Boundary Submission; Sheffield Liberal Democrats

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1 Introduction

Reference will be made to public transport routes; these are considered to be both uniting features of a community and factors in the efficient operation of effective and convenient local government (in that for example it will be easier for residents to travel to councillors' surgeries if a ward is well connected by public transport). It is also a direction of travel for policy that car dependency should not be assumed or encouraged.

Reference will also be made to Church of England parishes. Parish churches are often used as polling stations and there is some logic to congregants voting at their own parish church rather than another one. But more importantly churches are well used by a myriad of community groups and activities beyond the immediate congregations, so there is some value in reflecting these parishes in our warding patterns. School catchments are also referred to for similar reasons.

Where it is proposed to move roads and groups of roads into other wards, estimated numbers may be given based on the current register as we don't have a 2032 prediction with this granularity.

We recognise a significant pattern on current boundaries of overrepresentation in the south and east of the city and underrepresentation in the west, centre and parts of the north. We

believe this amplifies the harm due to the electoral inequality of individual wards, as neighbouring wards will often have interests that align. Taking this into account we have developed proposals that remedy this large scale imbalance.

We have mostly attempted to stay within 2% of the quota in order to better meet the electoral equality principle and to allow greater scope for changes to be made to individual boundaries in response to the second round consultation.

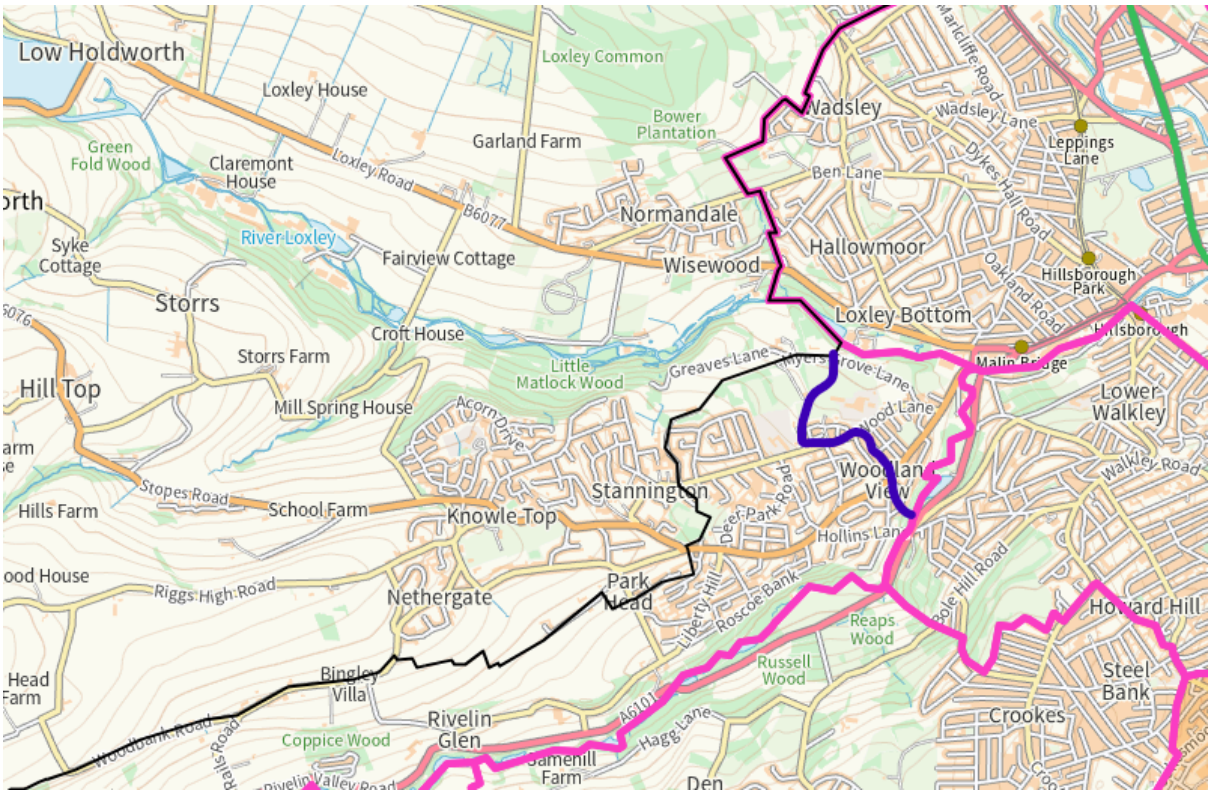
2 Stocksbridge and Upper Don

This ward is oversize by 6% (936). The only way to come closer to the quota would be to split the Oughtibridge community between 2 or more wards and this runs starkly contrary to the principle of keeping communities together.

It would be possible to make small reductions in numbers by moving some of the rural area to the west of Oughtibridge into Stannington Ward. We are less opposed in principle to this but it would seem to detach these rural communities from their more immediate wider communities, for very little mathematical improvement.

We therefore propose no change to Stocksbridge and Upper Don

3 Stannington



This ward is oversize by 5% (779).

The boundary to the south with Fulwood is very well defined excepting a few rural residences that might easily be in either ward. The current boundary seems to largely reflect both the natural barrier of the Rivelin Valley and the Church of England parishes of Christchurch Stannington in Stannington, and St Luke's Lodge Moor in Fulwood and St Columba's Crosspool in Crookes and Crosspool. Stannington is served by the 61,62,81 and 82 buses and the north of Fulwood ward by the 51 bus. We therefore propose no change to this boundary.

The southern boundary of Stannington with Crookes and Walkley wards remains well defined as we go east to Malin Bridge for much the same reasons, but perhaps becoming weaker than before with more built up area on Walkley Bank, and Malin Bridge (eg the tram stop) becoming a focal point on both sides of the valley.

The northern border with Stocksbridge and Upper Don considered in section 2, assumed not to be moving. The Eastern border north of Malin Bridge is also the border of Bradfield Parish Council and at one point also the border of Ecclesfield Parish Council; these should not be touched. This leaves the eastern border with Hillsborough at Malin Bridge to be the point of flexibility.

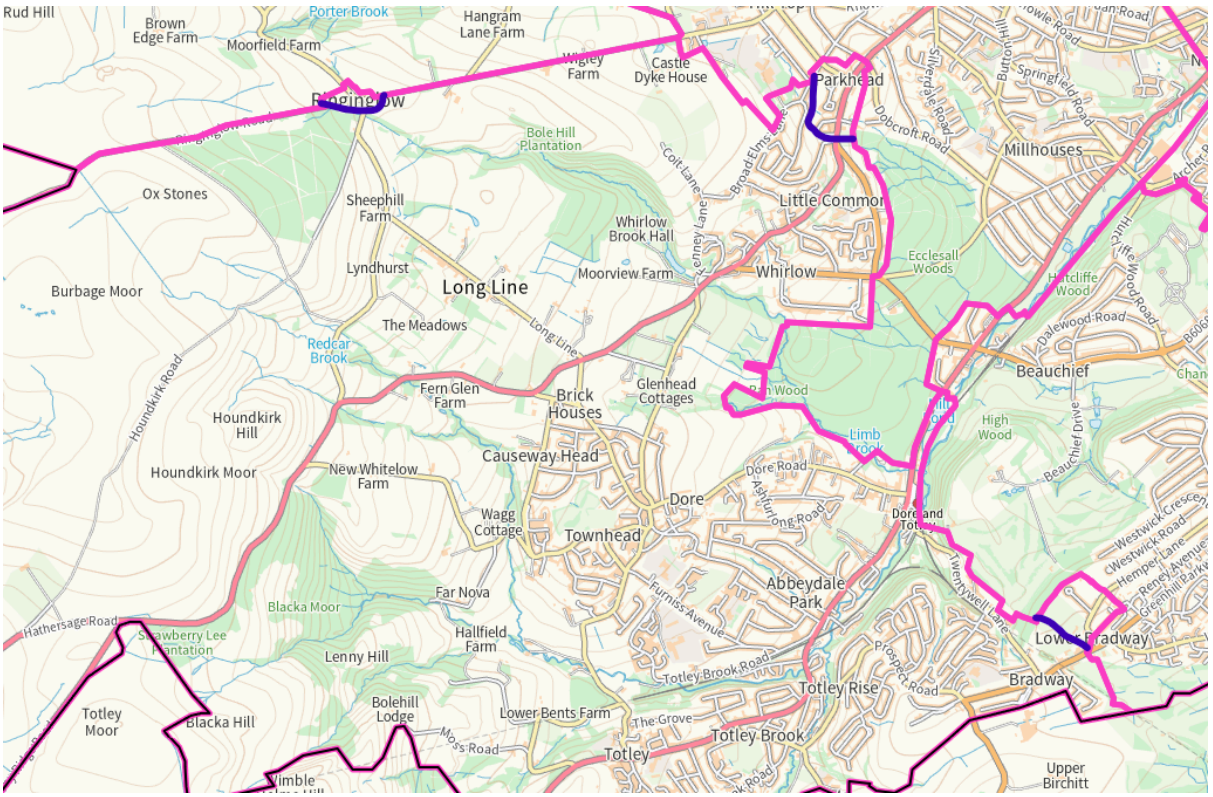
We propose to transfer the part of XE that is in the Church of England parish of St Polcyarp, Malin Bridge (855) This comprises
The eastern detached section of Myers Grove Lane
About half of the section of Wood Lane in the polling district
Chapman Close
Barlow Road and roads to the northeast
Stannington Road in XE
Low Road, Ivanhoe Road and Middle Lane.

A few houses on one side of Rivelin Park Road in XH are also in the parish of St Polycarp but we suggest keeping those with their neighbours opposite.

This is also consistent with how the lower end of Loxley Road is already treated, being attached to Malin Bridge rather than rural Stannington.

Variance -76, less than 1%

4 Dore and Totley



The interconnected communities of Dore, Totley and Bradway form a very natural basis for any ward in the South West corner of Sheffield. Whirlow is a reasonable addition and much better than breaking up Greenhill; at the last review the last part of Whirlow was added as was the area in Parkhead.

The ward represents the Church of England parishes of Dore (except where that extends into Derbyshire), All Saints, Totley, part of Abbeydale and Millhouses, and a little of St Peter, Greenhill.

It covers the primary school catchments of Dore, Totley, Bradway, part of Dobcroft and a few houses in Greenhill (which we propose to remove)

It is served by the 25,81,97 and 98 buses, and connected, Bradway to Totley and Dore by the M17. There are community newspapers for each of Bradway, Totley and Dore as well as multiple community groups, and a newly founded TARA representing the whole ward. Totley library is successfully run by a strong group of volunteers and serves Dore, Totley and Bradway. (Residents in Whirlow may prefer to use Ecclesall Library)

This ward is oversize by 4% (596)

The boundary with Fulwood is well defined apart from a small number of rural properties (Ringinglow Village might be in either ward or in Ecclesall), and is mostly well defined with Beauchief and Greenhill (though the easternmost section of Bradway Road and including Elwood Road, Fox Lane, Edmund Ave seems to swap wards every time there is a boundary review)

The boundary with Ecclesall ward is flexible; the Parkhead area looks more to Bents Green and Silver Hill than to Whirlow and Dore and was moved into Dore and Totley for mathematical reasons last time.

We propose removing

Elwood Road etc to Beauchief and Greenhill (226 voters)
This (and a little more of Bradway) is in the Parish of St Peter, Greenhill.

Ringinglow Village to Fulwood (37 voters)

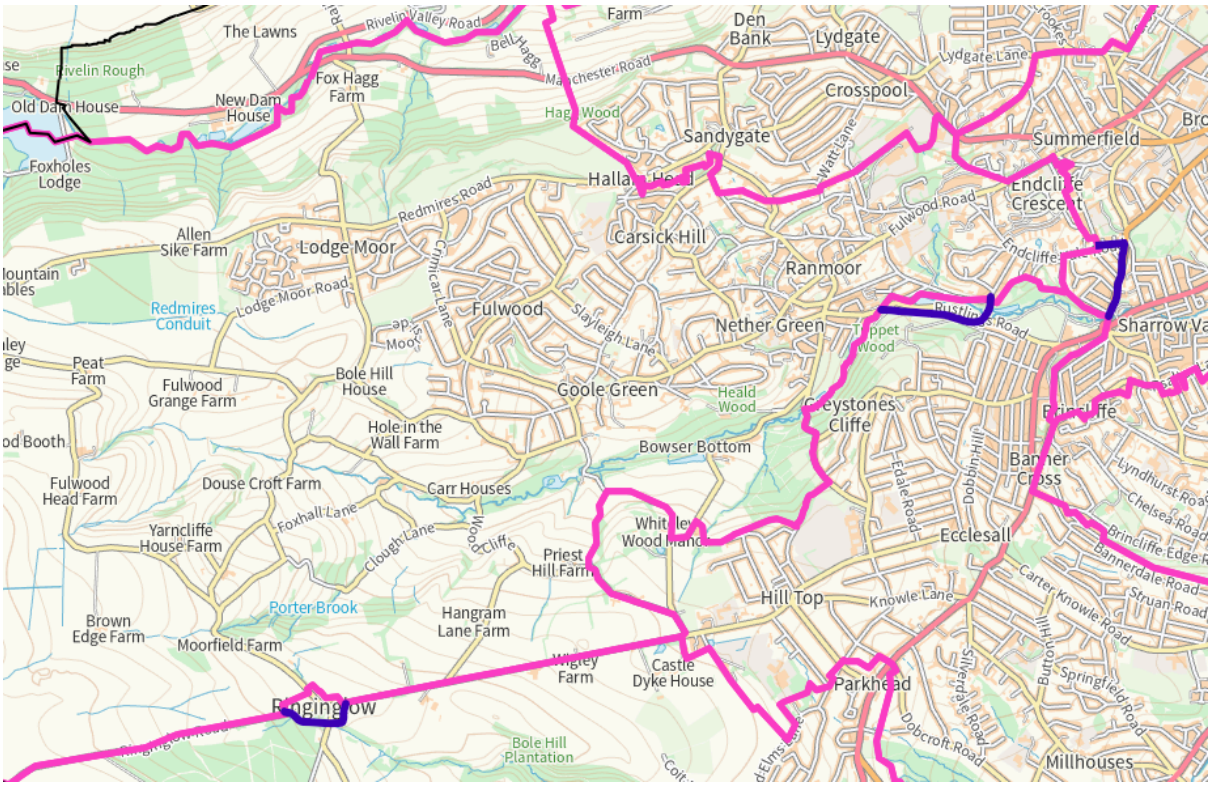
The village is in the parish of Christchurch Fulwood, and is served by the 181 bus (2 or 3 times a day) running between Dore, Bents Green and the Hallamshire Hospital. Part of it (Fulwood Lane) has been voting as part of Fulwood ward for most of the last 10 years due to an error by Sheffield Council's electoral services.

Bents Road and Hill Turrets to Ecclesall (133 voters)

Parkhead Crescent, Parkhead Court and Ecclesall Road South to the north to Ecclesall (109 voters)

Broad Elms Lane and Broad Elms Close (87 voters) we consider marginal for moving from Dore and Totley to Eccesall.

5 Fulwood



Fulwood represents broadly the church of England parishes of St John the Evangelist, Ranmoor, St Luke's Lodge Moor and Christchurch Fulwood, the catchments of Hallam and much of Nether Green primary schools. It is served and well connected by the 51, 83, 120 and 120k buses.

It is undersize by 6% (950)

We propose adding

Ringinglow Village from Dore and Totley (37). The village is at the high end of the Mayfield Valley which is almost entirely in the NA polling district of Fulwood ward west of Cottage Lane / Woodcliffe and, as stated above, the Fulwood Lane part of the village has voted in Fulwood ward for some time.

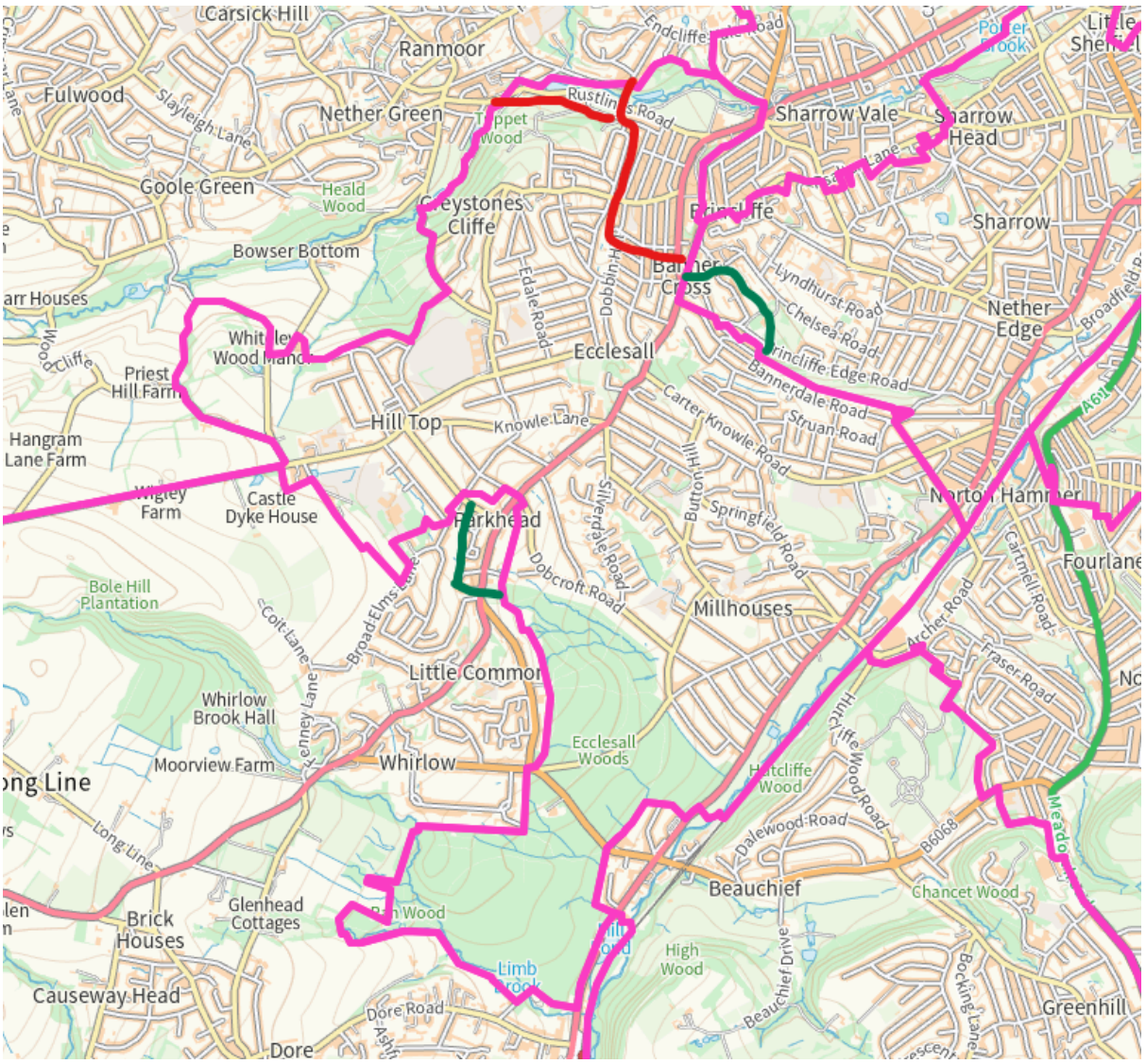
Rustlings Road numbers 109 and above from Ecclesall (100) on the 83 bus route. Also add the western end of Endcliffe Park.

EC Polling District of Broomhill (673)
This sits naturally with Endcliffe Vale Road which currently crosses the ward boundary and links these two wards and will bring this suburb into one ward.

This leaves a variance of -104, less than 1%

Another reasonable addition to consider would be to bring the addresses in LC on Whitely Wood Road, Common Lane and Ivy Cottage Lane, which, along with Ringinglow Village on the ridge, would bring the whole of the rural part of the Porter Valley into Fulwood ward.

6 Ecclesall



Ecclesall represents much of the Church of England Parish of Ecclesall Bierlow, the parish of St Gabriel, Greystones, and parts of the parishes of St Augustine's Endcliffe, Abbeydale and Millhouses, and All Saints Ecclessall. It contains part or all of the primary school catchments of Ecclesall, Dobcroft, Carterknowle, and Greystones. There is little coterminosity with any of these areas. It is well served by buses on Ecclesall Road South and Abbeydale Road South and with the 6 and 82 connecting the ward perpendicular to these arteries

This ward is oversize by 11% (1628)

Changes proposed above add 242 from Dore & Totley and remove 100 to Fulwood.
In section 9 below we propose adding Brincliffe Edge Road and Close, Banner Cross Drive, Quarry Lane and Talmont Road (274) from TB; these are close to Banner Cross and in Greystones catchment and are therefore better fit for Ecclesall than for Nether Edge; also for reasons in sections 8 and 9.

This leaves a surplus of 2000.

One possibility to remove at this point would be the South Easterly 80% or so of the LD polling district; we don't prefer this - it doesn't work with our proposal in sections 8 and 9 for a solution to the city wide imbalance, and Brindcliffe Edge (the cliff) is one of the few good boundaries in the continuous urban area. But this option may be compatible with some other treatments of Nether Edge.

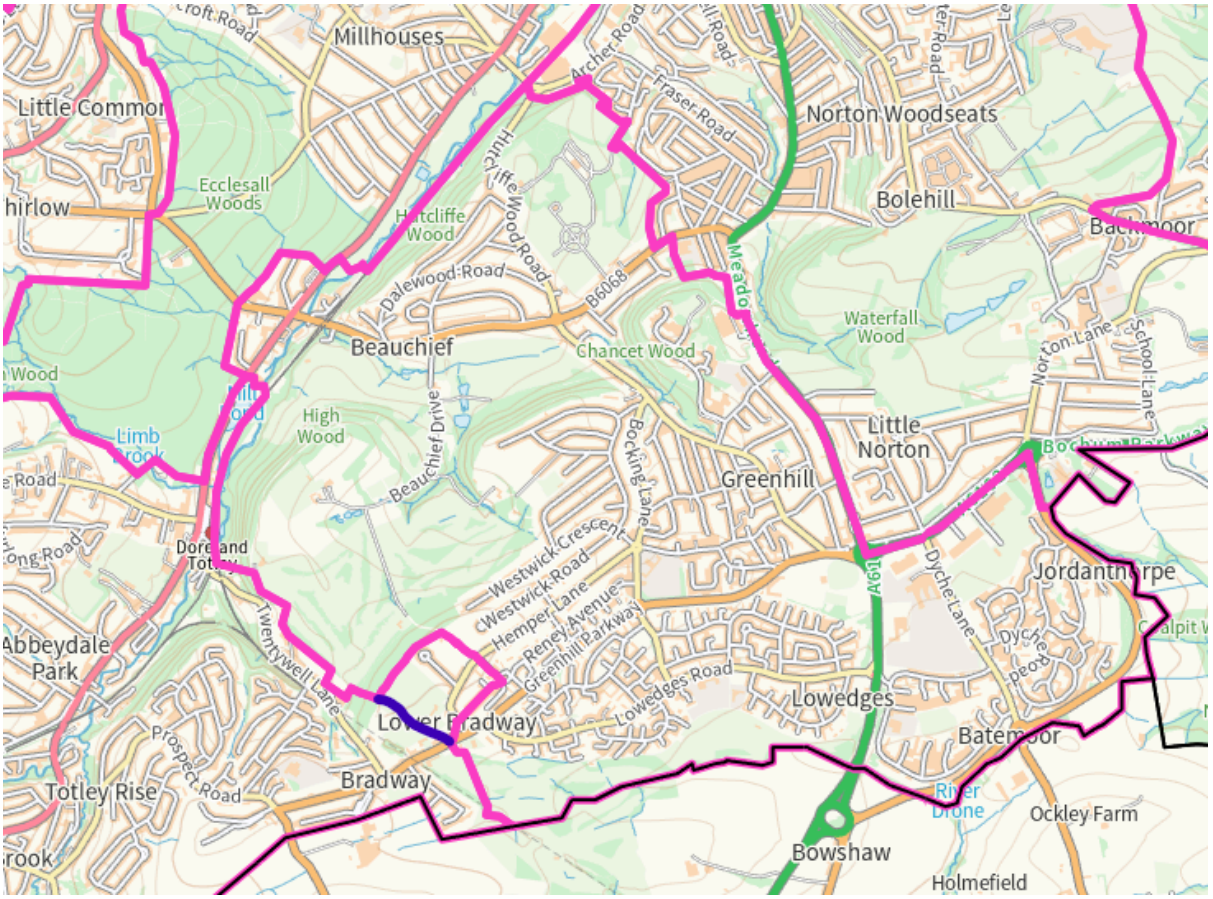
Better, we suggest, to remove properties around Hunters Bar, are likely to look towards Ecclesall Road South between Hunters Bar and Banner Cross. We recognise there is also a cliff between Hunter House Road and Rustlings View, but both sides here are well connected to and will identify with Hunters Bar.

Therefore we propose removing:
The remainder of LH (822)
Louth Road and Dobbin Hill in LE and roads to the east of this including a portion of Greystones Road (576)
The northerly 50% or so of LB.

This division of the urban area between Louth Road/Dobbin Hill and Greystones Grange Road/Greystones Ave is mitigated by the fact that there are far fewer connections east-west here than at other possible dividing points. The precise north/south dividing line for LB is difficult to calculate but clearly the further south you go the stronger the association with Ecclesall and the weaker with Hunters Bar. Glenalmond Road or Huntingtower Road may be reasonable breakpoints.

This leaves a variance of around -63, less than 1%

7 Beauchief and Greenhill



Beaucheif and Greenhill

This is already a well defined and connected ward, centering on Greenhill. Greenhill centre, including its library, is a focal point particularly for the Greenhill and Low Edges communities. Beauchief, Batemoor and Jordanthorpe also represent well defined communities that should not be divided.

It is undersize by 3% (423)

We proposed to add the Elwood Road, Bradway Road, Edmund Ave, Fox Lane salient from Dore and Totley (section 4) +225 voters.

One side of Edmund Ave and Fox Lane is already in Beauchief and Greenhill so this corrects an anomaly. This section of Bradway Road is an extension of Hemper Lane and the 76,76a,76e buses connect this area to Greenhill centre, Bocking Lane, Abbey Lane and Low Edges. This is a better connection than exists with Dore and Totley.

In other respects this remains a very well drawn ward, and we propose no further changes. To be more mathematically exact a little more of Abbey Lane could be taken from Graves Park, but we are not proposing this.

The crossroads at Abbey Lane and Abbeydale Road South should remain in this ward. This area is very much associated with Beauchief; many of the homes are built on the site of the former Beauchief railway station and Beauchief Hotel. The “Abbey” of Abbey Lane and Abbeydale is Beauchief Abbey.

8 South and East v North, West and centre of the city

At this point we reflect that the wards of Mosborough, Beighton, Woodhouse, Richmond, Manor Castle, Birley, Park and Abourthorne, Gleadless Valley and Graves Park (9 wards) total 127541 projected voters, an underage of 6001 voters. We therefore seek for around 6001 voters in or near the current Nether Edge Ward contiguous with around 8,837 on the South East side of the railway line.

Nether Ege and Woodseats

This would be a ward centred on the junction of Woodseats Road and Abbeydale Road. Woodseats Road is served by the 75, 75a, 76, 76a, 76e, M76 buses from Abbeydale Road representing good connectivity between the two parts of the ward.

Broadly this would comprise the TD, TC and parts of TB and TF polling districts north west of the railway and the PA, PC, PG polling districts from Graves Park and much of OG from Gleadless Valley.

The Nether Edge community strongly identifies with and around Nether Edge centre at the junction of Sheldon Road, Montcreif Road, Machon Bank Road and Nether Edge Road. This proposal keeps the core of the community largely intact in one ward but there will be some around the edges as Nether Edge blends into Sharrow and Sharrow Vale who may be dissatisfied. On the other side the polling districts of PA, PC, PG and part of OG represent the intact community of Woodseats.

Four alternatives to the Nether Edge and Woodseats ward were considered and rejected:

1. To revisit Dore and Totley, putting JB Bradway and JF Totley South in a separate ward to Totley North, Dore and Whirlow etc. This is unacceptable as it divides Totley in half, a well defined community with a strong identity and multiple community groups covering the whole area including an excellent volunteer run library. It would also lead to quite artificial looking wards of Bradway and Greenhill and Dore and Millhouses. At this point the railway has disappeared into tunnels and the A621 has diverged from the river Sheaf and its tributary the Old Hay Brook so the major barrier has gone.

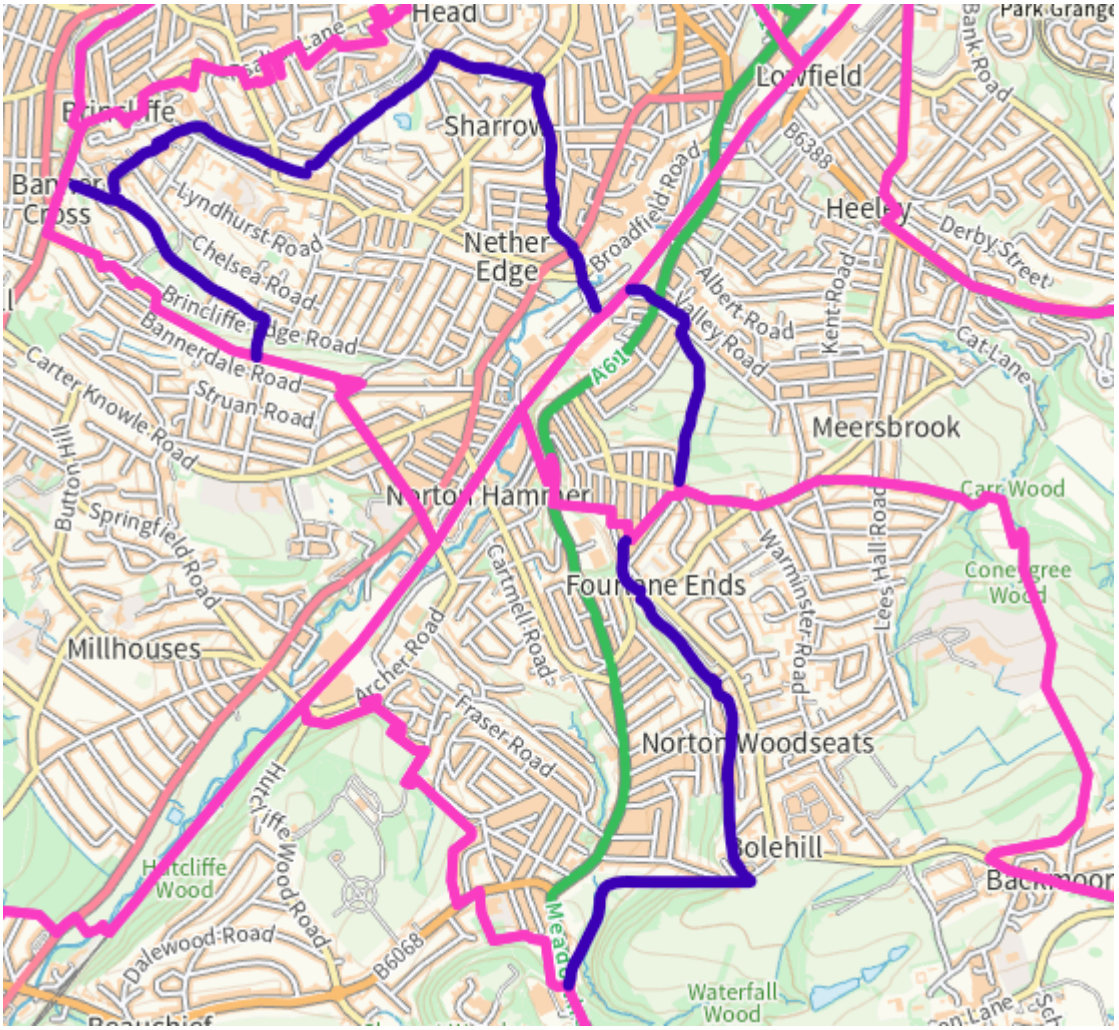
2. (Heeley and Highfield) To put GB, GD, TE and parts of TA/TG/TF just south of City, linking via Myrtle Road in a ward with OA, OB, OF and AE. On the north side this represents a division of Sharrow which is unfortunate, but on the South it is a reunification of the Heeley community which is currently divided. (The name Heeley is also currently used for the parliamentary constituency.)

3. (Darnall and Manor/Handsworth) Darnall has a strong identity and is very well defined geographically with commercial areas to the north west and the parkway to the south. It is a little over quota but we believe on merit it should remain unchanged. We propose the Parkway therefore remains intact as a boundary.

4. To reduce the Ecclesall overage in Carterknowle LD instead of Greystones; but there is not enough overage, even if also adding TD, to provide around 6000 voters; this would result in taking a smaller part of Nether Edge and radically dividing that community.

Of these, alternative 2 would be our second choice. We consider its division of Sharrow to be detrimental, and connection between Heeley and Highfield is weaker. The reunification of Heeley is a positive for alternative 2, but that remains possible anyway.

9 Nether Edge and Woodseats



For rationale see section 8

Composition:
TC, TD from Nether Edge

70% of TF from Nether Edge (the part West of Empire Road; roads to the east associate more with Abbeydale Road and Sharrow)

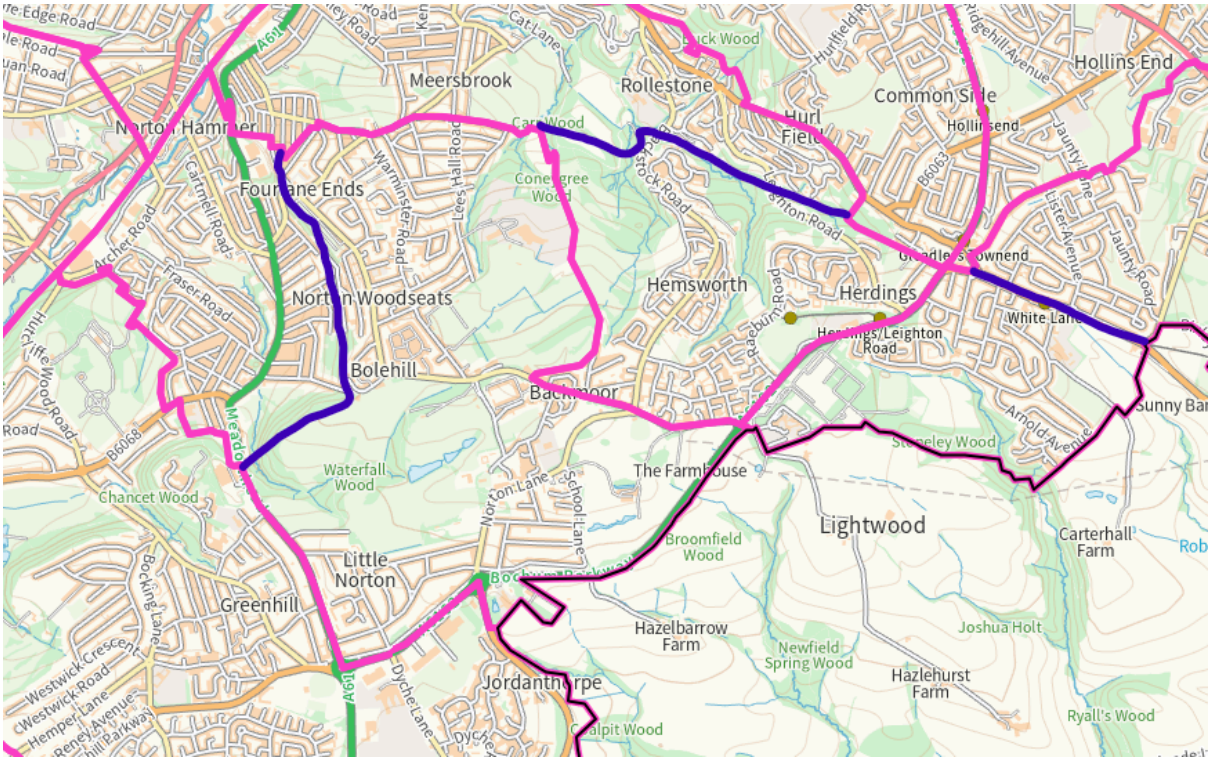
Cavendish Road, Chelsea Road, Lyndhurst Road, Union Road and Osborne Road and smaller roads within from TB (617) this keeps the Nether Edge community largely united, and we would not be averse to further tweaks at the expense of strict electoral equality. Brincliffe Edge Road and the roads off it (230) should now move to Ecclesall, which given their proximity to Banner Cross, Ecclesall library, All Saints church etc, and that they are in the catchment of Greystones school, is appropriate.

PA, PG, PC from Graves Park ward; this represents Woodseats.

Finally we add the OG polling district where this overlaps with the catchment of Meersbrook Bank Community Primary School, i.e everything west of the park including roads off Cliffefield Road and the section of Meersbrook Park Road between Chesterfield Road and Brook Road, and Chesterfield Road up to this junction. (1800)

Variance about +267, 2%

10 Norton and Herdings



The Woodseats area of Graves Park Ward has been allocated to another ward.

The Norton Woodseats area (around Derbyshire Lane and Warminster Road) is separated from Woodseats by a cliff, with Church of England parish and school catchment boundaries also largely following this cliff;

The final remaining neighbourhood is Norton/Little Norton.

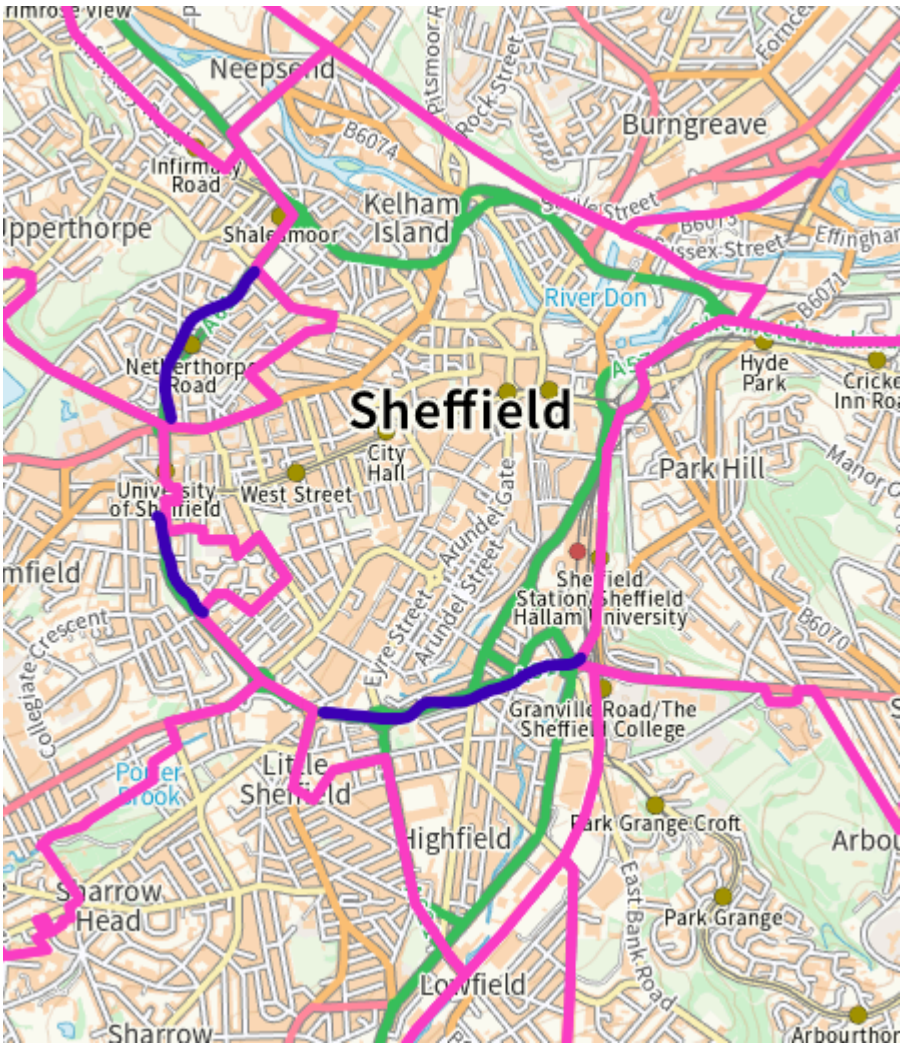
We propose to add the neighbourhoods of Hemsworth and Herdings from Gleadless Valley (OC, OD and OE) and Charnock from Birley (DD) and we propose the name Norton and Herdings

This proposal keeps undivided the communities of Norton/Little Norton, Norton Lees/Norton Woodseats, Hemsworth and Herdings. The local centre of Gleadless Townend (Where White Lane and Gleadless Road meet Ridgeway Road) is currently the meeting point of 3 wards and this is reduced to 2.

This ward brings in the whole of the Hemsworth Infant school catchment and half that of Charnock. A little of the Bankwood catchment comes in with OC, Overend Drive/Road/Way; this could reasonably be left out.

Variance -102, less than 1%.

11 City



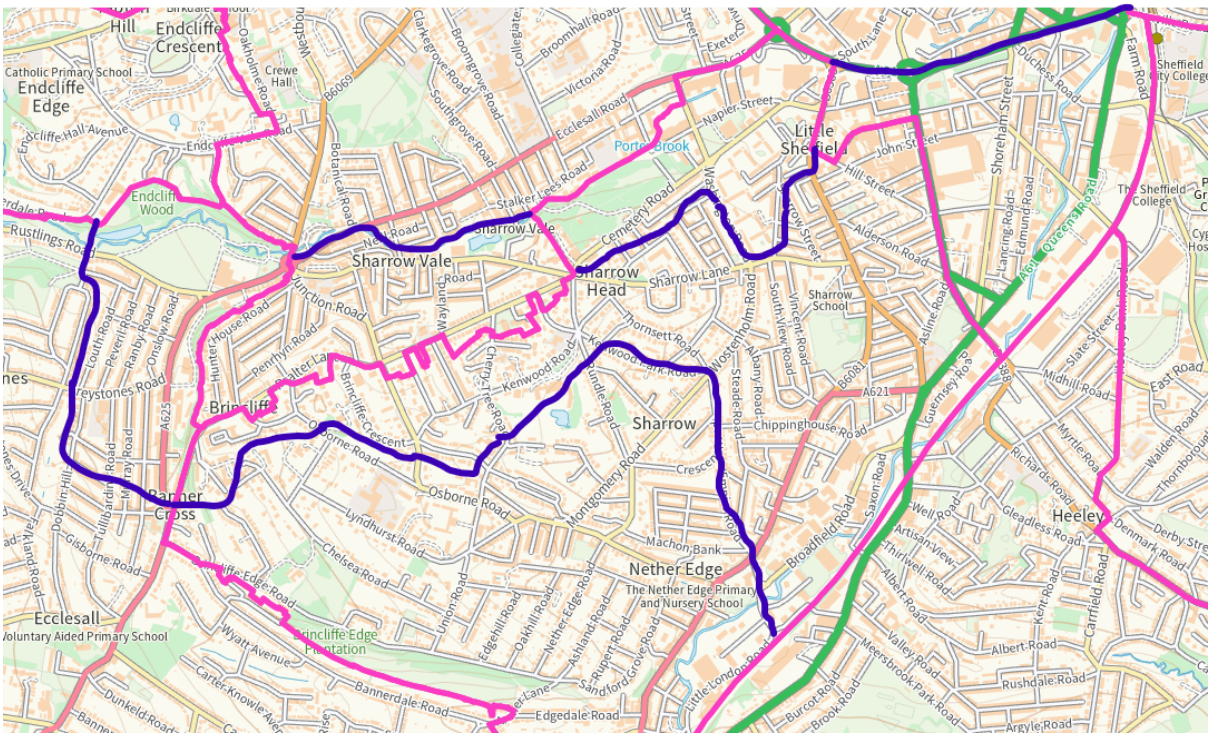
City is very well defined by the ring road (inner relief road) and comes with the inclusion of the strongly identified Kelham Island community (GI) outside the ring road. The inclusion of parts of ZG and EJ into the ring road are anomalies that should be corrected.

The numbers are currently made up with GB and GD to the south of the Ring Road. We suggest these would sit just as happily with TE and TA.

We therefore propose adding the parts of ZG and EJ that come within the ring road and removing GB and GD.
This leaves a variance of +87 and a very clearly defined ward, fixing all the anomalies in the current boundaries.

There are various council functions particular to the city centre as defined by the ring road on which local members are consulted; it therefore makes for more efficient local government to follow this boundary. There is also a Business Improvement District defined by the ring road and many other groups.

12 Sharrow



This is a successor to the Nether Edge and Sharrow Ward. We have identified GB and GD as belonging well with Sharrow. We add EB and EF representing Sharrow Vale and the parts of LB, LE and LH removed from Ecclesall. Of the Nether Edge and Sharrow polling districts, TA, TE, TG, 70% of TB and 30% of TF, we add all but TA.

Of TA we add the blocks including Langdon St and Fentonville St, and also Sharrow St, Salmon St and Clarke Square. (438). More TA might be added at some cost to electoral equality.

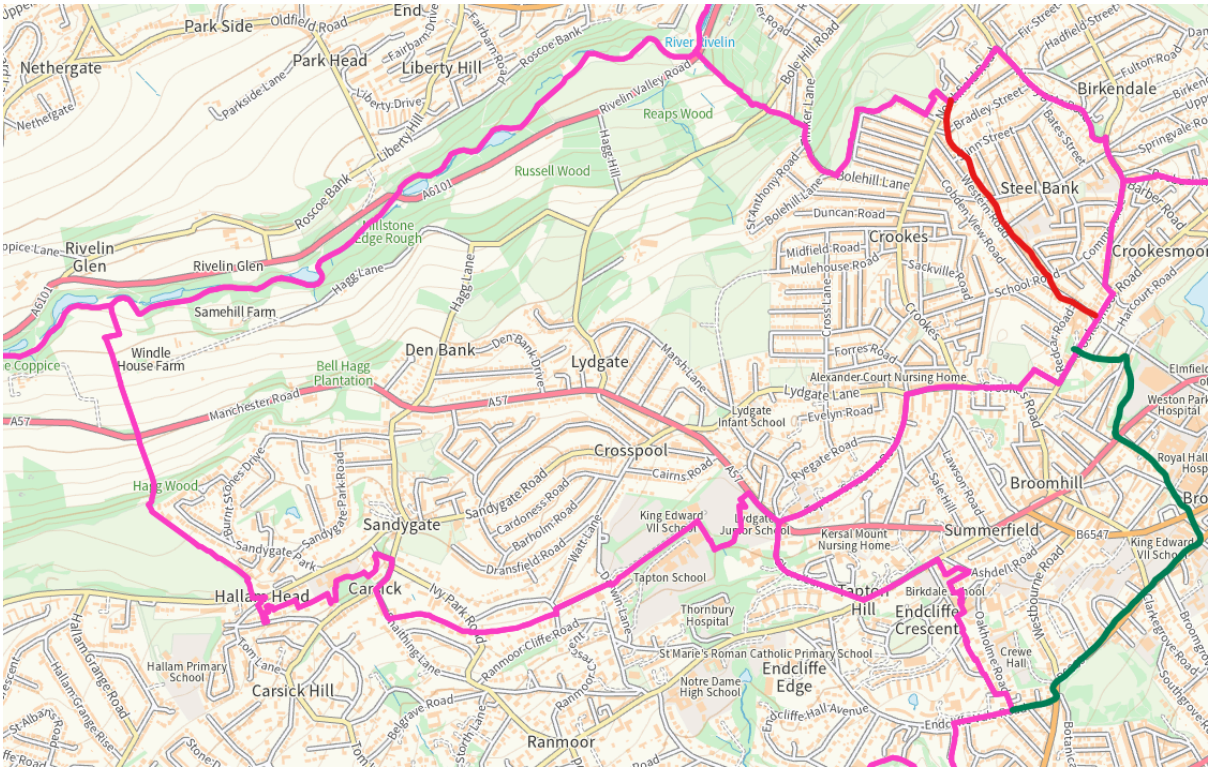
With the caveat that Sharrow blends into Nether Edge, this ward represents Sharrow Vale, Sharrow and Highfield as united communities, and the part of Greystones that looks to Ecclesall Road South and Hunters Bar. The ward is well connected by Ecclesall Road South, Sharrow Vale Road and Sharrow Lane. The 218 bus runs from the edge of Greystones in the west to London Road in the east.

A more complete name would be Sharrow and Sharrow Vale, but the repetition is a little jarring so we suggest Sharrow would be a sufficient name.

Variance 89, <1%

The eastern end of Endcliffe Park would now belong in this ward.

13 Broomhill, Crookes and Crosspool



Crosspool and Broomhill are distinct but well connected communities, sitting on the 51 bus route. Crookes and Broomhill likewise, connected by the 52 bus. All three use Broomhill Library. Residents part way between the three centres of this triangle look both (or three) ways so keeping the three together has compounding benefits.

Crookes and Crosspool is currently 1386 under quota (-9%). With Fulwood decided and the border with Stannington being well defined, the options for expansion are Broomhill and Sharrow Vale or Walkley. Further expansion into Walkley would intrude on the centre of Walkley at South Road. And similarly, creep into Broomhill ward would intrude on Broomhill centre. Therefore we propose to add the Broomhill neighbourhood itself to this ward in exchange for Crookesmoor and parts close to Walkley.

We take Broomhill centre

EG, EH

And the part of EI that is in Lydgate or Westways Primary school catchments (i.e. the part north of Whitham Road; this is also close to Broomhill centre.
Also add the part of EI on and adjoining Beech Hill Road including Newbould Lane on the grounds that it is close to Broomhill centre and bounded by the secondary school, the Hallamshire and Westen park hospital and university sites - large sites that already separate this area from Broomhall/Broomfield. Include Whitham Road as far as Moor Oaks Road. (805)

We can add the whole of Crookes and Crosspool ward save HA and HF for a total of 14239, a deficit of 599.

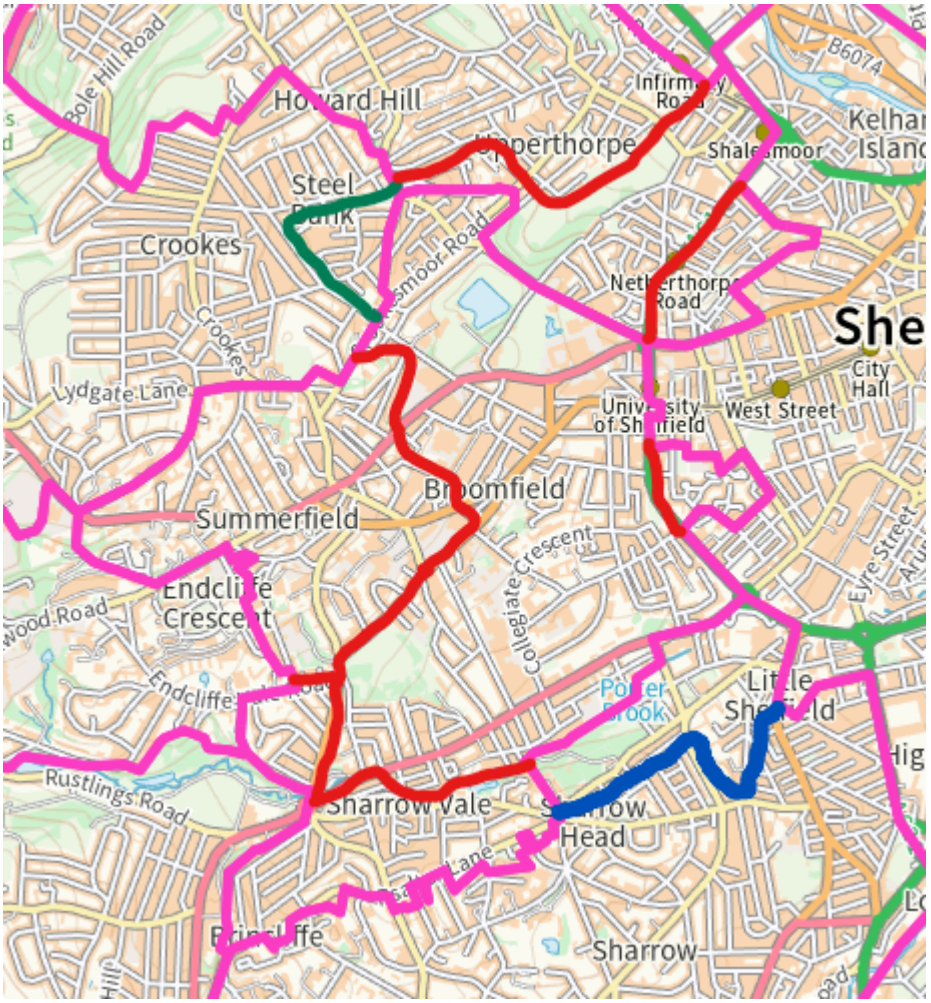
HA and HF are lower Crookes cum Walkley/Crookesmoor; Steel Bank on the maps, not sure how much this name is used. We add a little from the upper end of these back in.

Western Road, Cobden View Road and Springvale Road from HF (294)
Western Road, Conduit Road from HA (227)

This leave a variance of -78, <1%

While dividing the far end of Crookes is not ideal much of this area already looks to South Road/Wakley and/or Commonside/Barber Road as much as it does to Crookes (the road). North Crookes and Crookesmoor are more likely to use Walkley Carnegie library than Broomhill library. This area is more likely to use the 95 bus service from Howard Road/Barber Road than the 52 from Crookes, at least on the leg into town, to save an uphill walk, if not both ways.

14 Broomhall and Netherthorpe



Having removed Broomhill and Sharrow Vale from Broomhill and Sharrow Vale, we are left with Broomhall, sometimes referred to as Broomfield, that is

EA, ED, EK
The remainder of EJ outside the ring road
The remainder of EI that is not in Broomhill, Crookes and Crosspool

Also in Crookesmoor we have EE, and we add:
The remainder of HA not already allocated, less Springvale Road, Mona Rd, Mona Ave, Moor End Rd (724)
ZC excluding the Birkendales, Upperthorpe, Springvale, Alpine (591)

To add a Netherthorpe neighbourhood
ZF
Remainder of ZG not already allocated to City.

We also have the remainder of TA not included in Sharrow (2314). Some of this may sit better in Sharrow if numbers allow, but certainly those parts on or near Ecclesall Road will sit better in Broomhall.

This proposal provides a united Crookesmoor neighbourhood, currently divided into 3 wards, and respects Broomhall and Netherthorpe. It contains campuses for both universities and a large student population - though many more students still live in neighbouring wards as they do now. But this ward might reasonably be a focus for links between the council and the universities and students.

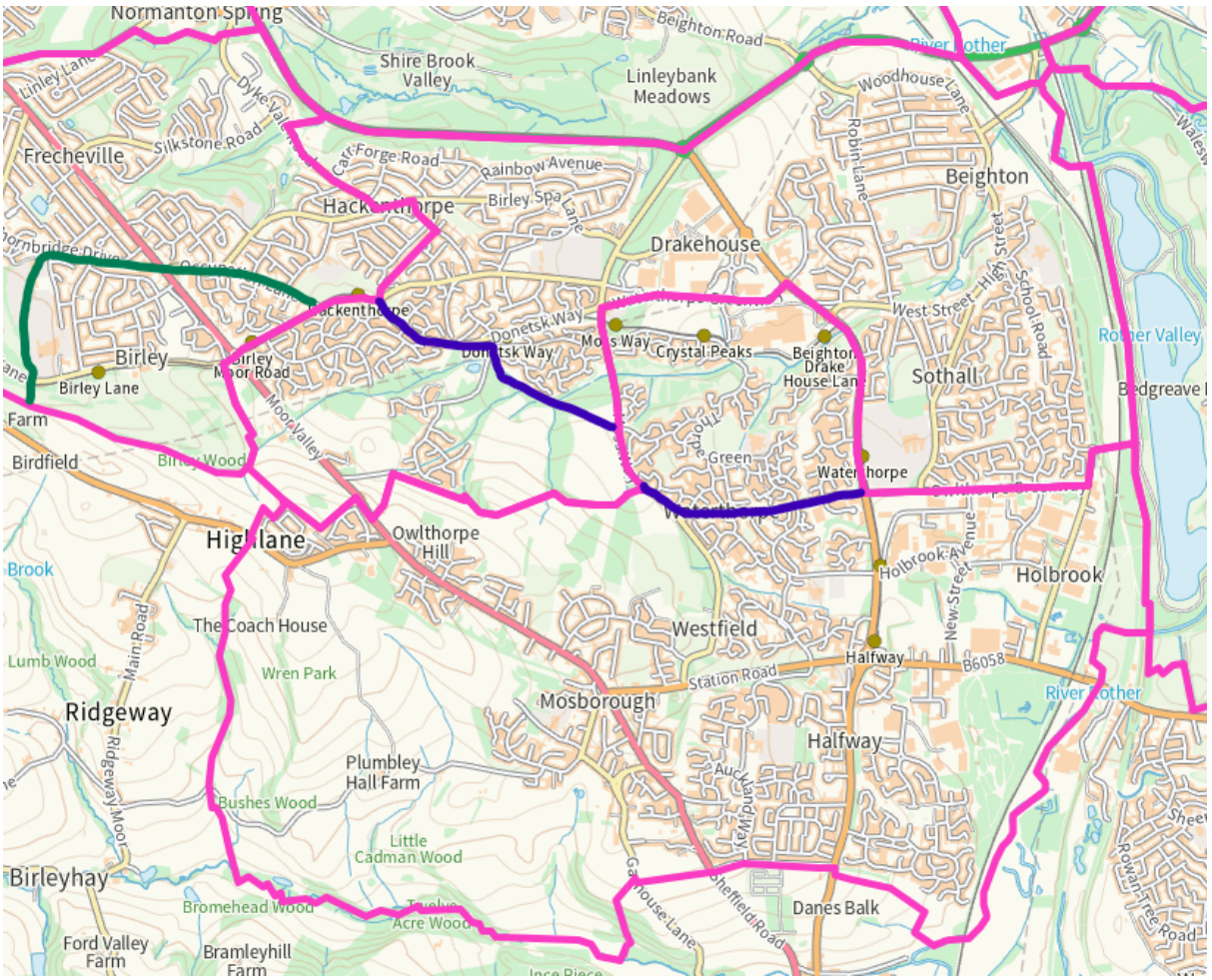
We aren't submitting proposals for Walkley and Hillsborough but submit that the wards proposed leave good southern and western boundaries for those wards.

Variance 217, 1%

15 East and West Ecclesfield

We support the submission from Ecclesfield Parish council for no change.

16 Mosborough and Beighton



We believe the current boundaries here are hard to defend. Waterthorpe appears as a salient into Beighton dividing that ward into two distinct populations with only the commercial area Drakehouse to maintain contiguity.

The whole area is characterised by multiple well defined communities - Halfway, Westfield, Waterthorpe, Sothall, Beighton, Mosborough and others that should not be divided. This is in contrast to much of the city where there is a continuous urban area with many loci of community focus, where often people part way between two loci will have some identification with each.

Adding the Waterthorpe salient SD to Beighton as we have done means that Beighton is no longer in two disconnected halves. This is exchanged for the part of CD Owlthorpe south of Donetsk way and the tram line, allowing Mosborough to extend further up Moor Valley and remain well connected by road and public transport.

The Crystal peaks complex (at Drakehouse on the map) is a major district centre of great importance to the surrounding neighbourhoods, with shopping, eating, a substantial market hall, events and good public transport connections. While much visited from further afield, it

is central to the proposed Beighton ward as a point of community focus, to the point that Crystal Peaks could be considered as an alternative name for the ward.

The market hall at Crystal Peaks is run by the council, and it serves efficient local government for Beighton members to be the first point of reference for input into the policy regarding this market, although members from other nearby wards will always also have some legitimate interest.

Beighton: Existing Beighton plus SD, minus part of CD south of Donetsk Way

Served by the 7,30,30a, X30, M44, M45, 120, 120k, 252 and the supertram (from Donetsk Way to Waterthorpe).

Estimated Variance 92, <1%

Mosborough and Birley (Existing Mosborough minus SD, plus CD south of Donetsk Way, plus DB and part of DC south of Occupation Lane
From Birley ward add most of DC: south of Birley Spa Lane or Occupation Lane and Dyke Vale Road/Avenue and roads off these.

Served by the 50, 50a and 53 via Mosborough Moor and many Beighton services continuing to Westfield and Halfway.

Estimated Variance -118, less than 1%

17 Other wards

We have not submitted proposals for other wards where we have less understanding on the ground however we have taken care to ensure that these proposals leave unfinished two distinct islands with reasonable boundaries and the right number of electors for a whole number of wards close to the quota.