

# Middlesbrough

## Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Middlesbrough Council (District or county councillor)

## Comment text:

Related subject: Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton

Submission to Review Officer (Middlesbrough) LGBCE  
Alternative Proposal for Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton Wards

Proposed by

- Hemlington Ward Councillors (Cllr Nicky Walker and Cllr Tom Mohan)
- Stainton and Thornton Ward Councillor (Cllr David Coupe)
- Stainton and Thornton Parish Council

Also supported by Hemlington Community Council.

### Alternative Proposal

The alternative, cross-party, proposal for Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton wards drawn up and proposed by Hemlington Ward councillors Cllr Nicky Walker and Cllr Tom Mohan, Stainton and Thornton councillor Cllr David Coupe and Stainton Parish Council, and has the support of Hemlington Community Council is to retain the current Hemlington Ward and Stainton and Thornton Ward boundaries (with addition of the farm road to South of A174 as proposed by LGBCE) and make both 2-councillor wards.

This provides the electoral equality required of +/-10% with -5% for Hemlington Ward and is within-10% (-9.75%) for Stainton & Thornton Ward for

2029. It also fits so much better in all other respects with the other two statutory criteria of community identity and effective and convenient local government, which have been given more detailed consideration in this alternative proposal than in the Further Draft Recommendations.

As this proposal follows the combined boundaries and electors for the Hemlington North Ward and Hemlington South & Stainton Ward proposed in the Further Draft Recommendations, there is no impact on any other wards in Middlesbrough in the LGBCE proposals and the total number of electors of 8,386 for the two wards would be the same.

The number of electors per councillor for Stainton and Thornton Ward of 2045 is exactly the same as that for Berwick Hills and Park End included in the draft further recommendations as meeting the statutory criteria.

Paragraph 26 of the report on the further draft recommendations of January 2025 acknowledges that Stainton & Thornton Parish Council proposal of maintaining the existing boundaries of the ward with two councillors, would have an electoral variance of -10% by 2029 according to the current forecasts.

#### SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FROM HEMLINGTON WARD COUNCILLORS

Cllr Nicky Walker and Tom Mohan

#### Weaknesses in the Further Draft Recommendations

Whilst it is appreciated that the LGBCE has a very difficult task in drawing up proposals across Middlesbrough that meet with their three statutory criteria, no reason has been given as to why the current Hemlington Ward and Stainton and Thornton Ward, should be changed other than to accommodate changes to other wards and resulting electoral inequality, which seems unfair. If Hemlington had been taken as the starting points, instead of considering it last, it is highly unlikely the same proposal would have been made.

Hemlington's population hasn't changed greatly since the current ward boundary as created in 2003 (with slight amendment in 2015 to the North West), and no change in numbers of electors is presumed in the current data from 2023 to 2029. It continues to meet the statutory criteria well, including that of electoral equality and especially that of community identity and there is no reason to change it.

There are references in the July report and the January report Further Draft Recommendations of considerations of community identity in all the other parts of Middlesbrough but none has been given to Hemlington in this latest proposal, other than the acknowledgement that current proposals would depart from the unification of Hemlington under the current boundary, the retention of which the report recognises is 'particularly conducive to local community identity'.

In the LGBCE May 2013 report, paragraph 76 on the draft recommendations relating to the then boundary review, they rejected proposals to change the boundary of Hemlington Ward on the basis that it would 'would divide the community', after LGBCE visited Middlesbrough and had toured the area.

Stainton and Thornton Parish Council in their submission on the draft recommendations of July 2024 proposed retaining the current ward boundaries.

The Middlesbrough Council and Labour Group proposals both retained the current Hemlington Ward boundaries.

Nobody has at any time in the consultation has suggested these boundaries for Hemlington now being proposed in the further draft recommendations, or suggested that Hemlington should be divided in two.

Paragraph 26 of the report on the further draft recommendations acknowledges that Stainton & Thornton Parish Council proposed maintaining the existing boundaries of the ward with two councillors, which would have an electoral variance of -10% by 2029 according to the current forecast. It is not explained why this proposal was not considered, other than by reference to electoral inequalities relating to Stainsby Hall Farm if included in other wards but these are resolved in the Further Draft Recommendations for North of the A174.

### Community Identity

Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

Hemlington is a community built around the lake, mainly in the 1960s and 1970s. Hemlington has a strong sense of community spirit and identity with well-known and clearly defined boundaries which align with the current Hemlington Ward of Stainton Way and the B1365, wide main roads with 40mph speed limits which clearly separate Hemlington from the Coulby Newham, Hemlington Grange and Stainton and Thornton, and also the dual carriageway A174.

The geographic features which the Further Draft Recommendation suggest 'divide the various clusters of housing in Hemlington', such as the edge of Hemlington Lake and green spaces are not boundaries between parts of the community that has ever been identified with by local people. It is likely that this would cause a great deal of confusion as to where one ward starts and the other ward finishes.

Footpaths around Hemlington Lake and along the beck where the proposed boundary would run, provide pedestrian and cycle links from the different estates throughout all of Hemlington to schools, the shopping centre and the Lake and Recreation Centre. They are commonly used community links not divides.

The green space between the clusters of housing off Aviemore Road (marked incorrectly as Dalwood Court on the map) is communal green space which includes a play area and used by those living on the housing on either side of it which would be split into different wards. The green area links rather than separates those estates.

The boundary at the end of the lake would separate the main perimeter path of the lake and its 39-acres of parkland into two wards.

The beck runs underground for part of the proposed boundary.

The current ward boundaries are clear and well recognised by local people. Everyone knows when they are in Hemlington or when they are not.

These clear boundaries were recognised in the May 2013 report after the LGBCE toured the area as part of its ward boundary review.

Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?

The LGBCE mentions that they considered the unification of Hemlington in their draft recommendations to be particularly conducive to local community identity, and indeed it is.

#### Hemlington Lake

It is Hemlington Lake which unites and joins the community rather than as the Further Draft Recommendations imply divides it. It provides a common interest that binds the community together. People from all parts of the current ward of Hemlington identify with the lake, use it regularly either to access other parts of the community or for leisure purposes such as walking, dog-walking and fishing, are proud of it and refer to it as the 'jewel in Hemlington's crown'.

However, Hemlington Lake is also part of a larger 39-acre area of parkland, a green flag park. The North and South Hemlington boundary would run through this, even the main pathway running around the lake would be partly in one ward and part in the other.

The LGBCE proposal would place Hemlington Lake itself in one ward and Hemlington Lake and Recreation Centre and in Hemlington South.

#### Hemlington Lake and Recreation Centre

Hemlington Lake and Recreation Centre is a large community centre, with four annex buildings situated around Hemlington Lake which are operated by a registered charity. Some of their annex buildings would be in Hemlington North with the others, including the main community centre in Hemlington South, yet they are not separated by any visible natural boundary such as a beck.

#### The Viewley Hill Shopping Centre

The Viewley Hill Shopping Centre is at the heart of the community. It contains local shops, including post office and chemist dentist, vet, pub, social club, library, Locality Hub and Eco Shop. It is in what would be in Hemlington North, but these facilities are used by people throughout Hemlington and are particularly relied on by those in what would be Hemlington South, which comprises of the former council housing stock with higher levels of deprivation, low levels of car ownership and heavier reliance on local facilities and services. The shops are accessible by a short walk around the lake as well as by bus services.

#### Locality Working

Hemlington has faced major challenges over recent years and attracted the focus of the national press due to its high levels of anti-social behaviour. The problems have particularly concentrated in the estates off Cass House Road, in the estates with streets off Dodford Road and with streets off Earls Court Road, which would fall in Hemlington South, but also the estate with streets off Crosscliff as well as the Viewley Hill Shopping Centre which would be in Hemlington North. A great deal of work has gone into reducing these problems, with Middlesbrough Council introducing a multi-agency approach working across Hemlington Ward with council officers, police, social housing providers, youth services, local charities and Hemlington Ward councillors working together and with evidence that this has been successful, but with more work to do. Agencies work together based in the Locality Hub in the Viewley Hill Shopping Centre in what would be Hemlington North, but more than half of the issues stem from Hemlington South.

Yobs targeted on troubled estate as council crackdown on criminal activity and anti-social behaviour - Teesside Live

#### Tees Valley Together

Tees Valley Together is an amazing charity which delivers community activities, including holiday activities for children and young people. It also helps those in the most need in Hemlington providing preloved clothing and household items, an eco shop and warm meals. It is based in the Viewley Hill Shopping Centre, but many of those who rely on it most come from the deprived ex-council estates in Hemlington South.

What We Do | Tees Valley Together

#### Linx Youth Project

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Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?

#### Hemlington Community Council

Community councils in Middlesbrough, formed by Middlesbrough Council provide a forum whereby residents can discuss their concerns about the area, hear reports from police and councillors, apply for small grants and discuss local planning applications.

Hemlington Community Council meetings are attended by residents from both north and south of the ward. The current chair and treasurer live in the south of the ward, whereas the vice-chair and secretary come from the north. Hemlington councillors are part of their Executive.

Hemlington Community Council also organises two main annual events, attended by hundreds of people from the community, comprise of Christmas in Hemlington, held in Hemlington Hub and Library in the North, and Hemlington Family Fun Day, traditionally held around Hemlington Recreation Centre in the South. As community councils are funded by Middlesbrough Council and arranged along the lines of ward boundaries, this would split this group which has been active for around 20 years.

At their meeting of 15 February 2025, the proposals for new ward boundary arrangements were discussed and were unanimously opposed. One resident said that dividing Hemlington in this way would be 'like splitting a family'.

At their meeting of 15 February 2025 Hemlington Community Council unanimously agreed to oppose the LGBCE proposed wards and support the alternative proposal to retain the current two ward boundaries for Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton Wards with 2x2-councillor wards and a letter has been produced from the Community Council following that meeting to be submitted to LGBCE.

Stainton and Thornton Parish Council have previously suggested retaining the current ward boundaries and have jointly drawn up this proposal with Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton ward councillors.

Lack of community identity between Hemlington with Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange

While there is a high level of community identity and community cohesion within Hemlington, conversely the people of Hemlington do not identify themselves with Stainton and Thornton or Hemlington Grange and vice versa.

While it is stated in paragraph 25 of the report on Draft Further Recommendations that LGBCE had received submissions from residents of Hemlington Grange citing their connections to amenities in Stainton, nowhere is it said that there are connections between Hemlington with either Stainton and Thornton or Hemlington Grange as they are none.

There actually exists a community divide between Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton, with some friction between the two distinct and very different communities. Some people from Stainton and Thornton are reluctant to visit Hemlington to visit any of their local facilities and Hemlington residents have no reason to go to Stainton and Thornton or Hemlington Grange

Effective Local Government

Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?

Hemlington North is too small to have effective representation with just one councillor and Hemlington South and Stainton and Thornton is too large.

One part of Hemlington would have just one councillor representing it and the other would have three, but with Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange forming the majority of that ward with two-thirds of the electors.

Hemlington's voice on the council could be lost.

Hemlington South and Stainton

As outlined above, there is a lack of any common identity or demographics between Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton or Hemlington Grange.

Hemlington comprising with the exception of Farthingale Way and Stainton Way Care Home of former council housing estates, now in the main belonging to Thirteen Group a social housing provider. Hemlington Ward is one of the most deprived wards in Middlesbrough and within the most deprived 10% nationally. In contrast Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange have very little social housing, and is one of the least deprived wards in Middlesbrough.

Hemlington has its own issues of deprivation, crime and anti-social behaviour concentrated in parts of the ward which would be spilt over Hemlington North and South. In terms of council services and working with partners under the locality model described above, they are based in the North whereas the majority of issues arise in the South.

The Hemlington part of the proposed large 3-councillor ward would be in the minority (34%) in terms of electorate and geographical area with strong likelihood that their interests would be underrepresented, especially in comparison with the current arrangements of a 2-councillor ward covering the whole of Hemlington.

The three elected councillors would be faced with representing what would be in effect two wards within one, with different and often conflicting needs and interests. The danger would be that neither would be adequately represented

Hemlington North

Hemlington North would be represented by a single councillor while Hemlington South and Stainton would have 3. Hemlington North would have a lone voice representing it and is too small to be represented effectively.

There has long been a reluctance to the creation of new 1-councillor wards. In the event of serious illness or death of a councillor, both of which sadly have happened in Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton Wards in recent years it leaves residents without representation. It can be interrupted by illness, the need to take maternity or paternity leave or holidays.

Where 1-councillor wards have been created in Middlesbrough they have been to keep a community together rather than being absorbed into a larger ward such as with North Ormesby and formerly Stainton and Thornton, not as in this case to split a community in two.

#### Links

The current Hemlington Ward has a multitude of internal links, there are only barriers between it and Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange in the form of the busy, 40mph main road Stainton Way.

The public transport bus services for both Hemlington Hall Road and Cass House Road all visit the Viewley Hill Shopping Centre and between them cover the whole of Hemlington Ward. There is no public transport link between Hemlington South (no12 bus service) and Stainton and Thornton (no 13 bus service)

There are a number of pedestrian and cycle routes link Hemlington South with Hemlington North, there are a myriad of pedestrian paths and cycleways connecting the various parts of Hemlington, as it was designed when built as one community, giving good reason to retain the current ward boundaries

In contrast there is a marked absence of such pedestrian connections with Hemlington Grange or Stainton and Thornton and the two areas are separated by Stainton Way, a busy, 40mph main road which can be perilous for pedestrians, especially the elderly to cross. There are two light controlled crossings but at either end of a long stretch of Stainton Way, one near the roundabout with B1365 and one near the Police HQ. There is no pedestrian link between Stainton and Dales Park, other than a footbridge which many are reluctant to use.

In terms of road links, most of what would be Hemlington South, is accessed by road from Cass House Road, not Stainton Way. As stated previously, Stainton Way forms a physical barrier between the Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange parts of the two wards.

#### Electoral Equality

Retaining the current ward boundaries, with Hemlington still a 2-councillor ward and making Stainton and Thornton a 2-councillor ward satisfies the +/-10% criteria with Hemlington Ward -5% and Stainton and Thornton (-9.75%) -10% for 2029.

The number of electors per councillor for Stainton and Thornton Ward of 2045 is exactly the same as that for their proposal for Berwick Hills and Park End which LGBCE have put forward as acceptable. It also has a slightly better variance of 2045-2266=221 electors than draft



recommendations in July for Nunthorpe ward of (2498-2266=232 or +10.24%).

Paragraph 26 of the report on the further draft recommendations of January 2025 acknowledges that Stainton & Thornton Parish Council proposal of maintaining the existing boundaries of the ward with two councillors, would have an electoral variance of -10% by 2029 according to the current forecast.

Note: the draft proposals of July 2024 did propose moving the area of Hemlington to the East of Stainton Way back into Hemlington Ward. This is the newest part of Hemlington, built later than the rest, in the 1990s that has less firm ties with the local community, however this would have been welcomed, had it not been for the fact that Stainton and Thornton Ward would then have been well outside of the +/-10% for 2029. For this reason, the alternative being proposed is based on the retention of current boundaries.

Please find attached the following:

- 1) A joint letter from Cllr Nicky Walker and Cllr Tom Mohan, councillors for Hemlington Ward, David Coupe, councillor for Stainton and Thornton Ward and Cllr Alan Liddle, Chair of Stainton and Thornton Parish Council outlining and submitting a cross-party Alternative Proposal for Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton wards.
- 2) A document from Hemlington Ward councillors Nicky Walker and Tom Mohan with a more detailed account of the proposal and supporting evidence for Hemlington
- 3) A letter of support for the Alternative Proposal from Hemlington Community Council
- 4) A document giving further explanation of data used
- 5) A spreadsheet giving detailed figures

We would be happy to provide further explanation or answer any questions.

Please do not cut Hemlington, our community, in two.

## Attached Documents:

- joint-letter-signed.pdf
- alternative-proposal-hemlington-and-stainton-thornton.pdf
- letter-hemlington-community-council-lgbce.pdf
- hemlington-stainton-and-thornton-ward-data-explained.pdf
- spreadsheet-hem-st-wards.pdf

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<b>Proposed Wards</b>	<b>Electors 2029</b>	<b>Per Councillor</b>	<b>M'brough Average</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>% Variance</b>
Hemlington	4296	2148	2266	-118	-5%
Stainton & Thornton	4090	2045	2266	-221	-10%

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SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FROM HEMLINGTON WARD COUNCILLORS

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**Weaknesses in the Further Draft Recommendations**

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Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

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Hemlington comprising with the exception of Farthingale Way and Stainton Way Care Home of former council housing estates, now in the main belonging to Thirteen Group a social housing provider. Hemlington Ward is one of the most deprived wards in Middlesbrough and within the most deprived 10% nationally. In contrast Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange have very little social housing, and is one of the least deprived wards in Middlesbrough.

Hemlington has its own issues of deprivation, crime and anti-social behaviour concentrated in parts of the ward which would be spilt over Hemlington North and South. In terms of council services and working with partners under the locality model described above, they are based in the North whereas the majority of issues arise in the South.

The Hemlington part of the proposed large 3-councillor ward would be in the minority (34%) in terms of electorate and geographical area with strong likelihood that their interests would be underrepresented, especially in comparison with the current arrangements of a 2-councillor ward covering the whole of Hemlington.

The three elected councillors would be faced with representing what would be in effect two wards within one, with different and often conflicting needs and interests. The danger would be that neither would be adequately represented

#### Hemlington North

Hemlington North would be represented by a single councillor while Hemlington South and Stainton would have 3. Hemlington North would have a lone voice representing it and is too small to be represented effectively.

There has long been a reluctance to the creation of new 1-councillor wards. In the event of serious illness or death of a councillor, both of which sadly have happened in Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton Wards in recent years it leaves residents without representation. It can be interrupted by illness, the need to take maternity or paternity leave or holidays.

Where 1-councillor wards have been created in Middlesbrough they have been to keep a community together rather than being absorbed into a larger ward such as with North Ormesby and formerly Stainton and Thornton, not as in this case to split a community in two.

#### Links

The current Hemlington Ward has a multitude of internal links, there are only barriers between it and Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange in the form of the busy, 40mph main road Stainton Way.

The public transport bus services for both Hemlington Hall Road and Cass House Road all visit the Viewley Hill Shopping Centre and between them cover the whole of Hemlington Ward. There is no public transport link between Hemlington South (no12 bus service) and Stainton and Thornton (no 13 bus service)



There are a number of pedestrian and cycle routes link Hemlington South with Hemlington North, there are a myriad of pedestrian paths and cycleways connecting the various parts of Hemlington, as it was designed when built as one community, giving good reason to retain the current ward boundaries

In contrast there is a marked absence of such pedestrian connections with Hemlington Grange or Stainton and Thornton and the two areas are separated by Stainton Way, a busy, 40mph main road which can be perilous for pedestrians, especially the elderly to cross. There are two light controlled crossings but at either end of a long stretch of Stainton Way, one near the roundabout with B1365 and one near the Police HQ. There is no pedestrian link between Stainton and Dales Park, other than a footbridge which many are reluctant to use.

In terms of road links, most of what would be Hemlington South, is accessed by road from Cass House Road, not Stainton Way. At stated previously, Stainton Way forms a physical barrier between the Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange parts of the two wards.

### **Electoral Equality**

Retaining the current ward boundaries, with Hemlington still a 2-councillor ward and making Stainton and Thornton a 2-councillor ward satisfies the +/-10% criteria with Hemlington Ward -5% and Stainton and Thornton (-9.75%) -10% for 2029.

The number of electors per councillor for Stainton and Thornton Ward of 2045 is exactly the same as that for their proposal for Berwick Hills and Park End which LGBCE have put forward as acceptable. It also has a slightly better variance of  $2045-2266=-221$  electors than draft recommendations in July for Nunthorpe ward of  $(2498-2266=232$  or +10.24%).

Paragraph 26 of the report on the further draft recommendations of January 2025 acknowledges that Stainton & Thornton Parish Council proposal of maintaining the existing boundaries of the ward with two councillors, would have an electoral variance of -10% by 2029 according to the current forecast.

Note: the draft proposals of July 2024 did propose moving the area of Hemlington to the East of Stainton Way back into Hemlington Ward. This is the newest part of Hemlington, built later than the rest, in the 1990s that has less firm ties with the local community, however this would have been welcomed, had it not been for the fact that Stainton and Thornton Ward would then have been well outside of the +/-10% for 2029. For this reason, the alternative being proposed is based on the retention of current boundaries.

Two further documents explaining the use of data and a spreadsheet with more detailed figures are provided with this submission.

**Cllr Nicky Walker**

Email: [nicky\\_walker@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:nicky_walker@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

**Cllr Tom Mohan**

Email: [tom\\_mohan@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:tom_mohan@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

**Councillors for Hemlington Ward**

16 February 2025

Submission to Review Officer (Middlesbrough) LGBCE  
Alternative Proposal for Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton Wards

Data-assumptions and calculations

The numbers of electors were taken from data supplied by Middlesbrough Council to LGBCE

The numbers for the Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton wards for 2029 were taken by initially adding the forecast electorate for 2029 for the 2 wards:

Hemlington 4,296 (the same as for 2023) + Stainton & Thornton 4,082 = 8,378

Under LGBCE proposals Hemlington North 2,194 + Stainton & Hemlington South 6192=8,386

The difference is 8,386-8,378 = 8 electors. As Middlesbrough Council data has the same numbers for Hemlington Ward for both 2023 and 2029, it has been assumed that these 8 electors are accounted for by the inclusion of the small number of electors who live off the farm road south of the A174 which was excluded from Trimdon Ward (para 28 on the January 2025 report) who would fall within Stainton & Thornton Ward, giving that ward 4,090 electors.

Even without these additional 8 electors, the electoral equality of +/-10% would still be satisfied with Stainton & Thornton Ward with 4,082 electors but with -a difference of -225 per councillor or -9.93% instead of -221 per councillor or -9.75%

Although this is close to the limits of the electoral equality required, it does come within -10% and doesn't differ greatly to the -9% for Stainton & Hemlington South in the LGBCE proposals. Looking to the future with the additional housing projected, not all of which are contained yet in the data from Middlesbrough Council due to a lack of a local plan, the number of electors for Stainton and Thornton will rise

Moreover, the number of electors per councillor for Stainton and Thornton Ward of 2,045 in this Alternative Proposal would be exactly the same as that for the January 2025 proposal for Berwick Hills and Park End which LGBCE have put forward as acceptable. It also has a slightly better variance of  $2045 - 2266 = -221$  electors than draft recommendations in July 2024 for Nunthorpe ward of  $(2498 - 2266) = 232$  or +10.24%.

Paragraph 26 of the report on the further draft recommendations of January 2025 acknowledges that Stainton & Thornton Parish Council proposal of maintaining the existing boundaries of the ward with two councillors, 'would have an electoral variance of -10% by 2029 according to the current forecast'.

Plan B

While the calculations have been checked several times, if for some unforeseen reason the Alternative Proposal does not meet with +/-10% electoral variance, the request would be to, instead of cutting Hemlington in two and creating two unequal sized wards for the area south of the A174, instead that the 2x 2-councillor model is maintained with minor adjustment to retain both within the criteria for electoral equality.

It is difficult to take some electors from Hemlington to add to Stainton and Thornton and still keep Hemlington within -10%, but a logical addition due to a new crossing point being currently constructed at the junction of Hemlington Hall Road with Stainton Way providing new pedestrian and cycle links, would be to extend Stainton and Thornton slightly further eastwards along Stainton Way. While this is absolutely not something we would want to see happen, one feasible adjustment would be to put Mapleton Drive 59, Mayflower Court 8, Melton Walk 35, Minniott Walk 58, Moss Gardens 31, Myton Walk 23 = 214 electors based on the Analysis for February 2025 register provided by Middlesbrough Council in Stainton & Thornton Ward, and would give a variance of -9.93% for Hemlington.

It would follow a break in housing, with a green belt in between Mapleton Drive and Phoenix Park. However, that estate identifies strongly with Hemlington rather than Stainton and Thornton. Furthermore, it consists predominantly of social housing, its socio-economic profile gives it far more in common with the rest of Hemlington Ward than the more affluent areas of Stainton and Thornton. Its electors rely on the same services as the other social housing areas of the current Hemlington Ward.

However, although this is undesirable, and it is hoped it is not necessary, it would be preferable to splitting all of Hemlington in two.

The cluster of streets including and off Nuneaton Drive and Northleach Drive which is made up of private owner-occupied properties, would have more in common with Stainton and Thornton Ward but the numbers of electors involved would put Hemlington Ward beyond the -10%

**Cllr Nicky Walker**  
Councillor for  
Hemlington Ward

nicky\_walker@middlesbrough.gov.uk

**Cllr Tom Mohan**  
Cllr for  
Hemlington Ward

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**Cllr David Coupe**  
Councillor for Stainton  
& Thornton Ward

david\_coupe@middlesbrough.gov.uk

**Cllr Alan Liddle**  
Chair of Stainton &  
Thornton Parish Council

alan.l@staintonandthorntonparishcouncil.org.uk

20 February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission to Review Officer (Middlesbrough) LGBCE

Alternative Proposal for Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton Wards

We wish to submit an alternative, cross-party, proposal for Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton wards which has been drawn up and proposed by Hemlington Ward councillors Cllr Nicky Walker and Cllr Tom Mohan, Stainton and Thornton councillor Cllr David Coupe and Stainton Parish Council. It also has the support of Hemlington Community Council.

This proposal is to retain the current Hemlington Ward and Stainton & Thornton Ward boundaries (with addition of the farm road to South of A174 as proposed by LGBCE) and make both 2-councillor wards.

This provides the electoral equality required of +/-10%, with -5% for Hemlington Ward and is within-10% (-9.75%) for Stainton & Thornton Ward for 2029. It also fits so much better in all other respects with the other two statutory criteria of community identity and effective and convenient local government, which have been given greater consideration in this alternative proposal than in the further draft recommendations, more detail of which is contained in our further submissions.

As this proposal follows the combined boundaries and electors for the Hemlington North Ward and Hemlington South & Stainton Ward proposed in the Further Draft Recommendations, there is no impact on any other wards in Middlesbrough in the LGBCE proposals and the total number of electors of 8,386 for the two wards would be the same.

We would be grateful if due consideration could be given to this proposal.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Nicky Walker



Cllr Tom Mohan



Cllr David Coupe



Cllr Alan Liddle

# HEMLINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Chair:** Michael Heslehurst  
**Vice Chair:** Tom Mohan  
**Treasurer:** Janet Hoggett  
**Secretary:** Rose Annal

Correspondence to:  
Hemlington Community Hub  
Crosscliffe  
Hemlington  
TS8 9JJ

15 February 2025

**To whom it may concern**

I can confirm that at the Hemlington Community Council meeting of 15 February 2025 the proposed ward boundary arrangements for Hemlington North and Hemlington South and Stainton and Thornton Wards were discussed by those present.

Very strong feeling was expressed that these proposals should be opposed as they would divide our community. Nobody could understand how or why the proposed boundaries had been drawn up and they are not boundaries ever recognised by the community. Hemlington is united around our lake and not divided by it or a beck.

The facilities at the Viewley Hill Shopping Centre, at the Recreation Centre and the green spaces, including Hemlington Lake are all used by people from throughout the current Hemlington Ward

Hemlington has a strong sense of community spirit and identity and our community is reflected by the current boundary of Hemlington Ward. Hemlington Community Council has worked together for over 20 years along those community lines, bringing together community interests. Officers of the Community Council and those attending our meetings come from both what is now defined as North and South of Hemlington.

Hemlington Community Council unanimously supported the proposal of the Hemlington ward councillors, Stainton and Thornton ward councillor and Stainton and Thornton Parish Council to retain the current ward boundaries of Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton, with both as 2-councillor wards.

Yours faithfully



Rose Annal  
Secretary, Hemlington Community Council

## Hemlington & Stainton and Thornton Wards-2 x 2-member wards retaining current boundaries

### If current boundaries retained

	2023					2029				
Date on numbers of electors from MBC spreadhseet										
	Total electors	Per councillor	average	difference	%variance	Total electors	Per councillor	average	difference	% variance
Hemlington Ward	4296	2148	2154	-6	-0.28%	4296	2148	2266	-118	-5.21%
Stainton and Thornton Ward	3301	1651	2154	-504	-23.40%	4090	2045	2266	-221	-9.75%
						8386				

### LGBCE proposals

Data on numbers of electors from LCBCE report

	Total electors	per councillor	average		varitation	Total electors	per councillor	average		% variance
Hemlington North	2194	2194	2154	40	1.86%	2194	2194	2266	-72	-3.18%
Hemlington S and Stainton & T	5412	1804	2154	-350	-16.25%	6192	2064	2266	-202	-8.91%
						8386				

Note: 8 electors added to council data for 2029 for current Stainton and Thornton ward, due to LGBCE latest proposal to include Stainton Vale Farm etc.

It is mathematically impossible to have both wards within -10% variation for 2023 as total with 4 councillors varies by -12% per councillor

#### LGBCE report July 24 para 58

The Parish Council proposed resolving the poor electoral equality in the ward by increasing the number of councillors to two and moving the area of Hemlington Stainton Way into Hemlington ward. This would result in a 9% variance for Hemlington but -25% for Stainton & Thornton, a variance that could be lowered to -10% maintaining the area east of Stainton Way in Stainton & Thornton ward. 59 However, further community evidence from residents persuaded us not to adopt this amended proposal.

#### LGBCE report January 25 para 26

Stainton & Thornton Parish Council expressed similar concerns about development and proposed maintaining the existing boundaries of the ward with two councillors which would have an electoral variance of -10% by 2029 according to the current forecast. However, including Stainsby Hall Farm in Brookfield & Trimdon would result in a 32% variance

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**0% by**  
s

ncillors,  
result in

# Middlesbrough

## Personal Details:

Name: Nicky Walker  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Postcode: [REDACTED]  
Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

## Comment text:

Hello

Please find attached documents in support of Middlesbrough Review-Alternative Proposal Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton, submitted via your online portal:

- 1) A joint letter from Cllr Nicky Walker and Cllr Tom Mohan, councillors for Hemlington Ward, David Coupe, councillor for Stainton and Thornton Ward and Cllr Alan Liddle, Chair of Stainton and Thornton Parish Council outlining and submitting a cross-party Alternative Proposal for Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton wards.
- 2) A document from Hemlington Ward councillors Nicky Walker and Tom Mohan with a more detailed account of the proposal and supporting evidence for Hemlington
- 3) A letter of support for the Alternative Proposal from Hemlington Community Council
- 4) A document giving further explanation of data used
- 5) A spreadsheet giving detailed figures

Kind regards

Nicky



Nicky Walker  
Councillor for Hemlington Ward

## Attached Documents:

- [alternative-proposal-hemlington-and-stainton-thornton.pdf](#)
- [hemlington-stainton-and-thornton-ward-data-explained.pdf](#)
- [joint-letter-signed.pdf](#)
- [letter-hemlington-community-council-lgbce.pdf](#)
- [spreadsheet-hem-st-wards.pdf](#)

Submission to Review Officer (Middlesbrough) LGBCE  
Alternative Proposal for Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton Wards

**Proposed by**

- **Hemlington Ward Councillors (Cllr Nicky Walker and Cllr Tom Mohan)**
- **Stainton and Thornton Ward Councillor (Cllr David Coupe)**
- **Stainton and Thornton Parish Council**

Also supported by Hemlington Community Council.

**Alternative Proposal**

The alternative, cross-party, proposal for Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton wards drawn up and proposed by Hemlington Ward councillors Cllr Nicky Walker and Cllr Tom Mohan, Stainton and Thornton councillor Cllr David Coupe and Stainton Parish Council, and has the support of Hemlington Community Council is to retain the current Hemlington Ward and Stainton and Thornton Ward boundaries (with addition of the farm road to South of A174 as proposed by LGBCE) and make both 2-councillor wards.

This provides the electoral equality required of +/-10% with -5% for Hemlington Ward and is within-10% (-9.75%) for Stainton & Thornton Ward for 2029. It also fits so much better in all other respects with the other two statutory criteria of community identity and effective and convenient local government, which have been given more detailed consideration in this alternative proposal than in the Further Draft Recommendations.

As this proposal follows the combined boundaries and electors for the Hemlington North Ward and Hemlington South & Stainton Ward proposed in the Further Draft Recommendations, there is no impact on any other wards in Middlesbrough in the LGBCE proposals and the total number of electors of 8,386 for the two wards would be the same.

<b>Proposed Wards</b>	<b>Electors 2029</b>	<b>Per Councillor</b>	<b>M'brough Average</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>% Variance</b>
Hemlington	4296	2148	2266	-118	-5%
Stainton & Thornton	4090	2045	2266	-221	-10%

The number of electors per councillor for Stainton and Thornton Ward of 2045 is exactly the same as that for Berwick Hills and Park End included in the draft further recommendations as meeting the statutory criteria.

Paragraph 26 of the report on the further draft recommendations of January 2025 acknowledges that Stainton & Thornton Parish Council proposal of maintaining the existing boundaries of the ward with two councillors, would have an electoral variance of -10% by 2029 according to the current forecasts.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FROM HEMLINGTON WARD COUNCILLORS

Cllr Nicky Walker and Tom Mohan

**Weaknesses in the Further Draft Recommendations**

Whilst it is appreciated that the LGBCE has a very difficult task in drawing up proposals across Middlesbrough that meet with their three statutory criteria, no reason has been given as to why the current Hemlington Ward and Stainton and Thornton Ward, should be changed other than to accommodate changes to other wards and resulting electoral inequality, which seems unfair. If Hemlington had been taken as the starting points, instead of considering it last, it is highly unlikely the same proposal would have been made.

Hemlington's population hasn't changed greatly since the current ward boundary as created in 2003 (with slight amendment in 2015 to the North West), and no change in numbers of electors is presumed in the current data from 2023 to 2029. It continues to meet the statutory criteria well, including that of electoral equality and especially that of community identity and there is no reason to change it.

There are references in the July report and the January report Further Draft Recommendations of considerations of community identity in all the other parts of Middlesbrough but none has been given to Hemlington in this latest proposal, other than the acknowledgement that current proposals would depart from the unification of Hemlington under the current boundary, the retention of which the report recognises is 'particularly conducive to local community identity'.

In the LGBCE May 2013 report, paragraph 76 on the draft recommendations relating to the then boundary review, they rejected proposals to change the boundary of Hemlington Ward on the basis that it would 'would divide the community', after LGBCE visited Middlesbrough and had toured the area.

Stainton and Thornton Parish Council in their submission on the draft recommendations of July 2024 proposed retaining the current ward boundaries.

The Middlesbrough Council and Labour Group proposals both retained the current Hemlington Ward boundaries.

Nobody has at any time in the consultation has suggested these boundaries for Hemlington now being proposed in the further draft recommendations, or suggested that Hemlington should be divided in two.

Paragraph 26 of the report on the further draft recommendations acknowledges that Stainton & Thornton Parish Council proposed maintaining the existing boundaries of the ward with two councillors, which would have an electoral variance of -10% by 2029 according to the current forecast. It is not explained why this proposal was not considered, other than by reference to electoral inequalities relating to Stainsby Hall Farm if included in other wards but these are resolved in the Further Draft Recommendations for North of the A174.

### **Community Identity**

Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

Hemlington is a community built around the lake, mainly in the 1960s and 1970s. Hemlington has a strong sense of community spirit and identity with well-known and clearly defined boundaries which align with the current Hemlington Ward of Stainton Way and the B1365, wide main roads with 40mph speed limits which clearly separate Hemlington from the Coulby Newham, Hemlington Grange and Stainton and Thornton, and also the dual carriageway A174.

The geographic features which the Further Draft Recommendation suggest 'divide the various clusters of housing in Hemlington', such as the edge of Hemlington Lake and green spaces are not boundaries between parts of the community that has ever been identified with by local people. It is likely that this would cause a great deal of confusion as to where one ward starts and the other ward finishes.

Footpaths around Hemlington Lake and along the beck where the proposed boundary would run, provide pedestrian and cycle links from the different estates throughout all of Hemlington to schools, the shopping centre and the Lake and Recreation Centre. They are commonly used community links not divides.

The green space between the clusters of housing off Aviemore Road (marked incorrectly as Dalwood Court on the map) is communal green space which includes a play area and used by those living on the housing on either side of it which would be split into different wards. The green area links rather than separates those estates.

The boundary at the end of the lake would separate the main perimeter path of the lake and its 39-acres of parkland into two wards.

The beck runs underground for part of the proposed boundary.

The current ward boundaries are clear and well recognised by local people. Everyone knows when they are in Hemlington or when they are not.

These clear boundaries were recognised in the May 2013 report after the LGBCE toured the area as part of its ward boundary review.

Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?

The LGBCE mentions that they considered the unification of Hemlington in their draft recommendations to be particularly conducive to local community identity, and indeed it is.

*Hemlington Lake*

It is Hemlington Lake which unites and joins the community rather than as the Further Draft Recommendations imply divides it. It provides a common interest that binds the community together. People from all parts of the current ward of Hemlington identify with the lake, use it regularly either to access other parts of the community or for leisure purposes such as walking, dog-walking and fishing, are proud of it and refer to it as the 'jewel in Hemlington's crown'.

However, Hemlington Lake is also part of a larger 39-acre area of parkland, a green flag park. The North and South Hemlington boundary would run through this, even the main pathway running around the lake would be partly in one ward and part in the other.

The LGBCE proposal would place Hemlington Lake itself in one ward and Hemlington Lake and Recreation Centre and in Hemlington South.

*Hemlington Lake and Recreation Centre*

Hemlington Lake and Recreation Centre is a large community centre, with four annex buildings situated around Hemlington Lake which are operated by a registered charity. Some of their annex buildings would be in Hemlington North with the others, including the main community centre in Hemlington South, yet they are not separated by any visible natural boundary such as a beck.

*The Viewley Hill Shopping Centre*

The Viewley Hill Shopping Centre is at the heart of the community. It contains local shops, including post office and chemist dentist, vet, pub, social club, library, Locality Hub and Eco Shop. It is in what would be in Hemlington North, but these facilities are used by people throughout Hemlington and are particularly relied on by those in what would be Hemlington South, which comprises of the former council housing stock with higher levels of deprivation, low levels of car ownership and heavier reliance on local facilities and services. The shops are accessible by a short walk around the lake as well as by bus services.

*Locality Working*

Hemlington has faced major challenges over recent years and attracted the focus of the national press due to its high levels of anti-social behaviour. The problems have particularly concentrated in the estates off Cass House Road, in the estates with streets off Dodford Road and with streets off Earls Court Road, which would fall in Hemlington South, but also the estate with streets off Crosscliff as well as the Viewley Hill Shopping Centre which would be in Hemlington North. A great deal of work has gone into reducing these problems, with Middlesbrough Council introducing a multi-agency approach working across Hemlington Ward with council officers, police, social housing providers, youth services, local charities and Hemlington Ward councillors working together and with evidence that this has been successful, but with more work to do. Agencies work together based in the

Locality Hub in the Viewley Hill Shopping Centre in what would be Hemlington North, but more than half of the issues stem from Hemlington South.

[Yobs targeted on troubled estate as council crackdown on criminal activity and anti-social behaviour - Teesside Live](#)

#### *Tees Valley Together*

Tees Valley Together is an amazing charity which delivers community activities, including holiday activities for children and young people. It also helps those in the most need in Hemlington providing preloved clothing and household items, an eco shop and warm meals. It is based in the Viewley Hill Shopping Centre, but many of those who rely on it most come from the deprived ex-council estates in Hemlington South.

[What We Do | Tees Valley Together](#)

#### *Linx Youth Project*

The Linx Youth Project (formerly Hemlington Detached Youth Work Project) is a charitable organisation which was started in Hemlington over 30 years ago and has always covered the whole what is currently Hemlington Ward. It is currently commissioned by Middlesbrough Council to provide open access youth clubs for young people across Hemlington ward, and now in some other areas of Middlesbrough. It is based at Hemlington Recreation Centre in what would be Hemlington South, but also covers Hemlington North.

Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?

#### *Hemlington Community Council*

Community councils in Middlesbrough, formed by Middlesbrough Council provide a forum whereby residents can discuss their concerns about the area, hear reports from police and councillors, apply for small grants and discuss local planning applications.

Hemlington Community Council meetings are attended by residents from both north and south of the ward. The current chair and treasurer live in the south of the ward, whereas the vice-chair and secretary come from the north. Hemlington councillors are part of their Executive.

Hemlington Community Council also organises two main annual events, attended by hundreds of people from the community, comprise of Christmas in Hemlington, held in Hemlington Hub and Library in the North, and Hemlington Family Fun Day, traditionally held around Hemlington Recreation Centre in the South. As community councils are funded by Middlesbrough Council and arranged along the lines of ward boundaries, this would split this group which has been active for around 20 years.

At their meeting of 15 February 2025, the proposals for new ward boundary arrangements were discussed and were unanimously opposed. One resident said that dividing Hemlington in this way would be 'like splitting a family'.

At their meeting of 15 February 2025 Hemlington Community Council unanimously agreed to oppose the LGBCE proposed wards and support the alternative proposal to retain the current two ward boundaries for Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton Wards with 2x2-councillor wards and a letter has been produced from the Community Council following that meeting to be submitted to LGBCE.

Stainton and Thornton Parish Council have previously suggested retaining the current ward boundaries and have jointly drawn up this proposal with Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton ward councillors.

#### Lack of community identity between Hemlington with Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange

While there is a high level of community identity and community cohesion within Hemlington, conversely the people of Hemlington do not identify themselves with Stainton and Thornton or Hemlington Grange and vice versa.

While it is stated in paragraph 25 of the report on Draft Further Recommendations that LGBCE had received submissions from residents of Hemlington Grange citing their connections to amenities in Stainton, nowhere is it said that there are connections between Hemlington with either Stainton and Thornton or Hemlington Grange as they are none.

There actually exists a community divide between Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton, with some friction between the two distinct and very different communities. Some people from Stainton and Thornton are reluctant to visit Hemlington to visit any of their local facilities and Hemlington residents have no reason to go to Stainton and Thornton or Hemlington Grange

#### **Effective Local Government**

##### Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?

Hemlington North is too small to have effective representation with just one councillor and Hemlington South and Stainton and Thornton is too large.

One part of Hemlington would have just one councillor representing it and the other would have three, but with Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange forming the majority of that ward with two-thirds of the electors.

Hemlington's voice on the council could be lost.

##### *Hemlington South and Stainton*

As outlined above, there is a lack of any common identity or demographics between Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton or Hemlington Grange.

Hemlington comprising with the exception of Farthingale Way and Stainton Way Care Home of former council housing estates, now in the main belonging to Thirteen Group a social housing provider. Hemlington Ward is one of the most deprived wards in Middlesbrough and within the most deprived 10% nationally. In contrast Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange have very little social housing, and is one of the least deprived wards in Middlesbrough.

Hemlington has its own issues of deprivation, crime and anti-social behaviour concentrated in parts of the ward which would be spilt over Hemlington North and South. In terms of council services and working with partners under the locality model described above, they are based in the North whereas the majority of issues arise in the South.

The Hemlington part of the proposed large 3-councillor ward would be in the minority (34%) in terms of electorate and geographical area with strong likelihood that their interests would be underrepresented, especially in comparison with the current arrangements of a 2-councillor ward covering the whole of Hemlington.

The three elected councillors would be faced with representing what would be in effect two wards within one, with different and often conflicting needs and interests. The danger would be that neither would be adequately represented

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There has long been a reluctance to the creation of new 1-councillor wards. In the event of serious illness or death of a councillor, both of which sadly have happened in Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton Wards in recent years it leaves residents without representation. It can be interrupted by illness, the need to take maternity or paternity leave or holidays.

Where 1-councillor wards have been created in Middlesbrough they have been to keep a community together rather than being absorbed into a larger ward such as with North Ormesby and formerly Stainton and Thornton, not as in this case to split a community in two.

#### Links

The current Hemlington Ward has a multitude of internal links, there are only barriers between it and Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange in the form of the busy, 40mph main road Stainton Way.

The public transport bus services for both Hemlington Hall Road and Cass House Road all visit the Viewley Hill Shopping Centre and between them cover the whole of Hemlington Ward. There is no public transport link between Hemlington South (no12 bus service) and Stainton and Thornton (no 13 bus service)



There are a number of pedestrian and cycle routes link Hemlington South with Hemlington North, there are a myriad of pedestrian paths and cycleways connecting the various parts of Hemlington, as it was designed when built as one community, giving good reason to retain the current ward boundaries

In contrast there is a marked absence of such pedestrian connections with Hemlington Grange or Stainton and Thornton and the two areas are separated by Stainton Way, a busy, 40mph main road which can be perilous for pedestrians, especially the elderly to cross. There are two light controlled crossings but at either end of a long stretch of Stainton Way, one near the roundabout with B1365 and one near the Police HQ. There is no pedestrian link between Stainton and Dales Park, other than a footbridge which many are reluctant to use.

In terms of road links, most of what would be Hemlington South, is accessed by road from Cass House Road, not Stainton Way. At stated previously, Stainton Way forms a physical barrier between the Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange parts of the two wards.

### **Electoral Equality**

Retaining the current ward boundaries, with Hemlington still a 2-councillor ward and making Stainton and Thornton a 2-councillor ward satisfies the +/-10% criteria with Hemlington Ward -5% and Stainton and Thornton (-9.75%) -10% for 2029.

The number of electors per councillor for Stainton and Thornton Ward of 2045 is exactly the same as that for their proposal for Berwick Hills and Park End which LGBCE have put forward as acceptable. It also has a slightly better variance of  $2045-2266=-221$  electors than draft recommendations in July for Nunthorpe ward of  $(2498-2266=232$  or +10.24%).

Paragraph 26 of the report on the further draft recommendations of January 2025 acknowledges that Stainton & Thornton Parish Council proposal of maintaining the existing boundaries of the ward with two councillors, would have an electoral variance of -10% by 2029 according to the current forecast.

Note: the draft proposals of July 2024 did propose moving the area of Hemlington to the East of Stainton Way back into Hemlington Ward. This is the newest part of Hemlington, built later than the rest, in the 1990s that has less firm ties with the local community, however this would have been welcomed, had it not been for the fact that Stainton and Thornton Ward would then have been well outside of the +/-10% for 2029. For this reason, the alternative being proposed is based on the retention of current boundaries.

Two further documents explaining the use of data and a spreadsheet with more detailed figures are provided with this submission.

**Cllr Nicky Walker**

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**Cllr Tom Mohan**

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**Councillors for Hemlington Ward**

16 February 2025

Submission to Review Officer (Middlesbrough) LGBCE  
Alternative Proposal for Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton Wards

Data-assumptions and calculations

The numbers of electors were taken from data supplied by Middlesbrough Council to LGBCE

The numbers for the Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton wards for 2029 were taken by initially adding the forecast electorate for 2029 for the 2 wards:

Hemlington 4,296 (the same as for 2023) + Stainton & Thornton 4,082 = 8,378

Under LGBCE proposals Hemlington North 2,194 + Stainton & Hemlington South 6192=8,386

The difference is 8,386-8,378 = 8 electors. As Middlesbrough Council data has the same numbers for Hemlington Ward for both 2023 and 2029, it has been assumed that these 8 electors are accounted for by the inclusion of the small number of electors who live off the farm road south of the A174 which was excluded from Trimdon Ward (para 28 on the January 2025 report) who would fall within Stainton & Thornton Ward, giving that ward 4,090 electors.

Even without these additional 8 electors, the electoral equality of +/-10% would still be satisfied with Stainton & Thornton Ward with 4,082 electors but with -a difference of -225 per councillor or -9.93% instead of -221 per councillor or -9.75%

Although this is the close to the limits of the electoral equality required, it does come within -10% and doesn't differ greatly to the -9% for Stainton & Hemlington South in the LGBCE proposals. Looking to the future with the additional housing projected, not all of which are contained yet in the data from Middlesbrough Council due to a lack of a local plan, the number of electors for Stainton and Thornton will rise

Moreover, the number of electors per councillor for Stainton and Thornton Ward of 2,045 in this Alternative Proposal would be exactly the same as that for the January 2025 proposal for Berwick Hills and Park End which LGBCE have put forward as acceptable. It also has a slightly better variance of 2045-2266= -221 electors than draft recommendations in July 2024 for Nunthorpe ward of (2498-2266=232 or +10.24%).

Paragraph 26 of the report on the further draft recommendations of January 2025 acknowledges that Stainton & Thornton Parish Council proposal of maintaining the existing boundaries of the ward with two councillors, 'would have an electoral variance of -10% by 2029 according to the current forecast'.

Plan B

While the calculations have been checked several times, if for some unforeseen reason the Alternative Proposal does not meet with +/-10% electoral variance, the request would be to, instead of cutting Hemlington in two and creating two unequal sized wards for the area south of the A174, instead that the 2x 2-councillor model is maintained with minor adjustment to retain both within the criteria for electoral equality.

It is difficult to take some electors from Hemlington to add to Stainton and Thornton and still keep Hemlington within -10%, but a logical addition due to a new crossing point being currently constructed at the junction of Hemlington Hall Road with Stainton Way providing new pedestrian and cycle links, would be to extend Stainton and Thornton slightly further eastwards along Stainton Way. While this is absolutely not something we would want to see happen, one feasible adjustment would be to put Mapleton Drive 59, Mayflower Court 8, Melton Walk 35, Minniott Walk 58, Moss Gardens 31, Myton Walk 23 = 214 electors based on the Analysis for February 2025 register provided by Middlesbrough Council in Stainton & Thornton Ward, and would give a variance of -9.93% for Hemlington.

It would follow a break in housing, with a green belt in between Mapleton Drive and Phoenix Park. However, that estate identifies strongly with Hemlington rather than Stainton and Thornton. Furthermore, it consists predominantly of social housing, its socio-economic profile gives it far more in common with the rest of Hemlington Ward than the more affluent areas of Stainton and Thornton. Its electors rely on the same services as the other social housing areas of the current Hemlington Ward.

However, although this is undesirable, and it is hoped it is not necessary, it would be preferable to splitting all of Hemlington in two.

The cluster of streets including and off Nuneaton Drive and Northleach Drive which is made up of private owner-occupied properties, would have more in common with Stainton and Thornton Ward but the numbers of electors involved would put Hemlington Ward beyond the -10%

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**Cllr Alan Liddle**  
Chair of Stainton &  
Thornton Parish Council

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20 February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission to Review Officer (Middlesbrough) LGBCE

Alternative Proposal for Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton Wards

We wish to submit an alternative, cross-party, proposal for Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton wards which has been drawn up and proposed by Hemlington Ward councillors Cllr Nicky Walker and Cllr Tom Mohan, Stainton and Thornton councillor Cllr David Coupe and Stainton Parish Council. It also has the support of Hemlington Community Council.

This proposal is to retain the current Hemlington Ward and Stainton & Thornton Ward boundaries (with addition of the farm road to South of A174 as proposed by LGBCE) and make both 2-councillor wards.

This provides the electoral equality required of +/-10%, with -5% for Hemlington Ward and is within-10% (-9.75%) for Stainton & Thornton Ward for 2029. It also fits so much better in all other respects with the other two statutory criteria of community identity and effective and convenient local government, which have been given greater consideration in this alternative proposal than in the further draft recommendations, more detail of which is contained in our further submissions.

As this proposal follows the combined boundaries and electors for the Hemlington North Ward and Hemlington South & Stainton Ward proposed in the Further Draft Recommendations, there is no impact on any other wards in Middlesbrough in the LGBCE proposals and the total number of electors of 8,386 for the two wards would be the same.

We would be grateful if due consideration could be given to this proposal.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Nicky Walker



Cllr Tom Mohan



Cllr David Coupe



Cllr Alan Liddle

# HEMLINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Chair:** Michael Heslehurst  
**Vice Chair:** Tom Mohan  
**Treasurer:** Janet Hoggett  
**Secretary:** Rose Annal

Correspondence to:  
Hemlington Community Hub  
Crosscliffe  
Hemlington  
TS8 9JJ

15 February 2025

**To whom it may concern**

I can confirm that at the Hemlington Community Council meeting of 15 February 2025 the proposed ward boundary arrangements for Hemlington North and Hemlington South and Stainton and Thornton Wards were discussed by those present.

Very strong feeling was expressed that these proposals should be opposed as they would divide our community. Nobody could understand how or why the proposed boundaries had been drawn up and they are not boundaries ever recognised by the community. Hemlington is united around our lake and not divided by it or a beck.

The facilities at the Viewley Hill Shopping Centre, at the Recreation Centre and the green spaces, including Hemlington Lake are all used by people from throughout the current Hemlington Ward

Hemlington has a strong sense of community spirit and identity and our community is reflected by the current boundary of Hemlington Ward. Hemlington Community Council has worked together for over 20 years along those community lines, bringing together community interests. Officers of the Community Council and those attending our meetings come from both what is now defined as North and South of Hemlington.

Hemlington Community Council unanimously supported the proposal of the Hemlington ward councillors, Stainton and Thornton ward councillor and Stainton and Thornton Parish Council to retain the current ward boundaries of Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton, with both as 2-councillor wards.

Yours faithfully



Rose Annal  
Secretary, Hemlington Community Council

## Hemlington & Stainton and Thornton Wards-2 x 2-member wards retaining current boundaries

### If current boundaries retained

	2023					2029				
Date on numbers of electors from MBC spreadhseet										
	Total electors	Per councillor	average	difference	%variance	Total electors	Per councillor	average	difference	% variance
Hemlington Ward	4296	2148	2154	-6	-0.28%	4296	2148	2266	-118	-5.21%
Stainton and Thornton Ward	3301	1651	2154	-504	-23.40%	4090	2045	2266	-221	-9.75%
						8386				

### LGBCE proposals

Data on numbers of electors from LCBCE report

	Total electors	per councillor	average		varitation	Total electors	per councillor	average		% variance
Hemlington North	2194	2194	2154	40	1.86%	2194	2194	2266	-72	-3.18%
Hemlington S and Stainton & T	5412	1804	2154	-350	-16.25%	6192	2064	2266	-202	-8.91%
						8386				

Note: 8 electors added to council data for 2029 for current Stainton and Thornton ward, due to LGBCE latest proposal to include Stainton Vale Farm etc.

It is mathematically impossible to have both wards within -10% variation for 2023 as total with 4 councillors varies by -12% per councillor

#### LGBCE report July 24 para 58

The Parish Council proposed resolving the poor electoral equality in the ward by increasing the number of councillors to two and moving the area of Hemlington Stainton Way into Hemlington ward. This would result in a 9% variance for Hemlington but -25% for Stainton & Thornton, a variance that could be lowered to -10% maintaining the area east of Stainton Way in Stainton & Thornton ward. 59 However, further community evidence from residents persuaded us not to adopt this amended proposal.

#### LGBCE report January 25 para 26

Stainton & Thornton Parish Council expressed similar concerns about development and proposed maintaining the existing boundaries of the ward with two councillors which would have an electoral variance of -10% by 2029 according to the current forecast. However, including Stainsby Hall Farm in Brookfield & Trimdon would result in a 32% variance

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ncillors,  
result in