

**Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No. 129**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 129

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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To the Rt Hon Roy Jenkins MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT OF HART  
IN THE COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the Hart district 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 3 June 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Hart District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Hampshire County Council, Parish Councils in the district, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and 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. Hart 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 District Council have exercised an option for a system of elections by thirds.
5. On 28 October 1974 the Hart District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area into 14 wards each returning 1, 2, 3 or 6 members to form a Council of 35 members.
6. Before we considered the draft scheme in detail we pointed out to the District Council that our guidelines, as set out in our Report No 6, did not permit district wards returning more than 3 members, save only in the most exceptional circumstances. The District Council thereupon agreed, pursuant to section 50(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to conduct a review of the electoral arrangements for the successor parish of Yateley, which it had been proposed should form a single district ward returning 6 members. It was the basis of their review that the parish should be divided into three parish wards each of which could serve also as a district ward returning 2 members. In due course the District Council informed us that they had completed the review and had resolved to make the necessary order creating the 3 wards.
7. Following the publication of the Council's draft scheme we received a letter from the Hawley Parish Council requesting that an additional councillor should be allocated to the proposed district ward comprising that parish. In submitting their draft scheme the District Council had sent us copies of their correspondence with parish councils, political parties and other bodies both before and after the publication of the scheme. We noted that there were a few instances where the Council had not been able to accept the proposals which had been made and incorporate them in their scheme. These proposals included suggestions that the parish of Yateley should be divided into three wards each returning 3 members and that the present Crookham ward should be divided in a different manner from that which the District Council had proposed.

8. We considered the draft scheme together with the comments which had been made about it. In the case of the request received from the Hawley Parish Council, we noted their view that in five years time the electorate of the proposed Hawley ward was likely to be higher than the District Council had forecast. We reviewed the prospects for growth in the electorate of the ward, and concluded that, while the growth might be higher than the District Council had predicted, it was unlikely to be sufficient to justify an extra councillor for the ward and, accordingly, we decided to reject the Parish Council's submission. We reviewed the suggestions which had been rejected by the District Council but concluded, in each case, that their decision had been appropriate.

9. We examined a number of possible modifications to the draft scheme with a view to securing a more even standard of representation. In most instances we concluded that, having regard to the geography of the district and the pattern of local ties and interests, changes should not be made. However, in the case of the proposed Fleet Pondtail and Fleet West wards we decided to propose an alteration to the boundary between these wards so as to strengthen the electorate of the latter ward.

10. We consulted the Ordnance Survey who suggested a modification to the boundary between the proposed Fleet Courtmoor and Church Crookham wards in order to secure a boundary line which was more readily identifiable on the ground. We decided that the suggested modification should be adopted.

11. We noted that where a ward was to be formed from a number of parishes the District Council had proposed that the name of the ward should include the name of each of the parishes. In some instances we thought that the result was unduly long and cumbersome and we decided that the names should be abbreviated in each case using the name of the parish in the ward with the largest electorate.

12. Subject to the changes referred to in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 above and to the District Council's revised proposals for the parish of Yateley we decided that the District Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future representation of the district in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

13. On 16 June 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 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 that any comments should reach us by 11 August 1975.

14. From the Mattingley and Greywell Parish Councils we received expressions of support for the draft proposals insofar as they dealt with these parishes. Hart District Council informed us that they preferred the boundary between the proposed Fleet West and Fleet Pondtail wards which they had proposed and the names of the wards which they had suggested. Hampshire County Council advised us that, at first sight, the draft proposals seemed to be compatible with the four county electoral divisions which are likely to be proposed when the County submits its suggestions for the review of the county electoral arrangements. The Yateley Town Council asked us to consider alternative arrangements for the town which would provide for its division into 3 wards, each returning 3 members. We noted that these proposals were similar to those which had been submitted to the District Council at an earlier stage by a local political party and which the District Council had rejected. A local ratepayers' and residents' association expressed their support for our proposed wards in Yateley but stressed the importance of finding suitable polling stations. We noted that this was a matter for the District Council to determine. Another local residents'

association agreed that it was appropriate to divide the present Church Crookham ward into two smaller wards but suggested that it would be better to use the two polling districts which make up the present ward as the basis for the two new ones. This suggestion was identical to one which a local political association had made to the District Council at an earlier stage of the review and which the District Council had rejected. From Eversley Parish Council we received a letter suggesting that the name of the proposed ward comprising the parishes of Eversley & Bramshill should be changed.

15. 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, you appointed Mr L P Wallen as an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

16. The Assistant Commissioner held a meeting at the Carnival Hall, Fleet on 25 September 1975. A copy of his report to us on the meeting is attached at Schedule 1. (Without Maps)

17. In relation to the Fleet West and Fleet Pondtail wards, the effect of the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation was that the inter-ward boundary should follow the line proposed by the District Council northwards to the point where it crosses the Basingstoke-London railway at Fleet Station. It should then turn eastwards and follow the railway. In the case of the proposed Fleet Courtmoor and Church Crookham wards the effect of his recommendation was that the boundary between those wards should follow the line which we had proposed except in the vicinity of Velmead Road where it was recommended that the boundary should be adjusted to include a new school and an area of land on which it is proposed to provide a number of houses for teachers. In Yateley, he recommended that our draft proposals should remain unchanged. Finally, he recommended that we adopt the ward names proposed in the District Council's draft scheme.

18. We considered again our draft proposals in the light of the comments which we had received and of the Assistant Commissioner's Report. We concluded that the modifications recommended by the Assistant Commissioner should be adopted, except that dealing with the names of the wards. As a matter of good administrative practice, it is generally desirable that the names of wards should be brief. Although we accepted that in this case the District Council was willing to accept the inconvenience involved in having longer names, we noted from the Assistant Commissioner's report that the consultation with the parish councils had revealed that they were prepared, perhaps as a second preference, to accept shorter names and that there had been some measure of agreement about such names. We decided, therefore, that the names used in our draft proposals should stand except in the case of the proposed ward comprising the parishes of Heckfield, Mattingley and Rotherwick which should be known as Whitewater in accordance with the suggestion of the Parish Councils concerned. Subject to this change and the boundary adjustments recommended by the Assistant Commissioner we decided to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

19. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 2 and 3 to this report and on the attached maps. Schedule 2 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. Schedule 3 shows our proposals for the order of retirement of councillors. The boundaries of the new wards are defined on the maps.

#### PUBLICATION

20. In accordance with Section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, a copy of this report and a copy of the maps are being sent to Hart 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 4 to this report.

L.S.

Signed

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M HANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

DIANA ABBEYARLE

T C BENFIELD

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

ANDREW WHEATLEY

F B YOUNG

DAVID R SMITH (Secretary)

11 December 1975

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REPORT of the Assistant Commissioner appointed to hold a local meeting to inquire into future electoral arrangements for the District of Hart

1. I was appointed an Assistant Commissioner of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to hold a local meeting to hear representations relating to the following proposed Wards in the District of Hart:-

Fleet West  
 Fleet Pondtail  
 Fleet Courtmoor  
 Church Crookham  
 Yateley North  
 Yateley West  
 Yateley East

and on the names to be assigned to those of the proposed Wards which would comprise two or more parishes.

2. I held the meeting at the Carnival Hall, Fleet on Thursday, 25th September, 1975 at 11.00 a.m. The following persons attended:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office or Status</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr. H. V. Hill	Director of Administration	Hart District Council
Mr. A. S. Cull	Director of Planning	Hart District Council
Miss Jean Orr	Chairman of the Hart District Council and a Member for the present Fleet Ward	
Mrs. V.C.S. Lavender	Member of the Hart District Council for the present Yateley Ward	
Mr. M. E. Crewe	Assistant Secretary	Hampshire County Council
Mr. B. D. Adams	Clerk	Yateley Town Council
Mr. R. Hoare	Chairman	Dogmersfield Parish Council
Mr. J.E.G. Todd	Chairman	Eversley Parish Council
Mr. W.L. Yalden	Chairman	Long Sutton Parish Council
Mr. J. F. Daly	Member of Executive Committee	Fleet and Church Crookham Residents Association
Mr. I.S. Mackinnon	Secretary	Aldershot Constituency Labour Party
Mr. G. L. Watkins	Member	Aldershot Constituency Labour Party

3.

Fleet West and Fleet Pondtail Wards

3.1 In their draft scheme for future electoral arrangements in their District, the Hart District Council proposed dividing the present 6-member Fleet Ward into two 3-member Wards to be known as Fleet West and Fleet Pondtail. The inter-Ward boundary proposed by the District Council is shown in green on the 1:10,000 map with which I was supplied for the purposes of the local meeting and which is returned herewith. On the basis of their proposals the District Council estimated that the 1979 electorates in these two Wards and their entitlement to councillors (1 councillor per 1418 electors) would be as follows:-

	<u>Electorate</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Fleet West	4360	3.07
Fleet Pondtail	4815	3.40

In fixing their proposed inter-Ward boundary the District Council adhered wherever possible to main roads.

On considering the District Councils proposals the Commission took the view that by a relatively small adjustment of the District Council's proposed boundary it would be possible almost to equalise the 1979 estimated electorates in the two Wards and consequently their entitlements to councillors. The Commission, therefore, proposed the transfer from Fleet Pondtail to Fleet West of the rectangular area outlined in blue on the 1:10,000 map, which would have the effect of transferring just over 200 electors from Fleet Pondtail to Fleet West on both the 1974 and 1979 figures.

3.2 At the local meeting the District Council maintained their opposition to the Commission's proposal to transfer the rectangular area outlined in blue from Fleet Pondtail to Fleet West (a) because it involved a departure from their basic principle of adhering to main roads wherever possible in fixing Ward boundaries and  
(b) because, in their opinion, the electorate in the area concerned would be quite unable to understand why they had been included in Fleet West rather than Fleet Pondtail Ward.

However, Miss Orr, the Chairman of the Hart District Council, put forward entirely on her own responsibility an alternative, namely the transfer from Fleet Pondtail to Fleet West of the whole of the District Council's (and the Commission's) proposed Fleet Pondtail Ward lying north of the railway line running in a generally east/west direction through the northern part of that proposed Ward. This area, which I have outlined in red on the 1:10,000 map, is for all practical purposes completely detached from the remainder of Fleet Pondtail Ward by the railway line which can only be crossed in that area by the road bridge adjoining Fleet station which itself lies on the inter-Ward boundary.

3.3 Miss Orr agreed that her proposal had not been put to the District Council but their Director of Administration informed me that he preferred it to any alternative that he could put forward and that he believed it would meet with the general approval of his Council. He advised me that the effect of Miss Orr's proposal would be to reduce the 1974 electorate of Fleet Pondtail by 183 and increase that of Fleet West by the same number. Mr. J. F. Daly, on behalf of the Fleet and Church Crookham Residents Association also supported Miss Orr's proposal.

3.4 As Miss Orr's proposal for the adjustment of the inter-Ward boundary between the proposed Fleet West and Fleet Pondtail Wards achieves virtually the same purpose as that proposed by the Commission and as it appeared immediately to attract local support, unlike the Commission's proposal, I recommend that the inter-Ward boundary between the proposed Fleet West and Fleet Pondtail Wards should from south to north be as proposed by the District Council up to the point where that boundary crosses the railway line adjoining Fleet station and that thereafter such boundary should be adjusted to include in Fleet West and exclude from Fleet Pondtail the area which I have edged in red on the 1:10,000 map.

4. Fleet Courtmoor and Church Crookham Wards

4.1 In their draft scheme the District Council proposed to divide the present 6-member Crookham Ward of the former Fleet Urban District into two 3-member Wards to be known as Fleet Courtmoor and Church Crookham Wards. In fixing the inter-Ward boundary the District Council have again adopted, wherever reasonably possible, the centre line of existing roads. The District Council's proposals in this respect are supported by the Commission save in regard to one section of the proposed boundary where the Ordnance Survey have suggested a more readily identifiable line, as to which see paragraph 4.5 below.

4.2 The District Council's proposed new inter-Ward boundary is opposed by the Fleet and Church Crookham Residents Association who maintain that the new inter-Ward boundary should be along the line of the boundary separating the polling districts BK and AT comprising the present Crookham Ward. The Association contend that in this way a long established electoral pattern will be maintained and that they see no reason for the change proposed by the District Council. Furthermore, they maintain that electors in the south-west of the District Council's Fleet Courtmoor Ward would have a long and inconvenient journey on foot to any single polling station in that Ward.

4.3 In reply to the Residents' Association the District Council contend that the existing boundary between the BK and AT polling districts is not only difficult to describe because in places it follows the rear boundaries of properties but is also sometimes difficult to relate to physical features on the ground, particularly where, for example, it leaves the western end of Basingbourne Road and moves across country to join the stream behind the northern side of Wickham Road. In addition the Association's proposal involves splitting the properties in Crookham Road between three separate wards and electoral registers.

While admitting that on the 1974 figures there is little to choose between the two sets of proposals, the District Council point out that when the 1979 figures (which are now available for both sets) are considered, their proposals provide a far better balance between the two wards. The figures are as follows:-

<u>District Councils Proposals</u>	1974		1979	
	Electorate	Entitlement	Electorate	Entitlement
Fleet Courtmoor	3979	3.19	4444	3.13
Church Crookham	3939	3.16	4404	3.11
<u>Residents' Association Proposals</u>				
Polling District AT	3993	3.20	4603	3.25
Polling District BK	3925	3.15	4245	2.99

4.4 On the major issue as to whether the new Wards of Fleet Courtmoor and Church Crookham should be constituted as proposed by the District Council or by the Residents' Association I prefer the proposals of the District Council because

- (a) I am of the opinion that the inter-ward boundary which they propose is both more easily described and more easily understood than that proposed by the Association and
- (b) the inter-ward boundary proposed by the District Council, while only showing a marginal improvement over that of the Association as regards electorate and representation in 1974, shows an appreciable improvement when the 1979 estimates are taken into account.

As regards the contention on behalf of the Association that certain electors will find it difficult to go on foot to polling stations if the District Councils proposals are adopted, I can only say that it seems to me hardly justifiable to assume that the buildings currently in use as polling stations in the present AT and BK polling districts will necessarily remain the polling stations, or the only polling stations, in the new Wards.

4.5 There is one subsidiary matter in connection with the inter-ward boundary between Fleet Courtmoor and Church Crookham. In their draft scheme the District Council proposed that the eastern section of the boundary should run in a straight line and in prolongation of the line of Florence Road to join the line of the Basingstoke Canal a short distance to the east of Pondtail Bridge. Ordnance Survey however suggested, and the Commission agreed, that this section of the boundary would be more easily identifiable if, at the end of Florence Road it turned in a north-westerly direction to join Velmead Road and then along that road to Pondtail Bridge. This amended line is shown in blue on the 1:10,000 map.

The Hart District Council accept the principle of this amendment but pointed out at the local meeting that a school has recently been built on the southern side of this section of Velmead Road and that, in conjunction with that school, it is proposed to build a group of teachers houses fronting on Velmead Road. As both the new school and the proposed teachers houses will back on to W.D. land which is unlikely to be further developed, the District Council are of the opinion, with which I agree, that the houses should be in the same Ward as the rest of the houses in Velmead Road. They therefore ask that where it passes these houses the inter-ward boundary should run along the back of the houses rather than along the road and have provided the necessary description and plan which are attached hereto as Paper "A" and Plan "A".

4.6 In relation to Fleet Courtmoor and Church Crookham Wards, I accordingly recommend that the proposals of the Hart District Council as modified in blue on the 1:10,000 map and as further modified by Paper "A" and Plan "A" be adopted.

#### 5. Yateley North, Yateley West and Yateley East Wards

5.1 The Civil Parish of Yateley has for some years been divided into two Wards, namely Yateley, currently returning 6 councillors to the Hart District Council, and Frogmore and Darby Green returning three councillors. In their draft scheme for future electoral arrangements, the District Council initially proposed maintaining this situation but after discussion with the Commission agreed to divide the Yateley Ward into three parish wards each of which would also serve as a district ward returning two members. The District Council have however postponed making the Order constituting the parish wards pending

the outcome of the Commissions consideration of the new electoral arrangements for the District. In consequence the only map of the parish Wards proposed by the District Council which I had before me at the local meeting was on the relatively small scale of 1:100,000.

5.2 At the local meeting two counter-proposals were submitted to me, the first by Mrs. V.C.S. Lavender, a member of the Hart District Council for the present Yateley Ward, and the second by the Yateley Town Council supported by the Aldershot Constituency Labour Party.

5.3. Mrs. Lavender, who had clearly given the matter considerable thought, maintained that if new electoral arrangements were to be introduced in the Yateley area, the whole of the civil parish should be considered rather than the Yateley Ward alone. She therefore proposed the division of the parish into four new Wards, three of which would include parts of the present Frogmore and Darby Green Ward. In total the four wards would return 10 councillors, one more than the total proposed for the same area by the District Council.

Mrs. Lavender put her proposals before me in the form of a manuscript paper of which she had only one copy, unsupported by any form of map. She apologised for not having additional copies but explained that although she had been thinking of her scheme for some time she had not had time until a day or so before the meeting, to commit it to paper. She had not submitted her scheme to the District Council or consulted their officers about it.

It is indeed difficult seriously to consider a scheme such as that proposed by Mrs. Lavender when it is put forward for the first time at a local meeting. I felt that it would be impossible properly to evaluate Mrs. Lavender's proposals until they had been plotted on a map and I was extremely doubtful whether the degree of detail which they contained was sufficient for a satisfactory plot to be made. Until the proposals had been plotted it would not be possible to check Mrs. Lavender's estimates of the number of electors in each of her wards or her assessments of representation entitlements. Although I am grateful to Mrs. Lavender for attending the local meeting, at some personal inconvenience, and submitting her proposals, I did not feel in all the circumstances that I should be justified in adjourning the meeting for at least some days to enable those proposals to be examined in detail. I would therefore suggest that she should submit them to the District Council for detailed consideration when the electoral arrangements for the area are next under review.

5.4 The District Councils proposals for re-warding the present Yateley Ward were also the subject of counter-proposals by the Yateley Town Council supported by the Aldershot Constituency Labour Party. At the meeting the Town Council submitted their counter-proposals in the form of Paper "B" accompanied by Plan "B", both of which are attached hereto. (The manuscript notes on Paper "B" are my own). It will be seen from Paper "B" that the Town Council are still of the opinion, as they were when writing to the District Council on 8th April last and to the Commission on 24th July, that the District Council's proposals for the re-warding of Yateley are "reasonable in themselves and they could see no major objections to them". Nevertheless they ask that their counter-proposals be considered. It will be noted that they now propose two instead of three councillors for each of their three wards.

The principal difference between the District Council and the Town Council relates to numbers of electors. While the 1974 figures are not greatly different, when one comes to 1979 the Town Council are forecasting an increase of about 2,600 as opposed to the District Council's 1,275. In arriving at their figure there seems to be no doubt that the Town Council have taken account

of all possible developments in the five years whereas the District Council have only provided for probable developments. On this aspect I have no hesitation in accepting the evidence of the District Council's Director of Planning rather than the broad calculations of the Town Council based upon plans many of which seem unlikely to come to fruition during the five year period in question. The Director of Planning told me that although Yateley had expanded from a village to a town with a population of 18,000 during the last ten years, he could not envisage expansion at that rate continuing between now and 1979. In particular he very much doubted whether the Darby Green Local Plan (which envisaged considerable housing development in the present Yateley Ward and which was relied upon by both by the Town Council and the Aldershot Constituency Labour Party in their 1979 electorate forecasts) would be started before 1979. He told me that for the years 1968-1971, housing completions in the present Yateley Ward had averaged 185 per annum and for the years 1971 to 1975 that figure had dropped to 122. The best estimate he could make for the period to 1979 was 105 per annum and it was on this basis that the District Council had estimated that the total electorate for the area would increase by 1,275 over that period. (This latter figure is an increase of 75 over that given in the District Council's draft scheme, the addition being in the proposed Yateley East Ward increasing the 1979 estimated electorate there from 2,791 to 2,866 and the entitlement from 1.97 to 2.02).

The second significant difference between the proposals of the District Council and those of the Town Council relates to the shape of the Wards. Whereas the three wards proposed by the District Council appear "normal" in shape, two of the wards, A and B, proposed by the Town Council are unusual in shape in that each has a very narrow "waist" - Ward A between the southern end of Lodge Grove and the District boundary on the River Blackwater and Ward B between the southern end of Old School Lane and the Reading Road. The Clerk of the Town Council was unable to point to any local ties or other reason for these unusual shapes.

From the general tone of the case put forward by the Yateley Town Council it appeared to me that they had inherited their proposals from the Aldershot Constituency Labour Party but without any very strong commitment to them.

- 5.5. In supporting the proposals of the Yateley Town Council, the representatives of the Aldershot Constituency Labour Party did not ultimately seriously challenge the 1979 electorate forecasts of the District Council. They did however suggest that if the Town Council's proposed Ward B were adopted it should be represented by three rather than two councillors.

The Constituency Party sought to justify the shape of the Town Council's Wards A and B on the grounds that if, after 1979, the electorate in these two wards increased to an extent which could not be accommodated by increasing the number of councillors, each Ward could be conveniently divided into two new Wards across its narrow "waist". It was their contention that present arrangements should have such possibilities in mind, that their proposals met this need and that those of the District Council did not.

- 5.6 Although it has developed very substantially in recent years, the present Yateley Ward is still a loosely developed area with large open spaces interspersed with modern housing estates. It has a single shopping area principally on the northern side of Reading Road between Sandhurst Road and Frys Lane. The Ward has considerable potential for further development if that were decided to be appropriate but where that development would take place appears, on present information, to be far from certain. Any plans which are now made must, therefore, in my opinion, be based upon what is currently probable as opposed to what is possible. The area as a whole is one

which does not naturally divide itself into Wards and it consequently follows that new ward boundaries must be somewhat arbitrarily determined. Against this background I consider the three new wards of Yateley North, West and East proposed by the Hart District Council to be a satisfactory solution to the re-warding problem and nothing I heard at the local meeting would, in my opinion, justify an alternative solution. I therefore recommend that the proposals of the District Council in relation to the three above-mentioned Wards be adopted.

6. Names to be assigned to Wards comprising two or more parishes

6.1 Finally, I am asked to advise on the names to be assigned to those of the proposed Wards in the District of Hart which would comprise two or more parishes. In such cases the District Council propose that the Ward name should embody the names of all the constituent parishes but the Commission have suggested that the Wards should bear the name only of the parish with the largest electorate. They would however be prepared to acquiesce in a double-barrelled name where two parishes are combined to form a district Ward (provided, apparently, each such parish had a name consisting of a single word) but are firmly opposed to triple-barrelled ward names.

6.2 The attitude of the District Council in this matter is that the names of the electoral Wards in that part of their District which is divided into civil parishes should be descriptive and that this can only be achieved if they embody the names of all the constituent parishes. Such an arrangement will avoid the possibility of small parishes being overshadowed and losing their identity, particularly in the case of single member wards. The District Council admit that from an administrative point of view short names are preferable but they are nevertheless prepared to tolerate the relatively small administrative inconvenience of longer names for the reasons already mentioned.

6.3 Since the submission of the District Councils draft scheme to the Commission discussions regarding Ward names have, at the request of the Commission, taken place with the affected parish councils with the results tabulated below:-

Parish Name suggested by District Council	Parish Name suggested by Commission	Reactions of Parish Councils concerned
1. Bramshill & Eversley	Eversley	Bramshill - none known. Eversley - "Eversley & Bramshill" or "Eversley"
2. Greywell, Long Sutton & South Warnborough	Long Sutton	Greywell - "Whitewater Springs" or "Whitewater". Long Sutton - "Long Sutton". South Warnborough - "Long Sutton".
3. Crondall, Crookham Village & Dogmersfield.	Crondall	Crondall - "Crondall". Crookham Village - "Coxmoor". Dogmersfield - "Coxmoor".
4. Heckfield, Mattingley & Rotherwick	Mattingley	Heckfield - "Whitewater". Mattingley - "Whitewater". Rotherwick - "Whitewater"

Parish Name  
suggested by  
District Council

Parish Name  
suggested by  
Commission

Reactions of Parish Councils  
concerned

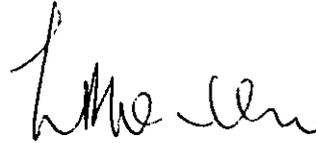
5. Hartley Witney &  
Winchfield

Hartley Witney

Hartley Witney - "Hartley Witney"  
Winchfield - may not object to  
"Hartley Witney"

6.4 As will be seen from the above table there is only one instance, namely in the Heckfield, Mattingley and Rotherwick area where unanimity has been reached as to a new Ward name - "Whitewater". Furthermore, it is generally only in the parish whose name has been chosen for the new ward that the Commission's proposal is acceptable and only in two cases that the name of a single constituent parish has been put forward with the support of two out of the three parishes concerned.

6.5 I feel bound to say that I have great sympathy with the attitude of the District Council in this matter of ward names. When one looks at the Commission's proposals as a whole, no less than ten out of sixteen wards will have names of two words and an eleventh, Frogmore and Darby Green, will have a three word name. Accepting the District Council's proposed names will involve three wards with a single word name, eight with two word names, three of three words, one with four and one, Greywell, Long Sutton and South Warnborough, with five. The disadvantages of the District Council's proposed Ward names are in my opinion purely marginal and in any event will fall in the main upon them. They say they are willing to bear them and, so far as the local government electors are concerned, who sometimes tend to be overlooked in matters of this nature, I am sure that the District Council's proposed Ward names will make the boundaries of the new wards much more readily understood. I therefore recommend the adoption of the Ward names proposed in the District Council's draft scheme.



Assistant Commissioner

3rd October, 1975.

Paper "A"

HART DISTRICT

CHURCH CROOKHAM WARD

.....thence north westwards  
following a footpath to the rear of Velmead Close and then leading  
to Velmead Road, thence generally north eastwards along the whole  
of the north western boundary of the Electricity Sub-Station, thence  
south eastwards along the eastern boundary of the Electricity Sub-Station,  
thence eastwards along the school boundary fence to the school access  
road, thence north westwards along the western side of the school  
access road to Velmead Road, and thence eastwards along Velmead  
Road to meet the southern boundary of Fleet Pondtail Ward at Pondtail  
Bridge and thence generally eastwards following the said southern  
boundary to the point of commencement.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
PROPOSED RE-WARDING OF YATELEY WARD  
SUBMISSION BY YATELEY TOWN COUNCIL

1. In March of this year, the Hart District Council invited my Council's comments on their draft proposals for a re-Warding of the present Yateley Ward. In doing so, my Council were informed that the division of the Yateley Ward into three separate Wards was proposed so as to provide for a further increase in representation as and when necessary, due to an increased electorate, without the necessity to go through the process of a further alteration of boundaries. Also, that the projected electorate for 1979 allowed for the present Yateley Ward to be represented by six Members and, therefore, if the Ward was divided into three separate Wards, it would permit two representatives to be returned for each Ward. After 1979, when the electorate increased still further, any of those Wards, or all of them, would be able to return an additional Member, making a total of three representatives for each Ward as the need arises without a re-drawing of the boundaries. It was also explained that in drawing the new boundaries, an endeavour had been made to follow more easily identifiable roads by using major rather than minor roads.
2. The Council, in examining the draft proposals felt that they were reasonable in themselves and they could see no major objections to them. However, they did feel that an alternative proposal utilising the A.327 and the whole of Cricket Hill Lane merited consideration for the reasons that apart from using two major roads as easily definable boundaries, the alternative proposals would provide for a fairly stable, central Ward.
3. The figures which the Council used in producing the alternative proposal are set out in TABLE 1 below. To avoid confusion with the District Council's proposals, I have used letters rather than the numbers used by me previously for each of the Wards.

	Approx. Existing Electorate	Est. Electorate by 1979	Proposed No. of Councillors
WARD A	2,200	2,600 - 3,100	3
WARD B	3,200	3,600	3
WARD C	1,900	3,900	3

TABLE 1      10,100 - 10,600

4. These alternative proposals were submitted to the District Council in April, but my Council were subsequently informed that the District Council's draft proposals had been approved by them without amendment.
5. The Commission have now decided to hold an informal meeting to hear local views on the proposed arrangements.
6. Since submitting the alternative proposals last April, with the approval of my Chairman, I have re-examined the District Council's proposals in the light of their decision not to approve the alternative proposals. Having discussed the matter, the Chairman and other Members of the Council feel that they would still wish the Commission to consider my Council's

alternative proposals, but with certain modifications, the effects of which are shown in TABLE 2.

Ward	No. of Councillors	1974 Electorate	No. of Electors per Councillor	1979 Electorate	Forecast No. of Electors per Councillor
A	2	2298	1149	3248	1624
B	2	3521	1760	3969	1984
C	2	1603	801	2823	1411

2422

TABLE 2

10,040

7. A diagrammatic map showing my Council's suggested Ward boundaries is submitted, together with Schedules (based on the current Register) setting out the names of the roads which we feel should be included in those Wards. To avoid confusion between neighbours on opposite sides of the boundary roads, we feel that all properties having the boundary road as their address should come within the same Ward, irrespective of whether they are on one side of the road or the other.

*Labour Party prefer entire of ward.*

8. Our comments on the alternative Wards are set out in Paragraphs 9 - 13.

WARD A

9. Based on the 1975/76 Register of Electors the number of electors in Ward A is approximately 2298, giving a ratio of 1149 electors per councillor. Housing development has been or is likely to be approved for the following areas:-

Kelowna Farm  
Moulsham Lane  
Chandlers Lane  
Rear of Vicarage Road

Yateley Place  
Potley Hill Road/Rounds Close  
Cobbetts Lane  
(east side)

We believe that these developments could increase the electorate by 1979 by an estimated 950, giving a total of 3248 and a ratio of 1624:1.

*Also discussed with Planning Officer.*

In addition to these eight areas, 56 acres were the subject of a recent planning appeal, a decision upon which is awaited. If approved and completed by 1979, the development could increase the electorate of Ward A by a further 1000 or so. Furthermore, there is an area of over 26 acres in extent at Moor Place Farm, which might be built on, but this would seem so far in the future that it has not been taken into account.

WARD B

10. The current electorate for Ward B is approximately 3521, giving a ratio of 1760:1. Development proposals suggest additional housing in the following areas:-

Cranford Park Drive/Home Park Road  
West of Green Lane  
Junc. Aylesham Way/Firgrove Road

Old School Lane  
Florence Grove  
Yateley Lodge

Our estimate of the <sup>total</sup> ~~additional~~ electorate which these areas could provide by 1979 is 3969, providing for a ratio of 1984:1. At some future date, but certainly beyond 1979, there could be some form of redevelopment of the larger properties in the Cricket Hill area, but once again, this has not been taken into account.

#### WARD C

11. At the moment an electorate of approximately 1603 gives a ratio of 801:1. This is considerably smaller than in the cases of Wards A and B. But a similar situation exists under the District Council's proposals. The lowness of the number recognises that it is in this Ward that the major growth will occur between now and 1979.

Development is proceeding and is due in the following areas:-

Vigo Lane  
Land adjoining Yateley Hall

Dungells Lane  
Monteagle Lane

The effect of these developments could be to raise the electorate by 1979 to 2823, a ratio of 1411:1. On top of this, there is always the possibility that redevelopment of the larger properties on the south side of Handford Lane could also take place, increasing the electorate still further. A long-term development could include land to the west of Monteagle Lane, but this has not been taken into account in Table 2.

12. From Table 2, it will be seen that my Council's proposals provide for a ratio of electors per councillor ranging from 1411:1 to 1984:1 on a basis of two councillors per Ward. The District Council proposed 942:1 to 1725:1. My Council are aware of the requirements of paragraph 7(a) of the Commission's Circular dated 3rd June, 1974, but they appreciate the difficulty of arriving at a figure which would be nearly the same in every Ward of the district. Because of this difficulty, and because they believe the electorate of Yateley will increase disproportionately to other areas in the Hart District, the Council would hope the Commission will feel disposed to agree that Yateley should be looked at rather specially.
13. Each of the three Wards proposed by my Council has scope for an increased electorate. After 1979, the majority of the development can be expected in Wards A and C.
14. Regarding boundaries, those that my Council propose are and will remain easily identifiable. It is considered that neither my Council's nor the District Council's proposals will break any local ties. Although it is not a matter to be determined by the Commission, my Council's proposals do in fact allow for a polling station in each of the three Wards, but this was not in their minds when considering the arrangements.
15. It will be seen that my Council now agree that the number of councillors to each Ward should be two and not three as originally suggested.

16. On the question of names for the Wards, I would ask the Commission to consider the following:-

Ward A - Yateley Northeast  
Ward B - Yateley Central  
Ward C - Yateley South

17. As I have already said, my Council do not consider the District Council's proposals unreasonable. They would, however, not wish the Commission to come to any firm decision until they have given full consideration to the alternative proposals.

B.D. Adams  
Clerk of the Council  
25th September, 1975

SCHEDULE A

WARD A

PART 1

Coombe Road  
Eversley Lane  
Fareham Drive  
Green, The  
Ives Close  
Millbridge Road  
Moulsham Lane  
Moulsham Copse Lane  
River Road  
Vicarage Road

PART 2

Brandy Bottom  
Flats, The

PART 3

Bannister Gardens  
Bridge Walk  
Caswall Ride  
Chandlers Lane  
Cobbetts Lane  
Coleridge Avenue  
Coronation Road  
Croft Lane  
Elm Bank  
Fir Glen Drive  
Fox Drive  
Frys Lane  
Gallop, The  
Gordon Walk  
Green End  
Greenleas Close  
Hanover Close  
Harpton Close  
Harpton Parade  
Heathwood Close  
Kevins Drive  
Lodge Grove  
Mill Lane  
Textile Estate  
North Fryerne  
Plough Road  
Pond Croft  
Potley Hill Road  
Reading Road  
Round Close  
Sandhurst Road  
Shires Way  
Spinney, The  
Stable View  
Stevens Hill  
Tolpuddle Way  
Vicarage Lane  
Village Way  
West Fryerne  
Weybridge Mead  
Wyndham Close

SCHEDULE B

WARD B

PART 1

Aylesham Way  
Blakes Ride  
Bramling Avenue  
Castor Court  
Colwyn Close  
Connaught Avenue  
Falcon Way  
Fieldfare Avenue  
Firgrove Road  
Frensham Close  
Goldcrest Close  
Kingfisher Drive  
Macrae Road  
Mallard Way  
Old School Lane  
Partridge Avenue  
Primrose Walk  
Raven Close  
Robins Grove Crescent  
Ryde Gardens  
School Lane  
Selwyn Drive  
Southwark Close  
Swallow Close  
Turnstone End  
West Green  
Wren Close

PART 2

Beechbrook Avenue  
Cranford Park Drive  
Cricket Hill Lane  
Denham Drive  
Farm Close  
Farm View  
Hall Farm Crescent  
Hall Lane  
Handford Lane  
Hearmon Close  
Henley Gardens  
Home Park Road  
Lawford Crescent  
Lucas Close  
Manor Park Drive  
Maple Gardens  
Nutley Close  
Pipson Lane  
Rosary Gardens  
St. Peters Gardens  
Somerville Crescent  
Stilwell Close  
Tindal Close  
Wellmore  
Wentworth Close  
Willowford  
Winton Crescent  
Woodbourne Close

PART 3

Jennys Walk  
Oaklands

SCHEDULE C

WARD C

PART 1

Birchview Close  
Blackbushe Park  
Coppice Gardens  
Dungells Lane  
Freshwood Drive  
Greenhaven  
Hangerfield Close  
Highwood Close  
Little Vigo  
Lymington Avenue  
Merron Close  
Minstead Drive  
Monteagle Close  
Monteagle Lane  
Silver Glades  
Vigo Lane  
Vigo Lane Estate  
Whitley Road

PART 2

Bartons Drive  
Blackbushe Airport  
Brockenhurst Drive  
.....  
Glenavon Gardens  
Littlecroft  
Michaelmas Close  
Mistletoe Road  
Stockbridge Way  
Stoney Close  
Tudor Drive  
Walnut Close  
Woodlands

## SCHEDULE 2

## DISTRICT OF HART : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
EVERSLEY	1
CHURCH CROOKHAM	3
CRONDALL	2
FLEET COURTMOOR	3
FLEET PONDTAIL	3
FLEET WEST	3
FROGMORE AND DARBY GREEN	3
HARTLEY WINTNEY	2
HAWLEY	3
HOOK	2
LONG SUTTON	1
WHITEWATER	1
ODIHAM	2
YATELEY EAST	2
YATELEY NORTH	2
YATELEY WEST	2

SCHEDULE 3

DISTRICT OF HART : ORDER OF RETIREMENT OF COUNCILLORS

NAME OF WARD	NO. OF COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING WARD	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	3rd YEAR
EVERSLEY	1	-	-	1*
CHURCH CROOKHAM	3	1	1	1
GRONDALL	2	1	-	1*
FLEET COURTHOOR	3	1	1	1
FLEET PONDTAIL	3	1	1	1
FLEET WEST	3	1	1	1
FROGMORE AND DARBY GREEN	3	1	1*	1
HARTLEY WINTNEY	2	1	1*	-
HAWLEY	3	1	1*	1
HOOK	2	1	1*	-
LONG SUTTON	1	1*	-	-
WHITEWATER	1	-	1*	-
ODIHAM	2	-	1*	1
YATELEY EAST	2	-	1*	1
YATELEY NORTH	2	-	1*	1
YATELEY WEST	2	1	1*	-

## FLEET WEST WARD.

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of Hartley Wintney parish meets the western boundary of Hawley Parish, thence eastwards and following said western boundary to the railway leading to Fleet Station, thence southwestwards along said railway to Fleet Road, thence southwestwards along said Road to

Avondale Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Kent Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Kings Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Connaught Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Reading Road South, thence southwards along said Road to the Reading Road Bridge over the Basingstoke Canal, thence generally southwestwards along said canal to a point being a prolongation southeastwards of the southern boundary of property No. 53 Crookham Road, thence northwestwards along said prolongation and said southern boundary and crossing Crookham Road to and southwestwards along the path leading to the road known as The Lea, thence continuing southwestwards along ~~The~~ Lea to the eastern boundary of Crookham Village Parish, thence generally northwards and westwards following the eastern and northern boundary of said Parish and thence generally northwards following the eastern boundaries of Dogmersfield <sup>Parish</sup> and Winchfield parish to and generally northeastwards following the southern boundary of Hartley Wintney Parish to the point of commencement.

## FLEET PONDTAIL WARD.

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Fleet West Ward meets the western boundary of Hawley Parish, thence generally southwards following said Parish boundary to the Basingstoke Canal, thence generally westwards along said Canal to the eastern boundary of Fleet West Ward, thence generally northeastwards following said eastern boundary to the point of commencement.

## CHURCH CROOKHAM WARD.

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of Fleet Pondtail Ward meets the western boundary of Hawley Parish, thence generally eastwards following said Parish boundary to the eastern boundary of the District, thence southwards following the District boundary to the northern boundary of Crondall Parish,

thence generally southwestwards following said boundary to and northwards following the eastern boundary of Crookham Village Parish to a point opposite the northwestern boundary of the property known as Lansdowne in Cavendish road thence northeastwards to and along said boundary and continuing along the southeastern boundary of No. 39 Galley Hill road, thence crossing said road and continuing northeastwards along Award Road to Rounton Road thence northwards along said Road to Reading road, thence northwestwards along said Road to Florence Road, thence northeastwards along said road to its end, thence northwestwards following a footpath to the rear of the properties on the eastern side of Velmead Close to Velmead Road, thence generally northeastwards along said road to a point opposite the eastern boundary of the Electricity Sub Station, thence southeastwards along said eastern boundary to the northern boundary of the school, thence northeastwards along said northern boundary to the School Access Road, thence generally northwestwards along said road to velmead road, thence eastwards along said Road to the southern boundary of Fleet Pondtail Ward at Pondtail Bridge, thence generally eastwards following said southern boundary to the point of commencement.

#### FLEET COURTMOOR WARD.

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of Fleet West Ward meets the southern boundary of Fleet Pondtail Ward, thence eastwards following the said southern boundary of last - mentioned ward to the northwestern boundary of Church Crookham Ward thence generally southwestwards following said boundary to the eastern boundary of Crookham Village Parish, thence generally northwards following said boundary to the southern boundary of Fleet West Ward thence generally eastwards following said boundary to the point of commencement.

#### MATTINGLEY WARD.

Comprises the Parishes of Heckfield, Mattingley and Rotherwick.

#### BRAMSHILL WARD.

Comprises the Parishes of Bramshill and Eversley.

**HOOK WARD.**

Comprises the Parish of Hook.

**LONG SUTTON WARD.**

Comprises the Parishes of Greywell, Long Sutton and South Warnborough.

**ODIHAM WARD.**

Comprises the Parish of Odiham.

**CRONDALL WARD.**

Comprises the Parishes of Crondall, Crookham Village and Dogmersfield.

**HARTLEY WINTNEY WARD.**

Comprises the Parishes of Hartley Wintney and Winchfield.

**HAWLEY WARD.**

Comprises the Parish of Hawley.

**FROGMORE AND DARBY GREEN WARD.**

Comprises the Frogmore and Derby Green Ward of the Parish of Yateley.

**YATELEY NORTH WARD.**

Comprises the Yately North Ward of the Parish of Yately

**YATELEY EAST WARD.**

Comprises the Yately East Ward of the Parish of Yately

**YATELEY WEST WARD.**

Comprises the Yately West Ward of the Parish of Yately.