

Quarry End  
Walworth  
Darlington  
DL2 2LY

May 22nd 2015

Dear Ms Whitehead

**Community Governance Review**

Thank you for your recent letter detailing the Consultation schedule for the Community Governance Reviews. This letter is the formal submission to the review in respect of the Archdeacon Newton review, from Walworth Parish Meeting.

Our Ward Councillor, Mr Gerald Lee, has already made us aware of the issue and has provided us with a paper outlining possibilities for Archdeacon Newton, including the option of joining the rural section of Archdeacon Newton, north of the A1M into Walworth Parish Meeting. (See paper provided as Attachment 1).

Mr Lee attended our AGM on April 20th 2015 and presented the option to the meeting. The meeting was well attended and the matter was discussed at length. Attendees had had the paper in advance and Mr Lee explained the background and his reasoning for recommending the move and so the decisions were well considered.


The overwhelming and strongly expressed feeling of the meeting was reflected in a vote which resulted:

In favour of joining - 0      Against joining - 16      Abstentions - 1 (See minutes as Attachment 2)

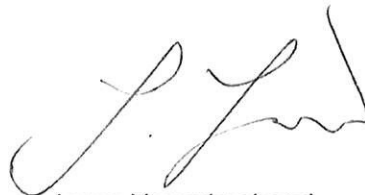
The dominant feeling of the meeting was that extending the boundary of the parish meeting would dilute the levels of activity and interest in the village, which is reflected in strong attendance at all meetings and to events such as our litter pick. There was also a feeling that this could be one step along the road to conglomerating enough Parish Meetings to make a Parish Council, which no-one wanted to happen. On the whole it was felt that there would be no benefit to Walworth residents and little or no benefit to the 16 Archdeacon Newton residents either.

Please get back to us if you have any questions relating to this submission, otherwise we look forward to hearing the proposals and to the Public Consultation exercise in August and September.

Yours sincerely



Margaret Anderson  
Clerk to Walworth Parish Meeting




Jayne Younghusband  
Chair of Walworth Parish Meeting

## ARCHDEACON NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Chairman:** Councillor  
NORMAN WELCH

COLDSIDES COTTAGE  
BURTREE GATE  
NEAR COCKERTON  
VIA DARLINGTON  
CO.DURHAM

 Darlington (01325) 353264  
10 June 2015

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
15 JUN 2015

Community Governance Review  
DBC Town Hall  
Darlington DL1 5QT

Your letter (ref: CW/BAH) dated 30 April 2015 was presented to this Parish Council on 20 May 2015 (its contents having been circulated to Parish Councillors).

It was recorded that, consequent to the amalgamation of Darlington Rural District and Darlington Borough, the Archdeacon Newton Parish Meeting was inaugurated on 4 June 1978. This newly created Parish was entirely rural; comprising 7 farms or agricultural holdings at Faverdale and 7 farms or agricultural holdings north and west of Al(M) road.

As housing development occupied agricultural land at Faverdale (later designated High Grange), the Parish Meeting made repeated formal requests for an alteration of the Parish boundary to exclude High Grange. In spite of the advice of the then Borough Solicitor (P.H.Kearsley) that DBC had the authority to alter the Parish boundary, DBC continually deferred consideration of the Parish Meeting's persistent requests for High Grange to be removed from the Parish. When the Parish electorate (including High Grange residents) reached 200 it became obligatory to create a Parish Council to replace the Parish Meeting.

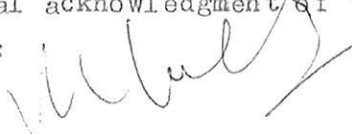
On 10 July 2001 P.H.Kearsley (in his capacity as Borough Solicitor) presided at the inaugural meeting of the Parish Council, with 7 nominated Parish Councillors representing an Urban and a Rural Wards. Since then, the Parish (as a whole or in part) has been included, from time to time, in the Whessoe, Heighington-Coniscliffe, Faverdale Borough Wards and is now wholly within the Faverdale-Brinkburn Borough Ward.

We submit that if CGR results in the demise of the Parish Council, the entirely rural area of the Parish, north and west of Al(M) road be re-created a Parish Meeting, thus reverting to its 1978 status. If the electorate of this rural area precludes the creation of a Parish Meeting and CGR recommends its subsumption by an existing, contiguous Parish Meeting, we further submit that the name ARCHDEACON be added to the identification of such an enlarged Parish Meeting.

We also submit that the interests of the rural area of this Parish are best served by its inclusion in DB Rural rather than an Urban Ward. Any such Parish Meeting should continue to be consulted on Planning and other municipal matters likely to affect the Parish.

A formal acknowledgment of this submission is requested.

Signed:



Chairman of the Parish Council

## Barbara Harris

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**From:** Barbara Harris on behalf of Catherine Whitehead  
**Sent:** 16 December 2014 09:55  
**To:** Councillor Lee  
**Subject:** RE: Rural Archdeacon Newton into Walworth Parish meeting

Cllr Lee

I acknowledge receipt of your email below which I will bring to Cath's attention on her return.

Thanks

Barbara

### Barbara Harris

Personal Assistant to Catherine Whitehead  
Assistant Chief Executive  
Darlington Borough Council  
Town Hall  
DARLINGTON DL1 5QT  
Tel: 01325 388553  
Email: [Barbara.harris@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:Barbara.harris@darlington.gov.uk)

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**From:** Councillor Lee  
**Sent:** 16 December 2014 09:33  
**To:** Catherine Whitehead  
**Subject:** Rural Archdeacon Newton into Walworth Parish meeting

Good morning Catherine,

You will remember the little chat we had after the last Full Council Meeting about allowing the small hamlet of Archdeacon Newton to join with Walworth Parish Meeting because of their close rural ties.

I have been able to talk to both minor authorities and both are happy for this to happen.

I am sorry it has taken a little longer than I had anticipated to sort this out but I still hope that you can make it happen as this is a sensible solution to residents who see themselves linked to and share rural problems and values. Should this little hamlet stay in the larger Ward boundary of West Park, it will be lost completely and its residents who are so supportive of the current Parish Council will have no say in their future.

Best wishes,

## **Archdeacon Newton Community Governance Review**

1. Archdeacon Newton Parish is currently divided between Heighington and Faverdale wards and the parish is warded into two to enable elections to take place in the two wards. Following the recent review by the Boundary Commission changes will come into effect at the elections in May which will mean that the entire parish will sit within the ward of Brinkburn and Faverdale.

### **Reasons for suggesting a Community Governance Review**

2. Archdeacon Newton is an active Parish Council but the membership and activity derives from the rural part of the community and the area of the parish which has become part of the urban development of Faverdale has little community connection with the village of Archdeacon Newton and the surrounding parish. Currently residents living in adjacent houses in the Faverdale housing development may be paying or not paying a precept to the Parish Council according to the position of their house with regards to the existing parish boundary. Representations have been received from Councillor Lee and Councillor Cruddas (Heighington Members) that Archdeacon Newton parish Council should be split along the A1M boundary and the upper part should be joined to adjoining parish meeting of Walworth to form a single parish. The lower part would cease to be parished as it forms part of the urban area.

### **Options**

3. A CGR can recommend the creation of a Parish Council where there are 150 electors in the area or more. 'Creation' for these purposes includes any amalgamated parishes, creation or reshaping of a parish area. Walworth parish has a population of 92 with the upper part of Archdeacon Newton having a population of 16 combined they have insufficient numbers for the CGR to recommend the creation of a parish council. It could recommend a combined parish meeting which would not require any election of members and can continue to precept and exercise many of the powers of a parish council.
4. To do this would be to dissolve the Parish Council of Archdeacon Newton with no replacement Parish Council. In these circumstances the assets and liabilities would become the responsibility of the Borough Council although in practice if a parish meeting replaced the Parish Council they could be applied to the use of the parish meeting (with a share being available to the rest of the previous area of the parish). The assets of a parish meeting are placed in trust with the Chairman and the Proper Officer of the District Council being the

trustees. The guidance suggests that a parish area should not be abolished lightly and replacement arrangements must be in place for this to be recommended. Although replacement arrangements in the form of the parish meeting in the area north of the A1M would satisfy. Arrangements would also need to be in place for the urban area which would be de-parished through such a recommendation.

5. If another parish meeting is also in agreement the combined numbers (if over 150) could then create a parish council area. However the parish meetings sit within the Heighington ward and Archdeacon Newton sits within Brinkburn and Faverdale. To create sufficient population to form a parish council, the Parish Council area would straddle two wards ie those of Heighington and Brinkburn and Faverdale. The warded part that covers the area North West of the A1M (currently covered by Archdeacon Newton Parish Council) would have to create a separate parish ward to allow for elections of the area in accordance with new ward boundaries. The legislation requires that a parish ward should have a population of 100 electors. The population of this area is 16 and therefore it would not be possible for the Community Governance Review to recommend this electoral arrangement. This would not be an issue if a parish meeting is created because a parish meeting does not hold elections.
6. The electoral numbers for the parish meetings in the area are as follows:
  - Archdeacon Newton – (section beyond the A1M) 16 electors;
  - Denton – 33 electors;
  - Houghton-le-side – 60 electors;
  - Killerby – 46 electors;
  - Summerhouse – 59 electors;
  - Walworth – 92 electors
7. The CGR does have the power to make recommendations to the Local Government Boundary Commission. A recommendation could be made to propose that the boundary of the Brinkburn and Faverdale ward is the A1M and that the remaining area of the parish of Archdeacon Newton move into the ward of Heighington and could then link with other parish meetings to create a Parish Council area if desired by the local community. Representations have been made by the parish Council Chairman and the Ward Councillor that the Archdeacon Newton parish has always been and considers itself to be part of Heighington.
8. It was not possible for the Boundary Commission to recommend this because it would have created the same electoral ward issue of 16 electorate as detailed above. However if at this stage the CGR recommends a parish

meeting is created across the two wards and representations were made to the Boundary Commission supported by all ward members the parishes and good evidence of the support from the urban area the argument might be persuasive. If it was feasible for the boundary to be changed then at a later date the area could either remain a parish meeting or join up later with another parish meeting and create a parish council.

Having contacted the Boundary Commission they have explained that if a CGR did decide to alter the parish boundaries to create a new parish based around eg the north part of Archdeacon Newton beyond the A1M and the parish area of Walworth then an order would be made to that effect by the Council. Once that has happened then the Council could request a related alterations order which would have to be agreed by the Commission.

The Commission would only be able to agree a related alteration to the ward boundary between Heighington & Coniscliffe and Brinkburn & Faverdale wards, placing the rural part of Archdeacon Newton into Heighington & Coniscliffe ward, if the northern boundary of the parish is amended.

If the relevant part of Archdeacon Newton merges with Walworth then this would be the case. The Commission could then amend the ward boundary to restore coterminosity between the ward boundary and the (new) parish boundary at the request of the Council. This would have the effect of moving the relevant part of Archdeacon Newton into the ward of Heighington.

This would not be a swift process as the new ward boundaries will come into effect in April 2015, then the CGR would take place and come into effect in May 2016 before any recommendation would be submitted to the Boundary Commission.

9. A summary of the options is set out below:

- a. Not to conduct a review at all and Archdeacon Newton could be left as a single Parish Council within the area of Brinkburn and Faverdale covering the urban areas as well as the rural. There would be no recommendation to the Boundary Commission as this would not be required if the area sits within a single ward.
- b. The urban area of Archdeacon Newton is de-parished and the rural area is joined with the Walworth parish meeting to create a single parish meeting within the rural area. This could be accompanied by a recommendation to the Boundary Commission.
- c. The parish meeting area described above could be further swelled with an additional parish meeting which would create sufficient population to form a potential Parish Council. A recommendation to the Boundary Commission could indicate the intention to create the large Parish Council as soon as the boundary is altered.

10. The views of the parish council on these proposals are sought.