

North Northamptonshire Council

Personal Details:

Name:

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There are two problems with the existing arrangements as I see it. The first is the model of multiple councillors per ward. This creates a disconnect between the represented and the representatives. It is unclear which councillor you should approach on a given matter and allows councillors to avoid responding. This is especially acute where those councillors live in the same household. The second problem is particular to Warmington. We are not, and have never been, part of Thrapston. We look to Oundle, 4 miles away, as our community hub. That is where our GP surgery, senior school, and all local services are. Thrapston by comparison is remote and rarely visited. Why then are we in a ward with Thrapston? This looks more like gerrymandering than an honest attempt to create a ward that represents local people. My suggestion is to redraw all ward boundaries, make wards smaller both geographically and in population terms, and to have a single councillor per ward. As part of that process wards should cover obviously related geographic areas, not bend around population centres. Ideal population numbers would be around 5,000 per ward giving roughly 72 wards based on 2021 census figures. I appreciate this task is not easy, but the abject failure of the reorganisation of North Northamptonshire to drive any improvement in local government and the election of the same tired faces that doomed us in the past shows that the original plan only favoured the incumbents at the expense of local people. One final thing; tell your web developers they should not be using a privacy invading CAPTCHA service from Google to protect pages.

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