

York

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Comment text:

Related subject: York Unitary Authority Area

Please find attached the York Labour submission.

Attached Documents:

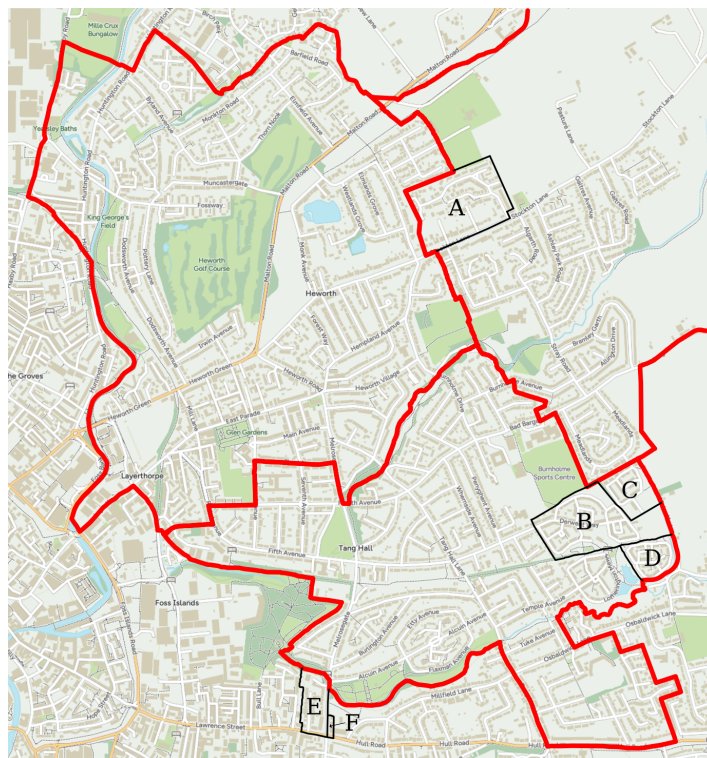
- labour-consultation-submission.pdf

Executive Summary

York Labour welcomes the proposed new boundaries, and feel they effectively represent the different communities of York whilst maintaining good electoral equality.

We feel the Eastern area and the division of the Derwenthorpe estate in three, between Osbaldwick, Tanghall & Derwenthorpe, and Heworth Without wards. Derwenthorpe is a single cohesive community that should be in the same ward to ensure effective and convenient local government. Please see the attached map of our proposed revision and justifications.

The justification provided for this split is that “wards should have good internal road links between their constituent communities.” We strongly believe Derwenthorpe should be treated as a single constituent community, that should be placed in the Tanghall and Derwenthorpe ward where it has the best internal road links to. Derwenthorpe was explicitly designed with walkability in mind, not car access



This is strongly reflected by the one individual submission to the review directly relating to Derwenthorpe stating: *“The interests of Osbaldwick and the residents of the the Derwenthorpe estate are and always have been in conflict. The newer estate is not represented and is now quite large. It has more in common with the residents of 5th avenue and nearby roads than the village.”*

Following the review’s request for further feedback on the proposed two member Derwent ward, we would be supportive of two single member wards named Wheldrake and Dunnington. We had previously supported the two member Derwent ward to allow for the Langwith development to be fully within one ward. With that ruled out as an option, we feel the rural nature of these areas would be better served by single member wards. Wheldrake is a ward dispersed throughout several villages, whereas Dunnington is primarily centred on the village.

Derwenthorpe/Heworth Without - Misidentified Road Access:

Irrespective of our below arguments to keep Derwenthorpe in a single ward, we feel compelled to identify that the draft proposals have misidentified road access to half of the estate. Should the commission decide to maintain a division of Derwenthorpe by road access, we feel this should be done correctly. Area B on our map (*most of Derwent Way, Seebohm Mews, St Aelreds Mews, & Derwent Place*) has been placed in Heworth Without, but has no road access to Heworth Without via Meadlands Mews. Rather it is only accessible by car via Tanghall's 5th Avenue, so should be moved into the Tanghall and Derwenthorpe ward.

Correcting this error moves Heworth Without below variance. This can be corrected by moving the Greenfield Lane cul de sac (Area A) from Heworth to Heworth Without ward. The commission agreed the division between Heworth and Heworth Without is defined by a sub-urban - urban split, and we feel Greenfield Lane can be comfortably included in the sub-urban category, given its access is significantly further up Stockton Lane than the rest of Heworth ward. The City of York Historic Characterisation Project placed Greenfield Lane within the Heworth Without area. It would assist in providing a clearer ward boundary, as the proposed division along Stockton Lane between Whitby Avenue and Algarth Road does leave two sides of one street in different wards.

Derwenthorpe - A coherent community of interest

There is substantial evidence that Derwenthorpe is a coherent community with a distinct identity, and should be placed wholly within one ward.

The City of York Historic Characterisation Project characterised the then emerging development as having its own distinct identity, despite being in its infancy around Derwent Mews. It highlighted the radically different housing of Derwenthorpe, as compared to the rest of the more suburban Osbaldwick.

<https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/1156/area-58-osbaldwick>

Derwenthorpe has an active residents association representing the interests of the four quarters of the estate. It engages in regular social and community activities for local residents. <https://derwenthorpe.co.uk/>

Derwenthorpe was built by and is managed by the Joseph Roundtree Housing Trust. Residents pay an annual charge for estate management, which covers maintenance of numerous community facilities, from the The Super Sustainability Centre to drainage and footpaths. <https://www.jrht.org.uk/community/derwenthorpe-york>

The Derwenthorpe community has been the subject of several studies on the building of new sustainable communities. They highlight the common interest of the estate, and how a lack of car access through the centre of the development is at the core of that community.

<https://www.york.ac.uk/yes/research/environment-health/derwenthorpe/>
<https://yorkcivictrust.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/YORK-CIVIC-TRUST-Case-Studies-Derwenthorpe.pdf>

Derwenthorpe - With Tanghall

The draft recommendations place parts of Derwenthorpe with Osbaldwick and Heworth Without, justified by road access. However, there is little to no evidence demonstrating that road access in these areas is a determinant of a shared community interest - not least when compared to the overwhelming evidence of Derwenthorpe being a single community.

Heworth Without has been identified by the draft recommendations as being primarily defined by its suburban character. The parts of Derwenthorpe included in Heworth Without are distinct urban facing 21st century houses, as opposed to the mid 20th century suburban housing of Heworth Without. The inclusion of the whole of Derwenthorpe in Heworth Without would place it above variance.

The portion of Derwenthorpe included in Osbaldwick ward were highlighted specifically by the City of York Historic Characterisation Project as being radically different to Osbaldwick, with Osbaldwick parish being "fiercely" opposed to the development, and Derwenthorpe having a distinct identity. Additionally the inclusion of all of Derwenthorpe within Osbaldwick ward would place it above variance.

<https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/1156/area-58-osbaldwick>

Derwenthorpe would sit best as a whole within the proposed Tanghall and Derwenthorpe ward, named in part for the Derwenthorpe estate. Derwenthorpe has its best road links with Tanghall, with the overwhelming number of residents being directly connected by car via Fifth and Temple Avenues. Meadland Mews and Derwent Mews are both well within two minutes walk from Tanghall connected roads. Tanghall and Derwenthorpe are both urban facing areas, as opposed to the suburban Osbaldwick and Heworth Without.

The Burnholme redevelopment in Tanghall, neighbours Derwenthorpe and has very similar types and styles of housing. Residents of both areas primarily use the 66 Cycle/Walking route to access town, along with the 25 bus. Significant numbers of Tanghall residents use the playground facilities in the Derwenthorpe Children's Park, accessed by foot via route 66. Ongoing issues of Anti-Social-Behaviour in Derwenthorpe's green spaces are related to teens from both Tanghall and Derwenthorpe. Significant numbers of Derwenthorpe residents use Hull Road park, with numerous volunteers from the park conservation group living in Derwenthorpe. Numerous community groups from Tanghall use the Super Sustainable Centre venue for their activities. The primary local shops for Derwenthorpe are located on Tanghall Lane.

Parish Warding arrangements

In light of our proposals, we suggest that the Osbaldwick parish wards be amended as follows:

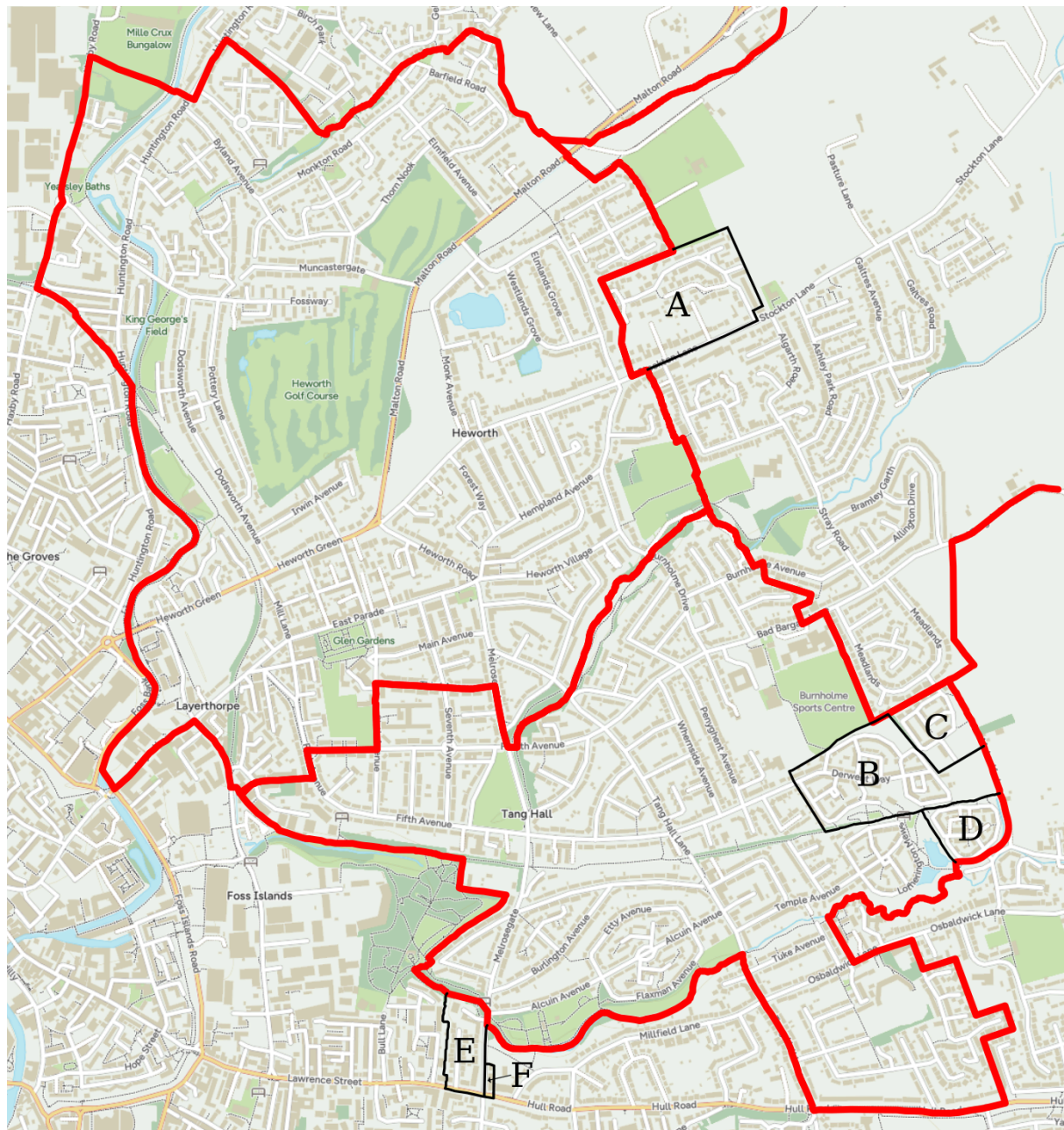
- Meadlands, 1
- Derwenthorpe, 5
- Village, 10

Tanghall & Derwenthorpe - Panhandle

The proposed ward has a somewhat awkward geography in the south, largely it seems due to population constraints. With the inclusion of the whole of Derwenthorpe within the ward, this could be improved by removing the Melrosegate and Abbotsford Road panhandle and having a much clearer boundary fully along Osbaldwick Beck & Melrosegate. The panhandle can be split along Melrosegate and moved into the neighbouring Guildhall, and Heslington and University wards (see area's E & F).

Annex:

Map of proposed changes.



**Red lines - suggested boundaries*

**Black lines - areas to be moved to different wards.*

- A) Greenfield cul de sac. Moved from Heworth to Heworth Without ward.
- B) Derwenthorpe area accessible by road from Tanghall currently placed within Heworth Without.
- C) Derwenthorpe area accessible by road from Heworth Without, currently placed within Heworth Without.
- D) Derwenthorpe area accessible by road from Osbaldwick, currently placed within Osbaldwick.
- E) Tanghall pan handle, to be moved into Guildhall ward.
- F) Tanghall pan handle, to be moved into Heslington and University ward.

Meadland Mews/Temple Avenue road access:

Permanently blocked road access between Meadland Mews and St Aelreds Mews



Road access along Fifth Avenue and Temple Avenue



Burhholme Redevelopment:



Derwenthorpe Estate



