

# North Northamptonshire

## Personal Details:

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**Organisation Name:** N/A (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Proposed Brambleside & Kettering Central

I was really upset to see the new ward proposal for the north-end of Kettering and feel that I really need to register my objections. I understand the need for new boundaries and that not everyone's wishes can be catered for, but I fail to see why the current Cloverhill (also known as Brambleside and All Saints) ward cannot continue, albeit smaller to accommodate the council/resident ratio needed. I have lived in this area for the majority of my life. As a young child I would often play in the woods that were at the end of Kipling Rd (prop- Brambleside), 1 road down from my home at the Kingsley Ave end of Bath Rd (prop- Kettering Central), with my friends. As the new estate Brambleside grew with me, it became an extension of our teenage stomping ground, with members of our friendship group living in both All Saints and Brambleside. We would weave in and out of the estates using the many 'jitties' available to us. I personally went to school at Avondale primary schools (the catchment area ran down the centre of Bath Rd back then), which no longer exist. The majority of my locally-living friends were at Park Road primary schools. The majority of us then went up to Montagu school (the only secondary school in the north of Kettering), which we would access from Scott Rd (prop- Kettering Central), the adjacent road to Kipling Rd. As youngsters, if we were 'going town' it would be an event. We would either all walk in or catch the 'shuttle buses' that were ran around Cloverhill and were plentiful at the time. If someone would of suggested to me back then that I lived in central Kettering, I would of laughed. I now have a family including a daughter and son, 15 and 13 respectively. They both attended Park Road primary schools and had many friends attending Brambleside school, which we met in local toddler groups and through other local community events and groups in Cloverhill. Parents who live in the All Saints part of Cloverhill have their children at Brambleside and vice versa. The majority of the children from these schools go on to Kettering Buccleuch Academy, which stands on the site of the old Montagu school, still the only upper school at our end of Kettering and still accessible from Scott Rd.

We as a family, or just my husband and I, with or without friends, can often be seen grabbing some food and drinks at either The Beeswing or The Briars, sometimes both, then finishing the night off at the Midland Band. Our numerous daily dog walk routes incorporate Brambleside and the remaining 'Hilly Hollies' woodland that is sandwiched between the estate and the bypass. Sometimes in the week and always at the weekend, we head over the road into Weekly Hall Woods area.

I honestly cannot think of any benefits to the residence of the current 'All Saints' ward being separated from its neighbour Brambleside to be consumed by the proposed huge ward called Kettering Central. I can only think of negatives:

- The north-end of Kettering will lose its identity, in particular Cloverhill/All Saints. Intentionally ripping up the historically recognised community.
- Break-up of established prospering community groups based on current set up – There is a Brambleside and North Kettering Chat Facebook page with 2.1K members, Brambleside and All Saints both have community groups and social media presence, along with a number of more localised groups, e.g. The Avenues, William St Community Garden, Friends of Park Road. I know the Scouts have separate Cloverhill and the Town Centre groups, to cater for their local areas. I am sure there are others.
- The new Maplefields Community Centre situated in Beatrix Road (prop-Kettering Central) is intended to serve both Brambleside and Cloverhill.
- The Rockingham Road Pleasure Park, of which we are so proud, used by both Brambleside and All Saints regularly, will become one of at least 4 parks, plus the cemetery and the banks of the Slade Brook all in the same ward.
- Town centre rejuvenation desperately wanted by the whole of Kettering will either have its focus diluted by pulling in the north into the same ward, or the north will lose the focus it has enjoyed over the last few years.
- Town planning requirements and traffic issues are very different in the town centre than they are in the north
- Existing data/statics groupings used by corporations and community groups would have to change massively, or could no longer be kept inline with the ward boundaries. This is one that will affect me directly in my work. I work for a large company that bases its geographic work allocation on wards of towns, due to them being based on population numbers. I maintain these and will have to put in imaginary splits to maintain flexibility, whereas just reducing the area will only require tweaks. I can only assume others will have the same quandary and possibly expense.
- Were the boundary of Cloverhill to be reduced to cover the numbers for two councillors, they could support each other and cover for each other. Brambleside being given one councillor would mean the area would be left uncovered at times, meanwhile the three councillors in Kettering Central would be stretched by the size and extreme variety of issues and priorities.

I am very likely to be able to think of other reasons to not go with the proposal to split Cloverhill in this way over the coming days.

I can honestly only think of one reason this proposal was conceived in the first place and that is a political one. The size of Kettering Central will achieve a reduction in choice of councillors for the residences of the ward. This change of boundary would ensure that only the two main parties would be able to afford to stand, forcing out any small party or independent competition.

I really do hope that the views of current residence are wholly considered and the lack of common sense present in the Brambleside and Kettering Central proposal is recognised.

## Attached Documents:

*None attached*