

North Yorkshire

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Comment text:

Related subject: Harrogate and Knaresborough

As it appears that the decision to reduce the number of councillors in this vast county has already been made, even though it would have been in line with your previous and fairly recent reviews of other counties, I attach comments on the Harrogate and Knaresborough area.

Attached Documents:

- personal-responses-to-suggested-divisions-in-harrogate-and-knaresborough.docx

Responses to suggested Divisions in Harrogate and Knaresborough created by NYC LGBCE Working Group as shown in ACC5 created on 07/11/2024

Introduction.

I have found it extremely difficult to respond as the PDF map ACC5 shows minimal information for such an urban area with quite a dense population compared to the majority of areas in North Yorkshire.

When enlarging the PDF, the majority of street names are still not visible and with only having less than a month between its production and the deadline for responses, it has not been possible to be as detailed in my response as I would have wished. Therefore, it is anticipated that further changes will be suggested once the streets per Division are named or more detailed Divisional maps are provided.

Nomenclature of Divisions.

Most of the changes in the names of the Divisions are reasonable.

However, I would suggest that **Oakdale Division would be better recognised by the population as being Duchy and Jennyfields Division.** (The majority of the population would not recognise “Oakdale” unless they live along the road of that name or are members of Oakdale Golf Club!)

Similarly, the **actual Low Harrogate** from historical times and shown on the map **isn’t actually in the proposed Division of that name** but in the one called Oakdale on the map! **I suggest that this Division reverts back to the Valley Gardens and Central name** by which it is currently known.

Boundaries of Divisions.

As mentioned in the introduction, the lack of street names etc has proved making any suggested amendments quite difficult at this moment in time, especially as **I have not been able to determine what happens when boundary lines are drawn along populated streets.**

However, I have studied the proposed new **Division of High Harrogate** and would like to make the following proposals:

1. The **southernmost boundary finishes at North Park Road** rather than protrude a very short distance across it. (This would mean that the very few houses (9? electors) on Park Parade which crosses North Park Road at that point would change from High Harrogate to Low Harrogate (or hopefully renamed Valley Gardens and Central Division.) The boundary would carry along North Park Road “eastwards” onto Knaresborough Road (A6040) which then joins the A59 (Skipton Road) at the Empress Roundabout. Skipton Road then becomes the main “eastern” boundary of the High Harrogate Division with a few properties to the east of the A59 still in High Harrogate.
2. Currently the main section of Park Parade, forms the western boundary of the Division at this point. This is where **insufficient information** has been provided on the map in terms of its actual path. **We think it would be better to show the boundary along the Coach Road** with Park Parade etc dwellings remaining in “Low Harrogate”). There are no dwellings at all along Coach Road nor will there be as it’s The Stray.

3. It is not clear on the PDF map, even magnified using Adobe Acrobat, where the boundary turns more west. We think it is where the road name changes from Park Parade to Regent Parade but it is impossible to determine using the PDF provided.

It might have been clearer if our **suggested boundary along Coach Road continued to the A59 (Skipton Road) and then turned down Westmoreland Street and East Parade** with houses along those streets being included in High Harrogate.

Our proposed new western boundary lines for the southern area of this Division, in line with the comments above, are shown in red in the diagram below. (Rest of the southern boundary, along North Park Road, A6040 etc to remain as on map below.)



However, I appreciate that this might result in the loss of a few electors to this Division. If this is the situation, it could be compensated for by the reversal of a decision for the boundary not to follow the A59 along northwards through Bilton area but to divert along Roberts Crescent. I propose that **Roberts Crescent, Bar Place and Roberts Square are now included in High Harrogate Division** rather than in Bilton Grange and Knox. Indeed, it could be argued that these roads should be included in High Harrogate anyway, as nearby roads are.

I have no further comments on the rest of the proposed High Harrogate Division.

4. The other puzzling area is in Knaresborough and what looks like the significant protrusion of Knaresborough East into Knaresborough Castle Division.. However, there is insufficient evidence to make any further comments on this at the moment.
5. The other proposed Divisions which look fine, given the information received to date.