

## Community Governance Review

Scotforth Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the scope of a Community Governance Review (CGR).

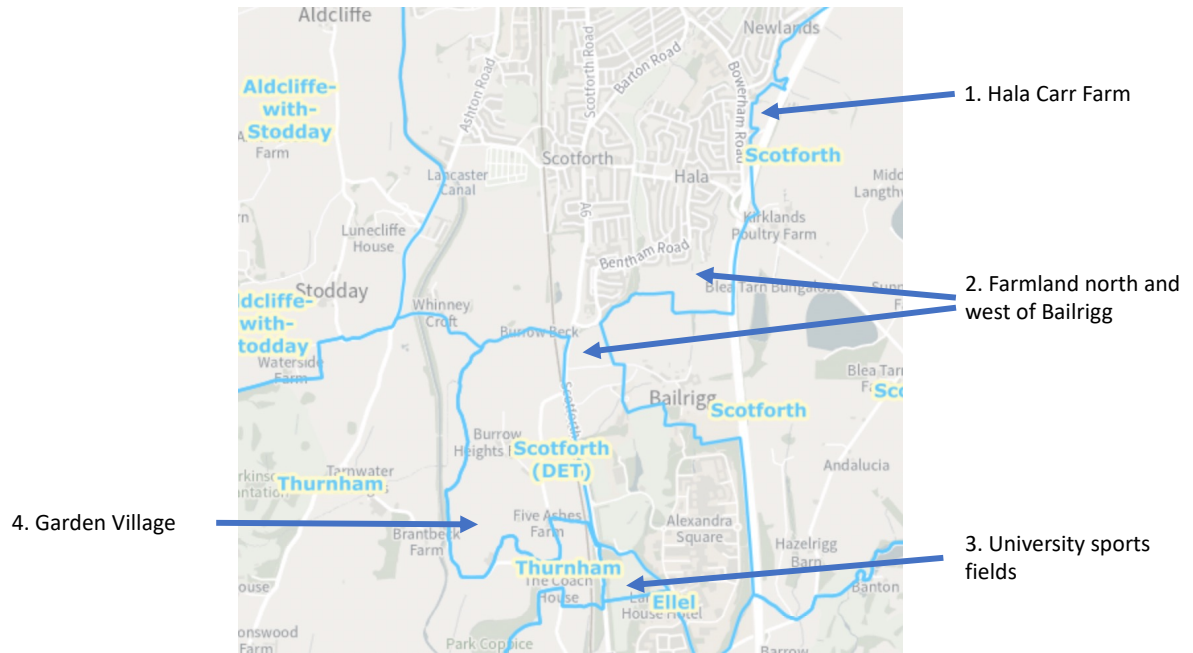
We note that Lancaster City Council (LCC) received a paper in April 2022 regarding anomalies in the parish boundary caused by the housing developments on pasture land (designated as a Key Urban Landscape within planning policy E31) at Hala Carr Farm. LCC decided to seek further input from councillors and parish councils regarding the scope of a CGR.

We propose that 3 issues can be addressed within an immediate CGR and that the fourth issue arising from the proposed garden village is addressed in a subsequent CGR.

1. Scotforth Parish Council originally highlighted the anomaly and agrees with the proposed solution of moving the parish and district ward boundaries to the centre line of the M6 motorway between Blea Tarn Road and Wyresdale Road. In the meantime, the Parish Council will provide its full services to the new households within the current parish boundaries at Hala Carr Farm.
2. The parish boundary south of Scotforth East runs through the middle of open land where outline planning permission is sought for 680 houses (ref 19/01135/OUT). The parish council strongly objects to this proposal and no decision has been made by LCC regarding what, if any development, will be permitted but it would be illogical for any development that satisfies the garden village principles of “community” to then straddle a parish boundary. The logical solution is to move the parish boundary northwards up to the edge of the existing housing of Scotforth East and also that the pocket of unparished farmland between Bailrigg Lane and Collingham Park Road be incorporated into the parish. As a result the current fields would all be within the rural parish of Scotforth, as would the whole of Public Right of Way (ref 1-29-FP3; Bailrigg Lane to Winmarleigh Road) which the parish council already unofficially maintains. In addition, if any garden village style development were ever to be permitted then it would all be within the parish where its sense of village community would be best and fully nurtured.
3. There is an anomaly of a triangle of land bounded by Green Lane, the A6 and Lancaster House Hotel that is part of Lancaster University and has sports fields upon it but is part of Scotforth Parish. As far as we know it pre-dates the University - nobody lives there and the only use will be by the University and therefore we propose that it is transferred from the Parish to the unparished University ward.
4. Finally, the Lancaster South Area Action Plan (AAP) will determine the allocation of land for development of around 3,500 houses. It is anticipated, and strongly supported by the Parish Council, that the development will be concentrated into a garden village outlined in the Masterplan generated in 2021 by JTP Consultants. The masterplan of the garden village is principally but not exclusively within Scotforth Parish, with some parts within Thurnham and Ellel parishes and possibly overflowing

into Aldcliffe-with-Stodday. It is important that the garden village community is contained within a single parish, be it an existing or a brand new parish and therefore we recommend that a separate CGR is conducted as part of the AAP process.

The four areas are marked on the map below:



## Conclusion

Scotforth Parish Council recommends that an immediate Community Governance Review address items 1, 2 and 3 and that a separate Community Governance Review address item 4 as part of the Lancaster South Area Action Plan process.