

Ward Councillor's report (Barby & Onley) March 2023

Draft recommendations on new ward patterns for West Northamptonshire Council

The consultation on the Local Government Boundary Commission's proposals for new ward patterns in West Northants is now open. The consultation closes on 15th May. A summary of the recommendations is in the link: [Summary.pdf](#)

The Commission recommend that the Council is served by 76 councillors (17 less than at present) and the 35 wards (4 additional to the current total) have a combination of 1,2,3 councillors representing them. The Braunston and Crick ward retains the same group of villages as it does currently with the addition of West Haddon. It's proposed to be a 2 councillor ward, so could lose one councillor if the recommendations are implemented.

None of the changes submitted by the West Northants Council for the Braunston and Crick ward have been adopted in the draft recommendations. These were to lose Ashby St Ledgers, Welton and Braunston and add them to a Daventry ward. The Commission was not persuaded by this suggestion nor the Council's suggestion that Yelvertoft, Lilbourne, Clay Coton and Stanford move to a single councillor Naseby ward. The report on the draft recommendations makes much reference to comments submitted to the first consultation and how they influenced the Commission's conclusions. Feedback and local knowledge has clearly helped shape the pattern of the new wards.

Planning

Last month I reported that the Daventry Area Planning Committee were meeting for the first time this month since November. The Planning Advisory Service report which has now been put back to next month's Cabinet agenda is recommending that there is not enough business for three area planning committees to deal with, so proposes a trial reduction to two committees only. The Daventry APC meeting in Towcester this week had only one planning application to decide which reflects these recommendations. Details of the proposals are in this link: [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Democracy and Standards Committee, 09/03/2023 18:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

On behalf of your Parish Council I have requested that the application WND/2021/0293 Land to the rear of 31 Kilsby Rd is called in for decision to the Area Planning Committee and hope to have an update to bring to the meeting.

Improving air quality in Northampton

News in the latest WNC Town and Parish Briefing included the funding secured to improve air quality in Northampton. The new grant is to provide funding to develop an evidence base for action to deal with particulate pollution in West Northants.

Certain evidence is already available – a recent report identified Northampton as having the worst air pollution in the UK – levels exceeding that of London, Nottingham and Bristol – and the equivalent of smoking 189 cigarettes per year. Options to tackle this may include extending smoke control areas, however there is also a recognition that in a cost of living crisis, burning solid fuel such as wood and coal may be the only viable option, especially in rural areas. Contrary to an article in the Daily Telegraph last month the Council is not going

to be banning log fires throughout West Northants. The work on smoke control areas will be focussed on Northampton only.

Cllr Rosie Humphreys

10th March 2023