

York

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the proposed changes to the Heworth Without ward, as part of a review of City of York Council ward boundaries.

I am submitting these views as a resident of Woodville Court, a relatively new development at the end of Greenfield Park Drive, completed in 2021, and also as a trustee of the Stockton Lane Pre-School, a charity based at Heworth Christ Church providing pre-school childcare in the local area. A vast number of the children that have enjoyed their time with us go on to school at Hempland, often with friends they made at our pre-school. I am also writing this as a parent, who sincerely hopes that our little boy will do the same.

Under the proposals, the area around Greenfield Park Drive, Woodlands Grove, Elm Park and nearby streets would be removed from Heworth Without ward and placed in Heworth ward.

Our local ward councillor Nigel Ayre, many local residents, parents whose children attend our pre-school and I strongly believe this area should remain part of Heworth Without ward.

This community has long formed part of the Heworth Without area.

It was developed as a distinct area in the 1960s when the streets around Woodlands Grove, Straylands Grove, Elm Park Way and Greenfield

Park Drive were constructed alongside new homes in Ashley Park. This joint expansion led to the creation of new community facilities at Christ Church (where our pre-school is based) and Hempland School, permanently tying the communities together. This was confirmed in 1998 with the creation of Heworth Without ecclesiastic parish, drawn around the current ward boundaries.

There are several important reasons I believe that the Boundary Commission should consider:

- The local church (Christ Church) and Hempland School (where many of the pre-school children go on to attend) were both built in the 1960's to serve the communities around Ashley Park, Greenfield Park Drive and Woodlands Grove; these proposals would split up areas that have shared the same community facilities for decades.
- Heworth Without was distinctly split in 1998 when the Heworth Without parish was created around Christ Church, separating from the Heworth Holy Trinity parish. This is a clear division between the two communities and reflects Heworth ward which faces to East Parade, and Heworth Without which faces to Ashley Park.
- Monk Stray has long been a clear boundary between different communities; the current plans would split Monk Stray across two wards for no good reason.
- The Council's school catchment boundaries clearly reflect the distinction in communities in Heworth which face towards East Parade and Heworth School, and those in Heworth Without that face towards Hempland School.
- As part of the Hempland School catchment area, the area is distinctly linked to facilities in Heworth Without, namely Heworth Without Community Centre and Stray Road park. These are the facilities families use before and after school, and at weekends.
- People across the area use the same transport links, especially the Coastliner bus service along Stockton Lane, which connects naturally through Heworth Without and not Heworth. Perversely, residents of the Greenfield Park Drive area would need to cross a ward boundary to reach their local bus stop!
- The current proposal would place these streets in a ward that stretches across Bell Farm and towards Layerthorpe. Residents in Greenfield Park Drive, Woodlands Grove and Elm Park look towards the wider Heworth Without community for local facilities, schools, transport links and community activities. They simply do not share the same day-to-day community connections as areas like Bell Farm and towards Layerthorpe. Monk Stray creates a district boundary between communities at this location. Heworth Ward has direct connections only through Muncastergate/Bell Farm/Dodsworth Avenue.

Ward boundaries should reflect real communities and long-standing local identities wherever possible; I strongly do not believe these proposals achieve that; as such this area should be kept within the Heworth Without ward.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Attached Documents:

None attached