

York

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Comment text:

2. Chapelfields and the Acomb split

Notwithstanding the contents of my formal complaint relating to disinformation shared with Chapelfields residents, I wanted to make a few other comments as local councillor for current Acomb ward.

It is clear that the strongest boundaries in York are the rivers, ring roads, and railway lines. I support the LGBCE response's approach to the south-west urban area from this perspective. I attach a map of the Poppleton railway line with the river and the secondary railway line marked in purple, and the proposed boundaries in yellow.

Assuming the one member of Leeman Road, and the nine members of the contiguous urban areas of Holgate, Acomb, Foxwood, and Woodthorpe, the Gale Lane roundabout is as a good a tripoint as any other in the area and as good as Carr Lane traffic lights have been for the last boundary period. It does put a border within communities, but there is no way of drawing it that doesn't - we have had continual campaign groups asking us to be better at presenting crossings all along the B1224 route with 20mph zones and multiple zebras or similar, and the natural flow of people between the Sun Inn and the Green, between Ridgeway and Beckfield Lane, between Front St and Sojo, between Coop and Bluebird, between the windmill and West Bank Park etc, and that's a B road! Ultimately, Acomb is ultimately massive, with over 20,000 residents in one community, and much smaller neighbourhood levels like Sovereign Park and Beech Grove below that, so this is the sensible way of doing it.

There are other potential changes, such as including east of Borougbridge Road allotments including the Fire Station up to Water End, but the greenery divide is clear and it is an existing understood boundary, so the merit is negligible. Arguably the ring road should be a strong boundary between rural villages and the city of York proper, but Knapton is a reasonable exception as a small ~200 person village with a large green buffer (that was ~100 people over 200 years ago) with a shared woodland and history with Rufforth. Any other major changes result in baffling consequences to keep the numbers added together, and splitting to smaller sized wards creates unclear boundaries that cut deeper through resident groupings.

In terms of naming the wards, I'm not against the proposed names. Severus Ave, Kingsway West, and Severus Street are definitely 'East Acomb' not Holgate, and Holgate definitely includes Windmill Rise and St Paul's Square. 'Acomb' ward as it stands today is perpetually painful as it doesn't include most of the area - but the area including Chapelfields is definitely the 'West Acomb' area. A cleaner name would be 'Beckfield ward' which existed pre-2003, but that would have been a better name for the current ward.

This leaves the south-west Acomb area including our leisure centre and St Stephen's Road lumped in with Westfield, Foxwood, Woodthorpe, bits of Dringhouses, etc. The proposed name is cumbersome, and while it might appeal to the sensibilities of some people who don't want to be seen as 'Foxwood' it makes no sense for a ward so overwhelmingly dominated by Foxwood and Woodthorpe to be called anything other than Foxwood and Woodthorpe in my personal opinion, though I am not a resident of either community and would defer to any naming suggestions from those local residents who have responded.

Attached Documents:

- [acomb-railway.png](#)

