



Northumberland

County Council

COUNCIL

4TH SEPTEMBER 2019

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

Report of Chief Executive

Cabinet Member: Councillor Nick Oliver

Purpose of report

To consider the outcome of two community governance reviews in the County.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council

- (1) agree the outcome of the community governance reviews for Cartington, Rothbury and Thropton Parishes and Rothbury and Whitton & Tosson Parishes as follows:-
 - The Council is requested to agree that Cartington Parish Council be abolished and its area split between Rothbury and Thropton Parish Councils as indicated on the attached plans.
 - The boundary between Rothbury Parish Council and Whitton & Tosson Parish Council be amended to include Jubilee Crescent and the gardens of 1-2 Cobble Court and Banklands, South Terrace within Rothbury Parish.
- (2) authorise the Democratic Services Manager to make, sign and seal the appropriate orders for the changes by virtue of the powers contained in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the “we want you to love where you live” priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021.

Key issues

1. Two Community Governance Reviews have been conducted since the last meeting of the Council.

Cartington Parish Council

2. Cartington Parish Council has asked that a Community Governance Review be carried out with a view to abolishing the Parish and dividing its area between Rothbury and Thropton Parishes. The Parish Council believes that as it is a small Parish with only 95 electors represented by five Councillors and with limited resources it has very few responsibilities other than to discuss planning applications. The Parish Council feels that the electors of Cartington would be better served by the proposed division between Rothbury and Thropton Parish Councils.
3. The area of Cartington Parish would be divided by the boundary line as shown on Map 1. Area A would be amalgamated into Thropton Parish and Area B into Rothbury Parish.
4. Prior to Cartington Parish Council's proposal, Rothbury Parish Council had already requested that Areas C and D as shown on Map 2, should become part of Rothbury Parish (from Cartington Parish) and the boundary amended accordingly. Obviously, this amendment would be unnecessary should Cartington Parish's proposal be agreed. Rothbury Parish Council's proposal was included within the Terms of Reference of the Cartington review, but would only be progressed in the event of the abolition of Cartington Parish not being agreed.
5. In accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, a four week consultation process was carried out. As part of the consultation, all of the residents of Cartington Parish received a letter asking for their comments. In addition, Rothbury and Thropton Parish Councils were consulted directly by letter along with the local County Councillor, Councillor S.C. Bridgett. A press release was issued in the local newspaper, notices put up in all three Parishes, and a notice published on the County Council website along with those of Cartington Parish Council, Rothbury Parish Council and Thropton Parish Council.
6. The following three objections to the proposal have been received.

- *"We have been residents in the parish of Cartington for just over a year now, living in the Cragside View development.*

Having received your letter re the proposed changes involving the division of Cartington Parish between the parishes of Rothbury and Thropton I have some concerns which potentially will have a direct financial impact on ourselves and other residents.

I acknowledge the Parish Council have their reasons for wanting to be absorbed within the two other local parishes of Rothbury and Thropton, however I do not feel this should be at the detriment of residents. I strongly object to having to pay the additional council tax which would be incurred if the proposals were to be passed.

I would be grateful if you would register my objection on these grounds."

- *“Thank you for your letter dated 22 May 2019 regarding the proposals for the way ahead following the impending dissolution of the Cartington Parish Council.*

I would like to register my objection to the proposed merger with Rothbury. The grounds for this can be summarised as not wanting to diminish the rural nature and character enjoyed by dint of being part of the Cartington Parish Council. A key reason for purchasing on the Robertsons Cragside Gardens Development was and remains the mindset brought to bear on issues impacting on the parish by representatives who live and indeed have lived in this strongly rural locality for several years. The character of the residents has and would continue to frame and shape the wants, needs and in-depth knowledge of the parish. The latter is markedly different from than of a medium sized and rapidly growing urban community centred on a busy and thriving settlement at Rothbury. It will come as no surprise to read that I fear that being submerged into an even larger (and seemingly ever growing) Rothbury township, can only negatively impact the nature and character of the Cartington Parish amputated and grafted into Rothbury. There will be an irrecoverable loss of distinctiveness and character.

With this in mind, I would strongly urge that the area of Cartington proposed for absorption into Rothbury be reallocated to either:

- a. Whitton and Tosson, or*
- b. Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst, or*
- c. Longframlington, or*
- d. Edlingham, or*
- e. Thropton”*

- *“I don’t see any reason why Cartington Parish be split between Rothbury and Thropton, (There has never been a problem before). The only reason I can see is your building of more houses on the land of Mount Healy Township. Which is part of the Cartington Parish. However whatever you decide, remember I am signed sealed and delivered as the successors in title to a specified radius of $\frac{3}{4}$ mile measured in any direction from any part of the boundary of the purchased property, and it goes with free and unrestricted enjoyment as legal easements or rights of all privileges now or heretofore used or enjoyed over the purchased property in respect of any adjoining or neighbouring property of the vendor. (I wish to stay in Cartington Parish).”*

7. County Councillor S.C. Bridgett is in favour of the abolition of Cartington Parish Council as are both Rothbury and Thropton Parish Councils.
8. In view of the small number of electors involved, It is not proposed to increase the number of members on either Rothbury or Thropton Parish Council.
9. The Council is requested to agree that Cartington Parish Council be abolished and its area split between Rothbury and Thropton Parish Councils as indicated on the attached plans.

Rothbury Parish Council and Whitton & Tosson Parish Council

10. Rothbury Parish Council requested that its boundary with Whitton & Tosson Parish be amended as follows to allow it to make decisions in relation to Jubilee Crescent (shown as Area A on Map 3). The proposal would affect approximately 102 electors. Northumberland County Council has been asked to carry out a Community Governance Review which would lead to an amendment of the administrative boundary between the two Parish Councils.
11. In addition, an anomaly with the current boundary has been identified in that the gardens of 1 - 2 Cobble Court and Banklands, South Terrace (shown as Area B on Map 3) are currently located within Whitton & Tosson Parish whereas the properties are within Rothbury Parish. It is proposed that these gardens be moved into Rothbury Parish.
12. In accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, a four week consultation process was carried out. As part of this consultation, all residents of Jubilee Crescent and 1-2 Cobble Court and Banklands, South Terrace, were informed of the proposal by letter. In addition, a press release was issued in the local newspaper, notices put up in both Parishes, and a notice published on the County Council website along with those of Rothbury Parish Council and Whitton & Tosson Parish Council. The local County Councillor, Councillor S.C. Bridgett, who is also a resident of Jubilee Crescent, was consulted directly by letter.
13. No responses to the consultation were received. Councillor S.C. Bridgett is in favour of the proposal.
14. Council is requested to agree to the proposed amendments to the Parish boundary.

Background

1. Councils now have extensive powers delegated to them in relation to the creation of parishes, modification of boundaries and names changes by virtue of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act. At the request of parish councils, the public or even on their own initiative they may conduct Community Governance Reviews. The aim of reviews is to improve the local governance in an area. The process is managed by principal councils with outcomes incorporated into formal orders.
2. Delegated powers have been granted to the Democratic Services Manager to conduct reviews subject to full council reserving the power to agree any formal orders arising out of reviews.

Implications

Policy	N/A
Finance and value for money	None. There were no additional costs incurred in the community governance review other than officer time.

Legal	N/A
Procurement	N/A
Human Resources	All the work can be carried out by existing employees who possess the necessary skill and expertise.
Property	N/A
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Risk Assessment	The items raised pose a minimal risk to the organisation.
Crime & Disorder	There are no crime and disorder implications.
Customer Consideration	The proposals should improve the governance of the local community.
Carbon reduction	N/A
Division	Rothbury

Background papers:

Community Governance file

Report sign off.

	Full name of officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Liam Henry
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Annabel Scholes
Relevant Executive Director	Kelly Angus
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Nick Oliver

Author and Contact Details

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