



14 January 2026

Dear Sir or Madam

Boundary Review York – Bishopthorpe Ward

At a meeting of Acaster Malbis Parish Council on 12 January 2026 the question of boundary change was considered and the council resolved to duly respond to the boundary consultation taking place.

Acaster Malbis Parish Council wishes to express their strong support for retaining the current arrangement whereby the Bishopthorpe Ward is represented by one City of York councillor.

The councils consider that the existing arrangement works effectively and continues to provide appropriate, accessible and proportionate representation for both communities for the reasons set out below.

Established Community Identity and Cohesion

Acaster Malbis and Bishopthorpe are distinct but closely linked villages having a boundary with the river Ouse and have a long-established relationship and shared interests within the Bishopthorpe Ward. The current ward structure reflects these community ties and has helped maintain a clear and coherent sense of local identity.

Although Acaster Malbis is approximately one quarter of the size of Bishopthorpe in terms of population, the ward councillor regularly attends our meetings and provides a useful conduit between the two councils.

The council feels that the existing arrangement has not diluted representation or disadvantaged either community. On the contrary, the current structure supports balanced representation and effective engagement across the ward.

Effective and Accessible Representation

Representation by a single councillor has proven to be effective and accessible. Residents, parish councils and local groups benefit from having a clear and consistent point of contact who has a comprehensive understanding of the ward as a whole.

The current arrangement promotes accountability and clarity, avoiding confusion over responsibility that can arise where multiple councillors represent the same area.



Scale and Proportionality

The councils consider that the population size, geographic scale and character of the Bishopthorpe Ward do not justify an increase in the number of ward councillors. Expanding representation to two councillors would be disproportionate to local needs and would not result in a demonstrable improvement in representation or service to residents.

Both villages retain strong parish council governance, which already provides a high level of local engagement and advocacy.

Stability and Continuity

Retaining the current arrangements provides stability and continuity for residents and parish councils alike. Altering the ward representation without a clear and compelling justification risks unnecessary disruption, without clear benefit to the communities concerned.

The councils consider that maintaining the status quo is the most appropriate and efficient option.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, the Parish Councils of Acaster Malbis and Bishopthorpe strongly support retaining the existing Bishopthorpe Ward boundary and representation by a single councillor.

We respectfully request that the Boundary Commission retains the current arrangement as part of the review process.

On behalf of Acaster Malbis Parish Council

Yours faithfully

Craig Booth

Craig Booth
Clerk/RFO
Acaster Malbis Parish Council