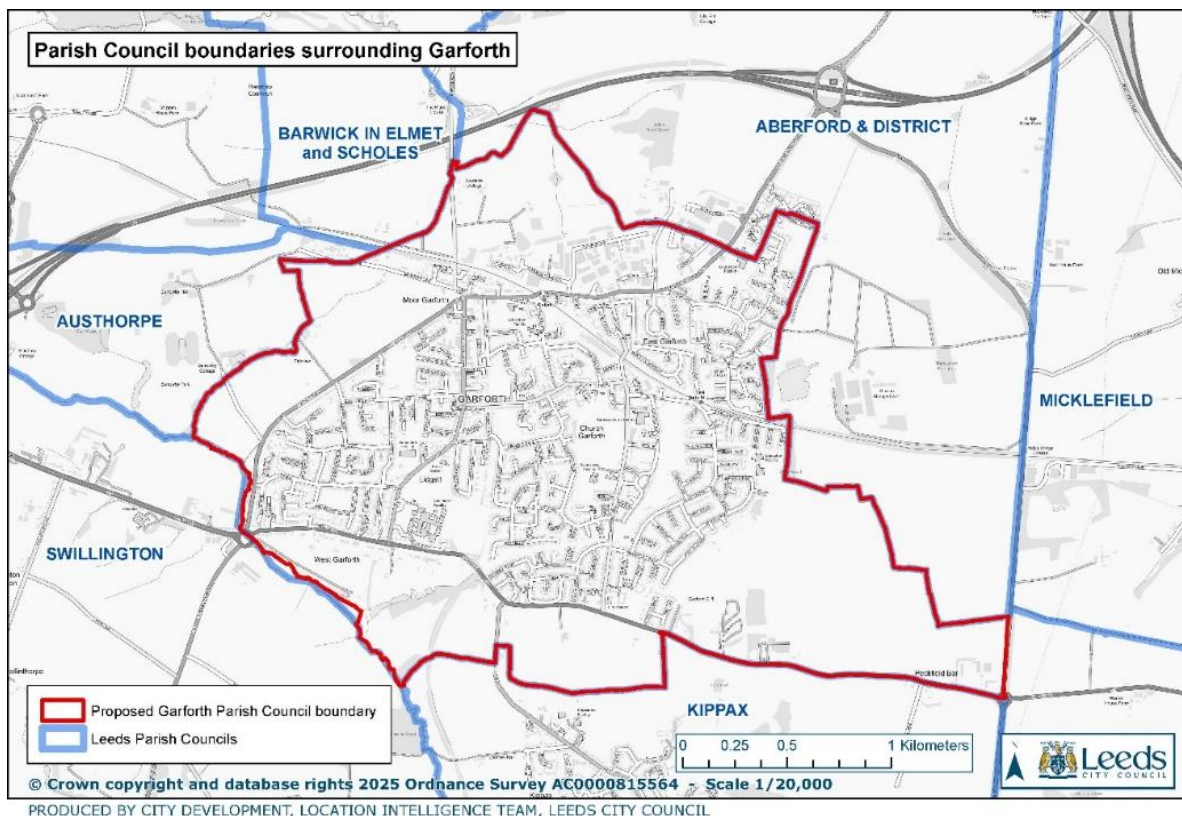


Support the campaign for a Garforth Parish Council proposed by Garforth Neighbourhood Planning Forum



History of Parish Councils

Parish Councils were formed in 1894 as a first tier of local government. In the same year Tadcaster Rural District Council was established as a second tier of local government and included the parishes of Aberford, Austhorpe, Allerton Bywater, Barwick, Garforth, Great & Little Preston, Kippax, Micklefield and Swillington.

Why is Garforth the only community in this area without a Parish Council?

In 1908 Garforth Urban District Council was formed and included Allerton Bywater and Kippax who lost their Parish Council status. The 1974 local government reorganisation included all of the District Councils in the new Leeds metropolitan Council and the Garforth Urban District Council ceased to exist. In 1999 Allerton Bywater successfully applied for Parish Council status followed by Kippax in 2004.

Benefits of Parish Councils

Areas with Parish Councils have many advantages when compared to Neighbourhood Planning Forums and their status is permanent. As an elected body they have a democratic mandate to:

- Speak on behalf of their residents
- Be formally consulted by Leeds City Council
- Raise precept money to improve services and the environment for their community.

All Parish Councils exist to represent the best interests of the residents. They are made up of local residents, elected by local residents and are supported by a funded Parish Clerk. They

- Meet regularly to discuss the effect of their Local Council's policies on their area and raise funds to make improvements for their community
- Consult with and provide opportunities for local people to identify features of an area that need improving

- Communicate with regular newsletters, notice boards and websites
- Provide information on local issues and organise celebratory events
- Campaign for additional facilities
- Work alongside local councillors

Residents can attend meetings and discuss their issues and ideas.

Why Garforth needs a Parish Council

The Garforth Neighbourhood Plan is now a statutory document but needs to be monitored to ensure that the policies are included in decisions taken by planning officers. The Garforth Neighbourhood Planning Forum (GNPF) does not have the permanent status of a Parish Council nor the financial or clerical support to undertake this work.

Leeds City Council are preparing their next Local Plan 2040 and once again Garforth will be a focus for a large settlement extension as most of the fields surrounding Garforth have been put forward for possible development.

A Garforth Parish Council:

- Would have the right to be consulted regarding planning proposals before they go to a public consultation
- Would represent the views and concerns of residents over future plans to impose further large housing developments in Garforth
- Would ensure that its share (25%) of any locally raised Community Infrastructure Levy monies (CIL) is spent only in Garforth not throughout the Garforth & Swillington ward as at present
- Would seek to improve the Green Spaces within Garforth, protect the Green belt and high quality farmland that surrounds Garforth
- Would provide information on all the clubs and activities that take place in Garforth
- Would publish regular communications e.g. a newsletter relating to events affecting Garforth
- Would campaign for additional facilities in Garforth and oppose cuts to services
- Would seek to protect the non-designated heritage assets in Garforth.
- A Garforth Parish Council would have more resources than a Forum to work alongside our local councillors.

Any improvements could be funded by the precept levies on all properties. This precept would be set by Leeds City Council. In 2026/27 for a band D property in neighbouring areas ranged from £24.22 to £86.23 per annum and reflects the services that The Parish Councils provide. If you do not pay council tax you do not pay the precept.

NB Some residents in Garforth along with parts of the Industrial estate already pay a precept to Barwick and Aberford parish Councils.

Next Steps

Leeds City Council have accepted the Forum's application for a Parish Council for Garforth, and it is now going to a public consultation.

Consultation dates: Monday 20 July to Sunday 23 August

How to respond

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

Support the campaign for a Garforth Parish Council