

Kettering Constituency Labour Party

12b Market Street, Kettering, NN16 0AH



6th March, 2023.

Submission to the Boundary Review

This response is concerned with the Kettering area, including Desborough, Rothwell and Burton, plus the surrounding villages.

Proposed wards

St Peters.

Comprising the two current St Peter's polling districts.

NOB. Electorate of 2463.

NOC. 1703.

Total 4166.

This would make a logical single member ward representing the two residential areas to the north of the Kettering railway line, either side of Northampton Road, including the leisure village area and the Gipsy Lane area. These communities are connected by

- the two primary schools serving the area, Hall Meadow and Thomas Moore,
- the shared recreation facilities in the centre of the ward, with interconnected green space and leisure facilities in the centre of the proposed new ward
- other shared facilities including cricket club and astro all weather pitch which is well used by local young people
- the leisure centre and gym itself, which is a community hub
- the well used neighbourhood area at Bignal Court, including shops and the pub, which serve the whole community
- the distinctive location as the areas of the town to the north of the rail line and the old rail gateway bridge into the town centre area itself
- being different and distinct from the communities on the other side of the rail line in the town centre area.
- The Kettering General Hospital site, where many St Peters residents are employed, contained wholly in the ward.

Town Ward

We propose creation of a new Town Ward, comprising Northfield, William Knibb and All Saints (bringing all of All Saints together, including the small area currently in Windmill). The total population would be 12017, for a three member ward.

NOA 2070

NOD, 1327

NOE, 829,

NOF, 950

NOG, 850)

CHA, 1771

CHB, 1529

CHC, 856

CHD, 1065
CHE, 107
WMA, 663.
Total. 12017.

- This ward would bring together the historic communities of the town centre of Kettering, a densely populated area of terraced streets and town avenues, which share the same characteristics.
- a community that coheres around the facilities of the centre of town, including shopping, arts, cultural and leisure
- a community with shared interests in town centre planning issues, traffic and highways issues around traffic management
- parking is one of the most important issues, with the need to balance parking for residents, with the many people who travel in and out of the town centre area.
- environmental considerations, including net zero infrastructure, with the area overwhelmingly on-street parking, there is a need for an on-street electric charging network to be developed. This is a 'Town Ward' wide issue, and as distinct from the neighbouring suburban estates with off street parking (e.g. Brambleside)
- central town area community safety and crime issues, including management and impact of the night time economy
- the future of the town centre shopping area, which spreads out across the Northfield, All Saints and William Knibb areas and is in need of significant regenerations.
- engagement and representation with diverse communities, including a large community formerly from EU countries, many of whom now have settled status and are making the Town area their home
- the Town ward will bring together the heritage areas of Kettering, including religious and cultural buildings of importance, and industrial heritage, particularly the boot and shoe making roots of the ward, with much of the housing in the Town area being built originally for shoemakers.
- We see a strong case for a multi-member ward to achieve effective and convenient local government for this area as in addition to managing casework and issues related to individual residents and issues in particular streets/areas, there is also a higher level of stakeholder engagement/management needed with the broad range of organisations and interest groups based in the town. Further, there is a need for representation on significant and often strategic issues across the town centre area. Multi-member representation with three councillors will enable some degree of collaboration and role and responsibility sharing.

Brambleside Ward

We propose creation of a new single member Brambleside Ward comprising the polling districts:

CHF, 1955
CHG, 1836.

Total electorate of 3791. Note that 2028 population projections see this rise to 4073.

- Brambleside is a distinct community. The proposed ward covers the whole area of the Brambleside housing estate, with neighbourhood facilities and services that give a focus to the community
- This suburban estate was built in the late 1990s and comprises mainly family homes. The area is 85% owner occupied, making it very different from the town centre housing to be found in the All Saints area along Rockingham Road.
- At the Rockingham Road side of the Brambleside estate, there is a single entrance/exit, which connects with the bypass, and sees most traffic coming in and out without travelling into Kettering.
- Key town centre issues, such as on street parking, congestion and so on, are not features of the Brambleside area, which has a less dense urban design, including off road parking and green spaces.
- Brambleside Primary is the choice of most local parents, and this is a source of strong community links for many families.
- This self-contained and distinctive estate lends itself to representation by a single member.

Avondale Grange Ward.

We propose creation of a new single member ward with a current population of 3925, comprising the following polling districts

WMB, 994

WMC, 1399

WMD, 1532

- This large area of current and former local authority housing forms a community that is intrinsically linked by a pattern of local services, transport and boundaries, as well as characteristics that make it distinct from neighbouring areas.
- Served by Grange Primary and Kettering Buccleuch Academy Primary, both United Learning Trust Schools, education forms a powerful connection and strong social bonds knitting together the young people and families of Avondale Grange.
- The extensive Weekley Glebe recreation grounds are well used by residents across Avondale Grange for informal every day recreation as well as being a hub for local sports teams, along with the astro turf pitch and sports facilities at KBA School.
- The neighbourhood centre on Stamford Road provides shops and amenities for residents all around, as do community facilities at the Crescents.
- Stamford Road rather than being a division between communities, is the central artery of the whole Avondale Grange community
- Identified as a 'Levelling Up' area, with higher levels of socio economic deprivation, a single Councillor for this distinctive area can be a champion for the investment and services that people require

Welland and Boughton

The proposed Welland and Boughton Ward brings together all parishes and settlements of the rural area to the north and east of Kettering, excluding the larger

towns of Desborough and Rothwell. The single member ward would have a total population of 4247.

DEA (Ashley) 224
DEB (Brampton Ash) 62
DEC (Braybrooke) 358
DEH (Dingley) 155
DEI (Stoke Albany) 276
DEJ (Sutton Bassett) 83
DEK (Weston by Welland) 140
DEL (Wilbarston) 527
ISC (Cranford) 316
ISD (Geddington) 1196
ISI (Little Oakley) 75
ISJ (Newton) 38
ISE (Grafton Underwood) 124
ISK (Warkton) 107
ISL (Weekley) 144
RMJ (Rushton) 379
RMA (Glendon) 43
RMG (Pipewell) 53
RMC (Harrington) 134

- The ward has logical boundaries, following the North West border of the unitary area, with the A14 as the boundary to the south of the proposed new ward, and following the line of the A14 up to the A43 and the A6183 across the northern edge of Kettering.
- The Welland and Boughton Ward would be named after the principal features of the Welland Valley to the northern boundary, and to the east, the historical landmark of Boughton House, with many connected villages in the Boughton Estates area.
- Comprising rural parished areas, while these form many different communities, they have much in common
- Provision of public services in rural areas will be a key issue, including access to health and education services
- Public transport, particularly the provision of rural bus services and community transport, is a key issue for all the villages in the ward
- Retention and use of community assets, particularly village halls, is a significant common issue
- As a single member ward, there will be clarity of relationships between the ward Councillor and the parish councils, allowing for clear lines of communication and representation, to achieve convenient and effective local government
- the Unitary Ward Councillor will be able to link with parish councils in their role as community representatives and as consultees on issues including planning matters.

Rothwell, Loddington and Orton

We propose a two member ward for Rothwell
RMH (Rothwell Tresham) 3177

RMI (Rothwell Trinity) 3262
RMD (Loddington) 378
RMK (Thorpe Malsor) 101
RMF (Orton) 69
6987

- While the current electorate of 6987 is a greater variance than the Commission is looking for, we note future projections (3449 + 3532, 411,73, 110) see the population increase to 7576 and the variance reduce.
- there is a strong justification for the Ward in respect of the logical boundaries of this historic and distinctive community and administrative area of Rothwell, combined with the neighbouring parishes of Orton, Loddington and Thorpe, which are traditionally strongly connected.
- The ward keeps the whole of Rothwell Town together, including the whole administrative area of the Rothwell Town Council, which is a strong community with shared interests and identity and allows for effective and convenient local government.
- The inclusion of Loddington and Orton, while partly motivated by the need to consider the total number of electors per Councillors, does reflect historic links, including community links. For example, the traditional catchment area and popular choice for secondary age children is to attend school in Rothwell.
- Rothwell, with its historic market, and current thriving town centre, is a hub for the residents of Orton and Loddington as well as the Rothwell community.

Desborough

We propose a two member ward for Desborough comprising

DED (Loatland) 2447
DEE (Loatland) 2398
DEF (St Giles) 2360
DEG (St Giles) 1616
8821

- Desborough is a distinct community, with clear boundaries to the town, and deserving of dedicated representation as a two member ward.
- A Desborough ward, co-terminous with the Desborough Town Council, would make for convenient and effective links between representatives at parish and unitary level and the representations that are made for the town.
- Crucially, with planning a key issues, the ward would cover the Desborough area for town and local planning purposes
- Community links are reflected by the many social and sports clubs in the town, including Desborough Town FC and the town cricket club.
- Desborough is a community hub for cultural activities and groups, including the strong town-twinning association.
- Havelock and Loatland Schools are community hubs, bringing together children and families in the town.

- Transport is a key issue, with Desborough as a hub for travel in the north Northants and south Leicestershire area, with many people reliant on bus services and connections.

Broughton and Mawsley

BBA (Broughton) 1868

BBF (Pytchley) 391

RMB (Great Cransley) 250

RME (Mawsley) 1697

Total. 4206

- The proposed single member ward would provide effective representation for the two larger villages of Broughton and Mawsley, and the smaller connected and neighbouring villages of Great Cransley and Pytchley, which form an inter-connected rural area to the west of Kettering and up to the western border of the unitary area.

Burton

A two member ward representing Burton Latimer

BBB Burton Latimer 1474

BBC Burton Latimer 1668

BBD Burton Latimer 2472

BBE Burton Latimer 1878

Total 7492 and projected to rise significantly.

- Burton is a distinct place, with clear boundaries to the town and a strong sense of community.
- The ward would be co-terminous with the Burton Town Council, which allows for convenient and effective links between representatives at parish and unitary level and the representations that are made for the town.
- Crucially, with planning a key issues, the ward would cover the Burton area for town and local planning purposes
- Burton has had significant urban residential extensions in recent years, and new industrial areas established and the Burton Councillors can work to achieve effective integration and representation of the enlarged town area.
- Community links are further reflected by the many social, cultural and sports clubs in the town.
- The town centre is a hub for retail and leisure activity for people in the town.

Pipers Hill

A single member representing Pipers Hill

WME Kettering Pipers Hill 1679 1823

WMF Kettering Pipers Hill 910 984

WMG Kettering Pipers Hill 1493 1621

- An area with clear boundaries of London Road, St Mary's Road and along the Isle valley, to allow for effective and convenient local government

- The ward is a mix of residential areas and significant community facilities and employers, including the Kettering Science Academy, Tresham College and Kettering Rugby Club

St Michaels

A new single member St Michaels Ward

WSC 2818

WSD 1490

Total electors: 4308

- The ward has the clear and logical boundaries of Pytchley Road, London Road, the railway line and Bowling Green Road.
- The community of St Michaels began to develop on the edge of Kettering in the early 20th Century and is not a thriving community, with schools, sports and arts facilities, and retail hubs.
- The ward takes it's name from the St Michaels and All Angels Church, which was founded in 1908.

Ise Ward

A three member ward representing the Ise area, including Ise Lodge, Wicksteed and Barton.

ISF Kettering Ise 2349

ISG Kettering Ise 3705

ISA Barton Seagrave 539

ISB Barton Seagrave 68

WSE 1425

WSA Barton Seagrave 2362

WSB 2202

Total. 12585.

- The Ise Ward would cover the whole of the Ise Lodge, with the Wicksteed area, including the park, and the village of Barton Seagrave.
- The ward takes its name from the Ise river and valley which runs all through the ward, connecting the residential areas that are included.
- The ward represents a combination of different communities, rather than a single community, but where there are strong links, and all the communities can be well represented by three councillors in a three member ward.
- Barton is a parished area and there is an obvious argument for a ward that aligns with the parish boundaries, and similarly an argument could be made for the area of the Ise Lodge estate, given community identity. However, these options as either single or two member wards would be significantly outside what the Commission is likely to consider an acceptable level of variance in the number of electors. We therefore propose this option as a means of providing convenient and effective local government, in a way that meets the Commissions objectives for equal representation.