

I am concerned particularly with the changed Dringhouses boundary. The current proposal removes historic areas of Dringhouses, specifically Northfield Terrace and Railway View. I ask that the boundaries of Dringhouses are extended to include these streets, and others which form part of the Dringhouses area due to historic, community, identity and functional matters where ward divisions and representation are important.

The proposed new boundary for artificially cuts Dringhouses off on the basis of the railway line which runs under Thanet Road. This may be a line on a map, but it has nothing to do with how people move or how community areas function. These matters are important in considering ward divisions because representation should reflect how areas work in practice.

There are historical links which would be broken by the current proposed division. Northfield Terrace in particular is consistent in form and feeling with homes on Saint Helen's Road to the east of the railway line, and also the terraced properties off of the current Mayfield Grove behind the school. This makes sense as although the current road structure emphasises Thanet Road, historically the thru road was Northfield Lane which continues to the east of the railway line in what is now Mayfield Grove. Railway View and Northfield Terrace have little structural or character connection with the much more modern estate along Eason View to the south. These homes were only built from the 1960's. By contrast, Northfield Terrace and Railway View were built around the 1890s. (See Figure 1 below). There is even less connection with the wider Westfield, Woodthorpe and Westhorpe ward, which would leave this historic area isolated and underrepresented. Northfield Terrace and Railway View have a continuity of form when looking eastward toward Tadcaster Road where the historic heart of Dringhouses is and has been, providing services for the Dringhouses community and access to the rest of York.

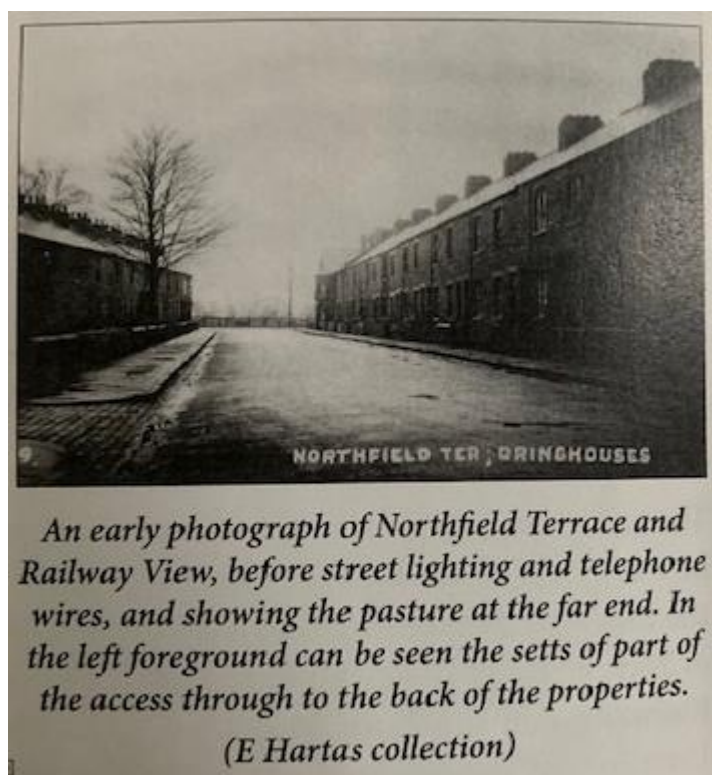


Figure 1: A photo of Northfield Terrace copied from 'Discovering Dringhouses 2' which clearly identifies the street as a part of the Dringhouses historic area and community.

Northfield Terrace and Railway View are connected to the core Dringhouses areas for functional and community purposes. According to the book 'Discovering Dringhouses 2: More aspects of a Village History,' the children living in Northfield Terrace and Railway View were a significant driver in placing the school at its current location. Putting the community and the school serving that community in different wards makes no logical sense when other solutions are available. Other important community links with the current Dringhouses connection include the parade of shops on Tadcaster Road. This includes the church, post office, petrol station, takeaways and café. Whilst there are services in Woodthorpe, people living on Northfield Terrace and Railway View (and the neighbouring streets) primarily utilise the services on Tadcaster Road. Ward representation should follow this pattern so that residential areas remain connected with the services they use.

Further, Northfield Terrace and Railway View are inextricably linked with a Dringhouses identity. The historic and community links set out above are an important part of that identity. But identity is also a personal matter. I have lived on this street for two decades and the connection to Dringhouses is important to me. As far as I am aware Dringhouses is a name unique to this part of York. I use it regularly as an identifier on my postal address (there are many Northfield Terraces by contrast!). If these streets were removed from 'Dringhouses' by this exercise, I would feel it a personal loss. The many railway workers who lived in these terraced homes over decades would no doubt be in shock to find that the very railway which brought the community together and formed a connecting line with the wider country might now be used to separate and isolate these streets from their roots as a core part of Dringhouses.

Functionally, the area encompassing Northfield Terrace and others serviced by North Lane are a part of the Dringhouses area. The people living here predominantly walk, cycle and drive toward Tadcaster Road rather than via Acomb or southward via Woodthorpe. The condition of paving, streets and provision of services that may be shaped now or in future by ward representation are important. Here the links are to Dringhouses versus any other proposed ward.

For all these reasons, I urge you to reconsider the boundary of Dringhouses ward and ask that it is extended to include Northfield Terrace and Railway View. For simplicity of mapping, it may be that including all houses from the railway line to Lidl north of Thanet Road would provide a reasonable grouping.

Kind Regards