

# **Saltburn, Marske and New Marske Parish Council Community Governance Review**

## **Initial Consultation Submissions**

On 26 March 2026 Council agreed to undertake a Community Governance Review of the Saltburn, Marske and New Marske Parish Council area. The aim of the review was to resolve the inconsistency between the parish boundary and the electoral ward boundaries in the parish area, which was initially identified following the Local Government Boundary Review in 2018. The initial consultation commenced on 20 April when the Terms of Reference were published and submissions from those with an interest were welcomed. Consultees were able to respond using a published questionnaire or by providing an alternative written submission.

21 individuals responded to the questionnaire throughout the consultation period. Below is a summary of each question asked and the responses received.

### **Q.1 - Do you live, work, own property or land in, or have another interest in the existing SMNM PC area?**

All responses indicated "Yes" to this question. The responses received were as follows:

"Yes" (x10)

"I live on the Mickledales Estate"

"Own and live"

"I live in this area"

"Yes on the Mickledales"

"I live on Mickledales and own my property"

"Live"

"Yes, live and own land in Marske in STGAR"

"I live and own a property in New Marske"

"Live and own property in the existing SMNM PC area"

"Own a property in Marske"

"Property Owner"

### **Q.2 - In relation to your last answer is the property, land, business or other interest in either LBKCR or WHTCR?**

"Yes" (x14)

"No" (x6)

"N/A/unsure" (x1)

**Q.3 - In your opinion, do you believe that the residents of the properties identified on the Map as LBKCR would consider themselves as a resident of Redcar or Marske?**

“Marske” (x17)

“Redcar” (x4)

Of those who said Redcar, one respondent indicated that they own a property in Marske. There is no indication from the other three as to their residency, ownership, interest etc.

Of those who said Redcar, one respondent made commented that “the cut off for redcar to my knowledge had always been after the bridge as you head into Marske”. This response may therefore indicate a misunderstanding of the area being referred, with the residential properties included being LBKCR being located on the Marske side of the bridge.

Another respondent who said Redcar commented that “Wheatlands ward is known as being in Redcar and therefore not under the Parish remit”, which again indicates that there has been confusion when responding to this question.

The third respondent who said Redcar stated “because the development is coming from the redcar area” again indicating confusion over the area in question does not have any ongoing development and only includes a total 2 properties.

The final respondent who stated Redcar, indicated their desire for the Parish Council to be abolished.

**Q.4 - In your opinion, do you believe that the residents of the properties identified on the Map as WHTCR would consider themselves as a resident of Redcar or Marske?**

“Marske” (x3)

“Redcar” (x18)

Of those who said Marske, one respondent indicated that they live in New Marske, the other two have not indicated where their property, business or other interest is.

One of those who said Marske later went on to comment, “more badly needed funds would go into the Parish Council”, a second stated “Please leave things as they are we bought our house as we are in the Marske catchment for Bydales school and I believe by changing this it may change the catchments”, the final respondent commented “I think it is part of Marske however a post code change might solve things”.

**Q.5 - Do you feel that any alterations should be made to the boundary of the area currently defined as Saltburn, Marske and New Marske Parish Council?**

“Yes” x 17

“No” x 4

**Q.6 - Elaborate as to why detailing and changes you think should be made or reasons why no changes should be made**

Those who said **No** provided the following reasons:

- “I think it is part of Marske however a post code change might solve things”
- “Waste of time when you could be focusing on actual important things- VAWG Strategy and the halving target brought in by the government and seeing a drop in numbers for this area!”
- “Please leave things as they are we bought our house as we in the Marske catchment for Bydales school and I believe by changing this it may change the catchments”
- “Inclusion of WHTCR would make the Parish Council Constituency much too big & TRADITIONALLY the "Parish" Boundary ends at "Black's Bridge."

Those who said **Yes** provided the following reasons:

- “Mickledales should not be considered as Marske as it's in Redcar.”
- “I live within the WHTCR area and have a TS10 postcode/ I do not live in Marske or benefit from the parish precept”
- “I live in Redcar and I see no benefit from being a part of Saltburn, Marske & New Marske parish council”
- “The cut off for redcar to my knowledge had always been after the bridge as you head into Marske”
- “Wheatlands ward is known as being in Redcar and therefore not under the Parish remit”
- “People on the Mickledales estate have no say on what happens in Marske and we should not have to pay to their parish council.”
- “It is my understanding that I pay parish for living on Mickledales (Tunstall gardens) and Silverdale gardens (Taylor Whimpey estate) are part of Redcar and do not pay parish. I believe Mickledales should be in the same bracket as Silverdale Gardens as we are geographically closer to Redcar and believe we should have been considered for Wheatlands ward when this was established. I also do not understand what benefit I get from the parish charge applied to my council tax.”
- “Wheatlands ward should be in Redcar. We have a Redcar postcode of TS10”
- “Residing on Mickledales I have a TS10 postcode and the Silverdale Gardens estate also within the Wheatlands Ward do NOT pay a parish council charge

on their council tax , so there sets the precedent for the argument that the Parish Council Charge be removed from the Mickledales Ward”

- “Residents of the Mickledales (green) are a part of Redcar - I can see Redcar from outside my window and we are a mile away from a house in Marske”
- “The community feeling is that in respect to West Marske area the train line and green lane path that separate Marske and Redcar is the realistic boundary between the two, meaning WHTCR sits within Redcar and LBKCR sits within Marske. This has been a long standing community approach and there is prominent feeling reflecting this.”
- “More badly needed funds would go into the Parish Council”
- “We are a TS10 Redcar Postcode. Our insurances are more expensive than had we been TS11. And should we at Mickledales pay parish rates to something we don’t belong to and particularly since the adjacent estate, Rowan Garth, which is nearer to Marske than we are don’t even pay parish rates at all.”
- “The Parish Council has become an irrelevance”
- “Mickledales should be removed from the Parish as it identifies as Redcar. Mickledales receives no benefits from being part of the Parish.”
- “Because the development is coming from the redcar area”
- “The Parish council should be abolished. It is an unnecessary level of bureaucracy.”

#### **Q.7 – Any further comments**

Several additional comments were provided by respondents, as listed below:

- “On the map you include the Silverdale Gardens area within the Parish, yet I believe it does not pay the parish levy even though the Mickledales side of that polling district does.”
- “I would like to know the total yearly precept we pay on the Mickledales estate to the Marske and Saltburn parish council and what benefit have we ever received from it.”
- “I have lived on the Mickledales Estate since it was formed 23years ago and as I recall this unfair Parish Council Tax has been applied to our Council Tax throughout, yet the estate has a TS10 Postcode and addressed as Redcar. The residents of Mickledales have NOT benefited from paying this Parish Charge and yet the Silverdale Gardens Estate has never had the Parish Council Charge applied to their Council Tax. In my opinion it should be withdrawn from the Council Tax Charge. Mickledales residents have been unfairly charged. The Last Boundary change in 2018/19 should have omitted the Parish Council Charge from the Council Tax but was overlooked in error, hence we have been paying a charge for years that we shouldn’t have. I suspect that Mickledales residents will ever be refunded for the years we have overpaid this charge, as this was the Council's incompetent error !!!, which

should have been picked up and corrected years ago on the last boundary change.”

- “Advise if the new houses in Marske with impact secondary school catchment area for New Marske.”
- “Please leave things alone”
- “TS10 is Redcar.”
- “The Parish Council should be abolished by using the mechanism of a Parish poll”
- “As it stands the Parish Council Constituency is already too big & should EXCLUDE Saltburn Parishes their "interests" often divergent to those of Marske & New Marske!”
- “I don’t feel like you’re making it easy for folk with this survey. I’m not anti-council at all, but it’s tricky to understand some of your points.”
- “We have had incidents where a meeting was attended by a large number of people signing "Vera Out" and a tree used by owls chopped down. The body is an embarrassing and unnecessary.”

Whilst most of the submissions were received in response to the survey which was published alongside the terms of reference, 5 further submissions were received by email. 4 of these responses highlight a group of properties which fall outside of the parish boundary, to the east of Saltburn, requesting the Council to consider the inclusion of these properties within the Saltburn, Marske and New Marske Parish Council area. Copies of all further submissions are listed below.

### **Response 1 – 22/04/26**

The strategic gap is in place for several reasons and its erosion by allowing developers to justify house building is abhorrent. In addition to encouraging and supporting biodiversity, it also provides a corridor and defining green belt that provides each unique town, village and parish its unique identity and by eroding this removes this unique identity and creates nothing more than a cluster of concrete. The proposed building of 90 plus houses on the outskirts of Saltburn with a financial bribe of £500 000 disguised as a financial supporting mechanism is an insult to the residents of the borough and I for one see this as a cash incentive to push through this application which I do not support.

### **Response 2 – 30/04/26**

It is understood that RCBC has recently launched a Corporate Governance Review of the external boundary of Saltburn, Marske and New Marske (SMNM) Parish Council. Whilst the focus of this review is the western part of the area (Longbeck and Wheatlands), the review also presents an opportunity to rectify a small, but

significant, anomaly in the eastern area where the Saltburn parish ward abuts neighbouring Skelton and Brotton Parish Council (SBPC).

Residents at Cliffden Court - a small residential development of 16 properties near the northern end of Saltburn Lane in Saltburn – would like this issue to be included within the remit of current CGR.

Redcar and Cleveland Borough warding arrangements were last reviewed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in 2018. At that time, representations were made to include Cliffden Court, together with a few neighbouring properties further south on Saltburn Lane (towards the A174), in a 'Saltburn' borough ward. As well as local residents, Cllr Thomson (Saltburn), Cllr Foggo (Skelton), the Conservative Group and, significantly, SMNM Parish Council itself all made a similar proposal. Even the most cursory glance at a map - indicating settlement patterns and the very clear division or break that exists between the two parishes in this area – highlight the inappropriateness of the current boundary.

At that time, the modification would have met two statutory criteria required for electoral reviews, ie that boundaries should reflect community identity and they should promote effective and convenient local government.

- *Community identity*: There is persuasive evidence that Cliffden Court and adjacent residents both identify with, and access services (health, travel, shopping and leisure) from, Saltburn rather than Skelton. Community identity, both in terms of patterns of living and sense of belonging, indicate that residents at the coastal (northern) end of Saltburn Lane are 'part of Saltburn' and not Skelton or Brotton. It follows that representational arrangements should reflect this evidence.

- *Effective and convenient*: Two characteristics of 'effective and convenient' local government are (i) that local government boundaries should align with related administrative ones wherever possible and (ii) they should be clear and easy to map. Neither of these applies at the moment. For example, although Cliffden Court (and adjacent properties) fall within Saltburn Conservation area, they are in a different parish and borough ward for local government purposes. In terms of mapping, it is usual to follow ground detail or major topographical features (rivers and water courses, main roads etc) and it is highly unusual, as in this case, to simply cut across a road at an arbitrary point.

Such a modification would even have improved, albeit slightly, the third statutory criterion for principal council electoral reviews - achieving good *electoral equality*.

Although the merit of the case for change was explicitly acknowledged in the LGBCE's Draft (para 51) and Final (para 95) Reports, this change was not adopted since the existing parish council boundary in this area would have meant creating a new and very small parish ward within the Skelton and Brotton Parish Council.

Parish council wards of fewer than 100 electors are deemed 'unviable' by the Commission.

The current CGR, therefore, presents a simple and, hopefully, noncontentious opportunity to correct this anomaly. If so, a subsequent request to LGBCE for a Related Alteration would then enable the relevant Borough ward to be revised to match that of the changed parish boundary. On the other hand, a failure to address the matter at this point would effectively preclude any opportunity to make a similar case at the next full electoral review(s) of RCBC since doing so would again fall foul of the 'unviable' parish ward issue.

We have not made suggestions about precisely where any new boundary might be drawn since residents of other properties on Saltburn Lane have not been consulted but one simple solution might be to align it with that of the Conservation area boundary towards the A174.

### **Response 2 – Additional Response – 05/05/2026**

If it is helpful, I have had a further thought about the precise boundary. When we spoke you mentioned the beck and the three properties on the eastern side of Saltburn Lane. Using that (rather than Saltburn Lane itself) would be another good alternative assuming the three properties also 'look towards' Saltburn .....which I suspect they do. Also, of course, it would mean that the Saltburn Gill SSSI would fall with the area of the PC. As the title of the SSSI suggests, that might seem logical!



### **Response 3 – 06/05/2026**

I am writing in my capacity as a Saltburn Ward Councillor in relation to the ongoing Community Governance Review.

I have recently received correspondence from a resident of Cliffden Court, [redacted name], who has contacted me on behalf of a number of residents within this small community. The request seeks consideration for Cliffden Court to be brought within the jurisdiction of Saltburn, Marske and New Marske Parish Council.

Whilst I note that the current review being undertaken by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council is focused on the western side of the parish, including the Longbeck and Wheatlands wards, I would ask that consideration also be given to the northern area of the Parish boundary. In particular, this would involve reviewing whether Cliffden Court, along with a number of nearby standalone properties off Saltburn Lane, may more appropriately fall within the Saltburn, Marske and New Marske Parish boundary rather than that of Skelton and Brotton Parish Council.

The current Parish and Borough boundary arrangements in this area are, in my view, not fit for purpose and can be confusing for residents. Cliffden Court, located across the Saltburn Valley from Saltburn Town, is less than a mile by road from Saltburn, whereas the distance to Skelton is over two miles. It is also notable that one property within the Cliffden Court community, the Toll House is already within the Saltburn Ward, while the remainder of the immediate community falls within the Skelton and Brotton Parish area. For reasons of clarity, cohesion, and community identity, it would appear logical and more consistent for the whole of this small community to fall within the Saltburn Parish boundary.

Since my election to the Borough Council in 2011, I have had numerous dealings and enquiries from residents in the Cliffden Court area and surrounding dwellings off Saltburn Lane, many of whom feel they have a closer affinity with Saltburn and its elected representatives. On occasion, this has led to procedural difficulties, as residents naturally approach me as their perceived local representative, despite the area falling within a different ward. This has, at times, created challenges in maintaining clear boundaries of responsibility between ward members.

This representation reflects considerations of community identity, cohesion, and the need for effective and convenient local governance. I believe it would be appropriate for this area to be included within the scope of the review to ensure that all relevant boundary matters are fully assessed.

In light of the above, I would respectfully request that the northern boundary area, including Cliffden Court and adjacent properties, is formally considered as part of the current review process, to ensure that governance arrangements accurately reflect local community identity and provide clarity for both residents and elected members.

I would be grateful if this submission could be taken into account as part of the Community Governance Review process. Should further information be required, I would be happy to assist.

#### **Response 4 – 26/05/2026**

I am aware that RCBC is conducting a review of the Parish Council Boundary and that a submission has been sent to you requesting that the area around Cliffden Court be considered as part of that review.

The issue was discussed at a meeting of Cliffden Court residents

When it was unanimously agreed that our area should be included in SMNM Parish rather than Skelton and Brotton.

The purpose of this note is to signify my support for that change.

#### **Response 5 – 27/05/2026**

At the Parish Council meeting on May 12th, there was an agenda item to discuss the boundary changes under the community governance review. A discussion took place in relation to the admission of further boundary changes to the Parish to include Clifton Court - Saltburn and possibly some outlying properties which now fall within Skelton and Brotton Parish Council.

The discussion resulted in a recommendation that the local authority consider a boundary change to include these areas.

Here is the section of the minutes relating to the Governance review:

#### **7. TO CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE BOUNDARY - (COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW) - SALTBURN LANE (CLLR SMITH)**

Residents of Clifton Court (heading towards Skelton /past Rushpool Hall) had approached Cllr Smith regarding the boundary changes proposed for the Longbeck area within the Parish and the possibility that consideration could be given by the Borough Council to include Clifton Court within the Saltburn boundary instead of Skelton East. An option would be for the boundary to finish at the bypass - this would be a decision for the Borough Council to make.

Members agreed it made sense for this area to be included in the Saltburn boundary as the address for these properties was Saltburn and the community regarded themselves as Saltburn residents

RESOLVED that The Parish Council supported the residents of Clifton Court and were happy for this area and the surrounding area to be included in the Community Governance Review.