

West Northamptonshire

Personal Details:

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Postcode: not given
Organisation Name: Kingsthorpe Parish Council (Parish or town clerk or officer)

Comment text:

To whom it may concern,

The draft Boundary Commission report states that five of the existing Kingsthorpe parish wards have been merged into two wards containing a north and a south because no evidence was presented that these wards were distinct communities.

Kingsthorpe Parish Council was not made aware that its internal boundaries might change as well as its external ones; there are indeed quite distinct communities in Kingsthorpe which justify separate representation on the parish council.

For example, Kingsthorpe Village Ward was originally a Royal Manor. It has many listed buildings and stone cottages, some dating back to the 1500s. It comprises of two conservation areas and has an active Village Conservation Committee which acts to maintain and enhance the village environment. It has a primary school, a pub, two churches and a village green, as well as a pocket park. The friends of the Kingsthorpe Village Green organise a Village fete each year bringing residents together as well as attracting visitors from outside the village. The village has distinct geographical boundaries which contribute to its sense of community. There are no roads out of the village to the west where it is bounded by a tributary of the River Nene. To the south it is bounded by Thornton Park and to the North and East by Kingsthorpe Road and Welford Road.

Whereas Obelisk ward is an estate of private houses built in the 1970s. It also has distinct geographical boundaries. It is on the edge of the town and there are no roads leading out of it to the north and east. In the west it is bounded by the Harborough Road, in the south by Holly Lodge Drive. It has a primary school, a pub, a local shop, two parks and pocket park actively managed by volunteers. The estate recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with a fun day and exhibition of the estate's history organised by the local church. This was well-attended attesting to the estate's sense of community identity.

Similarly, the wards of St Davids, Spring Park and Sunnyside are all distinctly different and have their own individual social make-up, needs and concerns, which all warrant individual representation within the Parish Council.

In addition, Kingsthorpe Parish Council was formed only 2 years ago into 5 wards of 3 councillors each. It is proposed to now be split into 2 much larger wards of 5 and 10 Councillors. As a parish councillor, there are already difficulties overcoming personal and political differences and ensuring that work is not duplicated or overlooked. With such large overall wards of councillors proposed, this will become much more difficult and will impact on the ability to fully represent our residents.

The parish council is the tier of local government closest to the community and it is essential to its functioning that all communities are adequately represented on it. Due to the diverse nature of the Parish, this can only be ensured by the preservation of the existing ward structure of 5 separate wards rather than the two proposed.

Kind Regards

Sent on Behalf of
Kingsthorpe Parish Council

Attached Documents:

None attached