

Appendix 5(b) Responses received on proposals for the civil parishes of Darley Dale and Northwood and Tinkersley

I would like to register an objection to the proposal that Northwood and Tinkersley is incorporated in the new Darley Dale District Council Ward.

At a time when local voices should be heard this proposal would have the opposite effect. Northwood and Tinkersley is a small parish and if it was to be subsumed, our views could always be outvoted thus losing our say in vital local matters

We strongly object to this. Northwood and Tinkersley is a rural parish on the boundary of the Peak Park. We have lived here for 17 years and when we arrived Northwood was a recognised rural hamlet and formed part of our address until it was suddenly deemed to no longer exist by the Post Office, Council who knows - we were never told.

Darley Dale is now an ugly linear urban sprawl virtually joined up to Matlock and fast losing any belts of green land that remain to separate it from Matlock. Matlock itself has lost all its Victorian charm as it too succumbs to the power of the developers and the greed of the Derbyshire Dales local council. Derbyshire DALES is fast becoming a joke as it becomes a massive housing estate.

As residents of Northwood and Tinkersley we do not want to be swallowed up. We wish our Parish Council to have a say in the future of the area. We need a voice to stand up for our residents and to help retain our rural status, to stand against this insatiable desire for development, to fight for our protected woodland and SSSI moorland. We need to retain our Parish Council and its links with remaining rural areas of Rowsley, Stanton, Beeley and the Chatsworth Estate.

Given their recent inability to save Darley Dale from hideous development we have no confidence that Darley Dale town council would care for and protect our area and certainly feel that it is in our interest to retain our Parish Council as it stands.

Your letter of 3 August 2022 states that Darley Dale Town Council propose to redraw the civil parish boundary to reflect the historic boundary. If this is their intention then their proposal is flawed; Darley Dale civil parish stretched from Matlock to Beeley parish boundaries and did not stop at the brook between Rowsley and Northwood and Tinkersley, so the Town council need to either withdraw the current proposal or take on Rowsley civil parish council as well!

When the current civil parish boundaries were drawn up, residents of Northwood and Tinkersley elected to be independent from Darley Dale and all of the people that I have spoken to still wish for the status quo to be retained.

Is there a strong wish by Darley Dale Town Council to extend their powers, or has some politically motivated person, or authority made this suggestion to the said town Council?

I have spoken to members of Northwood and Tinkersley civil Parish Council and there does not appear to be any correspondence from Darley Dale town Council on this matter, do I smell a rat lurking in the district?

I object to any change in our civil parish council boundary and trust that the proposal from Darley Dale Town Council is rejected at the meeting to review civil parish borders,

I view with much distain that another council can without any consultation put forward this option.

When Northwood and Tinkersley parish council was established we had the option of being part of Darley Dale or to be an independent council for our area. During this time we had a consultation with out residents via a local petition and the overwhelming majority were in favour of having our own parish to look after our affairs

We have a very distinct separation from Darley Dale. I note that Darley Dale Parish Council say the boundaries should be redrawn to reflect the historic boundaries of Darley Dale. The historic boundaries of Darley Dale include Little Rowsley so there point is of no consequence as they are now parished by Greater Rowsley.

I object to this proposal very strongly, I feel the people living in the area known as Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council will lose representation in being part of a larger council; Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council must be allowed to retain it's own identity.

I object strongly to the proposal that the boundaries of Darley Dale are redrawn to incorporate the parish of Northwood and Tinkersley

- (1) Northwood and Tinkersley has always been a select area.
 - (2) Leave the boundaries as they are – like they have been over many, many years
 - (3) Why have Darley Dale Town Council submitted a proposal to alter the boundaries – could it be that if this proposal happens it means they will have more money in their budget.
 - (4) Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council serve the area well and keep residents well informed of what's happening in the Parish. I would think that Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council are now needed more than ever as new properties are being built increasing the population of the area.
 - (5) The area doesn't want to be classed as a Town as it isn't a Town but a Parish.
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I wish to object to our parish of Northwood and Tinkersley being subsumed into Darley Dale Town Council.

Northwood and Tinkersley is a rural parish whereas Darley Dale Town Council is as its name confirms a council for the benefit of a town. This is even more the case following the amount of development in recent years.

I have a number of other concerns regarding the inappropriateness of this suggestion.

I would like to make a representation on behalf of the Northwood and Tinkersley Parish. I am just a local Northwood resident of the parish.

My wife and I and two children have lived in the parish for over 38 yrs and I have no connection to the district or local parish council besides living here.

I received your letter on the 3rd of August referencing the Community Governance and after reading it I thought it would be only correct to lay out my thoughts on why I believe we should not join forces with Darley Dale ward.

The NT Parish is situated on the edge of a much larger ward faced with much larger issues, our little parish is a successful operation and we are doing well looking after our Parish. The councillors are tuned into what the parish requires and the help needed for the parish.

Our Parish is situated on the edge of the peak district and joined to another small parish Beeley and Stanton. Our Parish seems well maintained by the councillors with the backup of big brother Matlock Town council.

I believe it would be hard to grow dramatically in our Parish, our Parish is unique, and we have a wonderful river in the valley with a lovely Matlock to Beeley walk/cycle path, the steam engine peak rail, farmland around us, moor land on top and the amazing Tinkersley wood.

We have small developments that match the size of the parish ie the Matlock Transport area and that will smarten up the bottom end of Northwood lane, well overdue, and we in the parish will welcome them and will be able look after the development.

As a resident of NT, it has always been, when driving home down the A6 passing Stancliffe like a little haven into Northwood and up Northwood Lane, the last street out of Darley Dale.

You can see from our Website and Facebook page how well the parish is run, look at the amazing job painting the recreation playground for the 70th Jubilee was done. My Children played on those swings and rocking horse as infants.

The community organised a wonderful jubilee party on the rec.

As for representation in the parish, I believe we have about 9 councillors and could increase to 12 if required, so we don't lack support in our parish. I am not sure but we also have one at Matlock Town council.

Part of governance or reason to marry NT parish to Darley Dale ward is to deliver improved Community engagement, more cohesive communities, better democracy and result in the more efficient delivery of local services, well we already have all that covered, so why would you feel we need to be swallowed up by our big brother. Big isn't always better. Yes, we have a few more people with the new development bottom of Northwood lane but not enough to say we can't handle it.

Our councillors are doing a great job, in fact, an excellent job.

I understand the need to modernise and restructure the district council and it's wards. After all, this is a regular review. However, I am rather startled that Darley Dale Town Council wish to use this modernising opportunity to revert to some ancient arrangement. I wholly support retention of our current parish council, and have no wish to become resident of a forgotten corner of Darley Dale Township, and largely represented by unelected Town Councillors living up to 4 miles away. By "unelected" I note that currently most of Darley Dale Town Councillors have had to be co-opted and have not faced election, and have the appearance of a clique. I can only guess why they have such high turnover of councillors, and why this clique have their eyes on Northwood & Tinkersley in view of their apparent own disorganisation. I hope they don't wish to redraw the plans regarding new housing quotas. The areas already agreed in this parish are quite sufficient and have raised little objection.

I feel that the parish of Northwood & Tinkersley is much more rural than Darley Dale township, and in having one large business (Forged Solutions / Firth Rixon's) and one public space (Northwood Playing Field, which the parish council has been attempting to secure the future of by leasing it from DDDC), and one heritage asset (Peak Rail) with most houses only 5 minutes from countryside or woodland, that our Parish has more in common with our northern neighbour, Rowsley. Rowsley is equally semi-rural, with their shopping centre, mill and playing field equivalent to our assets.

I would not be happy for the special character of our part of the valley to get lost and diluted in being managed by Darley Dale. I am also happy that I live among my local councillors, they work hard, and use what little resources they have prudently for the good of the area, and we have occasional updates when important things are happening. They all seem to be very community minded, and much better focussed than if they had to deal with distant matters at Darley Bridge or Hackney.

Might I dare add that I am proud to live in Northwood & Tinkersley, which has a character different from those estates and new developments in Darley Dale. I would say, from reading your letter, that Darley Dale Town Councillors seem to be making some sort of land or power grab with very little evidence of behaving democratically. They certainly don't seem to even suggest any benefits would come from this proposal.

I hope I have made it clear that I am very pleased to be represented by Northwood & Tinkersley Parish Council, by people I share these few streets with. I see no present need for the suggested change.

I am writing in response to your letter of 3 August 2022 outlining a proposal to redraw the boundary of Darley Dale and subsume Northwood and Tinkersley Parish council into Darley Dale Town Council.

I strongly object to this proposal. Northwood and Tinkersley Parish is distinctively different from Darley Dale Town and I understand this was acknowledged in the 1980s when the Parish Council was formed. Northwood and Tinkersley has its own separate community identity. It is more rural in nature and is geographically separated from the conurbation of Darley Dale by former quarries and agricultural land. As an area it relates far more closely with Rowsley and Stanton In Peak and has much more in common with these areas. Northwood and Tinkersley is in the catchment area of Rowsley Primary School, which is also federated with Stanton Primary School.

Matters pertaining to Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council are more effectively addressed at a local community level. I am sure that as a small outpost of the Darley Dale District our local community interests would not be served effectively by a distant Town Council. If the District Council wishes to improve local democracy, promote greater community engagement and provide better local service delivery then subsuming our small parish into a Town Council is certainly not going to achieve these aims.

May we initially state that we are against these proposals, and if implemented they cause us several concerns with respect to how our community would be managed and represented in the future. Some of these concerns are;

1. If implemented the action would dramatically reduce our opportunity to voice our opinions on how the area should be managed and developed etc.. This being due

to the point that Darley Dale Town Council obviously have no interest in local residents views as they have had no contact or discussion with us to explain how this would happen in the future. In order to try to identify how this could occur a local residents meeting was organised and DDTC were invited to explain their proposal, however they turned down the invitation, and there has been absolutely no correspondence between them and local residents. This does not "bode well" for how they would manage the area in the future.

2. We cannot currently identify any advantages of DDTC taking over the management of the area (again DDTC have not identified any, or the reason why they think this is a good idea). Despite keeping an open mind on this and investigating the possible reasoning behind the idea, no advantages for the area have been identified. The only reason we have found is that as it appears DDTC are to lose control of the area of "Morledge" within their current boundaries and they want to compensate for this and keep the numbers of their current councillors by taking over the area of Northwood & Tinkersley. Whilst this could be an advantage to DDTC (spreading their costs/overheads whilst maintaining a higher level of funding), this would not improve or have any advantage to us as residents of Northwood and Tinkersley.
3. When considering the aspects of how the area would actually be funded in the future, or would existing projects/ideas be continued, again we can only be uncertain (as nobody from DDTC has had the courtesy to explain). Whilst this uncertainty is currently a worrying aspect, it could actually be far worse and result in the end of the current projects (the wildflower meadow, the environmental corridor, the community orchard etc), let alone any future ideas for improving the area.
4. Your letter and DDTC proposal states that redrawing the boundaries would reflect the historic boundaries of Darley Dale, is this statement correct? We have only lived in the area for 38 years and in that time the area has always had its own Parish Council. Residents who have lived here longer clearly state that "Northwood and Tinkersley has never been part of Darley Dale Council (either Parish or Town)". Again another reason why we would not support the proposal.

In brief the move by DDTC to take over the running of the Northwood and Tinkersley area appears to be at best "not thought through" and at worst completely undemocratic, and in industry would be described as a hostile takeover. DDTC actions in trying to achieve their aim appear to show how they would run the area in the future i.e. they would not discuss or listen to local residents.

After considering the above points we are against the idea proposed by DDTC, and would ask you to take these views into consideration.

Dear Derbyshire Dales, We wish to object to joining the parish with Darley Dale, Northwood would be far better partnered with Rowsley Stanton or Beeley.

As a resident of the parish of Northwood and Tinkersley I wish to **express my opposition** to the proposal from the Darley Dale Town Council **that the Northwood and Tinkersley Parish and Parish Council be incorporated into the Darley Dale Town Council.**

There are a number of reasons for my objection including, but not limited to:

- Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council has far more in common with other rural parishes such as Rowsley and Beeley than we do with a town council such as Darley Dale
 - most primary school age pupils attend the Rowsley Primary School rather than Darley Dale schools so fewer family friendship links are formed with Darley Dale residents
 - issues facing Northwood and Tinkersley residents will become swamped by the issues facing the larger number of residents in Darley Dale
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Dear Sir/Madam I am writing to express my sternest opposition towards a merger between Darley Dale and Northwood and Tinkersley parish council. This merger in my opinion of past plans by Darley Dale towards our recreation ground would oversee a degradation of living standards for all who live within Northwood and Tinkersley and I find this aggressive attempt at a merger to be another case of Darley Dale forcing their will upon our community and I for one will not stand for it. NO MERGER!!!! Our recreation ground is for our kids to play on!

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed changes to Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council.

I wish to object to Northwood and Tinkersley Parish council being considered to be incorporated into the District Council Ward of Darley Dale, as a whole.

I am worried that merging into the different boundaries could impact on our individual diverse rural community where currently councillors are available to support the public with the unique community cover, both across the farming community and the more populated community of Northwood, where our issues can be very different to other localities. We have quite an aging population and they are currently able to access the support of the Parish Council and talk through any local concerns. With the impact impending on energy crisis and food prices, access to the neighbourhood parish councillors may be even more relevant as we draw towards Winter, and start to feel the hardships.

Please can you note my objection, and update me on any future developments regarding this.

I have lived in this area for over 40 year and feel we need to keep our own Parish Council and our identity and not be swallowed up by a larger group that would possibly neglect our community interests. Therefore I am against the merger with Darley Dale Town Council.

I am writing to raise our objection to the proposed changes to our parish council, Northwood and Tinkersley, as stipulated in the Community Governance Review Consultation.

The reasons for this include the following:

- Northwood and Tinkersley is a rural area. The nature of the land, being largely moorland/agricultural, is very different to that of Darley Dale, and the grouping of policy and decision to align with this area may result in negative effects on the local landscape, residents and businesses.
- The population of Northwood is significantly smaller than that of Darley; as such, in the event of issues or developments which would directly affect our area, our opinion could go unheard and we could fair badly.

- Of special concern is the conservation area, the wildlife meadow, at the top of the recreation ground. This has already had a noticeable effect on the local bird, insect, and small mammal populations. Our Parish Council have tried to purchase this land, and we do not want our thriving wildlife corridor being handed over to another council to manage and utilise as it sees fit.

As tax-paying residents, we feel that the decision to remove our parish and so right to local, decentralised representation is unfair and unjust. The incorporation of it into the Darley Dale ward, a different area with different considerations and needs, would result in a less fair, less sympathetic representation, and diminish the efforts and achievements of our councillors.

I would like to note that the wording of your letter, '*this means that in future you will be voting,*' (i.e. will and not would, for example) implies that the decision is already made, which does not align with the ethos of a consultation.

If change is inevitable (for financial reasons), a sensible and fairer joining would be with Rowsley and Stanton—a locale with which we share boundaries, along with a similar environment and population density—in order that our voices are not lost. This matter is very important to us, and we would greatly appreciate your consideration.

We do not want Northwood & Tinkersley Parish Council to be incorporated with Darley Dale Town Council. Northwood & Tinkersley have always had a closer association with Rowsley PC, a similar rural area, more children attending the Rowsley and Lady Manners. A large percentage of worshippers at St Katherine's Church Rowsley are also from the Northwood area.

As Janet was a founder member of Northwood & Tinkersley PC in 1980 we can assure you that we were never part of the Darley Dale Parish Council.

At that time all settlements without a Parish Council we're invited to form Councils. Darley Dale residents were in the same position as ourselves without a council. The Northwood Residents Association petitioned every household to ascertain if they would like to merge with Darley Dale to form one large parish or to be independent. The overwhelming majority signed to state their wish to form a Northwood & Tinkersley Parish Council. The opinion was that we wouldn't have a voice in a larger organisation and would be outnumbered by the Darley Dale Councillors. At the time we were told Northwood would only have 2 representatives on the larger council. Since then Darley Dale has become a Town Council which further accentuates the difference in the two communities.

We feel strongly that we should stay independent of the larger authority and retain our own identity. We do hope the Derbyshire Dales District Council will respect our views.

I am writing to object to the proposal made by Darley Dale Town Council that Northwood and Tinkersley Parish be incorporated in their area. Northwood and Tinkersley is a clearly defined area, separate from the main area of Darley Dale with historical links to Rowsley (via the school and church) rather than with the remainder of Darley Dale. At the time that the Parish of Northwood and Tinkersley was set up, the previous residents association had petitioned every household to ascertain whether they would wish to merge with Darley Dale, or have an independent parish, and there was a clear majority in favour of an independent parish then, and I consider the same view remains today from consultations with neighbours.
