or part of the district to consider one or more of the following:

- creating, merging, altering or abolishing Parishes;
- the naming of Parishes and the style of new Parishes;
- the electoral arrangements for Parishes (the ordinary year of election; council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and Parish warding), and
- grouping new or existing Parishes under a common Parish Council or de-grouping existing Parishes.

The review is limited to considering these matters which are set out in the Terms of Reference.

The purpose of this report

This report has several purposes:

- It is a summary of the submissions received during the initial consultation period for the Community Governance Review ('CGR') which ran from 1 December 2021 until 31 January 2022. All the submissions made to the review have been considered in detail.

- It is also a summary of the initial recommendations for changes to the Parishes in the Wakefield district.

- Finally, it sets out in some detail the changes to the Parishes which are recommended and on which views are now sought.

2. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED CHANGES

This is a short summary of the changes recommended, listed alphabetically by Parish.

Parish	Recommendation
Ackworth	Boundary change with East Hardwick; minor internal boundary change; change to wards; and redistribution of members between wards
Badsworth	No change
Chevet (Parish meeting only)	Boundary change with Walton
Crigglestone	Boundary change with West Bretton
Crofton	Boundary change with both Chevet, Sharlston and Walton
Darrington	Boundary changes
East Hardwick	Boundary change with Ackworth
Featherstone	Boundary changes with Normanton; removal of an area from Parish; increase in the number of councillors; changes to wards; and redistribution of members between wards
Havercroft with Cold Hiendley	No change
Hemsworth	Boundary changes to the south; increase in the number of councillors; changes to wards; and redistribution of members between wards
Hessle and Hill Top, Huntwick with Foulby and Nostell, West Hardwick	No change – to remain grouped Parishes
Newland with Woodhouse Moor (Parish meeting only)	No change
Normanton	Boundary changes with Featherstone; changes to wards; and redistribution of members between wards

Parish	Recommendation
North Elmsall	Boundary changes with Hemsworth and South Elmsall; removal of an area to the east; merger with Upton Parish; and a reduction in the total number of councillors in the new Parish
Notton	No change
Ryhill	No change
Sharlston	Boundary change with Crofton
Sitlington	No change
South Elmsall	Boundary changes with North Elmsall and with South Kirkby and Moorthorpe
South Hiendley	No change
South Kirkby and Moorthorpe	Boundary changes with South Elmsall; changes to the polling district boundaries; changes to the wards; and redistribution of members between wards
Thorpe Audlin	No change
Upton	Merger with North Elmsall Parish and a reduction in the total number of councillors in the new Parish
Walton	Boundary changes with Crofton and Chevet
Warmfield cum Heath	No change
West Bretton	Boundary change with Woolley
Wintersett (Parish meeting only)	Abolition of Parish
Woolley	Boundary change with West Bretton

3. SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE REVIEW AND RESPONSES

Areas already within a Parish

The following table is a summary of the number and content of any relevant submissions received. It is not intended to show the detail of the submissions, but they will be anonymised and made available online during the second consultation period. Any submissions which fall outside the scope of the review are not set out here and will not be published.

Parish	Submission	Response
Ackworth	• Take in the Westwinds estate from Featherstone	• Recommended – this area is more connected to Ackworth Parish than to Featherstone Parish
	• Move Hundhill, Kennels and Rigg Lane to East Hardwick	• Recommended – the area is more closely connected to East Hardwick than Ackworth
	• If East Hardwick Parish is abolished, then take it into Ackworth Parish	• East Hardwick is to be retained as a Parish
	• The green space at Brackenhill Common to be wholly within one Parish	• Not recommended as it is not clear from the submission in which Parish the green space should be included
	• If the grouped Nostell Parishes are abolished, then take them into Ackworth Parish	• The grouped Nostell Parishes are to be retained
	• Consider an additional ward in Ackworth PC e.g. Brackenhill	• The current wards in Ackworth are recommended to be redrawn and this has been considered as part of that process
Badsworth	• No submissions received	n/a
Chevet (Parish meeting only)	• That a small area to the south of the railway line be removed from Walton Parish and added to this Parish	• Recommended – this is a more obvious and permanent boundary
Crigglestone	• That there be no change to the current arrangements	• Recommended save for a minor boundary change with West Bretton

Parish	Submission	Response
Crofton	• Remove the streets of Birkwood avenue and the part of Weeland Road nearby to Sharlston Parish • That Hare Park and the land to its east currently in Walton Parish be removed from there and added to this Parish	• These streets are directly linked to Sharlston Parish and have no close geographical connection to Crofton • Recommended – this gives a more obvious boundary to the Parishes
Darrington	• That the part of Wentbridge village currently included in this Parish be removed	• Recommended – Wentbridge is a separate village from Darrington and so should not be included in this Parish
East Hardwick	• Increase area to take in Hundhill, Kennels and Rigg Lane • That there be no merger with Ackworth Parish • Increase the number of councillors to seven if felt appropriate	• Recommended – the area is more closely connected to East Hardwick than Ackworth • No merger is recommended as East Hardwick has its own identity • The electorate in the Parish is too small to justify increasing the number of councillors
Featherstone	• The land to the north of the M62 be removed from this Parish • The boundary between Normanton Parish and this Parish be the Normanton bypass	• Recommended – neither of these areas have a geographical connection to Featherstone itself nor to the rest of the Parish
Havercroft with Cold Hiendley	• Merge with Ryhill Parish	• Not recommended as the two Parishes each have their own identity

Parish	Submission	Response
Hemsworth	• Abolish Hemsworth Parish • No changes needed	• Not recommended • It is recommended that there be changes to the wards and to the allocation of councillors to those wards to achieve a more even ratio of councillors to electors
Hessle and Hill Top, Huntwick with Foulby and Nostell, West Hardwick	• No submissions received	• n/a
Normanton	• No change is needed to the number of councillors or to the allocation of councillors to wards • The boundary with of the Parish to the south edge should be along the new bypass and not the beck	• It is recommended that there be changes to the wards and to the allocation of councillors to those wards to achieve a more even ratio of councillors to electors • Recommended – the bypass is a more obvious and permanent feature on the ground and should be adopted as the boundary as far as is possible

Parish	Submission	Response
North Elmsall	• Remove Wentbridge from North Elmsall Parish • That North Elmsall and Upton form one Parish with one Parish council • That there be 16/22 councillors for the new Parish • That the Parish be abolished • That North Elmsall has its own distinct Parish council	• Recommended – Wentbridge has its own identity and has no connection to North Elmsall • Recommended – the two Parishes have been functioning under one council meeting historically and this arrangement should continue • Not recommended – the number of councillors suggested by NALC for a Parish of the size to be created is 12 • Not recommended • Not recommended
Notton	• Abolish the Parish and add it to a new Parish incorporating Walton, Ryhill and Havercroft	• Not recommended - each area has its own identity and Notton should remain a Parish of its own
Newland with Woodhouse Moor	• No submissions received	• n/a
Ryhill	• Include the Parish of Ryhill in a new Parish of Havercroft, Notton, Ryhill and Walton • No changes needed	• Not recommended as each area has its own identity and each area should remain in a Parish if its own • No changes are recommended
Sharlston	• Bring the streets of Birkwood Avenue and the part of Weeland Road nearby into Sharlston from Crofton	• Recommended - these streets are directly linked to Sharlston Parish and have no close geographical connection to Crofton
Sitlington	• No submissions received	• n/a
South Elmsall	• No submissions received	• n/a
South Hiendley	• No submissions received	• n/a

Parish	Submission	Response
South Kirkby and Moorthorpe	• No changes needed	• It is recommended that there be changes to the wards and to the allocation of councillors to those wards to achieve a more even ratio of councillors to electors
Thorpe Audlin	• No changes needed	• n/a
Upton	• That North Elmsall and Upton form one Parish with one Parish council • That there be 16/22 councillors for the new Parish • That the Parish be abolished • That North Elmsall has its own distinct Parish council	• Recommended – the two Parishes have been functioning under one council meeting historically and this arrangement should continue • Not recommended – the number of councillors suggested by NALC for a Parish of the size to be created is 12 • Not recommended • Not recommended
Walton	• To the north to take in all of Walton Colliery Nature Park • To the south to give up land to Chevet to align with railway line and road • To the east to give up Hare Park and land to east to Crofton	• All recommended – to align the boundary along permanent and more obvious geographical features
Warmfield cum Heath	• No submissions received	• n/a
West Bretton	• That the number of councillors be increased to seven	• Recommended – this is the number of councillors suggested in NALC guidance as appropriate for a Parish of this size

Parish	Submission	Response
Wintersett	• No submissions received	• In the light of correspondence received by Wakefield Council that there is no longer an active Parish meeting in this area, it is recommended that this Parish be abolished
Woolley	• No submissions received	• n/a

Non-Parished areas

There was one submission that Wentbridge should form a Parish of its own rather than being a part of both Darrington and North Elmsall Parishes. The removal of Wentbridge from those Parishes is recommended but it is not recommended that Wentbridge form a Parish of its own.

No other submissions were received in relation to the creation of a new Parish or Parishes.

It is not recommended that any further Parishes are created.

DETAILED INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The details given below include actions necessary to put into place those submissions from members of the public and other interested parties which have been accepted. They also include the actions necessary to put into place those changes which are viewed as necessary by Electoral Services as impartial administrators of elections.

Ackworth

1. The boundary shared with East Hardwick Parish be changed to remove the land to the east of the railway line as far south as the River Went to East Hardwick Parish. This will include the area known as the Kennels, Rigg Lane and Hundhill. All these areas have a closer connection to East Hardwick than they do to Ackworth.
2. The current internal boundary between polling districts 01HA and 01HF be amended to include Millers Croft and Mill Close in 01HF. Those residents are closely connected to 01HF and are distant from the remainder of 01HA.
3. There be an additional ward created within the Parish and changes to the existing wards:
    - Ackworth East ward be formed of polling district 01HF with 2 councillors
    - High and Low Ackworth ward be formed of polling district 01HA with 3 members
    - Ackworth West ward be formed of polling districts 01HB and 01HN with 7 members
4. The new wards would give a ratio of one councillor for every 528, 532 and 508 electors in each ward respectively

No other changes are recommended.

Badsworth

No changes are recommended.

Chevet

1. There be a change to the boundary with Walton Parish to run along the railway line and roadway as a more obvious and permanent feature on the ground.

Crigglestone

1. That the boundary to the west of this Parish and shared with West Bretton be moved to the M1 motorway as a more clearly defined and visible boundary on the ground

No other changes are recommended.

Crofton

1. That the area containing Birkwood Avenue and the part of Weeland Road nearby be removed from this parish and added to Sharlston Parish as the electors there consider themselves to live in Sharlston.

2. That the boundary to the west with Walton be changed to take in Hare Park and land to its east from Crofton
3. That the boundary between 05HF and 05HG be changed at the north-east of 05HG to run along Doncaster Road

No other changes are recommended.

Darrington

1. That the part of Wentbridge which currently forms part of Darrington Parish be removed and no longer form part of a Parish
2. That the boundary of the Parish be changed to exclude the streets of Tumbling Hill and Norwood as they are part of the village of Carleton

No other changes are recommended.

East Hardwick

1. The boundary shared with Ackworth Parish be changed to take in the land to the east of the railway line as far south as the River Went. This will include the area known as the Kennels, Rigg Lane and Hundhill. All these areas have a closer connection to East Hardwick than they do to Ackworth.

No other changes are recommended.

Featherstone

1. 03NJ be removed from Featherstone Parish and no longer form part of a Parish
2. 10NH be removed from Featherstone Parish and be added to Normanton Parish as it is geographically connected to Normanton
3. That as far as possible the boundary between Featherstone Parish and Normanton Parish be the Normanton bypass
4. The number of councillors be increased to 16 to achieve a closer parity of representation
5. There be changes made to the wards within the Parish:
    - Central ward be formed of polling districts 06HA and 06HH with 6 members
    - East Ward be formed of polling districts 06HB, 06HC and 06HI with 5 members
    - North ward be formed of polling districts 06HD and 06HE with 2 members
    - West ward be formed of polling districts 06HF, 06HG and 06HM with 3 members
6. The new wards would give a ratio of one member for every 738, 740, 702 and 775 in each ward respectively

No other changes are recommended.

Havercroft with cold Hiendley

No changes are recommended.

Hemsworth

1. The number of councillors be increased to 16 to achieve a closer parity of representation
2. There be changes to the southern boundary of the Parish to take into account the Hemsworth by-pass and the mainline railway line - with consequential amendments needed to the Parish of North Elmsall, the Parish of Upton and to the Parish of South Kirkby and Moorthorpe
3. There be changes to the wards to reduce the number to four and a re-allocation of members to wards to achieve a more even ratio of councillors to electors
4. The current wards of Fitzwilliam and Kinsley wards be merged to form one ward called Fitzwilliam and Kinsley with the remaining ward boundaries being unchanged:
    - East ward is formed of polling district 07HB with 5 councillors
    - Fitzwilliam and Kinsley ward is formed of polling districts 07HC and 07HD with 5 councillors
    - South ward is formed of polling district 07HA with 4 councillors
    - West ward is formed of polling district 07HE with 2 councillors
5. The new wards would give a ratio of one member for every 646, 655, 697 and 688 electors in each ward respectively

No other changes are recommended.

Hessle and Hill Top, Huntwick with Foulby and Nostell, West Hardwick

These Parishes are grouped. No changes are recommended.

Normanton

1. Polling district 10NH (to the north-east of the Normanton by-pass) be removed from Featherstone Parish into Normanton Parish because of its geographical connection to Normanton
2. Polling districts 10NI and 10NJ (currently land with no electors registered there) be deleted and the areas in them be included in polling district 10NB
3. The boundary to the south/southeast of the Parish be moved to the new bypass as a more recognisable and permanent feature on the ground
4. The internal boundaries be redrawn to the northwest as far as is possible to the railway line as a more recognisable and permanent feature on the ground
5. That part of polling district 10NA to the east of the school playing fields be moved into polling district 10NH
6. That part of polling district 10NF to the north side of Castleford Road be moved into polling district 10NB
7. There be 4 wards with the current boundaries redrawn to achieve a closer parity of representation and renamed:
    - East ward formed of polling districts 10NF, 10NG and 10NH with 7 members
    - Central and South ward formed of polling districts 10NA and 10ND with 5 members
    - North and West ward formed of polling districts 10NB and 10NC with 4 members
    - Altofts ward formed of polling districts 03NA and 03NB with 6 members

8. The new wards would give a ratio of one member for every 737, 722, 782 and 792 electors in each ward respectively

No other changes are recommended.

North Elmsall

1. Polling district 01HL (including that part of Wentbridge which is currently within North Elmsall Parish) be removed and not be Parished.
2. There be minor changes to the internal boundaries of the polling districts to take account of the main roads as far as is practicable to give a more recognisable and permanent boundary feature on the ground
3. The boundary to the north run along the Hemsworth bypass with the land to the north of the bypass being removed to Hemsworth Parish
4. The boundary to the south be changed to remove that part of Minsthorpe in this Parish to South Elmsall Parish
5. The Parish be combined with Upton Parish and a new Parish be created called Upton and North Elmsall
6. The newly created Parish have a council with 12 members in line with NALC guidance

No other changes are recommended.

Notton

No changes are recommended.

Newland with Woodhouse Moor

No changes are recommended.

Ryhill

No changes are recommended.

Sharlston

1. That the area containing Birkwood Avenue and the part of Weeland Road nearby be removed from Crofton Parish and added to Sharlston Parish as the electors there consider themselves to live in Sharlston.

No other changes are recommended.

Sitlington

No changes are recommended.

South Elmsall

1. The part of Minsthorpe currently in North Elmsall Parish be moved into South Elmsall Parish as it has a closer geographical connection that area
2. Oakdale Drive, Broadway and the potential new development in the area be moved into this Parish from the Parish of South Kirkby and Moorthorpe because of its closer geographical connection to South Elmsall

No other changes are recommended.

South Hiendley
No changes are recommended.

South Kirkby and Moorthorpe
1. Oakdale Drive, Broadway and the potential new development in the area be moved from this Parish into the Parish of South Elmsall
2. The boundary between polling districts 14HB and 14HC be moved to run along White Apron Street and Stockingate
3. Two wards be retained but their composition be changed:
   - North and East ward be formed of 14HA and 14HB with 8 members
   - South ward be formed of 14HC and 14HD with 7 members
4. The new wards would give a ratio of one member for every 539 and 531 electors in each ward respectively

No other changes are recommended.

Thorpe Audlin
No changes are recommended.

Upton
1. The Parish be combined with North Elmsall Parish and a new Parish be created called Upton and North Elmsall
2. The newly created Parish have a council with 12 members in line with NALC guidance

No other changes are recommended.

Walton
1. The boundaries of the Parish are changed in the following ways:
   - To the north to take in all of Walton Colliery Nature Park
   - To the south to give up land to Chevet to align with railway line and road
   - To the east to give up Hare Park and land to its east to Crofton

No other changes are recommended.

Warmfield cum Heath
No changes are recommended.

West Bretton
1. To move the boundary to the west between this and Woolley Parish to the M1 motorway as a more clearly defined and visible boundary on the ground.

No other changes are recommended.

Wintersett

1. It is recommended that the Parish of Wintersett be abolished and that the area not form part of a Parish. There is no active Parish meeting in the area and Parish meetings therefore no longer take place.

Woolley

1. To move the boundary to the east between this Parish and West Bretton Parish to the M1 motorway as a more clearly defined and visible boundary on the ground.

No other changes are recommended.

FURTHER CONSULTATION

A second consultation period is now open for submissions on the initial recommendations. That consultation period runs from 9 March 2022 to 31 May 2022. Any submissions received during that time will be considered in detail and will be responded to in a report of final recommendations for change. That report will make final recommendations for any changes to Parishes in the Wakefield district.

Submissions will be welcomed by the following methods:

- by email to cgr@wakefield.gov.uk , or
- by letter to Community Governance Review, Electoral Services, County Hall, Wakefield, WF1 2QW
- by pro-forma available at all libraries and in reception areas at County Hall and Town Hall, Wakefield

No changes can be made to the Parishes in Wakefield unless they are approved at a full council meeting.

It is envisaged that any changes to or abolition of existing Parishes, or creation of new Parishes will not take effect until 1 April 2023. The first elections under any new electoral arrangements will take place in the regular cycle of Town and Parish Council elections, currently scheduled to be held on Thursday, 4 May 2023.