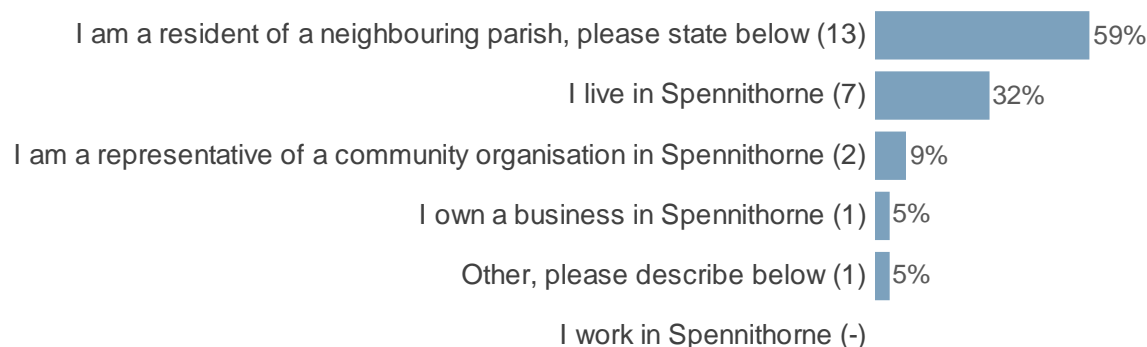


2025-26 CGR - Spennithorne

This report was generated on 23/12/25. Overall 24 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'. A total of 24 cases fall into this category.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

Please tick which best describes you:

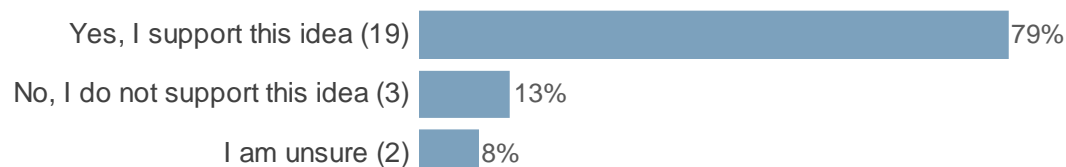


Harmby	Harmby	Thornton Steward
Middleham	Middleham	Harmby
Harmby	resident of Harmby	Middleham
Neighbouring Parish Council	Thornton Steward	Harmby

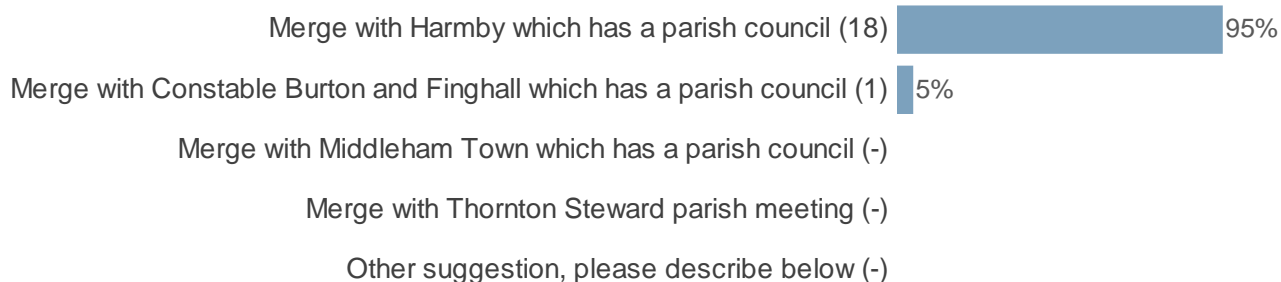
Please state the first part of your postcode:
(for example YO21)

DL8	DL8	DL8	DI8	DL8	dl85	DL8
DL84	DL8	DL84	DL84	DL8	DL8	DL8
DL8	DL8	DL8	DI85	HG44	DL8	DL8
DL8	DL85					

There has been a request to merge Spennithorne parish meeting with another neighbouring parish. What is your opinion?



If 'Yes', there are a number of potential options. Which do you feel would serve your parish better?



Why do you feel this is the most appropriate solution?

The villages of Harmby and Spennithorne already have a number of long standing joint community clubs/associations including the Sports Association, a football club and a cricket club. The villages are less than half a mile apart.

Middleham has specialist interests - stables, Low Moor etc. so that might not be best served by a merger. There is a link between the school however that might be improved with a merger.

Harmby and Spennithorne share amenities such as the Village Hall, Sports Field, Church, Pub. However they are each below a critical number of people to effectively run all of these, and neither the Parish Council or Parish Meetings are as effective as they could be. The two villages come together well when events take place e.g. Setting up community ownership of the Old Horn, Church events, Spennithorne and Harmby Villages Show, events at the Old Horn.

The Council discussed the Community Governance review papers at its meeting on the 24th September 2025, in particular the request from Spennithorne Parish meeting to merge with a neighbouring Parish. Middleham Town Council felt that it would not be a good fit for it to merge with Spennithorne Parish meeting due to their being neighbouring Parishes in much closer proximity, such as Harmby Parish Council.

Harmby and Spennithorne have certain joint facilities already and often work together as a community.

The two villages are geographically close and share many facilities for example sports clubs, cemetery, village hall, WI.

Nearest.

They have a long, contiguous boundary and share more common issues than Spennithorne and Middleham, whose only link is the federation of their two schools.

Spennithorne has a more direct and wider border with these

At present Spennithorne and Harmby have joint activities and so it would seem logical for the parish councils to merge.

Spenni and harmby have logical ties

Middleham's needs do not link with Spennithorne's. The racing stables and local challenges do not align there are better fits.

We have operated under the guise of a soft merger for years at any rate. The Old Horn community pub was formed on the back of Spennithorne and Harmby residents. Many Harmby residents are shareholders in the pub. The football, cricket teams are all under the umbrella of Harmby / Spennithorne. Makes complete sense to merge, buying power and quotes for works will be better. No use being an island, merging with Harmby will enhance both parish councils instead of seeing natural decline. Thank you for considering.

the two villages share a number of amenities, including village hall, sports ground, cemetery, and are frequently considered by residents to be constituent elements of a shared community

Two small villages next to adjoining villages

Why do you feel this is the most appropriate solution?

The two villages are immediately adjacent to each other and share many facilities. Harmby has the village hall and the football and sports field. Spennithorne has the primary school, the church, the cricket ground and a community owned pub.

After having a Parish Meeting on 15/10/2025 the unanimous decision was not to merge with Spennithorne. The individuals present at the meeting felt it would increase the workload, increase meetings and times of meetings and give us less say in how we spend our precept.

I do not support any merger with Harmby. Harmby Parish council already have enough responsibility for ?? parishioners, the cemetery, all the sports facilities: football, tennis etc.

Spennithorne and Harmby are frequently linked together and are only separated by two fields. If we were merged and therefore larger, we might get more open representation. Spennithorne have always posted their information on their board. People there have seemed more informed when their council was fully staffed. We already have a joint committee for the cemetery. We also have a joint village show and a joint WI. They have the church in their parish and we have the village hall and sports field in our parish. People from both parishes were instrumental in establishing a community pub in Spennithorne. A new merged parish council might reinvigorate the information we receive, for example, minutes online, (2015 seem to be the last ones online) notice of annual meetings that members of the public can attend, etc. It might also prompt councillors to engage more with parishioners and promote more community empowerment. We might also get a new notice board that was less cloudy and therefore easier to read. Merging would therefore improve both parishes.

I understand they are linked parochially with Harmby so presume links are strong

The driving reason for our request for a CGR is that there is a massive problem trying to recruit volunteers to take positions on the Parish Meeting. We are still without a Parish Clerk and there is no interest whatsoever to fill the vacancy. Merging with Harmby who have a strong team will improve matters. Spennithorne and Harmby already have many links, sporting and other community ties which make a merger worth strong consideration.

There already overlaps between the two parishes

I do not know where the request has come from and am not aware of a request by the Parish Meeting. My reason for supporting a merger with Harmby is that I believe Spennithorne should have a Parish Council. There are a number of existing links with Harmby and facilities used by both villages - school, church, pub village hall as well as sporting links. Spennithorne Parish Meeting is effectively inactive. There has been no meeting since February of this year. There is a Parish Chairman but the post of Parish Clerk has been vacant for some time and, as far as I am aware, remains unfilled. If a merger with Harmby were to proceed, the combined parish should be warded to ensure Spennithorne has its own separate representation. Further, the Harmby Spennithorne development gap must be preserved and not prejudiced by a merger of the parishes.

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes to governance in Spennithorne parish?

I don't know anything about this.

I don't live in Spennithorne but from speaking with some residents there I get the feeling that the Parish Meeting struggles to get things done and can get bogged down in relatively small issues e.g. trying to work out future ownership of the Pinfold.

A merger would inevitably mean that issues unique to Spennithorne could not receive the same level of attention as they would if Spennithorne remained as a stand alone village meeting

The Parish Meeting is not functioning as it should, mainly because no one wants to be Clerk.

It makes sense for these two small communities to combine their meetings.

No

Simply choose a community or parish with similar Demographics.

As in the previous answer.

No

The proximity of the two villages and their shared facilities (stated above) mean that one parish council would be a sensible solution for this smallest level of local government.

Spennithorne should merger with another small small area(s) to make the adiministration more efficient.

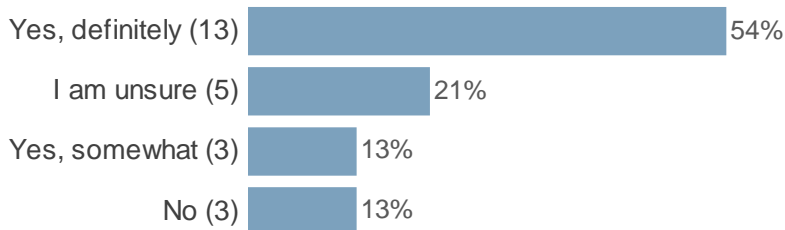
I think it is a good idea to merge.

No

If the merger between spennithorne and Harmby were to happen then there needs to be equal representation to ensure that the needs of both communities are met fairly.

See above

Do you think the proposed model will meet the needs of its community?



Is there anything further you would like to add about this community governance review?

We have had no sight of what/why Spennithorne wish to merge, so it is hard to have a view. We have had no information from the Middleham Parish Council.

This has been talked about in both villages for a while and most people that I've spoken with seemed to think it was logical and was bound to happen. Then it was stalled, apparently because one of the villages would not agree, and people could not understand why.

Complete as soon as possible please.

No thanks

No

No.

Brilliant timing

No

I am grateful for it. I hope it leads to greater, more open engagement in our local area, which I feel is very important now that we are part of a larger council.

No

Linking Spennithorne and Harmby's governance makes sense from staff recruitment and procedural points of view, but does increase the risk of any future building development planning applications being granted and ultimately merging the physical areas, creating many problems, (an example is the recently declined building proposals in Spennithorne). If a merger were to go ahead, the actual separate village boundaries must be kept entirely clear with the attendant green space between.

I am unsure what the proposed model is, but I have given my views on what I believe should be done.