

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.341

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN

Sir Nicholas Morrison KCB

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Mr J M Rankin QC

MEMBERS

Lady Bowden

Mr J T Brockbank

Mr R R Thornton CB DL

Mr D P Harrison

Professor G E Cherry

~~SECRET~~
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
DISTRICT OF WEST WILTSHIRE IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the district of West Wiltshire, 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 13 May 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to West Wiltshire District Council, copies of which were circulated to Wiltshire County Council, town councils, parish councils and parish meetings in the district, the Member of Parliament for the constituency concerned and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of the 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 interested bodies.
3. West Wiltshire District Council were invited to prepare a draft scheme of representation for our consideration. When doing so, they were asked to observe the rules laid down in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, and the guidelines 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 also asked to take into account 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, this allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. The District Council have passed a resolution under section 7(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 requesting the Secretary of State to provide for a system of whole Council elections.
5. On 26 September 1974, the District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the district into 26 wards, each returning 1, 2 or 3 members to form a council of 41 members.
6. We considered the Council's draft scheme and accepted the principles adopted therein. However we felt that the standard of representation in some wards was capable of improvement and we therefore invited the Council to submit a revised draft scheme.
7. The Council submitted a revised draft scheme on 3 March 1975. The revised scheme provided for the establishment of 27 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 councillors to give a total council of 41.
8. We considered the revised draft scheme together with copies of the correspondence received by the Council, both during the preparation of the scheme and after its publication, as well as the comments we had received direct.
9. We received representations from the Parish Councils of Chapmanslade, Corsley, and Upton Scudamore who objected to the suggested wards of Warminster Cley Hill and Chalcot on the grounds that local ties had not been observed. These objections were supported by the Member of Parliament for the constituency. We re-considered the matter and decided that the parishes of Chapmanslade, Corsley and Upton Scudamore should be grouped together to form a single member ward named Corsley, thus leaving the Warminster Cley Hill area of Warminster and the parish of Dilton Marsh to form two single member wards.
10. We accepted the suggestion of South Wraxall Parish Council that the parish should be joined with the parishes of Holt and Broughton Gifford to form a single

member ward. We decided that this ward should be named Holt.

11. Subject to the changes referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10 above, we decided that the District Council's revised 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.

12. On 3 June 1975 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the District Council's revised draft scheme. The District Council were asked to make these draft proposals, and the accompanying map 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 any comments should reach us by 29 July 1975.

13. The Parish Councils of Corsley, Upton Studmore, South Wrexall and Melksham Without, and the Town Council of Melksham supported our draft proposals.

14. West Wiltshire District Council favoured our draft proposals in the main. However they pointed out that, as a result of our rearrangement of the Warminster, Cley Hill, and Chalcot wards, the representation of the parish of Warminster had been reduced from 6 councillors to 5. They supported the request made by Warminster Town Council that 6 councillors should be allocated to the parish and suggested that it should be re-warded to produce two 3 member wards, named Warminster East and Warminster West. Wiltshire County Council also felt that it would be appropriate to divide Warminster into two wards.

15. We reviewed our draft proposals in the light of the comments we had received. While the creation of new wards in Warminster was acceptable in principle, we noted that the consequent increase in council size, from 41 to 42 members would

result in the under representation of the parish of Trowbridge. We therefore asked the Council to reconsider the proposed warding of Trowbridge and to recommend wards which would allow for a total of 10 councillors to be returned.

16. The District Council prepared a scheme which divided Trowbridge into 5 wards, each returning 2 councillors. The Council advertised the proposals for the revised warding of Warminster and Trowbridge in the local press and invited comments. No adverse comments were received although Wiltshire County Council pointed out that there might be some difficulty in securing eventual compatibility between district wards and county electoral divisions for Trowbridge. The District Council proceeded to make the warding orders for these and other parishes in accordance with the amended draft proposals.

17. We considered that the District Council's suggested scheme of warding achieved an acceptable standard of representation and concluded that our draft proposals should be modified accordingly.

18. Subject to the modifications, referred to in paragraphs 14 to 17 above, we decided that our draft proposals should be confirmed as our final proposals.

19. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 to this report. Schedule 1 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. Schedule 2 is a description of the area of the new wards. The boundaries of the new wards are shown on the attached map.

PUBLICATION

20. In accordance with Section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 a copy of this report and a copy of the map are being sent to West Wiltshire

District Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report (without the map) are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

L.S.

Signed:

NICHOLAS MORRISON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G E CHERRY

D P HARRISON

R R THORNTON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW (Secretary)

26th April 1979

SCHEDULE 1

DISTRICT OF WEST WILTSHIRE : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS
AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u>
Adcroft	2
Blackmore Forest	1
Bradford-on-Avon North	2
Bradford-on-Avon South	2
College	2
Corsley	1
Dilton Marsh	1
Drynham	2
Ethandune	1
Holt	1
John of Gaunt	2
Manor Vale	2
Melksham Forest	1
Melksham Lambourne	1
Melksham Roundpond	1
Melksham Town	1
Melksham Without - <i>woodrow</i>	1
Mid Wylve Valley	1
Park	2
Paxcroft	1
Shearwater	1
Summerham	1
Warminster East	3
Warminster West	3
Weavers	2
Westbrook	1
Wesbury with Storridge	3
Wylve Valley	1

WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

ADCROFT WARD

The Adcroft Ward of the Parish of Trowbridge.

BLACKMORE FOREST WARD

The Beanacre, Blackmore and Woolmore Ward of the Parish of Melksham Without, and the Lands common to the Parishes of Broughton Gifford and Melksham Without.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON NORTH WARD

The North Ward of the Parish of Bradford-on-Avon.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON SOUTH WARD

The South Ward of the Parish of Bradford-on-Avon.

COLLEGE WARD

The College Ward of the Parish of Trowbridge.

CORSLEY WARD

The Parishes of Chapmanslade

Corsley

Upton Scudamore

DILTON MARSH WARD

The Parish of Dilton Marsh.

DRYNHAM WARD

The Drynham Ward of the Parish of Trowbridge.

ETHANDUNE WARD

The Parishes of Bratton

Coulston

Edington

HOLT WARD

The Parishes of Broughton Gifford

Holt

South Wroxall

JOHN O'GAUNT WARD

The John O'Gaunt Ward of the Parish of Trowbridge.

MANOR VALE WARD

The Parishes of Limpley Stoke

Monkton Farleigh

Westwood

Winsley

MELKSHAM FOREST WARD

The Forest Ward of the Parish of Melksham.

MELSHAM LAMBOURNE WARD

The Lambourne Ward of the Parish of Melksham.

MELKSHAM ROUNDPOND WARD

The Roundpond Ward of the Parish of Melksham.

MELKSHAM TOWN WARD

The Town Ward of the Parish of Melksham.

MELKSHAM WITHOUT-WOODROW WARD

The Woodrow Ward of the Parish of Melksham Without.

MID WYLYE VALLEY WARD

The Parishes of Boyton

Chitterne

Codford

Sherrington

Stockton

Upper Lovell

PARK WARD

The Park Ward of the Parish of Trowbridge and the Green Lane Ward of the Parish of Steeple Ashton.

PAXCROFT WARD

The Parishes of Hilperton

Staverton

SHEARWATER WARD

The Parishes of Brixton Deverill

Horningsham

Kingston Deverill

Longbridge Deverill

SUMMERHAM WARD

The Village Ward of the Parish of Steeple Ashton and the Parishes of

Bulkington

Great Hinton

Keevil

Semington

WARMINSTER EAST WARD

The East Ward of the Parish of Warminster.

WARMINSTER WEST WARD

The West Ward of the Parish of Warminster.

WEAVERS WARD

The Village Ward of the Parish of Heywood
and the Parishes of North Bradley

Southwick

West Ashton

Wingfield

WESTBROOK WARD

The Shaw and Whitley Ward of the Parish of Melksham Without
and the Parish of Atworth.

WESTBURY WITH STORRIDGE WARD

The Storrige Ward of the Parish of Heywood
and the Parish of Westbury.

WYLYE VALLEY WARD

The Parishes of Bishopstrow

Heytesbury

Imber

Knook

Norton Bavant

Sutton Veny