

# Middlesbrough

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Nicky Walker  
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**Organisation Name:** (District or county councillor)

## Comment text:

Good afternoon,

Middlesbrough Review-Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton

I am writing to give my personal support to the Alternative Proposal for Hemlington and Stainton wards already submitted with supporting evidence, which is to retain the current Hemlington Ward and Stainton and Thornton Ward boundaries (with addition of the farm road to South of A174 as proposed by LGBCE) and make both 2-councillor wards.

I have lived in Hemlington for 42 years, been involved with the community initially as a volunteer with local groups for over 35 years and also been a councillor for Hemlington Ward for almost 22 years. I have always been proud of the strong sense of community spirit that exists in Hemlington and the people identify with a community which broadly follows the current ward boundaries. Not one person of the many who I have spoken to since the draft further recommendation were published understand why these new ward boundaries have been suggested or recognise them as in any way reflecting how the community is defined.

Hemlington is a community built around a lake, a lake that unifies us and gives us a common interest, identity and sense of pride rather than divides us.

The challenges that Hemlington has and does face, especially of anti-social behaviour, are being addressed by joint working with Middlesbrough

Council, the police, social housing landlords, youth services and others, working across what is currently Hemlington ward.

The key facilities at the Viewley Hill Shopping Centre and at Hemlington Recreation Centre are relied on by people across all of Hemlington. The lake, its surrounding parkland and other green spaces are enjoyed by those living throughout the ward.

Hemlington has little in common with Stainton and Thornton and Hemlington Grange and vice versa and there is a lack of pedestrian, cycle, vehicle and public transport links between Hemlington and those areas, with Stainton Way being a major barrier and currently logically forming part of the ward boundaries.

Using the data provided by Middlesbrough Council to LGBCE, the same data as used in the LGBCE proposals, it provides the electoral equality required of +/-10% with -5% for Hemlington Ward and is within-10% (-9.75%) for Stainton & Thornton Ward for 2029. More detailed calculations have been provided to prove this.

As this proposal follows the combined boundaries and electors for the Hemlington North Ward and Hemlington South & Stainton Ward proposed in the Further Draft Recommendations, there is no impact on any other wards in Middlesbrough in the LGBCE proposals and the total number of electors of 8,386 for the two wards would be the same.

This alternative, cross-party, proposal for Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton wards was drawn up and proposed by Hemlington Ward councillors Cllr Nicky Walker and Cllr Tom Mohan, Stainton and Thornton councillor Cllr David Coupe and Stainton Parish Council, and has the support of Hemlington Community Council. It is also supported by Luke Myer MP for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland and Middlesbrough Labour Group.

Therefore, I hope you will give due consideration to the representations made to retain the current ward boundaries which not only provides the degree of electoral equality required but also fulfils the other two statutory criteria of community identity and effective local government in so many more respects.

Please don't cut our community of Hemlington in two.

Kind regards

Nicky

Nicky Walker  
Councillor for Hemlington Ward

## Attached Documents:

*None attached*