



Darley Dale Town Council

*The Whitworth Centre
Station Road
Darley Dale
Derbyshire DE42EQ
Acting Town Clerk: Ian Adkin
Tel: 01629 735248
www.darleydale.gov.uk*

Director of Corporate and Customer Services
Town Hall
Matlock
DE4 3NN

13th September 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

DDDC Community Governance Review – official response from Darley Dale Town Council

The Town Council met in August and discussed the issues raised by the recent Boundary Commission Review of District Council wards and the subsequent DDDC Community Governance Review. In particular, the Council concentrated on the potential changes to the Parish boundaries to the North and South of the town. Let me start with the simpler one of the two.

1. On the future of Morledge, Councillors felt that there were strong arguments for keeping the existing boundary which is widely recognised as the point at which you leave Matlock and enter Darley Dale. Councillors felt that, as well as the obvious financial impact on the Council, any change could blur this historical boundary and open the door for future expansion of the Matlock urban area into Darley Dale. Councillors though did accept that Morledge was a relatively new addition to the Parish and they would not oppose moving it into the Matlock Town Parish if there was strong support from residents of the estate itself. If this is the outcome then the current town sign may need to be moved.
2. The more Councillors discussed the boundary with Northwood and Tinkersley the more they felt that there was a strong case for bringing both parts of Darley Dale together so that all the residents of the town were represented by a single body with a single combined voice on the decisions that affect the whole of the town.
3. Historically, Darley Dale always began at Northwood and the town sign, which is sited between Rowley and Northwood Lane, still reflects that. An important factor for the review to consider is the link between communities and many people in N&T consider themselves residents of Darley Dale first and foremost with family across the town who don't even realise that Darley Dale is currently split in two for Council purposes. We know this because the Town Council regularly receives calls and enquiries from residents of N&T who believe that they fall under the Town Council and when DDDC issued the consultation letters to N&T residents one long standing resident even visited our office to clarify the position.



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4. The Town Council has regular dealings too with businesses in N&T parish and again most believe that Darley Dale Town Council is responsible for the whole of the town as it should be. Recently we made a grant to Peak Rail and other businesses in our neighbouring parish have been sponsors or winners of the Annual Town Council Community Awards. The Town Mayor has been invited to visit Forged Solutions which lies in N&T, later this month.

5. On the consultation process itself, we expect that you will receive responses from Northwood and Tinkersley residents supporting the current position, having been encouraged to do so by their Parish Council and the DDDC letter they received. We believe though that if all the residents of both Parishes had been sent a consultation letter and encouraged by DDDC and both councils to respond, then it is very likely that the consensus would have been to create a single local authority covering the whole of the town, finally putting Darley Dale on a par with similar towns like Bakewell and Matlock when it comes to funding, services and town planning.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Oakley', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

CLlr David Oakley
Chair of Council and Town Mayor