

Starkie, Emily

From: Susan Ottley-Hughes [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 January 2017 22:57
To: reviews
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Stank Old Hall, Stank New Hall and Stank Barn Site, South Leeds

Dear Sirs

I am writing on behalf of the South Leeds community group Friends of Stank Hall (FOSH), of which I am the Co-Chair.

This communication concerns your movement of boundary lines in South Leeds and the subsequent placement of the Stank Hall site, which currently stands empty and derelict, from Beeston & Holbeck Ward to Middleton Park Ward. We would ask, please, that you consider our request to return this very important historical site to Beeston & Holbeck Ward. The Beeston community that we work with consider that the Stank Hall site has always belonged to Beeston, and the community are working hard together to return it to community use, through a free food grow scheme and medieval themed garden, archaeology and local history projects, and working with local school and university programmes to research and publicise this site, formerly a royal hunting lodge attached to Rothwell Castle, the oldest building on the Stank Old Hall, New Hall and Barn site being the Old Hall which was constructed in 1280.

To support our work, which is entirely volunteer led and funded by grants, we feel very strongly that the site needs to be returned to the boundaries of Beeston where it belongs, this is a belief echoed by members of the local Beeston community. Until relatively recently the Old Hall and New Hall buildings at the Stank Hall site formed a number of social occupancies and although the currently site stands empty of occupied accomodation (and therefore voting households) it is our hope as a group that in time the halls will be reoccupied and returned to use as homes.

During our journey to support and bring back to community use the Stank Old Hall, New Hall and Barn site we rely entirely on grants to move our work forward. If you keep this site in Middleton Park Ward then we are competing with a number of other community projects in Middleton for this grant money and our very essential work becomes much more difficult to obtain financial support for. From the point of view of the Friends of Stank Hall group, the ongoing community work at the Stank Old Hall, New Hall and Barn site will be easier to find independent funding for if it is returned as a site to within the Beeston & Holbeck boundaries.

Under the circumstances, we would be very grateful if you would reconsider your original decision and return the Stank Old Hall, New Hall and Barn site back home to Beeston, where it belongs.

Thank you for time in considering this application.

Best regards

Susan Ottley-Hughes
Friends of Stank Hall