

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
PARISHES OF BRAFFERTON AND HELPERBY
Consultation summary of responses**

**15 May-29 June 2018
124 paper and 27 online responses = 151 total
665 electorate
23% response rate (approximate)**

This is a consultation for a Community Governance Review and the information you provide will assist Hambleton District Council consider the request set out below. The Council has received a petition proposing changes in the local arrangements of Brafferton and Helperby parishes. The Council is seeking local residents' and stakeholders' feedback on this proposal as part of this consultation. Details of the petition proposal are below.

The information supplied by you, including any personal details, will only be used in conjunction with collating opinions and all information will be processed by Hambleton District Council in accordance with data protection legislation. We will not sell or disclose your information to any other organisations or individuals outside the council.

The residents of Brafferton and Helperby along with other stakeholders are invited to submit responses using this form. Additional copies are available from Hambleton District Council website.

**This form is available to complete online at www.hambleton.gov.uk/survey/cgr
Using the online form will help to save costs.**

Closing date for all responses is Friday 29 June 2018.

ABOUT YOU

Q1	How are you responding to this consultation? (select ONE response below)	
	59 (39.1%)	As a resident within Brafferton parish
	84 (55.6%)	As a resident within Helperby parish
	0 (0.0%)	As an individual residing outside the parishes of Brafferton and Helperby
	5 (3.3%)	Other (e.g. business, community group, interested party) please specify below:
	3 (2.0%)	No reply
	1) Brafferton Parish Council 2) GP practice 3) Helperby and Brafferton Community Association 4) Helperby Village Hall CIO 5) Parish Council Helperby	

BACKGROUND

There are two options for the local arrangements of Brafferton and Helperby parishes which are set out below:

- The first is the proposal put forward by the petition;
- The second is to continue with the existing arrangements.

The Community Governance Review covers Brafferton parish and Helperby parish. Brafferton Parish Council has local council responsibility for Brafferton parish and Helperby Parish Council has local council responsibility for Helperby parish.

Currently the number of parish councillors is as follows:

Parish	Councillors	Electorate
Brafferton	5	244
Helperby	5	421

QUESTION 1

Please read the following options and select your preferred option below:

A. The Petition Proposal

The petition proposes the merging of Brafferton parish and Helperby parish to form a new parish. The petition also proposes that both Brafferton Parish Council and Helperby Parish Council be abolished and a new parish council created for the new parish.

Further questions regarding the specific details for such an arrangement are explored in questions 2-4 below.

The proposed new parish and parish council would cover the area shown edged red on the plan annexed to this survey.

B. Continue with the existing arrangements

Make no changes to the existing arrangements, namely, retain the existing parishes of Brafferton and Helperby and retain the existing Brafferton Parish Council and Helperby Parish Council.

The existing arrangements are set out on the plan annexed to this document which shows Brafferton parish edged blue and Helperby parish edged green.

Please tick the box next to your preferred option:

<input type="checkbox"/>	138 (91.4%)	A. The Petition Proposal
<input type="checkbox"/>	13 (8.6%)	B. Continue with the existing arrangements
<input type="checkbox"/>	0 (0.0%)	No reply

Comments (optional):

- 1) A. Sooner the better!!
- 2) As a resident of the village of Brafferton - I always see the two villages as one - which in effect they are. One high st, one school, one church, one village hall, one doctors etc. It seems common sense to 'merge' the two as most residents see the village as one entity.
- 3) As it stands now Helperby Parish Council is not fit for purpose and is run by headless chickens for ever going round in circles not getting anything done. A merger with Brafferton Parish Council makes complete sense.
- 4) Brafferton and Helperby form a single large village and the residents are a single community. The current arrangement with two parish councils seems to be very inefficient. The two councils meet at different dates and decision making is slow when joint projects are necessary. A single council would be better able to represent the community, speaking promptly with a louder voice.
- 5) Considering that this parish has been what can only be described as Railroaded into this petition, Brafferton residents only had 3 days notice as to the meeting to decide what was going to happen, and at the meeting the only real consideration that was put forward was saving money to us in our house did not make sense, over the last 6 years. It seems that neither Parish Council give any consideration for what needs doing in the villages. They defer things till the next meeting and then nothing gets done at all. All for themselves and not for the villages and it will not change if it is 1 parish. If you speak to Parish Councillor about things that need addressing they don't do anything. Plus the petition had been sent in before they came to see the people that said NO. That (one was not the way you do things)
- 6) I am concerned if all or most of the councillors come from just one of the villages then the other village will be of secondary importance to them.
- 7) I consider that this proposal is long overdue and that the two communities should have been amalgamated long ago
- 8) It seems to me that most residents see the two villages as an entity. Many do not even know the precise boundaries. Certainly, visitors don't. Incidentally, there is not a single signpost in the area which mentions the existence of Brafferton. This should be corrected and signpost should indicate the direction of Brafferton Helperby.
- 9) Long overdue - maybe council will now do something about the roads in the village which are probably the worst in N.Yorks - and have been for last 5/6 years. Village roads need to be treated as a PRIORITY - not the side roads.
- 10) Long overdue. Maybe it will add weight to doing something about the terrible state of the roads in the village which are probably the WORST in Hambleton if not North Yorkshire. I first wrote about the road in front of my house in 2012 so there is no excuse that all the roads are as bad - the village must be treated as a priority.
- 11) Our comments (Brafferton PC) would be as in our original submission letter to Gary Nelson dated 12 March 18 and delivered by hand to him with the petitions from both Brafferton and Helperby.
- 12) The grants which go to the current councils i.e, one set of grants to each, should go in direct proportion to the single new council.
- 13) The Parish Council should stay as it is with two Councils, it is breaking with hundreds of years of tradition. Just because the chairmen of each Parish Council have decided to want to join the Parishes together. If this happened village tradition ends and next it will be called one name instead of Brafferton and Helperby. I was not approached at any time to sign or not sign the petition until it had been already sent up and I think it should have been a vote, not people harassed on their door steps.
- 14) The petition presented to the village for signature I feel was misleading. It was not explained what the petition was for. A parish councillor from Helperby just knocked at the door and said 'sign this'. I knew what the peition was for and refused to do so. Other people will not have known what they were signing.
- 15) The two parishes are essentially one community, we believe that not only is the existing arrangement wasteful, but also that it reduces the influence that the community as a whole has on matters that affect the whole community.
- 16) This is a sensible option in order to increase the power of the parish and to reduce the costs of running the Council
- 17) Two Parish Councils are better placed to 'argue' and push for improvements and to voice the opinions of the Parishes.
- 18) Very sensible idea.
- 19) We are one community. We are only two villages by name, and friendly rivalry.
- 20) We have always viewed Brafferton and Helperby as one village, so this is a very sensible move.

Petition Proposal Arrangements

The District Council must consult on the specific arrangements to be adopted in the circumstances where the two parishes are merged to create a single larger parish. Questions 2-4 relate to those arrangements.

QUESTION 2

The name of the new parish should refer to the geographical name of the area concerned. The petition proposes that the proposed new parish be named 'Brafferton and Helperby Parish'. Please identify whether you agree with the proposal or provide another suggestion below.

Please tick the box next to your preferred option:

	126 (83.4%)	Brafferton and Helperby Parish
	18 (11.9%)	Other (please use the space below for comments)
	7 (4.6%)	No reply
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) As the population of Helperby is almost double that of Brafferton I consider that the new parish be named Helperby & Brafferton Parish.2) Brafferton and Helperby Village3) Brafferton Helperby Parish because this fits in better with reality4) East Swale. Coatesbridge. Helperton. Brafferby. Milscoat. Coateston.5) Helperby and Brafferton Parish6) Helperby and Brafferton Parish7) Helperby and Brafferton Parish8) Helperby and Brafferton Parish (as Helperby has larger electorate)9) Helperby and Brafferton Parish Council10) Helperby and Brafferton Parish. (NO signposts in the surrounding district are to Brafferton, just Helperby)11) helperby and Brafferton Parish. Helperby is bigger and better known.12) Helperby and Brafferton Parish. The village is always referred to as 'Helperby'.13) Helperby and Brafferton Parish. This due to Helperby being the larger parish.14) Helperby and Brafferton Parish. This is based on the electorate numbers i.e. to reflect the larger parish rather than simply following alphabetical protocol.15) Helperby is the larger village, so I think it should be Helperby and Brafferton Parish.16) HELPERBY-BRAFFERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (Helperby being the larger of the present parishes)17) If the two existing parishes become one, I suggest that the new parish is called BRAFFERBY.18) Leave them with their present names19) Parish of Helperby and Brafferton (Helperby is the locally known name for the village and I feel that this should be more prominent in the new name of the parish)20) Prefer Parish of B + H21) Preferred option Brafferton and Helperby Parish. Apart from complying with normal alphabetical order practice, it also reflects the historical order of establishment - Brafferton existed in Saxon times, wheeas Helperby is of Viking origins.22) Suggestion is to name it Helperby and Brafferton Parish. This is in view of the greater number of electorate being in Helperby.23) There are those who will probably want Helperby to be named first. However, as the older settlement, that privilege should go to those strong folk up the road!	

QUESTION 3 - Style of the parish

The review is considering the creation of a new parish and therefore the District Council is required to consider whether the new parish should have a parish style or adopt one of the alternative styles (see examples below). Currently, Brafferton and Helperby parishes have 'parish' styles and it is anticipated that local people will want to retain the same style if a new single larger parish is created. However, an alternative style such as a village, community or neighbourhood (rather than a parish) can be considered.

The style of the parish will be reflected in the name of any council of the parish. For example, the council of any parish which uses the style 'village' will be known as the 'village council' and its councillors as the 'village councillors'. Similarly, if the parish retains the style 'parish' then the terms 'parish council' and 'parish councillors' will be used.

Please tick the box next to your preferred option:

	133 (88.1%)	The new parish adopts a 'parish' style
	11 (7.3%)	Other (please use the space below for comments)
	7 (4.6%)	No reply
		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Assuming the merger goes ahead2) Brafferton and Helperby Village Council. A more positive way to move forward for the whole community and village council in the future.3) Community style please4) I assume this means 'retains' and 'parish councillor' etc will continue5) I can see no valid reason to do away with the 'parish' designation. It describes the historical and actual situation.6) I would prefer the term 'Community' to parish (and to adopt) Community Council and Councillors, to be used.7) No preference8) No strong objection to the retention of 'parish' since it is of ancient origin. However, since Helperby now has a vibrant Community Association, 'Community' might be a better choice. Also it would space it, in the public mind, from the CofE parochial council.9) See above (HELPERBY-BRAFFERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (Helperby being the larger of the present parishes))10) Village11) Village12) Village13) Village Council14) Village council15) We like the idea of VILLAGE or COMMUNITY16) We would wish to retain the style 'Parish Council' with which most are familiar. Adopting any other style - village, community or neighbourhood would merely serve to confuse the public.

QUESTION 4 - Electoral arrangements

This includes the ordinary year of election of parish councillors, council size and parish warding.

Ordinary year of election of parish councillors

Ordinary parish elections are held once every four years with all the councillors being elected at the same time. If a new single larger parish for Brafferton and Helperby is created the new parish electoral arrangements will come into force at the ordinary parish elections in May 2019.

a) Council size

Council size is used to describe the number of councillors to be elected to the parish council. Each parish council must have at least five councillors; there is no maximum number. Variation in councillor number appears to be influenced by population. Research found that the typical parish council representing less than 500 people had between five and eight parish councillors and those between 501 and 2,500 had six to twelve councillors.

The total electorate for Brafferton and Helperby parishes is 665.

Please tick the box next to your preferred option:

	42 (27.8%)	The size of the new parish council be six councillors
	53 (35.1%)	The size of the new parish council be seven councillors
	46 (30.5%)	The size of the new parish council be eight councillors
	4 (2.6%)	Other (please use the space below for comments)
	6 (4.0%)	No reply

- 1) 10
- 2) 10 as original
- 3) 10 Councillors - as now
- 4) 5 councillors
- 5) 8 councillors
- 6) 9
- 7) An odd number would avoid a 'hung' council and a larger number is not necessary.
- 8) Apparently according to meeting 6 councillors can do more than 10. If they did the job properly we would not be doing this.
- 9) As a member of this parish I am expecting a vote for a single chairperson!
- 10) Four councillors from Helperby. Four councillors from Brafferton.
- 11) More councillors means more money spent
- 12) Needs to be an odd number, then there is no stale mate at a decision level.
- 13) Six plus a chairman who would have the casting vote in a stalemate voting situation.
- 14) This should be an uneven number to avoid tied votes.
- 15) We do not have strong views on the matter, but believe seven Councillors would ensure reasonable representation, without becoming unwieldy.

b) Parish warding

Parish warding is the division of a parish into wards for the purpose of electing parish councillors. The division of a parish into parish wards would be appropriate where the number or distribution of local government electors for the parish would make the single election of councillors impractical or inconvenient; and that it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented.

Please tick the box next to your preferred option:

	114 (75.5%)	The new parish is not warded
	31 (20.5%)	The new parish is divided into two parish wards consisting of Brafferton Parish Ward (shown edged blue on the plan) and Helperby Parish Ward (shown edged green on the plan)
	6 (4.0%)	No reply

Comments (optional):

- 1) 3 councillors from each ward
- 2) I would like to see Parish Councillors being replaced every 4 yrs as with other organisations.
- 3) Keeping in wards to ensure not one part of the village is dominant. 7 councillors would allow 4 from Helperby 3 from Brafferton to reflect the different sizes of population.
- 4) One collective village ward should be more practical and efficient during election period and council matters.
- 5) Parish Councillors to be reviewed every 4 yr term
- 6) See Question 1 answer (I am concerned if all or most of the councillors come from just one of the villages then the other village will be of secondary importance to them.)
- 7) The existing community could be described as being divided by two Parish Councils. It would be undesirable to prolong that situation
- 8) This change is long overdue. It will improve cohesion in the village decisions and make the council more efficient and focused on the two villages as a 'village' which is what it really is.
- 9) Warding would surely be divisive and therefore undesirable in a united entity.
- 10) We are too small to be warded. If we were, old rivalries between the two villages might persist.
- 11) We believe the new parish should not be warded. The community has struggled hitherto with the division occasioned by two Parish Councils. We believe it would be undesirable to reproduce this by introducing wards with separate representation.
- 12) We need two parish wards to achieve a more representative balance of both communities.

Thank you. Please return this form in the FREEPOST envelope provided or by hand to Hambleton District Council, Stone Cross, Northallerton, DL6 2UU or Easingwold Area Office, The Police Station, Church Hill, Easingwold YO61 3JX no later than Friday 29 June 2018.