



Council

Thursday, 5 March 2026

Barton in Fabis Community Governance Review

Report of the Chief Executive

**Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough-wide Leadership,
Councillor N Clarke**

1. Purpose of report

This report has been compiled by the Barton in Fabis Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group as set up by Council in December 2024. It outlines the Community Governance Review that has taken place in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to establish whether a separate parish should be created for the new Fairham development, which currently sits within the parish of Barton in Fabis.

2. Recommendation

The Barton in Fabis Community Governance Review Member Task and Finish Group recommends that Council resolves to:

- a) create a separate parish for the area defined by the map in Appendix Three and that:
 - this area be named Fairham;
 - this area have a parish council;
 - this council be called Fairham Parish Council;
 - Fairham Parish Council has nine members; and
- b) delegate authority to undertake the necessary steps to formalise the creation of a separate parish for Fairham to the Chief Executive.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

A petition was brought forward by the community of Barton in Fabis, which triggered a Community Governance Review in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Task and Finish Group set up by Council has undertaken the Community Governance Review and presents its findings below. Council must now decide if there is sufficient evidence to support the recommendation of the Task and Finish Group, which is to create a separate parish for the new Fairham development which currently sits within the parish of Barton in Fabis.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. In September 2024, Council received a petition from residents of Barton in Fabis requesting the creation of a new parish for Fairham (and corresponding parish council), separate to the existing Barton in Fabis Parish Council. The petition was validated by the Borough Council's Electoral Services team with 87 valid signatories.
- 4.2. In December 2024, Council approved the setting up of a cross-party Task and Finish Group to conduct the Community Governance Review. The Terms of Reference of the Group were as follows:
- Consider the views of the Barton in Fabis community as put forward by the lead petitioner from Barton in Fabis Parish Council.
 - Consider officer advice in drawing up the stage one consultation materials for the Barton in Fabis Community Governance Review consultation.
 - Consider the submissions received in response to the stage one consultation for the Review.
 - Develop a recommended way forward, which will form the basis of the second stage of consultation with the Barton in Fabis community.
 - Consider the responses of the second round of consultation for the Community Governance Review of Barton in Fabis.
 - Make final recommendations to Council in March 2026.

First meeting of the Barton in Fabis Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group

- 4.3. The Barton in Fabis Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group held its initial meeting on 5 June 2025. They heard from Mr Allan Kerr, Chairman of Barton in Fabis Parish Council and lead petitioner, who outlined why the community had set up the petition to trigger the Community Governance Review and why they felt a separate parish for the new Fairham development would result in convenient and effective local governance.
- 4.4. In addition, officers informed the Group about the legislation and process surrounding a Community Governance Review before presenting draft materials, which would form the basis of the first consultation with residents in the area defined by the petition submitted by the existing parish council.
- 4.5. Following the meeting, the initial consultation period started. A leaflet (Appendix One) was hand delivered to every household and business in the area on 7 June 2025 with a deadline for submissions of 8 August 2025. This was supported with a media release and social media posts throughout the consultation period. The Borough Council created a dedicated webpage and linked with the Fairham Life community newsletter, and Fairham and Barton Community Facebook Pages. Letters were also sent to affected parish councils and Nottinghamshire County Council. The Community Governance Review and consultation were mentioned at the Fairham Growth Board in June 2025. Barton in Fabis Parish Council also undertook their own awareness raising

campaign locally in support of the consultation and officers from the Council's Media team visited the new Fairham development to speak with residents who have already moved in.

Second meeting of the Barton in Fabis Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group

- 4.6. The second meeting of the Task and Finish Group was held on 7 October 2025. The Group considered the results of the first consultation to which was responded to by 39.5% of the electorate. Of those that were consulted:
- 97% of respondents said 'yes' they would like to see a new parish set up for Fairham
 - 3% of respondents said 'no' they would not like to see the creation of a new parish
 - 60.5% of residents did not respond to the consultation.
- 4.7. The Task and Finish Group debated the results of the consultation as well as additional material put forward by officers such as alternatives to the boundaries defined by the petition map and comparisons with other similar sized parishes within the Borough in terms of numbers of councillors. The Group also discussed several issues connected to the creation of a parish council to ascertain if the Borough Council's assistance was required during the set up period.
- 4.8. The decision was made to proceed to the second stage of consultation with a slightly altered map (which followed visible and sensible local boundaries such as roads rather than the line of pylons used by the petition group) and a recommendation that nine councillors would be in keeping with other local parishes and provide effective governance. There was an indepth debate about the designation of the new body as a parish, community, neighbourhood, or village council and it was decided to put that question to residents through the consultation.
- 4.9. The second stage of consultation started on 16 October 2025 (with a closing date of 5 December 2025) with a second leaflet (Appendix Two) being hand delivered to all residential and business premises in the area. The County Council was invited to respond to the consultation as were the parishes of Thrumpton, Gotham and Ruddington as in the first consultation. As with the first stage of consultation, this was supported with a media release and social media posts throughout the consultation period.

Third meeting of the Barton in Fabis Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group

- 4.10. The third meeting of the Task and Finish Group was held on 15 January 2026. The Group considered the results of the second consultation to which the Council had received 54 responses (19% of the electorate). Of those that responded:

- 98% of residents agreed with the Council's recommendation to create a separate parish for Fairham.
 - 89% of residents agreed with the new parish being named Fairham.
 - 91% of residents agreed with the number of councillors being nine.
 - 80% of residents agreed with the proposed boundaries for the new parish.
- 4.11. Residents in the area were given a choice of whether the new council would be known as a parish, community, neighbourhood or village council in line with the legislation. Of those that responded to the consultation:
- 61% favoured the term parish.
 - 15% favoured the term community.
 - 4% favoured the term neighbourhood.
 - 17% favoured the term village.
- 4.12. Fourteen comments of support were made some of which also made some reference to the proposed boundaries suggesting that the Member Working Group reconsider the retention of Barton Moor within the parish of Barton in Fabis due to its historical links and significance.
- 4.13. 2% of residents (1) responding to the consultation did not agree with the Council's recommendation to create a separate parish for Fairham.
- 4.14. 81% of residents consulted did not respond to the consultation.
- 4.15. Thrumpton Parish Meeting sent the following feedback in response to the consultation:
- ‘...these are fundamentally different communities with very different needs, priorities and concerns.
- We therefore think that adopting this two-parish approach is sensible, proportionate, and best represents the current needs of Barton-in-Fabis and the future needs of residents of Fairham’.
- 4.16. Ruddington Parish Council, Gotham Parish Council and Nottinghamshire County Council were also consulted at stage two of the consultation but did not provide any additional feedback.
- 4.17. On taking the views of the local community into account the Barton in Fabis Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group are recommending the creation of a separate parish for Fairham, with a parish council named Fairham Parish Council comprised of nine parish councillors in line with the boundaries outlined on the map in Appendix Three. This includes the retention of Barton Moor within the existing parish of Barton in Fabis. The Group feels that this represents the best model of effective governance for this community.
- 4.18. Should Council decide to accept the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group, a Reorganisation Order will be sent to the Secretary of State, the Rushcliffe Electoral Register will be amended before publication in December

2026, a parish precept will be set by the Borough Council as part of budget setting in March 2027, and officers will ensure a suitable polling place is identified in advance of the first parish council elections for Fairham, which will be held in May 2027.

5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

The Council could decide that the governance arrangements already in place for the new Fairham development through the existing Barton in Fabis Parish Council are effective and that no change is necessary. This, however, would be against the views expressed by local residents as part of the Community Governance Review process.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

There are risks involved in setting up a separate Parish Council for Fairham with regard to getting candidates to stand for election, effective operation, and the transfer of assets. The Task and Finish Group is satisfied that effective plans are in place to mitigate these risks.

7. Implications

7.1. Financial Implications

There are some costs in setting-up the new parish (such as changes to the Council Tax system), and these will be recovered from the new parish council when it is properly constituted. Rushcliffe Borough Council will set the initial precept in its Council Tax setting report at Full Council (March 2027). The precept, net of any initial costs, will be transferred to the new parish after the May local elections and its first constituted meeting.

7.2. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications connected to the recommendations contained in this report other than those mentioned elsewhere in the report.

7.3. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications connected to the recommendations contained in this report.

7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

There are no crime and disorder implications to the recommendations in this report.

7.5. Bio-Diversity Net Gain

There are no bio-diversity net gain implications to the recommendations in this report.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	No links to the environment
Quality of Life	It is important that residents feel that their community is governed at an appropriate level and is representative of their identify as a community – this contributes towards their quality of life
Efficient Services	It is important that local governance is appropriate to the community and operates effectively
Sustainable Growth	No links to sustainable growth

9. Recommendation

The Barton in Fabis Community Governance Review Member Task and Finish Group recommends that Council resolves to:

- a) create a separate parish for the area defined by the map in Appendix Three and that:
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 - this area have a parish council;
 - this council be called Fairham Parish Council;
 - Fairham Parish Council has nine members; and
- b) delegate authority to undertake the necessary steps to formalise the creation of a separate parish for Fairham to the Chief Executive.

For more information contact:	Charlotte Caven-Atack Assistant Director - Corporate Services 0115 914 8278 ccaven-atack@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	Council report 5 December 2024
List of appendices:	Appendix One – Stage One Consultation Materials Appendix Two – Stage Two Consultation Materials Appendix Three – Map of the proposed parish