

York

Personal Details:

Name: Cllr Emilie Knight

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Liberal Democrat councillor for Rural West York (Councillor)

Comment text:

Dear Sir

I write in response to the Commission's draft recommendations for the City of York electoral review, specifically the proposal to transfer parts of Upper Poppleton and Rufforth with Knapton parishes into the proposed Acomb West ward.

I respectfully ask the Commission to reconsider this proposal and retain these areas within Rural West York.

The Commission's statutory objectives are to secure electoral equality, reflect the identities and interests of local communities, and promote effective and convenient local government. I do not believe the draft recommendations achieve those objectives in this case.

The communities proposed for transfer are not perceived by their residents as being part of Acomb. They identify with Upper Poppleton and Rufforth with Knapton, use facilities within those communities, are represented by those parish councils and form part of those established communities. Simply drawing a different ward boundary does not alter those longstanding community ties.

The Commission's draft recommendations state that the changes are intended to resolve what is described as a "defaced boundary". However, the existing parish and ward boundary has existed for many years and continues to reflect the communities on the ground. The development of Langley Gate has not changed that. Rather than creating a new community looking towards Acomb, it has reinforced links with Poppleton. Residents access Poppleton for day-to-day services, and vehicle access from much of the area is towards Poppleton rather than Acomb due to the restrictions on Low Poppleton Lane.

The proposal also appears difficult to reconcile with the Commission's objective of achieving electoral equality. Under the Commission's draft recommendations, Rural West York would have approximately 9% fewer electors than the borough average by the end of the review period. By contrast, the alternative proposal we submitted, which retains these areas within Rural West York, would result in electoral equality that is almost exactly in line with the city average while also better reflecting established community identities. In other words, retaining these areas within Rural West York would not require a compromise between electoral equality and community identity. It would achieve both objectives more effectively than the draft recommendations.

There is also significant local concern about the wider implications of the proposed changes. Both Upper Poppleton Parish Council and Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council have expressed concerns regarding the effect on parish arrangements and community representation. While future decisions relating to parish governance or school admissions would be matters for other statutory processes, they nevertheless demonstrate how closely residents associate these areas with their existing communities rather than with Acomb.

It is particularly noteworthy that there is broad agreement across those engaging in this review that these properties belong to the Poppleton and Rufforth with Knapton communities. Westfield Labour publicly highlighted and endorsed a letter (see below) submitted by a local resident which argued that these homes should continue to be regarded as part of the Poppleton and Rufforth communities because they fall within the Poppleton Ousebank Primary School catchment area.

Whilst the electoral review does not itself determine parish governance or school catchment areas, Westfield Labour's representations are nevertheless relevant because they reinforce the fact that these homes are recognised as forming part of the Poppleton and Rufforth with Knapton communities. This apparent consensus is significant. Residents, parish councils, ourselves as the local ward councillors and the local Member of Parliament all recognise these homes as belonging to the Poppleton and Rufforth with Knapton communities. That shared understanding strongly supports retaining them within Rural West York.

Taken together, the evidence points overwhelmingly towards retaining these properties within Rural West York. Residents identify with Poppleton and Rufforth with Knapton, are represented by those parish councils, look towards those communities for local services, form part of the Poppleton school community, and there is broad agreement that they belong to those established communities. At the same time, retaining them within Rural West York would produce significantly better electoral equality than the Commission's draft recommendations.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Commission to amend its final recommendations so that the affected areas remain within the Rural West York ward.

Thank you for considering these representations.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Emilie Knight

Liberal Democrat councillor for Rural West York

Attached Documents:

- york-sub.png

Your letters

Shame on them

AS a retired headteacher I was very surprised to read a communication sent by York Liberal Democrats to residents in the Rural West Ward.

In the letter the Lib Dems fairly made the case for alternatives to those being suggested by the Boundary Commission as all political parties are likely and have the right to do.

My shock however was to find the Lib Dems claiming that the proposed changes could have an impact on the catchment areas for local schools.

This is totally untrue and all elected members (and headteachers) know that school catchment areas are agreed as a result of a completely separate process related to housing, population and schools rolls.

I hope therefore that the York Lib Dems will make a public statement admitting their deliberate circulation of false information and scaremongering in a no doubt desperate attempt to gain local support.

Shame on them.

David Ellis
Abbotsway
York

Not quite here today



Westfield Labour

16 June at 08:29 · 🌐

Thank you to **The Press in York** for publishing this from Dave Ellis former **York High School, York, UK** head about the misinformation being shared by some people locally about the work of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. This is an independent body that all political parties and other community groups are able to input into, to inform their independent conclusions.

Information about the York review is available here (the current consultation on its recomme...

[See more](#)



11



Like



Comment



Share



Comment as York Liberal Democrats

