

North Northamptonshire Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Hemington, Luddington and Thurning Parish Council

Comment text:

This Parish Coouncil would like the arrangements for Thrapston Ward to remain as they are, for reasons set out in the attached letter.

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1674239582_Submission+to+LGBCE+230120.pdf)

HEMINGTON, LUDDINGTON AND THURNING PARISH COUNCIL

20 January 2023

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Via website www.lgbce.org.uk

Dear Sirs

North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) Ward Boundary Review

We are writing to provide some context to the area covered by the Parish Council for Hemington, Luddington and Thurning – a Grouped Parish Council covering three parishes. It sits within the **Thrapston Ward** of NNC.

The last information provided by NNC showed 251 electors in the PC area. The area lies towards the northern extent of the NNC area and has borders with Huntingdonshire to the East. Until the creation of NNC, the PC area fell into the East Northants District Council area.

The area is quintessentially rural in its appearance and was described by a planning inspector in 2007 as *'the villages are inter-connected by a network of footpaths and bridleways which combine with the villages to offer a deeply rural, tranquil, intimate backdrop...'* and *'sweeping vistas over fields are regarded as adding to the landscape's drama'*.

In addition to the collaboration between the villages, they also collaborate closely with the parishes of Barnwell, Polebrook and Lutton. All three of these parishes sit within the same Church of England benefice (The Brookfields Benefice) and both Barnwell and Polebrook are situated on the roads that lead to the nearby town of Oundle.

Oundle is a significant hub for the villages, being a source of secondary schooling, shopping, medical and other services. Primary level schooling is provided in Polebrook, and occasionally in Oundle.

Residents of the parish will naturally look first to Oundle rather than Thrapston for commerce and support services. Many other villages in the area will also look to Oundle to an extent. Although some residents have links across the border to villages in Huntingdonshire, this is not significant. Services not provided in Oundle will tend to be sought to the east in Peterborough, rather than to the west.

Any review of parishes within NNC wards must preserve the links for this PC area with Oundle and surrounding parishes. The A605 is a major link road across the county from Thrapston to Oundle and then to Peterborough and beyond. The issues of maintenance, traffic levels and planning are frequently common to residents of Oundle, Thrapston and surrounding villages.

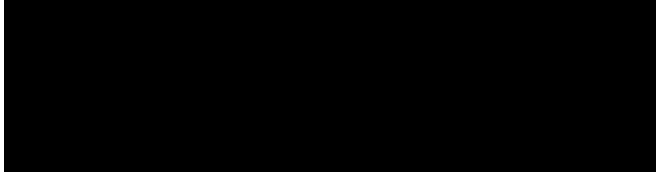
Parish Councillors are content with the current arrangements of the **Thrapston Ward** as the rural issues often at the heart of our concerns apply to the majority of the parishes making up **Thrapston Ward**, and these parishes traditionally look to Oundle or Thrapston for their support services. The ward only covers land east of the A14 arterial road. Whereas there are villages to the west of this road that will look to Thrapston for services, they do

not share as much in common with the villages in the current **Thrapston Ward**, aligning more with parishes to the west.

We note that all wards in NNC currently have three Councillors. We find this approach works well for our PC area and do have regular contact with our councillors. Having three councillors assists in providing breadth of service and alternative skills and support. We note also that your forecast populations would continue to support three councillors within this ward area.

We would request that **no change is made to the boundaries of the Thrapston Ward**, and that three councillors remain to represent the electorate.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Richard Allinson.

Richard Allinson
Clerk to the Parish Council