

North Yorkshire

Personal Details:

Name: Mr David Bowgett

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Tadcaster Town Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Selby District

Please see attached Word document.

Attached Documents:

- boundary-review-reply-june-2025.docx

Tadcaster Town Council would like to re-state in the strongest possible terms its belief that the decision to split the Stutton parish into two wards is not an appropriate step. We appreciate that there have been issues achieving a correct electoral balance for the Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton ward due to its having York and Leeds councils respectively on its east and west borders, and the opposition of Sherburn Town Council to the south, but Stutton Parish Council have voiced to us their concerns about being placed in a ward which they have little-to-no historical connection. We would like to point out once again that most Stutton residents use the facilities in Tadcaster, including the town's supermarket, doctors' surgery, dentists, and schools, giving them a far stronger local connection to Tadcaster than any of the villages in the Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton ward.

We additionally note that the projected electorate numbers for 2030 for both the proposed new Tadcaster and Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton divisions are based on the assumption that the electorate in both areas will increase by a very similar amount over the next five years, namely by around 250 voters each. We feel that this is flawed reasoning which does not take into consideration the realities of new house building in both areas.

The projected 2030 electorate for Tadcaster is 5,972, a number which would require the construction of around 150-200 new houses in the division within the next five years. However, Tadcaster is an area which has historically seen very little house building in the past 30+ years due to a combination of land ownership issues and green belt boundaries, with only around two dozen new builds in the past fifteen years (most of which have been achieved by building on disused commercial sites, or by demolishing a larger property and building several smaller ones on the site). Consequently, its electorate has increased at a far lower rate than other comparable areas of the Selby district.

By contrast, Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton has seen a much greater rate of housing development, particularly in the areas around Leeds East Airport, a trend which is only likely to accelerate further due to the discontinuation of the Selby District Local Plan since the previous round of consultations in this boundary review, as well as the area being very much in-demand due to its easy access to York and Leeds, and the widespread availability of brownfield sites in the area.

With these factors in mind, we would like to present three options for the consideration of this boundary review:

Option One

This option is the one which has been proposed by the boundary review, namely a division consisting of the Tadcaster, Newton Kyme cum Toulston, Wighill, and Healaugh parishes in their entirety, plus the proposed Stutton North ward of Stutton with Hazlewood Parish council. While we have no fundamental objections to including the entirety of the Healaugh and/or Wighill parishes in the division, for the reasons already

outlined earlier in this document, this option is likely to be an unpopular one with residents of Stutton Village.

Option Two

This option would consist of the Tadcaster, Newton Kyme cum Toulston, Wighill, Healaugh, and Stutton with Hazlewood parishes in their entirety, all of which are parishes that connect to form a strong local identity, and all of which use Tadcaster as their main service town. We accept that this would create a relatively highly-populated Tadcaster division and an Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton division that at least initially is notably below the average electorate; however, given historical house-building trends we believe that this issue would correct itself over the next decade as Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton experiences increasing numbers of new houses.

Option Three

In this option, the present boundaries of the Tadcaster division would remain largely the same, consisting of the Tadcaster, Newton Kyme cum Toulston, and Stutton with Hazlewood parishes. In addition to this, it would also include the houses on Wighill Lane in Tadcaster that are currently part of the Healaugh Parish, which would be split into a new ward of Healaugh Parish Council named Healaugh South, represented by a single parish councillor. The remainder of the present Healaugh Parish would therefore become a new ward named Healaugh North, represented by four parish councillors. The Healaugh North ward, along with the entirety of the Wighill parish, would then become part of the Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton division. We believe that this option would simultaneously achieve the goals of ensuring an acceptable level of representation for Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton, keeping the village of Stutton grouped with Tadcaster as has historically been the case, and ensuring that the Tadcaster division is coterminous with the town boundaries.