

York

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Heslington

Dear City of York Council, I am writing to formally object to the proposed plans to establish a new Heslington and University ward, along with any associated expansion developments in the area. These proposals pose a direct threat to the distinct identity, heritage, and environment of Heslington Village, and will irrevocably damage this historic community. Having lived in Heslington as a child and attended Fulford School myself, I have a deep lifelong connection to this area. Through years of hard work and determination, I have managed to move to the very village I grew up in to raise my own family. To see this community altered so drastically would be utterly heartbreaking, as it represents a shift toward serving the commercial and business needs of the University over the genuine needs of the long-standing village community. Merging the village boundaries into a combined ward threatens to swallow Heslington into an urbanised university sprawl, erasing its centuries-old character as a rural village with a designated Conservation Area. Furthermore, developing these areas will generate an unacceptable volume of traffic on rural lanes. Without strict conditions preventing access, the village will become a primary thoroughfare for pedestrian, cycle, and vehicular traffic between campuses, creating dangerous congestion and noise pollution. Crucially, this boundary restructuring threatens the vital educational pathway that anchors our community and shaped my own youth. Lord Deramore's Primary School has traditionally acted as a vital feeder school for Fulford School, a historical relationship that heavily influenced my family's determination to relocate back here. Separating Heslington from its natural community links and drawing it into a ward associated with Archbishop Holgate's School poses a direct threat to this established educational continuity. Such a shift risks fracturing our local school catchment identity, altering future school transport priorities, and disrupting the generational continuity between our local primary and secondary education providers. The proposed developments also threaten high-quality agricultural land and vital green buffers, directly contradicting the established Heslington Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan which requires the preservation of this land. Local roads and existing amenities simply cannot support the surge in population and commuter traffic, placing an

unsustainable burden on local services, parking, and existing road networks. Finally, integrating mass student or general residential development directly into the village framework disrupts the demographic balance, threatening to displace long-term residents and destroy the mixed-age family community. For these reasons, I urge the City of York Council to reject the current boundary proposals and expansion plans, and to respect the protected status of the Heslington Green Belt, its Conservation Area, and its established school community ties. I look forward to your acknowledgement of this objection and hope that the Council will reconsider strategies that protect the future of Heslington Village.

Attached Documents:

None attached