

North Yorkshire

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to you concerning the above.

I realise that the closing date for formal comments has just passed, but would hope that you can still take my comments and observations into account.

The reason that I am only just commenting is that, despite being someone who takes a close interest in the affairs of our town, I have only just found out that boundary changes are proposed. I may have missed this in the local news, but unlikely. I am surprised therefore that local residents, especially ones who are affected, have not been contacted directly nor consulted.

I find that you are proposing to take the North side of Otley Road into the "Duchy and Valley Gardens " ward and out of the "Harlow" ward. This would include for instance Swinton Court and Harlow Oval, as well as the houses on Otley Road itself. This proposal must have come from someone who does not understand the area and perhaps just thinks that a nice straight line on a map makes a good boundary. Far from it.

I have lived on the N side of Otley Road for 39 years and have always been a resident of Harlow Hill. For me and the other streets I have mention Harlow Hill is our local area and community. The local shops are there, the community centre is there, the church is there, the public house is

there, the allotments are there, as are the schools. We use these facilities everyday, we walk in this area everyday. It is the part of the town that relates to us.

The Duchy area is remote from us. It has nothing to do with our lives. Valley Gardens area likewise, if slightly less so. The Duchy area has a residents association - it does not consider anything about where I live on Otley Road. Until recently, when unfortunately it had to disband, the Harlow Hill residents association was the association that promoted our interests.

I do not wish to be represented by a councilor who has no responsibility for the area in which I live. How will I be able to ask the local councilor for Harlow Hill to act on Harlow Hill issues when he will not be my councilor and mine, under your proposals, will be someone different?

Perhaps you can tell me your reasons for proposing this change to my ward? Why would you wish to ignore the way the community works in my area? Local accountability should reflect the circumstances of the community, not any administrative paperwork as seems to be the case here. We have only just had the first town council elections, just less than 3 months ago. Surely it would be sensible to wait for some time to see if there are any problems with the current wards ? I can see no justification for your proposal.

I look forward to your response and your consideration of my arguments.

Yours sincerely
Mr C R Dicken
Otley Road, Harrogate resident.

Attached Documents:

None attached