**Boundary Review Response from Councillor Emily Fedorowycz**

**Date: 31.07.23**

**Overview of Kettering Wards**

**Kettering North - Cloverhill**

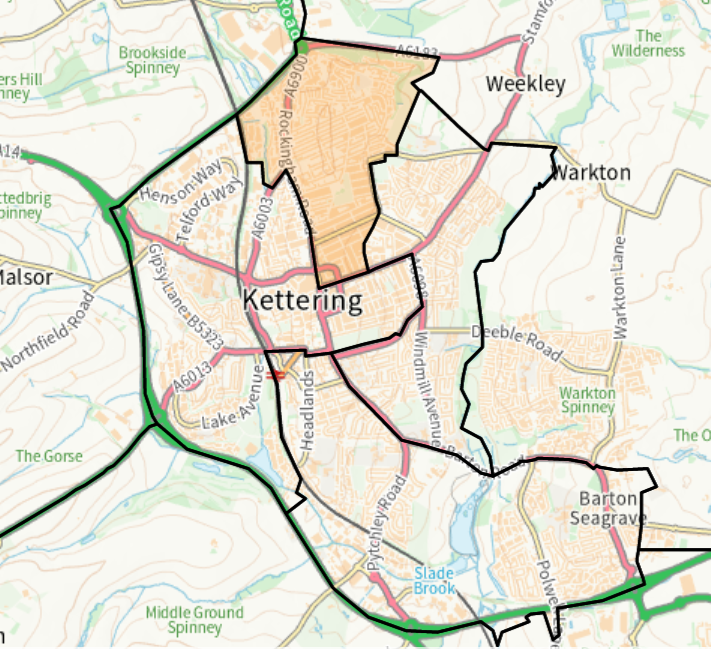
The North of Kettering isn’t split in a way that necessarily matches with the sense of community on the ground. For instance, Rockingham Road splits off the left and right side of the road into two separate wards when they feel much more similar in likeness and hinge around a local community centre, Johnny’s Happy Place.

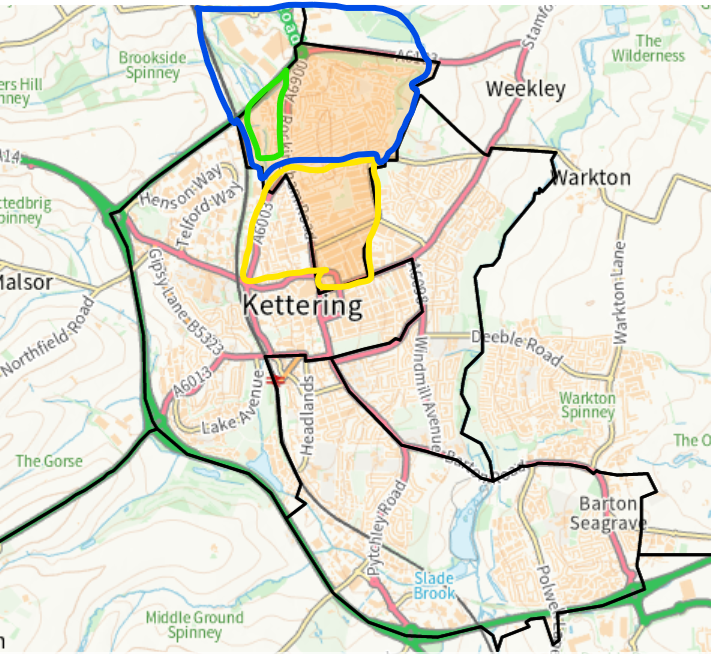
If you redrew the wards to have a section that encompassed both sides of the Rockingham Road at the town centre end, this would make a lot more sense and collate together residents with similar issues. (See yellow outline on second map below.)

The rest of Kettering North also should be more appropriately drawn to incorporate the wider scenery including the adjacent Kettering North walkways and woods area which is frequently used by Brambleside residents. Brambleside and Caitlands (Caitlands in green) have a strong connection to one another, but Caitlands have branched off as their own community which is in itself quite close knit. Caitlands recognise themselves as part of Brambleside still, however they certainly have their own identity.

Cloverhill isn’t recognised by the community as relevant to the area - people know the areas as All Saints, Brambleside and Caitlands, respectively. I would called this area Kettering North and the subsections will naturally keep their more specific identities.

Current wards:





**Kettering West - Northall**

Currently incorporates three very town centre areas, the business park, and Lake Ave and Gypsy Lane areas. I grew up in the Deeble Road area, and thus know the community around Gypsy Lane is very tied to the hospital. Lake Ave end is both linked to Gypsy Lane (in neighbourhood feel and proximity), and also the Headlands due to the connecting footpath from Thurston Drive to Bishop Stopford School.

With the development work proposed for the railway station, the Headlands section could be incorporated into the Kettering West ward. There are issues however with this proposal, such as that the Headlands community is very strong, and splitting left and right of Headlands would be tricky. There is also a Headlands Neighbourhood Plan that is hoping to go to referendum in March 2023. This makes this unit very strong. Possibly splitting Queensbury Road, Station Road and Northfield Ave into Kettering West, all situated around the station might work.

**Kettering East - Windmill**

This incorporates a ‘Bermuda Triangle’ area - shown in orange. This section is within the Windmill ward for the North Northants Council but in the All Saints ward for the Kettering Town Council. If the left and right sides of Rockingham Road near the town centre are turned into one ward, this would make sense to be part of that boundary rather than Windmill.

Almond Road side of Stamford Road and Margaret Road side each have their own identity but are considered together. Naseby Road and surrounding are also all connected in terms of community, though the Warren pub on the corner feels more part of Windmill than the town centre and Northall.

**Further context and responses regarding the Cloverhill Ward:**

**All Saints and Brambleside**

**All Saint Community Group member consultation**

I have been attending All Saints Community meetings every two months since 2022, and at our must recent meeting in July 2023 I informed them about the proposal to split off All Saints and Brambleside and their response was unanimous – that both the two areas sit as a pair and it didn’t make sense to split them.

There was some appreciation of having a town centre ward, but felt that the roads surrounding the Pleasure Park (and a little beyond) felt more tied to the park than the town centre. We discussed the Kettering Town Councillor’s proposal to bring the ward boundary down to Wood street or Havelock so that the streets around the park were included and they still felt that was too high. Wood, Havelock and Regent Street are all connected by a number of alleys, so to split these felt very odd.

One resident who lives on Regent Street, Teresa, said that she felt more connected to the park than the town centre. Discussing the idea of proposing Regent Street as the cut off point, with streets below that area becoming ‘town centre ward’ streets, they said this felt okay. Lindsey Street and Crown feel very town centre, and King Street and Princes also feel quite town centre but are on the cusp.

**Rockingham Road Pleasure Park**

This park is a central focus of the All Saints and Brambleside area – both communities hinge around this park and are united by it. Its Green Flag status is something that the whole area is proud of and feels connected to, and events in the park such as Bands in the Park and the annual Weekley Hall Wood Festival are something that culminates the community spirit across both areas, and Pleasure Park events regularly appear in our All Saints and Brambleside community newsletter.

The roads around the park specifically feel very much like their identity resides with the park rather than the town centre, and All Saints Church is adjacent to the park too, linking All Saints as it’s own entity to the park very strongly, and not to the town centre.

The other foreseeable issue for these All Saints residents is that, if they were to become part of the Kettering Central ward, the park would lose it’s focus. With All Saints within the town centre, the Pleasure Park would become one of many parks – Meadow Road, Grafton Park, Northampton Road Recreation Ground – and this park that was a focus point for the community and the local councillors will become much more sidelined. Town centre councillors will not focus on the Pleasure Park and recognise its importance for the community that surrounds it – and the park that is currently getting a lot of focus and is a community hub will not get that focus from town centre councillors with a number of other bigger parks, and a very wide area with a wide scope of different problems, needs and wants.

All Saints residents want the Pleasure Park to thrive and the streets off these host their own street parties and there is a real sense of community that would be drastically diminished without continued focus on the park.

This strong sense of identity is also fulfilled through one of the areas most long-standing committee, the Friends of the Rockingham Road Pleasure Park community group, which is made up of members based in both All Saints and Brambleside. The group meets at the Midland Band whose staff are tied to both All Saints and Brambleside – the secretary of the meeting venue for instance chairs the Brambleside School PTA. This just shows how intrinsically linked these two areas are and all hinging around the park.

**Weekley Hall Wood**

The woodland and meadow to the North of the Cloverhill ward is called Weekley Hall Wood and is a well-used public green space, used thoroughly by residents across Brambleside and All Saints. It’s also one of the things that connects the two parts of our ward. This is firstly because you have to go through Brambleside to access the woods from All Saints. The second reason is that this green space has been threatened by developers over the past few years and they have been united in the campaign to save the woodland, since a huge number of Cloverhill residents use this area of dog walking, running, cycling, and for their general mental wellbeing.

We update people on the woodland in nearly every community newsletter and when we go doorknocking, people from all over the ward (in All Saints as much as Brambleside) we have residents asking about the woodland and if it has been saved. The ‘Save Weekley Hall Wood’ campaign team have organised an annual festival in the Pleasure Park located in All Saints to raise funds, uniting people across the whole of Cloverhill again on this issue. This is a very strong community based off of this topic alone.

This is why I would also suggest that the ward boundary be pulled upwards to encompass the woodland and the new line could simply follow the public footpath through the woods, as seen below. This shouldn’t add many (if any) places of residence.

Whilst the A6183 as a main road has previously been a reasonable boundary, the current set up means that Weekley Hall Wood is outside of the ward and instead of the adjacent Brambleside and All Saints residents being consulted on proposed developments coming forward here, instead Weekley residents are consulted which makes no sense. Weekley residents are not near to this land, and therefore do not use it to the same level or have the same close connection to it as Cloverhill. Encompassing this very relevant and important green space means that residents directly next to it will be able to have a say on any proposed works going forward, and will unite them even more around this key space that brings them together.

