

Chair: Christine Thornton, [REDACTED]  
Secretary: Mr Robert Winfield [REDACTED]  
E mai [REDACTED] Forum Website- [www.beestonforum.btck.co.uk](http://www.beestonforum.btck.co.uk)  
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**BEESTON  
COMMUNITY FORUM**

Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
by e mail to [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

7<sup>h</sup> January 2017

Dear Sirs

I have been requested by a General Meeting of the Beeston Community Forum to write you with a response to the proposed ward boundary for Beeston and Holbeck Ward . We note that the current Beeston and Holbeck Ward has too few electors , and therefore needs to increase is electorate size. We agree with the Commission's approach to this issue; to include areas lying to the north of the current Beeston and Holbeck ward .

We note that the Commission has also proposed a further, minor alteration to the Boundary for Beeston and Holbeck Ward , which involves the removal of around eight houses lying on Whitehall Road , together with the Dragon Hotel. We are also happy to support this proposed amendment . As you may be aware, the Beeston Community Forum put forward proposals for the boundary of the current Beeston and Holbeck Ward during the last ward boundary review which took place in 2003. We secured the support of each of the major political parties and the Boundary Commission for our proposals, which include an area of land primarily used for industrial purposes which we believed was completely uninhabited but which in fact includes the houses referred to above. We accept that the area including the houses has no affinity at all with Beeston or Holbeck , and in fact has far stronger connections to Wortley. Had we been aware of these houses when we put forward our proposals in 2003, we would not have proposed the inclusion of this area in Beeston and Holbeck Ward. We support the Commission's proposal to transfer this area to Farnley and Wortley Ward .

We would make a further alteration to the proposed Beeston and Holbeck Ward which would involve the addition of Stank Hall, New Hall and Stank Hall Barn, which are currently included in Middleton Park Ward. This was discussed at our last meeting, on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017, at which we were surprised to hear from Angela Gabriel, a Beeston and Holbeck Ward Councillor, that the Boundary Commission has rejected proposals to include Stank Hall and Stank Hall Bran in Beeston and Holbeck Ward on the basis that insufficient evidence has been presented of the links between these properties and Beeston and Holbeck Ward. In this connection, I would make the following points which I trust will be

sufficient to enable the Commission to change its view of this matter.

a) Stank Hall and Stank Hall Barn are far closer to the nearest residential properties in Beeston and Holbeck Ward (situated on the Parkwood Estate) than to the nearest residential properties in Middleton Park Ward

b) As part of the preparation for writing this letter, I carried out a Google search on the words 'Stank Hall Barn' . The Friends of Stank Hall website states 'Stank Hall Barn is a fifteenth century tithe bran in Beeston,Leeds'. The Heritage Open Days website refers to 'Stank Hall Barn, Dewsbury Road, Beeston,Leeds' . The Grandiose Decay website states that 'Stank Hall Barn is a Grade I listed building in Beeston,Leeds. Leeds Civic Trust refers on its website to 'Stank Hall Barn, Beeston'

c) As a result of a decision of the Beeston Community Forum at its General Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012 (please see the Agenda for the Beeston Community Forum meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 which is published on the Forum's website) , I was requested to write to the then councillors for Middleton Park ward about the dilapidation of the buildings , in support of proposals to restore them. I recall that in the ensuing correspondence, Geoff Driver , then a councillor for Middleton Park Ward observed that as a result of what he described as a 'boundary anomaly' the building is in Middleton Park Ward despite being surrounded on three sides by residents who live in Beeston and Holbeck Ward . He also noted that the site is a a long way from the nearest residence in Middleton Park Ward .

Finally, we were surprised and disappointed to learn that neither ourselves nor the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum (a statutory Neighbourhood Forum set up under the terms of the Localism Act 2011) were included on a list prepared by Leeds City Council of Community Groups to be consulted by yourselves in relation to the Boundary Proposals. We accept that this situation is the responsibility of Leeds City Council, not yourselves and we will be writing to the Chief Executive of Leeds City Council about this matter

We look forward to hearing further details of the process by which the ward boundaries are finalised

Yours faithfully

ROBERT J.W. WINFIELD