

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 271**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

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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 FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
NORTH CORNWALL DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF CORNWALL

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the district of North Cornwall 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 North Cornwall District Council, copies of which were circulated to Cornwall County Council, parish councils and parish meetings, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies 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 any interested bodies.
3. North Cornwall 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 also asked 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. The District Council have not passed a resolution under section 7(4) of the Local Government Act 1972. The provisions of section 7(6) will therefore apply and the election of all district councillors will be held simultaneously.
5. On 29 May 1975 the District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the district into 29 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 councillors to form a council of 44 members.
6. The District Council received a number of comments on ward names during their local consultations, most of which were incorporated in their draft scheme. They also received comments from the parish councils of North Tamerton, Week St Mary and Whitstone which suggested the division of the 2-member Penfound ward in the draft scheme into 2 single member wards. We received comments from Launceston Town Council suggesting that the District Council's draft scheme over-represented the rural area. No other comment was received.
7. We considered the draft scheme and noted that the standard of representation was uneven and that, having regard to the number of electors in the district, a reduction in the size of the council might be appropriate. It appeared to us that a more even standard of representation would be achieved by a regrouping of parishes with a reduction in the size of the council to 38 members. Subject to these modifications, we decided that the District Council's draft scheme provided a basis of representation in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines. We formulated our draft proposals accordingly.
8. On 7 November 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 draft scheme. The Council were asked to make these draft proposals, and the accompanying map which defined the proposed ward boundaries, available

for inspection at their main office. 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 for comments to reach us by 31 December 1975.

9. North Cornwall District Council, supported by Cornwall County Council, objected to all the modifications which we had introduced in formulating our draft proposals. They requested in lieu the reinstatement of their draft scheme in toto. The North Cornwall District Committee of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils and Marhamchurch Parish Council objected to the reduction we proposed in the size of council.

10. Launceston Town Council and the parish councils of Week St Mary, Lezant and St Breward supported our draft proposals. The parish councils of St Ervan and Poundstock expressed approval of our proposed Rumford and Penfound wards respectively.

11. We received objections to our proposed Padstow and St Merryn wards from Padstow Town Council, St Merryn Parish Council, Mebyon Kernow (The National Movement of Cornwall), Trevone Women's Institute and a resident of Padstow parish. The Padstow and District Chamber of Commerce also objected and suggested an alternative pattern of wards which provided for the Trevone parish ward of Padstow to be included in an enlarged Padstow ward.

12. We received objections to our proposed Wadebridge and Allan wards from Wadebridge Town Council and the parish councils of Egloshayle, St Mabyn and St Kew. All these bodies requested the reinstatement of the District Council's draft scheme arrangements. St Breock Parish Council also objected to our proposed wards and suggested that the parishes of St Breock and Egloshayle should be linked in a one-member ward and Wadebridge parish should form a two-member ward.

13. Launcells and Morwenstow Parish Councils objected to our proposed Grenville ward and suggested that it should return 2 councillors instead of one.

Kilkhampton Parish Council objected to our proposed Grenville and Week St Mary wards and suggested that the parishes of Morwenstow and Kilkhampton should form a district ward returning one member and that the parishes of Marhamchurch and Launcells should also form a single member ward.

14. Stokeclimsland Parish Council objected to the inclusion of Lezant parish in the proposed Stokeclimsland ward and Altarnun Parish Council objected to the inclusion of North Hill parish in the proposed Altarnun ward. Both parish councils suggested that the parishes of Lezant and North Hill should be joined in a single member ward as recommended by the District Council in their draft scheme.

15. We received objections to our proposed St Endellion and St Minver ward from the parish councils of St Endellion, St Minver Highlands and St Minver Lowlands. All three parish councils requested the reinstatement of the St Minver and St Endellion wards in the District Council's draft scheme.

16. Bude-Stratton Town Council objected to our proposed 3-member Bude and Poughill ward and requested the reinstatement of the 3-member Bude and 1-member Poughill wards in the District Council's draft scheme. Tintagel Parish Council suggested that Trevalga parish should be linked with Forabury and Minster parish in our proposed Lesnewth ward and Bodmin Town Council suggested that our proposed St Mary's and St Petroc's wards should be renamed Bodmin St Mary's and Bodmin St Petroc's respectively.

17. 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 L H Baines, OBE was appointed an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us. The

Assistant Commissioner held a meeting at Camelford on 17 June 1976. A copy of his report is attached at Schedule 1 to this report.

18. In the light of the discussion at the meeting, subsequent correspondence, and his inspection of the areas concerned, the Assistant Commissioner recommended that our draft proposals should be confirmed subject to the following modifications:

- (a) the Padstow and St Merryn wards which we had proposed should be combined in one ward, to be named Padstow and St Merryn, and return two councillors;
- (b) the St Endellion and St Minver ward which we had proposed should be replaced by the following wards:
 - (i) a ward consisting of the parish of St Endellion, to be named St Endellion and return one councillor; and
 - (ii) a ward consisting of the parishes of St Minver Highlands and St Minver Lowlands, to be named St Minver and return one councillor;
- (c) the parish of Egloshayle should be transferred from our proposed Allan ward to our proposed Wadebridge ward;
- (d) the parish of Trevalga should be transferred from our proposed Tintagel ward to our proposed Lesnewth ward;
- (e) the boundary between our proposed Launceston North and Launceston South wards should be amended as suggested by the Town Council and accepted by the District Council;
- (f) our proposed St Mary and St Petroc wards should be renamed Bodmin St Marys and Bodmin St Petrocs respectively.

The effect of the Assistant Commissioner's recommendations was to leave the size of council at 38 members as we had proposed.

19. Following the local meeting, the Member of Parliament for the North Cornwall constituency wrote requesting that there should be no reduction in the present size of council of 44 members. We noted that the Assistant Commissioner had fully considered the question of council size at the meeting.

20. We reviewed our draft proposals in the light of the comments which we had received and of the report of the Assistant Commissioner. We concluded that the amendments recommended by the Assistant Commissioner should be accepted. Subject to these modifications, we confirmed our draft proposals as our final proposals.

21. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 2 and 3 to this report. Schedule 2 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. Schedule 3 is a description of the areas of the new wards. The boundaries of the new wards are defined on the attached map.

PUBLICATION

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

L.S.

Signed:

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

J T BROCKBANK

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

R R THORNTON

ANDREW WHEATLEY

Review of Electoral Arrangements - District of North CornwallReport of Assistant Commissioner

A local meeting was held on Thursday 17th June, 1976 at the Council Chambers, Camelford, at which the persons whose names and addresses appear in Annex 'A' were present, to hear representations relating to the Draft proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for the District of North Cornwall in the County of Cornwall.

The draft proposals provided for the division of the District into 27 wards, the boundaries of which were defined by reference to existing parishes or wards of parishes, 21 wards each to return one councillor, one ward to return two councillors, and five wards each to return three councillors; a total of 38 councillors for the whole District.

The North Cornwall District Council, with support from the Cornwall County Council and the North Cornwall District Committee of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils, objected to the draft proposals, considering them to be the "result of a mathematical exercise" which does not take into account the geographical nature of the area or community of interest. Representations had also been received from 24 local (Town or Parish) Councils and four local organisations or individuals about specific parts of the draft proposals and reference is made in the appropriate parts of this report to these separate objections; throughout the vast majority, however, runs the theme of the difficulties of adequate representation of scattered rural areas, and only five parish councils gave an unqualified approval to the draft proposals as they affected their areas.

The District Council urged a return to their own draft scheme which, apart from warding the successor parishes of Bodmin and Launceston and re-warding part of the successor parish of Bude - Stratton, retained the existing arrangements, the size of the Council remaining unchanged at 44 members. In support of their views, it was represented at the meeting that the area of the District was 461 square miles, the twelfth largest non-metropolitan area in England, with a population according to the Registrar - General's mid-1975 estimate of 60,400 (about 250th, it was alleged, of the populations of the 296 non-metropolitan areas), though this population was much increased during the holiday and tourist season. Having regard to all the circumstances, it was urged that a council of 44 members would not be out of step with the 1973 Home Office guidance on size of councils. The County Council referred also to the dividing effect of the valley of the Camel and to difficulties of communication within the District and suggested that a reduction in numbers from 44 in the draft scheme of the District Council to 38 in the draft proposals of the Commission was a negligible advantage, and too high a price to pay for strict adherence to guidelines.

When I sought the views of the District and County Councils on the marked element of rural weighting which appeared in the District Council's draft scheme, both maintained that the mandatory provisions in Schedule 11 of the Local Government Act, 1972 requiring an equality in the ratio of electors to councillors in every ward of a district were qualified by the phrase 'as nearly as may be' in para. 3 (2) (a), of the Schedule, and that under para. 3 (3) local ties could be taken into account in interpreting the application of that phrase in para. 3 (2) (a); both conceded, however, that sub-paragraph (3) is governed by the opening words "Subject to sub-paragraph (2) above."

On the question of the size of the Council, I believe it is important to recognise that in the nature of the re-organisation embodied in the Local Government Act, 1972 Parliament must have intended and accepted that councillors in the future would have to represent considerably larger areas than formerly; and also perhaps, that, as a consequence, parish councils, who can no longer count on 'their own' representative on the district council, would have greater responsibilities for drawing the attention of the district council and of the ward representative to important matters affecting the parish. Paragraph 30 of Report No. 6 of The Local Government Boundary Commission, to which I drew the attention of the meeting, adopts ranges, originally negotiated between the Home Office and the local authority Associations, for non-metropolitan district councils (whose original preferred population range was 75,000 -100,000) of 30 - 60 members. Taking everything into account I cannot regard the 38 councillors proposed in the draft proposals as ungenerous, and whatever solution is finally adopted should not in my view depart significantly from this figure.

On the subject of rural weighting, I find myself quite unable to accept the arguments advanced by the District and County Councils as to the proper interpretation of paragraph 3 of the Local Government Act, 1972, Schedule 11. There is still a strong and understandable desire, particularly in the more rural and scattered areas such as North Cornwall, to ensure a measure of numerical advantage to rural as opposed to urban areas, or at the least to limit the areas for which a rural ward representative is elected and responsible - a policy which inevitably has the same effect. But Parliament has decided that equality of representation, as nearly as may be, must be the paramount consideration, and that local ties can only be treated as a subordinate factor; to hold otherwise would be to open the door wide to a complete disregard of a clearly expressed and mandatory requirement of the Act.

I have therefore come to the conclusion that a return to the District Council's draft scheme is unacceptable and that, subject to consideration of objections to detailed aspects, the Commission's draft proposals should form the basis of representation to be adopted for the North Cornwall District Council.

It is from this basis, therefore, that I have considered objections and representations in the following cases:-

Padstow and St. Merryn Wards

Objections to the draft proposals had been received from Padstow Town Council, St. Merryn Parish Council, Padstow and District Chamber of Commerce, the local branch of Mebyon Kernow, Mr. F.R.J. Bagley and Trevone Womens Institute. All were concerned at the reduction of Padstow representation from two members to one, and at the transfer of the Trevone ward of Padstow to St. Merryn. Trevone had long been associated with Padstow, had previously formed part of the former urban district of Padstow, and had little or nothing in common with St. Merryn. Support for these views was strongly expressed by those representing local interests at the meeting. The Chamber of Commerce had put forward an alternative solution, however, linking Padstow (including Trevone) with St. Ervan and St. Issey to return two members and St. Merryn with St. Eval to return one member.

On this basis St. Breock Parish Council have suggested that, to avoid the rural areas being swamped by the urban interests of Wadebridge, two of the three councillors should be elected for the parish of Wadebridge and one for the parishes of Egloshayle and St. Breock. The parish council were not represented at the meeting to support their suggestion, which would produce in my view an unacceptable imbalance of representation and rural weighting to a degree which could not be said to conform to the requirements of the Act. I reject the parish council's suggestion.

Grenville, Penfound and Week St. Mary Wards

Objections to the draft proposals had been received from Kilkhampton, Morwenstow, Marhamchurch and Launcells Parish Councils principally on the grounds, already dealt with more generally in this report, of sparsity of population, the scattered nature of the area and difficulties of communication affecting the ability of rural councillors to represent the whole of their ward adequately. Representatives from Kilkhampton and Morwenstow parishes were present at the meeting to support their written representations, and attention was drawn to the difficulties of parish representation where Council rules limit the membership of committees to two per councillor. Launcells and Marhamchurch Parish Councils were not represented, (though Mr. Whiting for the District Council urged that Marhamchurch parish was essentially integral in nature and character with the parishes with which it is at present associated). Week St. Mary and Poundstock Parish Councils had expressed support for the draft proposals.

It must be admitted that the area concerned is one of the more sparsely populated and scattered parts of the North Cornwall District. On the other hand, none of the representations made, either at the meeting or beforehand, and whether general or specific, appeared to me to be of a compelling nature and they were certainly insufficient to justify interfering with or amending the draft proposals. I recommend no action.

Stoke Climsland and Altarnun Wards

On the general grounds that the enlarged wards are too big to be represented by one councillor each, Altarnun and Stoke Climsland Parish Councils have objected to the draft proposals. Against this Lezant Parish Council supported them and no objection was received from North Hill or Lewannick, the other parishes concerned. In spite of support from the District Council for the objections of the two parish councils, and after a full inspection of the area, I remain unconvinced that any alteration to the draft proposals would be appropriate here and I so recommend.

St. Endellion and St. Minver Ward

All three parishes combined in this two-member ward have objected to the draft proposals alleging a lack of community of interest between the parish of StEndellion and the parishes of St. Minver Highlands and St. Minver Lowlands, accentuated by the distance between the main centres of population.

As, however, St. Ervan had already written in support of the draft proposals, and St. Issey, St. Eval and St. Merryn were not represented, I sought to obtain at least an informal expression of the views of these parishes on the proposal (which appeared acceptable from the purely numerical point of view), and I was greatly assisted by representatives who made special journeys in the afternoon to attend the meeting. It soon became evident that there was very strong objection to the Chamber of Commerce proposal on the ground that the three Rumford ward parishes of St. Ervan, St. Eval and St. Issey were all essentially agricultural in character as opposed to the urban and tourist element in Padstow and St. Merryn. Apart from Trevone, traditionally and in other ways associated with Padstow, no area was anxious to be linked with Padstow, whose electorate were feared likely to dominate the situation and in practice retain two council members, neither of whom might be expected to represent effectively the more remote or rural areas.

At the present time I do not think there is any solution reasonably acceptable on numerical grounds which would be broadly acceptable to all the parishes concerned. At the same time I believe that on all the grounds put forward, Trevone should if possible remain linked with Padstow, of which it is at present a separate ward. A solution canvassed at the meeting, though not pursued in detail in the absence of a representative of St. Merryn Parish Council, would be to combine the proposed Padstow and St. Merryn wards into one ward (called Padstow, or perhaps Padstow and St. Merryn) with two representatives. I think it is doubtful whether this would be welcomed by St. Merryn but on balance I favour it and so recommend.

Wadebridge and Allan Wards

The proposal to include the parish of Egloshayle in the Allan ward instead of in Wadebridge as proposed by the District Council had been strongly objected to by Wadebridge Town Council and Egloshayle Parish Council on historical, geographical, social and economic grounds, with some indirect support from St. Mabyn and St. Breock Parish Councils. None of the town or parish councils affected was represented at the meeting but Mr. Armstrong, of the District Council staff and a former clerk of the Egloshayle Parish Council, was of considerable assistance in elaborating the objections already received. An inspection confirmed the closeness of the ties of the developing part of the parish with the town of Wadebridge, a trading estate is in course of development close to the boundary, and planning permissions already granted suggest the filling in, in the same area, and in the comparatively near future, of some gaps; this again should re-inforce the objections already raised.

Whether, at some future review, parish boundaries should be revised to take account of the now developing situation is not at present the concern of the Commission, but there are strong grounds in the circumstances of the present review for leaving the parish of Egloshayle in the Wadebridge ward, and as such an arrangement appears to be generally acceptable and numerically as good as in the draft proposals, I recommend it.

They also objected to the loss of representation and urged a return to the District Council draft scheme which provided a total of three councillors for the area instead of the two in the draft proposals.

At the meeting, these points were emphasised by representatives from the three parishes and by the District Council. Other points made were that the St. Minvers were in the Wadebridge school catchment area and St. Endellion in the Camelford catchment area; that the main interests (apart from tourism) in St. Endellion were centred on fishing whereas the St. Minvers were more geared to agriculture and had a considerable proportion of retired or second-home inhabitants; and that the St. Minvers seemed more likely to achieve growth in the future than St. Endellion.

At one stage the possibility of associating the parish of St. Kew with St. Endellion was somewhat half-heartedly canvassed, but this suggestion was not developed or supported, and clearly the impact on the Allan ward or the parish of St. Mabyn would have to be considered very carefully if this line were to be followed up. I did not sense sufficient support for this proposal to justify following it up in depth.

However, the possibility of associating St. Minver Highlands with St. Endellion to return one councillor, leaving St. Minver Lowlands to return one councillor also was seriously canvassed in the general discussion of the problem which developed at the meeting. It was clear that if the right solution was for two separate wards each returning one councillor this division would be likely to produce a numerically acceptable representation. I did not feel that those present were in a position to offer comments as to the acceptability of this (or indeed of other possible solutions, other than a return to the District Council draft scheme) within the parishes, and accordingly invited the councils concerned, to offer comments to me in writing within three weeks of the meeting.

St. Minver Lowlands subsequently wrote re-iterating their original views but, subject to that, accepting the suggestion that the parish should be a separate ward, and they were supported also by Mr. Lander, District Council representative for the two St. Minvers by whom the suggestion had originally been made at the meeting. St. Minver Highlands wrote opposing the idea in the strongest terms. St. Endellion did not specifically refer to the suggestion though by implication they rejected it and put forward the alternative suggestion, confirmed at a public meeting, that St. Endellion should return one member and the St. Minvers another.

Numerically this is a less satisfactory solution, though in putting it forward St. Endellion claim that the District Council figures are already out of date and suspect, and that the St. Minver Lowlands figure was inevitably inflated by the number of second homes, the voters of which spent very little time in the area and could not be said to represent the community, having already a vote elsewhere.

In considering the somewhat intractable problems of this area I came to the conclusion in the first place that on the general grounds already dealt with in this report the area should be represented by two councillors as in the draft proposals and not by three as in the District Council's draft scheme. The question then is whether it should remain a two-member ward as proposed or be divided into two wards each returning one councillor; if the latter what should be the boundaries of the two wards.

There can be no doubt that numerically the draft proposals provide the best solution, but I am satisfied that the concentrations of population at opposite ends of the proposed ward around Rock and Polzeath in the West, and Port Isaac and Port Gaverne in the East, with their differing interests, together with the reduction from three to two councillors, have created a genuine and perhaps not unjustifiable fear that the interests of the St. Endellion portion of the ward could well go unrepresented. If therefore a reasonable division can be made, two separate wards each returning one councillor would in my view be preferable. The proposal to join St. Minver Highlands with St. Endellion is numerically acceptable, but on other grounds is not acceptable to St. Minver Highlands and clearly not welcomed by St. Endellion. From the representations made to me and from my own inspection, I do not think this is a solution which should be adopted. The St. Minvers have much in common, and this proposal would divide them while still retaining in one ward the differences between them and St. Endellion, though with different and less satisfactory numerical implications for St. Minver Highlands. The St. Endellion proposal is less satisfactory numerically; St. Minver Highlands and Lowlands together would have a 1980 'entitlement' of 1.37 with one councillor and St. Endellion would also elect one councillor with an 'entitlement' of only 0.66. However, it is a solution clearly acceptable to St. Endellion and I do not think it should be wholly unacceptable to the St. Minvers; if it is not acceptable to them this in itself may be something of a justification for the present fears of St. Endellion. Superficially at least, this area presents problems which have much in common with those of the Padstow - St. Merryn area on the other side of the Camel estuary. Each has three existing parishes or wards but in total electorate can only justify two members; in neither case can a combination of parishes and wards numerically provide a satisfactory division of the area into two parts each returning one member, except by an artificial separation of areas already having close links with each other. I have already recommended the combination of Padstow and St. Merryn in one two-member ward and logic would suggest that the similar solution in the draft proposals for a two-member St. Endellion and St. Minver ward should be supported on the same grounds.

I have already indicated that my recommendation for Padstow and St. Merryn, though firm, was on the balance of advantage. In the St. Endellion and St. Minver area I would feel concerned if the markedly separate interests of St. Endellion were not to be sure of representation, in spite of the numerically unsatisfactory result of making the parish a separate ward, and for this reason consider that the balance of advantage is against a two-member ward here. On balance, therefore, I recommend that the proposed St. Endellion and St. Minver Ward should be split into two wards, the St. Endellion ward, consisting of the parish of St. Endellion, and the St. Minver ward, consisting of the parishes of St. Minver Highlands and St. Minver Lowlands, each ward returning one councillor.

Bude and Poughill Ward

Bude - Stratton Town Council had objected to the reduction from four councillors at present to three in the draft proposals and at the meeting supported these objections on the grounds that the figures used were too conservative; they also referred to the differences between the commercial interests in Bude and the pre-eminently residential character of Poughill, suggesting that Poughill was unlikely to obtain any kind of direct representation.

On the question of electorate figures Mr. Coombes, the District Council's Planning and Development Officer, agreed that more houses were being built in this area than elsewhere, though he referred to a sewage embargo at present operating in Bude and to the difficulties being experienced at the present time by some building firms, as well as to restrictions on expenditure. In his view there was no great likelihood of the projected electorate figures being exceeded. Mr. Anderson, Clerk of the Bude - Stratton Town Council suggested the projected figure should be 4450 instead of 4388. I am not persuaded that any of the arguments advanced against the draft proposals are of sufficient strength to justify an alteration and I recommend no action.

Tintagel and Lesnewth Wards

Tintagel Parish Council suggested that the parish of Trevalga should be in the Lesnewth ward because of its traditional links with Boscastle (in the parish of Forrabury and Minster). All the parishes concerned were represented at the meeting and readily agreed with the Tintagel Parish Council's suggestion. My own inspection confirmed the desirability of this proposal, and as the Trevalga electorate of 53 would not significantly alter the ward entitlements I recommend this transfer be made.

Bodmin Town Council

The Town Council desire to retain the name Bodmin in the title of their wards and are supported by the District Council. There appear to be no objections and I therefore recommend that the St. Mary's and St. Petroc's wards in the draft proposals be re-named Bodmin St. Mary's and Bodmin St. Petroc's respectively.

Launceston Town Council

The Town Council had commented that they were "fully in agreement with" the draft proposals, which they felt were in line with their earlier forthright criticisms of the District Council's draft scheme. At the meeting, however, Councillor A.D.H. Buckingham, a member of the District Council, and this year Mayor of Launceston, urged that Launceston should not be divided, but should be a four-member ward. He argued that the Town, divided in the past by differing loyalties, would benefit from the unification which a single ward would bring about and that the River Kensey was no longer a boundary "in the hearts of the people of Launceston". The circumstances were sufficiently exceptional to permit a ward in this case with more than three members.

As no prior notice had been given of any change of attitude on the part of the Town Council, I asked that if there was not already a minute to this effect, the views of the Town Council might be officially recorded and notified to me. I later received a letter from the Town Clerk confirming that a meeting had subsequently been held at which the representations made by Councillor Buckingham had been formally adopted. The letter supported the reasons already advanced, and added that uncertainties about the location of expected future development in the Town (in which they were supported by the Planning and Development Officer of the District Council) reinforced the case for not warding the Town.

The letter added that if the Commission insisted on warding they wished the boundary line not to be as in the draft proposals, but to follow the line shown in the map they submitted.

Though I have some sympathy with the motives and intentions behind the desire for a single four-member ward for the whole Town, I cannot accept that the circumstances in Launceston are so exceptional as to warrant a departure from the guidelines followed by the Commission. There are no difficulties in defining ward boundaries, the alleged difficulties of representation are liable to occur in any urban area where boundary lines are drawn, and the essential unity of a Town is not detrimentally affected by separate representation of its different parts.

If, therefore, division into wards is required, the merits of the alternative boundaries suggested must be considered. The draft proposals follow the line of the river Kensey, a line which is geographically acceptable and one which corresponds with certain natural and historical divisions. Although the total representation of the North and South wards together of four members is numerically satisfactory, however, there would be on 1980 forecast figures an unsatisfactory discrepancy between the representation of the two wards. With regard to the new boundary suggested by the Town Council (as in Appendix B), there was of course at the time of the meeting no challenge to the boundary in the draft proposals (except that it should not exist at all) and I therefore, had no occasion to inspect either route. However, a close examination of the map together with a general appreciation of the nature and geography of the town, suggests that such a boundary may well be a satisfactory line (though one may be forgiven, perhaps, for wondering whether, for example, the Chapple Park Estate to the South West of the Town Centre and St. Stephens to the Northwest have much in common). The suggested boundary divides the present electorate almost exactly equally; the estimate given by the Town Council is 2097 for the North ward and 2087 for the South ward. The boundary is clearly acceptable to the Town Council on the basis of two members for each ward, and I have since ascertained that the District Council would be prepared to put through the necessary review procedure to establish the new line. The projected figures for 1980 are not available, presumably for the reasons given about the uncertain location of future development, but if this should create major discrepancies in the future these could doubtless be corrected at the next review.

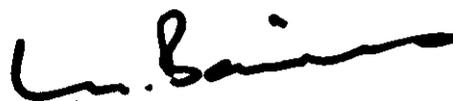
In all the circumstances, though I cannot recommend a single four-member ward, I recommend that Launceston be divided into two wards, North ward and South ward, each returning two members, along the boundary suggested by the Town Council and accepted by the District Council.

With the exception of Morwenstow and Kilkhampton I inspected on 15th and 16th June all the areas of the North Cornwall District directly or indirectly affected by representations & comments on the draft proposals. I was also able from various vantage points to assess the general character of both these and the remaining areas of the District. I was accompanied on 16th June by the Chief Executive Officer, the Planning and Development Officer, and Senior Administrative Assistant of the District to whose careful thought and planning of my route I was much indebted.

Summary of Recommendations

Arising from the meeting and from my inspections, as well as from the material and comments subsequently submitted at my request, I recommend:-

- (i) That, except where changes or amendments are specifically recommended below, the areas and names of wards and the number of representatives to be returned for each ward be as set out in the draft proposals of the Commission.
- (ii) That in particular no change be made to the draft proposals as they affect the Grenville, Penfound and Week St. Mary wards, the Stoke Climsland and Altarnum wards and the Bude and Poughill ward.
- (iii) That the proposed Padstow and St. Merryn wards, consisting of the parishes of Padstow and St. Merryn, be combined in one ward to be named Padstow and St. Merryn to return two members.
- (iv) That the parish of Egloshayle be transferred from the proposed Allan ward to the proposed Wadebridge ward.
- (v) That the proposed St. Endellion and St. Minver ward be divided into two wards, the St. Endellion ward consisting of the parish of St. Endellion, and the St. Minver ward, consisting of the parishes of St. Minver Highlands and St. Minver Lowlands, each ward to return one member.
- (vi) That the parish of Trevalga be transferred from the proposed Tintagel ward to the proposed Lesnewth ward.
- (vii) That the names of the proposed St. Mary's and St. Petroc's wards be amended to Bodmin St. Mary's and Bodmin St. Petroc's respectively.
- (viii) That the boundary between Launceston North and Launceston South wards be amended as shown on the plan accompanying this report and described in Annex 'B' and that each ward return two members.



Assistant Boundary Commissioner

A N N E X 'A'

LOCAL MEETING HELD AT CAMELFORD - THURSDAY 17TH JUNE, 1976

ATTENDANCE LIST

NAMES AND ADDRESSES	REPRESENTING
I. WHITING, PRIORY HOUSE, BODMIN	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NORTH CORNWALL DISTRICT COUNCIL
F.B.J. COOMBES, 3-5 BARN LANE, BODMIN	PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, NORTH CORNWALL DISTRICT COUNCIL
M.R.A. ARMSTRONG, PRIORY HOUSE, BODMIN	SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NORTH CORNWALL DISTRICT COUNCIL
J.D. COOPER, COUNTY HALL, TRURO	CORNWALL COUNTY COUNCIL
D.B. GRIPE, COUNTY HALL, TRURO	CORNWALL COUNTY COUNCIL
A.J. BALL, LUXSTOWE HOUSE, LISKEARD	CARADON DISTRICT COUNCIL
HARVEY LANDER, ROCK ROAD, ST. MINVER, WADEBRIDGE	ST. MINVER HIGHLANDS AND ST. MINVER LOWLANDS PARISH COUNCIL
RICHARD H. BLAKE, LILOMA, MENEFREDA WAY, ST. MINVER, WADEBRIDGE	ST. MINVER HIGHLANDS PARISH COUNCIL
I. LORD, 13 MARKET PLACE, CAMELFORD	CAMELFORD TOWN COUNCIL
A. BUCKINGHAM, 26 CHURCH STREET, LAUNCESTON	LAUNCESTON TOWN COUNCIL AND LAUNCESTON WARD

NAMES AND ADDRESSES

REPRESENTING

E. R. J. MARTIN,
32 TAVISTOCK ROAD,
LAUNCESTON

LAUNCESTON TOWN COUNCIL AND
LAUNCESTON WARD

J. A. KENT,
138 HIGH STREET,
DELABOLE

CHAIRMAN, NORTH CORNWALL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

R. D. NANCEKIVELL,
HERDACOTT,
KILKHAMPTON,
BUDE

KILKHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

JOHN L. WALTER,
BOTTABOROUGH FARM,
MORWENSTOW,
BUDE

MORWENSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

A. G. HOBBS,
LEE BARTON,
MORWENSTOW,
BUDE

MORWENSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

MARK OLDE,
ROCK-MOOR,
BOSCASTLE

FORRABURY AND MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

R. H. PETHICK,
TREWEENS,
TREVALGA,
BOSCASTLE

CHAIRMAN, TREVALGA PARISH MEETING

BARBARA M. B. MELBOURNE,
161 KINSMAN ESTATE,
BODMIN

BODMIN TOWN COUNCIL

ELIZABETH A. UGLOW,
TRECARNE COTTAGE,
DELABOLE

ST. TEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MARGARET M. WINSTANLEY,
SPARNAL STITCH,
TREWINT LANE,
ST. MINVER,
WADEBRIDGE

ST. ENDELLION PARISH COUNCIL

L. W. HEAD,
GLUVIAN,
TREVONE,
PADSTOW

PADSTOW AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NAMES AND ADDRESSES

REPRESENTING

F.R.J. BAGLEY,
GULLS CRY,
HOMER PARK ROAD,
TREVONE,
PADSTOW

PADSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

R.J.L. HOSKIN,
ROWE,
ST. BREWARD

ST. BREWARD PARISH COUNCIL

D.M. HANNAFORD,
MAYFORD,
LIMEHEAD,
ST. BREWARD

ST. BREWARD PARISH COUNCIL

G.M. GRUBB,
MORLAN,
TREVONE,
PADSTOW

TREVONE W.I.

MRS. M.R. BENNETT,
BROOMFIELD,
TREVONE,
PADSTOW

TREVONE W.I.

B.V. STONE,
BAY VIEW,
TREVONE,
PADSTOW

TREVONE W.I.

EDWIN STANBURY,
IVYLEAF FARM,
STRATTON,
BUDE

KILKHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

H. NORTHCOTT,
BELAH PARK,
OTTERHAM,
CAMELFORD

LESNEWTH PARISH COUNCIL

W.J. DAWE,
PENNANT FARM,
ST. ENDELLION,
PORT ISAAC

ST. ENDELLION PARISH COUNCIL

MRS. B. STANLEY,
GARDEN COTTAGE,
TREBURRICK,
ST. EVAL,
WADEBRIDGE

ST. EVAL PARISH COUNCIL

NAMES AND ADDRESSES

REPRESENTING

**M.G. COLWING,
PENROSE,
ST. ISSEY,
WADEBRIDGE**

CHAIRMAN, ST. ISSEY PARISH COUNCIL

**J.M. BREWER,
TREWING,
ST. ISSEY,
WADEBRIDGE**

**ST. ISSEY PARISH COUNCIL
RUMFORD WARD**

**M.A. GRIGG,
11 NEW STREET,
PADSTOW**

PADSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

**K.D. ANDERSON,
THE CASTLE
BUDE**

BUDE-STRATTON TOWN COUNCIL

A N N E X 'B'

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED BOUNDARY BETWEEN LAUNCESTON NORTH
AND LAUNCESTON SOUTH WARDS

Commencing at a point on the A30 road at the western boundary of the former Borough of Launceston east of Tresmarrow, proceeding in an easterly direction to Pennygillam Crossroads, thence in a north-easterly direction along Western Road to Guildhall Square, thence north along St. Thomas Road to the junction with Wooda Road, proceeding along Wooda Road and Dockacre Road to junction with the A30, thence due east along the A30 to the eastern boundary of the former Borough at Polson Bridge.

DISTRICT OF NORTH CORNWALL : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND
NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
ALLAN	1
ALTARNUN	1
BODMIN ST MARYS	3
BODMIN ST PETROC	3
BUDE AND POUGHILL	3
CAMELFORD	1
GRENVILLE	1
LANIVET	1
LAUNCESTON NORTH	2
LAUNCESTON SOUTH	2
LESNEWT	1
NORTH PETHERWIN	1
OTTERY	1
PADSTOW AND ST MERRYN	2
PENFOUND	1
RUMFORD	1
ST BREWARD	1
ST ENDELLION	1
ST MINVER	1
ST TEATH	1
SOUTH PETHERWIN	1
STOKECLIMSLAND	1
STRATTON	1
TINTAGEL	1
TRIGG	1
WADEBRIDGE	3
WEEK ST MARY	1

NORTH CORNWALL DISTRICT - DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT WARDS

ALLAN WARD

The parishes of St Kew

St Mabyn

ALTARNUN WARD

The parishes of Altarnun

Lewannick

North Hill

BODMIN ST MARY'S WARD

The Bodmin St Mary's Ward of the parish of Bodmin

BODMIN ST PETROC WARD

The Bodmin St Petroc Ward of the parish of Bodmin

BUDE AND POUGHILL WARD

The Bude

Poughill Wards of the parish of Bude-Stratton

CAMELFORD WARD

The parishes of Advent

Camelford

GRENVILLE WARD

The parishes of Kilkhampton

Launcells

Morwenstow

LANIVET WARD

The parishes of Lanivet

Withiel

LAUNCESTON NORTH WARD

The Launceston North Ward of the parish of Launceston

LAUNCESTON SOUTH WARD

The Launceston South Ward of the parish of Launceston

LESNEWTH WARD

The parishes of Davidstow

Forrabury and Minster

Lesnewth

Otterham

St Clether

St Juliot

Trevalga

NORTH PETHERWIN WARD

The parishes of Boyton

North Petherwin

St Stephens by Launceston Rural

Werrington

OTTERY WARD

The parishes of Egloskerry

Laneast

Tremaine

Treneglos

Tresmeer

Trewen

Warbstow

PADSTOW AND ST MERRYIN WARD

The parishes of Padstow

St Merryn

PENFOUND WARD

The parishes of Jacobstow

Poundstock

St Gennys

RUMFORD WARD

The parishes of St Ervan

St Eval

St Issey

ST BREWARD WARD

The parishes of Michaelstow

St Breward

St Tudy

ST ENDELLION WARD

The parish of St Endellion

ST MINVER WARD

The parishes of St Minver Highlands

St Minver Lowlands

ST TEATH WARD

The parish of St Teath

SOUTH PETHERWIN WARD

The parishes of Lawhitton Rural

St Thomas the Apostle Rural

South Petherwin

STOKECLIMSLAND WARD

The parishes of Lezant

Stokeclimsland

STRATTON WARD

The Stratton Ward of the parish of Bude-Stratton

TINTAGEL WARD

The parish of Tintagel

TRIGG WARD

The parishes of Blisland

Cardinham

Helland

Lanhydrock

WADEBRIDGE WARD

The parishes of Egloshayle

St Breock

Wadebridge

WEEK ST MARY WARD

The parishes of Marhamchurch

North Tamerton

Week St Mary

Whitstone

