

York

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Heworth Without

Your maps are remarkably unclear. Zooming simply changed what was unclear and left it still difficult to make out our small area exactly. The impact of that is that earlier in the consultation I failed to realise that our address was projected to change wards.

If Heworth Without (our current ward) is below par, it seems irrational to hive off an existing area. If Heworth is even further below par it would be interesting to know how far you considered contracting it to reduce it to two councillors.

One issue isn't reflected in your report. The three Heworth councillors cover a densely populated but compact geographic area. Easy for the three of them to carve up their territory to give small areas personal attention. Heworth Without is sprawling: our lone councillor must use a lot of shoe leather to case it – which the current incumbent does conscientiously. The new boundaries appear to sprawl Heworth Without even further, while our estate is out on a limb from Heworth..

It seems bizarre that the proposal cuts across parish boundaries to the extent that the vicarage of Christ Church will be in a different ward from the church, just a couple of minutes' walk away.

It will likewise feel bizarre that when Christ Church hall presumably remains a polling station for Heworth Without, Greenfield Park voters who have hitherto just popped round the corner to vote will have a twenty to thirty minute walk to the nearest Heworth polling station – or for older residents more likely drive to an area that's very low on parking space.

The concept of community has been overridden – our area has absolutely no social, economic or even infrastructural link to the sector of Heworth Ward on the opposite side of Malton Road. There is no direct bus link and it's a convoluted journey across an arterial road and dodging round cul-de-sacs and no-through-roads to get into it by car..

Looking at the overall effects, anything that increases the number of councillors strikes me as a bad idea.

A cynic might wonder whether the political input has included the hope of fragmenting the voting of Heworth Without and unseating a conscientious ward councillor who has not been popular with the main parties.

For future reference, when things are going to be done on line, they need to be formatted for ease of use on line – which means read easily without unnecessary zooming and scrolling. Preparing documents to be read as hard copy then scanning them is not helpful.

Attached Documents:

None attached