

**INFORMATION FROM YOUR WARD COUNCILLORS, ABERFORD & DISTRICT
PARISH COUNCIL AND LEEDS CITY COUNCIL PLANNING DEPT.**

Dear Parish Resident,

We are writing to advise you of a meeting that recently took place between Aberford and District Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Group, Garforth Ward Councillors and a Leeds City Council Planning Officer. This meeting was to seek to agree on an appropriate boundary for the Aberford and District Neighbourhood Plan (the NP). Originally the Parish Council had felt that the whole parish area should be included in the NP. However, following discussions at a meeting held on the 18th December, it was agreed that the NP would include the areas of the parish to the north of the motorway. This means that the area of Garforth where you live will not be included in the NP. **This does not have any direct effect on you but it is important that you are aware of these changes.** To help you understand the issues, a list of some questions and answers are set out below:

What is a neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a new right that local communities now have to prepare a development plan for their area. The plan must conform with local and national policies but it can make decisions on where new development should go, what it should look like, as well as include any other issues of community interest or concern.

Why will the Garforth end of the Parish not be included in the Aberford and District Neighbourhood Plan?

It is the City Council's role to designate neighbourhood areas and they have a duty to help to advise the designation of boundaries that are consistent, logical and appropriate. It has been agreed between the parties to this letter that the appropriate boundary for Aberford and District NP is as shown on the attached plan for the following reasons:

- the M1 motorway will make a strong physical boundary on the ground (a logical boundary)
- when it comes to the Referendum on the draft NP the boundary will provide clarity to the examiner on who should have a right to vote, i.e. only those who live in the neighbourhood area (an appropriate boundary)
- the opportunity for a Garforth Neighbourhood Plan, covering the whole of Garforth, is left open to residents if this is what local people want in the future (a consistent boundary).

Will the Aberford and District Parish boundary change?

No, the parish boundary will remain the same and you will continue to pay a parish precept to Aberford and District Parish Council and continue to benefit from being an Aberford parishioner.

Will there be a neighbourhood plan for Garforth?

No interest has been expressed so far but there may be interest in the future and if there is, there will be an opportunity to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the whole of Garforth. If this is the case, the Localism Act 2011 requires 21 people to make up a Neighbourhood Forum and will be required to be representative of people who live, work and carry out business in Garforth. Designation would be made by the City Council.

How will this decision affect residents in this part of Garforth?

There is no direct effect on you or your neighbours. You will continue to have the same opportunities to comment on planning applications and to be consulted on planning issues in Garforth and the surrounding area. The next main consultation in Garforth will be for site allocations and you will have the opportunity to contribute to this process as before. This is likely to take place in the spring. If you would like further information on this please contact Ian Mackay (contact details below). Additionally your three Ward Councillors will be holding an open event to discuss any issues you may have around neighbourhood planning, site allocation implications etc in your immediate area so please go along and speak with them.

What happens next?

The City Council will now advertise the intention to designate the Aberford and District Neighbourhood Area. From xxxx January 2013 you will have 3 weeks to write to the Council to either support or object to this designation. The closing date for representations is xxxxx January 2013. You can make a representation by visiting xxxx or in the following way:

Yours sincerely,

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