

York

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Organisation Name: The Conservative Party (Political group)

Comment text:

Related subject: City of York

The Conservative Party welcome the majority of the commission's initial proposal. Especially Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe, Dringhouses. Osbaldwick, Heworth Without with minor adjustments. We also believe both Fulford and Woodthorpe could be removed from their three member wards and be made into single member wards.

These wards are in line with our general view that single member wards improve the councillor links with their ward and vice-versa. Multi member wards often enable one or more members to 'carry' another councillor or sadly they don't work together for residents due to their political differences. Our proposed single member wards are based on Parishes, community ties and real centres at their heart. Although we acknowledge the 'cover' element that additional councillors can have for a member's holiday or sickness we believe urgent resident wards can often be as well dealt with in other ways and that more commonly multi member wards simply add confusion. The amount of three member (as opposed to two member) wards only adds to the 'block' party vote over more diverse communities, rather than real localism.

Our comments;

? The four wards in North York we support as proposed.

? The four wards in Eastern York we support with just an adjustment to Heworth Without; adding Greenfield Park Drive (& roads adjacent) off Stockton Lane to Heworth Without, these roads are only accessible from Stockton Lane. In addition, moving the Joseph Rowntree housing Meadlands Mews, Saint Aelreds Mews etc to Tanghall & Derwenthorpe to take in all off Derwenthorpe.

? The three wards in Southeastern York we support with one change. To have Fulford as a stand-alone ward made up of Fulford Parish, YCA and YCA with the reasons as our original submission. As regards the splitting of Derwent we would support the views of the Parish Councils and residents.

? Southern And Western Rural York we support as proposed with one amendment, that is to support the views of Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council. We agree that their 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 the first rung of local government. Therefor we would like to see the status quo for Rural West York maintained but if not, we ask the Commission to accept the alternative solution for Parish Wards that Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council have proposed.

? The four wards in West York we support with one change. This is to have Woodthorpe as a stand-alone ward, as suggested in our original proposal and contain 3920 voters. This would be made up of polling district CC and CD. It will Include Woodthorpe Primary School and Woodthorpe Shops. There is an annual Woodthorpe Summer Festival on Woodthorpe Green organised by Woodthorpe York Community Group. Woodthorpe has its own Facebook group, Instagram group and a 'Beds' (community garden) group. The distinct identity of Woodthorpe is described as resting on three pillars: accessibility, sense of community, and a peaceful pace of life that contrasts with busier urban hubs nearby.

? York City Centre we support the four wards proposed.

Attached Documents:

None attached