

Garforth: The Case For A Parish Council

Garforth Neighbourhood Planning Forum

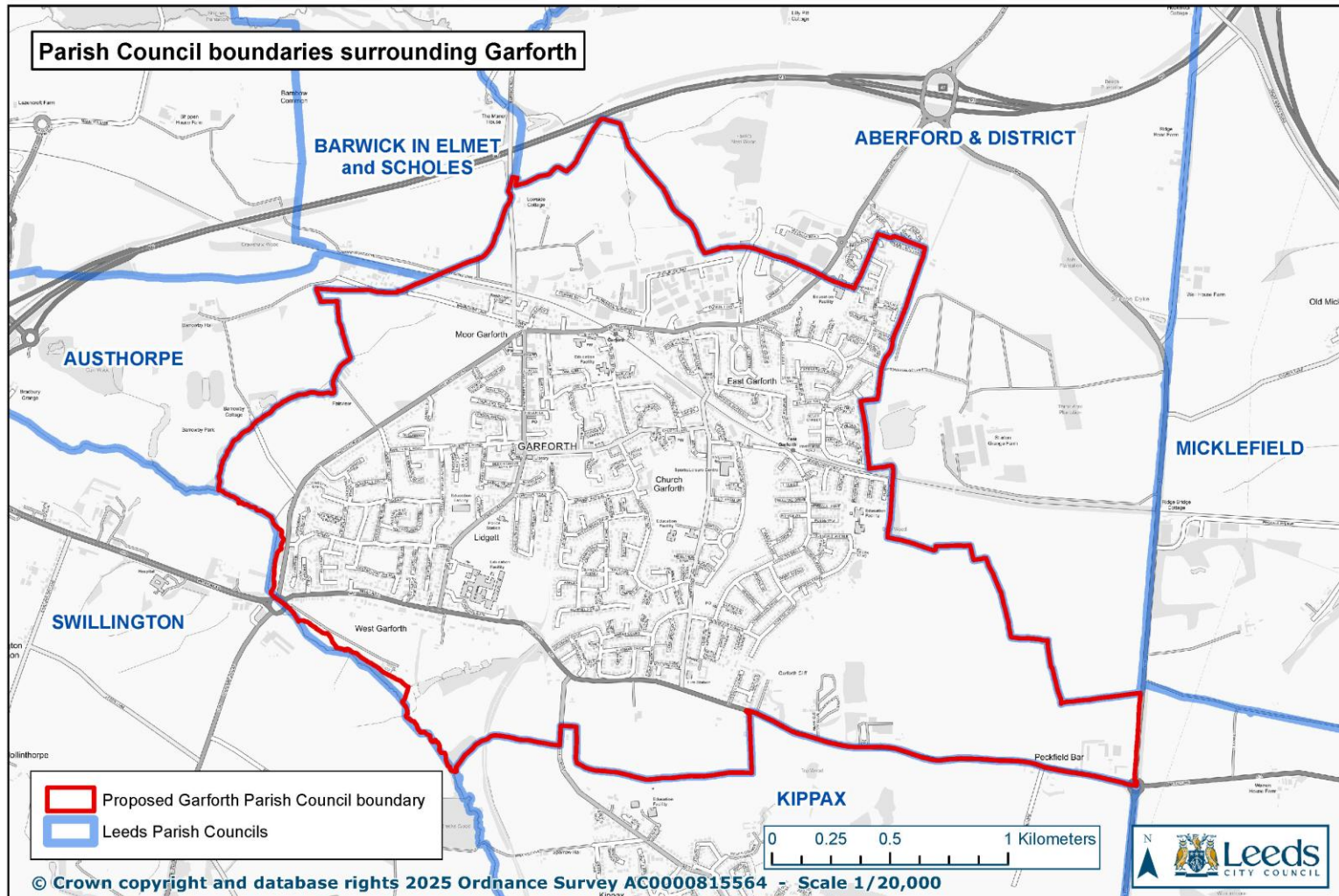




Issues Covered

- Garforth is surrounded by other Parish Councils
- Benefits of Parish Councils to these areas
- Why Garforth needs a Parish Council now
- Benefits to Garforth residents
- How much would it cost?
- How would it work
- Next steps
- Further information

Parish Councils Surrounding Garforth



Aberford - established 1894

Allerton Bywater - established 1998

Barwick - established 1894

Great & Little Preston - established 1894

Kippax - established 2004

Micklefield - established 1894

Swillington - established 1894

Benefits Of Parish Councils To Their Community



As an elected body, they are formally consulted by Leeds City Council (LCC)



Are a second voice alongside their ward Councillors when representing their area, especially important on planning issues and cuts to services



LCC have a Parish Council charter illustrating how they work together to benefit the community

[Link to Parish Council Charter](#)



Hold monthly meetings where residents can voice their opinions & concerns. The minutes are posted on community notice boards for everyone to read



Maintain a website giving further details of plans / projects for the community



Regular newsletter to all households

Continued



Organise and support local community events celebrating local and national occasions



Consult residents and use the precept and access grants to improve facilities & environment



Receive Community Infrastructure Levy* (CIL) money directly to spend on their area priorities



Employ a Parish Council clerk

*CIL money is paid by developers on completion of construction



A photograph of a dark-colored car driving away from the viewer on a wet, flooded street. The car is splashing a large amount of water, creating a thick mist or spray that partially obscures the car and the road ahead. The street has white dashed lines, and there are trees and foliage in the background. The image is part of a presentation slide with green geometric shapes on the right side.

Why Garforth Needs A Parish Council Now?

As part of LCC new development plan, Leeds Local Plan 2040, they are proposing to build another 18,000 more homes in the city and at least another development of 300 new houses in Garforth. Another large development will completely overwhelm all the infrastructure and services in Garforth which are already oversubscribed

Garforth has been built up to the Green Belt boundary. All the remaining land in the Green Belt surrounding Garforth is good quality agricultural land and should not be developed and protected for agricultural use / food production

Garforth residents objected to earlier proposed developments and voiced their concerns about the lack of access to GP services, oversubscribed schools, lack of parking spaces on Main Street, road congestion and surface water flooding. These issues were not adequately addressed in the last Leeds local plan

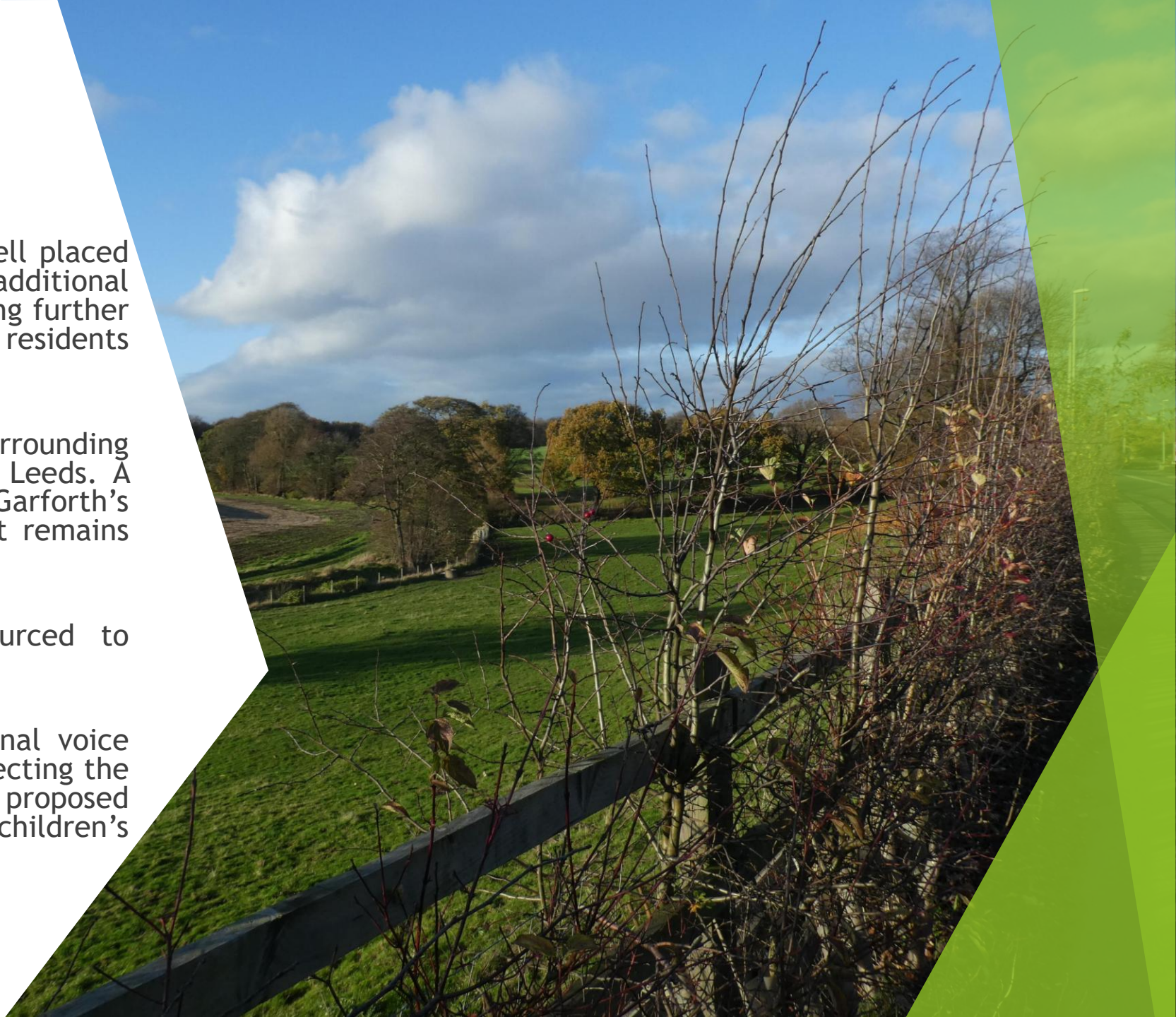
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As an elected body a Parish Council is well placed to inform all residents and provide an additional substantial response rejecting and opposing further large-scale development, ensuring that residents have a voice in planning decisions

Residents also value the rural land surrounding Garforth and the separate identity from Leeds. A Parish Council will help to preserve Garforth's unique character, green spaces and what remains of the Green Belt

A Parish Council will be better resourced to respond to these planning proposals

A Parish Council will provide an additional voice alongside our ward Councillors when protecting the interests of Garforth and objecting to proposed cuts in services e.g. bowling greens and children's services





A Parish Council Would Bring Additional Benefits To Garforth

- ▶ An additional elected voice, working alongside local ward Councillors protecting and representing Garforth on planning issues and cuts to services
- ▶ By having additional resources there is the opportunity to protect the Green Belt by presenting a united Garforth against further large-scale development
- ▶ It would not be party political and would remain focussed on the best interests of Garforth's residents
- ▶ It would be formally consulted by LCC on issues relating to the services provided
- ▶ Hold monthly meetings giving residents the opportunity to voice their views and concerns on issues relating to Garforth
- ▶ Ability to consult all residents via a regular newsletter, community notice boards and website

Continued



- ▶ Use the precept money to improve our green space, improve other facilities and support more local groups
- ▶ Promote and support national and Garforth events encouraging local participation for the benefit of Garforth residents
- ▶ A Parish Council would receive any CIL money (from current construction) and ensure that it is only spent in Garforth. This is not the case at present as it can be spent anywhere within Garforth, Swillington, Great & Little Preston.
- ▶ A PC employing a Parish Clerk could provide a focus for all the various groups in Garforth. Their activities could be more widely shared - via an online calendar, managed by a clerk, so groups would be aware of others with similar aims and work together.

How Much Would It Cost Householders?

- ▶ The Cost is based on house Council tax banding, average is band D
- ▶ Varies depending on services provided
- ▶ There is no charge if you do not pay Council tax
- ▶ There are 31 Parish / town Councils in Leeds and annual precepts* for 2025/26 were all less than buying one cup of coffee per week:
 - ▶ Aberford £29.60
 - ▶ Allerton Bywater £56.69
 - ▶ Barwick £24.22
 - ▶ Kippax £63.52
 - ▶ Micklefield £86.23
 - ▶ Swillington £36.33

[Link to Annual Precepts](#)



The Council And The Neighbourhood Plan

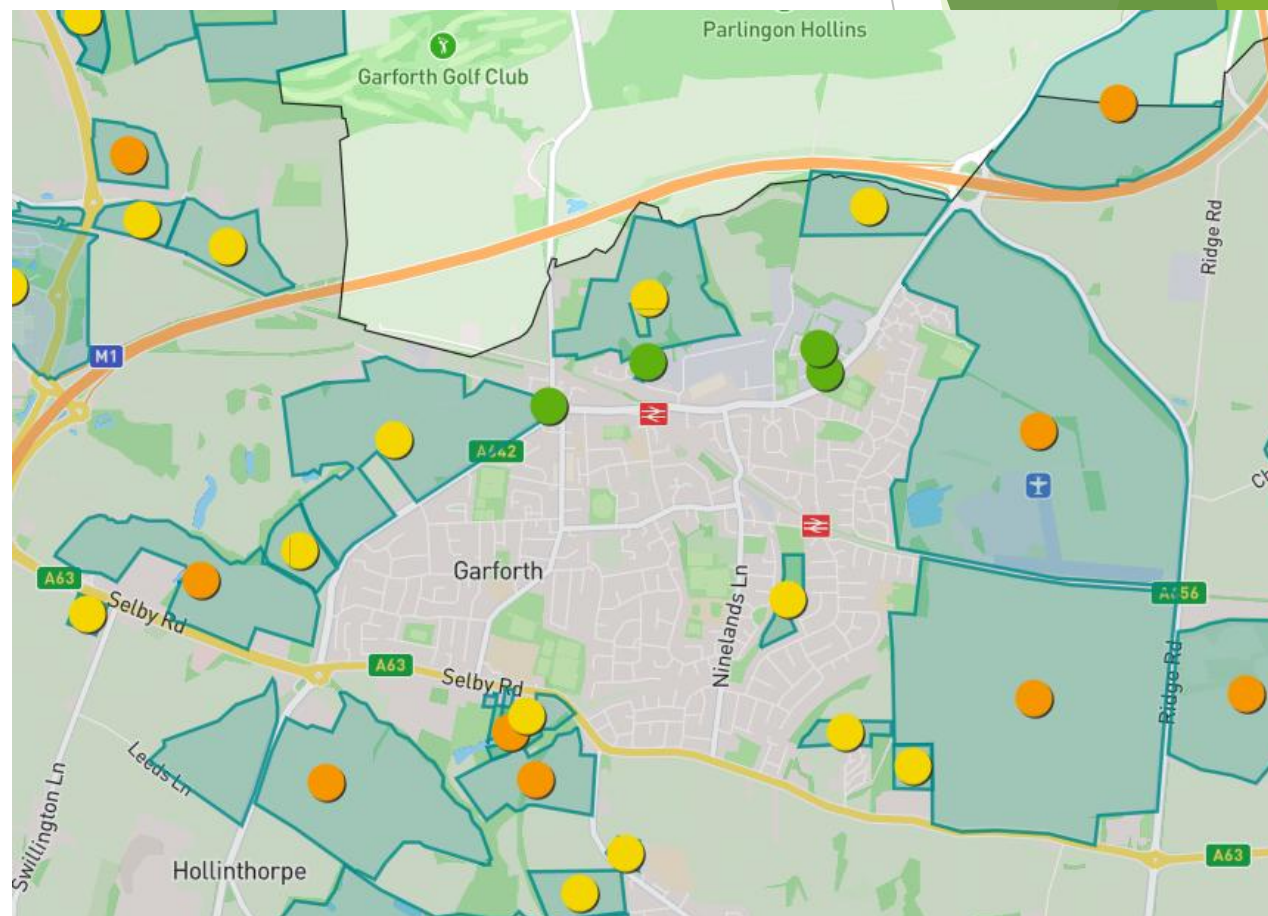
- ▶ The Neighbourhood Plan was made in 2023. The plan was submitted to LCC, a local referendum held and residents voted to accept the Garforth Neighbourhood Plan
- ▶ The plan has to be monitored to ensure the developers and planning officers are taking the policies into account when making decisions on planning applications
- ▶ A Parish Council would have the resources to oversee the implementation of the plan and promote the projects identified in the plan



[Link to Garforth Neighbourhood Plan](http://www.garforthplan.co.uk)

Map Of All Sites Submitted For Development In The Next Leeds Local Plan 2040

- ▶ Having a Neighbourhood plan does not make it more likely that planning applications for future development will be granted. It is LCC as the governing body that approve the housing numbers for each area. A Parish Council would seek to oppose and challenge the need to build on Garforth's Green Belt land
- ▶ Areas without a Neighbourhood Plan are still subject to further housing development



LCC Colour Key:
GREEN (lots of positives)
YELLOW (a few negatives)
ORANGE (a lot of negatives)
RED (some serious concerns)

Link to Outer East Plan - Click on each site to find further details including capacity

Look out for further information at: garforthnewsletter.co.uk

Facebook: Garforth Parish Council

Next Steps



The application will be submitted to the Electoral Services in Leeds, who check that it meets the eligibility criteria



It is then passed to the LCC Community Governance Committee who will then publicise the application and organise a consultation inviting responses from people in Garforth. We would encourage as many people as possible to support the formation of a Garforth PC.

Thank you

Consultation dates: Monday 20 July to Sunday 23 August

How to respond:

Responses have to be made to Leeds City Council via:

- ▶ Responses have to be made to Leeds City Council via:
- ▶ Website - <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/elections/garforth-community-governance-review>
- ▶ Post - Electoral Services, Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR
- ▶ email - elections@leeds.gov.uk

Further information about Parish Councils can be found at:

- ▶ Website www.garforthnewsletter.co.uk

Don't forget to become a GNPf member

- ▶ Email garforthplan@gmail.com
- ▶ Find us on Facebook - [Proposed Garforth Parish Council Information](#)
- ▶ Keep in touch via Facebook, website or information posted on the notice board in the library

