

# West Northamptonshire

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Turon Miah  
**Email:** [REDACTED]  
**Postcode:** not given  
**Organisation Name:** (Parish or town councillor)

## Comment text:

Hello,

My name is-

Cllr Turon Miah  
Headlands Ward  
Northampton town council,

Northampton Town Council is a unique parish council and the current arrangement of wards has served the town well.

Residents are familiar with their neighbours, live in similar types of housing, in similar neighbourhoods, face the same challenges and have much in common.

Northampton Town Council is largest town council by population in the country, consisting of 21 wards, each the equivalent size of many parish councils.  
My proposal by the boundary commission and is unanimously of the opinion that the current parish and town ward boundaries should remain as they are.

The reasons for this are:

- The current arrangements reflect the identities and interests of local communities, secure effective and convenient local government and offer greater equality of representation than the proposed wards do.

- Northampton Town Council (NTC) is a new council (2 years old) and is working hard to establish itself within the principle council area of West Northamptonshire
- Continuity is key for parishioners to avoid confusion and promote confidence in local democracy
- The current NTC wards are based on historic communities many of which identify strongly with the current ward in which they reside
- The current wards are established communities many of which have residents' associations based along those lines, community centres which take the name of their ward
- The Town Council has had much success in its wards, expanding bloom projects on a ward basis to cover the whole town, and offering grants through councillors to support projects in their wards
- The Town Council has built strong community links within the existing wards with clubs, societies, charities and residents associations

#### History

Many of the wards have along history dating back centuries, for example Semilong. The strong identity that residents have with the Semilong area is considerable and the loss of this ward and the area will be detrimental to this.

The proposal removes Abington from the ward map completely. Abington is a neighbourhood which lends its name to a prominent Green Flag park used by all of Northampton.

The proposal will disrupt these communities and their identities, the opposite of what town and parish councils are supposed to stand for and what we understand the intention of the boundary commission to be.

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#### Electoral Arrangements

Table 1 below illustrates the electorate for each ward if the current arrangement remains.

WARD Year 2021 Year 2028 No. of Cllrs. Electorate per Cllr 2021 Electorate per Cllr 2028

Abington

7015 7442 2 3507 3721

Boothville

3328 3487 1 3328 3487

Briar Hill

2989 3096 1 2989 3096

Brookside

3887 4022 1 3887 4022

Castle

10331 11211 3 3443 3737

Eastfield

2750 3854 1 3750 3854

Headlands  
3811 3948 1 3811 3948  
\*Kings Heath  
3422 4522 1 3422 4522 \*  
Kingsley  
4063 4165 1 4063 4165  
Park  
3742 3808 1 3742 3808  
Parklands  
3675 3880 1 3675 3880  
Phippsville  
3071 3152 1 3071 3152  
Rectory Farm  
3687 3874 1 3687 3847  
Riverside  
3500 3629 1 3500 3629  
Rushmills  
2705 2860 1 2705 2860  
Semilong  
3880 4040 1 3880 4040  
Dallington Spencer 3981 4026 1 3981 4026  
St James  
5165 5262 1 5165 5262  
Talavera  
7740 7965 2 3870 3983  
Trinity  
3030 3149 1 3030 3149  
Westone  
3523 3575 1 3523 3575  
TOTAL

90295 94965 25

Northampton Town Council Wards 2021 - 2028 \*Only significant increase. Proposed lost ward names

Table 1 above illustrates:

- · The present electorate per ward is broadly consistent
- · The forecasted growth, which is not big, would also mean the current arrangement is balanced population wise.
- · Councillors know their communities and serve them well

Table 2 below illustrates the proposed electorate per councillor if the boundary commission proposals are adopted  
Proposal from Boundary Commission for Northampton Town Council wards

WARD Year 2024 total electors No. of Cllrs Electorate per Cllr Average electors per Cllr Above/below  
average per Cllr % of total electorate

Billing Aquadrome 1006 1 1006\* 3796.96 -2790 0.2649 \*

Blackthorn and Rectory Farm 7654 2 3827 3796.96 +31 2.0158

Briar Hill

3096 1 3096 3796.96 -700 0.8154

Castle

1287 3 4290 3796.96 +494 3.3901

Dallington Spencer 13769 3 4589\* 3796.96 +793 3.6263 \*

Headlands

13852 3 4617\* 3796.96 +821 3.6484 \*

Marina

145 1 145\* 3796.96 -3651 0.0382 \*

Moulton Leys

1959 1 1959\* 3796.96 -1837 0.5159 \*

Parklands

3848 1 3848 3796.96 +52 1.0134

Phippsville

9089 2 4544\* 3796.96 +748 2.3938\*

Queens Park

2336 1 2336 3796.96 -1460 0.6152

St George

8845 2 4422 \* 3796.96 +626 2.3295 \*

Talavera

8207 2

4103 3796.96 +307 2.1615

Weston

8246 2

4123 3796.96 +327 2.1717

TOTAL

94924 25 25

Above average electorate numbers Below average electorate numbers

Significantly above or below \*

- The proposed numbers are far less consistent compared to the current arrangements

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- The two outliers (Billing Aquadrome and Marina) are massively out of sync and over represented
- Similarly, Moulton Leys, and Queens Park have a disproportionate overrepresentation
- The current arrangement is convenient in terms of arranging local government elections, and for the electorate who know their ward and where to go to vote
- The current ward boundaries are proven in providing secure effective and convenient local government.

As detailed, Northampton is unique in parish council terms and therefore should be considered when looking at the wards. The Town Council's size, population and diversity are all factors that help make it what it is and these are effectively reflected in the current ward arrangements.

It is the considered view of councillors that there should be no change to the current ward boundaries. The changes proposed take no account of the demographic or socio-economic nature of our diverse and multicultural communities. There is no logic in destroying the community cohesion which has built up over many years of engagement and hard work.

For all the above reasons that the Boundary Commission please do not amend the current Town Council ward boundaries,

Many thanks ,

Best regards

Cllr Turon Miah

Headlands ward

Northampton town council.

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## Attached Documents:

- Consultation Responsev4.docx

## **Consultation Response – Electoral Arrangements – West Northamptonshire (Northampton Town parish wards)**

Northampton Town Council is a unique parish council and the current arrangement of wards has served the town well. Residents are familiar with their neighbours, live in similar types of housing, in similar neighbourhoods, face the same challenges and have much in common.

Northampton Town Council is largest town council by population in the country, consisting of 21 wards, each the equivalent size of many parish councils.

NTC have considered the proposal put forward by the boundary commission and is unanimously of the opinion that the current parish ward boundaries should remain as they are. The reasons for this are:

- The current arrangements reflect the identities and interests of local communities, secure effective and convenient local government and offer greater equality of representation than the proposed wards do.
- Northampton Town Council (NTC) is a new council (2 years old) and is working hard to establish itself within the principle council area of West Northamptonshire
- Continuity is key for parishioners to avoid confusion and promote confidence in local democracy
- The current NTC wards are based on historic communities many of which identify strongly with the current ward in which they reside
- The current wards are established communities many of which have residents' associations based along those lines, community centres which take the name of their ward
- The Town Council has had much success in its wards, expanding bloom projects on a ward basis to cover the whole town, and offering grants through councillors to support projects in their wards
- The Town Council has built strong community links within the existing wards with clubs, societies, charities and residents associations

### **History**

Many of the wards have long history dating back centuries, for example Semilong. The strong identity that residents have with the Semilong area is considerable and the loss of this ward and the area will be detrimental to this.

The proposal removes Abington from the ward map completely. Abington is a neighbourhood which lends its name to a prominent Green Flag park used by all of Northampton.

The proposal will disrupt these communities and their identities, the opposite of what town and parish councils are supposed to stand for and what we understand the intention of the boundary commission to be.

## Electoral Arrangements

Table 1 below illustrates the electorate for each ward if the current arrangement remains.

WARD	Year 2021	Year 2028	No. of Cllrs.	Electorate per Cllr 2021	Electorate per Cllr 2028
Abington	7015	7442	2	3507	3721
Boothville	3328	3487	1	3328	3487
Briar Hill	2989	3096	1	2989	3096
Brookside	3887	4022	1	3887	4022
Castle	10331	11211	3	3443	3737
Eastfield	2750	3854	1	3750	3854
Headlands	3811	3948	1	3811	3948
*Kings Heath	3422	4522	1	3422	4522 *
Kingsley	4063	4165	1	4063	4165
Park	3742	3808	1	3742	3808
Parklands	3675	3880	1	3675	3880
Phippsville	3071	3152	1	3071	3152
Rectory Farm	3687	3874	1	3687	3847
Riverside	3500	3629	1	3500	3629
Rushmills	2705	2860	1	2705	2860
Semilong	3880	4040	1	3880	4040
Dallington Spencer	3981	4026	1	3981	4026
St James	5165	5262	1	5165	5262
Talavera	7740	7965	2	3870	3983
Trinity	3030	3149	1	3030	3149
Westone	3523	3575	1	3523	3575
TOTAL	90295	94965	25		

Northampton Town Council Wards 2021 - 2028

\*Only significant increase.

Proposed lost ward names

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**Proposal from Boundary Commission for Northampton Town Council wards**

WARD	Year 2024 total electors	No. of Cllrs	Electorate per Cllr	Average electors per Cllr	Above/ below average per Cllr	% of total electorate
Billing Aquadrome	1006	1	1006*	3796.96	-2790	0.2649 *
Blackthorn and Rectory Farm	7654	2	3827	3796.96	+31	2.0158
Briar Hill	3096	1	3096	3796.96	-700	0.8154
Castle	1287	3	4290	3796.96	+494	3.3901
Dallington Spencer	13769	3	4589*	3796.96	+793	3.6263 *
Headlands	13852	3	4617*	3796.96	+821	3.6484 *
Marina	145	1	145*	3796.96	-3651	0.0382 *
Moulton Leys	1959	1	1959*	3796.96	-1837	0.5159 *
Parklands	3848	1	3848	3796.96	+52	1.0134
Phippsville	9089	2	4544*	3796.96	+748	2.3938*
Queens Park	2336	1	2336	3796.96	-1460	0.6152
St George	8845	2	4422 *	3796.96	+626	2.3295 *
Talavera	8207	2	4103	3796.96	+307	2.1615
Weston	8246	2	4123	3796.96	+327	2.1717
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94924</b>	<b>25</b>				<b>25</b>

Above average electorate numbers

Below average electorate numbers

Significantly above or below \*

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For all the above reasons NTC asks that the Boundary Commission do not amend the current Town Council ward boundaries.