

York

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to express my concern regarding the newly proposed boundary marker for the current Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward in York.

Essentially, this proposal gathers up a key part of historical Dringhouses and drops it arbitrarily into the Westfield Ward. More specifically, it annexes the assuredly Dringhouses area of Northfield Terrace and Railway View.

Northfield Terrace and Railway View are two terraces that are (quirkily) situated on the same street, facing each other, with Northfield Terrace the elder, its construction beginning in 1870. Northfield Terrace/Railway View lie behind the railway line (which has been chosen as the potential boundary marker for the newly organised Wards) and adjacent to Hob Moor. The street also leads into North Lane, which until the rerouting of the railway line, led directly to Tadcaster Road. Northfield Terrace and Railway View include dozens of old Dringhouses properties including the relocated Turf Tavern, the old Dringhouses post-office, the old Dringhouses grocery store plus a house that is architecturally distinctive due to its Victorian coal lorry hatch. It also has a number of original walls and original road cobbles. All of this gives it a very distinctive appearance that links to old Victorian/Edwardian Dringhouses and places it centrally in the area's history. The houses in these terraces were built between 110-140 years ago, and have no connection with the outlying world of Westfield, an estate of 1960s semis with a high amount of social housing. I know nobody here who would view the community centres and offerings of Westfield as part of their community.

Two books have been written on the history of Dringhouses by the Dringhouses History Group, and in the second publication (2011) there is a

separate chapter on Northfield Terrace and Railway View, situating them as a key part of the Dringhouses Ward. There are no other streets in these Dringhouses' histories with their own chapter, which I think is telling. However it seems that many may still be unaware of this little street of Victorian houses hence my contribution here.

I suggest that the proposal is redrafted to include the street that is Northfield Terrace/Railway View thus saving its history as an important part of the Dringhouses story. Cleaving this area from its past in order to fit with a fairly arbitrary marker (the railway line) when the boundary could easily become St Helen's Road (another major boundary and literally at the end of the street in question) seems a strange and disheartening decision when a sense of continuity and place is stressed by the council as 'of importance'.

In the second history of Dringhouses, University of York (Borthwick Institute) Archivist, Chris Webb stresses this:

'...small unnoticed local places link out to larger places and wider themes, but at the same time have an identity all of their own that cannot be confused with other small places' (p.vii).

I second his comment heartily and hope that you too will take it on board. It seems that Northfield Terrace and Railway View have been overlooked during this consultation and am keen that this is righted. We are our history and we are our community. The continuity of that heritage MATTERS.

Thankyou for your time and consideration,

[REDACTED]

Attached Documents:

None attached