

Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No.179

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 179

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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Mr T C Benfield.

Professor Michael Chisholm.

Sir Andrew Wheatley, CBE.

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

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT  
OF BROMSGROVE IN THE COUNTY OF HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the District of Bromsgrove 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 the 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 Bromsgrove District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Hereford and Worcester County Council, the Member of Parliament for the constituency concerned, the parish councils in the district and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and to 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. Bromsgrove District Council were invited to prepare a draft scheme of representation for our consideration. In doing so, they were asked to observe the rules laid down in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 and the guidelines which we set out in our Report No. 6 about the proposed size of the council and the proposed number of councillors for each ward. They were asked also to take into account any views expressed to them following their consultation with local interests.

We therefore asked that they should publish details of their provisional proposals about a month before they submitted their draft scheme to us, thus allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. The District Council have not exercised an option in accordance with section 7(4) of the Local Government Act 1972. The provisions of section 7(6) of the Act, which provide for a system of whole council elections, will therefore apply.

5. On 29 May 1975 Bromsgrove District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the District into 19 wards, each returning 1, 2 or 3 councillors, to form a council of 41 members.

6. We considered the District Council's draft scheme together with the comments which had been made on it. These included proposals affecting a number of wards made by a political party; proposals affecting two wards from another political party; a suggestion from Alvechurch Parish Council that the whole of the parish of Alvechurch should constitute a separate district ward; and a number of suggestions for new ward names.

7. In considering the draft scheme we noted that the standard of equality of representation on the basis of current electorates was somewhat uneven, but that, as the growth in the electorate forecast by the District Council progressed, a better standard of representation was achieved. We noted that the Council had recommended in the draft scheme that the proposed Uffdown ward should be represented by three councillors, although they had also put forward a suggestion for its division into two wards, returning a total of five councillors, in the event of large-scale

development in the ward being at an advanced stage by 1980. We decided, in view of the uncertainty about the forecast electorates, to accept the Council's suggestion for a single 3-member ward. We considered the possibility of adjusting the boundaries of two wards with a view to achieving a better standard of representation but concluded that there was nothing suitable which we could propose.

8. We reviewed the comments which had been made on the draft scheme. Where these proposed alterations to the boundaries of wards or to the representation of wards, we noted that in general the standard of equality of representation would be worsened and accordingly we decided to reject them. We concluded that none of the suggested new ward names was to be preferred to those in the draft scheme.

9. We understood that it was the County Council's intention, when the county electoral arrangements were reviewed, to propose the representation of the District of Bromsgrove by thirteen county councillors. We recognised that, on this basis, it might not be possible to achieve total compatibility between the boundaries of the proposed wards and future county electoral divisions. We noted, however, that there were major uncertainties about the future shape of the county electoral arrangements. In the circumstances, we decided that, although as a matter of policy it was important, wherever there was a local desire for it, to try to achieve compatibility between district and county electoral arrangements, there were at this time no steps which could reasonably be taken to ensure that end.

10. We decided that the Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future electoral arrangements of the district in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines and we resolved to adopt it as our draft proposals.

11. On 28 November 1975 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the Council's draft scheme. The Council were asked to make these draft proposals and the accompanying maps which defined the proposed ward boundaries available for inspection at their main offices. Representations on our draft proposals were invited from those to whom they were circulated and, by public notices, from other members of the public and interested bodies. We asked that any comments should reach us by 30 January 1976.

12. We understood from Bromsgrove District Council that they had no comments to make on our draft proposals.

13. The local political party which had previously made representations submitted proposals, some of which were different from those made earlier, affecting several wards. The other political party reiterated their suggestions relating to two wards. Alvechurch Parish Council reaffirmed their request for the whole of the parish to form a separate district ward. The Hereford and Worcester County Council informed us that it would be difficult for them to draw up county electoral divisions consistent with the boundaries of the proposed wards or a combination of those wards and that this would be likely to cause confusion to the electorate.

14. In view of the objections we considered 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 D B F P Leigh was appointed an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

15. The Assistant Commissioner held a local meeting at Bromsgrove on 23 September 1976. A copy of his report to us of the meeting, without enclosures, is attached as Schedule 1 to this report.

16. The Assistant Commissioner recommended that our draft proposals should be modified only by the division of the proposed Stoke Prior ward into two wards each returning one councillor.

17. We considered again our draft proposals in the light of the comments which we had received and of the Assistant Commissioner's report. We decided that the modification recommended by the Assistant Commissioner should be adopted and that the new wards should be named Stoke Prior and Tardebigge. Subject to this change we decided to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

18. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedule 2 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. The boundaries of the new wards are defined on the maps.

PUBLICATION

19. 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 Bromsgrove District Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed wards, as defined on the maps, is set out in Schedule 3 to this report.

L.S.

Signed

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

DIANA ALBEMARLE

T C BENFIELD

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

ANDREW WHEATLEY

N DIGNEY (SECRETARY)

4 November 1976

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

DISTRICT OF BROMSGROVE

REPORT OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Assistant Commissioner:

Mr. D.B.F.P. Leigh

Date of Meeting:

23rd September 1976

File No:

LGBC/D/18/2

1.1 On the 23rd September 1976 I held a meeting at the Council Offices, Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, to hear representations on the draft proposals published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for the electoral arrangements for the District of Bromsgrove.

1.2 Later the same day I visited areas discussed at the meeting.

1.3 A list showing the names and addresses of those attending the meeting and the interests they represented is attached. (Document 1)

Alternative Scheme - Bromsgrove and Redditch  
Divisional Liberal Association

2.1 Commission's Proposals

The Commission's proposals provide for the division of the district into 19 wards returning a total of 41 Councillors.

2.2 Representations

On the morning of the meeting I was handed a letter dated 19th September 1976 from the Secretary of the Bromsgrove and Redditch Divisional Liberal Association (Document 2) explaining that it was not possible for him or any other member of his Association to attend in order to put their point of view on the warding of the Bromsgrove District. The letter referred to the Association's objections and the proposals which were set out in detail in correspondence with the Commission ending with the Secretary's letter of the 25th February 1976. In brief, the Association accepted the Commission's proposals for eleven of the proposed wards viz.

Alvechurch  
 Beacon  
 Charford  
 Cofton Hackett  
 Drakes Cross  
 Majors Green  
 Sidemoor  
 South Wythall  
 Waseley  
 Whitford

Other arrangements were suggested to replace the following proposed wards:

Barnt Green  
 Catshill  
 Furlongs  
 Hagley  
 Uffdown  
 Woodvale

New names were proposed for the Norton Ward (to be called 'Burcot') and the Stoney Hill Ward (to be called 'Fringe Green') and the 19 wards into which the district was to be divided were to return a total of 45 councillors. The Hagley Ward, as proposed by the Association, would include part of the parish of Clent and the District Council was requested to make an order to ward the parish accordingly.

2.3 Mr. G.F. Badham, Chief Executive Officer, Bromsgrove District Council said that the Council did not agree with the division of the parish of Clent into wards and had no intention of making an order for this purpose. I was handed a letter dated the 21st September 1976 (Document 3) from the Clerk to the Clent Parish Council stating that the Parish Council strongly objected to any alteration to the scheme approved by the District Council. With regard to the suggestion for re-naming Norton Ward, he considered that 'Burcot' was inappropriate as this area was mostly outside the Ward, whereas Norton was roughly at its centre. As to Stoney Hill Ward, the suggested alternative 'Fringe Green' referred to a little populated area and would not be a suitable name for the ward. Generally, the District Council did not regard the Association's alternative scheme as an improvement on the Commission's proposals, which they supported.

2.4 The Commission's proposed Uffdown Ward consisted of the parishes of Romsley, Frankley and Hunnington and returned 3 councillors. Mr. Badham drew attention to the revised forecast of the electorate for this ward, shown on the table submitted (Document 4) which predicted the 1980 electorate for Uffdown Ward as 7911 instead of 7471 in the earlier forecast, an increase of 440. This made it desirable to look again at an earlier variant solution put forward by the District Council which provided for one ward comprising the parishes of Romsley and Hunnington returning 2 councillors and a second ward consisting of the parish of Frankley returning 3 councillors. This would result in a district council

of 43 members. A note of a telephone message from the Clerk of the Romsley Parish Council stating that the Romsley and Frankley Parish Councils supported the revised proposal was handed in.

(Document 5) Mr. R.D. Gurney, Senior Planning Officer, Bromsgrove District Council, said that the reason for the revised forecast for Uffdown Ward was that since mid-1975 contracts had been let more rapidly than expected for housing in the area although recently there had been some slippage.

2.5 Mr. J. Hasler, Social Services Department, Hereford and Worcester County Council, said that he was the community worker for the new development at Frankley and referred to his note (Document 6) The development straddled two wards, Uffdown and Waseley. He suggested that the portion in Waseley Ward should be taken into Uffdown Ward at any rate for the time being. A plan showing the area concerned is enclosed. (Document 7) Mr. Badham said that some 361 houses would be affected and that the result of the alteration proposed by Mr. Hasler would be to add 794 to the 1980 electorate of Uffdown and to reduce that of Waseley by an equal amount.

### 3.1 Assessment

In considering the Bromsgrove and Redditch Divisional Liberal Association's scheme it is necessary to look at the position, in terms of equality of representation, that would exist if it were adopted. This is reflected in the following table of entitlements.

|    | <u>Ward</u>                   | <u>Councillors</u> | <u>1975</u><br><u>Entitlement</u> |     | <u>1980</u><br><u>Entitlement</u> |     |
|----|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1  | Alvechurch                    | 3                  | 3.60                              | (U) | 3.03                              |     |
| 2  | Beacon                        | 2                  | 2.39                              | (M) | 2.01                              |     |
| 3  | Burcot (Norton)               | 3                  | 2.81                              |     | 2.90                              |     |
| 4  | Catshill                      | 3                  | 2.68                              | (G) | 2.52                              | (G) |
| 5  | Charford                      | 2                  | 2.23                              |     | 2.35                              | (M) |
| 6  | Cofton Hackett                | 1                  | 1.18                              |     | 0.99                              |     |
| 7  | Drakes Cross                  | 3                  | 3.49                              | (M) | 3.41                              | (M) |
| 8  | Frankley                      | 3                  | 0.08                              | (O) | 2.72                              |     |
| 9  | Fringe Green<br>(Stoney Hill) | 2                  | 2.60                              | (U) | 2.31                              | (M) |
| 10 | Hagley                        | 3                  | 3.41                              | (M) | 2.87                              |     |
| 11 | Lickey                        | 3                  | 3.27                              |     | 2.67                              | (G) |
| 12 | Majors Green                  | 1                  | 1.12                              |     | 0.94                              |     |
| 13 | Sidemoor                      | 3                  | 3.79                              | (U) | 3.19                              |     |
| 14 | South Wythall                 | 1                  | 1.48                              | (M) | 1.24                              |     |
| 15 | Stoke Prior                   | 2                  | 2.43                              | (M) | 2.05                              |     |
| 16 | Uffdown                       | 3                  | 2.11                              | (O) | 2.94                              |     |
| 17 | Waseley                       | 2                  | 1.81                              |     | 2.03                              |     |
| 18 | Whitford                      | 3                  | 2.46                              | (O) | 3.08                              |     |
| 19 | Woodvale                      | 2                  | 2.07                              |     | 1.75                              |     |

In this table

U means under represented

M means Meagrely represented

G means generously represented

O means over represented.

Although most of the inequalities are on the 1975 figures, it will be seen that on the 1980 figures there would still be five wards (Catshill, Charford, Drakes Cross, Fringe Green and Lickey) where the entitlement would be unsatisfactory.

3.2 Paragraph 3(2)(b) of Schedule 11 of the Local Government Act, 1972 requires, in effect, that a district ward shall not include a part of a parish unless that part is a properly constituted ward for parish electoral purposes. The warding of the parish of Clent, part of which, under the Association's scheme, would be included in their Uffdown Ward, would require an order to be made under section 50(4) of the 1972 Act. The District Council do not intend to make such an order and this part of the Association's scheme cannot, therefore, be implemented at present. The Clent Parish Council strongly object to the proposal.

3.3 The alternative names suggested for Norton Ward (Burcot) and Stoney Hill Ward (Fringe Green) received no support at the meeting and were opposed by the District Council. The same applies to the further suggestions for re-naming Stoney Hill Ward (Broome, Aston Fields or Newton) mentioned in the Association's letter of the 19th September 1976 (Document 2). While accepting the difficulty of finding wholly suitable names for the two wards in question, I have no reason to think that the Association's suggestions would be more acceptable than Norton and Stoney Hill.

3.4 Because of its effect on equality of representation the Association's scheme appears to me to be unacceptable. That part of the scheme which affects Uffdown Ward fails for the reason mentioned in 3.2 above. The alternative names suggested for Norton and Stoney Hill Wards do not seem to be <sup>as</sup> suitable as the present names. Accordingly I

RECOMMEND that the proposals of the Bromsgrove and  
 Redditch Divisional Liberal Association  
 be not adopted

3.5

The District Council have suggested that arrangements for Uffdown Ward be looked at again in the light of their revised forecast of the 1980 electorate (Document 4) Their original forecast for this ward which returns 3 councillors was 7471; the revised forecast is 7911, an increase of 440. The alternative suggestion divides Uffdown Ward into two wards, in the following way:

| <u>Parishes</u>      | <u>Councillors</u> | <u>1980<br/>Electorate</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Romsley & Hunnington | 2                  | 3549                       |
| Frankley             | 3                  | 4362                       |

raising the size of the Council from 41 to 43 members.

Since the 1975 electorate of Uffdown was only 1813, it will be apparent that an increase in the electorate of this ward by a factor of about 4.12 was originally forecast by the District Council and that this factor becomes about 4.36 on the revised forecast. These expectations depend on the rate of house completions over the next few years and in view of the difficulty of making accurate predictions of this kind and the scale of increase involved it would appear premature to form any firm conclusions about the division of Uffdown Ward at this stage, irrespective of the merits of the District Council's alternative.

3.6

Mr. Hasler's suggestion for the inclusion of part of Waseley Ward in Uffdown would add an estimated 794 to the Uffdown electorate in 1980 and reduce that of Waseley Ward by an equal number. This would worsen the equality of representation of both wards, making the proposed Waseley Ward particularly unsatisfactory with an entitlement in 1980 of 1.36 for 2 councillors.

From the point of view of equality of representation Mr. Hasler's suggestion would produce an unacceptable result but I feel that his point about the homogeneity of the Frankley development may merit further study if the growth of the Uffdown Ward comes near to the District Council's expectations. It would in that event be appropriate to consider it in the context of the District Council's proposal for splitting Uffdown into two wards.

#### Charford Ward

##### 4.1 Commission's Proposals

Under the Commission's proposals Charford Ward will be represented by 2 councillors.

##### 4.2 Representations

Mr. R. Pinfold, Secretary/Agent Bromsgrove and Redditch Constituency Labour Party said that although major changes in the Commission's proposals had been considered, it had been decided to pursue only two matters. The first of these was that Charford Ward should be represented by 3 instead of 2 councillors.

Mr. T. Port representing the same interest, said that their proposal was made because they expected the rate of completion of the District Council's housing estate in the ward to exceed what had been forecast. The District Council had allowed for the completion of Phase I by 1980, but if, as they believed probable, Phase II were also to be built, the 1980 prediction for the ward electorate (3479) should be increased by about 500 to, say, 3979. This would be too large for a 2 member ward. He understood that Phase II could proceed earlier than originally supposed because an alternative means of access had been agreed upon. He did not accept that there would be any great delay in providing this.

4.3

Mr. G.F. Badham, Chief Executive Officer, Bromsgrove

District Council agreed that there had been a change in the access arrangements at first planned but the new access was dependent on the prior completion of a road improvement. Department of the Environment Circular 86/74 gave rise to doubt as to whether money would be available for the improvement and even as to the rate at which the house building would proceed. Even if, contrary to expectation, Phase II were completed by 1980, no great inequality of representation would occur. Mr. J. Sowden, Deputy Surveyor, Bromsgrove District Council, believed that no detailed plans for the road improvements had been prepared and that it would take at least 2 years for them to be completed. They would be carried out by the County Council as agents of the Department of the Environment for the A38 Trunk Road but so far as he knew they were not in any highway programme.

Mr. A.H. Chattin, Councillor, Bromsgrove District Council said that if the Labour Party proposal were accepted it would upset the balance of representation worked out by the District Council. If Charford were given an extra councillor other wards, such as Hagley, would be dissatisfied and would also want increased representation. A third councillor for Charford Ward would be too much even on the higher estimate of the 1980 electorate. Moreover it was unlikely that Phase II would be built before then. The District Council had not decided what types of housing should be provided.

4.4

#### Assessment

The District Council's latest forecast (Document 4) puts the 1980 electorate of the Charford Ward at 3507. The increase of 28 over the earlier estimate is not significant, however, and the argument for an additional councillor for this ward still depends

on whether the expectation that Phase II of the District Council's housing development will be substantially completed by 1980 is correct or not. It is not possible to say with certainty which prediction is right but in view of the present financial restrictions the District Council's view may well be the more realistic. Assuming, on the contrary, that Phase II is built by 1980, that the electorate rises to 3979 and allowing for the effect of an additional councillor on the entitlements for the rest of the wards in the district, the 1980 entitlement for Charford Ward would be 2.48. The ward would thus have a very generous standard of representation and if Phase II is not in fact built the inequality would be even more marked. By comparison the 1980 entitlement for the 2 councillor ward, assuming a population of 3479 is 2.13. On balance I think that it would be unwise to increase the number of councillors for the ward at this stage and I

RECOMMEND that the Commission's proposals for the  
Charford Ward remain unaltered.

## Stoke Prior Ward

### 5.1 Commission's Proposals

Under the Commission's proposals Stoke Prior Ward comprises the three parishes of Stoke Prior, Bentley Pauncefoot and Tutnall and Cobley and returns two district councillors.

### 5.2 Representations

Mr. R. Pinfold, Secretary/Agent, Bromsgrove and Redditch Constituency Labour Party said that their proposal, which had a wide measure of local support, was for the division of Stoke Prior Ward into two single member wards constituted as follows:

Ward 1 The parishes of Bentley Pauncefoot and Tutnall and Cobley and the Finstall Ward of the parish of Stoke Prior

Ward 2 Stoke Prior Ward and Stoke Works Ward of the parish of Stoke Prior.

Ward 2 was a unified area. When a review of parish boundaries took place the Finstall Ward of the parish of Stoke Prior, which was different in character, should be included in the parish of Tutnall and Cobley.

Mr. L.R. Eveson, Stoke Prior Parish Council, supported the proposal.

Ward 1 was predominantly rural and Ward 2 industrial in character. The two wards had different geographical features.

Mr. E.G. Tallis, Stoke Prior Parish Council, agreed. The dividing line between the parish wards of Stoke Prior and Finstall was at the Aston Fields housing development. The proposal would bring the electorate together. Mr. W.S. Hood Stoke Prior Parish Council, differed. Stoke Prior parish was historically one unit and the canal, now used for recreation, ran right along the boundary of the parish. Two district councillors could better represent the ward as a whole and prevent it being despoiled.

5.3 Mr. G.F. Badham, Chief Executive Officer, Bromsgrove District Council, said that although the District Council might wish to build in the proposed Stoke Prior Ward the Green Belt restrictions made it unlikely that they would be able to do so, The Canal ran right through the ward but was crossed by bridges. Mr. A.H.Chattin Councillor, Bromsgrove District Council agreed and said that it was uncertain whether further housing would be built in the proposed Stoke Prior Ward.

I asked what ward names were suggested for Wards 1 and 2. For Ward 1 the names "Finstall" and "Tardebigge" received equal support with perhaps a shade of preference for the latter. Ward 2 would be called 'Stoke Prior'.

#### 5.4 Assessment

The entitlement under the Commission's proposal are as follows:

| <u>Ward</u> | <u>Cllrs</u> | <u>1975</u>       |                    | <u>1980</u>       |                    |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|             |              | <u>Electorate</u> | <u>Entitlement</u> | <u>Electorate</u> | <u>Entitlement</u> |
| Stoke Prior | 2            | 3034              | 2.22               | 3034              | 1.86               |

If the alternative proposal were adopted the position would be:

| <u>Ward</u> | <u>Cllrs</u> | <u>1975</u>       |                    | <u>1980</u>       |                    |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|             |              | <u>Electorate</u> | <u>Entitlement</u> | <u>Electorate</u> | <u>Entitlement</u> |
| 1.          | 1            | 1380              | 1.01               | 1380              | 0.85               |
| 2.          | 1            | 1654              | 1.21               | 1654              | 1.01               |

On grounds of equality of representation, therefore, the two ward proposal appears to be acceptable. Having seen the area I am inclined to agree that Stoke Prior Ward does contain two somewhat different parts, one rural, the other mainly industrial and residential and that the division is more or less co-incidental with the boundary of the Finstall Ward of the parish of Stoke Prior. The canal runs throughout this part of the district and is valuable for recreation but not, in my view, of particular relevance to the proposed division of the ward. It is questionable whether or not

those interested in the preservation of the rural area of Stoke Prior parish would be better served by having a councillor for that area alone, but from the point of view of community of interest there would appear to be an advantage in the two single member wards proposal. I therefore

RECOMMEND that the proposed Stoke Prior Ward be divided into two single member wards as suggested by the Bromsgrove and Redditch Constituency Labour Party.

## Alvechurch

### 6.1 Commission's Proposals

Under the Commission's proposals Alvechurch Ward consists of the parish of Beoley and the Alvechurch, Bordesley, Hopwood and Rowney Green Wards of the parish of Alvechurch. It returns 3 district councillors. The Barnt Green Ward of the parish of Alvechurch is included in the proposed Barnt Green Ward.

### 6.2 Representations

Mr. R. Burman, Clerk to Alvechurch Parish Council, said that the parish of Alvechurch consisted of five wards. Four of these were included in the proposed Alvechurch Ward but the fifth, Barnt Green, was to be put in the adjoining proposed Barnt Green Ward. Alvechurch was a unified parish and the Parish Council desired that the complete parish should constitute a separate district ward under the new electoral arrangements. Good liaison and smooth working of local government would be preserved if district councillors were to represent the existing parish, which was a long established community. No particular views were advanced as to whether the parish of Beoley should remain within the Alvechurch Ward as proposed by the Parish Council.

### 6.3 Mr. G.F. Badham Chief Executive Officer, Bromsgrove

District Council, drew attention to the effect that the Parish Council's proposal would have on the numbers of the electorates of the Alvechurch and Barnt Green Wards. The transfer of 875 electors from Barnt Green would result in unequal and unsatisfactory representation. If the parish of Beoley were to be excluded from the Alvechurch Ward it would, of necessity, have to go into the South Wythall Ward. The District Council

preferred the Commission's proposals. Mr. A.H. Chatten,  
Councillor, Bromsgrove District Council concurred. The Parish  
Council's proposal would upset the balance of the scheme.

#### 6.4 Assessment

If the Barnt Green Ward of the parish of Alvechurch were transferred from the proposed Barnt Green Ward to Alvechurch Ward in accordance with the Parish Council's wishes and the parish of Beoley were included in South Wythall Ward the following situation would result.

| <u>Ward</u>                  | <u>Cllrs</u> | <u>1975</u>       |                    | <u>1980</u>       |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                              |              | <u>Electorate</u> | <u>Entitlement</u> | <u>Electorate</u> | <u>Entitlement</u> |
| Alvechurch                   | 3            | 4811              | 3.52               | 4811              | 2.95               |
| Rest of Barnt<br>Green       | 1/2          | 2349              | 1.72               | 2349              | 1.44               |
| South Wythall<br>plus Beoley | 1/2          | 2396              | 1.75               | 2396              | 1.47               |

It will be seen that Alvechurch would be under-represented on the 1975 figures while the entitlement of the other two wards would be most unsatisfactory. On the other hand, if the parish of Beoley, whose 1975 electorate was 552, were to be included in Alvechurch Ward instead of South Wythall it would make Alvechurch rather too large for a 3 member ward.

By way of comparison, the following table shows the Commission's proposals for the three wards concerned:

| <u>Ward</u>   | <u>Cllrs</u> | <u>1975</u>       |                    | <u>1980</u>       |                    |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|               |              | <u>Electorate</u> | <u>Entitlement</u> | <u>Electorate</u> | <u>Entitlement</u> |
| Alvechurch    | 3            | 4488              | 3.28               | 4488              | 2.75               |
| Barnt Green   | 2            | 3224              | 2.36               | 3224              | 1.98               |
| South Wythall | 1            | 1844              | 1.35               | 1844              | 1.13               |

Although the desire of the Parish Council that the parish should form a separate district ward is understandable I have to agree with the District Council that the result would be unacceptable from the point of view of equality of representation, whether the parish of Beoley remained in Alvechurch Ward or not and accordingly I

RECOMMEND that the Commission's proposal for the Alvechurch Ward remain unaltered.

7.1 Hereford and Worcester County Council

Mr. J.W. Renney, Secretary and Solicitor, Hereford and Worcester County Council, made a submission on their behalf (Document 8). The County Council have proposed that the number of its members should be 96 but agreement about this has not been reached with the Commission, who favour a Council of 75 members. On the basis of a 96 member council, 13 County Councillors would be allocated to Bromsgrove District and county electoral divisions would be incompatible with the Commission's proposal for a district of 19 wards returning in total 41 district councillors. If Schedule II to the Local Government Act 1972 is strictly applied there will be a disparity between the boundaries of district wards and those of county electoral divisions and this would be confusing for electors. The Commission were asked to consider these points before drawing up their final proposals.

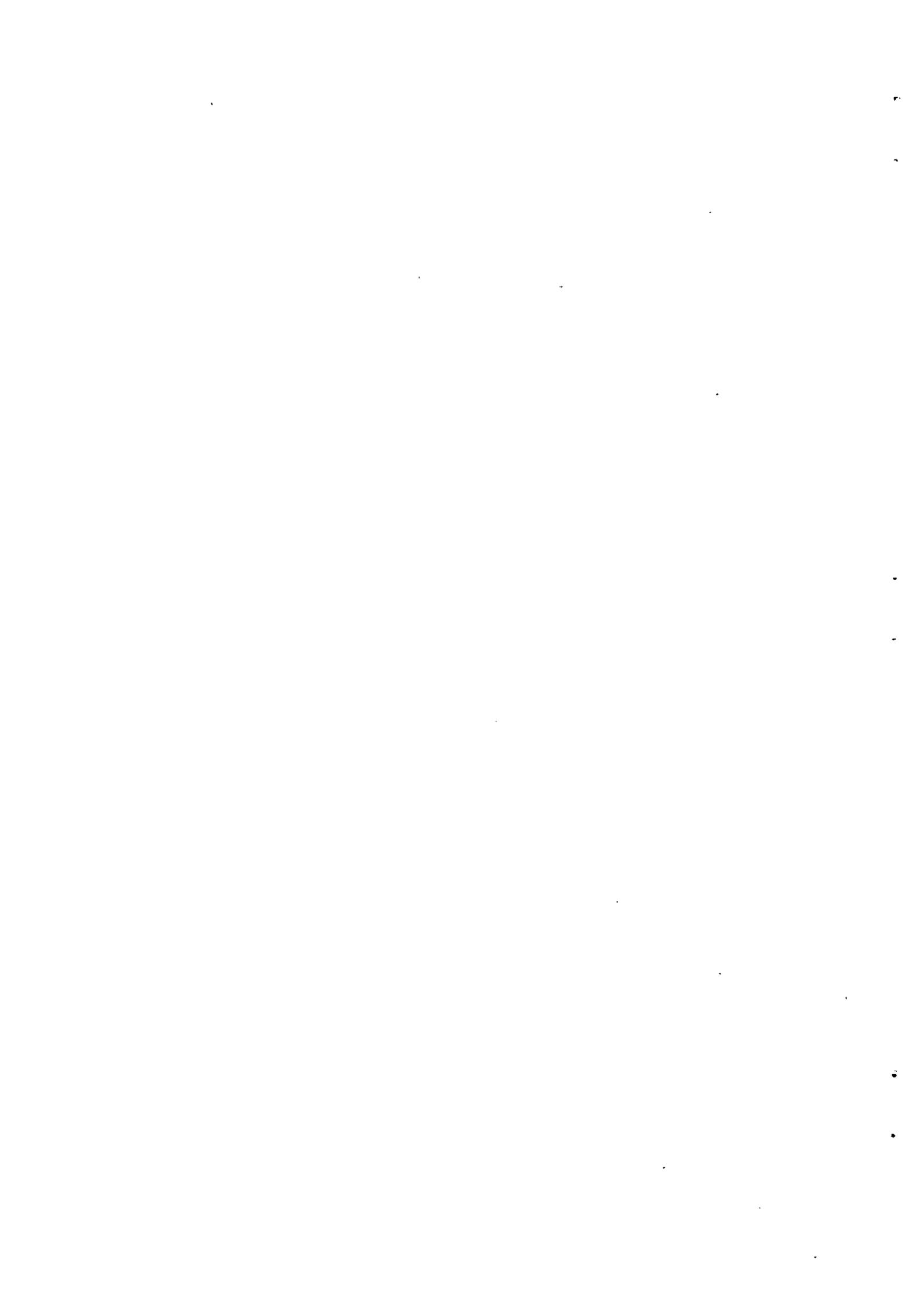
7.2 I explained that I would report the County Council's submission to the Commission but that in the absence of any agreement about the future size of the County Council I could not make any recommendations as this was a matter outside the scope of the meeting. I also pointed out that two member county electoral divisions are not permitted by law.

Signed

Derek Leigh

Dated

15<sup>th</sup> October 1976



LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. Attendance List
2. Letter dated 19th September 1976 Bromsgrove and Redditch  
Divisional Liberal  
Association
3. Letter dated 21st September 1976 Clent Parish Council
4. Revised forecast of the 1980  
electorate Bromsgrove District Council
5. Note of telephone message Romsley Parish Council
6. Note received 21st September 1976 Mr. J. Hasler
7. Plan Mr. J. Hasler
8. Statement Hereford and Worcester  
County Council

## DISTRICT OF BROMSGROVE : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

| <u>NAME OF WARD</u> | <u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| ALVECHURCH          | 3                         |
| BARNT GREEN         | 2                         |
| BEACON              | 2                         |
| CATSHILL            | 3                         |
| CHARFORD            | 2                         |
| COFTON HACKETT      | 1                         |
| DRAKES CROSS        | 3                         |
| FURLONGS            | 2                         |
| HAGLEY              | 2                         |
| MAJORS GREEN        | 1                         |
| NORTON              | 3                         |
| SIDEMOOR            | 3                         |
| SOUTH WYTHALL       | 1                         |
| STOKE PRIOR         | 1                         |
| STONEY HILL         | 2                         |
| TARDEBIGGE          | 1                         |
| UFFDOWN             | 3                         |
| WASELEY             | 2                         |
| WHITFORD            | 3                         |
| WOODVALE            | 1                         |

## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT

## STONEY HILL WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Stoke Prior CP crosses Stoke Road, thence northeastwards along said road to Charford Road, thence northwestwards, northeastwards and northwestwards along said road to Worcester Road, thence northeastwards along said road and High Street to New Road, thence southeastwards along said road to a point being the prolongation of the western boundary of No 90 Arundel Road, thence northeastwards along said boundary and continuing along the western boundaries of Nos 11 and 8 Derwent Way, Nos 7 and 6 Ambleside Way, Nos 13 and 16 Kendal Close, No 27 Carnforth Road to Carnforth Road, thence southeastwards along said road to a point being the prolongation of the northern boundary of No 8 Carnforth Road, thence northeastwards along said prolongation and said northern boundary and continuing northeastwards and eastwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 9-23 Coniston Close to the western boundary of parcel number 0229 on OS 1:2500 plan SO 96-9770 Edition 1970, thence southeastwards and northeastwards along the western and southern boundaries of said parcel to the watercourse that flows from New Road to the railway, thence southeastwards along said watercourse crossing the railway to the northern boundary of Stoke Prior CP, thence southwestwards and northwestwards along said CP boundary to the point of commencement.

## CHARFORD WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of Stoney Hill Ward meets the northern boundary of Stoke Prior CP, thence northwestwards along said CP boundary to the road known as Rock Hill, thence northeastwards along said road to the western boundary of Stoney Hill Ward, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along said western boundary to the point of commencement.

## WHITFORD WARD

Commencing at a point where the northwestern boundary of Charford Ward meets the northern boundary of Stoke Prior CP, thence northwestwards along said CP boundary and the eastern boundary of Dodford with Grafton CP to the M5 motorway, thence northwards and northeastwards along said motorway to the footbridge that carries the footpath that leads to Perryfields Road, north of the property known as Sideways, thence southeastwards along said footpath to Perryfields Road, thence southwestwards along said road to a point opposite the footpath that leads from Perryfields Road north of Perryfields to Crabtree Lane, thence southeastwards to and along said footpath to Crabtree Lane, thence southeastwards along said lane and Church Street to the road known as High Street, thence southwestwards along said road and continuing southwestwards along the northern boundary of Stoney Hill Ward and the northwestern boundary of Charford Ward to the point of commencement.

## SIDEMOOR WARD

Commencing at a point where the northeastern boundary of Whitford Ward meets the M5 motorway, thence northeastwards along said motorway to a point being the prolongation of the track on the northern boundary of parcel no 3376 on OS 1:2500 plan SO 94-9572 Edition 1970, thence northeastwards along said prolongation and said track to the footpath that leads along the southern boundary of parcel no 5700 to Stourbridge Road, thence southeastwards along said footpath to Stourbridge Road, thence southwards and southeastwards along said road to a point opposite the footpath that leads from Stourbridge Road, northwest of The Grove Childrens Home to Birmingham Road south of No 241 Birmingham Road, thence northeastwards to and northeastwards and southeastwards along said footpath to Birmingham Road, thence southwestwards along said road and High Street to the northeastern boundary of Whitford Ward, thence northwestwards along said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

## NORTON WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Stoney Hill Ward meets the southeastern boundary of Whitford Ward, thence northeastwards along said southeastern boundary, northeastwards and following the eastern boundary of Sidemoor Ward and continuing generally northwards along Stourbridge Road to a point opposite the footbridge across the unnamed stream running parallel with and to the east of the said road, thence eastwards to the said stream and generally northeastwards along the said stream to the footpath that leads from Stourbridge Road to Birmingham Road passing to the north of **Barnsleyhall Farm**, thence eastwards, northeastwards, southeastwards and northeastwards along said path to Birmingham Road, thence northeastwards and northwestwards along said road to Braces Lane, thence northeastwards and southeastwards along said lane to Linehouse Lane, thence southeastwards along said lane to Littleheath Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to Lower Shepley Lane, thence southeastwards along said lane to Spirehouse Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to a point opposite the footpath leading from Spirehouse Lane to a track that continues to the road known as Greenhill, thence southwestwards along said road to Alcester Road, thence southeastwards along said road to the northwestern boundary of Tutnall and Cobley CP, thence southwestwards along said boundary and the northern boundary of Stoke Prior CP to the northern boundary of Stoney Hill Ward, thence generally northwestwards along said northern boundary to the point of commencement.

## CATSHILL WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Sidemoor Ward meets the M5 motorway, thence northeastwards along said motorway to the roundabout intersection, at a point being the prolongation of Halesowen Road, thence southeastwards and southwestwards to and along said road to **Lydiate** Ash Road, thence southeastwards along said road the old **Lydiate** Ash Road that runs to the south of No 4 and 2 **Lydiate** Ash Road crossing Birmingham Road and continuing southeastwards along Alvechurch Highway to Marlbrook Lane, thence southwestwards and southeastwards along

said lane to Old Birmingham Road, the southwestwards along said road to the northern boundary of Norton Ward, thence westwards along said northern boundary, southwards and southwestwards along the western boundary of Norton Ward to the northern boundary of Sidemoor Ward, thence northwestwards and southwestwards along said northern boundary to the point of commencement.

#### BARNT GREEN WARD

The Barnt Green Ward of Alvechurch CP and that area bounded by a line commencing at a point where ~~the northwestern~~ boundary of Tutnall and Cobley CP meets the eastern boundary of Norton Ward, thence northwestwards along said ward boundary, northeastwards along the eastern boundary of Catshill Ward and continuing along Beacon Hill to a point opposite the path that leads from Beacon Hill to grid reference SO 9936576328 on the western boundary of Cofton Hackett CP part of which forms the northern boundaries of parcel nos 0005 and 1900 on OS 1:2500 plan SO 98-9976 Edition 1968, thence northeastwards to and along said path to the southwestern boundary of Cofton Hackett CP at aforementioned grid reference, thence southeastwards along said CP boundary to the western boundary of Alvechurch CP, thence southwestwards along said CP boundary and the northwestern boundary of Tutnall and Cobley CP to the point of commencement.

#### BEACON WARD

Commencing at a point where western boundary of Barnt Green Ward meets the northern boundary of Catshill Ward, thence northwestwards along said northern boundary to the roundabout intersection on the M5 motorway, at a point being the prolongation of Birmingham Road A38, thence northeastwards to an along said road to Whettybridge Road, thence northwestwards along said road to School Road, thence northeastwards along said road and northwestwards along Gunner Lane to a point opposite Callow Brook, thence northeastwards to and northeastwards and southeastwards along said brook crossing Cleves Road and Callowbrook Lane to the northern boundary of the

District, thence northeastwards and southeastwards along said district boundary and southeastwards along the western boundary of Cofton Hackett CP to the western boundary of Barnt Green Ward, thence southwestwards along said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

#### WASELEY WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of the District meets the northern boundary of Beacon Ward, thence southwestwards and following said ward boundary to the M5 motorway at a point being the prolongation of Sandy Lane, thence northwestwards to and along said lane to the eastern boundary of Belbroughton CP, thence northeastwards and northwestwards along said CP boundary to the southern boundary of Romsley CP, thence northwestwards and following said CP boundary to the northern boundary of the District, thence southwards and southeastwards along said district boundary to the point of commencement.

#### WOODVALE WARD

The parish of Dodford with Grafton, the Fairfield Ward of the parish of Belbroughton and that area bounded by a line commencing at a point where the western boundary of Whitford Ward meets the eastern boundary of Dodford with Grafton CP on the M5 motorway, thence southwestwards and following said CP boundary and northeastwards along the eastern boundary of Belbroughton CP to the southwestern boundary of Waseley Ward, thence southeastwards along said ward boundary and southwestwards along the western boundaries of Catshill Ward, Sidemoor Ward and Whitford Ward to the point of commencement.

#### HAGLEY WARD

The parish of Hagley.

## FURLONGS WARD

The parish of Clent

The Belbroughton Ward of the parish Belbroughton.

## UFFDOWN WARD

The parishes of

Romsley

Frankley

Hunnington

## STOKE PRIOR WARD

The Stoke Prior Ward and the Stoke Works Ward of the parish of Stoke Prior

## TARDEBIGGE WARD

The parishes of

Bentley Paucefoot

Tutnall and Cobley

The Finstall Ward of the parish of Stoke Prior.

## ALVECHURCH WARD

The parish of Beoley.

The Alvechurch, Bordesley, Hopwood and Rowney Green wards of the parish of Alvechurch.

## COFTON HACKETT

The parish of Cofton Hackett.

## DRAKES CROSS WARD

The Drakes Cross Ward of the parish of Wythall

## MAJORS GREEN WARD

The Hollywood Ward of the parish of Wythall.

## SOUTH WYTHALL WARD

The South Ward of the parish of Wythall.

