

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.188

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 REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT OF PURBECK
IN THE COUNTY OF DORSET.

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the district of Purbeck in accordance with the requirements of section 63 of, and of 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 Purbeck District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Dorset County Council, Parish Councils and Parish meetings in the district, the Member of Parliament for the constituency and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and of the local government press. Notices inserted in the local press announced the start of the review and invited comments from members of the public and from any interested bodies.
3. Purbeck 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. In accordance with section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council have exercised an option for a system of elections by thirds.

5. On 12 June 1975, Purbeck District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area into 12 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 councillors to form a council of 24 members.

6. We considered the draft scheme together with the comments which had been made to us. We reviewed also those of the proposals which had been made to the District Council which they had not felt able to accept and incorporate in their draft scheme.

7. A number of the letters about the scheme concerned the proposed St Martin and Castle wards, and in particular the proposal to include the parish of Arne in the proposed St Martin ward with the parish of Wareham St Martin instead of in the proposed Castle ward with the parishes of Corfe Castle and Studland. We concluded that the objection could be met, and that the standard of equality of representation would be improved if the parish of Arne were to be included in the proposed Castle ward which would then return two councillors instead of one as the District Council had proposed. We resolved to accept this proposal.

8. We considered representations from the Swanage Town Council who asked that the town should form a single ward returning 5 members instead of being divided into two wards, returning 3 members and 2 members, as the District Council had proposed. We could find no compelling reasons to depart from the guidelines set out in our Report No 6 that district wards should not return more than 3 members and we resolved that the Town Council's proposal should not be accepted.

9. From Wareham Town Council we received a suggestion that the area of the town, together with parts of the neighbouring parishes of Wareham St Martin

and Arne should be divided into two district wards. We found that these proposals would not offer a very good standard of equality of representation and we decided that we could not accept them.

10. We reviewed proposals which had been made to the District Council at an earlier stage in the review affecting the proposed West Purbeck, Winfrith and Lytchett Minster wards. These proposals had been rejected by the District Council and, on the evidence before us, we found that their decision had been appropriate.

11. Subject to the changes referred to in paragraph 7 above, we decided that the District Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future electoral arrangements for the district in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

12. On 15 October 1975 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or who 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 18 December 1975.

13. The District Council accepted our draft proposals without comment. We received also a letter from the Corfe Castle Parish Council and a petition from local electors in Wareham both in support of our draft proposals. No other comments were received. Accordingly we resolved to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

14. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1, 2 and 3 to this report and on the attached map. Schedule 1 defines the areas of the

new wards and Schedule 2 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each ward. Schedule 3 shows our proposals for the order of retirement of councillors. The boundaries of the proposed new wards are illustrated on the map.

PUBLICATION

15. 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 Purbeck 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.

Signed:

L.S.

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

DIANA ALBEMARLE

T C BENFIELD

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

ANDREW WHEATLEY

N DIGNEY

7 October 1976

PURBECK DISTRICT - DESCRIPTION OF WARDS

BERE REGIS

The parishes of Bere Regis, Bloxworth and Morden

CASTLE

The parishes of Corfe Castle, Studland and Arne

LANGTON

The parishes of Worth Matravers and Langton Matravers

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS

The parish of Lytchett Matravers

LYTCHETT MINSTER

The parish of Lytchett Minster

ST MARTIN

The parish of Wareham St Martin

SWANAGE NORTH

The North ward of the parish of Swanage

SWANAGE SOUTH

The South ward of the parish of Swanage

WAREHAM

The parish of Wareham Lady St Mary

WEST PURBECK

The parishes of West Lulworth, East Lulworth, Tyneham, Steeple, East Holme,
Church Knowle & Kimmeridge

WINFRITH

The parishes of Affpuddle, Turners Puddle, Moreton, Winfrith Newburgh &
Chaldon Herring

WOOL

The parishes of Wool, East Stoke, Coombe Keynes

PURBECK DISTRICT : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
BERE REGIS	1
CASTLE	2
LANGTON	1
LYTCHEPT MATRAVERS	1
LYTCHEPT MINSTER	3
ST MARTIN	2
SWANAGE NORTH	2
SWANAGE SOUTH	3
WAREHAM	3
WEST PURBECK	1
WINFRITH	1
WOOL	2

PURBECK DISTRICT - ORDER OF RETIREMENT FOR MEMBERS

ORDER OF RETIREMENT

NAME OF WARD	NO. OF COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING WARD	1ST YEAR 1980	2ND YEAR 1982	3RD YEAR 1983
WAREHAM	3	1	1	1 PE
SWANAGE (NORTH)	2	1	-	1 PE
SWANAGE (SOUTH)	3	1	1	1 PE
WINFRITH	1	-	1 PE	-
WEST PURBECK	1	-	1 PE	-
WOOL	2	1	-	1 PE
BERE REGIS	1	-	1-PE	-
CASTLE	2	1	-	1 PE
LANGTON	1	-	1 PE	-
LYTCHETT MINSTER	3	1	1	1 PE
LYTCHETT MATRAVERS	1	-	1 PE	-
ST MARTIN	2	1	-	1 PE
		7	8	7

PE = Parish Elections for any parishes within the ward which have parish councils