

York

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Comment text:

Related subject: Derwenthorpe

I believe the proposal to split the Derwenthorpe area of 4-quarters (Lotherington, Derwent, Meadlands Mews, St Aelreds) across three different wards (Tang Hall, Heworth Without, and Osbaldwick) is an inappropriate, inconsiderate and undemocratic idea. Derwenthorpe is a Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust Development and has its own distinct identity, community, issues and interests - something the boundary review process is ostensibly to consider. The current decision makes no recognition of the specific needs of Derwenthorpe and comes across as uninformed, unfair and just plain stupid.

With regards to the specific character of the estate we are a green and open estate with a village-like feel – closer to our current ward of Osbaldwick. The estate is managed by JRHT with residents input and splitting it over three wards would doubtlessly increase administrative burden for JRHT staff. In terms of unique Derwenthorpe issues - we are all served by a single district heating system, we have a dedicated broadband system and TV system provider unique to the estate. All of these would have their networks split between different wards. As the district heating system has suffered chronic challenges, we have had support from our current councillor in trying to resolve issues with the by engaging with JRHT. If the estate is split across 3 wards people in different parts of the same development will have to contact a different councillor, adding confusion and duplication of work. Our roads are still to be adopted by the council, I imagine keeping them in single ward will allow resources to be allocated more efficiently for this.

The proposal to split Derwenthorpe doesn't take into consideration the unique and strong community of the Derwenthorpe estate – we have our own residents association, Governance Group, nature group, landscape strategy, and even our own festival. Dividing Derwenthorpe will likely

increase administrative burden at the council and the residents will have our collective voice weakened by being split between 3 wards. Put simply, this change weakens democracy for residents here. Balancing the number of voters perfectly per ward is a terrible excuse to divide our community.

To be blunt, it is also idiotic that the proposed “Tang Hall and Derwenthorpe” ward will only contains one-quarter of the estate (Lotherington Quarter). This suggests to me that whoever drew the lines on the map has not even been to our estate to look at it – this reeks of a colonial mindset, and that those in the LGBCE office in London “know better” than the people in Derwenthorpe.

It is my strong belief that Derwenthorpe should be preserved in single ward, and it makes the most sense to keep us with the current one – namely, Osbalwick.

Attached Documents:

None attached