

Middlesbrough

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Middlesbrough Council has recently undertaken a Community Governance Review (30 September 2022) to consider the future of parish council and community council arrangements within the Middlesbrough area, they concluded that the Stainton and Thornton Parish Council boundary is maintained and unaltered and that the number of Parish Councillors remain at 7, something which the current Stainton and Thornton Parish Council accept. The parish itself has clear boundaries and has its own adopted Stainton and Thornton Neighbourhood Plan which runs until 2034.

The Stainton and Thornton WARD boundary is slightly different, in that it contains the whole of the current parished area PLUS a number of houses from the neighbouring Hemlington Ward. These properties are mainly privately owned and have more “in common” with the type of property within the Stainton Parish.

Over the last 10 years or so, there has been a significant increase in the number of dwellings within the parish of Stainton and Thornton, firstly with the Rose Cottage Farm development at the northern side of the village and lately and still ongoing, Hemlington Grange to the south and east of the parish. This has resulted in a large increase in the numbers of residents/electors meaning that the Ward is now massively out of variance with over 4082 electors to its one councillor. Hemlington Grange is wholly in the Parish of Stainton and Thornton and receives copies of our newsletter and residents attend both our parish AND community council meetings. The residents of Hemlington Grange in line with the rest of the dwellings within the parish, pay the parish precept as part of their council tax.

We have made the residents of Hemlington Grange aware of the above review and have discussed the various options available with them at both Stainton and Thornton Parish AND Stainton and Thornton Community Councils and their feeling is that they would like to remain as part of the Stainton and Thornton WARD. Regardless of what is decided in conjunction with Middlesbrough B C, they will still remain within the PARISH of Stainton and Thornton and continue

to pay the parish precept, something that may confuse the issue should it be decided that they are moved to a different WARD.

Hemlington Grange is not yet fully built out with a further 600+ houses to be built over the coming couple of years(planning permission has already been granted).

The situation is further exacerbated by the fact that MBC are in the process of developing their new Local Plan, with further sites being suggested for development within the Stainton and Thornton Parish. The extra sites proposed are Hemlington Grange South 130 dwellings, Hemlington Grange West 170 dwellings, Holme Farm 430 dwellings and Land north of Low Lane (Stainton Vale Farm/Sporting Lodge) 700 dwellings. MBC are suggesting that IF the current draft Local Plan goes ahead then a further 2,210 net additional dwellings will be built within the PARISH of Stainton and Thornton over the plan period to 2041. The number of dwellings identified for each site is indicative and is not intended as either a maximum or a minimum.

As these boundary reviews are not a regular occurrence, we would propose that the WARD boundary is altered to lose those dwellings to the east of Stainton Way (outside the PARISH boundary) to the Hemlington Ward, currently 5% variance below average and the WARD boundary becomes whole of the PARISH of Stainton and Thornton and the number of WARD councillors be increased by one to become a two councillor ward. By doing this you will get a better councillor/elector ratio with a degree of “future proofing” based on suggested development and leaving Coulby Newham to be a single WARD with three councillors, rather than two wards, Coulby Newham North with a -33% variance and two councillors and Coulby Newham South with a +9% variance and two councillors.

The Stainton and Thornton Neighbourhood Plan is available on our parish website at www.staintonandthorntonparishcouncil.org.uk and the proposed draft Middlesbrough Borough Council Local Plan is on the MBC website as I am sure you are aware?

I hope these views will be taken into consideration when carrying out the review.

Attached Documents:

None attached