

## Owen, David

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**From:** Phil Collins  
**Sent:** 04 October 2017 10:57  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Boundary Consultation for Bath and North East Somerset

Hello

Firstly, I apologise that this response is just after the deadline. I hope that you might consider still using it on the process.

This input below is from Ubley Parish Council in the Chew Valley South ward of B&NES.

Regards  
Dr Phil Collins  
Vice Chairman  
Ubley Parish Council

### **Ubley Parish Council input**

Ubley Parish Council has reviewed the documentation regarding the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) electoral review of B&NES Council. The Parish Council feels that the Chew Valley South Ward should remain unchanged in the new boundary arrangements.

Chew Valley South is a mature ward with a lot of useful cross-ward cooperation. Given its rural setting it is quite a large geography and the population is already relatively close to the target for an average per ward. Being so far away from the centre of B&NES, together with the less well-developed infrastructure and the wide geography brings its own challenges. It doesn't feel sensible to try to equate these to an average ward in the City.

It is felt that some pragmatism would be sensible to minimise change for the sake of it and to recognise that the population by ward average is just that, an average across all wards. It may be more logical to get the Bath City wards to be much more even but rural boundaries need some more flexibility.

The LGBCE report itself notes that were the ratio of electors to councillors be changed to the most similar authority, then B&NES would require 48 councillors. However, because some other councils are markedly less rural than B&NES some adjustments were made. These, together with several other considerations, were applied to come up with the figure of 59 councillors. Thus, this figure is already a pragmatic rather than a scientific goal.

Given that one of the main reasons for this adjustment is the almost 50/50 split between the City of Bath and the North East Somerset area, it also makes sense that different guidelines could sensibly apply to each. After all, by identifying the impact of this split there is already a recognition that they have different profiles.

Thus, in summary, we would strongly support the retention of the existing Chew Valley South Ward boundary as it currently is.