

North Northamptonshire

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Organisation Name: North Northamptonshire (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Rothwell Mawsley

I copy your draft recommendations here and comment on them hoping that makes it easier to relate to my observations:

"Rothwell & Mawsley

93 We have adopted the Conservative Group's proposal for this ward, which is focused on the town of Rothwell and extends south to Pytchley parish. Little evidence of community identity was offered, but the only alternative proposal, from the Labour Group, had several issues, such as Harrington parish being placed as a detached portion of a ward to the north of Desborough. We will only propose detached wards in the most exceptional circumstances, and we do not consider that those circumstances exist in this case.

94 Broughton Parish Council expressed a desire to be placed in a ward with other rural communities, rather than the existing arrangement which sees this parish placed in a ward with Burton Latimer. The parish council also noted links with Cransley and Loddington parishes, but was not specific about these.

95 Based on the forecast electorates, it would be possible to create a single member ward comprising the parishes of Pytchley, Broughton, Mawsley and

Cransley with good electoral equality, with the remainder of our proposed ward forming a two-councillor ward focused on Rothwell. We retain an open mind, and would welcome further evidence as to whether this alternative might offer a better reflection of community identity in this area".

My observations on paragraphs 93-95.

I agree with the draft recommendations that Broughton and Pytchley become part of the present Rothwell Mawsley Ward and be designated a three member Ward, as is the present Rothwell Mawsley Ward..

The previous Slade Ward on Kettering Borough Council was first elected to on the 6th May 1999 (based on the Boundary Commission's report of March 1997). This contained the parishes of Broughton, Cransley, Harrington (including Thorpe Underwood), Loddington, Orton, Pytchley and Thorpe Malsor.

This reinforces the Commission's view that Harrington should not be a detached portion of another Ward. Harrington is now, and has been for many years, part of the grouping of villages currently within the Ward proposed by the Commission. I agree with Harrington remaining with these Parishes .

At that time the new village of Mawsley was yet to start to be constructed (planning permission granted 1995) and was to be within Great Cransley Parish.

In the 2006 review the following conclusion was reached by the Commission:

"Draft recommendations May 2006 We proposed that Kettering Borough Council should be served by 36 councillors, nine fewer than at present, representing 17 wards. We recommended that the boundaries of all of the existing wards should be changed, except Slade ward which should be retained."

This conclusion recognised that, whilst the overall population of the then Kettering Borough was growing, the creation of Mawsley was well underway and would mean that the then Slade Ward would grow in electorate numbers as Mawsley went from no homes in 2000 (when the first homes were occupied) to the current 900 plus houses. Thus whilst other wards were changed to recognise existing and proposed growth Slade remained the same knowing that Mawsley was building out.

I agree with the comments of Broughton Parish Council when they make the point that they (along with Pytchley - in my opinion) have little or no connection with Burton Latimer as defined by the County Council Ward changes elected to on the 2nd May 2013 (the creation of the Burton

Broughton County Council Ward).

The selection of Mawsley as the location for a new village after a planning policy evaluation of nine potential new village proposals, in three distinct areas of the then Kettering Borough, was intended to offer a rural "hub" for the villages in that area of the Borough (and this part of Northamptonshire).

Accordingly a Doctor's surgery and Dentist exist in Mawsley used by the surrounding population, along with other facilities in Barnwell Court (Mawsley) such as a One-Stop-Shop, Indian restaurant, Café, Nursery etc.

Broughton has a Public House, Chip shop, Co-op, Chinese take-away, garage etc. The two villages share and frequent the facilities each has. Creating a strong community link.

That array of services continues on to link Pytchley to its two larger neighbours.

The boundary changes for the County Council in 2013 created the Rothwell Mawsley Ward, removing Broughton and Pytchley from the former Kettering Rural Ward and adding Rothwell and Rushton to the other KBC Slade Ward villages (basically on the North of the A43 splitting the Parishes' community links in representation between Rothwell-Mawsley and Burton-Broughton).

Broughton, Mawsley and Cransley are within the same Church of England Benefice. Equally the Tresham Benefice consists of Rothwell with Orton, Rushton with Glendon and Pipewell, Thorpe Malsor and Loddington. The commission's proposals would keep these community links together.

The only secondary School in the Commission's proposals for Rothwell Mawsley, now including Broughton and Pytchley, is Montsaye at Rothwell where (along with other Kettering based schools) students go from the villages. Thus councillors elected in the future would be representing a significant number of primary schools and students going to Montsaye.

In relation to the map in the Commission's recommendations I would suggest that the A509 between the A14 Junction 10 and Isham should be the Ward boundary for Rothwell Mawsley to the point where it meets the existing Isham boundary. The area between the A509 and the Midland Mainline railways has no houses or residents and the land captured has planning permission for warehousing, the impact of which is more likely to concern Burton Latimer than Pytchley. This would give a clear definition of the Ward boundary along the A509 to the A14 and along the A14 to Junction 7 where the Kettering Northern (A43) bypass is the boundary.

I appreciate that speculation about the future is not factually permissible, but the gradual (from Moulton to Sywell) and hopefully, sooner than later, dualling of the entire A43 between Kettering and Northampton would be better represented by Councillors who look after Broughton and

Mawsley rather than each side of the road being in different wards. The advent of plans to dual the A43 will be a major issue not only for Rothwell and Mawsley but all the adjacent villages.

Finally I would suggest that the new ward be named Rothwell, Broughton and Mawsley Ward. I'm not sure if correctness means it should be alphabetical order!

Attached Documents:

None attached