

# North Yorkshire

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Organisation Name: Whitby Town Council (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Former Scarborough Borough Council area

I submit the same recommendations to correct the two mapping anomalies at: Spring Vale Whitby, and Delwath Plantation Fylingdales.

## Attached Documents:

- reviewjghdraft.doc

## Local Government Boundary Review of North Yorkshire Council.



### Summary

I believe that the Boundary Commission's draft proposals for county electoral divisions covering Whitby, Esk valley and coast are a good fit for the town and surrounding area within the rules the Commission is required to follow, and recommend that they be adopted, with the following adjustments:

- 51,53,55 Spring Vale, Whitby be including in the Whitby Streonshalh division along with the rest of Spring Vale
- Delwath Plantation be included in the Esk Valley & Coast division with the rest of Fylingdales Parish

When discussing the draft recommendations with colleagues, a couple of anomalies were pointed out to me. I initially thought these may have been mapping artifacts due to the resolution of the mapping being used. I could not zoom in to high detail on the online mapping tool, until I used a smart phone instead of a desktop PC.

When I found these I examined all the boundaries in the Scarborough and Whitby area at a property-level zoom level to check for any anomalies. I found two: Spring Vale in Whitby and Delwath Plantation on the A171. I will address each of these in my commentary.

### Whitby and Esk Valley

The draft recommendations ensure that Whitby is covered by a whole number of county divisions, and minimises the changes from the current divisions where there is no evidence that significant change is needed. They have a clear set of boundaries on the ground and as such will make for effective and efficient local government administration. As such they are a better fit for the town than alternative models proposed.

The draft proposals recognise Whitby's distinct identity within the greater Whitby district, the Esk Valley basin, with minimal knock-on effects to surrounding divisions. I believe that Whitby having a whole number of county councillors with no county division overlapping outside the Town Council area addresses the criteria of *Interests and Identities of Local Communities* and *Effective and Convenient Local Government*, and the proposed boundaries *achieve electoral equality*, and *follow lines clearly distinct on the ground*.

When examining the proposals at property-level detail it reveals that three properties on Spring Vale are included in Whitby West instead of in Whitby Streonshalh along with the rest of Spring Vale. 55 Spring Vale and 2 & 2A Byland Road are built on former railway land that has formed an electoral boundary since the 1890s. Previously 2 and 2A Byland Road were anomalously included in Whitby Streonshalh instead of Whitby Mayfield along with the rest of Byland Road. In correcting this anomaly, an opposite anomaly has been created with 51 to 55 Spring Vale.

As shown in Map 1, I recommend that all of Spring Vale be included in the same division. This would address the criteria of *Interests and Identities of Local Communities* and *Effective and Convenient Local Government* having the whole road in the same division and *follow lines clearly distinct on the ground* by not having the last three houses in a different division. On the 2025 register this would result in the transfer of 2 electors, and so satisfies the criteria to *achieve electoral equality*.

### Delwath Plantation

As with Spring Vale, I initially thought this was simply a mapping artifact due to the scale of the maps in the recommendations.

On zooming in to high detail Delwath Plantation is included in Scalby & Derwent division. However, Delwath Plantation is a detached part of Fylingdales Parish, which is included in Esk Valley & The Coast division. I recommend that the detached part of Fylingdales Parish be included in Esk Valley & The Coast along with the rest of Fylingdales Parish.

If Delwath Plantation were to be included in Scalby & Derwent division, a separate polling district would have to be created for it. It would be in Fylingdales Parish, but Scalby & Derwent division. If there was a parish election in Fylingdales but no parish election in Harwood Dale, it would have to be in a register for Fylingdales. If there was a division election in Scalby & Derwent but not in Esk Valley & Coast it would have to be in a register with Scalby & Derwent.

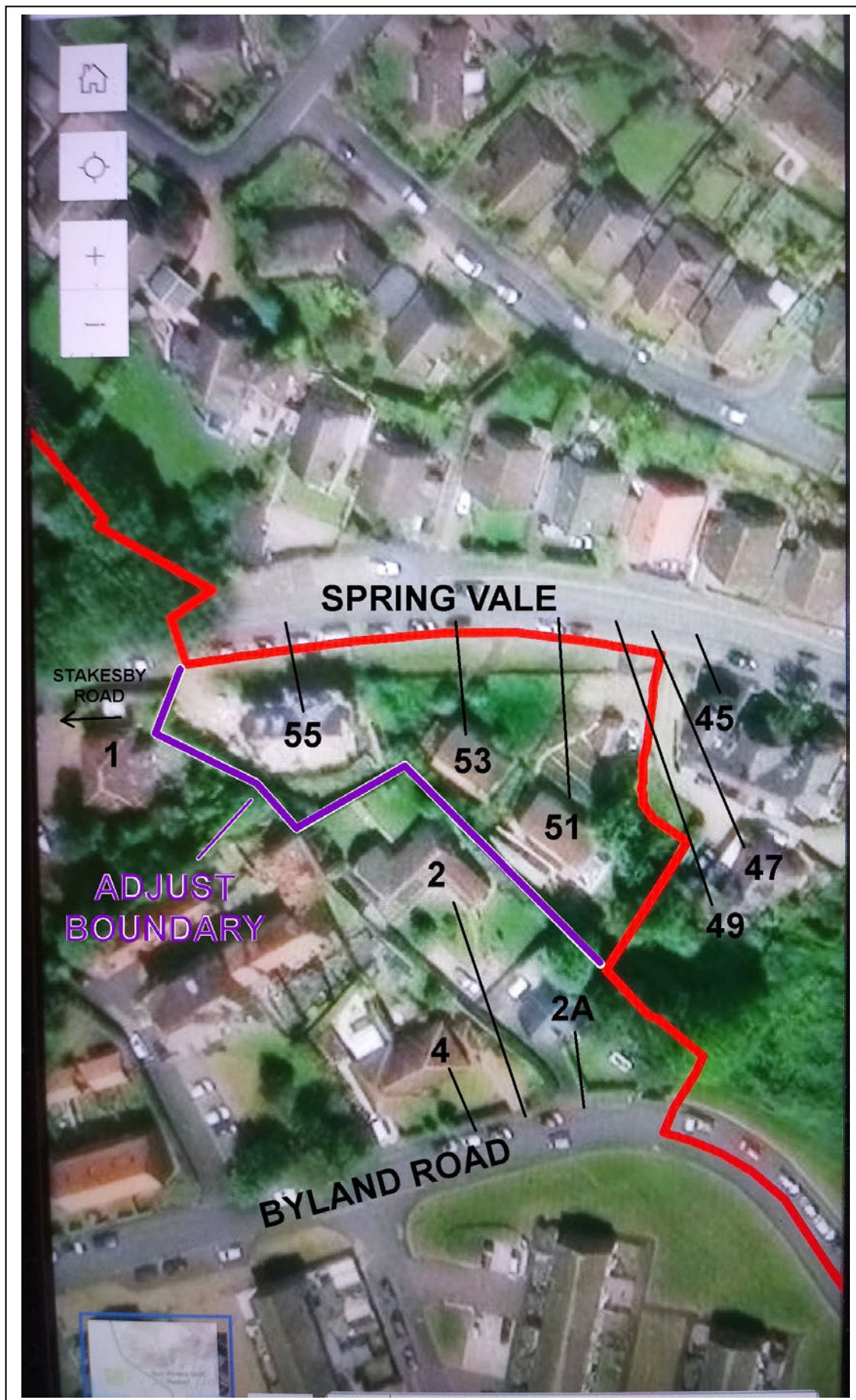
This would require a polling district for the area, and a polling district currently with zero electors.

For *Convenient Local Government* the detached part of Fylingdales Parish at Delwath Plantation should be included in Esk Valley & The Coast division along with the rest of Fylingdales Parish, as shown in Map 2.

### About the author

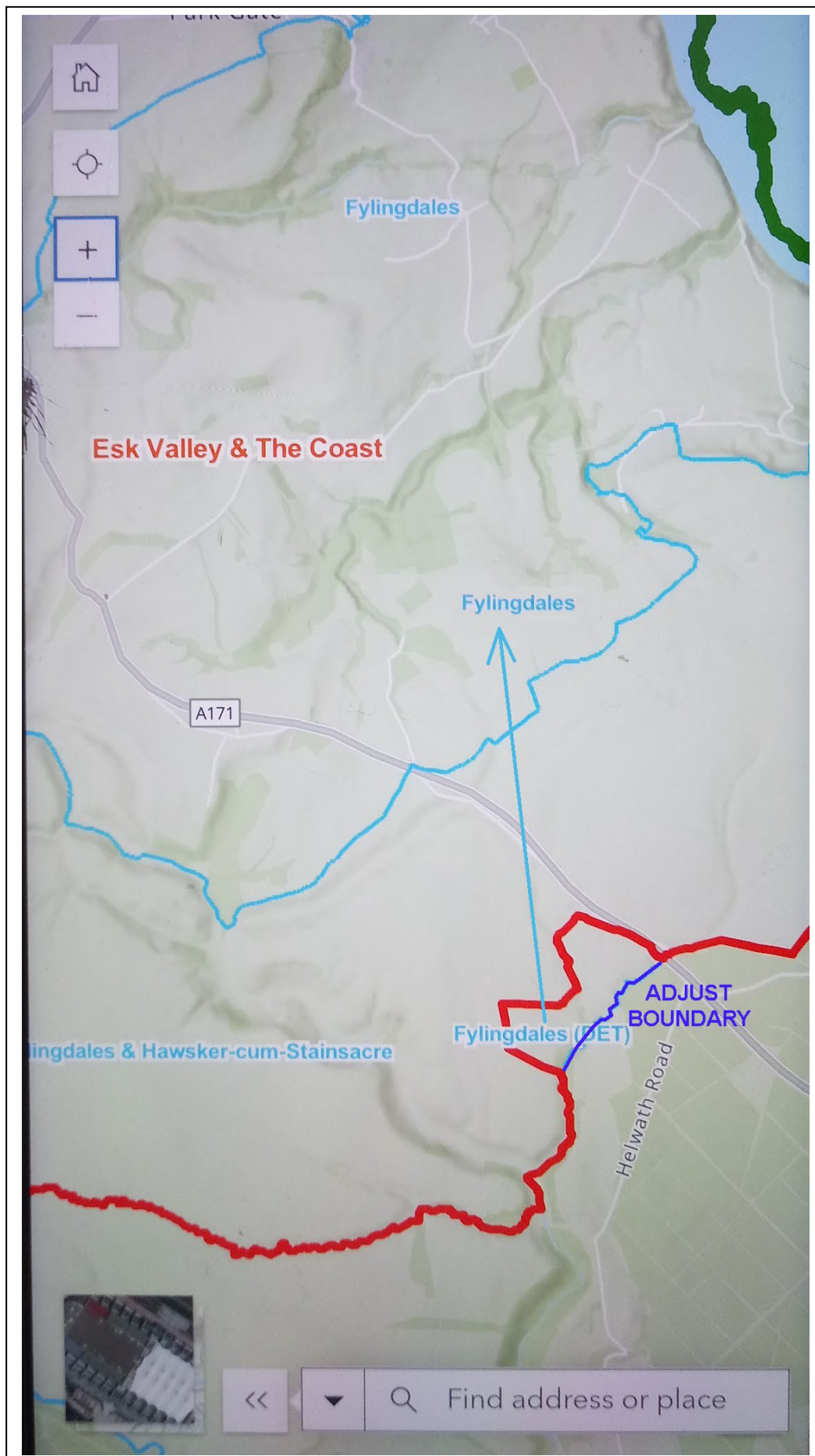
I am a member of Whitby Town Council, and previously a member of Sheffield City Council. I have long had an interest and practice in mapping and electoral geography. I have submitted recommendations on boundaries in reviews of Sheffield City Council for 2004 and 2016, and the parliamentary review covering Sheffield in 2005, and for Yorkshire in both the aborted and the implemented parliamentary reviews covering Yorkshire, and the 2019 review of Scarborough Borough Council, as well as the previous stages of this review.

I prepared the report for Whitby Town Council to agree to submit as their representation. I am submitting this as my personal representation, which include those representations I have recommended to the Town Council, most of which have been discussed between members.



MAP 1 – SPRING VALE





MAP 2 – HELWATH PLANTATION