

# York

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Stephanie Warden

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**Organisation Name:** Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

## Comment text:

Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council, having considered the Commission's proposals at our meeting of 1st June 2026, have very serious concerns as follows:-

- Residents of Trenchard Road and Portal Road constitute the vast majority of electors in the Boroughbridge Road area of the Parish proposed by the Commission to transfer to Acomb ward (87 out of 107 ). This is an enclave of ex MoD housing originally built to accommodate personnel serving at Rufforth Airfield and thus has a longstanding and historic connection with the parish of Rufforth with Knapton, a connection which residents feel to this day. The residents see themselves as a separate community which enjoys the quiet, secure balance between the countryside and urban greater York and with attitudes and interests more aligned with Knapton and Rufforth (and hence Rural West) than Acomb. Trenchard and Portal road residents were actively involved in the production of the Rufforth with Knapton Neighbourhood Plan. In representing the views of these residents the Parish Council supports their wish to remain part of Rural West Ward and maintain the status quo in this area and this is our preferred solution.

- However the Parish Council accepts that the Commission's proposals are part of a City wide solution and if the final decision is to accept the current proposals for City Wards then the Parish Ward proposals are totally unsatisfactory. We understand that there is a statutory obligation to ensure that every parish ward is within a single city ward and that this would necessitate the creation of a Boroughbridge Road Ward (we would prefer Trenchard and Portal) but the suggestion of 3 councillors for this Ward is nonsensical. The latest information we have for electors in the Parish is:

Rufforth 504 electors

Knapton 200 electors

Boroughbridge Road 107 electors

On the basis of these figures we propose an alternative solution for the Parish of 3 Wards - Rufforth (5 councillors), Knapton (2 councillors) Trenchard and Portal (1 councillor).

Whilst having common interests each of these 3 areas see themselves as separate and distinct communities with their own concerns and issues. Rufforth and Knapton wards are currently represented by councillors living in the villages that they represent and this works well in ensuring residents can relate to their councillor and the views of each community are represented. If, as proposed, by the Commission, Rufforth and Knapton wards were to be merged then there would be a danger that Knapton residents could be under represented due to the imbalance of electors (504 in Rufforth and 200 in Knapton). In Parish elections people tend to vote for candidates they know and as a result we could easily end up with all councillors coming from Rufforth

We firmly believe that our proposed solution is a far more democratic approach which answers residents' inevitable concerns with the Commission's proposals and would enable Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council to continue to operate as an effective and successful representative body and first rung of local government. We would like to see the status quo for Rural West York maintained but if change is inevitable we strongly urge the Commission to accept the alternative solution for Parish Wards that we have proposed.

Kind regards,  
Stephanie Warden

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*