Middleton Tyas Parish Council

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The Old Chapel
Middleton Tyas
Richmond
North Yorkshire
DL10 6PP

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HMCTS Consultation
Post point 6.07
102 Petty France
London, SW1H 9AJ

Email: estatesconsultation@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Sirs,

The Parish Council thanks you for the opportunity to give feedback on the proposed closure of Northallerton Courthouse. Whilst we would wholly support the use of new technologies, estate flexibility and the removal of buildings that are difficult and expensive to improve in order to enable efficiency in the long term, we feel that the cost for the proposed changes cannot - and should not - be measured in financial terms.

North Yorkshire is a large area with a population spread widely across the whole county. The travel time quoted in the proposal document is unrealistic. Where residents live in Richmond, a journey to court in Northallerton would have taken an hour by public transport. If they were going to York, travel time increases to a conservative estimate of two hours and twenty minutes. Many of the residents in this area do not live in the town of Richmond. Rather, they come from the Dales and surrounding areas. Their travel time would be considerably more. We cannot assume that defendants, victims or witnesses have access to a car. A journey of this time and distance would be prohibitively expensive in a taxi.

Northallerton is the nearest Courthouse to the town of Richmond by some twenty five miles. Closure of the Northallerton Courthouse would cause unnecessary mental and emotional pressure on already stressed residents. Has a detailed costing been undertaken which could enable the Courthouse to be updated rather than providing alternative premises?

We all have a duty to protect the most vulnerable in our community. Making them the victims of a proposal brought about largely to save money, thus imposing time consuming, expensive travel in an already intimidating situation, is not the answer.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Jones
Clerk to the Parish Council