

North Northamptonshire Council

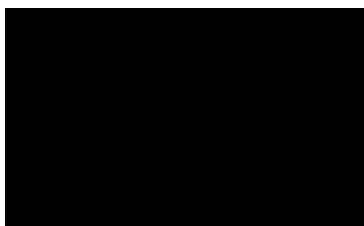
Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name



Comment text:

I would be please if the following comments could be considered All polling districts/wards are multiple councillor seats, most having 3 councillors. I would suggest for non-urban wards / divisions this is inefficient, due to the small numbers of electors in each parish especially when the administration of elections occurs and in particular a by-election when one of the three seats becomes vacant with all 12,000 electors being involved rather than just the average 4,000 per councillor, coupled especially in rural areas with a large number of small polling stations. This would not necessarily be the case in an urban area where polling districts would be larger and more cohesive. The villages Woodford, Denford, Ringstead have much closer ties to Thrapston than to Irthlingborough, due to proximity, bus services etc. Whilst it could be argued that Woodford shares a medical practice with Irthlingborough with premises in both locations, many Woodford residents do choose to travel to Thrapston and equally Ringstead residents tend to go to Raunds and Denford to Thrapston. Likewise, secondary schooling for village children generally follow these routes too. Consequently, these villages as a whole have no strong allegiance to Irthlingborough. Whilst in some multi councillor wards, councillors have split themselves along the lines of interests, or duties across the whole ward, e.g. one councillor might deal with all planning issues, and another social care matters, in the present Irthlingborough ward the three councillors divided the ward amongst themselves on a geographic basis, with no input from the electorate which to a degree is not very democratic. Ultimately this does mean councillors focus on an area of the community, and in the case of the Irthlingborough ward, one councillor deals with all the villages, i.e. Woodford, the Addingtons, Ringstead Denford etc, and the other two councillors focus on Irthlingborough. This informal split does not appear in any official documentation so is not particularly transparent. Consequently, I would suggest that the villages in rural wards across the district should not be part of urban wards and that the Irthlingborough ward should be formally split to form two wards: one a rural ward (1 councillor), comprising all of the villages - all facing similar rural issues with an electorate of approximately 3400, and an Irthlingborough town ward (2 councillors) with an electorate of approximately 7,500. The name of this rural ward could be "Middle Nene". The Irthlingborough ward could retain the present name.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded