

York

Personal Details:

Name: Sophie Durham

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

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

Comment text:

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Dunnington Parish Council, I am writing to submit the Council's formal objection to the proposed changes to the ward boundaries.

Under the current arrangements, the ward comprises five Parish Councils, all located within the same geographic area. As a result, these parishes share many common issues and priorities, enabling effective collaboration and representation. The ward is well served by two Ward Councillors who have developed a strong understanding of the area, its communities and the challenges they face. They are also able to attend Parish Council meetings regularly, despite the varying meeting schedules, ensuring that local concerns are heard and acted upon.

The proposed changes would significantly alter this successful arrangement.

The new ward would comprise almost twice the number of Parish Councils, spread across a much larger geographical area. It would become the largest ward within the City of York boundary, incorporating communities with very different characteristics, priorities and concerns. The Parish Council believes this would inevitably reduce the effectiveness of local representation.

The Council's specific concerns are as follows:

Ward Councillors would be expected to represent a far greater number of Parish Councils over a much wider area, making it unrealistic for them

to attend meetings regularly or maintain the same level of engagement with each community.

The increased workload would inevitably dilute the level of support currently provided to residents and Parish Councils.

Communities that currently share common interests and issues would be divided, while others with little or no shared identity would be grouped together.

Existing community identity and long-established local ties would be weakened or lost.

Physical barriers and natural geographical boundaries appear to have been overlooked in drawing the proposed ward boundaries.

Access to local amenities and services could be disrupted by creating ward boundaries that do not reflect how communities actually function.

Local issues that are currently well understood by Ward Councillors risk being diluted amongst a much broader range of unrelated concerns.

The significantly increased responsibilities placed on Ward Councillors may also make the role less attractive to prospective candidates, reducing the pool of individuals willing to stand for election.

The proposed boundaries do not appear to reflect established community links or patterns of local representation, resulting in a misalignment that could reduce effective and convenient local government.

The Parish Council notes that the Local Government Boundary Commission's statutory objectives include achieving effective and convenient local government while reflecting the identities and interests of local communities. The Council believes these proposals do not achieve those objectives. Rather than improving representation, they risk reducing accessibility, weakening community identity and diminishing the quality of democratic representation across the ward.

The Parish Council therefore respectfully requests that the Commission reconsider these proposals and retain ward boundaries that better reflect existing communities, geographical realities and the ability of elected representatives to provide effective representation.

Thank you for taking the Council's views into consideration.

Yours faithfully

Sophie Durham

Parish Clerk

Dunnington Parish Council

Attached Documents:

- ward-changes-letter-july-26.docx

Dunnington Parish Council

Sophie Durham
Parish Clerk
Dunnington Parish Council
Dunnington
[REDACTED]

5 July 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of **Dunnington Parish Council**, I am writing to submit the Council's formal objection to the proposed changes to the ward boundaries.

Under the current arrangements, the ward comprises five Parish Councils, all located within the same geographic area. As a result, these parishes share many common issues and priorities, enabling effective collaboration and representation. The ward is well served by two Ward Councillors who have developed a strong understanding of the area, its communities and the challenges they face. They are also able to attend Parish Council meetings regularly, despite the varying meeting schedules, ensuring that local concerns are heard and acted upon.

The proposed changes would significantly alter this successful arrangement.

The new ward would comprise almost twice the number of Parish Councils, spread across a much larger geographical area. It would become the largest ward within the City of York boundary, incorporating communities with very different characteristics, priorities and concerns. The Parish Council believes this would inevitably reduce the effectiveness of local representation.

The Council's specific concerns are as follows:

- Ward Councillors would be expected to represent a far greater number of Parish Councils over a much wider area, making it unrealistic for them to attend meetings regularly or maintain the same level of engagement with each community.
- The increased workload would inevitably dilute the level of support currently provided to residents and Parish Councils.
- Communities that currently share common interests and issues would be divided, while others with little or no shared identity would be grouped together.
- Existing community identity and long-established local ties would be weakened or lost.
- Physical barriers and natural geographical boundaries appear to have been overlooked in drawing the proposed ward boundaries.
- Access to local amenities and services could be disrupted by creating ward boundaries that do not reflect how communities actually function.
- Local issues that are currently well understood by Ward Councillors risk being diluted amongst a much broader range of unrelated concerns.
- The significantly increased responsibilities placed on Ward Councillors may also make the role less attractive to prospective candidates, reducing the pool of individuals willing to stand for election.

- The proposed boundaries do not appear to reflect established community links or patterns of local representation, resulting in a misalignment that could reduce effective and convenient local government.

The Parish Council notes that the Local Government Boundary Commission's statutory objectives include achieving effective and convenient local government while reflecting the identities and interests of local communities. The Council believes these proposals do not achieve those objectives. Rather than improving representation, they risk reducing accessibility, weakening community identity and diminishing the quality of democratic representation across the ward.

The Parish Council therefore respectfully requests that the Commission reconsider these proposals and retain ward boundaries that better reflect existing communities, geographical realities and the ability of elected representatives to provide effective representation.

Thank you for taking the Council's views into consideration.

Kind Regards

Sophie Durham
Parish Clerk

