

York

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Osbaldwick Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Dear CYC,

Please see below the response from Osbaldwick Parish Council.

Best Regards,

Louise
Clerk - Osbaldwick Parish Council

Osbaldwick Parish Council object most strongly to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England proposals for the Osbaldwick & Derwent Ward.

Ideally the current electoral Ward structure would remain the same for the 2027 Local Elections pending City of York Council carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR), a process stalled since 2016.

Such a CGR could address previously expressed concerns by Osbaldwick Parish Council as to Parish boundaries, concerns that have been heightened now, albeit inadvertently by the LGBCE electoral Ward proposals.

In 2010 Osbaldwick Parish Council requested that City of York Council followed the historical precedent when land in the Parish was developed for housing and alter the City boundary to take the Land West of Metcalfe Lane out of Osbaldwick Parish and into the City boundary.

This area has become Derwenthorpe that the LGBCE has suggested putting into three electoral Wards which is ridiculous but has somewhat highlighted current anomalies.

Osbaldwick Parish Council would suggest that any CYC CGR looks to take Derwenthorpe out of the Osbaldwick Parish and a new town/parish council is created for the governance of Derwenthorpe which as a whole would become within the City boundaries and the inclusion as part of a Tang Hall & Derwenthorpe electoral Ward would make perfect sense.

If the current LGBCE proposals are adopted it will create nothing but confusion amongst Derwenthorpe residents and a distinct breakup of cohesive identity, in the absence of the CYC CGR Osbaldwick Parish strongly suggest putting the LGBCE proposals on hold for another electoral cycle.

It is understood that requests for inner city areas to have town councils created have not been dealt with in a timely manner by CYC that could further undermine the electoral Ward patterns proposed by the LGBCE proposals.

In addition to the change above Osbaldwick Parish Council requested in 2010 that former parts of the Parish - Broughton Way and Sadberge Court were brought back into the Parish to create a sensible, understandable and long lasting Parish Boundary, again such changes if brought in by a CYC CGR would have implications for the current LGBCE proposals.

The LGBCE proposals for Murton Parish with regard to Tranby Avenue and Cavendish Grove are entirely sensible and in line with what Osbaldwick Parish Council suggested in 2010, again this needs addressing in a CGR without introducing further confusion amongst electors.

Having a proper CGR before any LGBCE proposals are implemented would enable all these anomalies being sorted out and prevent Osbaldwick & Murton Parish Councils undergoing the ridiculous and largely unworkable 'Warding' which will only create confusion and reduce voter engagement.

The notion that Meadlands is removed from the Osbaldwick electoral Ward is completely rejected given the confusion and reduction in voter engagement that is inevitable from such a proposal.

Indeed Meadlands residents very strongly rejected this in 2013/14 at the time of the last LGBCE review and the only way this will be resolved is by full consultation with those residents as part of a CYC CGR.

Should the LGBCE decline to pause the current electoral Ward boundary review until CYC carry out the CGR then Osbaldwick PC suggest that to balance numbers appropriately the Osbaldwick & Derwent electoral Ward is retained as it is with the whole of the Derwenthorpe estate placed within a Tang Hall & Derwenthorpe Ward where that Ward can be a multiple councillor Ward.

Heworth and Heworth Without Wards should be merged into a multiple councillor Ward or broken up into four single councillor wards whereby the numbers can be made to add up along with greater community identity.

As for Osbaldwick & Derwent Ward the very strong ties between Osbaldwick & Murton would be retained - historical, ecclesiastical, social and geographical and the ties between the nearby villages would equally be retained - points the LGBCE made in the 2013/14 review when proposing linking Osbaldwick & Derwent to Dunnington, Holtby and Kexby.

So the change in stance of the LGBCE now is somewhat confusing.

If that stance is because of an anticipated increase in elector numbers because of developments within the Ward then it should be cautioned that whilst a large development is proposed between Osbaldwick & Murton (ST7 in the local plan) there has been no planning application even submitted yet for the Osbaldwick section of this scheme and given difficulties and the usual timescale of such matters it is not anticipated that there will be any significant increase in voter numbers for multiple electoral cycles.

This delay to any increase in numbers ought to allow a proper consideration of matters within a CYC CGR with the current LGBCE returning to their hopefully paused review in time for the 2031 Local Government elections.

Osbaldwick Parish Council hope that the LGBCE reflect on the chaos and voter confusion that could be unleashed if the current proposals are taken forward and once again request the LGBCE pause their current review to allow full consideration of Parish Boundary matters within the Osbaldwick & Derwent Ward, requests for new town councils within the City Boundary and of course creation of a Derwenthorpe Town Council.

Far better to retain the current Osbaldwick & Derwent Ward boundary as a two councillor Ward for the 2027 Local Elections and request City of York Council to progress the Community Governance Review when this can be worked upon in tandem with the current LGBCE proposals to remove once and for all anomalies within the boundaries and electoral arrangements.

Attached Documents:

None attached