

West Northamptonshire

Personal Details:

Name: Leslie Marriott

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: (Parish or town councillor)

Comment text:

Please see attached my submission in relation to the above subject.

Attached Documents:

- Boundary Commission Consultation Response.docx

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

I, Councillor Leslie Marriott am writing in response to the above consultation to fully support the submission from Northampton Town Council.

I am the Town Councillor for Semilong Ward, which in its self is equivalent in size of many standalone parish council's.

- The Ward is of a predominantly inner-city nature with the community challenges that brings with it.
- The current arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the local communities, secure effective and convenient local government and offer greater equality of representation than the present and proposed unitary council wards do.
- Northampton Town Council is a new council (2 years old) and is working hard to establish itself within the principal council area of West Northamptonshire
- Continuity is key for parishioners to avoid confusion and promote confidence in local democracy
- The ward name, Semilong, originates from the 13th century when a monastery dominated the area.
- Semilong ward is therefore based on a historic community, residents of which many identify strongly with the current ward in which they reside. The loss of the name Semilong, being replaced by the proposed new name for the electoral area will be detrimental to the historic nature of the ward. As already felt by the present Unitary Councils ward name.
- There are two community centres in Semilong which, between them, cater for all generations; young to old alike. The user groups of these centres enable me to focus my Town Council community funds to the neediest in this inner-city area. Not something the present “geographically remote” Unitary Councillors do now, let alone will do in the future when there is fewer of them.
- From this I hope you can see that I, with the support of the Town Council, have built strong community links within the existing ward. That being in just the past two years.

I, like the collective Town Council, have considered the proposal put forward by the boundary commission and am of the opinion that the current parish ward boundaries should remain as they are. 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 I ask that the Boundary Commission do not amend the current Town Council ward boundaries.