

North Yorkshire

Personal Details:

Name: Mrs Gillian Kitchen

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Stutton cum Hazlewood Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Tadcaster

Electoral Review of North Yorkshire

Draft Recommendations – Submission from Stutton cum Hazlewood Parish Council

On behalf of Stutton cum Hazlewood (ScH) Parish Council, and following consultation with residents and discussion at a Parish Council meeting, I wish to submit the following comments in response to the draft recommendations published by the Local Government Boundary Commission.

Your consultation materials invite feedback on three key questions:

Do the proposed divisions reflect local communities?

How could the proposals be improved?

Are the names of the proposed divisions appropriate?

In summary, the proposed electoral divisions do not reflect the identity or cohesion of the Stutton cum Hazlewood community. The proposals disregard the natural social and functional alignment of the Parish with the town of Tadcaster, and instead impose a division that is arbitrary and disruptive. While the naming of divisions is of lesser concern to our residents, the preservation of community integrity and effective governance is paramount.

Below, we address the key criteria outlined in your summary report:

1. Electoral Equality

Whilst numerical equality is important, it must not come at the expense of community identity. The proposed changes would sever the Parish's long-standing connection with Tadcaster, a town with which our residents share strong social, economic, and civic ties. There is no comparable relationship with Appleton Roebuck. The proposed division would isolate approximately 400 electors from their natural community hub, undermining their sense of representation and belonging.

2. Community Interests and Identities

The interests of Stutton cum Hazlewood residents are overwhelmingly focused on Tadcaster. This includes:

Education: Local children attend schools in Tadcaster.

Healthcare: Medical services are accessed in Tadcaster.

Leisure and Retail: Residents shop, socialise, and participate in community life in Tadcaster.

Dividing the Parish along the A64 - a relatively recent and artificial boundary—ignores these established patterns and risks disenfranchising half of our community.

3. Strong, Identifiable Boundaries

A more appropriate and historically grounded boundary would follow the A162 and Cock Beck. This would preserve the unity of the Parish and maintain its natural orientation towards Tadcaster.

4. Effective and Convenient Local Government

The proposed division would significantly hinder the Parish Council's ability to function effectively. Stutton cum Hazlewood has a long-standing and productive relationship with Tadcaster Town Council, particularly in areas such as:

Community support (notably during the COVID-19 pandemic)

Road safety and traffic initiatives

Crime prevention

Shared management of Tadcaster Cemetery

These collaborations have delivered tangible benefits to residents. Splitting the Parish would disrupt these partnerships and reduce the effectiveness of local governance.

5. Additional Considerations

Transport Links: All public transport from the Parish is directed towards Tadcaster. The current minimal bus service is sustained through

cooperation with Tadcaster. The proposed changes jeopardise this vital link, especially for residents who would fall outside the new Tadcaster boundary.

Community Groups and Facilities: Social, sporting, and age-specific groups accessed by our residents are based in Tadcaster. There is no equivalent engagement with Appleton Roebuck.

Resident Feedback: Consultation with affected residents revealed unanimous identification with Tadcaster and no perceived connection to Appleton Roebuck. The proposed changes are viewed as illogical and detrimental.

Conclusion

We urge the Commission to reconsider the proposed division of Stutton cum Hazlewood Parish. Maintaining the Parish as a single entity, aligned with Tadcaster, better reflects community identity, supports effective governance, and respects the lived realities of our residents.

We hope these comments will be taken into full consideration in the final recommendations.

Attached Documents:

- electoral-review-1.0.rtf

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