

Annex 2 - Redacted Responses received to the Area and Forum Consultation



Tuesday, 02 July 2019

Your ref: Acomb & Westfield Neighbourhood Forum

Our ref: SFG

[Redacted]

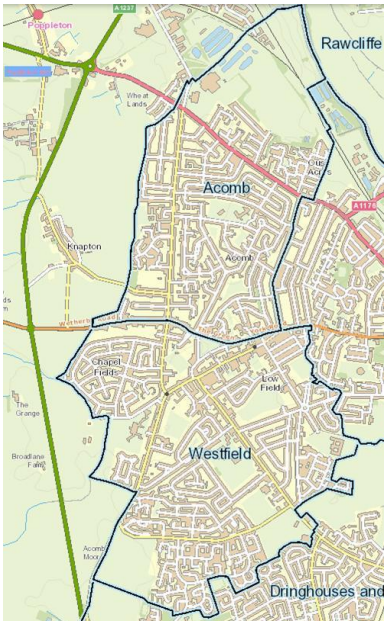
Tel: [Redacted]
Mobile: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]
Web: [Redacted]
Twitter: [Redacted]

City of York Council
Planning Department (by email)

Dear Sirs,

Consultation on the formation of an “Acomb and Westfield neighbourhood Forum” and the preparation of a “Neighbourhood Plan” for the same area

I refer to the above consultation. I record my objection to the establishment of a “forum” and the drawing up of a “neighbourhood Plan” for the combined Acomb and Westfield Wards. The proposed area is much too large to have any commonality of interest for neighbourhood planning purposes.



I represented the Westfield area on the Council for 38 years and I can say that, although there were demands from some residents for more extensive delegated decision-making arrangements, I can recall no request for planning activities to be undertaken on the suggested boundary.

It appears that a small group of residents, mainly living in the Front Street area, want to establish a “neighbourhood plan”. It would supplement the Councils own Local Plan which itself is subject to a public hearing over the summer months.

Unfortunately, the area they hope to cover includes the whole of the Acomb and Westfield wards This covers approximately 10,000 homes and some 20,000 residents.



It would stretch from Foxwood to Boroughbridge Road, encompassing a disparate group of neighbourhoods with little obvious community of interest (see map).

If agreed, it would be by far the largest such plan in the York area. In the main those neighbourhood plans that have been approved cover smaller villages. All have had a shared commonality of interests.

The Westfield ward is not short of groups which seek to influence Council policy.

There are several Residents Associations, a “planning panel” (which scrutinises planning applications), a “ward team” and a “ward committee” together with several “action groups” which tend to focus on stimulating, or preventing, specific developments.

Adding an additional tier of representation, albeit only a consultative body, would involve additional costs and could lead to confusion about roles and responsibilities.

When it comes down to it, Foxwood has little in common with Chapelfields or the Gladstone Street area.

It has even less shared interest with Ouse Acres and vice versa.

Arguably Foxwood has more in common with the Woodthorpe area.

In my view, this proposal represents an unwelcome diversion and could take resources away from the key task of raising public service standards in the area. Residents Associations are bested suited – and of the right scale – to identify changes that need to be made in local neighbourhoods.

They deserve more Council support.

In most built up sub-urban areas, there is little scope for redevelopment anyway with the focus being to retain and improve existing open spaces.

There is an opportunity for more public open space on land lying between the existing development and the A1237 bypass. The proposed Neighbourhood Plan boundaries pointedly exclude this land from consideration.





Ward Councillors are already aware of the need to pursue more vigorously the provision of additional public open space in the area.

In the light of the current problems at the Bowling Club building site, I acknowledge that the older part of Westfield – particularly the Front Street Conservation Area - may require better protection from aggressive developers.

The “Forum” organisers would be wise to focus on a smaller area like this – where there may be a need for more clarity on its future – rather than try to “boil an ocean”.

The effect of designating the two wards as one neighbourhood planning unit would be to prevent Residents Associations from pursuing their own preferred neighbourhood plan. Many of the existing Residents Associations are already recognised by the City of York Council and have been, in many cases, in existence for several decades. Allowing this, relatively, new group to hijack their traditional position would represent a major snub.

It would potentially damage community cohesion which has been hard won over the years.

I hope therefore ask that the Council will reject this plan.

Should a proposal subsequently come forward, for a neighbourhood plan to cover a smaller, more focused, area, then that can be treated on its own merits.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

From: Lowfields Action Group [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 July 2019 10:13
To: neighbourhoodplanning@york.gov.uk
Subject: Acomb and Westfield Forum and Neighbourhood Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

We have been advised that you are consulting on the above.

Our residents group takes an interest in planning matters in the Lowfields area. We were originally formed to oppose the Councils plans to build on the Lowfields playing field.

As time has progressed we have also sought to influence other planning and public service issues affecting our community.

We think that it is particularly important that local people have a real say in how their local area develops. Such influence was sadly missing during the recent deliberations on the Councils plans for the Lowfields school site.

More recently we were appalled at the Councils unilateral decision to site a building compound on land that they own to the rear of Lowfields Drive, without any consultation with residents.

In principle, therefore, we might be prepared to support the production of a neighbourhood plan covering the Lowfields area and neighbouring streets

However, the suggested boundaries for the plan, as published on your web site, go far beyond anything that could be regarded as manageable and which might help local people to influence decisions which affect the street in which they live.

There is simply no community of interest between the widely differing neighbourhoods contained within the proposed boundary

There are around 20,000 people living in the Acomb and Westfield Wards combined. The advocates for the plan boundaries appear to have secured the support of only around 120 for their proposal.

A neighbourhood plan covering such an area would simply be too big.

We also have reservations about the so called “neighbourhood forum”. There are several groups in the area like ours which already articulate the views of local people.

We have a particular problem with the identified officials of the proposed “forum” many of whom are politically motivated (Council candidates and/or party officials). The “forum” has also associated itself with the “Yorspace” organisation which supported building on the Lowfields playing field during consideration of the planning application last year. The “Yorspace” directors do not live in the area.

We, therefore, formally record our objection to the proposal. We will view with an open mind any counter proposals which may come forward and which may be limited to the Acomb village area.



An independent residents group dedicated to conserving the natural environment and improving public services in York's Lowfield neighbourhood. We are not connected with the City of York Council or any political party

Facebook: [Save Lowfields Playing Field](#)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 July 2019 18:53
To: neighbourhoodplanning@york.gov.uk
Subject: neighbourhood plan.

This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I am E mailing to object to the proposed neighbourhood plan as it would not serve the interest of the vast majority of Acomb residents particularly those in Foxwood,Chapelfields or Gladstone street.

Sent from Windows Mail

[REDACTED]

From: webadmin@york.gov.uk
Sent: 11 July 2019 16:40
To: neighbourhoodplanning@york.gov.uk
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] has sent comments

Hi There,
We've received the following message (see below) via the City of York Council website 'comment on this page' button - the message is not directly related to web pages, so I'm forwarding it for your attention.

Please be aware that so far, the customer has only received an automated response from WebAdmin which advises that a response will be forthcoming in 5 working days.

In order to maintain good customer service, we must provide an appropriate reply on behalf of the council... I'd be grateful if you could respond to our customer, or relay this message to the right individual/team to do so (and copy WebAdmin into the email trail).

If you're unable to respond to the customer within 5 working days (as mentioned by the website auto-response), or your team's SLA is different, please reply to WebAdmin, so we are aware of the situation and can work to find a solution to meet Customer Services SLAs.


Many thanks
Web Admin

City of York Council | Customer and Corporate Services
West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA
www.york.gov.uk | facebook.com/cityofyork | @CityofYork

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 July 2019 16:37
To: webadmin@york.gov.uk
Subject: [REDACTED] has sent comments

This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

 has sent you comments on the following content from City of York Council Online:

http://www.york.gov.uk/info/20051/planning_policy/686/neighbourhood_planning

Comments: "Neighbourhood plan " I am totally against this plan .it will lose community interest. Less money for the foxwood community. Foxwood has nothing in common with Acomb, Chapelfields, Bourobridge Rd.We have more in common with Woodthorpe .So let's have some common sense. SCRAP IT

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 11 July 2019 20:46
To: neighbourhoodplanning@york.gov.uk
Subject: Feedback on Acomb and Westfield neighbourhood plan

This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello

I wanted to provide some feedback on the proposed area for the Acomb and Westfield neighbourhood planning area. [Redacted] we access most local services in the Acomb district centre. [Redacted] the library, childrens groups, GP, shops, and so on are all hugely important [Redacted]. I think this is a common experience for people in our area of Holgate. [Redacted] West Bank Park which [Redacted] I'm sure lots of families in Acomb and Westfield wards do as well as it is one of the best parks in the city.

I would therefore like to object to the boundaries for the neighbourhood planning area excluding the Acomb side of Holgate, which to me is part of a clear "Greater Acomb" neighbourhood which includes the whole Acomb side of Holgate. Holgate does not have its own district centre and depending on which part of it you live in you would have a different community hub you look to.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]



Virus-free. www.avast.com

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2019 15:32
To: neighbourhoodplanning@york.gov.uk
Subject: Acomb proposal

This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] would like to register our opposition to the current proposal of a "neighbourhood plan" for Acomb?Foxwood/Westfield.

We believe this area is too wide to fully represent its disparate parts and therefore should not be approved.

[REDACTED]



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Objection to neighbourhood plan boundaries

We understand that a small group of residents, mainly living in the Front Street area, want to establish a “neighbourhood plan”. This proposal was discussed at our meeting held on 17th July 2019. The following represents the view of the Foxwood community.

Unfortunately, the area that they hope to cover includes the whole of the Acomb and Westfield wards (approximately 10,000 homes). It would stretch from Acomb Wood Drive to Boroughbridge Road, encompassing a disparate group of neighbourhoods with little obvious community of interest.

If agreed, it would be by far the largest such plan in the York area. In the main, those plans that have been approved, cover smaller villages.

Foxwood has little in common with Chapelfields or the Gladstone Street area. It has even less shared interest with Ouse Acres and vice versa.

Arguably Foxwood has more in common with the Woodthorpe area.

In our view, this proposal represents an unwelcome diversion and could take resources away from the key task of raising public service standards in the area. Residents Associations are bested suited – and of the right scale – to identify improvements needed at local neighbourhood level.

Critically, if approved, it would prevent a plan, focusing on Foxwood, from being prepared by people who live in the local area.

In most built up sub-urban areas, there is little scope for redevelopment anyway, with the focus being to retain and improve open spaces.

There is an opportunity for more public open space on land lying between the existing development and the A1237 bypass.

The proposed Neighbourhood Plan boundaries not only exclude most of this land from consideration, but also omit parts of the Thanet Road Sports Area, Hob Moor, **the Foxwood Park, Acomb Wood, Acomb Wood Meadow** and part of Acomb Moor.

These areas represent an important amenity for Foxwood residents.

We therefore oppose this proposal.

An alternative plan covering a smaller area may emerge at a later date. We believe that such a plan should be limited to Foxwood and its immediate surrounding area. Other neighbourhoods would, of course, be free to submit their own proposals.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2019 16:36
To: neighbourhoodplanning@york.gov.uk
Subject: Acomb/Westfield Neighbourhood Plan

This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

We object to the above proposed plan on the grounds that it does not serve adequately the needs and objectives of the Westfield Ward. It does not take in the local amenities that are available to those living in Foxwood and will not benefit the local populace.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 August 2019 20:23
To: neighbourhoodplanning@york.gov.uk
Subject: Consultation on the Neighbourhood Area and Neighbourhood Forum Applications
- Acomb and Westfield Neighbourhood Plan

This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,

I would like to comment on the proposed boundary for the Acomb & Westfield neighbourhood plan to agree with the proposed area and explain my reason for it.

The central area around Front St is instantly recognisable and has history including a conservation area. It has a character that feels different from other parts of York and a community that often considers itself more of a village than a suburb and feels often forgotten or railroaded by central York plans.

Having a neighbourhood plan for a micro 'Acomb' area would not necessarily address these concerns of local residents feeling like an afterthought as many would not be covered by the plan - but more importantly the identification of a 'micro' area is practically impossible. The conservation area straddles two council wards and does not include substantial parts of the primary shopping and market area. Additionally it fails to encapsulate the *immediate* local 'neighbourhood' by not covering roads like Beaconsfield St, Howe St, Beech Grove, Green Lane, etc, and it is not *designed* to look at the community itself.

There are continuous redrawn boundaries in York for myriad reasons but the core council boundaries - drawn based on communities and neighbourhoods - are wards. The area surrounding Front Street and York Road are in Acomb and Westfield wards, slightly more in the latter than the former, and are generally known to local residents as Acomb, so trying to separate Acomb from Westfield is not an easy task, especially with local residents often opting to ignore 'official' naming conventions like the 2003 and 2015 border changes to ward boundaries. Local residents know their local village centre and from both Acomb and Westfield consider themselves part of that central community (as well as various micro communities too small for individual neighbourhood plans).

Many of the council services are already geared to work with this as a known area, and many local services, organisations, social media groups and activities/clubs already market themselves and operate as if this were one single accepted area. I would agree that some residents on the edge of Holgate branch, or at the other edges of the boundary, may consider themselves in or out on a case by case basis but in general people know the region of York fairly well as one suburb/village comprising two wards just like the city itself is one community comprising two parliamentary constituencies.

I believe that any group willing to put the community first and put their desires above their own opinions (and that isn't part of any political groups) would be able to develop a good neighbourhood plan for this area, but I personally believe it is the only boundary that makes sense for any plan that is developed.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 August 2019 14:31
To: neighbourhoodplanning@york.gov.uk
Subject: Objection to merging of Acomb and Westfield into one neighbourhood area

This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I wish to express my reservations and opposition to the plan. To put Acomb and Westfield together in one Neighbourhood Plan will create an area far too large and there will be a lack of cohesion of areas. The plan as is now works very well.

Please do not create a Monster . Leave well alone.

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 August 2019 21:10
To: neighbourhoodplanning@york.gov.uk
Subject: Acomb & Westfield Neighbourhood Plan - consultation response

This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Neighbourhood Planning Team

I am writing in support of the application to designate Acomb & Westfield Neighbourhood Area and to designate the Acomb & Westfield Neighbourhood Forum as the body to develop the neighbourhood plan.

Although the combined area of Acomb and Westfield wards is larger than most neighbourhood plan areas, I believe that this is a logical area for the plan given that the centre of Acomb village sits at the boundary of the wards. The village centre catchment area therefore extends deeply into both ward areas. Given that the neighbourhood plan will complement and support the local plan, it makes sense to base this on ward boundaries, the areas relevant for city planning, rather than create a new boundary with no natural or structural basis.

I am a member of the Neighbourhood Forum and support it taking forward the task of developing a neighbourhood plan. The Forum is committed to this being an open, inclusive, community-led process and has demonstrated this through the extensive consultation that has taken place to date. The Neighbourhood Forum is not aligned to any particular interest group or political party. At a practical level, the Forum has researched the work required to develop a neighbourhood plan, is realistic about the effort required to achieve this, and committed to working constructively with the Neighbourhood Planning Team.

I hope that both applications will be approved.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

NJ/abl/1119/114/3

19th August 2019

Neighbourhood Planning
Planning and Environmental Management
City of York Council
West Offices
Station Rise
York
YO1 6GA

55 Spring Gardens
Manchester M2 2BY

0370 777 6292
info@rapleys.com
rapleys.com

LONDON
BIRMINGHAM
BRISTOL
CAMBRIDGE
EDINBURGH
HUNTINGDON
MANCHESTER

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Consultation On The Proposed Acomb And Westfield Neighbourhood Area And Neighbourhood Forum Applications.

We act on behalf of British Sugar Plc (British Sugar) and write to make representations on the proposed Acomb and Westfield Neighbourhood Area and Neighbourhood Forum Applications. The Acomb and Westfield Neighbourhood Forum has applied to:

- Be designated as 'The Neighbourhood Forum'; and
- Designate a neighbourhood area to be known as the 'Acomb and Westfield Neighbourhood Area'.

If the Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area applications are approved, the Neighbourhood Forum will be able to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the Neighbourhood Area. These applications have been submitted to the City of York Council (CYC) in line with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (Amended). The 8 week consultation period for representations, with regard to this initial stage of plan preparation, runs from Thursday 27th June to Thursday 22nd August 2019.

British Sugar has worked closely with CYC since the closure of the former British Sugar site to progress its sustainable redevelopment. As you will be aware, outline planning permission and associated detailed planning permissions have now been granted to enable the regeneration of the site to provide up to 1,100 new homes, new community uses, new public open spaces and associated infrastructure and landscaping. British Sugar continues to work with CYC in the preparation of the various reserved matters applications necessary to bring forward the proposals for the site.

A large part of the former British Sugar site is included within the proposed neighbourhood area designation. As a key stakeholder in the proposed Neighbourhood Area, it is important that British Sugar has the opportunity to be involved in the preparation of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan from the outset.

On the basis of the above, we kindly request that British Sugar be afforded the opportunity to become a member of the Neighbourhood Forum, and request that we are notified of all future consultations, meetings and any other relevant updates relating to the Acomb and Westfield Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Plan preparation.

For information, we have contacted the Neighbourhood Forum representatives directly to make the same request.

We look forward to receiving confirmation that this representation has been duly received.

If you would like to discuss any of the aspects above, please contact me.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature block]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
E mail: [REDACTED]

20 August 2019

Dear Sirs

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ACOMB & WESTFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

I write in objection to the above proposal on the following grounds:-

1. Proposed area to be covered
2. Duplication and cost
3. Validity of application

1. Proposed area to be covered

The area proposed to be covered - Acomb and Westfield Wards - comprises a population of 23440 with Westfield Ward having nearly double the number of people of with Acomb.

One of the reasons York is such a great city in which to live is the diversity and vibrancy of its neighbourhoods, each with its own ethos, which are not confined within the boundaries of Wards but in many cases straddle Wards e.g. the Hob Moor area of Westfield probably has more in common with the Holgate area whilst Foxwood has more in common with parts of Dringhouses & Woodthorpe.

Residents tend to look for facilities within their own neighbourhood in the first instance and I can see little synergy between Acomb and Westfield - which appears to have a larger number of accessible community facilities - than Acomb.

There is the opportunity to establish residents associations covering all tenures but, whilst this is something which happens in Westfield, which has active residents associations going back to 1986, this is not something which Acomb appears to have embraced. Consultation with local people on issues can and does take place through these bodies.

I believe that the proposed area is too large, the ability of people to influence decisions covering very unique areas will be lost, and the case for the forum based on this area is opposed by me.

2. Duplication and cost

There is already a Ward Committee system in operation and there is the option to have a Planning Panel in each Ward - something which neither Ward has ever taken up.

I was alarmed to read in the constitution of the Forum (3.5) that they could employ staff and have offices and wonder where the money for this might come from. It must not come from the York taxpayers.

3. Validity of Application

Looking at the figures provided by the Forum relating to the location of their membership, on their figures only 68 members live in the area which represents 0.0029% of the population of the two Wards.

The Officers of the Forum are not listed so it is difficult to know who exactly took the decision and when to apply for a Neighbourhood Forum.

Turning to their Constitution, I note the requirement for 2 General Meetings per year, one of which must be the AGM.

Their website gives details of those meetings as follows:-

16 November 2017 - Steering Group
January 2018 - agenda published for 11 April meeting
11 April 2018 - yet again a copy of the agenda
3 July 2018 - Steering Group
16 October 2018 - Steering Group

No minutes appear to be published for the 2018 AGM, nor is there any indication that a properly constituted AGM was held in 2019. Neither does there appear to have been a general meeting in 2018. So the requirement for 2 general meetings pa seems not to have been met.

At the 3 July 2018 Steering Group the Chairman and Vice Chairman said they were leaving Acomb and would be standing down at the AGM. I understand that they now reside out of area and are involved in other campaigns. I am left wondering why it is that people who do not reside in the area, wish to impose, through this Forum, their views on others.

Yours faithfully

██████████



Westfield Ward Councillors
City of York Council
West Offices
Station Rise
York YO1 6GA

Date: 16/08/19

Dear Sir/Madam,

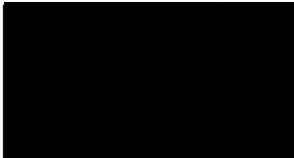
Re : Consultation on Acomb and Westfield Neighbourhood Plan

As the three ward councillors for Westfield Ward we would make the following points expressing our reservations in relation to the proposals for the Neighbourhood Plan being consulted upon by City of York Council.

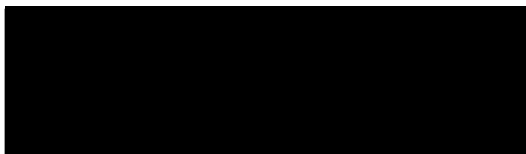
1. The area is too large for a genuinely local neighbourhood plan. The distances from Boroughbridge Road and Carr Lane to Acomb Wood Drive and Windsor Garth run through a number of different neighbourhoods.
2. No other Neighbourhood Plan in York covers more than one ward, and the vast majority are parts of wards reflecting the local geography and neighbourhoods.
3. We have concerns that the plan as proposed would not take account of the different neighbourhoods within the Westfield Ward;
4. Chapelfields is one of a number of distinct neighbourhood in the ward, which according to the map submitted by the organanistion making the application has no members representing this community, nor has there been direct engagement the Community Association for that area.
5. Foxwood is another distinct neighbourhood and has few points of contact with the proposed plan, and again no engagement with the Residents Association for this community.
6. It is hoped that residents associations for Kingsway West, Cornlands and Lowfields can be re-established and those neighbourhoods are distinct within the proposed geography.

Were the application to be approved then this would prevent local Neighbourhood Plans for the communities listed above which we feel would be contrary to the intentions of the Localism Act.

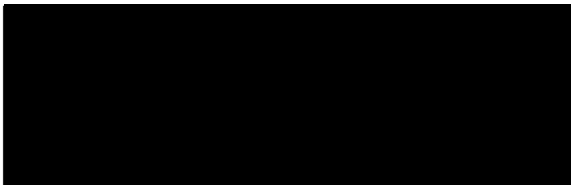
Yours sincerely



Cllr Andrew Waller



Cllr Sue Hunter



Cllr Simon Daubeney