

North Yorkshire

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Comment text:

Related subject: Tadcaster, Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton, and Ouseburn divisions

In summary, Tadcaster Town Council wishes to object to the village of Stutton being removed from the Tadcaster division, as it has a long-standing historical connection with the town, and most of its residents use services, shops, and schools in the town, while having little connection with the Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton division.

We would also like to suggest that the proposed boundary between the Tadcaster and Ouseburn divisions on Wighill Lane is moved roughly a quarter-mile to the north-west, thereby allowing the Tadcaster division to encompass the entire town; at present, about 13 properties on Wighill Lane would be in the Ouseburn ward.

A fuller discussion of the Town Council's position is outlined in the attached Word document.

Attached Documents:

- boundary-review-reply.docx

Tadcaster Town Council would like to strongly recommend that the parish of Stutton remains grouped within Tadcaster's North Yorkshire Council division. Historically, this parish has been part of the Tadcaster division of North Yorkshire County Council, and the heavy majority of residents of Stutton use shops, services, and schools within the town of Tadcaster. The village is connected with the Appleton Roebuck & Church Fenton division only inasmuch as both areas are south of the A64, and we do not feel it is prudent to use the road as an arbitrary dividing line in this instance.

Additionally, we would like to state our objections to having properties within the town of Tadcaster included in the Ouseburn division. At present, there are 13 addresses on Wighill Lane which fall within the town limits of Tadcaster, but are considered part of the Healaugh parish; this thereby causes them to fall within the current Appleton Roebuck & Church Fenton division of North Yorkshire Council, and the proposed redrawn boundaries of the Ouseburn division. This parish boundary has traditionally caused confusion over which North Yorkshire councillor and which town or parish council is responsible for issues on this stretch of road. Additionally, residents of these homes are forced to travel to Healaugh, a round trip of approximately 9 miles that takes them through the Wighill parish, in order to vote in elections; this journey is additionally not served by any sort of regular bus service. If these residents were part of the Tadcaster division their nearest polling station would be Rosemary House – a round trip that at most would amount to about 0.8 miles, and can be made on-foot. Finally, Ouseburn is a division that consists primarily of former Harrogate Borough Council areas, and we feel it would not be appropriate to include part of Tadcaster in such a division.

We would therefore like to suggest that the proposed divisional boundary on Wighill Lane is moved approximately a quarter-mile to the north-west (see Figure 1). The moving of between around 20 and 30 electors out of the proposed new Ouseburn boundary into Tadcaster would not have an adverse effect on the workload of the North Yorkshire councillor for Tadcaster. It should in fact ease their workload slightly, as it will save them having to direct residents who live in this part of Tadcaster to the county councillor for Ouseburn, also allowing issues to be dealt with more promptly. We feel that if this boundary review is prepared to recommend that the parish and county boundaries at the intersection of the Tadcaster and Stutton parishes are no longer consistent, it would be prudent to apply the same principle to the intersection of Tadcaster and Healaugh, and therefore leave every resident of the town of Tadcaster unambiguously within the county division.

As a possible alternative, the boundary review may wish to consider moving the entire Healaugh parish into Tadcaster's county division. Much like Stutton, its residents typically use Tadcaster as their main service town, and we feel Healaugh has a far stronger historical connection with Tadcaster than Ouseburn. Including the part that is within the town limits of Tadcaster, Healaugh parish has only around 160 electors (the removal of Stutton village would deduct 370 electors from the Tadcaster division), and its addition to Tadcaster and removal from Ouseburn would have only a minor impact on the overall numbers of either division.

For similar reasons, should Stutton remain grouped together with Tadcaster, we would like to suggest that the boundary between these two divisions north of Mill Lane, Stutton is expanded east to meet the A162 (see Figure 2), and thereby encompass Little Grimston Cottages. The residents of these properties generally see themselves as part of and regularly use facilities in Tadcaster and/or Stutton, and thereby we feel it makes sense for them to be included in the county division.

Figure 1 – Wighill Lane

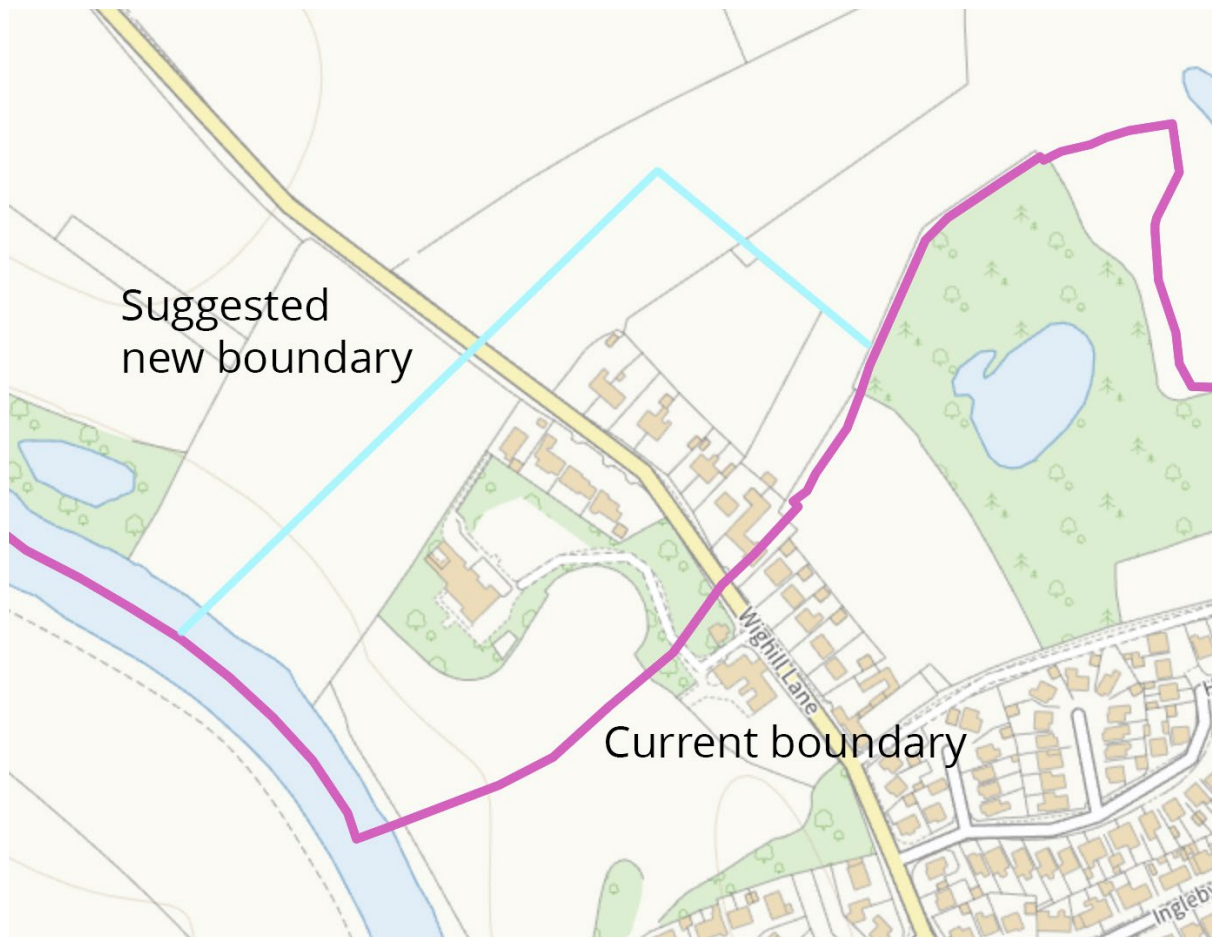


Figure 2 – Little Grimston Cottages

