

# Middlesbrough

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## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Brambles and Thorntree

The Negative Impact of Moving the Boundaries of Brambles and Thorntree

Introduction

The proposal to move the boundaries of Brambles and Thorntree, merging parts of these wards with North Ormesby, has raised significant concerns among the local community. This report outlines why such boundary changes are detrimental to the area, the negative impact on community cohesion, and the disruption of ongoing projects.

Community Cohesion and Identity

**Breaking Up Established Communities:** Brambles and Thorntree have a long-standing sense of community and identity. Moving the boundaries will break up these established communities, leading to a loss of shared history and culture. The residents of Brambles and Thorntree identify strongly with their local area, and merging them with North Ormesby would dilute this identity.

**Loss of Community Projects:** There are several community projects currently underway in Brambles and Thorntree aimed at improving the quality of life for residents. These projects rely on the cohesion and participation of the local community. Moving boundaries and merging wards will disrupt these projects, leading to potential abandonment and wastage of resources.

## Housing and Infrastructure

**Capacity Issues:** Brambles and Thorntree are already densely populated, with no room for additional housing. Any attempts to introduce more housing in these areas would strain existing infrastructure, leading to overburdened public services such as schools, healthcare, and transportation.

**Infrastructure Development:** The local infrastructure has been developed based on the current population and community needs. Moving the boundaries and increasing the population density in these areas would require significant investment in infrastructure, which is not feasible in the short term.

## Economic and Social Impact

**Disruption of Economic Initiatives:** There are ongoing economic initiatives designed to boost local businesses and create job opportunities in Brambles and Thorntree. Boundary changes would disrupt these initiatives, affecting local businesses and leading to potential job losses.

**Social Disruption:** Community events, support groups, and social networks are integral to the well-being of residents. Disrupting these networks by changing boundaries will lead to social fragmentation and a decrease in community support systems.

## Recommendations

**Maintain Current Boundaries:** Retaining the existing boundaries will help preserve community identity and ensure the continuity of ongoing projects.

**Invest in Existing Infrastructure:** Focus on improving the current infrastructure in Brambles and Thorntree to support the existing population rather than merging wards.

**Support Community Projects:** Provide additional support and resources to the community projects in Brambles and Thorntree to ensure their success and sustainability.

By considering these recommendations, we can ensure that Brambles and Thorntree continue to thrive as cohesive and vibrant communities.

## Conclusion

Moving the boundaries of Brambles and Thorntree is not in the best interest of the community. It will break up established communities, disrupt

ongoing projects, and place additional strain on already limited resources. The proposal to merge parts of Brambles and Thorntree with North Ormesby will not address the core issues facing these areas. Instead, it will create new challenges and hinder the progress of community development initiatives. It is crucial to maintain the current boundaries to preserve community cohesion, support ongoing projects, and ensure the sustainable development of Brambles and Thorntree.

By maintaining the current boundaries and investing in the existing infrastructure and community projects, we can ensure a brighter future for Brambles and Thorntree.

## **Attached Documents:**

- brambles-and-thorntree.docx

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### *Introduction*

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### **Recommendations**

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