

Derwenthorpe in the York Boundary Review.

About me

I live in Derwenthorpe [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Summary

I'm writing to strongly object to the division of the Derwenthorpe community into multiple wards. Derwenthorpe is a strong, clearly identified community.

Derwenthorpe constitutes an electoral division, which should be retained in a single ward.

Separately, I object to the use of "Derwenthorpe" in the name of any ward that does not contain the whole of Derwenthorpe, and note that the word "Tanghall" is incorrect. The proper styling is "Tang Hall"

Derwenthorpe Residents' Association has a website at <https://derwenthorpe.co.uk>, and a Facebook group at <https://en-gb.facebook.com/DerwenthorpeResidentsAssociation/> Much of the following is documented on the website.

Location

Derwenthorpe is clearly identifiable as the land developed under outline planning consent <https://planningaccess.york.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=0302709OUT>,



The community is the whole of electoral district YHA1, which was recently merged with YHA1 to form OHB. We vote at the "Super Sustainable Centre", our small community centre, which is easily accessible on foot from every part of Derwenthorpe. There are 42 flats among 485 completed properties, with a further 37 under development. <https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/10172/final-recommendations>

Community Identity

Its distinctive architecture very clearly identifies Derwenthorpe. The houses are brick-built, many with white-painted upper storeys. They are large, with steeply pitched roofs, and distinctive decorative "chimneys". Many have roofed balconies.

The architectural style is so distinct that even young children can be told, "You can play out, but stay on Derwenthorpe". There's a very clear sense of place created, and this in turn leads to a clear sense of community.

Derwenthorpe residents also have a distinct set of problems which local councillors might become involved with.

- All but seven of the properties are connected to a district heating system based in the "Super Sustainable Centre", operated by Veolia.
- There is a single provider of broadband services, Pure Fibre, who also provides a communal TV aerial, with DAB and FM radio signals into every house. Two other providers have recently become available, but they're not price-competitive. They even have a website for us at derwenthorpe.net
- Everybody pays an Estate Management fee to Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust, who own the extensive residual land, play areas, sustainable urban drainage systems, lakes and so on.
- Roads and sewers are not yet adopted, though adoption is the intention of Yorkshire Water and the City of York Council.
- Homeowners have extensive restrictive covenants with JRHT, which are also reflected in tenancy agreements.
- The distinctive architecture means that we have common solutions to simple problems like regular maintenance and sourcing replacement parts.

Residents have a number of democratic bodies in place, to help deal with these problems. Local councillors might get involved with these

- There is a Residents' Association that represents the interests of residents to JRHT, Veolia, Purefibre, and other organisations. derwenthorpe.co.uk/dra
- Residents are also represented on the Derwenthorpe Governing Group, which consists of five elected residents and five senior staff from JRHT. The DGG meets roughly quarterly. It is chaired by a resident, though JRHT retain a veto. derwenthorpe.co.uk/dgg
- subgroups that scrutinise the Landscape Management Plan implementation, Estate Management Fee spending, and Development issues. derwenthorpe.co.uk/landscape
- We have a WhatsApp community with over 400 members. The "community" includes a general chat group, and a "dBay" group, which is used for sharing,

buying and selling unwanted property: anything from tins of books to bikes, or beds!

We also have a regular newsletter, "LotsOn", which contains event listings, news, and other items of interest. We distribute 1000 copies, including over 500 copies to Derwenthorpe neighbours in every direction (including neighbouring wards!)
derwenthorpe.co.uk/lotson

Derwenthorpe has many organised community groups and events, including an annual festival (music, arts, crafts), open gardens event, three book clubs, a film club, a wine club, language groups, craft groups, a nature group, keep-fit groups and so on. Many of these meet in the Super Sustainable Centre, which is located in the centre of the estate. .

Effective and convenient local government

The current proposal would **dilute our voice**, and **prevent effective co-ordinated representation**.

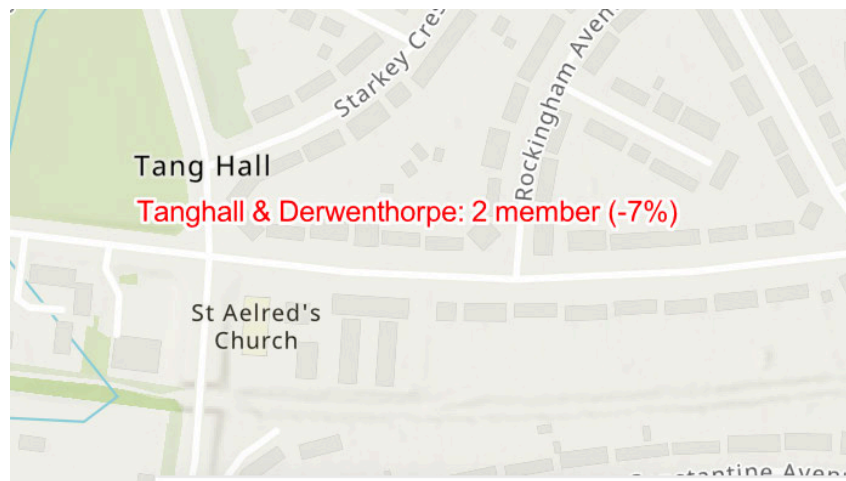
The many potential common issues identified above are complex, and some are unique in York. It would be easier if fewer councillors had to learn about these issues. It would also aid a councillor to identify patterns from individual reports, if all those reports went to the same councillor, or two, if we end up in a two-member ward.

Putting small parts of Derwenthorpe into a ward risks neglect, if those parts become a very small proportion of the ward. Putting all of Derwenthorpe into a single ward would never mean it dominated the ward, but would at least mean that Derwenthorpe's particular technical and governance aspects could garner some attention from the elected council members.

Ward name

Please **don't use the name "Derwenthorpe"** in a ward that does not include all of Derwenthorpe.

"Tang Hall" should be properly styled. It s not "Tanghall".



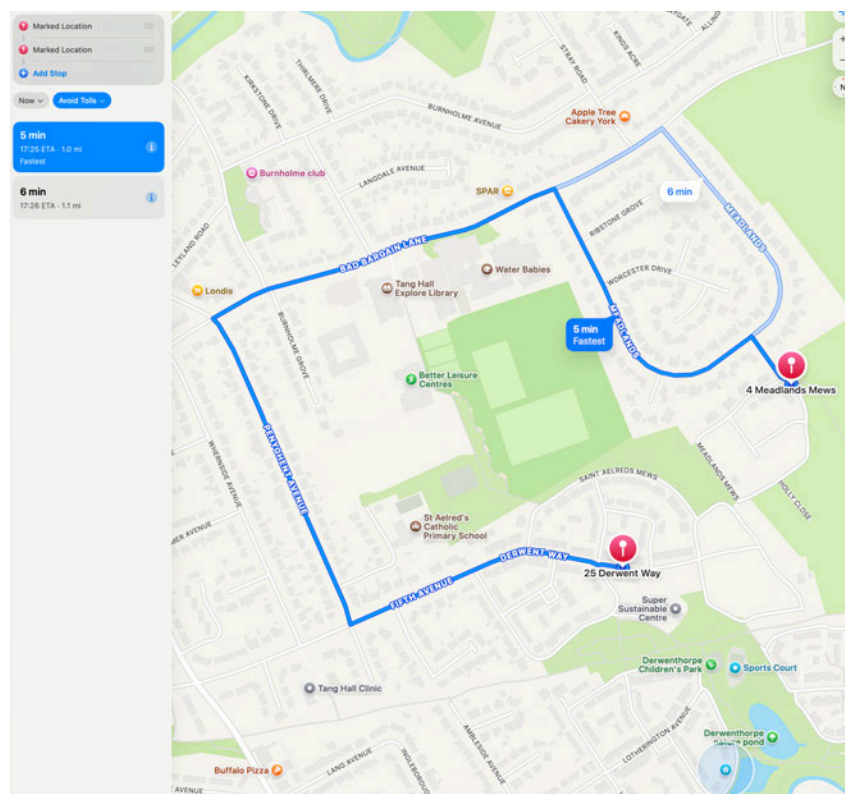
It's "Tang Hall" not "Tanghall". Your map shows it. This screenshot is from the LGBCE website

We're agnostic as to which ward Derwenthorpe should lie in, though I understand that a cross-party meeting of City Councillors agreed that Derwenthorpe should be united in one ward, and preferably included with Tang Hall, as originally proposed by the Labour Party. If that suggestion is followed, then the name "Tang Hall and Derwenthorpe" would be appropriate.

The current proposal does not include enough of Derwenthorpe (less than one-eighth) to justify the use of the word.

Internal Communication Links

Derwenthorpe is designed as a **low-traffic neighbourhood**, with no through routes. The use of road connections as a proxy for accessibility is therefore inappropriate. Indeed, the current proposal does not create "connectedness" at all, because there is no through route between St Aelred's Mews and Meadlands Mews except by driving through the proposed Tang Hall and Derwenthorpe ward.



Driving from Derwent Way to Meadlands Mews requires passing through Tang Hall and Derwenthorpe ward, but makes no sense. It's easier and quicker to walk!

The estate is open and easily walkable, or cyclable with an extensive network of footpaths linking all parts. The estate was deliberately build without through-roads. Derwenthorpe is therefore in four distinct "quarters", which makes it difficult to comply with paragraph 4.64 of your technical guidance *"...This normally means vehicular access by roads...."*

However, the estate is small, and the low-traffic nature means that walking, wheeling, and cycling are easy and pleasant, so we think that **paragraph 4.65** of your guidance document is a more appropriate guide here This is one of those "***occasions, ..., when parts of a community are linked not by vehicular routes but by footpaths, footways, pedestrianised streets,***"

People walk from all parts of the estate to bus stops in the centre of the estate (#25), and on either side of the estate (#6 in Osbaldwick, #11 in Heworth). National Cycle Route 66 passes through the estate, and links us into the city, to Osbaldwick, and Tang Hall. A good footpath links us to the library and gym at Burnholme in Heworth, and it is easy to walk to shops in Tang Hall, Heworth and Osbaldwick. Indeed we were refused a pillar

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box because everyone is within a half-mile walk of existing pillar boxes in those locations!