

North Northamptonshire

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Comment text:

Related subject: Clover Hill (All Saints + Brambleside), Kettering

Boundary Commission Consultation Response to the Kettering Clover Hill Ward (All Saints + Brambleside) being divided between separate Brambleside and Kettering Central wards.

Summary

I have spoken to a number of residents in the Clover Hill ward and all believe that All Saints and Brambleside are part of a common community. They also believe that All Saints should not be joined to a central Kettering ward, the two areas are not similar, particular the Avenues and the streets around the Pleasure Park. These are views that I share as a resident of All Saints myself. Brambleside should not be segregated from All Saints and that the majority of All Saints ward should not be joined to a Kettering Central ward.

Schools

Park Road Infant and Junior schools is in the heart of All Saints. This was the only school in the Clover Hill Ward until Brambleside school was built in 1996. The majority of locals over 30 years olds from Brambleside and All Saints will have attended the Victorian Park Road School together. The Kettering Buccleuch Academy (KBA) secondary school is located on the boundary of the Brambleside and All Saints ward and was opened in 1978. This was, and remains, the only secondary school in the northern part of the town. KBA's catchment area covers all of Brambleside and the majority of All Saints, as far south as King Street. We are a community with common childhood experiences and friends, with teachers who have taught multiple generations. The joint experience of these schools by the children of All Saints and Brambleside has created lasting bonds of friendship and community between the people across Clover Hill.

Travel

The Clover Hill ward is a very connected community, there are several vehicle entrances to the Brambleside area, with road links in three places on Rockingham Road and one from Kipling Road. These give Brambleside and All Saints residents every opportunity to move between both areas. There are multiple pedestrian and cycle routes between Brambleside and All Saints. The most used are the two alleys from Blandford Avenue on the north of the All Saints area to Brambleside. The public right of way which runs north south through the centre of Clover Hill, follows the path of an ancient road from the centre of Kettering through the Rockingham Road Pleasure Park, along Hallwood Road, crossing Brambleside to Weekley Hall Wood and provides a historic route of travel between the two areas.

All the pedestrian routes are used by a high number of dog walkers from the All Saints area, who head through Brambleside to Weekly Hall Wood, which is to the north, to enjoy the countryside. Via the pedestrian cut-through from John Clare Court on Brambleside, the Scott Road allotments can be accessed. Here there is a strong community, with residents from both Brambleside and All Saints cultivating allotment plots together.

The only bus to serve the area is the No.16, which routes through both Brambleside and All Saints with stops on Cotswold Ave, Pennine Way, Brambleside, Kipling Road, Bath Road, Burghley St, Hallwood Rd and Neale Ave.

Community Groups and Amenities

The Rockingham Road Pleasure Park is a central focus of the All Saints area and draws in many residents from Brambleside. It has the largest children's playground area in the ward as well as outdoor gym equipment, a bowls club, putting green, BMX track, segregated dog walking area, and Victorian band stand. Various events are held there through the year, including a summer program of 'bands in the park', community festivals, fairs and the annual Kettering carnival ends in the Park. The Rockingham Road Pleasure Park is also the only Kettering town park that holds the prestigious Green Flag award, which requires community involvement with the upkeep of the park to be awarded. All these things together make it a key destination for residents of both All Saints and Brambleside to meet and mix through their leisure and recreational activities.

The Brambleside area itself has grown from the first houses built in the 1960s through a phased development across a five decade period up to the 2000's. The Brambleside shopping area and Briars pub were not built until 1992 and until then, there were no amenities in Brambleside. Both the Blandford Avenue alleys lead to the nearest local pubs on Brambleside, The Beeswing to the west and the Briars to the east. These are the only two estate pubs in the ward and are frequented by residents from both All Saints and Brambleside. Residents would use local shops and other amenities serving the All Saints area. Brambleside residents do not have any community hubs, aside from the two pubs, so use facilities in All Saints, including the Midland Band Club, Rifle Band Club, Athletic Club, All Saints Church, Kettering Arts Centre, and Bowls club. That gradual expansion of Brambleside and shared use of amenities with All Saints has allowed the sense of community to grow between the two areas.

Monthly litter picks, which span both the Brambleside and All Saints areas, draw in people from across the whole ward, helping to maintain the

community integration. Kingsley Avenue to the north of the All Saints area has a very strong community. For the last few years their residents have organised an annual street sale that extends out into Brambleside and a hugely popular Halloween event. Both these events draw in residents from Brambleside and the surrounding area. The William Street Community Gardens also provides a space where people from across Clover Hill can come and meet others while maintaining and enjoying the gardens there, particular those residents who do not have gardens of their own.

Conclusion

Splitting up the community of Brambleside and All Saints will be detrimental to both areas. I also feel very strongly that the majority of the All Saints area should not be merged into a new Kettering Central ward. All Saints has more affinity with the north of Kettering and the Brambleside area than the centre of Kettering. Clover Hill has the obvious physical boundaries of Rockingham Road to the West, Montagu Street to the south, and North Park & Bath Road to the East.

As a Town Councillor for this area, I would urge you to consider keeping All Saints and Brambleside connected. I am aware the current number of residents do not support the current three NNC councillors, however, by moving the southern boundary up to between King Street or Regent Street, then the number of residents would equate to a fair proportion for a two member ward, maintaining electoral equality.

Brambleside should not be segregated from All Saints and that the majority of All Saints ward should not be joined to a Kettering Central ward. These areas should remain as a single ward to reflect the community cohesion that has always existed.

Attached Documents:

None attached