

Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No.369

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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Professor G E Cherry

To the Rt Hon William Whitelaw, CH, MC, MP,  
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
THE DISTRICT OF ARUN IN THE COUNTY OF WEST SUSSEX

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the district of Arun 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 31 December 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Arun District Council, copies of which were circulated to West Sussex County Council, parish councils and parish meetings in the district, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned 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 interested bodies.
3. Arun 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 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 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, thus 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 for a system of whole-council elections and the elections of all district councillors are held simultaneously.
5. On 29 May 1975, Arum District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. We considered this scheme and decided to reject it on the grounds that the 60 member council was too large, and the requirements in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 relating to electoral equality were not met. We therefore invited the District Council to prepare a revised draft scheme.
6. The Council presented their revised draft scheme on 30 May 1977. This provided for 26 wards returning 1, 2 or 3 councillors with a total council of 56 members.
7. We considered the revised draft scheme and the comments which had been made on it. We noted that the scheme gave a generally satisfactory standard of representation and decided that none of the comments offered any advantage over the Council's scheme. We adopted the Council's revised draft scheme as our draft proposals, subject to some minor boundary realignments suggested by Ordnance Survey.
8. On 23 September 1977 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 the 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 members of the public and interested bodies. We asked that comments should reach us by 18 November 1977.
9. We received a number of comments in response to our draft proposals.

The District Council had no comments on the proposals as such, but Arundel Town Council, two parish meetings and two parish councils all put forward various objections to the proposed Arundel Ward. A parish council made objections about the proposed Barnham Ward, and two others asked for the name to be changed. A private individual considered that the proposed district council was too large. A local political party put forward their own scheme for Littlehampton. Bersted Parish Council suggested part of Bognor Regis North Ward should be joined with their parish to create a 3-member ward. A ratepayers' and residents' association objected on the grounds that planned development in Bognor Regis would nullify the electoral entitlement figures; they also suggested a minor alteration to the boundary between the Central and Hotham Wards. A Civic Society wanted the entire Littlehampton Conservation Area included in Beach Ward.

10. In view of these comments, we felt we needed more information to enable us to reach a conclusion. Therefore, in accordance with section 65(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, and at our request, Mr J Whatley was appointed an Assistant Commissioner. He was asked to hold a local meeting and report to us.

11. Notice of the meeting was sent to all who had received our draft proposals or had commented on them and was published locally.

12. The Assistant Commissioner held the meeting at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Littlehampton on 11 January 1979 and visited the areas which were the subject of comment. A copy of his report to us is at Schedule 1 to this report.

13. In the light of the discussions at the meeting and his inspection of the area, the Assistant Commissioner recommended that our draft proposals should be adopted subject to a minor adjustment to the description of the boundary between the proposed Central and Hotham Wards in Bognor Regis and the re-naming of the proposed Littlehampton Mewsbrook and Beach Wards, as Littlehampton Beach and Littlehampton River Wards respectively.

14. We have reviewed our draft proposals in the light of the comments which we received and of the Assistant Commissioner's report. We noted that the District Council had made orders creating parish wards in the parishes of Littlehampton and Rustington. We concluded that the recommendations of the Assistant Commissioner should be accepted and subject to the modifications he had suggested, we confirmed our draft proposals as our final proposals.

15. 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. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed wards, as defined on the maps is set out in Schedule 3.

#### PUBLICATION

16. 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 Arun District Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report (without maps) are 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

G E CHERRY

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

D P HARRISON

R R THORNTON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW (Secretary)

6 December 1979

TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REPORT of a local Meeting held at the Council Chamber, The Council Offices, Littlehampton, Sussex at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 11th January, 1979 to consider the Commission's draft proposals concerning the electoral arrangements for the District of Arun in the County of West Sussex

PRESENT :

NAME	ADDRESS	ORGANISATION REPRESENTED
P. L. Owens		Council Secretary
R. J. Stanford		Arun District Council
H. J. Walker		Arun District Council
A. H. Squires	24 Belloc Road, Littlehampton	Littlehampton Labour Party
B. N. Gill	2 Gosden Road, Littlehampton	Littlehampton Labour Party
N.W.G. Knight	51 East Ham Road, Littlehampton	Littlehampton Labour Party
W.H.K. Fox	72 Ford Road, Arundel	Arun & Arundel
Edward Corcoran	Burpham Farm House, Burpham	Burpham
A. Eric Smith	Lowesden, The Street, Burpham	Burpham
K.N. Coates	42 Kingmere, South Terrace, Littlehampton	Littlehampton Civic Society
C. Chandler	228 Poling Street, Poling	Poling Parish Meeting
Douglas Satterford	The Vicarage, Lyminster Road, Lyminster, Littlehampton	Lyminster Parish Council
John Hinchcliffe	Rushcutters, Offham, South Stoke, Arundel	A.D.C. Member
Paul Rowlands	Landford, Horsemere Green Lane, Climping	Climping Parish Council
Albert Williams	Downs Cottage, Yapton Gardens, Yapton, Arundel	Clerk, Climping & Ford Parish Council
L. J. Stafford	38 Haywards Close, Felpham	Chairman, Felpham Neighbourhood Council
E. C. Hunter	24 Milton Avenue, Littlehampton	Littlehampton South Conservative Branch
C. M. Richardson	26 Fernhurst Gardens, Aldwick, Bognor Regis	Pagham Parish Council
Stan Natrass	7 Whiteways Close Littlehampton	Chairman, Littlehampton Labour Party
H.H. Ellis	60 Norfolk Gardens, Littlehampton	Norfolk Road Residents Association
Olive F. Ellis	-do-	-do-

COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS

The Commission's draft proposals were issued on 23rd September, 1977  
and are as follows:-

NAME OF WARD	NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS
ALDINGBOURNE	1
ANGMERING	3
ARUNDEL	2
BARNHAM	3
BERSTED	2
BOGNOR REGIS ALDWICK	2
BOGNOR REGIS CENTRAL	3
BOGNOR REGIS HOTHAM	2
BOGNOR REGIS NORTH	2
BOGNOR REGIS SOUTH	3
BOGNOR REGIS WEST	2
EAST PRESTON AND KINGSTON	3
FELPHAM EAST	2
FELPHAM WEST	2
FERRING	2
FINDON	1
LITTLEHAMPTON BEACH	2
LITTLEHAMPTON CENTRAL	2
LITTLEHAMPTON HAM	2
LITTLEHAMPTON MEWSBROOK	2
LITTLEHAMPTON WICK	2
MIDDLETON-ON-SEA	2
PAGHAM	3
RUSTINGTON EAST	2
RUSTINGTON WEST	3
WALBERTON	1

A description of the boundaries of the wards proposed is attached  
as Annex A.



OBJECTIONS TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS

The Commission received the following comments in response to their draft proposals :

- Comment 1 - Arun District Council
- Comment 2 - Arundel Town Council
- Comment 3 - Poling Parish Meeting
- Comment 4 - South Stoke Parish Meeting
- Comment 5 - Lyminster Parish Council
- Comment 6 - Tortington Parish Council
- Comment 7 - Eastergate Parish Council
- Comment 8 - Yapton Parish Council
- Comment 9 - Ford Parish Council
- Comment 10 - Mr. L. E. Walwin
- Comment 11 - Littlehampton Branch of the Arundel Constituency Labour Party
- Comment 12 - Bersted Parish Council
- Comment 13 - Bognor Regis Ratepayers and Residents Association

Apart from Arun District Council (who sent a "no comment" reply) all those who submitted comments object to the draft proposals. The comments are briefly described below in relation to the areas concerned.  
Arundel, Angmering and Walberton Wards (Comments 2 - 6)

Arundel Town Council (Comment 2) the parish meetings of Poling and South Stoke (Comments 3 and 4) and Lyminster Parish Council (Comment 5) all object to the 2-member Arundel ward.

Under the existing arrangements, which the objectors seem to favour, the parish of Arundel returns 2 members and Ward 24 (comprising the parishes of Burpham, Houghton, Poling, South Stoke, Lyminster and Warningcamp) returns 1 member. A retention of this situation would affect the Arundel ward in the draft proposals and would involve consequential amendments to the proposed Walberton and Angmering wards. Adoption of this arrangement

would lead to uneven representation and an increase in the size of Council to 57.

Lyminster Parish Council (Comment 5) have put forward a further alternative suggestion which would involve linking the parishes of Clapham and Patching with the parishes of Burpham, Lyminster, South Stoke, Warningcamp and Poling. This would create a split ward as the parish of Angmering separates Patching and Clapham from the other parishes.

Tortington Parish Council (Comment 6) object to the Arundel ward in the Commission's draft proposals but do not make any constructive proposals to counter their criticism. They refer to possible future parish boundary changes, which cannot be considered until after this review.

Barnham and Middleton-on-Sea wards (Comments 7 - 9)

The parish councils of Eastergate (Comment 7) and Yapton (Comment 8) have written suggesting that the name of the Barnham ward should be changed to "Lake Barn".

Ford Parish Council (Comment 9) have written objecting to their inclusion in the Barnham ward in the Commission's draft proposals and asking to be linked with the parishes of Yapton and Climping. In the case of two of the three wards produced by the alternative suggestion the number of councillors proposed, when compared with the numerical entitlements for those wards, would fall outside the Commission's usual tolerance.

Mr. L. E. Walwin (Comment 10) a former Chairman of Arun District Council, objected to the draft proposals because he considered the Commission could have made a more substantial reduction in the size of the Council. He suggested that all 3-member wards in the draft proposals should be allocated 2 members, and all 2-member wards should be allocated 1 member. This suggestion would reduce the size of council to 33 members. A number of the proposed wards would fall outside the Commission's usual tolerances.

Littlehampton Labour Party (Comment 11) submitted a complete alternative scheme for the Littlehampton area of the district in response to the publication of the District Council's draft scheme. The Labour Party's alternative scheme arrived too late to be considered by the Commission when they formulated their draft proposals. The Party were informed, however, that their scheme would be considered at the 'response to draft proposals' stage.

Bersted Parish Council (Comment 12) suggested that part of the Bognor Regis North ward should be joined with the parish of Bersted in a ward returning 3 members and that the remainder of the North ward of Bognor Regis might be dispersed to other wards, allowing a reduction in the size of council. No figures were given showing the number of electors it was proposed to transfer.

Bognor Regis Ratepayers and Residents' Association (Comment 13) objected to the draft proposals on the grounds that the review of electoral wards should follow the review of parish boundaries and questioned the forecast electorate figures for the Bersted ward and all the Bognor Regis wards. A minor adjustment was proposed to the boundary between the Central and Hotham wards.

Littlehampton Civic Society objected to the proposed boundary between the proposed Beach and Mewsbrook wards on the grounds that it would bisect the Conservation Area including Norfolk Road, which had been designated in 1975.

PROPOSALS ADVANCED AT THE MEETING

Mr. L. P. Owens, Solicitor and Secretary to the Arun District Council, reviewed the events which had given rise to the local meeting. He observed, inter alia, that the Commission's draft proposals were virtually the same as the Council's own revised draft scheme. The Council had considered all the representations made on the proposals and had affirmed its own support for those proposals, subject to the substitution of the names "River" and "Beach" for the suggested Beach and Mewsbrook wards in Littlehampton. He would give the District Council's own comments on each representation after it had been introduced and spoken to.

Mr. W. Fox, a member of Arun District and Arundel Town Councils, stated that the proposed Arundel Ward was too big for two councillors to represent. Counting heads is not the only principle involved. A motor car will be needed to help the councillors attend to their duties. People cannot always go to see a councillor; he may have to go and see them.

Mr. E. Corcoran, representing Burpham Parish Meeting, said that since local government reorganisation there was less care and attention available. The bigger authorities were more remote. The reduction of seats on the District Council from 60 to 56 had been achieved at the expense of the rural areas. The County Electoral Division contained twice as many parishes as the present ward. One County Councillor did not adequately represent the electors. Had the reduction been from 60 seats to 40 seats, with the urban areas also suffering a reduction the Meeting would not have disagreed.

Mr. C. Chandler, on behalf of Poling Parish Meeting, agreed with what Mr. Corcoran had said. He added that Mr. Hinchcliffe the present councillor was very helpful and always took a great interest in the rural parts around Arundel. Poling has no contact with or interest in Angmering and would rather be with Arundel.

Mr. A. H. Squires, speaking on behalf of Arundel Labour Party, said he could see the point of view expressed by previous speakers. The electorate of the parish of Poling was only 130 or thereabouts. The eastern side of the parish of Tortington was built up, where Arundel had spread into it. He suggested 1 member for Arundel and Tortington and 1 member for the rural parishes, possibly including Poling.

Mr. W. Fox agreed that Tortington should be included with Arundel in one ward, but it would still require two members.

Canon A. E. Smith, Chairman of Burpham Parish Meeting, said that Burpham agreed with Mr. Squires. Representation of the rural areas is important, and Burpham wants to be grouped with the other villages.

Rev. D. Satterford, speaking for Lyminster Parish Council urged acceptance of the scheme for combining Clapham and Patching with Burpham, Warningcamp, Poling, Lyminster and South Stoke. Rigid adherence to numerical equality is not acceptable as a basis for representation in rural areas.

He realised that these proposals, excluding Angmering from the proposal, would result in a split ward. He considered this to be necessary in the interests of rural representation.

Canon Smith and Mr. Chandler supported Mr. Satterford's arguments.

Mr. Owens, on behalf of the District Council, then made some comments on the objections so far advanced against the Commission's draft proposals. He dealt first with the objection to the proposed Arundel ward.

Arundel, at present, has two Councillors. Under the current Electoral Review it would be under-represented by one Councillor and over-represented by two Councillors. The solution is to join Arundel with the surrounding Parishes of Burpham, Lyminster, South Stoke, Tortington and Warningcamp, with the allocation of two Councillors. It is not agreed that the geographical extent of this area is such that it will be impossible for two District Councillors to serve the area properly, but

they would need a car. All the Parishes in this group are easily accessible by road.

The area of the proposed Arundel Ward is very broadly similar in size to the existing Ward 24 (Parishes of Burpham, Houghton, Lyminster, Poling, South Stoke and Warningcamp) which is represented by one District Councillor without, so far as Mr. Owens was aware, any difficulty. For County Council representation, the Arundel Electoral Division contains five Parishes in addition to the six Parishes proposed for the Arundel Ward - a total of eleven Parishes represented by one County Councillor.

The Boundary Commission have already rejected a scheme submitted by the District Council for the Council to continue to be represented by 60 Councillors as at present.

If the Parishes of Arundel and Tortington were combined in one ward, it would still be under-represented with one councillor and over-represented with two, since the numerical entitlement would be 1.75.

As regards the objection made on behalf of Poling Parish Meeting, he pointed out that the existing Ward 24, consisting of six rural parishes, including Poling, has only half the electorate necessary for one Councillor. It is considered that Poling could appropriately be relocated with the proposed Angmering Ward without the Parish losing in any way its present identity and character.

The proposed Angmering Ward (Angmering, Clapham, Patching and Poling) has been allocated three Councillors. The total electorate for 1976 is 4,446, giving a Councillor entitlement of 2.79. The projected 1981 electoral total is 5,111, with a Councillor entitlement of 2.99.

Mr. Owens then dealt with the objection made on behalf of Lyminster Parish Council as follows.

The joining of the present parishes in Ward 24, with the exception of Houghton, with Clapham and Patching, is impractical as Clapham and Patching are separated by Angmering from the other parishes in Ward 24. The total electorate for the parishes suggested for this Ward would be approximately 1,200 electors; its entitlement would therefore only be  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a councillor. Such a ward would extend from the boundary of Arundel, passing through Angmering to the boundary with Worthing. If the number of councillors for the Angmering ward was reduced from three to two, Angmering would then be under-represented.

Turning to the comments made by Mr. Corcoran and Mr. Chandler, Mr. Owens said that we had to deal with the situation as it is today, and that the Local Government Act placed an overriding emphasis on the importance of securing that the ratio of the number of electors to the number of councillors shall be, as nearly as may be, the same in every district ward. The proposals for Arundel and Angmering must remain, and Poling will not lose its identity by being combined in the same ward as Angmering.

Mr. Chandler repeated that the interests of Poling lie more with Arundel than with Angmering. He suggested that the situation might best be met by allotting one councillor to Arundel, and a second to the surrounding parishes, which could form a separate ward to be called Arundel Rural.

Mr. Squires emphasised that boundaries must not sever local communities. The parishes round Arundel were the last remaining rural villages in the District, and they must be preserved in one ward.

Mr. Owens replied that it was inevitable in a District such as Arun that you would have wards that consisted of a combination of urban and rural areas and that the ratio factor must remain important in determining the ward boundaries.

Mr. Williams, Clerk to Ford and Climping Parish Councils, next addressed me. He said that previous speakers had in effect put his arguments for him. He sympathised with the District Council in trying to get the numbers right, but Ford, Climping and Yapton are all rural and they want to remain in a rural ward, rather than be combined with Middleton-on-Sea. He observed that it was unfortunate that the re-warding arrangements came before the parish reviews.

Mr. Owens' comment on this was that it is necessary for the existing Ward No. 12 (Tortington, Ford and Climping) to be re-allocated.

Any re-arrangement other than that proposed would create electoral ratio imbalance. Yapton, Ford and Climping on 1981 electorate figures would qualify for two councillors. This would be at the expense of the Middleton-on-Sea ward and the proposed Barnham ward. Middleton and Barnham wards would then both be over-represented by two councillors each.

The proposals are considered to be the best that can be achieved to comply with the rule which requires the ratio of the number of local government electors to the number of councillors to be elected to be, as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district.



Canon Smith then observed that in dealing with these problems one was dealing with the conflicting claims of arithmetic and commonsense, and that as much attention as possible should be given to commonsense. It is in accordance with the spirit of the Act to think of people and not of mathematical percentages.

Mr. Squires, representing the Littlehampton Branch of the Labour Party, then described to me his Party's proposals for the re-warding of Littlehampton. He said they thought that it was time for a change in Littlehampton. The present draft proposals followed the old Urban District Council wards. The Labour Party thought that the present was a good time to adjust the ward boundaries, and they had studied the situation on the ground as well as from the point of view of the electoral rolls.

The present Wick Ward is too wide and straggling. The Labour Party propose a boundary between Wick and Central Wards which is on the line of a proposed new road running northward from Paterson Wilson Road. This will confine the Wick Ward to the old village of Wick and the area immediately surrounding it.

Central Ward, as proposed by the Labour Party, will be the ward where most of the development in Littlehampton will take place. Work has already started in Fastnet Way. The Labour Party's proposed Beach Ward is mostly built up, and their proposed River Ward is principally business and owner/occupied property.

Mr. Squires agreed that there was some discrepancy between the Labour Party's estimates of population and the District Council's and attributed this to the fact that the Council had greater resources at their disposal than had the Constituency Labour Party.

Mr. Owens observed that the ward boundaries in Littlehampton proposed by the Commission and the Council bear a resemblance to the present boundaries. No changes have been made for the sake of change since this might only confuse the electorate. The only alterations made have been with a view to achieving the required ratios.

The Labour Party's proposed boundary between Wick and Central Wards follows the line of a road. This road is not programmed for the next five years. The County Council are unable to give any indication of when, if ever, it is likely to be included in any programme.

Mr. Owens expressed the opinion that development in the proposed Central ward, north of Southfields Road, would not produce the increase in population predicted by the Labour Party. The Planning Department of the Council suggest that 200 units will be built on this land by 1981 bringing the electorate total to 3,650, with a councillor entitlement of 2.14. Whether further building takes place depends on building trends, the economic situation and other factors. The Labour Party's proposals for River and Beach Wards vary only slightly from the proposals of the Commission and the Council.

The Labour Party has calculated its 1981 councillor entitlement by using its own estimates for Littlehampton alone to give 1904 electors per councillor. The overall figure used by the District Council for the whole of the District was 1705. It is clearly wrong to treat Littlehampton on a different basis from the rest of the District and therefore the Labour Party's calculation of councillor entitlement should be disregarded.

Miss Coates, representing the Littlehampton Civic Society, stressed its non-political nature and stated that they would like to see the proposed River Ward renamed River and Beach, and the whole of the Conservation Area, as described in the Littlehampton Conservation Study 1975, included in that Ward. They also considered that the interests of residents in Norfolk Gardens continued to lie with those of the Conservation Area and therefore Norfolk Gardens should also lie in Beach Ward. They further suggested that the Ward might include Parkside Avenue, Meadow Way and Esher Drive, leaving Beaumont Park Estate in Mewsbrook Ward.

Mr. Ellis, representing the Norfolk Gardens Residents' Association, and supporting Miss Coates, said that his members had no affinity whatsoever with Beaumont Park Estate, but they did have affinities with the Conservation Area.

Mr. Gill, representing Littlehampton Branch of the Labour Party, supported the proposal to include the Conservation area and Norfolk Gardens in Beach Ward and also supported the proposal to call Beach Ward River and Beach Ward.

Mr. Owens made the following observations :

1. Each of the alternatives suggested by the Civic Society will result in an imbalance in the electorate entitlement per councillor.
2. The centre of Norfolk Road makes a suitable boundary and follows the Guidelines on Boundary making.
3. The inclusion of the Conservation etc. area in two wards could be more of an advantage than a disadvantage. There would be four instead of two district councillors (6 instead of 4 town councillors) to take an interest in and look after the area.

4. The Beaumont Park Estate to the East of Norfolk Gardens is now being developed. It is not easy to distinguish between "old" and "new" development, and after some years any ward boundary based on such a distinction would appear insignificant, even if it were to be appropriate in the first instance.

Mr. Stafford, Felpham Neighbourhood Council, pointed out that the occupants of some newly erected houses in the area of Flansham and to the south of Worms Lane, although forming part of the Felpham Development were within the Parish of Yapton. He asked that the ward boundary be altered to include these houses in Felpham East Ward. It was pointed out to him that it was not permissible to carry a ward boundary across part of a parish, and that therefore any alteration of the ward boundary on the lines requested would have to wait upon the review of parish boundaries.

No representative of South Stoke Parish Meeting appeared. Mr. Corcoran informed me that he had been requested by Mr. Hinchcliffe, the Chairman of the Parish Meeting, to say that they agreed with Burpham.

There were no appearances on behalf of Tortington, Eastergate, Yapton or Bersted Parish Councils. I have read their written submissions and do not consider that the Commission should vary their draft proposals in response thereto.

In connection with the suggestion that the Barnham Ward be renamed "Lake Barn", Mr. Owens informed me that Barnham is the parish which is centrally situated in the group of four parishes

comprising the ward, that it is also the name of the principal railway station and that "Lake Barn" was the name of a temporary telephone exchange, which is no longer in use.

In connection with the observation by the Bognor Regis Ratepayers and Residents Association that the boundary between Central and Hotham Wards is incorrectly described, Mr. Owens stated that the boundary was correctly shown on the map but agreed that the verbal description was incorrect and should be amended to show the ward boundary along the A29 road, with the 'severed portion' of Shripney Road included in Hotham Ward.

#### INSPECTIONS

After the meeting, I inspected the relevant parts of Littlehampton and Bognor Regis. Mr. Stanford, one of Mr. Owen's Assistants, was kind enough to drive me in his motor car. Owing to the combined effect of ill health, inclement weather and industrial action, I was unable to inspect the remainder of the District until 30th January, when I visited those rural areas in which the Commission's proposals have proved controversial.

#### ASSESSMENT OF THE WEIGHT OF ARGUMENTS ADVANCED AT THE MEETING

In endeavouring to assess the weight of the differing points of view expressed at the meeting, I have had regard to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, and to the decision in Enfield London Borough Council -v- Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The principal issues were as follows:-

(a) The Proposed Arundel Ward

The problems raised here are characteristic of the difficulties being widely experienced as a result of the reorganisation of local government. Urban and rural communities, each with their own special problems, were once separately administered. Many of them now have to share the same administration which in its turn has to prove responsive to the needs, sometimes contrasting, sometimes identical, of dwellers in town and country.

Opposition to the Commission's proposed two-councillor Arundel ward came from a wide spectrum of public opinion. It was sincerely motivated, and expressed with moderation. The general opinion was that the rural parishes surrounding the town of Arundel could better be represented by a councillor who had no responsibility for the town, and that the town should be separately represented. Unless the number of councillors was to be increased, that would result in one councillor representing the town of Arundel (an under-representation) and one representing the parishes (an over-representation).

The Commission's proposals come closest to satisfying the requirements of paragraphs 3(2)(a) of the eleventh schedule to the Act, which relate to the ratio of electors to councillors. They

also, in my view, satisfy what Lord Denning regards as the overriding requirement of S.47(1) inasmuch as they are in the best interests of effective and convenient local government.

(b) Poling Parish Meeting

Here again, fears were expressed on behalf of Poling Parish Meeting that were it to be joined with Angmering, Clapham and Patching, it would lose its identity. The population of the Parish is small and it was argued that its presence or absence will make little difference to the numerical position. That appears to be an argument of expediency, which one would only be justified in accepting if the consequences of adherence to principle could be demonstrated as likely to cause loss of communal identity. Such is not, in my opinion, likely to be the result of the Commission's proposals, since a small community with as sharply defined a sense of its own identity as is Poling's is likely to retain it no matter what the warding arrangements are.

(c) Lyminster Parish Council

The proposal advanced here was for a ward composed of parishes selected on the grounds of their rural character and without overmuch regard to geographical proximity. Such a ward would be entitled to .75 of a councillor. The circumstances in which a split ward could be said to comply with the requirements of effective and convenient local government are not likely to be frequently encountered. In the present case I consider that the arguments in favour of Lyminster's alternative do not outweigh the Commission's proposals.

(d) Ford and Climping Parish Councils

Both these parishes wish to be united in one ward with Yapton, which does not appear to share their desire. The suggestion is based on the fear that Barnham and Eastergate will dominate the proposed Barnham Ward and that Middleton-on-Sea will dominate the proposed Middleton Ward. However, given the composition of the Arun District and the guidelines to which the Commission must adhere, it seems inescapable that in this, as in many other cases, communities of different sizes and characters must be combined to form electoral wards. None of the parties addressing me were able to suggest how the imbalance which would result from adhering to the request of Ford and Climping might be redressed. I therefore am of the opinion that the Commission's proposals are best left unaltered.

Proposals of Littlehampton Labour Party

I was impressed by the care and conscientiousness with which the Constituency Branch of the Labour Party formulated and presented their arguments. Mr. Squires stated on their behalf that they thought it was time for a change in the ward boundaries, but when I looked for some advantages which the Labour Party's proposals might have over the Commission's proposals, I was unable to see any which would compensate the electorate for the alteration of familiar boundaries. There do not appear to have been any recent developments which have rendered the present arrangements unsatisfactory, and the Labour Party's estimates of future development are regarded as on the optimistic side by the District Council. There also appears to be some doubt as to the suitability of at least one of the Labour Party's proposed ward boundaries, i.e. the important one between Wick and Central Wards.



I was pleased to learn that the District Council agree with the Labour Party's suggestion regarding the retention of the names of Beach Ward and River Ward, but in other respects I consider that the arguments in support of the Commission's proposals outweigh those in support of the Labour Party's alternatives.

#### The Conservation Area

I listened with interest to the arguments addressed to me by Miss Coates and those who supported her plea that the boundary between River and Beach Wards in Littlehampton should be varied so as to bring the whole of the Conservation Area together with Norfolk Gardens, and also possibly the further area of Parkside Avenue, Meadow Way and Esher Drive, within River Ward, or, as Miss Coates would prefer, River and Beach Ward.

It seems that the only justification for so doing would be if any local ties were to be broken by the fixing of the boundary on the line proposed by the Commission. Insofar as there is any tie which binds the inhabitants of the areas referred to, it appears to be a dislike of being united with the inhabitants of the new houses being built in Beaumont Park. I cannot but believe that in a few years the upheaval caused locally by this development will have subsided, and the people living in this part of Littlehampton will be reconciled to being in the same electoral ward. I was impressed by Mr. Owens' arguments in support of the Commission's proposals which I consider should remain.

#### R E C O M M E N D A T I O N

For reasons set out in the preceding section of this report, I recommend that the arrangements for the future election of District Councillors for the District of Arun be as follows:-

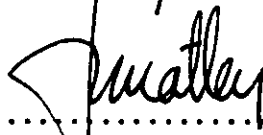
NAME OF WARD	NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS
ALDINGBOURNE	1
ANGMERING	3
ARUNDEL	2
BARNHAM	3
BERSTED	2
BOGNOR REGIS ALDWICK	2
BOGNOR REGIS CENTRAL	3
BOGNOR REGIS HOTHAM	2
BOGNOR REGIS NORTH	2
BOGNOR REGIS SOUTH	3
BOGNOR REGIS WEST	2
EAST PRESTON AND KINGSTON	3
FELPHAM EAST	2
FELPHAM WEST	2
FERRING	2
FINDON	1
LITTLEHAMPTON BEACH	2
LITTLEHAMPTON CENTRAL	2
LITTLEHAMPTON HAM	2
LITTLEHAMPTON RIVER	2
LITTLEHAMPTON WICK	2
MIDDLETON-ON-SEA	2
PAGHAM	3
RUSTINGTON EAST	2
RUSTINGTON WEST	3
WALBERTON	1

I further recommend that the boundaries of the wards aforesaid be as set out in the Commission's draft proposals with the exception that the description of the boundary between the proposed Central and Hotham Wards in Bognor Regis should be amended to show the ward boundary along the new A29 road, with the 'severed portion' of Shripney Road included in Hotham Ward.

S U M M A R Y   O F   R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

With two slight modifications detailed above, the Commission's draft proposals are recommended for adoption.

DATED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 1979



.....

J. WHATLEY

(Assistant Commissioner)

SCHEDULE 2

DISTRICT OF ARUN

NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
Aldingbourne	1
Angmering	3
Arundel	2
Barnham	3
Bersted	2
Bognor Regis Aldwick	2
Bognor Regis Central	3
Bognor Regis Hotham	2
Bognor Regis North	2
Bognor Regis South	3
Bognor Regis West	2
East Preston and Kingston	3
Felpham East	2
Felpham West	2
Ferring	2
Findon	1
Littlehampton Beach	2
Littlehampton Central	2
Littlehampton Ham	2
Littlehampton River	2
Littlehampton Wick	2
Middleton-on-Sea	2
Pagham	3
Rustington East	2
Rustington West	3
Walberton	1

## DISTRICT OF ARUN - 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.

## BOGNOR REGIS WEST WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of the District meets the eastern boundary of Pagham CP, thence generally northwards and eastwards along said parish boundary to the footpath adjacent to No 15 Hewart's Lane thence southeastwards along said footpath to Hewart's Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to Rose Green Road, thence southwards along said road to Gossamer Lane, thence westwards along said lane to Nyetimber Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to Blondell Drive, thence southeastwards along said drive to Willowhale Avenue, thence southwestwards along said avenue to Fernhurst Gardens, thence southwestwards and southeastwards along said gardens to Barrack Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to its end, thence due south to the southern boundary of the District, thence southwestwards along said District boundary to the point of commencement.

## BOGNOR REGIS ALDWICK WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of the District meets the eastern boundary of Bognor Regis West Ward, thence generally northwards along said ward boundary to the southeastern boundary of Pagham CP, thence northeastwards and eastwards along said parish boundary to the southern boundary of Bersted CP, thence southeastwards, northeastwards and southwards along said parish boundary to West Mead Drive, thence southeastwards along said drive to Aldwick Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the eastern end of <sup>a road known as</sup> Aldwick Gardens, thence southwestwards and westwards along said road to South Avenue, thence southwards along said avenue to a point opposite the footpath leading to Fish Lane, thence southeastwards to, and southwestwards along said footpath to Fish Lane, thence eastwards along said lane to the road known as High Trees, thence generally southwards along said road to

Dark Lane, thence southeastwards along said lane to its end, thence due south to the southern boundary of the District, thence southwestwards along said District boundary to the point of commencement.

#### BOGNOR REGIS SOUTH WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of the District meets the eastern boundary of Bognor Regis Aldwick Ward, thence generally northwards along said eastern boundary to the southern boundary of Bersted CP, thence northeastwards along said parish boundary to Amberley Drive, thence southeastwards along said drive to Hawthorn Road, thence eastwards along said road to Nyewood Lane, thence southwards along said lane to Sylvan Way, thence eastwards along said way to Victoria Drive, thence northwards along said drive to Wellington Road thence eastwards along said road to Southdown Road, thence generally northeastwards along said road to Burnham Avenue, thence southeastwards along said avenue to Sturges Road, thence northeastwards along said road to Linden Road, thence southeastwards along said road and Station Road to London Road, thence southeastwards along said road to High Street, thence northeastwards along said street to Albert Road, thence southeastwards along said road to its junction with the road known as The Esplanade, thence due south to the southern boundary of the District, thence southwestwards along said District boundary to the point of commencement.

#### BOGNOR REGIS NORTH WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Bognor Regis South Ward meets the southern boundary of Bersted CP, thence generally northwards and generally southeastwards along said parish boundary to Sherwood Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Chichester Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Hampshire Avenue, thence southwestwards along said avenue to Collyer Avenue, thence southeastwards along said avenue to Hawthorn Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the northern boundary of Bognor Regis South Ward, thence generally westwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

## BOGNOR REGIS CENTRAL WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Bognor Regis North Ward meets the southern boundary of Bersted CP, thence generally eastwards along said parish boundary to Shripney Road, thence generally southwestwards along said road and the A29 to the roundabout junction with Orchard Way, thence southwestwards crossing said roundabout junction in a straight line to and continuing southwestwards along the A29 to the northwestern carriageway of the roundabout junction with Chichester Road, thence southwestwards around said carriageway to and southeastwards along Chichester Road to Annandale Avenue, thence southwestwards along said avenue to Linden Road, thence southeastwards along said road to the northern boundary of Bognor Regis South Ward, thence generally southwestwards, westwards and northwestwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of Bognor Regis North Ward, thence generally northwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

## BOGNOR REGIS HOTHAM WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of the District meets the eastern boundary of Bognor Regis South Ward, thence generally northwestwards, along said ward boundary to the eastern boundary of Bognor Regis Central Ward, thence northwestwards and northeastwards along said boundary to the southern boundary of Bersted CP, thence generally southeastwards along said parish boundary to the stream known as Lidsey Rife, thence generally southwestwards along said stream to the stream known as Aldingbourne Rife, thence southeastwards along said stream to Felpham Way, thence southwestwards along said way to Upper Bognor Road, thence southeastwards along said road to the stream known as Aldingbourne Rife, thence southeastwards along said stream to its junction with the road known as Promenade, thence due south to the southern boundary of the District, thence southwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

FELPHAM WEST WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of the District meets the eastern boundary of Bognor Regis Hotham Ward, thence generally northwards along said ward boundary to the eastern boundary of Bersted CP, thence generally northeastwards along said parish boundary to the southern boundary of Yapton CP, thence southeastwards along said parish boundary to the track leading from Stanover Lane to North Road (track), thence southwestwards along said track and North Road to Shirley Drive, thence southeastwards along said drive to the road known as Whitelands, thence eastwards along said road to Outerwyke Avenue, thence southwestwards along said avenue to Outerwyke Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Firs Avenue, thence southwards along said avenue to Felpham Way, thence eastwards along said way to Summerley Lane, thence southwards along said lane to Limmer Lane, thence southeastwards along said lane to First Avenue, thence southwards along said avenue to its junction with Strand Way, thence due south to the southern boundary of the District, thence southwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

FELPHAM EAST WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of the District meets the eastern boundary of Felpham West Ward, thence northwards, northwestwards and northeastwards along said ward boundary to the southern boundary of Yapton CP, thence generally eastwards along said parish boundary to the western boundary of Middleton-on-Sea CP, thence southwards along said parish boundary to the southern boundary of the District, thence westwards along said District boundary to the point of commencement.



**ALDINGBOURNE WARD**

The Parish of Aldingbourne

**ANGMERING WARD**

The Parishes of Angmering  
Clapham  
Patching  
Poling

**ARUNDEL WARD**

The Parishes of Arundel  
Burpham  
Lyminster  
South Stoke  
Tortington  
Warningcamp

**BARNHAM WARD**

The Parishes of Barnham  
Eastergate  
Ford  
Yapton

**BERSTED WARD**

The Parish of Bersted

**EAST PRESTON AND KINGSTON WARD**

The Parishes of East Preston  
Kingston

## FERRING WARD

The Parish of Ferring

## FINDON WARD

The Parish of Findon

## LITTLEHAMPTON BEACH WARD

The Beach Ward of the Parish of Littlehampton

## LITTLEHAMPTON CENTRAL WARD

The Central Ward of the Parish of Littlehampton

## LITTLEHAMPTON HAM WARD

The Ham Ward of the Parish of Littlehampton

## LITTLEHAMPTON RIVER WARD

The River Ward of the Parish of Littlehampton

## LITTLEHAMPTON WICK WARD

The Wick Ward of the Parish of Littlehampton

## MIDDLETON-ON-SEA WARD

The Parishes of Climping  
Middleton-on-Sea

## PAGHAM WARD

The Parish of Pagham

## RUSTINGTON EAST WARD

The Rustington East Ward of the Parish of Rustington

**RUSTINGTON WEST WARD**

The Rustington West Ward of the Parish of Rustington.

**WALBERTON WARD**

The Parishes of     Houghton  
                          Madehurst  
                          Slindon  
                          Walberton

