

Community Governance Review – Consultation Responses (Phase 1) – November 2022

Harrogate

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1.0 Summary

1.1 The Community Governance Review consultation started on the 22nd August and ran for a period of 6 weeks. All households within the community governance review area received a letter, information pack and how to participate in the consultation.

1.2 A total of **1250** responses were received during this period, a summary of the responses can be found below along further details within this report.

1.3 Please state which of the following best describes you?

I live in Harrogate	96.5%
I work in Harrogate	0.4%
I own a business in Harrogate	0.4%
I am a representative of a community organisation in Harrogate	0.6%
Other	2.1%

1.4 Which of the above options is your preferred option?

Option 1 - not to create a parish council	14.5%
Option 2 - to create a parish council	74.7%
Some other option	2.9%
Don't know / not sure	7.9%

1.5 Please tell us why you chose option 1, not to create a parish council?

Waste of money / How much will it cost	46.0%
No need for two tier local government	30.4%
Added bureaucracy	21.1%
Increase in council tax	13.0%
other	12.4%
Would not achieve anything	6.8%
Not needed / Happy with current arrangement	6.2%
Charter Trustees best option	3.1%
Local people understand local issues	2.5%
Parishes have limited powers	1.9%
Unclear on the benefits / Further information needed	1.9%
inefficient to have duplication	0.6%
LGR is supposed to increase efficiency & reduce costs	0.6%

1.6 Please tell us why you chose option 2, to create a parish council?

Residents need a voice / local presence/representation	44.5%
Decisions made locally / More democratic	18.1%
Have Local knowledge and Understand local issues / needs	13.4%
Provide local services	11.4%
More local control	9.0%
North Yorkshire is too large / Not local	7.1%
Rest of NY have parish or town councils	4.2%
More local accountable	4.0%
Brings communities together / community support	3.7%
Elected Local Councillors	2.5%
Can't see the benefit of a charter trustee	2.0%
Effective current parish councils	1.9%
More democratic and accountable	1.2%
Need a civic presence	0.8%
Maintain sense of identity	0.8%
More / better engagement with residents/community	0.7%
Further information needed	0.4%
Major services controlled by NYC	0.2%

1.7 Please provide details on other options available?

A total of **16** comments were received detailing other options available.

1.8 Please tell us why you don't know or are not sure on which option you prefer?

A total of **81** comments were received providing a reason why people don't know or are not sure on which option they prefer.

1.9 Are there any further comments you would like to add about the Community Governance Review?

A total of **534** further comments were received by respondents about the Community Governance Review.

1.10 Are you aware of any existing local community governance in the areas (e.g. community or neighbourhood forums, resident associations etc.) which would serve the local community as an alternative to a parish council?

Yes	9.3%
No	67.3%
Don't know / not sure	23.4%

1.11 Please tell us more about the group, the area it covers, and the reason for your answer?

A total of **115** comments were received by respondents providing details of existing local community governance in the area.

1.12 **Contact details:**

A total of **800** respondents have provided their contact details to be kept informed on the Community Governance Review.

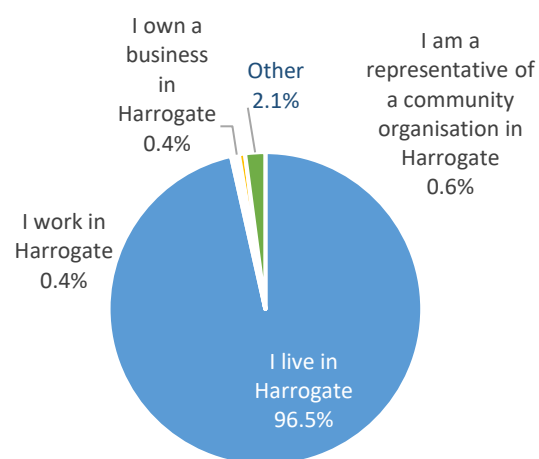
2.0 Responses

2.1 Where are you from?

2.1.1 Please state which of the following best describes you?

The majority of responses to the Community Governance Review for Harrogate consultation live in Harrogate with **96.5%** of responses.

	No.	%
I live in Harrogate	1206	96.5%
I work in Harrogate	5	0.4%
I own a business in Harrogate	5	0.4%
I am a representative of a community organisation in Harrogate	8	0.6%
Other	26	2.1%
	1250	



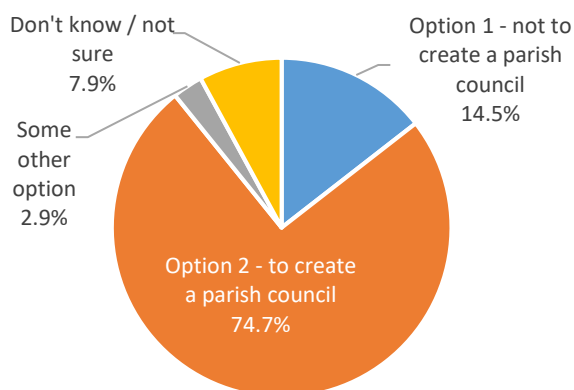
2.1.2 Further details on postcodes and more information on representatives from community organisations and other types can be found in Appendix A

2.2 Charter Trustee / Parish Council

2.2.1 Which is your preferred option?

The majority of responses with **74.7%** prefer option 2 to create a parish council.

	No.	%
Option 1 - not to create a parish council	181	14.5%
Option 2 - to create a parish council	934	74.7%
Some other option	36	2.9%
Don't know / not sure	99	7.9%
1250		



2.2.2 Please tell us why you chose option 1, not to create a parish council?

Out of the **181** respondents that ticked option 1, a total of **161** comments were received. A summary of comments by theme can be seen below.

The top 3 reasons why option 1 was chosen

1. Waste of money / How much will it cost
2. No need for two tier local government
3. Added bureaucracy

	No.	%
Waste of money / How much will it cost	74	46.0%
No need for two tier local government	49	30.4%
Added bureaucracy	34	21.1%
Increase in council tax	21	13.0%
other	20	12.4%
Would not achieve anything	11	6.8%
Not needed / Happy with current arrangement	10	6.2%
Charter Trustees best option	5	3.1%
Local people understand local issues	4	2.5%
Parishes have limited powers	3	1.9%
Unclear on the benefits / Further information needed	3	1.9%

2.2.3 Below are the full comments:

-
- Creating a unitary authority was supposed to save money, whilst the size and scale of the new authority is a joke, it doesn't necessitate the need for a parish council. A parish for Harrogate will increase council tax at a time of increase cost of living and when it was promised money would be saved with LGR. In addition this is two tier by the back door, as whilst you haven't clarified the services the town council will deliver (which undermines this consultation), it will inevitably mean the confusion and lack of clarity two-tier local government currently has will remain. With an MCA in the future, what good will three layers of local government do for anyone?
-
- Waste of money. This new council for North Yorkshire is supposed to reduce bureaucracy and save money not add additional layers.
-
- Parish Councils have limited power and could charge a huge precept.
-
- Because the prime reason to create a unitary was to get rid of 2 tier local government and the complexities it brings. Local area committees of NYC should deal with more local issues.
-
- Conservative Minister Robert Jenrick Stated that A BENEFIT of a unitary council was that it would increase efficiency & reduce costs. Should NYCC go ahead with this proposal it will be necessary to legally challenge the entire unitary operation as dishonest and not fit for use or purpose. In addition to this there is the blindingly obvious cost of living crisis which means many people have no funds (or less than) due to a number of well documented government mistakes or lack of action. Therefore it is
 - Totally inappropriate to be illegally imposing further costs when NYCC is entirely responsible for these activities. This is a recorded communication.
-
- More costs. Creeping government. Not necessary.
-
- I believe the added bureaucracy and expense on Council Tax bills cannot be justified. Amalgamating all the North Yorkshire councils is supposed to help drive efficiency so why add something back again. The local business community already has the Harrogate Chamber of Trade and Harrogate Bid so they can continue to support businesses. The local public have their elected member to raise issues with and in addition have their MP so I do not see the need for further layers of local government to be added back.
-
- Just creates yet another tier of 'governance' - the move to a unitary authority was to do away with additional bureaucracy
-
- very unclear what benefit this additional tier brings
-
- COST
-
- More bureaucracy
-
- Local people understand local issues better
-
- I think Charter Trustees would probably be more efficient and proactive than a parish council, without the same cost. Our current Harrogate Borough Council have been so totally unsatisfactory, inefficient and pompous in their roles; being seemingly unaccountable to anyone for such a shoddy service; they continue to waste money on consultations etc. whilst making no progress whatsoever. I've had enough of councils; let's try something else, it can only be an improvement. And cheaper.
-
- Not enough information provided to support it. What powers would the parish council have, how much would it cost? I thought the point of creating a larger North Yorkshire Council was to get economies of scale and reduce bureaucracy. Creating a parish council seems to put us back to where we were.
-
- The residents of an area would have to address the costs incurred by the creation and maintenance of a parish council. Most of the functions of a pc already have another body with statutory powers. Currently planning approval is with Harrogate BC and applications are delegated to officers. Road, footway and verge care is with the Highway Authority and
-

should be carried out in an order of need rather than by uninformed or untrained people. The same applies to other activities. In other areas parish councils struggle to get the population to get involved and members are effectively not challenged at election time

- Because we are just getting rid of a layer of local government so why on earth would we recreate it at a cost of untold millions?
 - I do not believe that an additional layer of local government will bring benefit to the Harrogate community. In my view the existing Harrogate Council has not been effective, particularly in the area of housing planning.
 - I thought the whole concept of creating a unitary authority was to cut costs and improve services by avoiding duplication
 - I am worried that by creating a parish council we will have to pay more council tax to support this. We pay far too much as it is.
 - The principal aim of this major local government reorganisation was to remove a complete layer of government and thus bring efficiency and associated cost savings. There is therefore little point in reinventing HBC. This should have been a predicted outcome of the reorganisation and should have been dealt with during the discussions/consultation on the formation of the revised structure. Had this been the case, the required referendum could have taken place as part of the recent council elections, thus saving further expense to council tax payers. This demonstrates the short-sighted approach of Hgte Council which should be removed.
 - Because I would expect it to be the lower cost option and save money.
 - Creating another tier of local government with very few powers.
 - Whilst local democracy is important, so is accountability. I would not consider the creation of a parish council without a further idea of the costs involved. Primarily, the cost of running the council, as such, and whether there would be an appointment of officers? The extent to which the council runs services, what they are, and their budget costs, and an undertaking by North Yorkshire Council that a rebate for these services is given, is a prerequisite.
 - We cannot justify further expense on another group of local government officers' salaries and pensions. We are already paying an extortion amount in council tax plus additional fee for green waste. This would add further to the costs at a time when no one has the extra money
 - It will increase my council tax by at least 12% with no benefit to me. It will only benefit the councillors who are elected by enabling them to claim allowances over £22,000 per year, businesses given grants by the parish council, and entertainment to encourage visitors to the town. Why should I pay towards this? The cost of living is rising by leaps and bounds and why should I pay towards a further layer of government that we don't need. We have reduced layers of government to save money and a parish council will increase it! No we don't need a parish council. It's a way of printing money for the hierarchy paid for by the poor and needy of the town.
 - Seems a waste of time and goes against the whole point of a unitary government
 - When was the last time anyone someone said thank goodness for the Town Council? It has never happened, they just cost money and provide a talking shop for people you would generally try to avoid The only positive element is that it will be somewhere warm for the elderly councillors to go now heating costs are so high.
 - It is just another drain on the areas resources. We need to slim down all the expenses, not just the Council Tax, but all the hangers on and freebie folk.
 - I don't see the point in getting rid of Harrogate Council, paying all the costs involved then setting up separate Parishes and Town Council. Also having worked alongside some Parish Councillors I know that many of them are not people I would trust to make any serious
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decisions. They are elected as long as no one else stands so we have various egotists lording it over people and being rude thinking they are little gods. I am also aware that one spends most of his time in Gloucestershire and is only on a Parish Council here because he is a Second Home owner. This does not qualify them as suitable people to hold such responsibility. I would rather trust trained professionals within a main Council who are qualified and experienced in such matters.

- I think the Charter Trustees would have more experience and greater power.
 - Don't want to pay even more Council tax
 - NYCC is taking over the running of NY and should be allowed to get on with it. I do not want another body interfering in any way with their work. And I especially do not want another body wanting more of my money to do nothing. HBC and the old NYCC wasted, and are wasting, millions of public money, GOOD RIDDANCE TO BOTH.
 - I don't want to pay for yet more busybodies to mess things up.
 - surplus to requirements
 - More expense, more bureaucracy and further risk of corruption by a few individuals
 - It's another layer of government/local council that we don't really need and definitely do not want to pay for in increased council tax
 - The booklet we received explains that charter trustee areas have no power to provide services.
 - Don't see the need for another layer of bureaucracy and cost
 - If parish councils are created then why even do one big council anyway. Seems silly to start splitting things out again when a main merger has taken place.
 - Adding extra cost to the budget which will increase my council tax again
 - We need to stop the continued want to create overbearing and needless levels of bureaucracy and maintain an acceptable level of management of the area by acceptable individuals not concerned with office or notoriety.
 - I think it is unnecessary and a waste of finances.
 - Lower costs
 - Having decided to abolish Harrogate Borough Council (I don't recall having been consulted about this), what is the point of establishing an alternative with all the additional costs that would entail. I fail to see what function a parish council would have. I was born in Harrogate in 1939 and have lived here all my life, my parents and grandparents before me. I am sorry to see the town administration being so drastically changed for no apparent benefit as far as I can see.
 - It would be yet another, albeit temporary (possibly) layer of bureaucracy that just costs the ratepayer more.
 - Having followed the creation of the Harrogate local development plan together with the six new housing development sites in my local Kingsley Ward over the last six years, I am disheartened and angry at how the (supposedly) 'local democracy' system has been mistreated. To say Harrogate Borough Council has played lip service to any form of local democracy would be a great understatement. My resulting view now is that any form of local government does not represent the wishes, ideals or standards of the local community, so the little local government the better for me thank you.
 - Another unnecessary layer of complexity and cost.
 - The UK is predominantly an Atheist country so I don't understand why we would hand power to a Christian organisation, who would in my opinion be biased toward the morals of their church and not of the people they represent
 - Centralised government cannot provide for its constituents as effectively. The creation of a parish council would likely limit the attention paid to individual areas of the county
-

- The existing council does nothing for the residents , so I cannot see why parish council would do anything
- I don't want an extra levy on my very large council bill already
- A waste of time and money to carry out the same functions as the existing structure, plus I suspect job losses
- Parish council has a religious connotation which I am against.
- Only another level of bureaucracy with little benefit from increased costs
- I believe that the likely candidate for the parish council will not be people who are representative of the town, and will have their own vested interests or come from single interest groups. I believe such groups would stifle innovation and house building, for their own ends rather than those in need.
- we have an active and effective councillor who already well represents us on local matters
- I don't see any need to spend further money on another tier of local government. I'd get rid of the Charter Trustees too. Waste of money!
- More administration with little or no action.
- It will create additional cost. HBC will be removed and then a town council created. Why bother such a waste of money to create exactly the same.
- Do not support creating more petty bureaucrats
- The new council should be able to deal with all areas of constituency. Parish council will add another cost that I do not believe can return any value to the process
- Waste of money and additional bureaucracy
- I don't feel there is a need to create another layer of bureaucracy, at a presumed cost to the taxpayer.
- Reduce layers of unnecessary Bureaucracy and cut cost
- Just another layer of petty officials making nonsense decisions and lining their own pockets.
- I do not see what benefit another tier of government would bring having just abolished Harrogate Borough Council. In the past too many issues were not resolved as responsibilities between the Borough Council and the County Council were often blurred and used as an excuse not to do anything. Do the existing parished residents think they are getting good value for their precept payment?
- Prefer Charter Trustees.
- It would be best for the Harrogate area
- Another tier of local government that will cost money...and with limited interest from voters in elections that will have to be run
- See it as a duplication. We have elected councillors from each area/ward surely they can deal with local issues etc. Without the need to pay for another level of bureaucracy.
- Waste of money
- The whole idea of creating north Yorkshire council is to get rid of all the other (gravy train) councils
- I don't believe a further tier of government and administration is necessary
- They are creating a new unitary council so what is the point unless it's another jobs for the boys creating yet more expense when they should be saving money.
- Waste of money. Will only attract the wealthy who do not have the best interests of ALL the town in mind. Status symbol.
- Our current councillors have squandered budgets for years now which has resulted in Harrogate being a shadow of its former self. Creating a new parish council creates the extra layer of red tape that prevents Harrogate developing and results in funds being diverted away from the core services it needs (for example most of the gulleys in

Harrogate appear to be blocked as they don't get maintained and contractors allowed to fill them with their waste during what feels like constant road works). Councillors in Harrogate have become blind to what's needed in Harrogate so centralised services will surely reduce costs and allow money to be spent on vital services and maintenance rather than things such as large cycling events that cause more disruption than the promised additional funds to local businesses

- It will just be another layer of frustration when trying to get anything done.
 - They will be ignored
 - Because a PC are more likely to impose more restrictions on the community than to reduce any rules and regulations
 - Expense too many involved in management
 - Just another level of bureaucracy and the creation of self interest groups
 - I think another layer of local government is necessary and will cost more
 - Decision are best made by professionals.
 - I do not want another layer of authority - the charter trustees should be able to make decisions in the best interest of the area.
 - I think it is a tier of government that is not required.
 - The reason for my choice is that there needs to be local representation for local issues now the Harrogate BC is to be dissolved. NY CC is too remote.
 - It will undoubtedly end up costing residents extra money for another layer of inaction.
 - More unnecessary jobs
 - Whilst I would really prefer a more local representation my experience of all council contact has been generally poor, therefore the fewer levels of bureaucracy the better and lower cost. I would prefer to have direct access to decision makers without the need to pass through various levels (who don't appear to have any real power) before reaching an individual who is responsible and can make a decision.
 - Parish Councils will only cost more money and likely provide yet another two-tier 'authority' as we currently have, but probably, without the same clout. We have the opportunity to have a single authority, which might give measured consideration to the majority of residents needs without pandering to minority groups at general expenditure and inconvenience: and, potentially, reduced Community Tax bills. My personal experience of HBC over about 3/4 issues has been unfriendly, unhelpful and the latest (over £150 energy rebate; as I pay standing order, not DD), downright rude. None of which has augured well, as Customer Service or general PR. Thank you.
 - There is absolutely no need to Replace Harrogate council with a parish council. Just leave it to nycc. Save resources and more bureaucracy
 - For many years I have been dismayed by the decisions made by the HBC & NYCC. Currently I'm thinking of the Gateway project. The feeling is that the wishes of the vast majority of residents have been overridden. If NYCC deem it necessary to distribute an expensively produced information pack inviting residents to express an opinion on whether or not residents approve a parish council within their area. why on earth didn't residents receive a similar document which outlaid the plans for the Gateway project. A much more important issue to most people & for Harrogate, than that of parish councillors. How long have residents been complaining about potholes, yet these councillors haven't delivered.
 - It only involves civic and ceremonial activities
 - waste of time and money and would serve busybodies' egos not the people
 - less expense
 - Sounds like an excuse to have to many opinions on things resulting in little or no positive action
-

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- I do not wish to incur the cost of Option 2 through increase in Council Tax
-
- We pay more than enough council tax as it is.
-
- I think this has already been decided. I also think it is a shame that we are losing Harrogate Borough Council.
-
- We do not need another level of bureaucracy.
-
- I have a strong general presumption against creating additional unnecessary tiers of government, which in my experience create costs for minimal, if any, additional benefits. Elective posts in them tend to be held by self-serving individuals with agendas that typically do not relate to genuine local interests, but to personal 'bee in bonnet' issues. At a time of national crisis on so many fronts, all related to cost of living, I fail to see any convincing argument in favour of exacerbating these by burdening council tax payers with a further cost premium in this way...
-
- Don't see any need
-
- I don't want to pay more fees
-
- Having had years of inadequate, arrogant, extravagant local council who appear not to be accountable to anyone, I want to get away from another bureaucratic layer of officials who will just cost the local residents more whilst not providing anything beneficial. I don't see any need for a Parish Council.
-
- Happy with current arrangements in place
-
- Improve efficiency of local government. Ensure decisions are made for the good of the region, not just Harrogate town.
-
- It is an unnecessary level of bureaucracy which will cost council tax payers even more for next to no extra benefit. Council tax is extortionately high as it is without adding more to it.
-
- More bureaucracy. More expense. Another tier of management and costs
-
- All working ok
-
- Cost. What is the point in getting unitary status, removing one tier of government and replacing it with another? No doubt when HBC is closed, the council tax will not be reduced but if we get a Harrogate town council, there will be a further precept.
-
- We need change to fit modern times
-
- Rather have less layers of local government, probably cost more to run as well.
-
- The current arrangements are adequate. The proposal will increase already extortionate council tax bills and are yet another layer of bureaucracy between the electorate and central government
-
- Because they finish up as a toothless body populated by do-gooders with no professional expertise
-
- Not cost effective
-
- Harrogate has had two tiers of LG since 1974. We now shall have one council, there will be no confusion as in past of which council is responsible for which services. If a parish/town council were to be created with more teeth than some smaller local parish councils, then we are just going back to two councils. Some people bleat about ...'decisions being made at local level'. With area based committees, particularly on planning, then in effect it is local. Also we have concerns re town/parish council precept. We already pay a high rate of council tax and if there is no proposal to reduce that then if we had a town/parish council taking on responsibilities such as parks then, in effect, we would be paying twice for the same service. There has never been that great a desire to parish Harrogate if there had been surely one would have been proposed.
-
- Why have a unitary authority if not to save money? An additional layer would bring minimal benefit for significant cost.
-
- No information on what I have to pay, what it costs and how this improves my services
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- Waste of money
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- Another layer of control that's not required adds cost and to the tax payer as slows decision making down. The quality of local councils leaves lots to be desired.
-
- Harrogate Borough Council (as was) have made so many poor commercial decisions, wasted so much money & don't seem to have a clue what they're doing! (eg, the ridiculous cost of their 'gin palace' offices, built at ridiculous cost to the benefit of errrr . . . themselves! Also, the old council offices at crescent gardens, still empty. Add to that the ridiculous cycle development on Otley road, closure Beech Grove to vehicles, etc., etc., etc., etc.). They should hang their heads in shame. With the of ridiculous, rampant, residential development in all surrounding villages & the additional revenue generated, we should not be allowing the clowns on the town council, that f**k up everything that they touch, to have access to the public purse any longer. It would be difficult for any centralised governance to do a worse job!!!
-
- Prefer not to have too many layers of government and often those who have the time to be Parish Councillors are not representative of the wider community, but just typical middle class, often, white, with time on their hands.
-
- The main benefit that I see from new unitary council is to have a single point of contact for all issues, without having to work out which body to approach, so why go back to a multi-layer complex system? If the benefits of double devolution outweigh this perspective, then you should have simply kept Harrogate Borough Council in place to perform whatever functions will be given to a new town or parish council.
-
- There is far too much, expensive, government both locally and nationally. That leads to expensive inefficiency and mission creep. The last two years have seen far too much illiberal and undemocratic interference in people's lives. What is required is a downsizing of government, both local and central, led by a radical local and national independent review. There are far too many timeservers in local government as it is, reorganising and then reorganising again with the only end that of making sure they retain some handsomely remunerated and handsomely pensioned appointment.
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- It seems to me it is yet another layer of administration.
-
- Unnecessary layer of bureaucracy.
-
- It will just be stuffed with Tories. We need less of that.
-
- Another level of administration and cost...
-
- Another council is not needed.
-
- Harrogate has an identity as a town, its local services should be provided by a Town Council offering a consistent, unified service across the whole of the town.
-
- The logic of the new Local Government structure is to have a unitary authority. It makes no sense to then create a lower tier authority which would be expensive and would wastefully duplicate the unitary functions. This especially true when local government is very short of resources and many services are inadequate. The unitary authority councillors who are elected in Harrogate have the job of ensuring that local needs and views are met by the new Unitary Authority. That is sufficient.
-
- No need for it, we have just abolished 2 tier System. Their role would be so limited it's pointless. I am not paying anymore council tax, the current cost is already ridiculously high
-
- My preference is for fewer tiers of government not more. This can avoid overlapping or missed responsibilities. Fewer tiers also has the benefit of a more efficient use of resource, reduced bureaucracy and financial efficiency. More could be done to make current elected representatives, officials and services accessible.
-
- I'm not paying even more council tax! We already pay a ridiculous amount!
-
- Not enough detail, i.e., a cost benefit analysis
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- We have just moved to local governance with fewer tiers. We don't need to have more tiers now, at extra cost.
-
- I already pay in to the Killinghall parish council based on living by the army foundation college. Looking at the proposed map, I would then be paying in to a secondary town council. This I do not agree with. Council leaders in Harrogate for too long have been able to spend money as they please and think that Harrogate residents are a money pit that can keep paying, we're not all made of money!
-
- It will make no difference whatsoever because like all these talking shops those in power (some of whom have been there since year dot) just walk over the man in the street. What the public want is not on any menu, it's what those in power want.
-
- I see no need for a layer for simply civic and ceremonial duties which does not have any power to represent Harrogate resident needs and lobby North Allerton to ensure adequate services for our district.
-
- Additional unjustified cost Duplication of back office functions (accountancy, audit etc.) Additional layer of bureaucracy loss of economies of scale low levels of democratic involvement at this level of LG
-
- This appears to be creating a layer of management with additional councillors which will continue to create debates between the parish councillors and the North Yorkshire Councillors which the new structure is designed to remove
-
- It occurs that more than 50% of people are atheists these days, why going backwards in time stopping positive progress. Religion splits people more than anything.
-
- Another lair to pay costs for
-
- Extra cost
-
- Unnecessary further level of council. It works fine under present proposals.
-
- expense
-
- Duplication of roles leads to inefficiency. One council should provide all services and be accountable with no excuses for underperformance.
-
- Another set of jobsworth to pay for.
-
- To avoid a too parochial approach, which may not consider the bigger picture and strategic needs for Harrogate. Also a parish council may have insufficient influence.
-
- a parish council sounds like another level of organisation - I prefer as streamlined as possible
-
- Council tax and local taxes are far too high already.
-
- Parish Council would just add another level of governance. We will already have locally elected Councillors on the new NYC.
-
- It would cut our costs and leave the responsibility on someone else If we found it did not work I am sure someone would be quick enough to shout and complain and create a parish council we have managed perfectly well without one before so let's give it a chance
-
- Unnecessary level of additional government because: 1. Service functions could be carried out equally well by NYCC. 2. Service functions are already undertaken satisfactorily for a much larger area than a parish by Harrogate BC and NYCC. 3. There is therefore no demonstrated need for parishes in order to carry out service functions. 4. Community representation is best organised locally to meet to meet local needs and would not be rendered superfluous by parish councils. 5. The cost and efficiency benefits of a unitary authority would be undermined by the creation of lower levels of government for which there is no overriding need. 6. The great benefit to Harrogate town of having NYCC as the single contact for all local government matters would be negated by the addition of parish councils. 7. The extra costs of an additional layer of government should never be countenanced without an overwhelming justification. 8. Parishes are unnecessary for ceremonial functions.
-

- - non creation of a parish council is the least costly option for the community - no case has been made for a parish council and no costs established - it would be unforgivable to establish a parish council without examining the creation of an adequate capability within NYCC - residents with concerns could approach NYCC directly thus facilitating swifter and less costly governance - further study and discussion needed
- I want less bureaucracy so as to keep costs down. A parish council would be an additional cost and over time it would probably grow and cost even more. A parish council would mean more councillors - we have enough as it is.
- I cannot afford and do not want to pay more council tax for another useless tier of local government. It will achieve nothing and is just another way that privileged wealthy people have of receiving money and influence.
- I don't think it should be a parish council
- I believe it will lead to less work / maintenance being carried out in our area
- Because it gives professional treatment to villages
- I have read with great interest all the information on the alternatives available under the above process. I fail to see how the introduction of a parish council will have any bearing on the decisions that will ultimately be made by NYCC, except to introduce another layer of bureaucracy and time delays in decision making, I am therefore not in favour of a parish council for Harrogate.

2.2.4 Please tell us why you chose option 2, to create a parish council?

Out of the **934** respondents that ticked option 2, a total of **849** comments were received. A summary of comments by theme can be seen below.

2.2.5 The top 3 reasons why option 2 was chosen

- Residents need a voice / local presence / representation
- Decisions made locally / More democratic
- Have Local knowledge and Understand local issues / needs

	No.	%
Residents need a voice / local presence/representation	378	44.5%
Decisions made locally / More democratic	154	18.1%
Have Local knowledge and Understand local issues / needs	114	13.4%
Provide local services	97	11.4%
More local control	76	9.0%
North Yorkshire is too large / Not local	60	7.1%
Rest of NY have parish or town councils	36	4.2%
More local accountable	34	4.0%
Brings communities together / community support	31	3.7%
Elected Local Councillors	21	2.5%
Can't see the benefit of a charter trustee	17	2.0%
Effective current parish councils	16	1.9%
More democratic and accountable	10	1.2%
Need a civic presence	7	0.8%
Maintain sense of identity	7	0.8%
More / better engagement with residents/community	6	0.7%
Further information needed	3	0.4%

2.2.6 Below are the full comments.

-
- Harrogate Residents need a voice and need to have a say on the place they live and work in
 - Keep the resources and wealth within Harrogate.
-
- Local presence
 - Local knowledge of local services needed is important.
-
- I believe it is impotent we retain local community representation as part of the move to a new unitary authority. This will encourage initiatives such as neighbourhood plans.
-
- Much of the rest of North Yorkshire has town and parish councils, so it would seem equitable to have town councils in place for the two largest towns, Harrogate and Scarborough. Feedback from the voluntary sector is that it is often helpful for fundraising if there is a local civic "Mayor" in place within a town or village. If this can be achieved through Charter Trustees, then fine, but it is probably more likely if there is a Town Council.
-
- Because Harrogate badly needs #Independent councillors to stand up for local residents
 - The rest of North Yorkshire has Parish Council's. It makes sense to have a common system for the whole area.
-
- Local residents need to have representation
 - For a town the size of Harrogate, a town/Parish council is vital to allow as many decisions as possible affecting the town are taken locally, not by the County Council. My observation over 20 years is that ideas and schemes originating at the County level have often been flawed, due to the lack of detailed local knowledge.
-
- To maintain local control over local matters
 - To allow Harrogate residents to have a democratically elected council to represent their interests.
-
- Local interest and important v important for democracy and relevant governance.
 - We need some genuinely local voice in local government
 - It brings in a layer of decision making closer to the population living in Harrogate
 - Decisions on issues that affect the local population and organisations should be delegated to the lowest possible level. North Yorkshire County Council is too remote an organisation to be able to take detailed decisions affecting the Harrogate area.
-
- Not creating a parish council for Harrogate would result in a reduction in Harrogate's identity. There needs to be local representation not further centralisation in Northallerton.
 - Because a parish council would have its own council tax precept, so that I, as a council taxpayer in Harrogate Borough resident in s parished area outside Harrogate (and a future council taxpayer to North Yorkshire Council) will no longer subsidise parish-level services within Harrogate. It's a matter of fairness. The residents of each area should contribute to the costs of the services in that area, as I do through the parish council tax precept which I pay.
-
- I feel this would support local decision making and enable my communities' needs to be more easily identified and met.
 - The least worst option. It offers Harrogate residents at least a small degree of truly devolved determination in respect of issues affecting the town, given that the decision to concentrate real power in a distant mega-authority will alienate many residents once they realise how little interest many member of the new council are likely to have in Harrogate's affairs.
 - I feel some level of local governance is required
 - Harrogate, along with Scarborough, will be left without any local decision making body when the district councils are abolished. Though parish councils may not have much power, local representation and decision making is important. Charter Trustees would not achieve this as they would be simply figureheads whilst being representatives of the (county) council.
-

- This is required to represent the interests of Harrogate - the new organisation will certainly not reflect true local democracy so anything that comes some way towards this is better than nothing.
- I believe it will be more area centric and accountable
- I think it is important the people at a local level feel they have some representation locally. Without it they feel their voice is nebulous and won't necessarily make a difference and that is how I feel. To have a collective voice locally I feel is without doubt the best way forward to serve the needs of the people and keep those at the top or distant connected to the coal face.
- It is important for Harrogate to have a local voice. When a town the size of Harrogate doesn't have its own town or borough council I think it tears the heart out of the town, dooming it to decline.
- I would like there to be a level of service which is closer to my local area and can meet its specific needs.
- Harrogate is a large town which needs its own accountable local government, not remote rulers who don't understand the town's unique characteristics and diverse population mix. Scarborough, Selby and Skipton are very different towns with their own individual characteristics. The "one size fits all" approach is nonsense!
- York and North Yorkshire is a huge area. Harrogate needs much more localised community governance so that the town retains its unique identity and local people have more say in matters such as town planning, provision of parks, and progress towards sustainability.
- In order to give local residents and businesses in these areas a voice
- I feel like the overall size of this new North Yorkshire Council is far too large, and local communities could be lost. With Harrogate and Scarborough covering the largest numbers it feels only right that there is a parish council to ensure the interests of the local communities both heard and actioned upon.
- Greater local democracy now that HBC will not continue past April 2023
- There is simply no reason to have multiple systems of governance under the new NYCC (of which I disapprove btw - it being a less democratic and accountable replacement for the existing system)
- Otherwise Harrogate as one of the largest urban centres in the district will miss out on things if there isn't a collective there to champion and take decisions on things. The other towns have one so Harrogate should too
- Harrogate needs a civic presence.
- It doesn't seem right for this area to have less representation than other areas.
- To ensure decisions about local services are taken locally
- So long as it is a parish council and not one covering the whole of Harrogate - keep it local like a village.
- They may have more say in the running of the town
- This is on the proviso that all major services (planning, finance, refuse collection, etc.) are controlled by the unitary authority and NOT any Harrogate Town Council
- It would be helpful to retain more control over policies and decisions which impact our town and the surrounding area. It will also increase engagement between members of the public and the wider unitary authority. In doing so, Parish Council members must receive adequate training on their responsibilities and decision making. It cannot be a NIMBY organisation nor politically influenced decision making. It must be democratic, informed and fair.
- A body to listen to local issues
- The ability to manage local affairs at a local level comes with many practical benefits, not least the location of services and people to carry out the administration.
- As long as councillors are unpaid and elected

-
- Parish Councils in my opinion are needed, they understand the towns and villages they represent.
-
- I don't think the disclosure of the differences in your description are very clear to people not involved in parish or local councils - the preference is based on a parish council being a better vehicle in my opinion
-
- Some form of representation is needed. Without further information, however, it's difficult to make an informed judgement.
-
- Provision of other local services
-
- Charter Trustees are dated. Parish Council would have greater local accountability.
-
- Without a parish council the residents of Harrogate lose the right to have a say in the management of the town and local issues
-
- To ensure a sense of community cohesion through local level decision making and accountability.
-
- Our present Parish Council has been very effective in building and supporting our local community, when Harrogate District Council rarely looks beyond the town of Harrogate. HDC will not be missed but our Parish Council would be.
-
- There is a need for a localised group to ensure specific issues relevant to our area can be heard, discussed and resolved
-
- We need some local democracy. It is a nonsense that everything is decided in Northallerton.
-
- For more local democracy.
-
- no comment
-
- Because local people want local representation. Not to have a Parish Council would be to have decisions made by those who are not (necessarily) familiar with local needs.
-
- Not sure, but it sounds like a good idea for some reason.
-
- I believe it to be essential that a Parish Council be created to safeguard those local issues not fully understood in the wider North Yorkshire area.
-
- I think Harrogate should be able to decide about and be responsible for some services locally and maybe there will be more local decision making. It might mean that local councillors, who know the area, can have a greater input/more say over priorities than when decisions are made further away.
-
- I think that it will be better to have a parish council who will be able to provide other local services.
-
- So that we retain maximum local democracy and control over local services for the people of Harrogate
-
- Nycc is a huge area and I believe the need for services should be decided as locally as possible with appropriate funding.
-
- Keeps local decisions local
-
- Better decisions made by a team who know Harrogate, benefit from a local focus rather than regional one to get lost within
-
- The new council is far too big we need local governance
-
- New Authority far too large - some local democracy
-
- Hopefully a new batch of people/ members means new ideas, new energy and new ways of making Harrogate/ the area a better place
-
- We must have local representatives to ensure Harrogate district is able to access all the services it requires. We cannot rely on North Allerton to provide for us.
-
- To ensure as far as possible the engagement of local people in local issues that will/would be covered by the parish council.
-
- I feel that it's important for the town of Harrogate to retain a measure of independence from North Yorks County Council. There are specific issues, which might be more
-

appropriately dealt with by people with local knowledge and understanding of local issues and, if necessary, bring them to the attention of the more remote centre of governance of the North Yorks County Council.

- Sounds better for the local community
 - We need to feel part of our local community as well as part of a larger council
 - My understanding is this is the best way to ensure local people have a genuine influence on decisions affecting their area especially services provided and planning decisions
 - Harrogate being subsumed into North Yorks would make it voiceless
 - It would serve local democracy better if Harrogate had a parish council, but this it is important that it is made clear exactly what responsibility such an organisation would have. It also needs to be made clear how all of this would balance off against the election of a district mayor. As things currently stand 80% of the current budget is managed by NYCC with HBC having responsibility for the other 20%. So does Harrogate having a parish council mean that it would manage a greater share of the overall budget? So whilst I feel that Harrogate needs a parish council it does need to be made clear what responsibilities it would have in key areas such as planning, transport and climate change. At present there is a lack of clarity.
 - We need a complete alternative to what we have at the moment.
 - Believe we would get better quality of representation. Charter Trustees feel temporary and lacking in authority. Would put us on par either other towns.
 - We do not need to have mayors and all that goes with them it's a waste of money when the new authority will have an overall mayor. We need a local council to cover very local issues but not a massive council with jobs for the boys set up.
 - local government should be local - a PC is the nearest we'll get to it under the new council set up
 - I think there might be a need for some local services to be remain or set up locally.
 - Local People, Local Knowledge
 - I believe devolved democracy works better than centralised democracy. My only concern is that we may end up paying more for it.
 - Should allow more local decision making Appears unfair that smaller towns will have more say in local decision making than the larger towns such as Harrogate and Scarborough. Within North Yorkshire seems fairer to allow local decision making across the area or if insufficient funding for this scrap all the parish councils.
 - The need to protect and continue local representation.
 - More grass roots interest, knowledge. Somewhere to go for putting local concerns to be lodged and taken forward. Smaller concerns easily forgotten or overlooked if taken over by some remote body. Decisions taken may not be in local interest.
 - I believe that we need to have some say in what happens in our area,
 - We pay a fortune in council tax thus we deserve a say in how/where it is spent
 - Harrogate should have a Parish or Community Council which is a voluntary organisation that can act as a voice for our local area. They should meet regularly to discuss issues affecting our area, including planning and licensing applications. All meetings should be held in public with residents encouraged to attend their local meeting.
 - I work in Knaresborough where they have a Town Council and they are very proactive, really focussed on the local area and events, they really know their town.
 - A town council would provide a democratic voice at a local level. It would be best placed to lead/help with community action working with local community and voluntary groups. It would be also be best placed to develop civic pride and promote/protect Harrogate's heritage. A Harrogate Town council would be best placed to work with bodies such as the BID, Chamber of Trade and other bodies to promote Harrogate.
 - preferred option
-

-
- Needs to be local
-
- Because I want local representation and a voice for local issues, not being ruled by some central place somewhere. I know it will have a cost and the unitary authority is supposed to simplify, but central governance never works and is never fair.
-
- The new NY Authority is far too big to adequately represent the interests of every part of the district. Harrogate has very specific local facilities and needs which I don't believe will be met without a body specifically representing the town.
-
- To allow more close and immediate access to the governance system.
-
- So that Harrogate has a local voice in what North Yorkshire Council decision making has on it.
-
- To have control over at least some local services
-
- To have control over some local services if everywhere else is having a parish council
-
- The borough council should never have been abolished. But now it has been, Harrogate needs more local representation and service provision. This is the only option to provide that.
-
- Self-evident.
-
- To ensure some local input to open spaces management and attempts to control litter.
-
- We have had a Parish Council in my area for ever. It does great local work and gives a contact point for many things to do with Harrogate borough council
-
- Although it undermines the whole point of LGR for simplifying government structures, at least there's a bit more local representation.
-
- prefer this option
-
- I think local representation in every way possible is very important
-
- To look after the interests of the town at a local level not from Northallerton.
-
- The parish councillors will need to stand for election and should be more accountable to their local area
-
- cccc
-
- I have often thought it was unfair for Knaresborough and Ripon to have a parish council and Harrogate not to have one.
-
- Local provision of services within the town
-
- To keep local issue before the council and seek support for local issues
-
- I feel that local people should have a voice in local decision making in particular with reference to planning and the control of the use of the Stray.
-
- Local representation able to raise local issues
-
- I do not agree with the creation of a NYCC, I prefer local democracy.
-
- Hopefully local issues will be resolved
-
- A local council is needed to deal with local issues, especially local issues that are unique to that locality. A parish council would be able to feed relevant local information to North Yorkshire Council which cannot be expected to know everything within the county. It would help the county council to make the right decisions.
-
- Residents need access closer to their homes rather than the remoteness of Northallerton. Local parish councillors will understand local issues better. Current experience of NYCC handling local issues are poor.
-
- Otherwise there is no local governance compared to most of the county and is a major town.
-
- Local people should have opportunity to decide what happens in their locality.
-
- Harrogate should not be the only town without elected council.
-
- I think Harrogate needs a local, elected voice and that a Parish Council is probably the best we can now get. Our representation on North Yorks council (1 councillor I believe) is not sufficient for a major town such as Harrogate.
-

-
- To be more in touch with the community/local people
-
- To allow funding to be controlled more locally to meet specific local priorities
-
- Harrogate relies on tourism and investment to help its local business's survive. More local decision making would ensure this doesn't get overlooked by an oversized North Yorkshire Council.
-
- We are attached to Killinghall and it doesn't serve us well.
-
- It's essential to maintain local involvement rather than have council functions run exclusively from Northallerton.
-
- The Stray must be locally managed and comply with the Stray Act 1985.
-
- To ensure views of local residents are taken into consideration for a more democratic outcome than relying on a single outside body
-
- I'd like to know what services they could provide and will all members be elected. I'm not in favour of any level of council just for ceremonies. It's a waste of funds and not inclusive
-
- Due to the ridiculous reorganisation to a unitary council for the whole of North Yorkshire which can only be unrepresentative and distant (no other council in England will come near in terms of area covered), local representation is needed.
-
- I think a local council has a better understanding of the issues facing the people who live in this area.
-
- For Harrogate not to have a voice at a parish level seems unbalanced against the rest of NY. It is important for the community, local level engagement and retain appropriate historical and heritage links.
-
- It will at least allow the residents to have a bit of a say on local issues, particularly with Planning decisions and public services.
-
- Local focus.
-
- To, one hopes, provide an awareness of local needs and the power to address them
-
- I can't really see the benefit of being a charter trustee area.
-
- I would prefer local residents to hold councillors to account through local elections and believe that the creation of a parish council would deliver greater accountability.
-
- Local representation
-
- It is important for residents in the town wards to have local representation to focus on local issues and focused spending especially if there is a devolved authority with a Mayor. It is also important to keep it as the Harrogate town wards only NOT to merge with current parish councils in more rural areas in the former District who have stated quite clearly in the past that they wanted to be separate and not part of Harrogate
-
- Look after the interests of the people of the town
-
- NYCC is too large to be effectively represented by nearly 100 Councillors. Parish Councils will enable decisions to be taken closer to the wishes of local residents
-
- To have community involvement at a more local level
-
- We need some local control. The new NYC is far too big and there will be too many councillors who do not understand Harrogate. We know what is best for everything our town has to offer
-
- There are local issues that need to be discussed locally not in North Yorkshire Council
-
- I feel it will give those who live in the area a greater voice and opportunity to influence what occurs on our doorstep
-
- local democratic control
-
- More control at local level eg. Stopping any further housing developments.
-
- Without a parish council we appear to be completely ruled by NYC without local representation.
-
- To ensure other local services are provided
-

-
- We need representation that understands and cares about the local area
-
- NEARER TO THE PEOPLE
-
- To provide local services and representations.
-
- To have a voice for the people of Harrogate and continue to run similar services to which the Harrogate Borough Council already does. I.e. community centres, community transport schemes, neighbourhood planning, festivals and fetes. etc. - as is currently provided.
-
- Decisions for the Harrogate area should be made in Harrogate by local people who know the area.
-
- Because with the creation of the NY Council I think local areas need to have some representation.
-
- With all other areas in North Yorks having a secondary council (except Scarborough) having a second tier, plus local things are better run from a local level.
-
- Local people understand local needs
-
- It would feel more personal to Harrogate.
-
- Local stuff for local people by local people
-
- Would be more answerable to local concerns hopefully
-
- I think Parish Councils have worked well in many other locations across the country for many years and provide a means to retain the local traditions as well as being a voice for the local community that has been lost in recent times.
-
- Simply because the larger and more remote local governance is the worse it is for the local residents.
-
- A strong voice against planning permission applications for large extensions
-
- Increased democracy
-
- This is difficult to grasp. It seems that Harrogate and Scarborough will not have the same control of their affairs as other more rural parishes will. I would say all areas should have the same control, whatever that is. I thought the whole point of this reorganisation was to reduce the number of players involved, but I can't see how creating more parish councils will do that. Harrogate has its own particular priorities (as I'm sure other areas do) whose interests might not be best served by a county body
-
- I believe having some form of democratically electable local council would remain beneficial for the residents to have their voices heard
-
- Harrogate needs a dedicated management organisation to deliver local services.
-
- To have more control over local affairs
-
- Maintain local influence through elected representatives
-
- I hope a Parish Council will give Harrogate more self-control
-
- Seems like control would be more centralised. Although clearly I'd need to know cost implications
-
- Because it can choose to provide and support certain services or facilities for the community
-
- Need local power for local people but why not a town council for a town like Harrogate
-
- I'm unhappy with what I see as the removal of local power to be subsumed into a unitary council of North Yorkshire. Usually a unitary council is created in an area of a county council that is smaller, allowing a smaller usually densely populated urban area more local power like that of a country council. Thus giving a city in a larger county council independent status. Sometimes elevating what was a borough council to a status similar to a county council. THAT IS NOT WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE. We have a county council (North Yorkshire) transforming into a unitary council and as such abolishing all borough councils under it. Net result we are just abolishing Harrogate Borough Council. As just I will take what little (little being the operative word) power I can get back from the new unitary council even if it is only ceremonial thanks.
-

-
- in Harrogate the residents should have a say in how our rates are spent
 - Better local accountability.
 - Because it better serve truly local needs.
 - To make you aware of local issues
 - I believe a Parish council would be able to better represent the residents of that area and steer the provision of important services that could be overlooked.
 - local decisions for local issues in local areas - within powers available
 - Quite simply, the performance of NYCC from Northallerton has been appalling for many years and whilst HBC are not angels, at least there is some local knowledge and ability to understand the stunning town of Harrogate. The town is unique in many ways and supports a vibrant business and tourist office industry, and these need local support and direction.
 - I would like my views addressed by local rate paying councillors
 - Democratic election of parish council
 - To ensure decisions affecting the local area are made by people who are close to the area and the issues locally.
 - The Parish council would have a closer relationship with residents and a better, first hand understanding of their needs
 - More sensitive to local issues
 - To provide an element of local governance and control for those who would directly affected
 - Representation of residents at a local level
 - More local control. Harrogate is unique and should be treated as such
 - Local people should have a voice
 - Feels to be more democratic and open
 - It will give people a say in what happens in the town & surrounding area.
 - Local issues could be better served
 - More control over parish
 - I would like as many decisions as possible made locally
 - To enable local decision making on matters which are best controlled by local communities
 - It is important that as many decisions as possible are made locally and not in Northallerton
 - The Information Pack offered was, unfortunately, typical governmental gobble-de-gook. Thinking beyond that, my initial reaction was - we are going from 3 levels of government, to two and then back to three - why? Reality is that at the last local government election, Harrogate went almost entirely Liberal Democrat to a large extent in protest against NYCC. The new NYC is looking more and more like NYCC by another name. In this case, Harrogate must have a voice. This seems to justify a Town/Parish Council. Therefore my vote is for Option 2.
 - We need local representatives. Cart before horse. This should have been done BEFORE removing our local council. How arrogant! His infuriating!
 - Presumably, local representation will be better served, with local residents electing local councillors.
 - Currently Harrogate in Bloom/Team Harrogate works in partnership with the existing Harrogate Borough Council to promote the floral beauty of Harrogate. However, the standard of expertise of horticulture in the Parks Department is so limited that Harrogate looks disastrously messy and untidy. Our thoughts are that things will be worse if Harrogate Parks Department is controlled from afar. At least if we have a parish council there will be elected local representatives whom we can lobby to get the floral aspect back to the standard that we used to enjoy. The Head of Parks and Environmental Services has no horticultural qualification. In fact there is only one horticulturally qualified person in the entire department.
-

- seems more involved in the community
- We have struggled to get in touch regarding issues of road safety in the past being referred to our Parish Council which currently does not exist (Council staff and highways agency have told us this) this left us disenfranchised and unable to follow our issues through. A Parish Council will allow us the same rights as everyone else.
- For local residents to have more input and control
- We used to have parish councils years ago & everything was ok
- I would like elected representatives to look after local services
- To provide and support the services you mentioned in the information pack including neighbourhood planning, crime reduction etc. and work in the best interests of the local community.
- support local knowledge on local decision making
- Gives me the impression that it would deliver greater tailored services appropriate to the area.
- They are able to provide more local services to benefit the community
- To ensure that the needs of Harrogate are always considered in wider discussions
- Possible for tenants to resolve any issues that could arise.
- I would like to be able to have proper representation for local issues that affect Harrogate directly.
- Ensure local needs are met within the expanding governed area
- Firmly believe that local communities should have control of decisions in their area
- If we're going to get charged a levy in the council tax it should at least be able to have some local administrative responsibilities
- So that local issues can be focused more effectively.
- Hopefully there will be created more local services
- Conservation Area and important for local resident kits to have a direct say in preserving the community.
- I believe they represent the people of the parish, as local representatives, better than other less locally focused councils, and get more things done and are more easily accessible and elected.
- Rather than Parish council I would prefer it referred to as a town council
- To maximise input from local people
- Will give more freedom of choice to electorate
- Previously lived in an area with parish council and felt it provided good support of local interests
- I feel local decisions should be made by people who live within the local area.
- I believe that the democracy will be removed from local people by the new authorities.
- I want to have as much local control. However, I do not want to pay twice for the same services.
- Representative of from the locals who know the needs of the area
- People actually living in the area who can make informed and relevant area decisions
- Local representation would be useful.
- I feel a parish council would be much more hands-on and beneficial to Harrogate
- I feel that North Yorkshire is such a big area that the town needs a parish council to represent local people better for decisions relating to the town and to provide a direct budget solely for spending on local priorities.
- More than purely decorative.
- So the general public will have more of a say in what happens in our area
- Real people whom we choose, responsible for our community.

-
- more power for the parish
-
- for greater local democracy
-
- It is important for local democracy to have representation at this level of administration. Harrogate should have a Town Council to determine as much as may be possible within the new arrangements for governance.
-
- I like the idea of local people helping with the running of the area.
-
- Better for the community.
-
- It would be difficult to administer civic and ceremonial functions at arm's length.
-
- Don't want to lose local control of current HBC services.
-
- To establish a more local democratic voice on the delivery of services.
-
- Because it will provide local representation ensuring that the needs of Harrogate are heard and met.
-
- I think it is important that local views are represented and the creation of a Parish Council will ensure effective communication between the Harrogate areas and the North Yorkshire Council.
-
- To provide local representation and, hopefully, to hold the new unitary authority to account
-
- To have democratically elected personnel involved with their local community, for the good of the community.
-
- Take control of own area
-
- Existing arrangements for residents are ineffective and largely ignored by HBC, specifically in relation to planning matters. The residents' association has only indirect influence on Local Government and its views have been ignored or subject to a democratic deficit with limited access to council deliberations. Individual wards are increasingly anonymous, over-developed and chronically starved of local amenities. Unlike Harrogate town centre and pre-1980 character.
-
- To increase local provision of services and more communication channels
-
- Because there needs to be a local (elected) group to make informed input on decisions that affect those who live in the area. A county-wide body will not have enough interest/knowledge to make those decisions.
-
- Believe it will be able to deliver better services
-
- So that the people of this quite large town can have more direct involvement in things which affect them day-to-day and so that they lose as little of possible of the control over such things they have enjoyed up to now. So that this town is not disadvantaged compared to the rural areas that have parish councils.
-
- To enable parish council take greater responsibility.
-
- I think creating a parish council would be best as long as those who take this on are local to the area and have the experience to do the job well and include the community in the decisions.
-
- To give more voice and powers to those living in the areas affected - this is what democracy is all about.
-
- I think the issues facing where I live in central Harrogate are different than in Pannal, and I would like to have local people who understand help problem solve and improve our area.
-
- Would like the opportunity to elect someone to speak up for our area and tackle local issues
-
- It is important to have people making decisions about things like youth projects and community services that understand local concerns and issues. The new council is too remote.
-
- Would give locals more of a voice in matters that affect the local area
-
- We need someone local who understands our needs/ problems. We need someone living in the area
-

- I think a parish council for Harrogate is a great way to put local people in deciding decisions for local people. I believe that only the people of an area can fully understand the issues that affect them and they should be on the forefront of their community.
- Harrogate is a major tourist and leisure venue. It therefore needs a body which is able to focus on local needs, planning and service provision that are specific to Harrogate. North Yorkshire Councillors will not have that local focus. In addition, the Acts of Parliament concerning The Stray and Valley Gardens confer rights and obligations on the current Harrogate Borough Council. The intention was that these important sites be administered locally in order to protect them. This should be done by a locally elected body and not by a body elected by all of North Yorkshire.
- We need elected officials and officers able to take action locally. We also value having a Mayor.
- I think local accountability is a good thing.
- A parish council will allow local councillors to make some decisions about local areas. I expect parish councils will have a more specific interest in their local area - and be good for residents.
- Seems to work in rural areas
- Local Issues are better made locally
- Better for non-political functions
- Gives the local population some control of their own environment.
- To have proper representation for the area I live in.
- because decisions need to be made and acted on a local level
- They have more power at local level as residents are elected to speak on our behalf. Charter trustees have little power in providing services, we need more area representation.
- The ability to provide additional local services to the area is important for a parish council over that of charter trustees. By electing a subsection of local government the local people will get a better say in local matters and feel better represented during the overall changes to the devolved North Yorkshire Council.
- A good parish council can act as a mouthpiece for its residents which is of benefit as it means local opinions can be aired in a formal way.
- To have some local responsibility for local services. North Yorkshire is a very large area and I think matters of purely local concern could easily get "lost".
- To ensure that my voice is heard
- Local services should be run locally by elected officials
- It would help the local area
- Members of local neighbourhoods will be better represented, rather than decisions being made by people who don't know local areas.
- Greater local democracy and decision making. Ironic you ask this now when you didn't ask if we wanted a unitary authority in the first place.
- a parish council would be better served to identify local needs
- Solution tailored to area needs
- Harrogate Town needs representation by a statutory body of elected Members upon Town Planning issues, Economy and Local Services etc. It also needs to retain its traditional Mayoral functions and take responsibility for certain specific services such as its Parks and Gardens and the Harrogate Stray.
- Parish councils are a well-established approach to supporting local interests.
- Allows local communities to have more of a say
- To have a voice on planning issues.

- Without a parish council, the ability for the local areas to voice their opinions will be diminished. Harrogate has massive differentials in financial wellbeing and deprivation. Allowing richer areas (where town councillors tend to come from) to dominate politics will be damaging to the whole of Harrogate.
- A parish council will give local control of some services. A charter Trust would be a remote organisation in Northallerton, not always aware of local circumstances.
- Local representation needed.
- To get local representation
- The strongest local voice is needed. First, to help the new unitary authority to make the best decisions that impact on local life. A Parish Council will also ensure that devolved power is put to the most effective use and reflects as best it can, what local people want to happen.
- The default option of Charter Trustees is an unsatisfactory arrangement which has the potential to generate cost for council tax payers without proper representation and for purposes which are unnecessary. Representation at parish level is a basic building block of local government with appropriate local service provision best organized at that level
- Residents elect councillors
- To have a say on local matters. Should be a Town Council, not a Parish Council (Parish is an outdated concept).
- LOCAL PEOPLE NEED TO MAKE LOCAL DECISIONS
- I want someone to provide local services and be aware of what is needed
- I'd like Harrogate and the local community to have a strong identity and voice within the new NY council
- Like the idea of having a parish council to be able to offer services and facilities which benefit the area and the residents living there. As charter trustees are only ceremonial, and can't act as administrative units, we definitely need something more than this for the local area in Harrogate
- Preference is for local people to make local decisions on things that matter (ie not ceremonial).
- To have more say and action in the requesting /providing of services in my local area.
- Because it sounds as if it would have greater scope to do things in & support/improve the community
- This would hopefully give greater local governance and decision making.
- Would give us best representation with potential positive action. Representative would actually live here and so would best understand local people and their wishes.
- I believe the interests of local people are best served through localisation of and a capability for expressing the views of the people who live in a specific area
- We need local representatives to be responsible for providing local services eg. bin collections. Then when there is a problem a local representative responsible for the problem can be identified and approached without the need to travel to Northallerton. And that individual is likely to be suffering the same inconvenience (I am assuming they will also live in Harrogate) and will want to solve the problem quickly for their own benefit.
- It will be more representative and responsive to the community
- Improve that the town has a town (parish) council for effective local representation. County Council has wider responsibility for much larger land area and therefore differing priorities
- To provide residents with representation in the new unitary authority.
- closer links to the residents of the area
- Local representative living in Harrogate
- do not need extra layer of talking shop with no executive power/responsibility
- gives the opportunity to provide some local services and responsibilities

-
- To be better represented locally
-
- Local representation - with the abolition of Harrogate borough council, new unitary authority will not be able to deliver local services to Harrogate as easily and there is a significant democratic deficit with Harrogate being the largest town in the new NYC authority
-
- It is important to have a local council which prioritises the needs of Harrogate
-
- To ensure a local voice for residents and representation on areas that matter to them
-
- I would prefer for certain responsibilities and decisions to be made locally. The removal of the Borough Council means decisions will be made at a much higher level and may not take into account the nuances of the local area.
-
- Local democracy
-
- More local government is better, I don't like the idea of just being under a council for all of north Yorkshire. This seems the closest to the current arrangement
-
- It is important that local residents have a say in these matters
-
- Think it will improve local democracy and be more effective in delivery local services
-
- This is an opportunity to raise and deploy a budget against local priorities with clear accountability.
-
- To have representation at lowest level of government across a populous area. Over and above statutory duties this council could also facilitate key community initiatives and facilities such as sporting, parks, car parks, planning and crime reduction.
-
- To have representation at lowest level of government across a populous area. Over and above statutory duties this council could also facilitate key community initiatives and facilities such as sporting, parks, car parks, planning and crime reduction.
-
- A local tier of representation can make a difference locally, on a scale which matters day-to-day
-
- We need a parish council otherwise we would have no say about local services
-
- Creating a Parish Council in my area would help to develop and bring the community together
-
- To hopefully monitor and resolve local issues. To be able to respond more appropriately to local concerns
-
- There needs to be local representation like every other community in North Yorkshire.
-
- I would want decision making devolved to locally elected representatives. Democracy should operate at a local level and decision taken for the local area by elected representatives that are directly accountable to the local community. The ceremonial role fails completely to achieve this and decision making is remote and not able to be influenced by the local electorate.
-
- Residents of the parish looking after the parish
-
- We badly need local representation for local issues at street level - for example, managing road traffic and parking.
-
- important to have local input into decision making that affects residents and the services they receive
-
- I believe civic functions and a sense of history are important and this should be carried out by a local trustees.
-
- I think it would be of benefit to the community, as they would be able to respond to local needs better as they'd have greater local awareness and would have been elected by the local people. It would create a more bespoke approach to decisions taken for the community and ultimately create a better living situation for Harrogate residents.
-
- Local representation
-

- It seems important to have as much decision taking ability as close as possible to the residents. I have been very sceptical of the government requirement to combine all the town and borough councils by creating the new NYC as I feel it will be too remote in such a large area, and the temptation to save money by reducing provision of local services will be great. A local representative body will be able to provide at least some local services and accountability, and be more aligned and appreciative of local needs.
- So local residents can have some control over local matters.
- I currently live in an un-parished area and feel as though there should be a body of people responsible for local services.
- To enable more accurate representation to the differing needs of the individual localities
- Some local representation is needed and to manage as much as possible. The new Unitary Authority and Mayor are not a good idea.
- I'd like to think someone with real experience of local issues and concerns would have a say in what affects the local population.
- More influence on planning decisions
- Seems to be the best option
- More local views
- More say in local needs
- I think it is extremely important to have a strong local political voice. The risk in not having such a voice is that local issues could be overlooked or neglected. As things stand the road that I've lived in for the past 54 years has never looked as scruffy and neglected as it does now with unsightly, patched up, pavements and road. Add to that the fact that the kerb edges these days have an unkempt array of grasses and herbage! Even if the powers that be don't care about the appearance of Hill Top Road I most certainly do and think that those responsible should be ashamed of themselves.
- Then we would have a say in our own affairs
- To maintain some local control over events and issues that affect us.
- I feel we should have control over recommendations and decisions on local services. A forum where these things can be discussed by people who reside and use them.
- The creation of a parish council gives the impression of more focus on the immediate area, bringing greater relevance to ensuring local community issues are addressed
- I think a parish council would be more beneficial to the community.
- It is very important to have local representation.
- The residents of Harrogate need to be able to influence and control local things such as parks, the Royal Hall etc.
- I would like to have some local accountability. If there is an issue local to Harrogate, or to my neighbourhood, I would like to be able to raise it with my local councillor, who has the power to do something about it. Only having a county level council would take away democratic rights, in my view. I also think that at the moment Harrogate has a distinct local identity and community - I would not want the local feel to be lost if subsumed into one big large authority with no local council delivering services.
- I believe local issues need to be fed up to the new unitary
- More local accountability
- Harrogate needs services which are vital to the economy and well-being of the town managed locally. While the list of services that could be managed by a town council is included in the leaflet there is no mention of one of the biggest facilities - the Convention Centre and the Royal Hall. This needs local management. Similarly Parks and Gardens mean so much to Harrogate but way over in Northallerton will it be so significant when budgets are being set?
- Retain identity and some responsibility

-
- Harrogate presents unique opportunities and issues which would benefit from local focus and management. There is a (potentially unfounded) fear that these issues would struggle to receive the attention required if solely managed under the new Unitary Authority.
-
- Community control over finances, services and assets brings with it the threats of fragmentation, mismanagement of public goods, the politicisation of neighbourhood issues, and the potential for localised power to create or exaggerate community divisions. These risks increase in diverse or deprived neighbourhoods where ethnic, racial or social relationships are already under pressure. Political extremism, corruption, and capture are the risks most often cited in arguments against empowering communities. Undeniably, there are high-profile, high-impact risks with long-term implications for community cohesion, local involvement and trust in politics, and social relationships in neighbourhoods. This link further outlines the difficulties I am concerned about - most important is the ability to make own rules and regulations. Mind you, the government has not been trustworthy...
<https://youngfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Managing-the-risks-of-neighbourhood-governance.pdf>
-
- As I believe this option will provide the best services.
-
- Harrogate has a range of local services, amenities and tourism based enterprises which require local representatives with authority to spend money and decide things. A ceremonial role is insufficient to support this fully and Harrogate may not have sufficient sway at county level.
-
- This would appear to be the best democratic solution, providing direct electoral influence on local issues. I would hope the elected parish councillors would be directly connected either by residence or work related/voluntary involvement to the parish.
-
- Brings focus to Harrogate specific areas - eg. Stray / Valley Gardens / Civic Events / Royal Hall
 - Create more localised governance to allow for local residents that understand the area the opportunity to help run and plan for future of the area.
-
- I think a town as prestigious as Harrogate should have a ceremonial representation at, such as, Remembrance Sunday.
-
- Charter trustees are purely ceremonial - so no real point in having this.
 - greater control over local issues
 - Prefer elected representatives not faceless Trustees
 - To enable us to look after our parks and heritage buildings
 - A Charter Trust without powers would effectively be a publicly-funded dining club for Trustees. In the absence of HBC it is important that some body is able to represent Harrogate's interests directly in the new authority.
 - Devolved decision making local rather than remotely
 - more local involvement in a range of possible services
 - Having just charter trustees, who have no real power, yet still raise funds, seems not a good idea.
 - More local influence and decision making
 - I'm concerned that without a Parish Council, our voices will be lost within the wider North Yorkshire Council (which will cover such a vast and varied area).
 - Better and other services. Surprise me
 - So that local people may choose to prioritise provision of facilities that the Unity Authority might not wish to fund to locally sought standards or not fund at all. So that local people may collectively put views and proposals to the Unitary Authority
 - It would be a small increase in local participation in decision-making, where the new authority will be calling the tune dominated by one political party. At least we will have our own Mayor and magnificent Parish Council office, probably the most expensive in the country already built, we should not waste it or turn it into a boutique hotel.
-

-
- Harrogate should have a local council to pick up key issues and to help ensure local democracy
-
- local governance
-
- Having a Parish Council will allow local people a degree of power over what happens at the local level. Hopefully this will improve the local environment and improve the issues with parking for residents.
-
- Local government should be devolved to local people. Management of The Stray is a critical area for Harrogate and it should be managed by local people. Ceremonial functions are hollow and unnecessary without the responsibility for local services.
-
- To ensure the residents of Harrogate still have a collective voice
-
- I would prefer the ability to determine some local decisions
-
- I feel a local council will be more proactive and passionate about the area and it won't be forgotten
-
- Hopefully by having a parish council -- events would be organized and run by people who actually live in the area.
-
- I believe that this is the only system by which the residents of Harrogate may have a fair hearing in North Yorkshire. The Councillors elected to a town/parish council should be able to strengthen the financial and cultural aspects of the town. It is important that some of the revenue raised in Harrogate stays in Harrogate for the benefit of the residents.
-
- Because I believe that many/most local services should be managed & delivered locally by people who understand what is required. And preferably without irrelevant political interference I do not think it appropriate that Harrogate's very specific requirements should be determined in competition with, for example, Scarborough's and Ingleton's.
-
- Harrogate needs a body that understands the needs of its residents and is able to react and provide the local services required
-
- Seems a bit more formal and regulated
-
- Local representation is essential to ensure the views of local people are heard. First tier representation is essential as the new Council is too far removed from local areas and takes a macro view of situations. It neither understands nor cares about grass root issues that are important to local people.
-
- It gives areas a local reference point to take issues to.
-
- A parish council, (Harrogate Town Council), would best represent the history and traditions of the town. It would also allow the possibility of providing some local services in Harrogate in the same way as across the whole of North Yorkshire.
-
- More locally focused
-
- More local decision making
-
- More representative & responsive to community
-
- It seems like the public would be more involved in this option but I don't know if that's correct or not
-
- To enable greater local control of provision of services
-
- More control by local people
-
- I would prefer it to be broken down more and have a local council rather than not local (wider coverage)
-
- Greater focus on local activity and issues.
-
- We should have local people involved in the decision making for smaller local issues
-
- Because I think Harrogate needs to be represented and in my view the county should be based here
-
- So that local people have a point of contact and control over matters that would possibly not be looked at otherwise.
-

-
- To better serve the community.
-
- A parish council would take over more functions and provide local services, unlike not having a parish council.
-
- So we are aligned to the rest of North Yorkshire and the structure across is the same wherever you live.
-
- The workings of parish councils are probably best understood locally
-
- So there would be a direct link to a body we can have contact with to deal with issues and concerns.
-
- More efficient management of local Government services
-
- to maintain a degree of control on local services
-
- I think it important to have a council specific to the town which can address the needs of its population rather than a central body for the whole of North Yorkshire overseeing things and making decisions.
-
- To give residents more of a say in local matters in their area as charter trustees would only have a limited remit.
-
- I believe it will increase focus and accountability at the local level and thereby enhance local democracy. It is scarcely credible that Harrogate is the only major town in NY that has no parish/town council at all.
-
- everybody should have a voice and sometimes small areas get forgotten
-
- Local knowledge and accountability
-
- No faith in NYCC to protect Harrogate interests
-
- It is a simpler option
-
- Better than Community Governance. Why have a mayor. They have no powers and are just a costly expense.
-
- To have more local knowledge from people who live there
-
- Assuming there are willing individuals this would allow for decisions/actions to be relevant to the needs and wants of the community.
-
- Harrogate needs to conserve its distinctive ethos and attractions both as a residential area and tourism centre.
-
- A parish council is needed to look after local services as any representatives would be from the area. At least they would have, 'their fingers on the button', so to speak. Also there would be some sense of continuity and a link to the wider unitary council which covers such a vast area.
-
- Starbeck is like a village and a parish council will better represent the area. We would have local protection from decisions made by the council and have a representative for our area.
-
- I would like there to be more control and for other local services to be offered.
-
- Don't think we need it.
-
- Because Harrogate needs local decisions, not nonsense from Northallerton
-
- I feel the area needs more specific representation and concerned that this area will lose sway to other boroughs in the new unitary authority.
-
- To allow local residents to be more involved and instrumental in the support of the local community (more empowered to do this) and management of budget and services.
-
- To have local inputs into events that occur here
-
- NYCC has a history of poor decision making when it comes to a number of local issues, particularly in relation tourism, traffic and community transport. Charter trustees appear to have no authority to affect local decisions and will simply be swallowed up by the rest of NYCC. Parish councils appear to have greater ability to act independently of NYCC.
-
- To hear the voice of the residents which don't get listened to by NYCC
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-
- Local people need to be appropriately represented and services offered. But this should be as streamlined and as effective as possible. If a Parish Council is created, this should also undertake civic and ceremonial functions so that it is accountable and layers of administration minimised.
-
- I feel it would best serve the interests of our community
-
- Devolving some power and responsibility to people living in a local area is more likely to have the effect on meeting that population 's needs than a remote organisation
-
- Parish Councils would have the opportunity to serve the local community in a practical way.
-
- To facilitate local decisions; ie local decisions for local people made by local people ie the people that actually live in the affected areas
-
- This parish contains a number of significantly important public spaces including the stray, woodland areas and down to crimple valley therefore the residents should have some ability to provide direction and governance to how they are used and sustained for the future. We are also a very high traffic area therefore residents should also be involved in decisions relating to current and future traffic management.
-
- I would prefer to have a parish council that can 'deliver services'. I assume it would act in a way more relevant to the area.
-
- Use of precept to provide certain services that NYC will not as they are particular to Harrogate.
-
- A level to address local needs is required
-
- Local focus
-
- Local representation
-
- Without some form of local decision making I feel that local needs would be lost in such a large body as North Yorkshire.
-
- Local representation is important
-
- Parish councils are a crucial part of ordinary people's right to democracy. They administer the very smallest functions, such as providing local park equipment and administering allotments. These are small, but important, things which would likely be forgotten if they were to be added to the county council's schedule, which should be focused on things on a much larger scale. Furthermore, Harrogate Borough Council has done excellent work arranging events on Harrogate's Stray, and it would be a shame to allow these events to become forgotten amidst important decisions affecting the whole county.
-
- As the largest conurbation by far in North Yorkshire, it would be nonsensical for Harrogate not to have any local representation. The idea of somebody in Northallerton having control over an area they do not live or work in would be open to the charge of being remote and not having any idea about local conditions. The only input they could possibly have would be from Harrogate Area Councillors.
-
- Promotes local decision making.
-
- Important that local people in the parish make decisions, etc. regarding local parish issues
-
- Because local decisions are best made at a local, not county, level
-
- Wherever possible local decision-making should be devolved to local people directly affected by local decisions
-
- Local people with local knowledge and accountability for action in local resident's interests.
-
- More local government is a better option, though I would hope it doesn't pave the way to erode the history and traditions of Harrogate.
-
- A parish council that knows the area would have a better idea of what's best for a parish than a county council. However, I do have reservations about how effective a parish council might be!
-
- Able to have more control over local issues
-

-
- Local voice
-
- believe that it will make the local services better
-
- Charter Trustees don't have much power; I feel more protected with a parish council
-
- I believe a place as unique as Harrogate should have a measure of autonomy and a say in the services provided for its residents. It should not be treated the same as the many rural areas surrounding it as each area has specific and different needs.
-
- To provide and increase representation for Harrogate.
-
- I believe that local matters should be decided at local level.
-
- So that we can have more say in the local provision of services tailored to the needs of Harrogate residents.
-
- To influence local services
-
- We need local people to represent us and take action on local issues as well as protecting historic ceremonial duties.
-
- So they are able to provide some local services
-
- I feel we need a town council to carry out the various functions relating to services. We need a town council to preserve and use our historic buildings - our so called "Crown jewels" also including the Conference centre. This option would give us local democracy although to me it feels as if we are losing power as Harrogate Borough Council disappears. I am concerned about funding for the town, in particular, development of the International centre to keep competitive.
-
- Local services should be controlled locally.
-
- Because I believe in democracy and want local people to deal with local issues
-
- In order to have local representatives who can be accessed for information and to whom views can be expressed.
-
- I think they provide appropriate services for their community. I've been involved in Parish Councils for 40 years.
-
- Some issues should be still managed locally and not by a remote department that does not understand local communities
-
- So that it can focus on local issues
-
- The parish council works for the community
-
- I want to have a voice in the way my town is run.
-
- To retain control over local services
-
- They will represent the residents and make the best decisions to improve the areas/services/functions that need prioritising and will benefit the residents
-
- Absolutely vital that Harrogate gets its own Voice & is not run from Northallerton. Local People need to be able to decide on the future of local services and assets. Not having a Town Council will leave Harrogate at a great disadvantage when compared to Towns within the existing Harrogate Borough which already have their own Town Councils (Knaresborough, Ripon, Patley Bridge), with Services and facilities being run by an organisation 40 miles away, with limited knowledge of the needs and wants of Harrogate residents.
-
- to maintain some local decision making
-
- There appears to be little or no representation at County level. Further the County is likely to be a stitch-up of Conservative vested interests. The Parish Council offers a chance to promote Harrogate independently and for the benefit of the Parish. It may also be able to consider the area in terms of competitive advantage against / alongside competing towns seeking to welcome events and other tourism related inward investment opportunities. At present Harrogate appears to succeed in spite of local government. Hopefully this PC would enable a more dynamic approach that responds proactively to opportunities and threats.
-

Harrogate is a wonderful place to live. It must maintain and nurture a distinct proposition for citizens and visitors. It could do much more than it currently does. Hopefully a Parish Council could grasp this challenge and embrace the destination marketing opportunities. It could also reinvest in the parks and nurture greenery and trees that make this a special place!

- We should have some sort of local representation for our area.
 - They are the people with local knowledge. I was on the parish council of our village in West Sussex for 12 years and ran it for four years.
 - It gives us more representation.
 - it appears to offer more local control
 - The people on a Parish Council have more interest in the area they represent than if they live or work elsewhere. Perhaps this area I live in would be looked after as it should be.
 - North Yorkshire Council now covers a very wide area. I feel the knowledge of local area needs and services could become swallowed up and many services diminished
 - "no taxes without representation" North America! If no Parish council we will have leas say locally on how parks etc. are run. This will further increase my dislike of the devolution settlement. North Yorkshire CC operates in an arrogant and conceited manner. Eg we know best about traffic planning and management when the results clearly demonstrate the opposite.
 - I would like local people to have some control over what sort of thing happens or is changed in the town rather than it being done remotely by people have no experience of the town or it's needs
 - For more accountable local governance
 - For greater devolution of local decision-making.
 - The town needs a local council capable of taking action.
 - I am concerned to get significant local input into planning applications.
 - I think it is important for local input to be taken into consideration when making planning decisions.
 - Better knowledge of local needs which should result in improved services
 - Geographically, North Yorkshire is a very large and diverse area. I feel that Harrogate needs a parish council to ensure that local services are tailored to its particular needs. The needs of remote rural communities are not necessarily the same as the needs of a town the size of Harrogate, which deserves to retain its specific identity.
 - Trustees have no authority to influence the local area such as litter, antisocial behaviour
 - Greater local autonomy
 - I believe that devolved power to local levels is the best way to provide services and facilities. Local people are in touch with local needs and it is them who has to live with the decisions made on their behalf. It is therefore wholly reasonable for them to have a major say in decisions affecting them.
 - More democratic, I think. Also provides more services.
 - A Parish Council would be elected by local people who are known to and understand the local community. Through managing delegated funds they would be able to meet the specific needs of each individual area. North Yorkshire is a large county with very different needs depending on the geographical area. My fear if we were not to vote for this model, is that a 'one size fits all' might be adopted so that funds are not specifically targeted to support the differing needs of each area.
 - I currently live in an unparished area so a parish council needs to be created in order for local people in my area to elect councillors and represent my interests at a local level.
 - Greater involvement in local decision making, greater awareness of concerns specifically to where we live.
-

- 1) The needs and concerns of Harrogate often differ from the greater North Yorkshire area, and as far as possible should be placed in the hands of those who live and work in the town. 2) Representative democracy approaches its most ideal when it is at its most local. 3) It would clearly be utterly inequitable for the major conurbations of Harrogate and Scarborough to be controlled only from County level when (for example) West Tanfield and Amotherby enjoy a degree of more local representation.
- A properly empowered parish/town council will be beneficial to the town of Harrogate.
- Local people, local democracy
- Potential to be more responsive to local community
- More local input into decisions
- It is important that decisions on local issues, such as those handled by a parish council, are made by local residents and not passed over to Northallerton.
- I want to have more say in local decision making
- Local governance is important. North Yorkshire County Council has a track record of ignoring the wishes of Harrogate residents. It is too remote to be effective in many instances.
- Parish Councils will have more say regarding planning applications and how money is spent in their parish. They will have a better understanding of what their parishioners want.
- To be involved in creating local services
- I believe town of this size should have some local representation and locally based decision-making, ideally with some devolved functions and budgets.
- Harrogate is a Spa town which has its unique tourism and businesses and a congestion problem. The responsibilities for these should not be devolved to those who do not live in the area.
- Local democracy
- It should give residents more say in how services are provided locally & the local issues that are addressed by the council, thereby ensuring the community is better-served & more effectively & efficiently governed.
- Harrogate needs an effective, collective, voice
- The councillors for Harrogate will be very busy - they will be responsible for a much larger area than the previous councillors who held office before the 2022 elections.
- Better local control
- To represent our interests
- I object to the transfer of local representation away from Harrogate Borough Council to Northallerton. It is obvious to me that the interests of the population of Harrogate will be best served if it maintains the highest possible level of control over its own destiny, not just ceremonial and traditional matters!
- A Parish council is elected and therefore more accountable to local residents
- It is necessary to have some local control over services.
- There needs to be some local control as all the other Parishes except for Scarborough & Harrogate. North Yorkshire Council will be such a large area it will difficult to put forward local views without a Parish Council. Also there are many events where a Mayor would be welcomed
- Ability to elect local representatives to provide local services
- Being able to vote for local councillors makes them more accountable
- Having a democratically elected tier of local government that is independent will provide additional powers at a local community level giving residents more say in decisions made for the town.
- I feel that a parish council would know the local area and community better which will help with more informed decision making and hopefully help the people in the area prosper and

protect the environment. I worry that Charter Trustees will be too disconnected and distanced.

- Because I think it is important to provide local services.
 - I think it would be better for local people to have a greater say in how our local area is run, rather than rely on a council that has a myriad of functions and potentially not enough time to focus on small areas.
 - Harrogate should have equal representation to all the other areas of North Yorkshire. This should be by local people.
 - To give Harrogate parity with the rest of North Yorkshire with regard to local representation.
 - To allow residents to have a say about things which matter to them
 - I do not think all decisions should be made at county level. We need to have local decision making to reflect needs and preferences of local residents and businesses
 - To give people in Starbeck a voice
 - Local people to direct the services for the community, like the examples in the leaflet.
 - I'd like to have a say in what happens in our neighbourhood and I'd like to have representation of our area.
 - To provide representatives from the immediate area.
 - A local parish council has more powers and will be able to better represent issues related to our area.
 - Fuller rights to community involvement
 - The discretionary services that might be provided are vital to the wellbeing and future of the town.
 - We need local people to take responsibility for local things. County based people can take responsibility for more general things.
 - Enhanced local democracy.
 - Fall in line with rest of country
 - I would like local representation
 - I have experience of Charter Trustees elsewhere who have little or no effect and are treated with a level of contempt by established LGR politicians
 - I don't believe in abolishing HBC, it means we are more disenfranchised. This reorganisation is not an opportunity for Harrogate it simply means we are trying to defend what we have. I am picking option 2 as the least bad option.
 - I believe that local knowledge and accountability are essential to proper governance.
 - Best option for local control that democratically meets the needs and aspirations of local people on matter what f concern and interest
 - So we can have more say in local services.
 - Charter trustees undertake purely civic and ceremonial duties. If we do not have a parish council then decisions about a whole raft of services that are relevant to and impact on the daily lives of local residents in local areas of Harrogate would be decided at a remote county level and that is very wrong
 - I think a parish council is best placed to deliver local services
 - I believe that the closer the representatives are to the people and community that they are representing, the better
 - To allow for better community engagement.
 - Because it would have greater knowledge of the local needs
 - A parish council would take care of local services at a local level, otherwise we would be abandoned to the new North Yorkshire Council for local services
 - Option 1 is only valid until Option 2 happens eventually, so why not cut to the chase?
 - To have better local representation
-

-
- I would have more belief in democracy if we had a parish council that had powers to progress Harrogate in a sustainable way. My doubt is that they would have the required powers, HBC completely ruined the town (traffic, services, NHS etc.) by approving far too many building projects.
-
- I have previously lived in areas covered by Parish Councils and believe that they provide a useful function in promoting the interests of the local community
-
- We need a local body to protect the towns assets - The Stray, Valley Gardens, Pump Room Museum, Mercer Gallery etc.
-
- I think having a PC would potentially enhance the community identity of Harrogate and have the potential to engage residents in the activities in the town rather than have everything dictated by NYCC
-
- More local and therefore understanding of issues
-
- This will enable a local perspective to be put to scrutinise the new Council and also help deliver local services
-
- We need an active body that can make decisions and not simply be ceremonial.
-
- Local accountability
-
- Given the unique nature and character of Harrogate as a town and the size of the new unitary authority it is very important that local people have a significant say in how local services are provided and planning matters are dealt with. A one size fits all approach for the whole of N Yorks is undesirable.
-
- To provide local representation
-
- In line with rest of areas in north yorks
-
- Closest possible contact, & no additional work for primary tier councillors.
-
- Unlike the charter trustees, a parish council represents local interests and is able to decide on services provided
-
- More opportunity for local point of views to be communicated
-
- A town the size of Harrogate should have a council to represent local interests.
-
- To allow residents have some say on what happens in their area & more control on amenities & be represented by local residents.
-
- We need a local voice for any concerns.
-
- Need for local voice
-
- Local people with input into local needs, aware of pros and cons
-
- Harrogate town is the owner of a large number of properties in the town and surrounding area. These must remain under the control of locally elected councillors as many produce income which should be used for the good of the town. There must be continuation of control of the Conference Centre for similar reasons. Additionally Harrogate is, because of its history, a unique town and should be governed by local people. The District Committee formed within NYCC whilst a positive step is not sufficient to deal with the vast number of local decisions needing to be made to manage the future of the town.
-
- I don't think a larger council will be able to take into account local issues as readily.
-
- We need local representation and accountability
-
- We need a body to look after our local matters The New county council is far too remote
-
- We need local voices to ensure protection of Public Assets such as Royal Hall, Valley Gardens etc. Decisions affecting our Town need to be taken by local people and not Councillors in Northallerton who live well outside of Harrogate and have no connection. North Yorkshire even giving money to help Parish Councils take on the assets they want. Harrogate with over 77,000 Residents would be the largest area with no local Council. Ripon and Knaresborough have Parish Councils who add to their Communities not detract.
-
- To put Harrogate on the same basis as other parish councils
-

- Because I feel residents would receive a superior service and have some influence on services etc. in the town
- Better to have more control over local services and other functions.
- Because it works well. Better the devil we know.
- A local parish council will be able to focus better on local issues and services than an outside Charter Trustee
- Harrogate town has a strong tradition that should be built on not dissipated in county-wide structure
- To improve community relations
- Harrogate is a very special town for both residents and visitors and I believe local decision making is essential to maintain the quality of service we enjoy.
- This option gives more scope to represent residents and their interests, provide services, with elected councillors ensuring the needs of the local community. They also will have a range of discretionary powers to support and benefit the area.
- give us more say over local issues, improve relevance, make local people more responsible
- The ability to provide other local services is important to e
- To have more local control and to give Harrogate the same level of local democracy as the rest of North Yorkshire.
- To ensure that local opinions are taken into account
- Areas without Parish Council could lose out to areas which haven't got double devolution to sort out local issues
- I have previously been a Parish Councillor and recognise and value the important work and stability a Parish Council offers under good management.
- Because the needs of the residents will need to be maintained.
- I believe in local representatives who know exactly what's happening in our local parish and they can fight for our issues at NYC.
- Important to have representation at local level
- More local control over decisions about local matters
- Give local people more of a say. Local councillors who understand local communities accountable to local people to focus on local issues, priorities, services, activities and projects.
- Provide some control over local services & issues
- More local involvement in local decisions.
- SO local residents have a voice
- Want elected trustees to be responsible for controlling and providing local services
- I think it would be in the interests of the area. People would be elected.
- I think we need a council
- It will be essential for Harrogate to have democratic voice in terms of its future under an organisation as large as the new North Yorkshire Council.
- The parish council will take better care of the residents as they will work more closely with them
- It is important that locally all areas should have a conduit to represent and speak up for issues relating to our areas.
- Local say and local representation is important in a functioning democracy.
- To give the residents some input/say in what goes on locally. Northallerton is a long way away.
- Tend to the established means of democracy.
- To ensure local representation and decision-making for Harrogate
- Seem to have a closer bond with the community and their needs

-
- I feel it is the most appropriate option and offers more benefit to the wider community.
-
- local democracy is important
-
- To ensure there is a local accountable democratically elected body able to be responsive to the particular needs of a community of over 50000.
-
- Such a council would assume more public and community responsibility than the essentially ceremonial alternative and so would better represent community needs and preferences.
-
- For better local representation and authority
-
- Understands local needs and requirements
-
- Should give better local control and not to do so would be anomalous with rest of the new Council
-
- Better control of local services.
-
- So local people can make more decisions.
-
- More democratic and accountable
-
- Need local representation
-
- I have never supported the unitary authority that has been created and if the creation of a parish council will enable some level of local governance I support that.
-
- I prefer to have some say on how the town/district is managed especially where the money will come from to finance public services as well as having points of contact when things go wrong or are not properly administered. An example is where a number of caravans were illegally parked on the Stray and would not move. Threats and instructions were administered but no action was taken. The present system of councillors is too dependent on party politics and Parish Councils would, I hope, give more ready access to our representatives who would take action on our behalf. It may be said that to have Parish Councils is the nearest alternative to the existing system, if we must have an alternative! System.
-
- I do not wish to be governed at arm's length by North Allerton who have failed to support Harrogate throughout (Compare and contrast the quality of roads around N Allerton with those in and around Harrogate- and that with a Harrogate based N Riding councillor) Therefore a town council for Harrogate is essential if the town is to survive being yet further subjugated to North Allerton's whims.
-
- I think it important that Harrogate residents have a voice on certain issues pertaining to the local area through elected members of a Parish council.
-
- To represent the views and promote the needs of communities and provide services to their residents.
-
- I would rather have a body with local allegiance looking after some of the aspects of life than the more distant NY Council
-
- It will serve the local community better provide a potentially more democratic governance
-
- Harrogate needs to be represented
-
- Local representation
-
- Councillors are elected and will empower the local community
-
- Independent decision making influenced by Harrogate residents
-
- To give local Harrogate people a greater say on all aspects of local life and to be accountable to local residents.
-
- Better & more relevant governance at a local level.
-
- More local to influence decision
-
- Because it provides some form of electoral accountability and the opportunity for residents to have some say in the governance of their local area.
-
- We would then have our own say on our area.
-

-
- There are some services which are best provided at a local level and managed within a democratic system of government
-
- It is important for local people with local knowledge to have a voice on issues that affect their community.
-
- The role of Charter Trustees seems largely pointless and toothless in terms of connecting local area needs with any ability to influence or deliver to those needs. Frankly I wish HBC had not been abolished and I have little faith the new unitary authority will deliver any new benefits whatsoever to Harrogate residents when it comes into effect.
-
- To ensure that local issues and concerns are managed in the community they affect.
-
- I believe that we should have a smaller - elected - body than just the new, over large entity. One option would be to resurrect the Harrogate Borough Council. It worked fairly well.
-
- To uphold the interests of our community.
-
- Sounds like a good way of local people being able to make decisions about where they live.
-
- Concern that Harrogate's unique spa and tourist town character may longer term be negatively affected by budget decisions made at County level for reasons created by issues in other towns and areas. Any political bias arising at County level may also impact if certain functions are not properly catered for.
-
- More local control needed for Harrogate
-
- I strongly support the creation of a parish council for the area of Valley Gardens and Central Harrogate where I live (or a town council for Harrogate overall) in preference over charter trusteeship. The overall concept of depriving local people of their say in local issues, in favour of the creation of unitary authorities, is deplorable. There are many reasons for this. The high density of commercial, residential and leisure activities in central Harrogate mean that local people should be afforded much closer control over these activities than a distant unitary authority with responsibility for many such areas across a wide area. The complex regulatory, administrative and legal interactions between so many local interests in the centre of a substantial local centre of population and businesses like Harrogate dictates that those interests should be afforded a greater ability to self-determine their own fate. In short, they know better than a far-away authority what is best for them.
-
- to keep local control
-
- The area is too large for one authority to administer, and may work in the best interests of Harrogate residents.
-
- I prefer to be represented by a council with members who are closely familiar with the area
-
- It is vital that we have proper local representation on the North Yorkshire Council
-
- Parish councils have more power to provide services that the residents need
-
- Would like some local control of planning and services
-
- I believe it would maximise local democracy.
-
- More local democracy
-
- People living in urban areas should have more say than just ceremonial duties being performed for them. Urban and rural should be equal in their access to a parish council.
-
- Opportunity for local decision making
-
- Local governance to the Starbeck area
-
- I feel it is essential to maintain communication with residents in issues that may affect them either positively or negatively and give them a say. At the moment the Councils are spreading themselves too thinly to be able to manage what they have. We need smaller areas with guidance - not larger areas with little or no discussion on what happens to them.
-
- I feel it will better reflect the needs and aspirations of the local community.
-
- To give us a local voice on local issues, locally accountable.
-
- More local involvement
-

-
- To enable local people to have more say about their area.
-
- It is absolutely vital that decisions for local services reflect local priorities and are made by a council with local knowledge and an interest and stake in the success of the local area, and who are accountable locally to residents. (I am completely opposed to the abolition of HBC in the first place)
-
- We need to have some local control on local issues
-
- Keeping control at local level
-
- I feel that locally elected councillors whose focus is on Harrogate will be better placed in protecting and enhancing the town rather than decisions being taken at County level
-
- More local responsibility for local decisions and greater accountability
-
- Because I want a local representative who is democratically elected rather than the other option.
-
- North Yorkshire is too big an area to cover Harrogate Town interests
-
- I think it is important for Harrogate residents wherever they live to have their say on proposals affecting them or the area they live in - it is called local democracy!
-
- Greater representation at a local level. NYCC is too remote!
-
- I think it would give Starbeck the opportunity to put forward their own views instead of being told what was going to happen by the new large authority
-
- To have a say in the running of our communities and promote the "village " of Starbeck
-
- I worry about not having a voice and decisions being made that are not in my areas best interests. I also am concerned that as a town Harrogate could become a way to finance other areas within North Yorkshire at the detriment of all areas within Harrogate town.
-
- So locals have some say in what happens
-
- I would like to have the maximum devolution permitted.
-
- To have local representation
-
- A parish council would be made up of local people versed in the requirements of the Town and would have local knowledge to understand more quickly and enact the changes.
-
- Because it is democratically elected and local.
-
- Having a local Parish Council could improve areas and give the public more of a say on projects. People could have a voice rather than contacting the council or local MP and maybe things would improve re: housing, tidying up public areas, nature reserves etc.
-
- to have some form of local representation, otherwise Harrogate, one of the larger towns in the new council area, will be overlooked
-
- It is important that there is local - residents & businesses - have an input into as many aspects of governance as possible all be it limited.
-
- To provide more local presentation
-
- I wish to help preserve the unique local area I live in and to have a representative to do so within the larger new council system.
-
- Would like some local decisions to be taken locally, not from York.
-
- There should be some more local representation for residents, with regards to provision of services and planning matters and other local issues. I can't see how this would happen adequately without the creation of a parish council, once the borough council is removed.
-
- It will devolve decision making on local issues to the people most able to make the correct decision for the local community
-
- We want to have more control of what happens in our locality.
-
- Harrogate has a wealth of civic duties that are important to deliver, local representatives are crucial to keep a community together, understanding needs and recognizing achievements
-
- North Yorkshire is too large to provide local services.
-

-
- Prefer representation by more local parish councillors rather than the Charter Trustees on the new North Yorkshire Council.
-
- It is not clear to us why Harrogate Borough Council should be disbanded. Why was the Council moved to its costly new premises if the intention was, all along, to do away with the Council? However, this being so, we need provision of local services to be overseen and provided for by the people of Harrogate who would have the town's best interests at heart and not by people in Northallerton out of touch with local needs and views.
-
- People have very little faith in a council so far away that only sees Harrogate as a cash cow. Why would that change? The new council will still be too remote.
-
- Has more responsibility than Charter trustees
 - more personal to each area
 - Closer representation.
-
- I believe the more decisions affecting people can be made locally by those who will be affected the better. They have local knowledge. It gives ownership, responsibility and fosters community spirit. It also takes account of the priorities of the people involved. Charter Trustees are mere window dressing. A waste of time and money.
-
- To have local elected councillors with responsibilities for delivering services rather than North Yorkshire.
-
- This would be beneficial to the people of Harrogate. Local issues will be more effectively addressed in this way.
-
- Concerned that wards/neighbourhoods that are not within a parish council could be disadvantaged for funding opportunities, services and having a local say in their community.
-
- To retain a degree of autonomy over at least some services, we need to maintain a local presence to have a consultative role with local people.
-
- All of the unparished areas of Harrogate very definitely need parish governance. Harrogate is subjected to ongoing competing pressures in which the need for development has to be balanced against protection of the features which give the town its unique character. These balances are not (and cannot be) adequately understood at County Council level. A community input to all aspects of the planning process is therefore essential.
-
- All of the unparished areas of Harrogate very definitely need parish governance. Harrogate is subjected to ongoing competing pressures in which the need for development has to be balanced against protection of the features which give the town its unique character. These balances are not (and cannot be) adequately understood at County Council level. A community input to all aspects of the planning process is therefore essential.
-
- Better for local democracy and provide the retention of identity for our Area
 - Local services need local people to run them. Northallerton is too remote.
-
- If we do not have a P.C. then the residents of Harrogate will lose all control of local issues and it will be more difficult to contact the authorities directly to discuss and agree solutions to local issues
-
- I wish to retain as many as possible of the current services provided by Harrogate Council, with local accountability. And to retain a Mayor for the town.
-
- I do not see any benefit in funding Charter Trustees who basically have no power. I would hope that a parish council would support the ideas of the town's community and any decisions made would be in the town's collective interest.
-
- Concern to be on an equal footing as the existing parishes.
-
- As far as I understand, a parish council will have more power to reflect the needs and wishes of local residents, if it so chooses.
-
- To be on a level footing with Ripon and Knaresborough
 - To have some direct, local input into the running of the Harrogate area
-

- I think that residents need proper representation in their community. Communities need local councillors who understand the issues of the local area, can listen to problems and grievances and bring about changes where they can.
- We need local representation
- In theory, enables local people to make decisions about their own locality
- As an existing parish council Knaresborough supports the creation of a parish council in bordering areas of Harrogate to allow residents in those unparished areas full access to services and the right to take on services as they see fit.
- Ensure we have a semblance of democratic input to decisions
- Local representation & accountability
- Councillors would be voted in by the people of the parish
- We have need of governance on a more local level, to deal with local issues.
- Knaresborough TC supports the unparished areas of Harrogate becoming parished such that the residents of Harrogate have full democratic representation within the area.
- I feel strongly that Harrogate should take responsibility for local issues. The alternative risks these issues being overlooked.
- Because the centralisation of North Yorkshire's administration in Northallerton has left a Democratic deficiency in Harrogate - the largest town in the whole county. Unless Harrogate has management of some of its affairs (albeit possibly little more than control of 'ceremonials + dog mess and pavements') the town will diminish in status, influence and the wellbeing of its residents. My experience of dealing with NYCC since that ill-fated day in 1974, when it captured Harrogate from West Yorkshire, is that Northallerton's rural focus neither understands, nor works in the interests of its two main towns - Scarborough & Harrogate which have become no more than 'Cash Cows' - supporting NYCC's various ambitions but receiving little in return.
- Northallerton is not accessible for many people and having local representatives in Harrogate is important in helping to preserve the identity of the town.
- We need a more local tier of government than County level. The ceremonial aspects of the borough would continue.
- To provide support of services or facilities which would benefit residents in this area
- To provide local services and be locally accountable because NYCC is remote and unaccountable.
- More local control and representation and a chance to involve residents in creating a better informed and more responsible community.
- I would like to keep matters local
- A traditional way of providing local services and communication arrangements within local communities.
- To give Harrogate a tiny bit more influence over decisions that affect residents rather than leaving it to Northallerton.
- In order to have a "local say" to pass on to a larger authority.
- It is necessary for our councillors to understand the needs of Harrogate and Knaresborough.
- We should have a parish council for Harrogate consisting of a sufficient number of members local to the town. Who know the town and are easily accessible to residents. We should not be governed remotely.
- More control over local issues
- Important that there are ways if local community being engaged in decision making and working together to provide the best neighbourhood support. North Yorkshire county council is too remote.

-
- I feel it would encourage the identity of and for Harrogate, rather than be subsumed into The great North Yorkshire.
-
- A need for representation through local consultation and opinion for presentation to the North Yorkshire Council.
-
- Local accountability is important. Democratic interaction matters
-
- Don't trust county council. Why pay for someone to carry out ceremonial duties while having no powers over day to day services
-
- I believe that a parish council would ensure that resident's views are represented best.
-
- The town needs a body for local decision-making. The unitary authority is too remote as it covers too large an area.
-
- More accountable to local people. Should be better informed for making local decisions.
-
- To have a localised way to discuss local matters and have local representatives to represent the area for its best interests
-
- Because Harrogate needs to be able to look after the Stray and other historical venues, provide some local services and still have a Mayor for civic and ceremonial functions.
-
- Essential to have a local body which is focused on the Harrogate area - increasing accountability and accessibility for those living and working in Harrogate.
-
- To bring us into line with near neighbours
-
- To protect the identity of a parish and to have a community voice...
-
- I think that local decisions made by local people are best for the community and can reflect the economy and geography of the town. It is better for local engagement to have a parish council and for people who live here to take some devolved decisions on matters affecting local people and services.
-
- I come from Masham where I know the Parish Council is very effective
-
- To provide as much local decision making as possible
-
- To give local residents more say on how their local government is exercised
-
- We need a means of ensuring that the views of local residents are represented to and fully considered by the new North Yorkshire Council. Also, the ability of a parish council to provide or support certain services or facilities for the benefit of local residents such as those specified in the Information pack is absolutely critical. This is especially the case for the Jennyfields estate where I live where there is a well-being hub (Styan Centre), a number of parks and open spaces and where there are some problems with dog fouling and bus shelters have from time to time been vandalised. The term "parish council" however is rather dated and residents may well be more willing and inclined to approach a council described as a neighbourhood or community council.
-
- For a town the size of Harrogate it is important to have decisions taken locally by people who know the area.
-
- It would appear to give more opportunity for some decision making on issues at a local level
-
- Concerned that Harrogate town will miss out on opportunities for funding and local decision making if it is the only area without a Parish Council. Important for there to be a route for meaningful local input to decisions on services etc. Need to see more detail on the financial arrangements and extent of responsibilities as there is a risk of duplication on the one hand or the creation of a layer of democracy which can make little different on the other hand if not properly resourced. Either do it properly with genuine delegation and resources or not at all.
-
- more devolved representation and the opportunity to influence decisions affecting where we live
-
- The ability to be (marginally) more than an insignificant ceremonial organisation...
-
- Because I prefer local representation
-

-
- Keeping things more local
-
- I believe it will offer better local democracy and the services devolved to its control will be better tailored to the area's needs.
-
- As the information provided states: Parish and town councils play a key role in representing the views and promoting the needs of communities and provide services to their residents. Parish Council members are directly elected to the parish council by the electors of the parish area. There is no point in going for option one a creating symbolic roles of Charter Trustees.
-
- There are some very local issues that would be good to have more control over eg Walkers Passage and park area, station tunnel, vagrancy near Asda
-
- This will enable Harrogate to better serve its community & residents
-
- To provide at least some local representation
-
- The town requires a local body to oversee local actives such as use of the Stray, provision of Markets, Tourism attractions, The Mercer Gallery etc.,
-
- Harrogate town needs some real representation rather than rely on charter trustees. It has a powerful borough council (too powerful some might say) so to have all power taken away by NYC would leave a huge gap in service provision and more so, no voice to express its needs.
-
- To ensure local decision-making and accountability
-
- I am worried that the move to Northallerton will mean a loss of contact with local requirements. A parish council should help bridge that gap.
-
- Local people who know local needs best can have more influence
-
- For Harrogate to maintain a certain independence in that it can continue to maintain and celebrate those things particular to Harrogate and its surrounds. To provide and preserve a sense of local identity.
-
- Better community engagement and understanding at local level. More likely to create a collective of villages/areas that work for their own community and with each other for wider community benefit.
-
- Because we need to be better represented in our area not at the mercy of somewhere miles away who knows nothing about Harrogate
-
- Parish Councils work well in the villages of North Yorkshire to keep the villages and amenities in excellent condition and are receptive to local views and concerns
-
- It is important to have some local input from Harrogate if other parts of the county can have a say on what affects them.
-
- To ensure certain services remain in governed in Harrogate.
-
- It is important for residents to have a say over local services in the same way as the majority of other parishes in the County.
-
- Good local representation
-
- Local contact for representation
-
- Local decisions should be made by local councillors and it is important to increase the amount of representation that residents have as a layer of government has been removed. Without a town council the assets will be looked after and controlled by NYCC
-
- I think it is vital to have a local body to represent our interests. I have served as chairman of Knox Valley Residents Association for many years, felling that it went some way to fulfilling the function of the parish councils in the places where I worked.
-
- Harrogate deserves proper representation
-
- I feel it is important that there are democratically elected and accountable local representatives to determine issues specific to Harrogate. Further, it is important to have consistency and if Parish Councils are established in other areas of the unitary authority, this should also be the case in Harrogate.
-

-
- Greater empowerment of those actually living and working in Harrogate, and who are best placed to understand local sensitivities and conditions, to make/influence decisions about important local matters and services.
-
- I have reservations: More influence over local issues, hopefully, but I need much more detail about what functions and responsibilities a parish council would have, what powers, if any it would have from the new unitary authority, and its cost - the precept.
-
- Mainly so that the people of Harrogate, particularly the residents, will be able to have some say and control over what happens in our town. This has not happened very much in the past few years and most residents feel that the Council and, particularly North Yorkshire County Council, do not take any notice of the actual residents of Harrogate at all!!! They are both just doing as they think fit and ruining a once lovely town. Before long no one will bother to come here to visit anymore!!! Do we have to have this Station Greenway through the centre of town with one lane only for vehicles...? Complete decimation of the town centre. Can we please have less building of houses, mostly with two garages, and taking away all the green belt areas, whether the roads are fit for the purpose or not !!!
-
- It's more representative at a local level
-
- Until I understand exactly what a town council will do as opposed to the Area Committee, I wish to keep my options open
-
- Living in an unparished area it is important to retain local representation
-
- I believe it is important that Harrogate has some form of representation.
-
- Harrogate is underrepresented on North Yorkshire Unitary Authority, with Harrogate having fewer Councillors per head of population than other areas. By creating a Town Council we can strengthen our voice and push for the Harrogate we all want to see. Without a similar structure for Harrogate we will fall behind other areas like Ripon and Knaresborough and be less able to champion for investment. As a Harrogate resident it would give us future opportunities to take on services and events and run them as we see fit. This would empower our local communities.
-
- Better investment in local areas, more say on what happens in local community, more voice for residents
-
- To allow Harrogate to have a voice
-
- Some services are better provided locally and determined by locally elected representatives
-
- Local control away from NYCC.
-
- Harrogate needs its own voice within the county. It wouldn't make sense for it to be one of only two areas without a local council to advocate for its interests. A parish council would be able to concentrate on the small local things which make somewhere a great place to live and generate a sense of community. This could include tourist initiatives, events in the town, preserving the floral heritage and other community initiatives. A parish council would also be a statutory consultee on planning applications. The new unitary will be too remote, and its councillors too busy, to focus on matters of local interest.
-
- Parish Council will provide local services
-
- I believe it is important that Harrogate residents retain local governance, in order to express opinions to the County Council before any decisions are made which might affect local circumstances.
-
- To be more focused on the needs of the local community which I feel would be more beneficial to the residents in that area
-
- Because to create a parish council to take over the ceremonial functions of the charter trustees will benefit the residents and the communities in areas in many ways. A parish council will provide residents and communities with local services in the areas depend on the needs of the local community it serves. The parish councils have power to provide and
-

support services and facilities to benefit their areas and the residents that live there and it may secure grants for certain projects.

- I want as much local control as possible as long I have to not pay North Yorks Council and Parish Council for a service
 - Local representation
 - Northallerton does not represent the best interests of Harrogate and has its own vested interests, as do all the other parish councils. Harrogate therefore needs its own representation that understands our local issues in the way our borough council did. I do have slight reservations about the cost of this however as we will be taxed to pay for it. We should be given an estimate of cost before the decisions are made.
 - To give Harrogate (Bilton) a voice in the new authority as Northallerton seems not to have Harrogate high on its priority
 - We need some local representation
 - Each town should be able to provide local services and arrange civic and ceremonial functions
 - I think that it is important to keep as many things as possible at a local level
 - The future council area is far too large to cover all aspects of local life in Harrogate. I foresee much squabbling about different areas plans and distribution of funding. Nor will an elected Mayor know the details of day-to-day needs / life in the whole county. We need a parish council to deal with local issues with councillors visible and approachable. No elected county councillor should be on the parish council. I do not wish to see Harrogate's county councillors as trustees and acting as Mayor by rotation. I want a Mayor who is chairman of the parish council.
 - I feel that is the only way that the views of local people can be properly represented.
 - I think a parish council would be able to work better than Charter Trustees as the Council could concentrate on a small area.
 - Some form of local involvement is obviously desirable, even though the parish council will have much less power than HBC. It seems a backward (and expensive) step to abolish HBC and then replace it, although at a lower level, at extra cost.
 - A parish council is able to attend to the needs of the local community. For example I have been unsuccessful in engaging the current council to address the parking needs of local residents on Valley Drive.
 - I feel that it is better to have people who live in the community to communicate with councillors who are distanced from us
 - Think it would take responsibility for local civic matters and amenities.
 - Cannot see why it is necessary to establish Charter Trustees to undertake civic and ceremonial functions. A parish council would provide these plus other local services
 - Feel it would bring community together
 - Sounds as if a good option
 - There is a tendency to institute ever larger areas of centralised governance both locally and national, operated from remote locations. It is necessary to therefore preserve at least a vestige of localized autonomy.
 - Don't think NYC should have complete control over HG. A case of all the eggs in one basket.
 - I feel it is important for residents in each defined area to have as much influence and power over the making of decisions that directly affect them.
 - I chose option 2 because I believe we need some local autonomy. Directed by a local council specifically for Harrogate. A locally based council would know and respond to local needs / focus and requirements ie "local services" as mentioned in the paragraph re Option 2
 - We need more local representation - Harrogate Town Council
-

-
- A parish council will provide the community with a democratic voice and a structure for taking community action. It will help manage and be a voice for local issues.
-
- Please find enclosed my reply to your questionnaire on the above. It is not very informative, I'm afraid as I could not quite understand the implications of your proposals. I did think, that with something as important as this, there would be a dedicated telephone number to deal with queries but, alas, this is not the case. So I rang the main switchboard and after 15 minutes of fruitless 'options' apologies and music, I gave up. My main concern which I wished to have answered concerns the outcome of having all the 10 Harrogate areas parished. Where would the elected councillors sit? - in North Yorkshire or in Harrogate? Would they be bound as one body or 10 separate units?
-
- Hope it will be of benefit to the area
-
- To protect and establish the interests of local community
-
- Because I believe it represents the best way of giving residents local democracy and ownership, also control of services
-
- In the past members of the parish council were elected by members of the parish. Their manifestos were to protect the parish from any unnecessary work or building which would not improve it. And to protect the local services and amenities. And to work with the town council in carrying out their aims.
-
- We would have more input to what happens in our area
-
- We need very local people to have a say with regard to all Harrogate's attractions
-
- Prefer services provided by Parish Council
-
- Harrogate is big enough to run its own affairs and should be allowed to do so.
-
- To have a good connection to what is going on
-
- To maintain local control. Will parish council be insured by a higher public body?
-
- Because Harrogate Borough Council will cease to exist in April 2023. We need someone who will work for and represent our town. Let locals have a say.
-
- If I read it correctly, the unparished areas, will only have Trustees to represent their views. They will have no statutory powers. Conversely, Parishes, will have powers. It seems highly anomalous that Harrogate would not have powers similar to other parishes in the County. So I believe Harrogate should be given parish status. How many parishes there would be is not easy for a person not familiar with the practicalities of local government to judge but I believe between two to four parishes should be able to represent the residents. I would think exiting Councillors would be able to recommend a structure - if a parish is too small it carries a relatively high overhead per capita and has a low collective presence, but if too big it will not represent local interests. The current "Divisions" in Harrogate Borough areas look rather too small to be converted one-for-one into new parishes.
-
- I should like Harrogate to have its own local council to comment on planning and highway issues and be able to protect Harrogate Stray and other parts of our local environment. I do NOT want Harrogate to be burdened with liability for Harrogate Conference Centre, a.k.a Harrogate Convention Centre. That structure is a misfortune wished upon this town by a Council a majority of whose members represented people who lived in and represented areas outside Harrogate.
-
- I genuinely think it is vital that Harrogate should be fully represented within the new Authority, given the position of such a large town within the County. A Town Council would provide the opportunity for local issues and concerns to be heard at County level, as well as offering local knowledge when it comes to providing and delivering local services on behalf of the new North Yorkshire Council.
-
- I think a parish council would be best so that there is a democracy and accountability. Being a parish council, the elected member will not be so preoccupied with party politics and, hopefully, do what is best for the local area they represent.
-

2.2.7 Please provide details on other options available?

Out of the 36 respondents that ticked 'some other option', a total of 16 comments were received explaining other options that are available. Full details can be found below.

-
- Would need clearer guidance on what extra the Parish Council would deliver/take responsibility for
-
- I suggest some form of town council that could manage the assets of the Royal Hall and Conference Centre with some functions such as car parks, street cleaning, toilets and maintenance of the green spaces and parks. In other words a greatly reduced role from being a Borough Council but more than a mere Parish Council such as seen in the surrounding villages. However in order to do so it must NOT be allowed to empire build and have layers of local government employees wasting the tax payers' money.
-
- A Harrogate Town Council should have very much more powers and the ability to provide many more services than is usually the case with a traditional parish council.
-
- Leave things as they are!!
 - Parish Council is too vague: precisely what geographical area would it cover and what powers (both by stature as well as advisory) would it have. To what higher body would any 'new' PC report? What about existing PCs?
-
- No body required. This is the point of the new authority, not to add layers!
 - Create a Harrogate Town Council
-
- To devolve from North Yorkshire County Council and form a separate council so that the area can be run locally by people who fully understand the demands of local people
-
- I think a community of residents would be best, my reasons for this: 1. A Charter of trustees I feel won't do enough for everyone in the county, after all it is a very large area and they will have more pressing things to attend. 2. I don't believe/trust a parish council as we will be putting people who were already on the Harrogate Council back into power and even though we are able to attend their meetings they have the final say, not the residents. It has been seen that Harrogate Council do their own thing regardless of the people of Harrogate going against them. This new cycle scheme is one of them as is the new houses when we don't have the infrastructure. 3. Having a community of residents looking after each area I feel would be better and replacing them every 1 or 2 years would be better as we get a fresh outlook/ideas with new people coming in. I feel more people would be interested in this as they can all make their mark on the area they're within and take pride in this!
-
- Harrogate Town Council
 - Why can't my ward, Fairfax and Starbeck have a parish council.
-
- "Parish Councils" seem to represent a very outdated form of local representation. I would like to see local representation in some guise that would appeal to younger people living in the area and engage the whole community
-
- Why not have a Town Council?
 - You disestablished a layer of local government only to impose another level of quango. What was the point when what we had worked? Jobs for the boys. Though I notice option one is mandated no matter what we say or think. How is that democratic locally?
-

-
- Local needs should be met by civic bodies that not only understand such needs and their importance, but also have the power to execute policies to meet such needs. As things stand at the moment, the notion of the removal of a Borough Council to be replaced with a Parish Council provides nothing other than a toothless tiger for the local area. Roads retarmacking, street sweeping, street lighting and bin collections should be controlled by local government. Having such services controlled by a centralised Yorkshire Council based in Thirsk or Northallerton (for example) simple results in a failure to service the community of Harrogate. Numerous complaints to NYC regarding the appalling state of the roads around St Georges Road have fell on deaf ears, this is but one example of the lack of motivation or desire to address local issues by a removed controlling body.
-
- Leave everything as it is, this is all a waste of time and money, any efficiency gains will be offset by all the administrative cost of changing.
-

2.2.8 Please tell us why you don't know or are not sure on which option you prefer?

Out of the 99 respondents that ticked they don't know or are not sure option, a total of 81 comments were received explaining why they don't know or are not sure on which option they prefer. A summary of comments by theme can be seen below.

2.2.9 Full details of the comments provided can be found below.

-
- There is no definition of what a parish council would be responsible for.
-
- Neither of these options is better than the previous 2 tier local government we had before the North Yorkshire Council takeover. Harrogate residents are in a worse position after these changes. Why did we not get to feedback on the bigger change where most people preferred the more local East/West suggestion rather than everything being managed from the far north of the county. It is farcical! Many decisions are taken away from the local area and then we will need to pay an additional tax to have local volunteers manage a subset of things whilst a small clique in North Yorks HQ get big salaries. This reorganisation stinks and leaves us without local government - just some regional body run mainly for the benefit of the rural communities and smaller market towns (according to NYCC's own PR).
-
- unclear which will be best for our small charity
-
- No clear indication of the pros/cons to Parish council in this question and as someone who has not engaged with this before I have no opinion.
-
- What duties and services would a parish council perform and at what cost. What would the benefits be. More to the point how will you recoup the cost of the white elephant that is currently the council office. I don't believe my council tax is providing value for money.
-
- My inclination is towards the creation of a Parish Council. BUT not just for the sake of creating one and at the risk of it becoming a political talking shop! There needs to be a clear definition of what it would be responsible for, how it would be funded (local precept and/or from the new NYC) and clear assurances that as a Harrogate resident I wouldn't end up paying for a service twice (i.e. through the general NYC council tax and also via a local precept). Equally I would like to see how NYC would propose that Harrogate's interests would be fairly and adequately represented in the event that we do not have a Parish Council. To summarise my choice of preferred option requires sight of clear proposals from either side of the argument presented in a non-political but consistent format that would enable like for like comparison.
-

- I do not understand how trustees are democratic
- No idea what a parish council would do.
- Would the parish council have fund raising powers, what would a parish council control?
- Insufficient detail about the implications.
- Read about the cost to me as an individual and no one has provided information about costings.
- I don't have any preference on this decision
- Where is the detail?! What powers/responsibilities will a new town/parish council have in Harrogate and what will it cost? You cannot ask residents to favour one option or another without providing some detail.
- I will await clarification of function, scope and cost of a parish councils are defined before expressing a preference.
- I live in Pannal which has its own Parish council, and it is not at all clear what if anything will change in their powers and responsibilities or funding when the new Unitary authority goes live. Neither is it clear what a Harrogate Town Council would do, what powers and responsibilities it would have or what the additional potential cost to Council Tax payers would be. It is not clear how our existing Parish council in Pannal would integrate with or work alongside a separate Harrogate Parish or Town council. With the lack of information available, it is impossible to give a rational answer to the question of whether or not to create a Harrogate Town or Parish Council. It feels as though we are being asked to buy a "pig in a poke".
- I thought the whole point of the new Unitary was to create a single layer of local governance for North Yorkshire. This just stinks of yet another NYCC stitch up/ take over that they will screw up just like everything else that they touch.
- Don't have enough knowledge as to which of having a parish council or not is preferable.
- Not clear on the advantages and disadvantages
- Seems to be nothing more than ceremonial and designed to keep HBC happy Vs anything meaningful
- I'm not sure, are we creating more levels of bureaucracy?
- I don't really know and are confused with it all.
- Too complicated to decide which is best. Council should be services at an efficient price. I don't care about ceremonial functions etc.
- If both parties can carry out the same functions then I'm not sure why we need to create a parish council
- Could there be one parish council for Harrogate or do there have to be seven or eight based strictly or partly on the existing boundaries? One point is that parish councils can put in litter bins etc. Do the costs all fall on the parish precept, or is there a sub from NYC? Why should people who live in a parish have to pay for all the costs and consequences of being a tourist hotspot?
- I am not sure witch one to go for
- Don't know why we need one. What would it do that the new mega council can't/doesn't do? What would it cost council taxpayers? What was the point of setting up a mega council (to be more efficient?) and then to add another layer of cost and bureaucracy?
- Unsure about cost! How much will the precept cost?
- Insufficient information
- There is insufficient information given. How much would it cost? How would people be elected or would they just volunteer? Would there be an office that people in Harrogate could go in to, to ask questions and get advice from a council official? It is very difficult for elderly people to feel confident about getting advice if they have to do it online or by

phone when they are just told to hold on for ages and are not sure they have got the right information even then. They need to speak to someone face to face.

- Have no great knowledge of what difference it would make
 - I have no idea why we bother with Parish Councils in the 21st century. Not sure what we should replace it all with, but I think we need a massive overhaul.
 - Complex issues are not always solved by reorganisation. Those who are instrumental in organising and reorganisation are often too far removed or unable to tackle issues. Most people observing these as changes in power and little achieved. Organisations have to be made to work in a different way, many amalgamations in industry and commerce show similar results. I would like to bet that nobody has consulted a sociologist specialising in organisational change.
 - I think 1 but they both seem to cover same options
 - I'm not sure because the councillors are useless at any level - they become too focussed on themselves and their status rather than serving the public interest. Bureaucracy costs money from us local taxpayers. Also, local councillors have no real power to influence anything - look at planning - the government overturns anything to allow developers a free for all to carve up the countryside - build on green belt - building huge, detached houses that take up vital countryside and contribute to increased greenhouse gases, depletion of natural habitats for diversity etc. etc. The whole thing is very depressing, and I doubt having a parish council or not will have any effect. It is all futile.
 - The information pack uses some terms that are not clear, eg precept. In simple terms I would like to be able to create a table showing who represent my household at present and the cost and under the new proposals who would take over and again at what's cost
 - No strong preference either way
 - I have no way of knowing which option would be better.
 - Don't see any difference between the two
 - Don't understand what a parish council is
 - I don't understand what the responsibilities would be, and which brings the biggest cost/benefit
 - I don't really understand the impact of the two options. I don't understand why the existing council arrangement has to change.
 - Neither make sense - option 2 probably sounds better
 - There's not really a lot of information that outlines what the changes are to what we already have. I refuse to pay more council tax to fund this when I would have no idea what it would mean for me as a tax payer. I already pay a lot in council tax so if I was paying a tax just to have someone run a church then I refuse to do so.
 - Having a parish council will it save money. Because it was to have been all one council..
 - Don't know enough about the pros and cons vs current state
 - No enough information about both
 - I can't imagine either making any difference.
 - I haven't read up enough to educate myself sufficiently to form an opinion
 - I don't know what the difference between charter trustees and parish council running the council would be
 - I have a learning disability and am not sure
 - This review is being undertaken too soon. Until we know the remit of the proposed area committees and have some experience of how they will work, it is impossible for us to know whether a parish council would be beneficial.
 - Before a Town Council is created we need to know what functions it would perform. We need to get 'the horse before the cart'. It is no good voting to form a Town Council and then finding out it a) can't/won't perform some of the functions you thought it might or
-

b) will perform some functions you thought it wouldn't. You should provide a list of all the specific functions it could provide in Harrogate with an estimate of how much extra it would cost the Council Tax payers if all these functions were adopted. Although it would seem appropriate for local people to retain some authority over local issues we do NOT want to pay twice for the privilege. It would also be appropriate for the new North Yorkshire Council to state how much was being deducted from the overall Council Tax if all the proposed functions were to be taken on by a new Town Council.

- I don't understand what any of this means in plain English. I have lived on Skipton Crescent since 2000 and we once came under New Park then it was changed to come under Bilton! Not clear why.
 - How can someone make an informed decision when the fine detail of exactly what local services are to be imposed on Parish Councils are not given. Moreover, it is not known for either option how many elected Councillors there will be, and what powers and authority they will have, to represent and influence decisions made in respect of Harrogate on the new NYCC. Until this information is known, I am unable to make a choice of which Option, if any, would be best for Harrogate.
 - I'm happy with everything how it is and don't see the need for a change
 - It is impossible to judge what my preferred option as insufficient information has been made available. Whilst strongly supportive of localism and of the application of the principle of subsidiarity, I am certainly not in favour of a proposal that commits to pay a levy for the services already being provided by the Borough Council. This appears to be the gist of the proposal as it has been laid out. The only way in which this will work to the common good is for a package of local services to be properly devolved, together with continuing (real) funding that approximately pays for those services at present and into the future. The Parish Council can then retain, reconfigure, marginally increase or decrease those services, and/or introduce new services. The funding for the latter can be raised locally. Please put to us a package in this way so that we can make an informed choice. But please do not waste tax payers money with another consultation like this.
 - I don't know what the benefits of each are
 - Don't know enough about the differences, the costs, the effects of either etc.
 - I don't understand exactly what the difference is, and whether the result of having a parish council or charter trustees would be vastly different.
 - My priority would be to keep cost down, therefore the best option to achieve this would be the one I would support.
 - I feel we need much clearer information to be able to make a decision.
 - There would be extra costs via Precept and I am not convinced that a parish council would have sufficient power to be effective. But on the other hand a local voice is important. How one council can manage the needs of 600K plus residents is mind boggling.
 - Insufficient information currently available to be able to make a decision
 - Option 2 is better than option 1, but it still doesn't give Hgte enough autonomy. The new North Yorks council gives far too much power to those in Northallerton. What is best for the people of Hgte is not necessarily the same as what those in Northallerton think is best for Hgte (see Station Gateway as an example).
 - What is the benefit of parish council over not parish council?
 - I don't know what other options are available or feasible.
 - It has not been made clear what services/ and or decision making the parish council will have. Area Committees under the two tier system were advisory. Will some or all funding be devolved from North Yorkshire or will it only be partial with the remainder having to be raised by the parish council. Far too many questions remain unanswered.
 - Will we have any say in what the north county council does ?
-

-
- Not enough info. How much will it cost residents
-
- As we work with the communities and community organisations in the parishes but are not part of those communities we do not feel it is appropriate for us to give a preference.
-
- A town/parish council will need funding and will cost residents more council tax, no estimate for this is given. There will be duplication between the county and local councils. Confusion will arise as to where responsibility rests and no action will result. I feel we should wait and see before electing another Quango!
-
- I think it is important to have a ceremonial mayor. It looks like this will continue under either option. Beyond that I do not understand enough about the differences between the options. More information please.
-
- I don't know enough about the function/role of the parish council.
-
- I don't know enough about the costs of implementing either option, or the long term ramifications of either route
-
- Not enough information on what the council's role would be, what it would actually do, how much it would cost. No information on what "some other option" might be.
-
- Have reservations about how well Harrogate would be looked after and represented on the Yorkshire Council!! and also any bias towards other areas. If Harrogate were made a parish council how would they perform?? and how much of a precept would be added to our general rates?? Not too confident that a parish council would be able to afford or run local services as they have or may have a different budget as of now. My opinion is also that HBC have over the years wasted money on various projects.
-
- I don't know what it entails
-
- I am not certain at the moment about option one and two. Both seem to me a good idea for the future.
-
- There is so little information about this that is pretty meaningless to put up a survey and to provide little or no information. No doubt NYC will try to push their preferred option without full information following a democratic vote which is what this situation demands
-
- Before a decision is taken on a Harrogate Town council it must be made clear what the financial liability is – both its responsibilities and exclusions. For example would maintenance of the Royal hall fall on the town council? I voted against a NYCC wide unitary authority as it does not give local representation. Even Harrogate joining Selby was voted down let alone a county wide authority. I cannot now understand why York is now excluded from this super unitary authority. A NYC including York would thus make a County Mayor the same person as the NYC Mayor. 2 Administrative Offices seems bureaucracy for the sake of it.
-
- I found the information pack somewhat difficult to follow but do wish to keep abreast of what is going on in my area. My views (for what they are worth) are that the local Parish/community council needs to have the ability to provide services as well as having ceremonial duties but with an eye to keeping costs down in these hard times, the number of councillors must be kept to the optimum number required to do a decent job. The local resident's opinions are of course of major importance.
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2.3 Further Comments about the Community Governance Review

2.3.1 Are there any further comments you would like to add about the Community Governance Review?

A total of **534** respondents provided further comments about the Community Governance Review, full details can be found below.

2.3.2 The full comments are as follows:

-
- How can people be expected to make an informed decision on the detail when we don't know what services the parish council's will deliver?
-
- Harrogate needs to look at how their Assets are protected on how local needs and wishes are developed otherwise they are left behind other areas who have that voice in a Parish or Town Council.
-
- Two or even three hatted councillors should never have been allowed previously. If parish/town councils are agreed against my wishes then nobody should sit on more than one body as an elected councillor.
-
- This is totally undemocratic. NYCC is asking Harrogate residents if they want a parish council without specifying what it would do and how much it would cost.
-
- Conservative Minister Robert Jenrick Stated that A BENEFIT of a unitary council was that it would increase efficiency & reduce costs. Should NYCC go ahead with this proposal it will be necessary to legally challenge the entire unitary operation as dishonest and not fit for use or purpose. In addition to this there is the blindingly obvious cost of living crisis which means many people have no funds (or less than) due to a number of well documented government mistakes or lack of action. Therefore it is totally inappropriate to be illegally imposing further costs when NYCC is entirely responsible for these activities. This is a recorded communication.
-
- The main reason for supporting option 2 is equity with other parts of North Yorkshire and in ensuring a local civic focus for the voluntary sector/fundraisers. However, if those objectives can be achieved through Charter Trustees arrangements, at a lower cost, then I would be happy with that. Two downsides to option 2 are i) costs (both of running a new town council and of any council tax precept - can the latter be capped by the new North Yorkshire Council?) and ii) the potential for "grandstanding" by new Harrogate or Scarborough Town Councils towards the new North Yorkshire Council (a town council should be about civic pride, not about political point-scoring and the debate about the new unitary council has been decided)
-
- When elected can expand their remit further 'According to need'.
-
- Ridiculous that it is taking 2 years! New Harrogate Parish Town councillors should be elected in May 2023 when the Borough Council is abolished! Those areas of Harrogate which already have parish councils should not be included! - I believe Starbeck, Harlow, & Pannal already have parish councils?
-
- It should not be political parties.
-
- No
-
- No
-
- Whatever decision is made then some form of community governance- which is representative of all people living in Harrogate is needed
-
- This whole process is just here to give the illusion of any interest in what communities want. We got no say in the big question of whether we all wanted a big distant mega-
-

council and now you're asking us to choose between 2 things which are both worse than the starting point. It stinks! Paying a new North Yorkshire head a ridiculous salary stinks too. Its jobs for the boys!

- The Harrogate "parish council" should be named the Harrogate Town (or Borough) council to reflect the relative fiscal and financial importance of the town as well as its large population relative to other settlements in North Yorkshire and its contribution to tourism in the area.
 - Parishing Harrogate is essential. It would be ludicrous if the largest town in the area had no true local level representation. The role of the Parish Councillor is totally different to that of a County Councillor.
 - Not at this time but grateful for opportunity to give views
 - No
 - I feel a Parish system for Harrogate would benefit local residents, VCSE and strategic partners.
 - No.
 - A new parish for Harrogate should encompass all of the areas which fall within Harrogate town. At present, as the current warding arrangements show, there are bits of what are generally considered Harrogate which spill out into other parishes. Mainly along the western side of the town where all the new housebuilding is taking place. It would also be worth looking as whether the part of Jennyfield which is currently in Killinghall should be brought into a new Harrogate parish. A council should have enough members for its size comparable to the councils for Knaresborough and Ripon.
 - Not at this moment
 - This consultation is not very user friendly. It uses technical local government jargon that probably doesn't mean much to people unfamiliar with local government. I suspect that will result in low engagement with the consultation.
 - I suspect this "consultation" is just a formality, and that the key decisions have already been made by unaccountable bureaucrats. Yet more erosion of local democracy.
 - Are schools and colleges going to be involved in the review? A town council provides an ideal entry point into local government for young people, but young people are much more likely to get involved if they have learnt something about local government at school. However it is achieved, I think it's really important that young people are engaged somehow in local politics, because a town council should be representative of the whole town, not just the middle-aged middle classes.
 - I do not agree with the imposition of the new NYCC in April 2023. It moves decision making further away from almost everyone in the county
 - This civic presence shouldn't come at any additional cost to the taxpayer, and ideally should be non-political.
 - No
 - I am worried about the impact on Council Tax. Of course, centralisation should reduce overheads so it should reduce but I bet there will be a significant increase so we all lose.
 - Any new 'town councillors' should be unpaid as they are in other Parish/Town councils. The Harrogate Council should only have responsibilities in Harrogate and not outlying villages and towns (Knaresborough, Ripon, Boroughbridge, etc.). Council tax payers who are currently in the HBC district but NOT in Harrogate Town should NOT have to pay any precept or fees to finance a Harrogate Town Council
 - Why are you trying to cling to power, the whole purpose of the Unitary Authority is to reduce costs
 - This provides an opportunity for people of all ages, backgrounds and genders to become more involved in the governance of our town as it proceeds towards a unitary authority.
-

Inclusiveness should be encouraged and any roles should be widely advertised. Historically, Parish Councils are often made up of older members of the public - younger generations should be encouraged to get involved.

- No
- Please keep the Parish Councils they are an important part for the people who live in there area's to have their say.
- No
- Far more information is needed before any decision can or should be taken.
- Make the system easy to understand and not so bureaucratic.
- No
- No decision should be made without sight of the two proposals I refer to in my response to Q6.
- No, except that I suspect it is more to do with finance than what is best for Harrogate. ie a cost-cutting measure.
- Not really, no thank you.
- I am unhappy with the fact that the review will be concluded under the control of the new North Yorkshire County Council after the Harrogate Borough Council will have ceased to exist. Surely the review should be concluded before this happens to ensure that the views of the people of Harrogate are properly represented. I suspect the New County Council will have bigger fish to fry than worrying about Harrogate.
- no
- No
- Listen to what the local residents want; make sure there is a reasonable number of responses. Don't just quote percentages, they don't mean anything. State the number of responses; the number of people in favour etc. Be open and honest. Something sadly lacking for some time.
- Ridiculous to make all decisions about the largest county in the country by one body. Social, economic, health and educational needs are very different throughout this area.
- No
- Is this pointless? NYCC determined to be dominant.
- No
- How would a parish council represent my views as they would presumably be elected first past the post.
- It needs to look at why so much of the area does not historically there has not been the demand for parish councils by residents and if the model is suitable for the present situation.
- Need more information about pros, cons and costs. If the whole point of the reorganisation was to remove a tier of local government, why are we now being offered the option on introducing a new level?
- The decision to abolish Harrogate Borough Council and have North Yorkshire Council take over all of its functions was an unmitigated disaster.
- waste of time and money, is there no end to the waste in local government?
- What a total waste of MY money
- As mentioned before its critical for local people to decide on provision of local services and planning
- Harrogate needs a voice to ensure it can thrive economically and socially
- There will be a parish precept for a new body which should be spent on local issues and not on vanity projects which tends to be the case with the present Harrogate authority. The money proposed to be spent on the conference centre is a total waste as it has never

been a success since it was opened. If you look at the barbican in York which is run properly with loads of performers all the time Harrogate is useless and as very few acts and that is why it has never been a success all Harrogate is interested in are conferences,

- no
 - The outlying areas of the existing Harrogate DC, such as parts of Nidderdale, do not seem to be covered
 - No
 - No
 - I would like our council tax to be in line with the other areas as Harrogate council tax is significantly higher than others
 - I am strongly opposed to having a cost to maintain local traditions such as having a mayor where it is purely ceremonial. If this is the case I think rather than easing money we need to move on and accept such roles as in the past
 - North Yorkshire is a huge county with a wide range of communities; the needs of Harrogate will not be fully understood by non-residents and wrong decisions will be made such as the construction of Otley Road cycle track. Harrogate is a very attractive town; its appeal is maintained by the care taken to maintain its appearance; I fear commitment to the current high standards would gradually be sacrificed to other demands within the county.
 - None
 - Make sure they live in Harrogate & don't pay them wages this shouldn't be a 'job'
 - A Parish or Community Council should work in a similar manner to those in Scotland in that the general purpose of a Parish or Community Council should be to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authorities for its area, and to public authorities, the views of the community which it represents, in relation to matters for which those authorities are responsible, and to take such action in the interests of that community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable''
 - It would be helpful to have some more detailed information about the differences between Charter Trustees and Parish Councils.
 - I am in favour of less interference by officialdom in daily life, minimal services and lower Council Tax.
 - See my comments above
 - Sounds like a typical waste of time and money
 - Not at this time.
 - Not at the moment
 - The creation of one huge authority is a diminution of local democracy which is compounded by an elected mayoralty as planned. The idea that localities will get more resources is a sham. As empty as levelling up.
 - No.
 - no
 - Although it would be preferable for parish councils to be formed with elected members there should also be some forum for collective action when this is required for the wider community benefit
 - I think it is a good idea.
 - That you are using this survey as a proper consultation and not simply an information sharing exercise with a decision already made
 - Good idea
 - No.
 - Harrogate needs local representation asap
-

-
- The proposal to have a mayor with almost dictatorial powers for the whole of North Yorkshire means all local areas need to be as strong as possible. It is madness to put so much power as is proposed in the power of 1 person, a North Yorkshire Mayor.
-
- It is clearly important that Harrogate Town has strong representation by local people on the new Unitary Authority. Whether this will be enough to safeguard all those places and services which are so important to Harrogate, and which are currently run by the existing council, is not clear. Such things as sports and leisure, parks and woodland (especially the Valley Gardens and the Stray), planning and development, parking and travel, museums and galleries, waste and recycling, business investment, housing and crime are all areas where local input to any decision making is paramount and local knowledge is key. If the County Council is planning a mechanism whereby Harrogate is properly represented on the new Unitary Authority then this may be a cost effective way of going forward without the need for an additional, potentially costly lower tier of local government. However, if there is a dilution of representation and power to the detriment of Harrogate, then it will need its own town or parish council to give proper representation to local people. If this negates any cost savings that would have been made, we need to know the estimated figures before any rational decision can be made!
-
- Adding levels of local government just adds bureaucracy and cost. Should be avoided at all costs.
-
- I am apprehensive about the wellbeing of Harrogate under the new authority. The town has quite special requirements given the tourist and conference trade which I would have thought require specialist knowledge by way of support.
-
- No, I have a life.
-
- At a time when money is a key issue, what a waste of it this whole process of a new unitary authority is if these new town councils need establishing. Whilst I understand it was to unlock devolution money, the sum it has unlocked is poor in my opinion. However, very local decision making needs preserving as much as possible. It would also be my hope that the costs of this continues to be met by North Yorkshire Council beyond year one and does not get passed on to already struggling residents in the form of hefty parish precepts as in the current model.
-
- No.
-
- No
-
- Any potential outcome needs to be fully explained before a final decision is taken to ensure that considerations such as additional costs for residents and the relevant powers of the respective bodies are clearly laid out.
-
- There are too many council type employees who receive pay for little work. The head of any council in the UK should not receive more pay than an MP and certainly not more than the Prime Minister but this, at present, is not the case.
-
- I feel the changes proposed will be in name only and the members will be older past councillors who enjoy the air of authority and minor celebrity status. We need to hear the voices of young people more on what they want in their town. Today's parish councils don't appear to achieve much so why would new ones.
-
- No see first section. Although I don't really see the logic in the expense and certain job losses during such an economic catastrophic period in our history. I think this is really bad timing. The same with the devolution deal. We all become one Council except York who remains the same. But then York becomes North Yorkshire again for the devolution????!!! It's very confusing and I think a lot of residents will move away from the area due to uncertainty. Will Council Tax go up? Will services be lost? Will jobs be lost? So people will move out leaving an area full of second homes and holiday homes.
-

-
- This whole NYCC take over... sorry reorganisation has been one massive fait-a-complit. The new council was an opportunity for a new start, yet we have been given that same faces doing the same jobs. Talk about jobs for the boys, a classic example of Johnson's Tory Cronyism at its finest! Sadly this is a massive opportunity lost
-
- It would be really useful to see a full breakdown of the roles and responsibilities of the new councils and the cost effectiveness of these moves, whether this will impact our rates etc.
-
- No
-
- More consultation within the existing framework.
-
- It's a further waste of funds
-
- No mayor cutting ribbons needed
-
- The creation of the new North Yorkshire county council, with direct responsibility for Harrogate as a town, should be reviewed after five years.
-
- See previous comments.
-
- No
-
- We are concerned about the responsibility for The Stray in Harrogate - with 200 acres of open space for the use of the residents on non-commercial activities. Will that become the responsibility of NYCC or the proposed new Parish Council?
-
- Just get on with it and keep everyone informed and not just on your website. Councillors have the reputation of being remote once they are elected.
-
- Seems to be a pointless exercise as decisions seem to be already made
-
- I am very strongly in favour of a parish/town council for Harrogate
-
- The existing framework is already non-democratic at the micro level and thus extensive new housing developments and a lack of care and attention to the area exists and will probably exist with a Parish or Trustee system.
-
- I just feel all this is a waste of time and public money!! The current tiered system of councils has served us since 1974 onwards and is still functionally good, so doesn't need change. We should have told the government to stick their NYCC Mayor where the sun don't shine. This change is a step backwards as the people of Harrogate need a Voice. Unfortunately it is now too late and by having a Town (Parish) Council is the nearest we will get to the old Borough Council with far less clout!!
-
- No
-
- I do not agree with the joint councils of North Yorkshire, we seem to be losing our ability to speak out for our local area, not happy/
-
- I think it is corporate speak. It doesn't really mean anything, nothing will change and is only intended to placate anyone who might object into believing that they can make a difference
-
- No
-
- It is appalling that huge amounts of taxpayers' money are having to be spent to improve something which should never have been changed in the first place.
-
- No
-
- You are trying hard to make the whole thing understandable but I don't think you have succeeded. The language you have to use to be unambiguous is still confusing - a bit like legalese. A few worked examples of decision-making and control might be useful. As for the ceremonial stuff you keep referring to, there does need to be someone who represents Harrogate at functions, for example: Remembrance Day, school awards, opening places and events. That person should have an input to decision making. The notion of a "parish" or a "division" doesn't mean much to me. I happen to be in Valley Gardens and Central Harrogate but my interests are primarily in Harrogate as a whole.
-

-
- It is going to be interesting to see how a larger governing organisation works in North Yorkshire, savings have been promised but even without the current fuel cost crisis, I cannot see how they will be achieved without a fall in standards in services that are already underfunded. We do need a local organisation (whatever that will be called) to manage Harrogate and maintain the high standards for locals and the many visitors to the town.
-
- Not really
-
- Stop wasting money on silly, expensive projects like the Gateway and pointless badly designed cycle tracks. Repair ALL the potholes so that cyclists can ride safely on all the roads. Make the centre of Harrogate more appealing by attracting more independent shops. The centre is dying, apart from more and more cafes, restaurants, bars and Charity Shops. Have cheaper or free parking. (not for me, I normally walk into town) Allow "through" traffic to get through Harrogate more quickly, without lines of stationary queuing cars. Make sure that work requiring digging up the road is synchronised new excavations starting every few days.
-
- I'm not sure that it won't create more "jobs for the boys"?!
 - No
 - Job creation exercise with no benefit to public.
-
- Very complicated for ordinary people to understand unless they've been involved in local politics. The idea of a small rural town like Northallerton, ruling over such a vast area is absurd. Seems to concentrate on parish councils. I'd like info on town councils
-
- Apart from the dissolution of HBC and the handing of local power to North Yorkshire Count Council (sorry unitary council of the same name with same powers plus all the borough councils), what is the purpose of this enlightened decision
 - what effect does it have on our voting rights and will it cost more money
 - No
-
- This survey is a total waste of money. The concept is far too complex to decide and you have provided no cost benefit information nor how services are to be improved. Who cares if we are to be called a village or town when the services need to be adequately funded and people supported. Why is my age and ablebody/ disabled status important to this review.
-
- I would much prefer for there to be 1 council for Harrogate town - not separate parish councils.
 - No
 - no
-
- All communities need local representation and action. Northallerton will not provide this, and the town will suffer unless we have more say and involvement in local issues.
-
- Generally I think all this devolution and unitary councils is a waste of money
 - No
 - Not at this time
-
- Parking and road maintenance should be under local control. Planning should also be under local control and represent the unique character of the spa town.
-
- Nowhere in your covering letter or the information pack do you mention the politics involved in the local government system. How can you have an aim for quote "improved community unity" when the people who represent us themselves have no unity, being divided along political grounds? An example of this is the voting along party lines clearly seen in HBC Planning Committee meetings resulting in poor outcomes for existing residents. It is annoying that you dress up the supposedly benefit of local government when the experience of the average resident is the opposite.
-

-
- It feels as if the cost of communicating and carrying out this survey is a complete waste a money. My gut feeling is that not many people will respond and that this money could be better spent on improving public services.
-
- Good to have the chance to contribute.
-
- There has been very little information on what services the new NYC will continue to provide that used to be provided by Harrogate Borough Council. This is like a marriage or divorce without any explanation of what will change. I feel very disrespected by an imposed control government change where benefits have been claimed without information of concerns. This is another Brexit - an idea that was pushed with very little true information.
-
- More waste of time and money as government and councils do not take any notice of residents
-
- Parish councils for small parts of a town of the size and importance of Harrogate feels like a divide to conquer strategy being pursued by the North Yorkshire County Council and its new identity of the unitary authority.
-
- I feel that I need more information to do justice to the questions.
-
- No
-
- It is quite hard to understand and I am pretty well educated
-
- Another distant controlling body I do not want. It suits Westminster not me. My vote, my voice, my access to my democratic rights is now blunted. Suits petty power politicians obviously. How sad that local politics using PR has never had its chance. Enjoy using your steamroller.
-
- We need people working for the council to have pride in their town and therefore pride in their standard of work. The bin men are a fine example of that attitude. I think the Community Governance Review is a good idea and hope that more local people will engage in it.
-
- no
-
- The county council staff do not seem to understand the current structure so a simplification is required so that all residents are treated equally.
-
- Got to better than the shambles we already have
-
- No
-
- I am keen that quality of life is important and to that extent we need to control the activities of all contractors (and residents) to ensure they act reasonably and with due regard to others. Whether this is done with byelaws or other means there needs to be a set of ground rules which are clearly stated for all.
-
- No
-
- I feel strongly that there should be town and parish councils and they should take on greater responsibility for our area.
-
- Don't spend money on admin when it could be spent on useful projects in Harrogate to help families needing support for, e.g. cost of living crisis, energy bills, improving housing, etc.
-
- No
-
- No.
-
- No thank you.
-
- It's all about being able to sit down and speak to someone face to face.
-
- No
-
- I hope that the formation of a 'parish' council for Harrogate will restore some of the local control over our town and homes.
-

-
- Harrogate should the governance of historical features such the Stray, Royal Hall, Valley Gardens, Conference Centre.
-
- There has to be a local body who have powers to hold builders to account. So much new development is unfortunately being allowed that no one seems to be 'in control' to make residents lives more tolerable with dust, pollution, noise and traffic chaos ... I dread to think of how many court cases in the future may come to haunt North Yorkshire Council due to lung infections, asthma, etc. Plus they have to be able to force builders to 'finish the job'. An example, near us ... Charles Church has abandoned the site on Kingsley Drive but footpaths are unfinished, the storage facility is an absolute horror and on the bottom where it meets Kingsley Road they have left metres of metal fencing with knee high weeds and have not instated the footpath or put tarmac on the road ... it is just wrong but they get away with it because there seems to be nobody who can force them to carry out the work
-
- Stop wasting money and get on with delivering the service to the county that you have promised via devolution
-
- No
-
- A waste of time and money no matter what option is taken up.
-
- No
-
- I think this is all about cutting costs and saving millions of pounds by removing the councils they are trying to make you think it's a great idea when it is clearly NOT.
-
- no
-
- No thanks. I don't feel I understand local government enough to pass comment
-
- Who would the parish council members be? How would the gen population interact with them? How are they funded and what would their budget be? Who supervises community governance? Is it political?
-
- No
-
- No further comment.
-
- Not at this time
-
- I'm not entirely convinced you'll listen to us anyway.
-
- The wording of this review, is such that many people will fail to grasp why it is being carried out and switch of to the process. For example: 'The main source of income derives from the precept levied on the residents in its area. The precept is incorporated into a local resident's council tax bill.' Many people may never have heard of a precept and not realise that this sentence simply means that; 'people living in parished areas pay more council tax.'
-
- Existing roles of HBC councillors are ineffectual in the face of determined developers. Existing planning permissions ignore central dynamic of downsizing, both through ageing population (empty-nesters and growth of single-parent households. How many dwellings erected in Harrogate in the last five years have been single-storey?
-
- The new NY council needs to provide improved services for Harrogate
-
- Without a proper Citizens' representational committee then the top down model will prevail. The citizens of Harrogate will be kept uninformed about the detail of County decisions and as a result will always be 'unsatisfied'. Until they appreciate the difficulties Council's face, they will never be able to make a contribution. The vote is only the first step in democracy, inclusiveness begins with an informed population, privy to decisions and their complexity.
-
- We need to concentrate on helping those most in need not spending on small minded officialdom, put the money into supporting young people and those struggling in these times of financial hardship.
-
- We should be aiming to minimise the cost of governance to the rate payer.
-

-
- I would like to see a lot of effort going into maximising the number of people who answer this survey.
-
- No.
-
- No
-
- I hope a lot of people will be involved with the review as Harrogate still has a lot of local issues.
-
- I would like to stay apprised of the progress and possibly involved in the discussion going forward.
-
- Local needs met by local government is the only way forward. Having had powers removed from Harrogate Borough Council and placed under the auspice of North Yorkshire County Council over the past decade has resulted in a degrading of the town itself. The creation of a new North Yorkshire Council will simply exacerbate tis problem. Parish Council would simply not have the power to remedy many of the town's problems and the suggestion that the formation of Chartered Trustees for my area is frankly a laughable alternative.
-
- Feel things should be kept local.
-
- I think it is right for 'double devolution to take place for Harrogate. It will allow local people to feel that politics works for them and this will improve our democratic deficit. Local people must be at the heart of decision-making.
-
- The title is the key here; Harrogate is a distinct community in a way that North Yorkshire is not - the same can be said for Scarborough. If you are serious about devolution and community governance, leaving Harrogate with no distinct voice of its own is a travesty.
-
- It is important that residents feel they have someone to represent them, with whom they can communicate.
-
- No
-
- What was wrong with what we had? This seems to be an unnecessary change when there are much more pressing things to deal with at the moment.
-
- Nope
-
- Although you have provided written information, I am not sure everyone can understand. You might want to have verbal delivery in video or face to face form with a Q and A session. Most people want both protection of historic buildings and their own local interests represented. As you are merging into one mono- council, it is really important people still feel issues and concerns on a more local, micro, level are acknowledged be it car parking, recycling or being able to log planning objections. Thank you for the feedback opportunity.
-
- Further information could be provided to residents filling out this form to help them understand the current ceremonial roles of charter trustees and how this would change with a parish council. I imagine most people don't actually know about the daily running's of local government and more transparency would help raise support and local engagement.
-
- Thanks for the Oporto comment
-
- I cannot see the point of just having trustees and a mayor without some proper connection with the higher levels of council.
-
- Why was so much money spent printing and posting a document? Why was this not only done on line?
-
- This seems to be an attempt to window dress a foregone conclusion rather than a genuine attempt at community engagement
-
- Yes, it is a waste of time as decisions have probably already been taken by the executive.
-
- There should be no "additional" cost to the ratepayer for a Town Council with devolved functions this because these services already exist.
-

-
- No
-
- No
-
- No
-
- No.
-
- No
-
- Harrogate has terrible road infrastructure, a lot of this is maintained by NYCC but the focus seems to go in the wrong places such as resurfacing Claro Road which wasn't in bad condition yet there are plenty of other roads and streets in much worse conditions being left to deteriorate further. Can we please put the focus to where things are needed before people get fed up and leave the area
-
- No
-
- More info and do it in a shorter timescale
-
- I have lost track about what is happening about co-operation with nearby Authorities, such as Leeds and York. Harrogate, Looks more towards West Yorkshire and York than to Northallerton (eg train and road services, employment etc.).
-
- I was not aware of the promise of 'double devolution' but if that is to be honoured the Charter Trustee option has no place as an option. Furthermore if we are to have meaningful local devolution the working assumption should be for as many services as possible to administered at parish level - the review should give more consideration to this aspect so that local people can understand the range and scope of parish services which can be possible
-
- Far too complicated for its own good
-
- I don't understand why the Borough Council was abolished. I don't like power being centralised in Northallerton. I don't believe the new overarching Council will work in the interests of all communities in the area.
-
- The review should be carried out with maximum on each and involvement of as many as possible. However, inevitably with people broadly busy and probably not so well informed of options and where responsibilities for the provision of services, and other matters, reside there will be confusion if the communication aspects of the review are not managed simply clearly and succinctly ... it will be as important to identify what is NOT going to happen and what things the local councils will NOT be responsible for, as it will be for what they are.
-
- Not about the review. What has already been decided about the future of Local Government for this area is ridiculous and a complete waste of money.
-
- No
-
- No
-
- No
-
- no
-
- I don't understand why the existing council arrangements have to change.
-
- Personal doubt about any improvements the final decisions will have. Costs bound to rise and services will continue to decline as now
-
- The importance of the public buildings for conferences, tourism & local use is very important to the prosperity of the town & may be diluted in the wider county council
-
- No other comments at this time
-
- I see that this is a significant change for those who, through Harrogate Borough Council, work to provide services to residents and so I am grateful for the opportunity to comment. I also believe that maintaining a system where local people (particularly those who are tax-payers) are heard and able to influence what happens in their town is very important. It is the saying of "No taxation without representation" and a parish council would fulfil that ambition.
-

-
- No
-
- I can see no reason to create a new unitary authority, especially at this difficult time financially for everyone in clouding business. It appears we will go from six borough councils to many more parish councils all with very little money or power!
-
- Hoping this is not a way to cut spending
-
- The town council will need to adopt as many powers to make decisions about the town as is allowed. For too long the town has suffered because of the district/ borough council set up hasn't allowed for decisions about the town without considering the rest of the district who all have their own parish or town councils.
-
- The proposals to create a unitary authority is a regressive step, motivated by the political agenda of the current government. The promise of £550m over 30 years is an entirely inconsequential amount of money and will make no difference across the county. Instead there should be a focus on reinvigorating local democracy and making the existing bodies far more transparent with the abolition of 'Cabinet' for example at Harrogate Borough council.
-
- No
-
- It all makes sense as far as I can see - and thank you for such a clear website.
-
- No
-
- Root out and cut away all 'dead wood' within ALL non-emergency services. Then analyse and review how to spend money more effectively within the emergency services.
-
- How will house planning be handled in the future?
-
- Given that option 1 is accepted considerable work would be needed in some areas to build a community presence. My personal experience after 18 plus years in Harrogate is that there is already evidence of community support in divisions such as Bilton and Fairfax/Starbeck where there are community hubs/buildings already in existence. An essential element of the above option would be clear signage (see existing in Starbeck) and a community hub building (see Bilton and Fairfax). A clear identity for the area and its activities would then be established.
-
- No
-
- No
-
- I hope someone will actually listen to the findings
-
- It sounds to me like a group of people who are seeing their jobs disappearing trying to find a different way to keep their hands in our pockets.
-
- No
-
- Thank you for providing an opportunity to provide an opinion. I am involved in a local sports club and we need someone to be a decision maker point of contact, we never seem to get any help.
-
- Although nobody will admit it, I expect that the CGR is being carried out primarily to cut costs and save money. Every year we pay more tax for less and less. Apart from the scruffy appearance of Hill Top Road I resent the fact that our elected representative at the time, and an officer from the Council, admitted that the corner of Hill Top Road and St John's Walk was dangerous, especially following the cessation of road gritting in bad weather on said corner, proposals that were either proposed or implemented were either quickly withdrawn or never implemented. Also, whatever the outcome of the CGR, I trust that the issues of 'wilding' in Harrogate, for example The Valley Gardens, is given a bit more thought as it is, in my opinion, nothing more than an embarrassing joke!
-
- The brochure is indeed, a professional, glossy and expensive communique.
-
- Will it get any better
-
- None
-
- Not at this time.
-

-
- The whole process seems quite pointless as we already have Harrogate Borough Council. Why is it deemed necessary to go through this process - it's a complete waste of money and leaves the new North Yorkshire Council too remote and with too much power. To say the new set up gives more local democracy is just ridiculous as the number of local representatives on the new council is considerably reduced. It now seems that the creation of parish councils will be the only way to retain some local power, democracy and accountability.
-
- An expensive toothless additional level of bureaucracy.
-
- No
-
- It has been quite difficult to follow what is happening, and the options for various councils, through reading the material which came through my door. As I have plenty of time (retired) and am interested in local democracy, I persevered and made time to do this survey. But the vast majority of working age people will not understand this issue nor take the time to respond. It would be better for you to send out people to stop shoppers, people in libraries etc. and ask them a few simple questions on the spot. I found the leaflet to be in plain English, but full of terms which might be familiar to civil servants - but gobbledegook for most other people. This is a pretty major change to Council arrangements and I would like there to be more effort made to bring it to people's attention and get input from a wider section of society.
-
- Actually I am bemused! What on earth is this all about? It could all have been left alone running as the well-oiled machine that it is. I understand there may be extra government money but if it is enough to make a real difference I will be surprised especially with rampant inflation going on. At least with previous local government reviews it did make some sense but I can't work this one out.
-
- The letter and leaflet received via the post were not the easiest to read, understand and digest. Can focus be applied to ensuring future phases of the consultation are communicated clearly and encourage engagement with the population. The use of real life examples will also be key so people can understand how the decision making process may differ between the 2 main options. I am sure the intention is that either direction has the capacity to be efficient and fair in the allocation of scarce resources, however I suspect the question will be whether a lack of "town/parish" council will entail a debate on a standard allocation approach, whilst the existence of a "town/parish" council will allow for some finessing to match the specific needs and opportunities in the area.
-
- It is clearly unwise to leave major decision-making to each individual area. Corruption will be rife, risks of cabals, repression of those who disagree - perhaps not in this area but this is supposed to be a United Kingdom where we care about what sort of lives others are leading or suffering and we have a collective responsibility to one another to ensure equality, for that is where a peaceful, happy [in that respect, which is very important] society will thrive.
-
- Please can you keep residents informed of progress via post as well as online
-
- As the county council is a large unit overseeing a very large area, I feel it is extremely important that local issues are aired and discussed in a local context, and proposed solutions to local issues be initiated at the "coal face" rather than remotely. The county seat in Northallerton is a very different context to Scarborough, Whitby, Harrogate or, say, Settle and the western extremes of the county. Trustees with solely ceremonial roles cannot fulfil the vacuum which will be left by the dissolution of Harrogate Council, (or other local Borough councils). It is also apparent to me that the spread of political opinion cannot be fully reflected at county level. Here in Harrogate there are Liberal Democrat councillors, and the Green lobby is strong, which is evidently not the case across the whole county - so will those varied political voices be silenced?
-
- None
-

-
- No. Think the whole idea is ridiculous
-
- we need to keep community representation available
-
- I think Harrogate commands its own borough council and this devolution is a step too far. In terms of saving money, NYCC could provide so many central services, but leave a small & focussed council for the area to fight Harrogate's corner relative to North Yorkshires resources.
-
- More information is needed about what the Unitary Authority proposes to provide that contribute to the needs of Harrogate; whether functions and budgets might be delegated to the Parish/Town Council and, if the Unitary Authority is to work through Area Committees will the parish/Town Council be consulted as appropriate and allowed to attend those Area Committees
-
- I hope when all the comments are received, providing residents are not put off by national affairs, they are given full, transparent consideration and we are informed as to who will be making the final choice.
-
- No.
-
- As someone who has lived in an area which had a Parish Council, I would be interested to know how much it will cost the local residence via an increase in the Council Tax.
-
- The Parish Council for Harrogate should be known as a Town Council. The Councillors should have a responsibility to minimise the local precept.
-
- No
-
- This questionnaire does not touch on matters of that it may entail a parish or council precept, in addition to the rates payable to the NYCC. Also, what remuneration or honorarium parish councillors together with a parish clerk system would be set and who would be paying for that layer of local admin.
-
- Yes please sort out the parking and traffic dangers in Mount Street, Harrogate - it's a joke and an accident waiting to happen and all the residents get the reeling we are irrelevant
-
- No
-
- It is very important that the remit and finances of the Town council ae set out and openly reported on. It should be a Harrogate Town Council, not a parish council.
-
- No
-
- No
-
- Not really, as mentioned above I think this is a great shame. Harrogate is a nice place to live so why are we going to be tied with Northallerton and the seaside town of Scarborough. Nothing in common with these other towns in the district.
-
- Is there any opportunity to consider a Town Council to cover the current unparished areas of Harrogate?
-
- No
-
- There must be recognition and representation of the local need, not just jobs for mates. There must be active recruitment to place people from all aspects of the community
-
- None
-
- The documents are very clear.
-
- It needs to look into parking for residents it's horrific in Harrogate
-
- None - but see comments above
-
- Just uncertainty as to how any of the new proposals are going to work effectively
-
- No
-
- Having a parish council would be more useful than not having one.
-
- Yes: residents weren't properly consulted about getting rid of Harrogate Borough council. The current setup has reduced residents say in what happens and diluted local democracy.
-

-
- How do we ensure there is transparency and accountability?
-
- Best would be a unitary Harrogate Council so that the town would be understood as a whole. Several parish councils in the town may well, consciously or unconsciously, work against each other.
-
- no
-
- No apart from whatever method of Governance is chosen we do not see substantial rises in our council tax to pay for it.
-
- The level of precept to be charged is, of course, a consideration, and it would be useful if some indication could be provided in advance. That does not detract from the general view in favour of a Town Council, however.
-
- I would prefer to see a proper town council with the power to present the views of the residents.
-
- No just content that this review is happening.
-
- Would it cost more to have parish councils as this would be extra council tax. In these hard times people could vote against a parish council just because it could cost more.
-
- No
-
- No
-
- No
-
- Please can national good practice be looked at - and the councillors and officers responsible for change, implement excellence (rather than trying to reinvent the wheel).
-
- It is important that a voice is available to address local issues. Bigger is not necessarily better and in the general scheme of things matters important to Harrogate may well be overlooked by a bigger authority.
-
- We would prefer to have more local control
-
- The various options seem to be set out in a straightforward way.
-
- This whole process which has seriously disadvantaged the people who live in Harrogate (and other areas) has removed a level of local accountability with, it seems, little thought as to what should happen next. This seems to have been a woeful process for local democracy.
-
- Not particularly helpful advice. Mention of parish precept but no details. A very clever way to get people to ensure Harrogate, a major payer of rates etc., is ineffectual and neutered in the wider NY concept. I hope people see through this.
-
- No
-
- Obviously a Parish/Town Council will be a layer of extra bureaucracy, however, it will be a small price to pay to ensure that Harrogate has as large a voice as possible, as the size of the local population far outstrips any other area in the County.
-
- No
-
- Whilst Parish Councils seem a good idea, careful examination of the costs likely to be involved in delivering the local services mentioned in the brief should be thoroughly carried out to ensure that the proposed Parish Councils are not simply too expensive to justify their creation.
-
- Nil.
-
- How can you have a (doubly) devolved unitary authority? Don't they mean opposing things?
-
- I would be beneficial as a Harrogate resident to have more transparency and set agendas for ongoing issues such as better roadside recycling and limitations to adhoc planning and roadworks. The appalling waste of money on the supposed cycle lane on Otley Road is a shameful reflection on town planning.
-
- No
-

-
- No thank you
-
- Being governed by North Yorkshire which covers a wide and varied landscape, with many areas having different needs, is going to be a very difficult, if not impossible, task to deliver the services which each specific type of area needs. Parish Councils could better serve some of those areas.
-
- Thank you for doing this!
-
- No, other than I don't agree with the formation of a single unitary authority
-
- I feel a sense of pride to live in Harrogate. I would hope we can maintain our attraction to visitors. Continue to welcome incomers including refugees and encourage ethnic diversity. Maintain services offered including sport and swimming. Support our businesses and shops. I hope a town council could do this.
-
- The North Yorkshire Council have acted, or not acted, disgracefully with our roads. Anything that brings more democratic accountability is welcome
-
- No
-
- No thanks.
-
- No
-
- No
-
- All of Saltergate (not just the area shown on the map) should be in the Harrogate Town Council area. Similarly all of the Duchy Ward. There may be a case for Starbeck having its own Parish Council, along the original Starbeck boundary (rather than current ward) as it is a distinct Community, unlike the majority of the other Wards, who I would have thought would see themselves as very much part of Harrogate. However, as it is quite a small area, its Residents may wish to remain as part of Harrogate and benefit from the larger precept that would be available to Harrogate as a whole.
-
- Why is this being changed at all. Why not keep local councils. Why have one huge North Yorkshire council that will not understand local issues. Your fact sheet was gobbledegook by the way.
-
- The number of councillors each town or parish council would be required to have? The viability of parish or town councillors being unpaid - if this is the intention? I assume that town and parish council's will not have the much needed powers to scrutinize and select applicants prior to their appointment in a similar fashion to those used by the national political parties. The ambition to establish large numbers of town and parish councillors does not square with the 'real world' lack of individuals volunteering for committee positions or as active volunteer helpers for existing local community organisations and groups.. .
-
- Yes... you could have given me more characters in the previous answer! I'm amazed Central Government ever entertained this entire project. It's simply setting up conflict between Harrogate and Northallerton. For example, even if the fact that the roads have been repaired (1st world problems) equally in both towns - it simply won't matter - people will perceive a difference and they will feel disenfranchised and immediately blame the unitary authority. In (unfortunately) a post truth world, this will matter and it will cause major issues in years to come. Creating a Parish Council as an answer to this is simply inadequate to the scale of the issue and also is optically naive. I can understand that this is now might be the only option but back to my original point the initial decision is flawed, so there is no sense in the alternatives being presented in the governance review. I can't vote on the basis of an illogical decision. Harrogate is really not being set up for success here. It's down to both philosophy, politics and economics - grow what is a success or bring everything else down to the same level. Quod erat demonstrandum.
-
- We're the documents shared deliberately opaque. There seems to be a lack of clarity.
-
- No
-

-
- No
-
- The responsibility for decision making needs to be back with local people not by those who do not know the area.
-
- These things seem to take a very long time. Hopefully information of the progress of this will be made known at regular intervals
-
- Be careful to be statistically accurate. Don't treat the largest response group as the majority. Also take full account that if you get more than a 3% response you will be lucky. Be data driven. If you are modelling disclose the methodology in full.
-
- A Mayor is not required in this day and age. Save on expense
-
- It doesn't seem to matter if the people who live in the area object to council ideas at the moment. So are we any better off with a Parish council, at extra cost to the householder? The county council should be concentrating on making things better, rather than spending funds on what is after all another layer of local government. Local councillors can do the job for their parishes, let them get on with it.
-
- No
-
- I believe that this review is essential in the light of the creation of the new unitary authority.
-
- None
-
- No
-
- Excellent way to engage community in the governance of their location.
-
- No.
-
- Effective governance for the community needs to have the issues effecting those living there listened to, and if necessary, acted upon. Transparency in budgets and spending for the local community will further trust and support for local government. Without the means to act on the above, the CGR is a waste of time.
-
- Not at the moment, until a clearer proposal emerges.
-
- Unlike other parts of North Yorkshire, Harrogate, for a very long time has lacked major infrastructure investment (apart from huge expense to provide little used cycleways) and has become run down and much less attractive to tourists and visitors or indeed a favourable place to live. It would be good to learn how the new NYCC structure will address this for the betterment of Harrogate together with ensuring it will have greater competence to make and apply worthwhile efficient decisions and not waste money on ill thought through and poorly managed schemes.
-
- It is regrettable that in the whole of this reorganization the principle of subsidiarity has been abandoned - that is the principle that decisions should be made at the lowest possible level.
-
- No thank you.
-
- I would hope that if a parish/town council is established it would become routine for the new unitary authority to consult and liaise with it on a wide range of matters. Local people will be more confident about the work of the unitary council if local voices count.
-
- It is difficult to comment on things which I do not know. I don't have the full picture yet.
-
- no.
-
- I'm the next phase it would be useful to know how councillors will be elected, for example if local councillors could take up the role on the parish council rather than having more elected individuals vying for our attention. Or is the parish/town council non-partisan?
-
- We must take advantage of the concessions to local democracy outlined by the the NYC to be.
-
- Community or neighbourhood, not a parish council
-

-
- The suggestion of reducing the level of participation in local democracy to ceremonial functions would amount to a disenfranchisement of local people. It stands to reason that an authority administering things from outside the local area will have far less good a grasp of local detail and what matters to local people than the locals themselves. I see no reason why Harrogate should relinquish its sovereignty over its own affairs to an authority somewhere else in Yorkshire. The history of Harrogate has been built on enterprise and entrepreneurship expressed and enacted at a very local level and the work of historians (like the late Malcolm Neesam) shows that standards for local people only fall when local representation and initiative is taken away.
-
- It would be helpful if people who work or live in Harrogate could vote in person as not everyone will respond to the letter sent or go online to do the survey. More publicity needed over the next 3 months to make more people aware.
-
- No
-
- No
-
- It would be unfair not to guarantee to allow both Harrogate and Scarborough unparished areas to create Parish Councils with appropriate representation
-
- No further comment
-
- No
-
- We neither asked for, or voted for the reorganisation. The electorate have been ignored.
-
- Not at this stage.
-
- We need to find sophisticated democratic ways of representing diverse voices concerns and lived experience and aspiration. Particular attention to neuro diverse global majority and the regularly disenfranchised.
-
- All of the change project has been done secretly as far as I am concerned. This CGR is the first I have hear, or read, about any of this total collection of changes. I would have voted against these changes and voted to keep the local government as it was.
-
- Facts - where are the facts I pay £4000 council tax so will I have to pay more for the same, or will I get extra
-
- I consider this to be a useful exercise in understanding the views of the local community
-
- no
-
- I believe this exercise has been a waste of effort and money. It is essential that, as part of this review the Council clarifies its proposals for Area Committees. If these Committees exercise real power, the need for a Town Council can be re-shaped or even withdrawn. Please consult us about reasonable, deliverable and suitably developed and costed proposals.
-
- No
-
- No
-
- Concern about the size of new council & how varied needs within it may be.
-
- Local voices need to be heard please
-
- When decisions are being made affecting Harrogate the town council should be consulted. Harrogate is one of the largest communities in North Yorkshire and remote from County HQ. Surely local knowledge matters.
-
- Centralising generally a poor idea
-
- A potential new town council dedicated to controlling much of the life of this great town. Now is opportunity to create history when new elections take place by using a system of proportional representation so that every Harrogate resident has a chance of their voice being heard? The framework is already in place following the enlargement of former Wards into Districts at the last NYCC elections. Using these boundaries and electing 3 councillors from each district using a Single Transferable Vote basis system of PR would result in a diverse fully representative council to take Harrogate forward. NYCC says it
-

wants to see successful two tier government in Yorkshire, now is time to make this wish a democratic reality.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take governance away from Cooper & his crooked monkeys.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harrogate Town Council should look after the Harrogate assets such as The Stray etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we want Harrogate to flourish and for Local Residents to have a say about their Town then there has to be a Town Council. Giving Harrogate Residents a strong voice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to see all areas of North Yorkshire represented in the same way, ideally with a simplified governance structure and all residents given the same quality of services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be a final vote to decide which option to take (parish council vs trustees) once both options have been made much clearer. At the moment it's not clear at all what the various "ceremonial functions" etc. are and what impact control of them would have.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the supporting information seems to provide background on why area is moving to a unitary authority, which seems to wholly contradict the logic of considering reintroduction of a new second tier in this area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking forward to finding out how duplication will be avoided e.g. in provision of services and how resources will be allocated e.g. funding of reinvestment in amenities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I welcome the opportunity to be able to have 'my say' on the future governance of Harrogate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There appears to be no coordination of roadworks so that major routes in and out of Harrogate are all worked on at the same time. That is something that Community Governance at town/county council level should be coordinating. Previous internal reorganisations of local council structures have not been at all well conducted, reducing efficiency, staff job satisfaction; seemingly motivated by petty internal politics. Do local government employees undergo background checks for membership of work related associations, in particular the freemasons?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Harrogate is a very special place to many of us and the beauty, history and community spirit of Valley Drive, Valley Gardens and surrounding area must be preserved for future generations. Local people have a passion and an energy to be able to deliver this, which perhaps a more remote and unfamiliar governing body may not be able to deliver.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where's the new NYC will be seated- is it Northallerton?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important that local communities are not lost in the bigger picture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More detail required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be helpful to have some idea of the possible precepts for a Harrogate parish council based on varying levels of service which the council may or may not decide to administer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's not clear what other alternatives might be to a parish council and how these might differ to a parish council and so it is difficult to assess whether a parish council is the best option

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- No
-
- I do not think the "parish" designation is appropriate - I would prefer the term Town Council
-
- The next question asks about alternative forms of community governance. Whilst this may be an interesting idea, I don't feel there is any organisation whose duty it is to represent all the residents. At the moment I think democratic election of councillors (through proportional representation) is the only way a diverse community can be represented. I would also definitely favour a renaming away from Parish Council to Community Council (or, failing that, Town Council).
-
- I would prefer the parish council model, if chosen, to be called a community council (or town council) and that its members were elected by proportional representation.
-
- No
-
- I would like a town council to be created.
-
- Stop building houses.
-
- We already have a local and county council which has been working for number of years. If there are problems with it why not fix them by amendment instead of starting again with a new (but similar) system with additional layers of administration. I can see no purpose in having charter trustees who have no administrative responsibility.
-
- The language of the publications on the subject has been less than helpful. One could be forgiven in thinking that the objective was to obfuscate in order perhaps to obviate the choice of a town council. Once the decision to centre all services on one council in Northallerton, rather than the West East option, Harrogate's future was determined. We can't expect much support from North Allerton given their performance over many years. I fear the decline of Harrogate.
-
- The whole country is heading downwards. Day to day life is becoming harder and more miserable for many. There seems little hope. We are all paying more and more for declining services and lower standards. It feels like little can be done to change the direction of things. All this local stuff seems pretty trivial and totally ineffective. What a horrible time.
-
- Local participation and decision making is imperative.
-
- very technical
-
- To allow Harrogate, a large town in North Yorkshire to have its say on all local matters, taken seriously and not ignored or belittled.
-
- At present there is only limited information on the various proposals and their implications.
-
- It's a complete sham.
-
- It is important for a parish council to represent the views of all residents not a privileged few.
-
- Other than I wish it weren't happening, do not disempower local Harrogate residents as a result of these changes
-
- This is just a window dressing exercise to hide the fact that local democracy has been taken away from the town.
-
- There is no information about the likely cost of the options, therefore how can residents choose? This review should have given this information.
-
- 1. The scope of the review makes no mention of efficiency or value for money under the 'scope of the review'. This is a surprising and serious omission from the review process. 2. If a charter trustee area is created its budget and activities should be kept to an absolute minimum. We accept being taxed for vital services but not for ceremonies. 3. If a Parish Council has to be created it must not duplicate the Unitary functions at all. It must play no part in any transport, planning, crime, or tourism activities. Its budget and size should be
-

as small as possible so that taxes are spent efficiently on essential services and not on duplication, liaison and overlap.

- Costing of options and communication with ratepayers with further consultation thereafter is essential so that householders and businesses understand the financial impacts of any options going forward.
 - The issue, I believe, is that services are inaccessible and advocates are required; in this case the proposal is for parish councillors. Advocates would not be required if residents could access, advocate simply and feel as though they were listened to. In terms of services I am referring to everything from highways to social, education to planning.
 - no
 - Similarly, local parish/town councils would also better represent the views of local people in reflecting the current appetite of the area to impose regulation on activities or to allow them to develop more freely, according to current social, political or ideological aspirations. A local population's wishes change over time (possibly in different directions from those of a larger administrative authority of which it forms part) and it is sensible to give flexibility to the more local area to keep its direction closer to the wishes of its actual inhabitants, as those wishes change over time. In the case of a large and dynamic local community the size of central Harrogate with so many stakeholding interests, the option of local representation being limited to making decisions about ceremonial/traditional functions and the raising of money to support them (important though those are) seems to me a wholly unwelcome prospect, and one w
 - decisions that affect the residents should be may by people who live in the area
 - I'm very concerned that what makes Harrogate so attractive to tourism and new business will be ignored or not fully understood and taken into account when decisions are made.
 - Will there be new elections if a parish council is created?
 - no
 - NO
 - I am not clear in my understanding of the process. The Information pack seems to contradict itself. I did request a phone call from Harrogate Council to explain it but the phone line was so faint I had to say so but I'm still no clearer. I have put my thoughts on this Review survey because I live in an unparished area and want a say in what happens in the future.
 - The changes are really overdue.
 - Council tax is already too high. I do not want to pay more for a parish council
 - I have not been given an opportunity to answer questions 5 and 6, despite pressing the back button to check. Is the consultation flawed? I want Harrogate Town Council to have the fullest possible responsibility for assets in the town, including parks, theatres, museums, The Royal Baths. I want the Harrogate council to have the fullest possible responsibility for planning policy and approvals and active transport policy such as cycle lanes. I want the council to have a meaningful budget to be able to actually have an impact on preserving and developing the wonderful community of Harrogate. For example, recently Ripon City Council wanted extra CCTV but they didn't even have the degree of empowerment to spend £2k on this - they had to beg for the money - it will probably take years to get this pathetically trivial sum approved - this kind of arrangement isn't devolution, it's humiliation My experience of involvement by NYCC in affairs in the town - traffic management, on-street parking, cycle lanes - is that they are arrogant and remote, do not understand the needs of Harrogate and they have made over the years many stupid and justifiably unpopular proposals which have been rightly opposed by the public and politicians in Harrogate, particularly by politicians of the same party as dominates the NYCC. I am disgusted that the change in local government has
-

been forced on NY without a referendum, and that people of NY have been left to pick up the very significant costs of the reorganisation despite this being forced on us by London

- Many many residents of Harrogate will not conduct this survey, regardless of the mailing out to them and they do not have a clue what is coming down the line from April 2023 - maybe not a great deal of change initially. There is a danger that your conclusions will be based on a small minority of responses.
 - Not enough detail for consideration
 - There should be a proper referendum.
 - No to a town council!
 - Needs better transparency including costs to take payer
 - I am pleased that this consultation is taking place. I am slightly worried that the timetable is lagging behind what is happening at North Yorkshire County Council in April 2023.
 - make sure Harrogate is fairly treated and can keep as much of its independence as possible
 - I'm not convinced about why there was a need for change and why there wasn't a vote for the public.
 - Not really, I think it needs to be run by unbiased politically neutral officers.
 - No
 - Only to re-iterate local people have the local knowledge and should be in position to recognise and act more quickly to the needs of the area.
 - Obviously if these Parish Councils were formed local residents DO NOT want to see their council taxes going up and up. Harrogate council charge above average for council tax and cuts just keep being made.
 - Not at this stage.
 - I fear the protection of Harrogate's particular needs and services will be in the hands of a county council where the representatives have competing (and different) requirements from Harrogate. The loss of local management of services and prioritisation of expenditures is a significant worry.
 - It appears strange that local areas such as Ripon have their own parish council which have operated successfully for many years. Harrogate deserves the same opportunity. As well as the other districts not currently covered by one.
 - No.
 - I hope you will look after our needs better than you have done with our roads.
 - Why is the new council going to be based in North Allerton? How will it differ from the current NYCC? Surely the best place for a new council would be York, which is closer to the main centres of Harrogate and Scarborough.
 - Very little time allowed for responses and a disproportionate reliance on access to computers given that there is a higher than average number of elderly residents. One month for the survey to be filled in and submitted but three months for consideration seems the wrong way round to me.
 - We look forward to seeing more detail about what the exact arrangements would be, including costs and responsibilities. If there is to be further consultation we would be happy to be involved in sharing information via our networks, taking part in or hosting events. We would hope that if there is a parish council they would be actively involved in supporting the local voluntary and community sector and volunteering, including access to grants and working in partnership for the benefit of all residents in the area.
 - It feels such a shame that we are losing our local governance to a broader county wide service. Local councillors have worked with local people to solve local problems that matter to them and it feels like we will be losing that.
 - No
-

-
- I see the new authority taking decisions about Harrogate with little understanding of and empathy with local issues. My experience of contacting the current NYCC to deal with my issues as always been difficult and distant. And without local representation this is likely to get worse. Our council tax is likely to be spent on whole area problems rather than on the town. The extra £18m pounds per annum we are told the new authority will get from central govt will make next to no difference over such a wide area. A new primary school or perhaps some road repairs is all that this new money will provide. Also you are spending £500,000 on consultants to make all the legal judgments and you will have many redundancy and early retirement packages to pay out so it will be some time, if ever, before the residents of Harrogate feel any benefits from this re organisation. The levelling up of council tax, taxi fares across such a large area will absorb lots of resource for years to come and will cause many people financial stress.
-
- No
-
- None
-
- I feel it is essential that Harrogate residents have the ability to influence directly the running of our town & its environs
-
- I found the information pack rather wordy and confusing. It probably needed additional visual aids to clarify what you were asking us to decide upon.
-
- No
-
- no
-
- Thank you for sending out a letter and that we are able to state our opinion.
-
- No decision should be taken until NYCC are able to give Harrogate residents clear guidance on what is to be devolved and costs on which the latter are able to base their decisions.
-
- I do not want to be totally govern by North Yorkshire County Council. Northallerton treat us as second-class citizens now, so if they are completely in charge of all amenities God help us.
-
- No
-
- It is very important that we have local representation. In my view, this grand unitary authority is a dreadful mistake; to benefit the few over the many. It's a power trip, and the fact this government approve it, speaks volumes. Many people were and still are, happy with local governance and a county council. Nothing has been said about social care or what happens to rents for social housing etc. these are all things that are better managed by local councils.
-
- I will be most interested to see the analysis of the published report of this Public Consultation Exercise. I fear that few people will actually participate because they don't know it exists - when citizens of Harrogate & Scarborough wake up on 1st April 2023 they will slowly learn what they have lost...
-
- A more transparent representative sample of residents views are needed as this was sadly lacking when the new unitary authority was being discussed.
-
- nothing more to add
-
- North Yorkshire should set out a clear statement of how it proposes to replicate the local accountability that is being lost with the abolition of District Councils. In the absence of such a statement, references to things like "double devolution" are meaningless soundbites.
-
- No.
-
- Not at the moment.
-
- Again, un elected for the post councillors who will expand the brief at first chance.
-
- Perhaps it would help the development of Harrogate to be able to have a 'say'. Rather than be run over by the larger County as and when it suited them. We need to have an
-

identity of a bright and colourful town which we care about. The best way surely is to have some sort of finger in the pie.

- The possibility of setting up a local chapter of Citizens' Assembly, to represent local opinion more widely.
 - The whole thing seems to be an ill-thought-out process which will end up costing more money to provide a poorer service. Seems to be being promoted to satisfy a group of politically motivated egos
 - Our ask is that the parish structure enables equality of provision and access to services to be put in place and for all the parishes to have equal standing, at the local and new North Yorkshire Council planning structures. We see value in civic engagement at the local level being proposed, and for those involved to have the ability and understanding to be able to plan and influence the things which affect their quality of life and the lives of those around them. Having a parish council structures provide the mechanism to influence. With the role comes responsibilities and obligations, members of the parish need support, help and nurturing to be able and interested to take on civic roles, across all ages, within the parish and for all members of the parish to share in the ownership of what happens in their wider locality. Provision to develop capacity and capabilities of parishes goes in hand in hand with making the established changes. The same development support is required equally across all the geographies.
 - Harrogate should have a town council elected from the wards which don't currently have a parish council. It should be permitted sufficient funding to provide the services and amenities a town of its size requires.
 - No
 - No
 - x
 - No
 - It is a very positive step that this is such an open and informed consultation.
 - If residents can have input into their community decisions it'll surely lead to happier citizens.
 - I am deeply concerned about planning authority and protecting the area from aggressive speculative building.
 - None, thank you
 - As mentioned, suitable and satisfactory local representation is absolutely critical if all of the main governing powers are to be vested in an authority which is so far physically removed from the areas which it is intended to serve. Personally, I consider the decision to abolish the Harrogate Borough Council and other district and borough councils as little short of insanity.
 - I hope that the result will be for Harrogate to have a Parish Council.
 - On the map on the west side of Harrogate the electoral divisions and parish council boundaries don't match up with the communities people living there most associate with. The top end of Jennyfields and most of the new housing on the A59 are part of Killinghall parish but with little or no direct connection with that parish council despite paying a precept. This may also apply to the Queen Ethelburga's estate and adjacent new King Edwin Park. It would make sense to include the whole "white" area bounded by the A59 and the B6161 within the Harrogate parished area if it goes ahead.
 - no
 - No
 - Yes I have got a lot of ideas to get money.
 - The new Unitary authority is removing more decision making for my town and district that is remote from residents. Headquarters based in this case, in a town with no direct
-

public transport to reach it and whose interference to date has not improved this town one iota, for example alterations to local roads, makes it imperative that control and the decision making is near as possible to the resident. At least the residents can seek information or wish to complain and can vote out those who fail to represent their wishes. The management of the assets in our town need to be decided by the elected representatives here, who are directly responsible for the general appearance, cleanliness of the streets and management of the leisure facilities etc. with the importance to attract business and visitors, cannot be done by a remote disinterested body where the majority of its members can out vote the few from the town concerned, to the detriment of my town. Whilst many think there is a lot of duplication in local government, this is certainly not entirely so but it is being promoted on the presumption there will also be a pot of central government money to spend. Yet there is no certainty that it will continue indefinitely and all the accommodations necessary for large projects that cross boundaries to take place still will require negotiation.

- A CG organisation is meaningless

- No

- No

- No.

- The review is important - so why were questionnaires not sent out with all the other information. Folk should not have to request a questionnaire or have access to the internet (which of course, everyone does not). Also, some clearer explanation of what the advantages are to creating the new structure would be of great help. The main questions are: Is the result of this change going to reduce Council Tax bills? If not, why do it in this form at all? Will there be more tiers of bureaucracy - if yes - then don't make the changes.

- Throughout the existence of Harrogate Borough Council, the town's residents have been short changed because of having no town council. It's high time this was rectified.

- The Town 'Parish' area should include those fragments of outer suburbs that have been allocated to other parishes, (eg Killinghall around the North East boundary).

- Why wasn't this review conducted long ago - from the date when it was known that NYC would be set up in the way it will be. Age or disability has no relevance to whether Harrogate has a parish council. The town of Harrogate should have a parish council so then it would know what it's like to have an authoritarian council above it which has not had the interests of any of the surrounding parishes as a concern. It will be good riddance to HBC but sadly most of the officers will be transferred to NYC under TUPE rules, so can any improvement be expected?

- What is the point of dissolving local councils if you just create more bureaucracy. Who voted to dissolve and merge into North Yorkshire?

- No Thank You.

- no

- I would like transparency about this review.

- Having a local government covering the whole of N Yorkshire is just sheer stupidity - the clue's in the name "Local".

- I am concerned that Harrogate will be "left behind" without local representation. It should also be noted that the town is a magnet for visitors who spend money here which can only be for the good of the town and the area at large.

- I feel certain services are too big for the Parish such as Leisure.

- I think Harrogate will be under-represented on the new North Yorkshire Council which will be based too far away from our town and district.

-
- Consistency of approach is important in order that the decision making processes and accountabilities are clearly understandable to the electorate. If parish councils are the preferred solution for the majority of areas, this model should be used in all areas.
-
- Astonishing and frankly undemocratic to consider that a town the size of Harrogate should be without its own proper local representation in a county the size and complexity of North Yorkshire.
-
- NO unless they are going to take notice of the residents..
-
- I understand why the boundaries are set up as they are for the decisions but I feel possibly that Bilton Grange area would be better in the Bilton division as the facilities in Bilton would be on the Bilton Grange division but used by the both areas.
-
- I think more information about possible roles for a Town Council should be given
 - not until we see how it runs
-
- Given that Harrogate town is the largest urban area in the new North Yorkshire Council area, it should have some functions that are locally determines in the same way that neighbouring parishes and towns (eg Knaresborough) do. As the impacts of our changed climate increase, adaption and resilience is a good example of a service that could be determined by a town council as could local Planning determinations.
-
- 1. ‘Double devolution’ is an idea that makes a unitary authority less and not more acceptable as it adds extra cost and bureaucracy without demonstrable need or benefit. 2. Local organisations can be set up at any time to represent locally perceived needs directly, in a way that would not be influenced by parish considerations. 3. If the proper weight is given to individual representations there is no need for parish councils to reiterate them. 4. Suggesting a benefit in having an additional tier of councillors to represent residents and local issues implies that parish councillors would be better in these respects than NYCC councillors which should not and, I believe, would not be the case. 5. Parish councils are not a necessary part of the planning process, as has been demonstrated in Harrogate town over many years, as individual representations, local groups and county councillors (being members of the planning authority) have strong voices on planning matters and do not need extra support. 6. It is undesirable for the reasons already given to adhere to a system which, in its essentials and despite later changes, was set up to meet Victorian needs and has been made unnecessary by the ease of modern communication. 7. In summary, parish councils are not needed now because: i. Charter trustee’s functions do not need parishes; ii. There is no overriding need of any kind for another level of local government; iii. Parishes would negate the benefits of a unitary authority by creating extra costs and bureaucracy; iv. Additional costs of government at any level are unwarranted at any time without unassailable justification; v. Common sense, good governance and fiscal prudence demand that the unitary authority be given time to show its effectiveness without parishes. vi. If it is subsequently decided that parishes would be beneficial their creation would not have been hindered in any way by not setting them up now.
-
- I do not think a Harrogate town council should look to take on services currently delivered by HBC and NYCC, it should focus on local initiatives which the new unitary won't do. We are already paying for the existing councils to deliver services, so we would end up paying again through the precept if they were to take them on. And a town council would lose the economies of scale that the larger councils have, so it might actually cost more to deliver.
-
- Thank you for the opportunity to take part
-
- I want Harrogate control of the Stray, Royal Hall, Theatre, Mercer Gallery, Convention Centre, Valley Gardens
-
- Regret the loss of Harrogate Borough Council
-

-
- I am angry that our borough council is being disbanded and we are being forced to have a unitary authority. Harrogate Borough Council was effective and efficient and Northallerton has always been the opposite.
-
- This review is a good idea. I would even go further and not have Charter Trustee areas - again to reduce costs and bureaucracy.
-
- What other options are these???
-
- It will be just another talking shop for Councillors to further their own interests and to claim expenses.
-
- At present I can walk to HBC offices, speak to the receptionist and get answers to questions. With no car, no computer, no mobile phone, how do I get information now from Northallerton? Waiting on a landline for an hour! Is that democracy at its best?
-
- I feel that local services etc. should be run by a local council not NYCC
-
- I have never heard the description 'Charter Trustees'. When have they been appointed, and who are they? It seems odd that HBC is abolished next year and there is now a suggestion to appoint a 'substitute' although with lesser powers than HBC
-
- I support the Community Governance Review as it provides the opportunity to assess the needs of local people and the services residents require.
-
- I simply feel that it is imperative to keep the needs of our area to the forefront of the working council. This is not going to happen without local input. As a pensioner however, I am just a little concerned with regards to increases to Council Tax to cover the cost of local representatives.
-
- Do not want too much power in hands of one person
-
- Will HG residents have a say in future decisions. Getting a point across NYC will not be easy internet - no. Telephone - no. Other than camping outside their premises for somebody to listen!!
-
- Comments: I found the 2 options given above confusing and unclear. These options could be stated more simply.
-
- It is not very informative, I'm afraid as I could not quite understand the implications of your proposals. I did think, that with something as important as this, there would be a dedicated telephone number to deal with queries but, alas, this is not the case. So I rang the main switchboard and after 15 minutes of fruitless 'options' apologies and music, I gave up. My main concern which I wished to have answered concerns the outcome of having all the 10 Harrogate areas parished. Where would the elected councillors sit? - In North Yorkshire or in Harrogate? Would they be bound as one body or 10 separate units? I chose the parish option as it seemed to be the only one which would retain a vestige of contact with local constituents but my answer would have to be qualified by the answer to the above questions. Clearly, if every time I have a question, I have to ring County Hall, with an experience like my 15 minute wait above, it would hardly be representative democracy. Although I have sat through a Civic Society meeting on the subject attended by an NYCC Councillor and the Harrogate CEO, Having listened to that and read your leaflet, I feel none the wiser. I do not have the internet which is why I have given my home details for further information.
-
- What does it mean for residents in real terms? And what powers Harrogate Borough Council actual have?
-
- "Review" is a grand word for a document with, essentially, one question. The idea of a parish council for a large town with 70,000+ residents appears absurd. This entire process of moving away from a county council / district council has been totally undemocratic and the proposal for a parish council with unspecified powers/finances for such a large area is equally undemocratic. There needs to be a proper ballot of local residents.
-

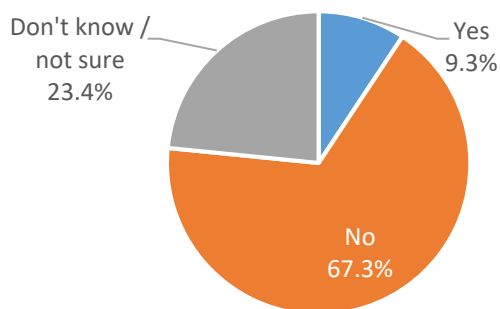
-
- What has prompted this change? Will parish members receive remuneration or just have expenses? What level of funding will parish councils receive to provide services in local area? What services will they provide and be expected to? Will they be statutory body?
-
- Whilst I am writing I wish to express a hope that the new structures improve the surfacing of roads in Harrogate. I live on Green Lane which now carries high traffic volume. Despite extra central government support for road repairs, I notice that Green Lane Road which has many ruts has for a long time not had any re-surfacing, under the governance of North Yorkshire County Council. However, quiet roads with relatively good surfaces, for example, leading down to Fewston Reservoir and those in nearby quiet local areas, were resurfaced. We own a towing caravan and have toured in the UK and Europe - the many years the alarming bumpiness of the Green Lane (and until recently Leadhall Lane) are always a source of personal note and embarrassment to us, being amongst the worst we encounter on our journeys.
-
- First of all, I am amazed that my address is so titled as an unparished area. With a post code of HG1, where else do I live other than Harrogate? Also, why am I associated with Fairfax which is on the other side of the main A59 highway? I am not a part of Starbeck either. I live in Harrogate. Now about the whole issue! No one asked me and I did not vote for a North Yorkshire 'State', with an elected Mayor. I have no doubt what so ever that all this change will cost me money for no return. I bet Scarborough are against it too. Why is Knaresborough not part of Harrogate's governance. It has been so for so long and together we have our own MP. Therefore, Harrogate and Knaresborough together should be made into a unitary authority in its own right as what used to be called a County Borough. I am not a fan of governance from 30 miles away. There you have it:- My view.
-

2.4 Alternative forms of community governance

2.4.1 Are you aware of any existing local community governance in the areas (e.g. community or neighbourhood forums, resident associations etc.) which would serve the local community as an alternative to a parish council?

Only **9.3%** of respondents are aware of any existing local community governance in the area.

	No.	%
Yes	115	9.3%
No	830	67.3%
Don't know / not sure	289	23.4%
	1234	



2.4.2 A summary list of all suggested existing local community governance in the areas can be seen below:

- Starbeck Residents Association
- Area Committees already set up part of the new council
- Starbeck in Bloom
- Starbeck Community Group
- Starbeck Christmas Lights Appeal
- Harlow and Pannel Ash Residents Association
- Duchy Residents Association
- The Civic Society
- The Stray Defence Association
- Valley Gardens and Pinewoods Groups
- Harrogate Residence Association
- Knox Residents Association
- Royal Hall Restoration Trust
- Harrogate In Bloom/Team Harrogate
- Harrogate Chamber of Commerce
- Friends of the Mercer Gallery
- The BID
- Fairfax Community
- Jennyfields Residents Group
- Harlow Moore Drive Residents Association
- Bilton Community Group
- Devonshire Gardens Residents Association
- Coppice Residents Action Group
- Harrogate Borough Council
- Kingsley Residents Association

2.4.3 Below are the full comments and more information about the groups suggested by respondents of this survey:

-
- Starbeck already has a Residents Assoc
 - The area committees set up as part of the new NYC.
 - Oh please. Not to hand, whilst completing survey. As well you know.
 - Starbeck Residents Association, Starbeck in Bloom, Starbeck Community Group, Starbeck Christmas Lights Appeal
 - The NEW Unitary Authority is sufficient to govern that is why it is being brought in
 - Neighbourhood groups - ie Harlow and Pannal Ash residents association.
 - I have heard of them but what they do, and if they have any impact on the man and woman who live in Yorkshire town's and villages.
 - Duchy Residents Association.
 - no comment
 - Pointless
 - Harlow resident association.
 - I think this should be part of the review but I have seen this working in other parts of the region.
 - They are no substitute for an elected authority which would give it some defined powers and democratic legitimacy
 - I am involved with both local parish council and a local resident association. However, the general feeling is that we are ignored and that any (so called) consultation with both NYCC and HBC is carried out on a `tick box` basis. Not as a proper consultation with the local community. One only has to look at how planning applications are conducted in relation to the Local Plan. It is unlikely that such organisations could be offered as an alternative to a town parish council. They may address very local issues but not real key matters.
 - There are a number of small organisations. It needs to be regrouped under one (local) umbrella.
 - .
 - Killinghall covers saltergate and has clearly indicated that they do not serve our interests nor want to
 - A combination of : The Civic Society : The Stray Defence Association : Valley Gardens and Pinewoods Groups : Harrogate Residence Association. All groups are well known for their work for the benefit and wellbeing of the Harrogate and Knaresborough district.
 - Our village, Spofforth, has a parish council but don't know how official that is.
 - I sit on a variety of groups including the local Harrogate BID and engage regularly with voluntary and community/residential forums as well as running a charity within the town. There is currently a number of organisations with a patchwork approach to delivery. There needs to be a clear leadership option within the area to bring everything together.
 - Starbeck community group - Starbeck and the surrounding area, currently hosted on Facebook it has over 1600 members who highlight and share the great news, events and opportunities in the area. Kingsley Road community group - Kingsley Road and Surrounding area, Currently host of Facebook it has over 250 members who share and highlight local news, events and opportunities for the residents in the area.
 - Harrogate Borough Council
 - Knox residents association have provided legal and professional support in attempting to oppose development of new properties and the devastating effect on the environment from mass building estates. HBC do very little to address critical issues of Health and Safety and legal obligations of individuals and are far too remote - a virtual organisation that is well overdue replacement!
-

-
- Starbeck has an excellent resident's association which is very active in the area.
-
- there are several in this area who could better serve the wants and needs of local residents
-
- Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents Association. Parish council have no power and better that local groups take on this role, instead of corrupt Cllrs.
-
- Harrogate Borough Council. Parish councils are too small. The new North Yorkshire Council is too large to have all effective authority over Harrogate as a town. The residents of Harrogate as a cohesive town will be unrepresented in any meaningful way.
-
- Not aware of their terms of reference
-
- HAPARA
-
- Harrogate Borough Council
-
- Starbeck has a residents association.
-
- No. You're not interested really.
-
- The Duchy Residents Association covering the Duchy Estate The Stray Defence Association The Civic Society Royal Hall Restoration Trust Harrogate in Bloom/Team Harrogate Chamber of Commerce Friends of the Mercer Gallery the BID Members of all these organisations are capable of forming a parish council but none could independently serve the local community as an alternative to a parish council. All these organisations are composed of members who care about the community and the environment.
-
- Harlow and Pannal ash Residents' Association. Currently powerless, but could be more influential
-
- BID etc.
-
- Fairfax community
-
- Duchy Residents association provides frequent updates and fosters a sense of community.
-
- Jennyfields Residents Group
-
- See nationalregions.eu There is quite a bit of evidence showing that politicians, initially intimidated, find that the growth in understanding, of just how difficult decisions are, makes them feel more positive about possibilities and less reliant of Party preconceptions about how problems can and must be solved. The Political Party is a necessary mechanism but a blunt instrument, often intimidated by the press. With Citizen involvement the process of enactment is made easier and less prone to unqualified views.
-
- Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents Association, the Duchy Residents Association, Harlow Moor Drive Residents Association. All take on board local issues to the benefit of the community. Pinewoods Conservation Group tries to preserve and improve the Pinewoods and Valley Gardens areas.
-
- I created and used to co-own a resident group called the Bilton Community Group and its aim was to encourage community activity in the Bilton and Nidd Gorge area.
-
- Harlow residents association
-
- Starbeck residents association to local after the Starbeck area of Harrogate
-
- Starbeck residents association
-
- Duchy residents association
-
- They exist in many areas of Harrogate - they do nothing of any significance because they are ignored. However, I would definitely prefer this model than a parish council - as community reps are usually more interested in serving their local area than councillors.
-
- Residents groups with regular meetings and newsletters which keep the neighbourhood informed of relevant matters.
-
- I am aware that they exist, but not of any that covers my area.
-
- The Duchy Residents' Association has done admirable work for residents, particularly on planning. Don't know what they think or their intentions. If a Parish Council is constituted,
-

they make nominate candidates - fine with me. Probably best that the area vote on representation.

- Groups arise if a need arises
 - Starbeck Residents Association - I am aware of them and the good work they do
 - Duchy residents Associate is an active and valuable volunteer group.
 - I cannot give a list but I am aware there are a number of groups who make use of both Fairfax and Bilton community centres as a forum for their activities. I cannot comment on other areas because I have no involvement anywhere else.
 - I am part of a neighbourhood group called Devonshire Gardens Residents Association (for the Redrow estate formerly he Rugby ground)... I'm not sure it should or would replace a parish council, but any new arrangements might have a relationship with our neighbourhood group.
 - There is a Starbeck Residents Association, and a sort-of rival Starbeck Community Group (personality politics), both of which have wide memberships and could represent Starbeck views. But they do not raise funds and have no powers.
 - Starbeck Residents Association exists, although I personally do not feel that it would be a further exercise of perceived local power and individual self-promotion of personalities.
 - Starbeck Residents Association
 - there are many local neighbourhood groups/forums, maybe a council that is made up of the people from these groups/forums
 - Residents Association, Harrogate in Bloom etc. all looking after their appropriate areas
 - These tend to be local lobby groups with a singular concern
 - choose not to
 - Starbeck Residents Association
 - These have no authority to act
 - Harlow Moor residents association are involved in local matters
 - Starbeck Residents Association
 - Starbeck Resident Association already works with local police and brings issues to attention of the council etc.
 - HAPARA is our local community residents association, they are very dedicated to our community.
 - Duchy Residence Group
 - Some local groups are very active, but they do not have clear responsibilities nor any clear democratic representatives, they do not in any way replace an active local council.
 - Aware of they hardly constitute a new form of governance!
 - Knox Valley Residents' Association exists and has some merit but has a limited remit, low engagement levels and isn't democratically accountable, therefore I do not believe it is a good alternative to a parish council. If this answer appears at odds with my answer to Q8, I wasn't given the opportunity to add this information had I ticked "No" to Q8!
 - Local resident and conservation groups
 - Harlow Moor Residents association
 - I am Treasurer of CRAG (Coppice Residents' Action Group). We meet a few times a year, and each time we have an excellent spread of Councillors from Harrogate/ North Yorks CC, Police, Fire Service, local MPs, School reps and others from our area. We have an agenda, issue are always discussed and things actually get done!! I don't envisage CRAG serving as an alternative to a Parish Council- I think it would be nice to keep it as it is and have it work side by side with a Parish Council for most of the time, with mutual cooperation and help if advantageous to our area.
-

-
- Starbeck has its own Residents Association, which could be the basis for a Parish Council.....but only in that defined area.
-
- Having lived abroad, communes were allowed to create a distinctive strategy for their area. These areas also had broader remits than currently being suggested. This helped to shape how an area responded to the specific challenges / opportunities it faced. The Parish Council appears to be a weaker version of this. I wonder if this is to syphon tax income / influence away from Harrogate towards other areas. The demographic of Harrogate is evolving and is increasingly distinct from the more socially conservative world views of the rural areas. We should be allowed to celebrate our distinctiveness without the total constraint of County shackles. I understand the benefit of economies to scale of services. Those elements linked to the real character and soul of an area however should be encouraged rather than stymied.
-
- There are several excellent business-based groups, but they are not a substitute for a parish council
-
- Not my area but for Starbeck there is an established Residents Association and also Starbeck Community Group. For Bilton there is a Community Group established with over 4500 members on Facebook
-
- There is/was one for the Knox/Bachelor Gardens but presumably was just the usual 'not enough policing', 'kids are a menace', 'no new housing' etc.
-
- Starbeck Residents Association - covers Starbeck. It has existed for some years & I am aware it administers a fund for the benefit of the residents of the area. Not sure what else they do
-
- I'm aware that there is a residents' forum, neighbourhood watch schemes and other environmental bodies which cover the area in which I live
-
- Harrogate Borough Council. It represents the uniqueness of Harrogate SPA TOWN within the UK... It represents the current Borough of Harrogate.
-
- I have already made reference to the role of Area Committees. I don't think that there are other community forums in the area with the capacity to take on the role of a town council.
-
- No
-
- Kingsley residents Association -- Are adjacent to Kingsley Drive, Road and Farm. Originally formed to object to the excessive housing development of Kingsley farm.
-
- It's only a thought but the local residents association focuses very heavily on local house building and would need to be connected to the parish council if not a replication of it Harlow & Pannal Ash Residents Association
-
- HARPA Residents association
-
- Harlow and Pannal ash Residents' Association. It covers planning applications, Road and transport issues
-
- Duchy Residents Association
-
- Starbeck Residents Association
-
- Team Harrogate and the Harrogate BID currently carry out some voluntary functions in Harrogate especially to do with the environment. They might be adaptable to having a wider role with elected representatives instead of just volunteers
-
- Pannal Parish Council
-
- Oatlands Community Group helped many people during the Covid emergency and continue to do so.
-
- The 'Next-door' neighbourhood website - Granby area. Woodlands Avenue residents WhatsApp group.
-
- Starbeck Residents Group
-

- Starbeck Residents' Association, but I have no idea what their remit is. I think I would prefer a parish council with wider powers.
- We have a Residents Association in Starbeck run by a committee that all live in Starbeck, they are brilliant. This Residents Association was formed in the 1990 ,s
- groups like The Harrogate civic society, friends of the valley gardens, duchy residents assoc.
- Harlow & Pannal Ash Residents Association. Harlow Hill and Pannal Ash areas.
- There are many local voluntary groups whose members would be willing to form part of the proposed town or parish council. Among these are Team Harrogate, The Duchy Residents Association, The Civic Society, The Chamber of Commerce, Stray Defence, Harrogate in Bloom, Friends of the Valley Gardens, and others. It is essential that Harrogate maintains the wonderful floral displays around the town and the upkeep of the Stray which all give it its unique character.
- There are a number of local residents associations and community forums in the Harrogate town area but there is not comprehensive coverage of all neighbourhoods, so not really suitable as an alternative as the patch is too large really? However plenty of opportunities to work with groups where they already exist.
- We have the Duchy Residents Association and the Civic Society. Both organisations take a deep interest in Harrogate and have active committees. The civic society nurtures, preserves and works to conserve the best of Harrogate historically and keeps an eye on present and future planning developments. The Duchy Residents Association listens to the issues of residents and does its best to maintain high standards in the locality.
- Bilton Community Forum
- Not prepared to discuss at this preliminary stage.
- Many residence groups. Starbeck for one. You assume your parish council is required. It is not.
- Hapara. Covering Harlow Hill area, linking with Pannal, Beckwithshaw, the Duchy area etc.
- Pannal parish council has served us well since 2016.
- We have got a resident committee in Starbeck as far as I know.
- This is a ridiculous question as this town has many such associations and groupings but for a town council to have any clout, those purporting to carry out community functions have to be suitable, elected and legally accountable for their actions! Furthermore, any person putting themselves forward would have to have time available do so and only a very small number would do so NOTE THE NUMBERING OF QUESTIONS HAS GAPS BETWEEN THEM - NO Q3 OR Q6 Most people will not understand exactly what is meant by the term "governance".
- As stated earlier, I have Chaired Knox Valley residents Association for many years and taken part in many consultation exercises on behalf of the 1100 or so house in the Knox area which we sought to represent. However, I was always aware that we had no formal way of gathering our members' views, and that all residents in our area were not members.
- There are number of local residents associations eg Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents Association and other community groups such as Harrogate District Climate Change Coalition and Zero Carbon Harrogate. However, they do not currently have either the statutory powers or democratically elected members to deliver local governance. They should however, be consulted and any new Town Council should work with these existing groups.
- 1. In answer 2 to Q7 I said that organisations could be set up at any time to meet perceived needs. Electronic communication makes this relatively easy. 2. Such

organisations represent their members directly without having to go through a third party (the parish council). 3. Many local groups exist, with various interests, and the following list indicates the nature of some. Their areas of interest, both spatial and in subject, are generally evident from their names. CONSERVATION GROUPS Harrogate Civic Society Bilton Conservation Group Stray Defence Association Pinewoods Conservation Group COMMUNITY AND RESIDENTS' GROUPS Harrogate Residents Association Starbeck Residents Association Duchy Residents Association Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents Association Bilton Community Group Oatlands Community Group BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS Harrogate Chamber of Commerce Independent Harrogate (an association of businesses promoting the town centre's success) Commercial Street Retailers

- I think there are in some small local community governance in the areas but I do not know the specific unusual local community 'style' of governance in those areas. The reason for my answer is that the review will be mindful of such other viable forms of community governance to the parish governance is most appropriate. However what sets parish councils apart from other kinds of governance is the fact that they are a democratically elected tier of local government, independent of other council tiers and budgets and possess specific powers to provide and support and delivery of some services/facilities that benefit their residents. They own/manage buildings, provide services and the management is??? And annual account and employ staff.
 - In Starbeck we have a local residents' association - that is sufficient and other parts of Harrogate could do the same at no cost to the local council tax payer.
 - No - This is further undemocratic nonsense "seeking???" in the absence of a substantive proposal. Judging by some recent "consultation" on the Harrogate Town Centre the county council will manipulate the responses to vague questions to claim support for their preferred option.
-

Appendix A –Representatives from community organisations and other types of respondents.

Below are details of a community organisation in Harrogate:

-
- Time Together
-
- The Harrogate Club
-
- WEA workers' Educational Association
-
- Harrogate in Bloom
-
- St Peter's Church Harrogate
-
- Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Council
-
- Harrogate & District Community Action
-
- Knaresborough Town Council
-

Below are details of other types of respondents:

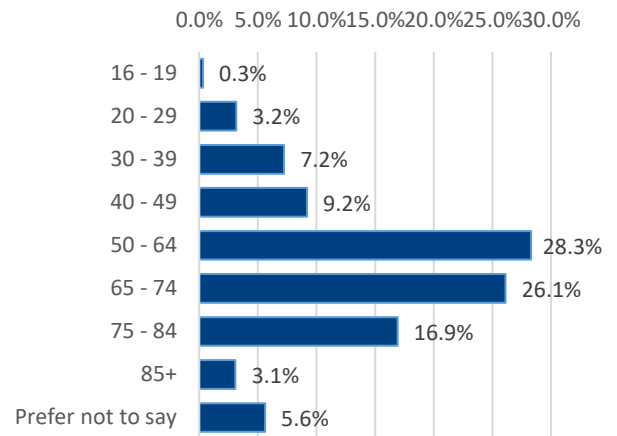
-
- District and County Councillor for Wards in Harrogate
-
- I am a council tax payer in Harrogate Borough who contributes to the costs of parish-level services in Harrogate
-
- I live in Harrogate HG2 7QH and work in Harrogate HG1 5NX
-
- Scriven
-
- I live at Great Ouseburn YO26 9RR.
-
- live in Ripon
-
- Harrogate councillor
-
- Knaresborough
-
- I live in Knaresborough
-
- Resident in Harrogate District
-
- I live in Scotton HG5 9HY
-
- Live in Harrogate part-time
-
- retired
-
- Retired resident
-
- I am interested in community governance and live in neighbouring Knaresborough
-
- Retired resident
-
- Councillor for Hookstone Ward and County Councillor for Stray/Woodlands and Hookstone
-
- Neighbouring village
-
- I live in Knaresborough
-
- Charitable housing association
-
- Knaresborough Town Council
-
- I live in Knaresborough
-
- LIVE OUTSIDE Harrogate WHICH IS MY MAIN TOWN
-
- I am a representative of an organisation which supports community organisations and works with Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council, NHS and other partners to shape local plans.
-
- Starbeck HG2 7PT
-
- Former resident with connections to Harrogate
-

Appendix B – Equalities Monitoring

Age Group

The majority of respondents are aged 50 - 64 with 28.3%

	No.	%
16 - 19	4	0.3%
20 - 29	39	3.2%
30 - 39	89	7.2%
40 - 49	113	9.2%
50 - 64	348	28.3%
65 - 74	321	26.1%
75 - 84	208	16.9%
85+	38	3.1%
Prefer not to say	69	5.6%



Disability

The majority of respondents do not have a disability with 83.3%

	No.	%
Yes	100	8.7%
No	954	83.3%
Prefer not to say	91	7.9%

