

# North Yorkshire

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mrs Kirsty Poskitt  
**Email:** [REDACTED]  
**Postcode:** [REDACTED]  
**Organisation Name:** (District or county councillor)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Stutton Cum Hazlewood

I would like to share my views on the proposed boundary change for the ward of Stutton Cum Hazlewood (please note that it states "Sutton" in much of the document)

As NYC Member for the Tadcaster Ward, I strongly disagree with the removal of Stutton Parish from the Tadcaster Ward to the Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton division.

There are a number of reasons for this but as a local councillor, resident and employee in this area I feel I am well placed to give a broad picture as to why I do not believe this is the right solution for this ward. I was born in Tadcaster, my first job at the age of 14 was waitressing at the village pub in Stutton. My children went to nursery in Stutton. I now work as a Youth Worker in Tadcaster and we work closely with many of the young people from Stutton Village. My relationship is not unique and is reflective of many residents in both places.

Stutton has, historically, always had a strong relationship with Tadcaster, as its closest neighbour and service town. The two communities, whilst retaining their own identity, have always worked together. There are shared assets between the Parish Council and the Town Council in form of Tadcaster Cemetery and as has already been stated the north part of Stutton very much identifies themselves as part of Tadcaster.

The report talks about "good electoral equality" and how that is achieved. For electoral equality I would recommend that the boundaries are reflective of natural relationships that villages have with their nearest service towns (as is referred to in the suggested inclusion of Wighill and Healaugh) It must also be important to understand the socio economic make up of these areas. To keep that equality, I strongly believe that rural

areas must keep their links with their Service towns. Putting Stutton in the Appleton Roebuck and Church Fenton Ward does nothing to increase equality, but instead creates just one very rural ward, there is a danger of creating a political bias by putting rural villages in one ward.

Stutton Parish Council has always had a very strong relationship with Tadcaster Town Council, supporting each other not only with governance but with funding, events and community support. The elected members for North Yorkshire Council have always been from Tadcaster and have served Stutton parish well, that shared understanding of community and identity being vital.

I know that Stutton Parish council have made their own plea to re-consider this change and as friend and neighbour I stand with them. Tadcaster Town Council has also shared their support in keeping the Parish of Stutton with Tadcaster. I urge the board to please listen to and hear the opinions of all of those who live and work in these areas. Electoral Equality is important, but it cannot come at the cost of the identity and community cohesion these two places have.

Thank you

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*