

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 243**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 243

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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To the Rt Hon Merlyn Rees, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
DISTRICT OF CHERWELL IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORDSHIRE

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the district of Cherwell in accordance with the requirements of section 63 of, and Schedule 9 to, the Local Government Act 1972, present our proposals for the future electoral arrangements for that district.
2. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 26 August 1975 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Cherwell District Council, copies of which were circulated to Oxfordshire County Council, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the district and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and of the local government press. Notices inserted in the local press announced the start of the review and invited comments from members of the public and from any interested bodies.
3. Cherwell District Council were invited to prepare a draft scheme of representation for our consideration. In doing so, they were asked to observe the rules laid down in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 and the guidelines which we set out in our Report No 6 about the proposed size of the council and the proposed number of councillors for each ward. They were asked also to take into account any views expressed to them following their consultation with local interests. We therefore asked that they should

Publish details of their provisional proposals about a month before they submitted their draft scheme to us, thus allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. In accordance with section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council have exercised an option for a system of elections by thirds.

5. On 30 October 1975, Cherwell District Council submitted their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area into 31 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 councillors to form a council of 51 members.

6. We considered the draft scheme together with the comments which we had received and those which had been transmitted to us by the District Council. The latter comments included a number of proposals which the Council had not felt able to incorporate in their draft scheme. A local political party, while agreeing with the Council's draft scheme, made suggestions about the ward boundaries for Bicester. Their views corresponded with those of a local councillor who made his own recommendations for Bicester. Lower Heyford Parish Council made the general point that they would like to see a reduction in the number of electors represented by one councillor, particularly in the rural areas. Both Bourton and Cropredy Parish Councils requested that the parish of Bourton should be transferred from the proposed Hornton ward to the proposed Cropredy ward. Oxfordshire County Council stated that, in some parts of the district, the District Council's draft scheme might not be compatible with the County Council's future electoral arrangements. Like the District Council, we felt unable to accept any of the modifications which had been suggested.

7. We considered whether the draft scheme should be modified to secure improved equality of representation and, to this end, we decided that

modifications should be made as follows; the parish of Adderbury to be a single-member ward; the proposed two-member Bloxham ward to comprise the parishes of Bloxham, Milton and Milcombe; the proposed Hook Norton ward to comprise the parishes of Hook Norton and Wiggington; and the proposed wards in the parish of Kidlington to be regrouped.

8. Subject to the changes referred to in paragraph 7 above we decided that the District Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future electoral arrangements for the district in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines, and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

9. On 3 May 1976 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the Council's draft scheme. The Council were asked to make these draft proposals, and the accompanying maps, which defined the proposed ward boundaries, available for inspection at their main offices. Representations on our draft proposals were invited from those to whom they were circulated and, by public notices, from other members of the public and interested bodies. We asked that comments should reach us by 30 June 1976.

10. Cherwell District Council informed us that they accepted our draft proposals, but they stated a preference for the inclusion of the parish of South Newington in the proposed Bloxham ward rather than in the proposed Deddington ward.

11. Bourton Parish Council asked that they be included in the proposed Hornton ward, and they were supported by Cropredy Parish Council and the Member of Parliament representing their constituency. Kidlington Parish Council objected to our proposed warding arrangements for the parish. A similar view was expressed by a local political party which also reiterated the case for the

division of Bicester into two 3-member wards. From Blackthorn Parish Council we received a letter objecting to their inclusion in the proposed Launton ward. They would prefer to be in the proposed Ambrosden ward. Oxfordshire County Council reiterated their original view that in some parts of the district it might not be possible to devise county electoral divisions made up of a whole ward (or wards) of a district.

12. In view of these comments, we decided that we needed further information to enable us to reach a conclusion. Therefore, in accordance with section 65(2) of the 1972 Act and at our request, Mr H J Backhouse was appointed as Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

13. The Assistant Commissioner held a meeting at the Council offices, Banbury on 27 September 1976. A copy of his report to us of the meeting is attached at Schedule 1 to this report.

14. The Assistant Commissioner recommended that our draft proposals should be varied in three respects. First, he recommended that the parish of Bicester should be divided into two 3-member wards and be known as Bicester East and Bicester West. Secondly, he recommended that the parish wards of the parish of Kidlington should be grouped in a different manner to that set out in our draft proposals and be known as North West Kidlington and South East Kidlington. Thirdly, he recommended that the parish of South Newington should be included in the proposed Bloxham ward.

15. We noted that the alterations recommended by the Assistant Commissioner in respect of the parish of Bicester would involve the rewording of the parish. Before the suggested alternative arrangements could be adopted it would therefore be necessary for the District Council to make a fresh order under section 50(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to establish parish wards in the parish of Bicester to correspond to the revised district wards. We would have liked to accept the Assistant Commissioner's recommendations but the District Council

advised us that they were unwilling to divide Bicester to provide for two 3-member wards and reaffirmed their previous decision, which accorded with our draft proposals, that Bicester should be divided into three 2-member wards. In the circumstances, we decided to respect the wishes of the District Council and to reject the recommendations of the Assistant Commissioner in this respect.

16. We considered again our draft proposals in the light of the comments which we had received and of the Assistant Commissioner's report. We concluded that our draft proposals should be confirmed as our final proposals, subject to the modifications proposed by the Assistant Commissioner in respect of:-

- (a) dividing the parish of Kidlington into two 3-member wards to be known as North West Kidlington and South East Kidlington, and,
- (b) including the parish of South Newington in the proposed Bloxham ward.

17. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 2 and 3 to this report and on the attached maps. Schedule 2 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. Schedule 3 shows our proposals for the order of retirement of councillors. The boundaries of the new wards are defined on the maps.

PUBLICATION

18. In accordance with Section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, a copy of this report and a copy of the maps are being sent to Cherwell District Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council's

main offices. Copies of this report (without maps) are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed wards, as defined on the maps, is set out in Schedule 4 to this report.

L.S.

Signed

EDMUND COMPTON (Chairman)

JOHN M RANKIN (Deputy Chairman)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

J T BROCKBANK

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

R R THORNTON

ANDREW WHEATLEY

N DIGNEY (Secretary)

21 July 1977

REPORT OF MEETING TO INQUIRE INTO THE
FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
DISTRICT OF CHERWELL

I attended at the District Council Offices, Bodicote House, Banbury, on 27th September, 1976 to hear representations relating to the following wards proposed by the Commission. Cropredy, Hornton, the wards of Banbury, the wards of Bicester, the wards of Kidlington, Launton, Ambrösden, Yarnton, Bloxham and Deddington. I had previously inspected the areas under dispute.

The persons set out in the attached list attended.

Cropredy and Hornton Wards

The District Council and the Commission both propose that the Cropredy Ward shall consist of the Parishes of Cropredy, Mollington, Claydon with Clattercot, Prescote and Wardington and the Hornton Ward of the Parishes of Bourton, Hanwell, Horley and Hornton. The Bourton Parish Council supported by the Cropredy Parish Council asked that their Parish should be transferred from the Hornton Ward to the Cropredy Ward. They did so on the following grounds:-

1. That Bourton Parish has strong historical, social and geographical links with Cropredy Parish.
2. That only a half mile separates the two villages.
3. That both Parishes share Cropredy primary school which is in Bourton Parish.
4. That the Parish share the same vicar.
5. That since Bourton has no shops or Post Office, many people from there shop in Cropredy and use the Cropredy Post Office.
6. That there is a joint Horticultural Society, Darby and Joan Club and Cub Pack and that other social activities (e.g. dances) are shared.
7. That the local G.P. lives in Bourton and has a surgery in Cropredy.
8. That there is a bus service between Bourton and Cropredy but none between Bourton and the other Hornton Ward parishes.
9. That because the Trunk Road A.423 forms an effective western boundary to the villages of Little and Great Bourton, these villages have had no social or other contacts with the villages to the West of that road.

At the local meeting, Mr. Hubbard re-iterated these points and felt that they were so strong that they should override the need to provide wards of roughly equal electorate/member ratio. In order to mitigate the effect of his proposal on the electorate/member ratio, he suggested that the Parish of Mollington should be transferred from Cropredy Ward to Hornton Ward.

He pointed out that the village of Mollington was West of the A.423 Road and that it was easier to get from Mollington to parts of the Hornton Ward than from Bourton. Although he said there were no significant links between Mollington and Bourton, he was not able to say whether there were any links between Mollington and Cropredy, though Mollington did have a General Store and a Village Hall. He also confirmed that he did not know the views of the Mollington Parish Council as they had not been consulted.

Mr. Axford opposed Mr. Hubbard's suggestion on the grounds of the inequality in electorate/member ratio which would be thereby produced. He also pointed out that the Commission's proposals were the same as the existing wards and he had never received any complaints, either from the District Councillors serving the wards (who did not oppose the proposals), or from the electorate.

My inspection confirmed the information given by Mr. Hubbard as to topography and institutions and I accept the strong social ties between the villages in question. However, the proposed transfer of the Parish of Bourton to the Cropredy Ward would leave an electorate/member ratio for Hornton Ward of only 606/1, compared to the next lowest in the District of 1022/1 and the average of 1484/1. This is plainly unsatisfactory. If the Parish of Mollington is transferred to Hornton Ward in exchange for Bourton, then the ratio becomes 949/1 which is still very low. Moreover, the Parish of Mollington would then be detached from the remainder of Hornton Ward and, in fact, separated not by another parish in the District, but by part of another County, Warwickshire. For the above reasons and in view of the fact that the Parish Council of Mollington has not been consulted, I cannot recommend this proposed transfer. It may be that by a revision in parish boundaries in the future, an arrangement can be made which will retain the links between the villages of Bourton and Cropredy and achieve a reasonable electorate/member ratio, but as things stand, I am obliged to Recommend that the Commission's proposals be adhered to.

Banbury

The proposals of the District Council which have been adopted with slight variations by the Commission are that Banbury should be divided into six wards, each returning three members. It has been possible to create these to a large extent from existing wards and, of course, the proposals are advantageous since the District Council have opted for election by thirds.

The Oxfordshire County Council objected to these proposals. They have decided at this stage on a County Council of seventy members, giving an average electorate for County Council divisions in 1981 of just under 6,000. They pointed out, however, that the estimated electorate of the District Council Wards for Banbury in 1980 was roughly 4,000. It was not possible, since the County boundary coincided with the Eastern boundary of Banbury, to produce rational County electoral divisions by adding some rural parishes to each Banbury Ward.

At the local meeting, Mr. Floyd for the County Council pointed out that as Banbury was not a parish, then although the Commission in considering County electoral arrangements should have regard to district wards, they were not obliged to follow them. He, therefore, suggested that it would be possible to create County Electoral divisions by amalgamating parts of District Wards with parts or the whole of other District Wards in Banbury. What was important was that the location of the polling districts and stations should be such that this arrangement did not become confusing to the electors. In other words, what Mr. Floyd had in mind was that any part of a District Ward in Banbury forming part of a County Electoral division, should comprise whole polling districts. Mr. Baker, for the District Council, saw no difficulty in arranging this. The six three-member wards proposed by the District Council and the Commission are clearly the most convenient arrangement for the District and, since the suggestion by Mr. Floyd could achieve some measure of compatibility between the District and County Electoral arrangements,

I Recommend that the Commission's proposals be adhered to.

Bicester

The proposals of the District Council, which have been adopted by the Commission, are to divide the Parish of Bicester into three wards, each returning two members. These wards would correspond with the parish wards for which the District Council have made an Order, although this has not yet come into effect. Bicester has not previously been warded.

The Policy and Resources Committee of the District Council recommended that Bicester should be divided into two wards mainly to the East and West of the Banbury and Oxford Roads with an electorate in 1980 of 4557 (East Ward) and 4723 (West Ward), each returning three members. When this recommendation was considered by the Bicester Town Council, however, that Council decided by six votes to four in favour of three wards each returning two members. The District Council on considering the recommendations of their Policy and Resources Committee and of the Town Council, decided by the Chairman's casting vote in favour of the Town Council's recommendation. According to Mr. Baker, the overriding factor in the District Council's deliberations was the very strong representations made to them by the Town Council. These representations were not made in writing but put forward at the District Council meeting by those District Councillors from Bicester who had supported the proposals of the Town Council. Mr. Baker said that these representations were that three two-member wards would make canvassing easier for candidates and would enable members, once elected, to get to know their constituents better.

Mr. Bainton, the former Clerk to the former Bicester Urban Council, objected to the Commission's proposals and advocated a two ward system on the following grounds:-

1. Bicester is a small compact Town of 1,671 acres.
2. It would divide the population and communities if we had other than two wards.
3. Two wards would make for two well balanced electoral areas - not unwieldy, small and compact.
4. Two wards would help to maintain community of interest in the area.
5. Two wards would enable elections to be held every year and be of great benefit to the Bicester electorate.
6. Boundaries of two wards would be easily identifiable.
7. Local ties would be broken if a three ward system were adopted.

Cherwell District Labour Party also opposed the Commission's proposals and proposed a two ward system using the Banbury and Oxford Roads as the boundary which they claimed was a natural and obvious boundary, whereas the Commission's proposals introduced a completely artificial boundary. This could produce a situation where the boundary cut a street of a householder voting at an election but not his neighbour, which would be confusing for the electorate.

At the meeting these objections were elaborated by Mr. Bainton, Mr. Black and Mrs. Angell. Mr. Bainton pointed out that starting in 1952 some 670 houses were provided by the War Department for civilian workers in the area West of the Banbury and Oxford Roads and South of the railway line, to which the Urban District Council added 100 houses for the R.A.F. The Urban District Council also provided the King's End Community Centre for this area. He said that the boundary between the proposed Bicester West and Bicester South Wards cut through this area. Mr. Black also pointed out that there was no community of interest between the houses between the Buckingham and Banbury Roads in the proposed Bicester North Ward, and the Highfields Estate, West of the Banbury Road in that Ward.

In supporting the proposal for three wards Mr. Hollis pointed out that because of the high service population in the area, the proportion of non-voters was significantly higher than elsewhere in the District and this imposed a heavier burden on Councillors. This emphasised the need for smaller wards. In his view, the three proposed wards had a general area of affinity and he pointed out that as Bicester was expected to develop significantly, then three wards would be more adaptable to future growth. Mr. Axford supported Mr. Hollis in these views.

Mr. Floyd also supported the three ward system. As Bicester is a parish the County were obliged to take account of the District Wards and so in a two ward system it would be necessary to add about 1,500 electors from rural parishes to each ward to produce County Electoral divisions. This would be difficult. In a three ward system, two of the wards could form one County Electoral division and it would be necessary to add rural parishes to only one ward to produce another County Electoral division.

Although I accept the high proportion of non-voting constituents in Bicester, I do not think the argument for smaller two member wards is of much significance in such a compact urban area. Also I am not impressed by the argument for flexibility in absorbing future development provided by three instead of two wards. I gathered from the local meeting that the potential development areas for Bicester are East and West of the Banbury and Oxford Roads, so that a two ward system based on that division would conveniently absorb the development. I also accept the convenience for the County Council of the combination of two of the three wards to form one county electoral division, but there will still be considerable problems in adding some 3,000 rural voters to 3,000 urban voters to create another division.

There are, however, clear advantages to the District Council in a two ward system with the Banbury and Oxford Roads as the boundary, giving an electorate in 1980 of 4,873 for the West Ward and 4,407 for the East Ward. This is a boundary which is and will remain clearly identifiable and ensures that the warding will not divide communities and break local ties. Most important, however, is the advantage it gives to the electorate in Bicester of having annual elections. I note that the decision of the District Council on this issue was finely balanced and hope that on re-consideration, they will co-operate by making a fresh Order for two parish wards. It is in this hope, therefore, that

I Recommend that Bicester should be divided into Bicester West Ward and Bicester East Ward by the Banbury and Oxford Roads, each ward returning three members.

Kidlington

The proposals of the Commission which have been accepted by the District Council are to divide the Parish of Kidlington into two wards, each returning three members. These wards have been created by linking the proposed North and East Parish Wards and the proposed West and South Parish Wards. These parish wards are the subject of an Order made by the District Council re-warding the Parish of Kidlington, although this has not yet come into effect.

Originally, as a result of strong representations from the Parish Council, the District Council proposed to link the proposed North and West Parish Wards and the proposed South and East Parish Wards to form District wards. The South and East Parish Wards are virtually detached from one another and it is the policy of the Commission to avoid detached parts of wards unless there are strong reasons for them in terms of equality of representation, local ties and/or geography. It was in pursuance of this policy that the Commission decided on their linking of the proposed parish wards to form Kidlington North and Kidlington South District Wards.

When the District Council considered the Commission's proposals, after deferring the matter for members to acquaint themselves with the situation on the ground, they decided to raise no objection.

The Kidlington Parish Council and the Cherwell District Labour Party objected to the Commission's proposals and asked for the restoration of the wards originally proposed on the grounds that these preserved the historic and local ties of both areas.

At the local meeting, Mr. Dee, representing the Kidlington Parish Council elaborated these views. He said there was great affinity between the existing South and East Parish Wards. He quoted as an example the two Health Clinics which formerly served Kidlington, one being in the Garden City in the South Ward to serve the South and East Wards and the Parish of Gosford, and the other in the High Street to serve Central and North Ward. He was supported by Mr. Groves, Mrs. Pope and Mrs. Angell. Mr. Groves pointed out that for sixteen years the County Electoral Division, for which he was the Member, was the Kidlington South and East Wards and the Parishes of Gosford, Noke and Islip. He said the built-up area in the North West area of Gosford was indistinguishable from Kidlington. He lived in South Ward but there had never been any problem for him or for the electorate in his serving South and East Wards.

Mr. Floyd also supported Mr. Groves. He said the present County Electoral Division appeared most suitable for the future Division.

Mr. Baker pointed out that the new proposed East Ward was different from the existing East Ward. However, it included the housing East of Evans Lane and this was where the bulk of the population lived.

Mr. Axford supported the Commission's proposals. He did not see any hindrance to a relationship between the proposed North and East Wards and the proposed South and West Wards.

Since there is no significant difference in equality of representation in respect of either alternative, I have to consider whether for reasons of local ties and/or geography the combination of two virtually detached parish wards to form a district ward is acceptable. The proposed East Parish Ward is not significantly different from the existing East Parish Ward and I accept there are strong ties between it and the South Parish Ward, particularly as they have both been part of the same County Electoral Division. If the two parish wards were detached completely, these strong ties might not be sufficient to justify their being in the same District Ward. However, these parish wards are joined by the junction of Evans Lane, the Bicester Road and the Oxford Road and it is through this junction that traffic between the East and South Parish Wards would pass. There is, of course, a much longer common boundary between the East and West Parish Wards, but the communication between these two wards is also via the Oxford Road passing the Bicester Road junction. Over the remainder of the boundary there does not appear to be any significant means of communication. In terms, therefore, of attachment or detachment, the difference between the two proposals is more apparent on the map than real on the ground. Kidlington Parish Wards have hitherto been named according to the points of the compass. There are no other obvious names. If, therefore, the original proposals of the District Council are adopted, the most convenient names would be North West Kidlington and South East Kidlington.

For the above reasons,

I Recommend that Kidlington Parish be divided into two wards each returning three members, to be created by linking the proposed North and West Parish Wards and the proposed East and South Parish Wards and to be called North West Kidlington and South East Kidlington.

Launton and Ambrosden

The proposals of the District Council which have been adopted by the Commission are to retain the existing wards of Launton (the Parishes of Launton, Blackthorn, Godington and Stratton Audley) and Ambrosden (the Parishes of Ambrosden, Ancott, Merton and Piddington).

Blackthorn Parish Council objected to being included in the Launton Ward and asked to be included in the Ambrosden Ward for the following reasons:-

1. Blackthorn has very little connection with Launton from which it is separated by the Trunk Road A.41.
2. Blackthorn has for a long time been in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ambrosden. Churchgoers worship either in Ambrosden or Piddington.
3. There is now no school in Blackthorn and the children attend the Primary School in Ambrosden.
4. The nearest shops and Post Office are in Ambrosden.

If Blackthorn were to be transferred, the electorate/member ratio for Launton would be 992/1 and for Ambrosden 2,053/1. By 1980, on the District Council's estimate, the figures would be for Launton 1327/1 and for Ambrosden 2259/1. This would make the electorate for Ambrosden some 200 higher than the next highest single member ward in the district.

No-one from Blackthorn appeared at the local meeting but it was suggested that insufficient account had been taken of the potential development of Launton. The Planning Officer for the District Council, however, pointed out that there were surface water drainage problems in Launton which were unlikely to be overcome within the next five years and this had been taken into account in arriving at the 1980 electorate estimate.

Mr. Axford opposed the suggestion of the Blackthorn Parish Council. He said that the present ward operated satisfactorily. Mr. Baker was not aware of any difficulties which had arisen with the present arrangement, neither had the present District Councillor for the Ward indicated any difficulties.

Whilst I accept the local ties between Blackthorn and Ambrosden, the inequality in representation which would result from the suggested transfer and the fact that the existing wards appear to have operated satisfactorily, leads me to

Recommend that the proposals of the Commission be adhered to.

Yarnton

The proposals of the District Council which have been adopted by the Commission are that the Yarnton Ward, returning two members, shall consist of the Parishes of Yarnton, Begbroke and Shipton on Cherwell and Thrupp. The latter Parish is completely separated from the Parishes of Yarnton and Begbroke by part of Kidlington North Ward of the Parish of Kidlington.

At the local meeting Mr. Green, for the Parish Council, made representations for the Parish of Yarnton to form a Ward on its own. He gave as his reasons the fact that Shipton on Cherwell and Thrupp are four and three miles respectively from Yarnton and on the other side of the two main roads, the A.34 and the A.423 and have nothing in common. He claimed that Yarnton would be entitled to at least one Councillor on its own (the 1980 electorate is 1773) and that it was possible that the two Councillors could come from Shipton on Cherwell, Thrupp and Begbroke, which would be difficult for Yarnton. His fundamental reason for asking that Yarnton should form a ward on its own, however, was the desire of the Parish Council for their Parish to be transferred to the District of West Oxfordshire which would be more difficult if it were joined with the others for electoral purposes.

Mr. Baker pointed out that the strip of Kidlington between Shipton on Cherwell and Begbroke was largely an airfield and contained very few houses. Mrs. Angell supported the District Council's proposals and pointed out that the communications between Shipton on Cherwell and Thrupp and Yarnton were good. Mr. Axford also supported the District Council's proposals.

The possibility of a future transfer of the Parish of Yarnton to another District is not a matter which I can take into account in the present issue. I must, however, consider whether the proposed Ward with its detached parts is justifiable in terms of equality of representation, local ties and/or geography. Shipton on Cherwell and Thrupp could only be added either to Kidlington or Kirtlington Wards. The number of electors involved would be, in 1980, 283. If the Parish were added to Kidlington North Parish Ward this would upset the balance of ward combinations in Kidlington. It would give with the North and West Wards an electorate of 4753 as against 4220 for the East and South Wards. Alternatively, it would give with the North and East Wards an electorate of 4663 as against 4310 for the South and West Wards. If the Parish were added to Kirtlington Ward it would produce an electorate of 2125 which is too large for a single member ward.

I accept there are few local ties between Shipton on Cherwell, Thrupp and Yarnton, but the communications with Yarnton are quite good. Although Mr. Green mentioned that Yarnton is separated from the other parishes by the main roads A.34 and A.423, it is largely these roads that form good communications between the villages. Although, therefore, detached parts of wards are generally undesirable, in this case the alternatives would be more undesirable in terms of equality of representation and I therefore

Recommend that the proposals of the Commission be adhered to.

Bloxham and Deddington

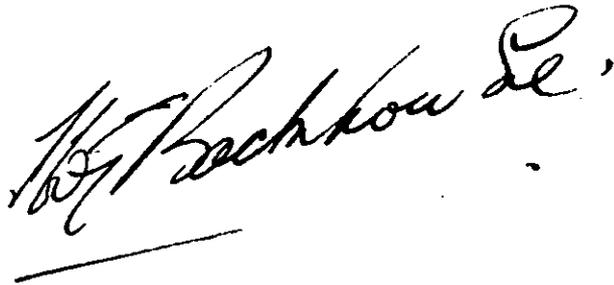
The proposals of the District Council are that Bloxham Parish should form a District Council Ward returning one member and that the Deddington Ward, returning one member, should consist of the Parishes of Deddington, Barton St. John & St. Michael and South Newington. The Commission proposed to extend the Bloxham Ward to a two member Ward by adding the Parishes of Milcombe and Milton.

The District Council have suggested that the Bloxham Ward should also include the Parish of South Newington for the following reasons:-

1. South Newington has more affinity with Bloxham than with Deddington; it is linked by a main road to and is currently warded with Bloxham.
2. The 1980 electorate/member ratio would then become for Bloxham 1399/1 and for Deddington 1576/1. Both Wards would thus be nearer to the District average.

Since the Parish Councils involved accept this suggestion and it is advantageous on the grounds of equality of representation,

I Recommend that the Bloxham Ward, returning two members, should consist of the Parishes of Bloxham, Milton, Milcombe and South Newington.


A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "M. Beckhouse", is written over a horizontal line.

16 October, 1976

DISTRICT OF CHERWELL : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

| <u>NAME OF WARD</u> | <u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| ADDERBURY | 1 |
| AMBROSDEN | 1 |
| ARDLEY | 1 |
| BICESTER EAST | 2 |
| BICESTER SOUTH | 2 |
| BICESTER WEST | 2 |
| BLOXHAM | 2 |
| BODICOTE | 1 |
| CALTHORPE | 3 |
| CHESTERTON | 1 |
| CROPREDY | 1 |
| DEDDINGTON | 1 |
| EASINGTON | 3 |
| FRINGFORD | 1 |
| GOSFORD | 1 |
| GRIMSBURY | 3 |
| HARDWICK | 3 |
| HEYFORD | 1 |
| HOOK NORTON | 1 |
| HORNTON | 1 |
| NORTH WEST KIDLINGTON | 3 |
| SOUTH EAST KIDLINGTON | 3 |
| KIRTLINGTON | 1 |
| LAUNTON | 1 |
| NEITHROP | 3 |
| OTMOOR | 1 |
| RUSCOTE | 3 |
| SIBFORD | 1 |
| STEEPLE ASTON | 1 |
| WROXTON | 1 |
| YARNTON | 2 |

DISTRICT OF CHERWELL
ORDER OF RETIREMENT OF COUNCILLORS

| PROPOSED WARD NAME | NO. OF COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING WARD | 1st YEAR 1980 | 2nd YEAR 1982 | 3rd YEAR 1983 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| ADDERBURY | 1 | 1 PE | - | - |
| AMBROSDEN | 1 | 1 PE | - | - |
| ARDLEY | 1 | 1 PE | - | - |
| BICESTER EAST | 2 | 1 | - | 1 PE |
| BICESTER SOUTH | 2 | 1 | - | 1 PE |
| BICESTER WEST | 2 | 1 | - | 1 PE |
| BLOXHAM | 2 | - | 1 PE | 1 |
| BODICOTE | 1 | 1 PE | - | - |
| CALTHORPE | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| CHESTERTON | 1 | - | - | 1 PE |
| CROPREDY | 1 | - | - | 1 PE |
| DEDDINGTON | 1 | - | 1 PE | - |
| EASINGTON | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| FRINGFORD | 1 | - | 1 PE | - |
| GOSFORD | 1 | - | - | 1 PE |
| GRIMSBURY | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| HARDWICK | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| HEYFORD | 1 | - | - | 1 PE |
| HOOK NORTON | 1 | - | - | 1 PE |
| HORNTON | 1 | 1 PE | - | - |
| NORTH WEST KIDLINGTON | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 PE |
| SOUTH EAST KIDLINGTON | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 PE |
| KIRTLINGTON | 1 | - | 1 PE | - |
| LAUNTON | 1 | 1 PE | - | - |
| NEITHROP | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| OTMOOR | 1 | - | 1 PE | - |
| RUSCOTE | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| SIBFORD | 1 | - | 1 PE | - |
| STEEPLE ASTON | 1 | - | 1 PE | - |
| WROXTON | 1 | - | 1 PE | - |
| YARNTON | 2 | - | 1 | 1 PE |
| | 52 | 17 | 17 | 18 |

DISTRICT OF CHERWELL - DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

NOTE: Where the boundary is described as following a road, railway, river, canal or similar feature, it should be deemed to follow the centre line of the feature unless otherwise stated.

RUSCOTE WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Drayton CP meets Warwick Road (A41), thence generally southeastwards along said road to a point opposite the northern boundary of number 167 Sinclair Avenue, thence northeastwards to and along said boundary to Sinclair Avenue, thence southwards along said avenue to a point opposite the rear boundaries of numbers 95 to 3 Hillview Crescent thence eastwards to and generally southeastwards along said boundaries and continuing southeastwards along the southwestern boundary of number 1 in said crescent, crossing said crescent to the northwestern boundary of number 80 Sinclair Avenue, thence northeastwards along said boundary and generally eastwards along the rear boundaries of numbers 78 to 10 in said avenue, thence southwards along the eastern boundary of number 10 in said avenue to a point opposite the southern boundary of number 30 Ruscote Avenue, thence southeastwards to and along said boundary to the western boundary of number 22 in said avenue, thence generally southwards along said boundary to Sinclair Avenue, thence southeastwards along said avenue to Ruscote Avenue, thence southwestwards along said avenue to Warwick Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Archard Way, thence southwestwards along said way to the road known as The Fairway, thence northwestwards along said road to Mold Crescent, thence southwestwards along said crescent to the path leading from said crescent to Edmunds Road, thence continuing southwestwards along said path to said road, thence northwestwards along said road to a point opposite the eastern boundary of number 87 in said road, thence southwestwards to and along said boundary to the rear boundary of number 12 Kenilworth Way, thence westwards along the rear boundaries of numbers 12 to 20 in said way, thence southwestwards along the western boundary of number 20 Kenilworth Way to said way, thence

westwards along said way and southwestwards along the path leading from said Kenilworth Way to the road known as Bretch Hill, thence northwestwards along said road to a point opposite the northern boundary of number 285 Bretch Hill, thence southwestwards to and along said boundary and southeastwards along the rear boundary of said property to the rear boundaries of numbers 5 and 7 Balmoral Avenue, thence southwestwards along said boundaries and continuing southwestwards along the southern boundary of number 13 Balmoral Avenue to said avenue, thence southwards along said avenue to the access way to numbers 28 to 42 Balmoral Avenue, thence southwestwards along said access way and in prolongation thereof to the eastern boundary of Drayton CP thence generally northwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

HARDWICK WARD

Commencing at the point where the northeastern boundary of Ruscote Ward meets the eastern boundary of Drayton CP, thence eastwards and northwards along said CP boundary and continuing generally eastwards along the southern boundary of Hanwell CP to NG reference SP 4532842459, thence due southwards to Beaumont Close, thence continuing southwards along said close to Beaumont Road, thence westwards, southwestwards and southeastwards along said road to Ruscote Avenue, thence southwestwards along said avenue to the northeastern boundary of Ruscote Ward, thence generally northwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

GRIMSBURY WARD

Commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of Hardwick Ward meets the southern boundary of Hanwell CP, thence generally northeastwards along said CP boundary and generally northwards along the eastern boundary of said CP to the southern boundary of Bourton CP, thence generally eastwards and southwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of the District thence generally southwards along said boundary to the Banbury to Oxford

railway, thence northwestwards along said railway to Bridge Street, thence westwards and southwestwards along said street, High Street, West Bar Street and Broughton Road, to Bath Road, thence northwestwards and generally northeastwards along said road to Warwick Road (A41), thence northwestwards along said road to the eastern boundary of Ruscote Ward, thence northwestwards and generally northeastwards along said boundary and the eastern boundary of Hardwick Ward to the point of commencement.

CALTHORPE WARD

Commencing at the point where the southern boundary of Grimsbury Ward meets the eastern boundary of the District, thence southwestwards along said district boundary and the northern boundary of Bodicote CP to Oxford Road (A41), thence northwestwards along said road and northwards along South Bar Street to the southern boundary of Grimsbury Ward, thence northeastwards and southeastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

EASINGTON WARD

Commencing at a point where the southwestern boundary of Calthorpe Ward meets the northern boundary of Bodicote CP, thence southwestwards, northwestwards and generally southwards along said CP boundary to the northern boundary of Bloxham CP, thence generally westwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of Broughton CP, thence generally northwards along said boundary to Broughton Road, thence generally northeastwards along said road to the southern boundary of Grimsbury Ward, thence eastwards and northeastwards along said boundary to the southwestern boundary of Calthorpe Ward thence generally southeastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

NEITHROP WARD

Commencing at the point where the northwestern boundary of Easington Ward meets the eastern boundary of Broughton CP, thence northwards along said CP boundary and continuing northwards, northeastwards and northwestwards along the eastern boundary of North Newington CP to the eastern boundary of Drayton CP, thence northwestwards and northeastwards along said boundary to the southern boundary of Ruscote Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said boundary to the western boundary of Grimsbury Ward, thence southeastwards and generally southwestwards along said boundary to the northwestern boundary of Easington Ward, thence generally southwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

ADDERBURY WARD

The parish of Adderbury

AMBROSDEN WARD

The parishes of Ambrosden

Arncott

Merton

Piddington

ARDLEY WARD

The parishes of Ardley

Bucknell

Caversfield

Stoke Lyne

BICESTER EAST WARD

The Bicester East Ward of the parish of Bicester.

BICESTER SOUTH WARD

The Bicester South ward of the parish of Bicester.

BICESTER WEST WARD

The Bicester West Ward of the parish of Bicester.

BLOXHAM WARD

The parishes of Bloxham

Milcombe

Milton

South Newington

BODICOTE WARD

The parish of Bodicote

CHESTERTON WARD

The parishes of Chesterton
Wandlebury

CROPREDY WARD

The parishes of Claydon with Clattercot
Cropredy
Mollington
Prescote
Wardington

DEDDINGTON WARD

The parishes of Barford St John and St Michael
Deddington

FRINGFORD WARD

The parishes of Cottisford
Finnere
Fringford
Hardwick with Tusmore
Hethe
Mixbury
Newton Purcell with Shelswell

GOSFORD WARD

The parish of Gosford and Water Eaton

HEYFORD WARD

The parishes of Pritwell
Lower Heyford
Somerton
Souldern
Upper Heyford

HOOK NORTON WARD

The parishes of Hook Norton
Wigginton

HORNTON WARD

The parishes of Bourton

Hanwell

Horley

Hornton

NORTH WEST KIDLINGTON WARD

The Kidlington North Ward

Kidlington West Ward

of the parish of Kidlington

SOUTH EAST KIDLINGTON WARD

The Kidlington East Ward

Kidlington South Ward

of the parish of Kidlington.

KIRTLINGTON WARD

The parishes of Bletchington

Hampton Gay and Poyle

Kirtlington

Middleton Stoney

Weston-on-the Green

LAUNTON WARD

The parishes of Blackthorn

Godington

Launton

Stratton Audley

OTMOOR WARD

The parishes of Charlton-on-Otmoor

Fencott and Murcott

Horton-cum-Studley

Islip

Noke

Oddington

SIBFORD WARD

The parishes of Epwell

Sibford Ferris

Sibford Gower

Swalcliffe

Tadmarton

STEEPLE ASTON WARD

The parishes of Duns Tew

Middle Aston

North Aston

Steeple Aston

WROXTON WARD

The parishes of Broughton

Drayton

North Newington

Shenington with Alkerton

Shutford

Wroxton

YARNTON WARD

The parishes of Begbroke

Shipton-on-Cherwell and Thrupp

Yarnton

