

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 111

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 111

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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Professor Michael Chisholm.

Sir Andrew Wheatley, CBE.

Mr F B Young, CBE.

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

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH
OF TAUNTON DEANE IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the Borough of Taunton Deane in accordance with the requirements of section 63 of, and Schedule 9 to, the Local Government Act 1972, present our proposals for the future electoral arrangements for that Borough.
2. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 10 June 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Taunton Deane Borough Council, copies of which were circulated to the Somerset County Council, Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the district, the Member of Parliament for the constituency 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. Taunton Deane Borough 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 council and the proposed number of councillors for each ward. They were also asked to take into account any views expressed to them following their consultation with local interests. We therefore asked that they should publish details of their provisional proposals about a month before they submitted their draft scheme to us, thus allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. On 27 November 1974 Taunton Deane Borough Council presented their draft scheme of representation. In accordance with section 7(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, they had exercised an option for a system of whole council elections. They proposed to divide the area into 28 wards each returning one, two or three members to form a council of 49.

5. Following publication by the Borough Council of their provisional proposals we received two letters. One, from a local political association, proposed an alternative scheme which included parts of neighbouring parishes with wards of the town of Taunton. The other letter, from a number of residents of a parish adjacent to Taunton, registered support for an alternative scheme which had been considered, but rejected, by the Borough Council.

6. The Borough Council sent us copies of correspondence which they had received during their consultations raising points which they had been unable to meet in settling their draft scheme. These included two alternative schemes submitted by another local political association. One scheme linked four neighbouring parishes with adjacent wards in the town of Taunton. The other, submitted after opposition had been encountered from the councils of neighbouring parishes, linked only one parish with a part of Taunton. There was also a submission by a local councillor who considered that there should be single-member wards in the town of Taunton and the parish of Wellington; a letter from Pitminster Parish Council suggesting that the parish of Corfe should be transferred from the proposed Neroche ward to the proposed Blackdown ward; a letter from Wiveliscombe Parish Council expressing concern at the representation of the proposed ward in which they were included; a petition by a number of electors in the existing Wilton ward of Taunton objecting to the proposal that the Wilton ward would disappear; and five letters from Parish Councils objecting to one of the schemes put to the Borough Council by a political association.

7. The Borough Council also sent us letters from Wellington Parish Council who objected strongly to the proposal to divide the parish into district wards. They considered that the parish should form one ward electing six district councillors, and in this proposal they were supported by a local branch political association. In addition we received copies of correspondence which the Wellington Parish Council had had with the Home Office and with their Member of Parliament.

8. We considered the Borough Council's draft scheme together with the comments which had been made. We noted that the alternative scheme which included parts of neighbouring parishes with wards of Taunton did not comply with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 act that district wards must comprise whole parishes or whole parish wards. Moreover, we found it difficult on the information provided to form a proper view of the proposals in terms of equality of representation, and accordingly we concluded that we could not accept it. In the case of the other alternative schemes we noted that there was considerable local opposition, and that both schemes provided a rather uneven standard of representation. We decided therefore to reject them. We did not consider that the scheme which proposed single-member wards in Taunton and Wellington was viable on the information available to us. We concluded that the proposed Wiveliscombe ward was acceptable.

9. We decided, however, to adopt the suggestion to transfer the parish of Corfe from the proposed Neroche ward to the proposed Blackdown ward and considered that the resulting Blackdown ward should be allocated an additional councillor. We also decided, in view of the strength of feeling in the area, to rename the proposed Castle ward "Castle and Wilton".

10. We noted that the proposal that the parish of Wellington should form a single 6-member ward did not comply with the guideline in our Report No 6 that no district ward should return more than three councillors, and we could

find no convincing reasons for treating Wellington as an exceptional case. We decided, however, to modify the Borough Council's proposal for two 3-member wards for the parish by dividing the proposed Wellington North ward to form a single-member Rockwell Green ward and a 2-member Wellington North ward.

11. We studied the Borough Council's draft scheme to see whether there were any modifications which could be made to improve the standard of representation. We were rather concerned at the high rate of increase in electorate which the Borough Council predicted for a number of proposed wards by 1979. We looked carefully at the forecast figures and concluded that they were critical only in the case of the proposed Bishop's Hull ward. We therefore decided to reduce the representation of the ward from two councillors to one. We examined a number of other possible modifications but concluded that they would be unacceptable on grounds of geography or local ties of the area

12. Subject to the changes referred to in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 above, we decided that the Borough Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future electoral arrangements for the borough in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines, and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

13. On 5 May 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 4 July 1975.

14. We received letters of support for the draft proposals from Corfe Parish

Council, Stoke St Mary Parish Council, Kingston St Mary Parish Council and a local councillor.

15. Taunton Deane Borough Council informed us that they supported the proposed wards except for the proposal to reduce the representation of the proposed Bishop's Hull ward to one councillor.

16. Wellington Parish Council wrote to us reiterating their objections to the proposal to divide the parish into wards and urging once more that the whole parish should form a district ward returning six members. Their representations were supported once again by the Member of Parliament (see paragraph 7).

17. Wellington Without Parish Council accepted the draft proposals but suggested that, for ease of administration, the parish of Thorne St Margaret should be transferred from the proposed West Deane ward to Monument ward.

18. One of the local political associations which had previously submitted two alternative schemes wrote again. They did not make specific proposals but expressed concern that the boundaries of some of the wards in the town of Taunton and the surrounding parishes were unsatisfactory, because of development in Taunton which had spilled over into the neighbouring parishes.

19. In view of these 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 you appointed Mr F R Appleby OBE as an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

20. The Assistant Commissioner held a meeting at the Municipal Buildings, Taunton on 24 September 1975. A copy of his report to us of the meeting is attached at Schedule 1 to this report.

21. The Assistant Commissioner recommended that our draft proposals should be confirmed without modification.

22. We considered again our draft proposals in the light of the comments we had received and of the Assistant Commissioner's report. We concluded that the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation to make no change should be adopted and, accordingly, we decided to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

23. 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

24. 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 Taunton Deane Borough Council and will be available 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

F B YOUNG

DAVID R SMITH (Secretary)

30 October 1975

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON DEANE

REPORT OF LOCAL MEETING

Assistant Commissioner:

F. R. Appleby

Date of Meeting:

24th September, 1975

To the Chairman and Members of the Local Government Boundary Commission
for England

Mr. Chairman, My Lady and Gentlemen,

As requested by you, on Wednesday, 24th September, 1975 I held a local meeting at the Municipal Buildings Taunton to hear and discuss comments on the draft proposals of the Commission for the electoral arrangements for the borough of Taunton Deane.

1. This report includes a general statement of the Commission's draft proposals and in particular of those to which objection has been raised and of alternative proposals submitted, the gist of the cases advanced for and against the Commission's and the alternative proposals, my assessment of the arguments advanced and my recommendations. A list of those attending the meeting and the interests they represent is attached and marked "Document 1."

THE DRAFT PROPOSALS

2. A draft scheme of representation for the borough of Taunton Deane was submitted by the borough council on 27th November, 1974. It provided for the division of the borough into 28 wards, each returning one, two or three members with a total of 49 district councillors.

3. On 5th May, 1975 the Commission published their draft proposals which adopted the borough council's scheme as a basis, but with the following modifications:-

(a) The draft scheme provided for two wards, Wellington North and Wellington South, comprising the parish of Wellington, each returning three members. The Commission propose, in place of the council's proposed Wellington North Ward, to substitute two wards, Wellington North and Rockwell Green, returning two and one member respectively;

(b) The Commission propose that the council's proposed Castle Ward within the former borough of Taunton, should be re-named "Castle and Wilton";

(c) The draft scheme proposed that the Bishop's Hull Ward should return two members. The Commission propose that this representation shall be reduced to one;

(d) The Commission propose that the parish of Corfe, included by the draft scheme in Neroche Ward, shall be transferred to Blackdown Ward, which shall then be represented by two members in place of one, as proposed in the draft scheme.

4. Most of the draft proposals were not the subject of any adverse comment and the borough council, in a letter dated 11th June, 1975, supported them with the exception of the reduction in the representation of Bishop's Hull Ward. There was, however, a small number of objections and representations and these are dealt with in the succeeding section of this report.

BISHOP'S HULL WARD

Draft Proposals

5. As explained above, the Commission propose that the Bishop's Hull ward shall return one councillor and not two as provided by the draft scheme. This is based on a substantial divergence between the forecasts made by the Commission and the borough council of the electorate in the ward in 1979. The council estimated that the electorate would increase from a figure of 1,468 in 1974 to 2,650 in 1979. The Commission, however, have assumed an electorate in 1979 of only 1,672.

Representations

6. Mr. Brassington, Secretary and Solicitor of the borough council submitted an amended estimate of probable development in the ward, taking account of changed economic circumstances since the draft scheme was submitted. He showed that proposals for 100 council dwellings, including 30 for old people, were well advanced and that completion of the last 35 could be expected in 1978/79. 30 private dwellings were already under construction. Outline planning permission had been given for a further private development of 350 dwellings and detailed approval was imminent for the first two phases. The development had been held up by the lack of foul sewerage, but the necessary scheme had recently been completed and work could be expected to go ahead quickly. He submitted a letter from the developers stating their intention to proceed with the first phase of 68 houses as soon as detailed approval was obtained. Further progress would be determined by the number of sales achieved according to the state of the housing market.

7. On the basis of the foregoing programme, Mr. Brassington forecast an electorate in the ward in 1979 of 2,420, against an average of 1,404 electors for each of 49 councillors. If the additional councillor were allotted the average throughout the borough would be 1,376, while that in Bishop's Hull would be 1,210.

8. Mrs. S. Gwyther, district and parish councillor for Bishop's Hull, and Mr. A. E. Smith, Chairman of the Bishop's Hull parish council, strongly supported the claim for two councillors and stated that the work load was too heavy for one member. Mr. J. Meikle, as Chairman of the Policy Committee of the borough council said that both in committee and in the council voting had been unanimously in favour of having two members for Bishop's Hull.

Assessment

9. The 1974 electorate of 1,468, which represents a theoretical entitlement of 1.18 councillors, clearly cannot justify an additional member for Bishop's Hull, so that the claim must be justified, if at all, by the prospect of development before 1979. If the growth envisaged by the borough council were achieved, the ward would have an entitlement of 1.72 on the basis of a council of 49 members, 1.76 on the basis of 50. It seems clear that the bulk of the council house development will have been completed, though, even here, such completions as are delayed until the end of 1978 will not have effect within the five year period involved. The only serious problem, however, arises in relation to the scheme for 350 private houses. If all obstacles to building are now removed, work on the site can scarcely begin to make progress until late in 1975. Building is then intended to proceed by stages and will be dependent on the prospect of sales. Any forecast of the number of dwellings which will be occupied by October, 1978, the latest date for inclusion in the 1979 Register, must be speculative, but there must be doubt, especially in present economic conditions, whether anything like the whole project will be achieved. If, as an example, all the dwellings in the council's programme and the 35 private houses now under construction were completed but only half of the 350, the entitlements would be 1.48 and 1.51 respectively.

10. I am satisfied that the Commission have understated the probable increase in the electorate of Bishop's Hull ward, but I am very doubtful whether the rate of increase predicted by the borough council will be achieved. In view of the considerable over-representation which would exist immediately if a second member were allotted, such an allotment would need to be justified by convincing evidence of

substantial growth by 1979.

Recommendation

11. I therefore RECOMMEND that the Commission adhere to the proposal that Bishop's Hull ward be represented by one councillor.

PARISH OF WELLINGTON

Draft Proposals

12. The Commission propose the division of the parish of Wellington into three wards, Wellington North, Wellington South and Rockwell Green, returning two, three and one member respectively.

Representations

13. In a letter dated 10th June, 1975 the Wellington parish council objected strongly to the division of the parish into wards, whether two or three, and representatives attended to press these objections. Mr. A. Brown, clerk of the parish council, argued that warding the parish would make it less democratic, in that the individual voter would be able to vote for only a part of the representatives of the parish. As an example, the voters of Rockwell Green would have a voice in the election of only one out of six councillors. Wellington had done without wards since 1894 and the inhabitants preferred it so. To alter the system now would be to provide uniformity for its own sake and would cause confusion, particularly at first. In the past Wellington had always had contested elections, and he feared that in some of the new wards they might be unopposed, thereby leading to the formation of "political enclaves". He maintained that Wellington was still a compact town of 9,700 people and that for a community of that nature it was a great disadvantage to be divided into wards.

14. Mr. David Wrench and Mr. G. Allen, members of Wellington parish council, supported Mr. Brown's arguments. They stressed that the parish was a tight, compact community and that warding would be socially divisive. They considered themselves to represent the whole town, but warding would destroy this. Mr. Wrench drew attention to the imbalance of the electorates in the proposed wards, in that Wellington North would have only two councillors for 3,191 electors, while Wellington South would have three for 2,689. He appreciated that this took into account projected development in the South ward, but felt that there was a danger of the anticipated increase not being achieved.

15. Mr. F. W. G. Brooks, a borough councillor for the Wellington ward, said that, though elected by Wellington, he represented the district of Taunton Deane, and this should be the case whether or not a parish was warded. He considered that it was difficult for a candidate to fight an election, especially a by-election, with an electorate of 7,000 or properly to represent such a large number. Mr. D. J. L. Webb, as Chairman of the Wellington Conservative Branch, supported the draft proposals and stated that his experience showed that the electors of Rockwell Green would prefer to be separately warded from the rest of Wellington.

16. Mr. A. Debenham, a borough councillor, also considered it impracticable for a councillor properly to represent 7,000 electors and stressed that to overcome the difficulty of communication between elector and councillor it was essential to reduce the size of the electoral unit. He put forward a well reasoned case for one-member wards, while appreciating that practical considerations might necessitate two members in many cases, and submitted a map indicating the division of Wellington into six one-member wards, with an alternative providing three wards. This plan had been put before the borough council, but had not been examined in detail.

17. Mr. Brassington referred to the Commission's statement in Report No. 6 that only in the most exceptional circumstances should the number of councillors for a ward be other than one, two or three, and stated that the borough council had been unable to find that any such circumstances existed. On the projected increase in the electorate of Wellington South ward, he submitted particulars showing that 72 council dwellings were expected to be completed not later than 1978, 402 private dwellings were already under construction and planning permission had been given for a further 110 private dwellings.

Assessment

18. I drew the attention of the objectors very strongly to the need to demonstrate the "most exceptional circumstances" to justify a ward returning more than three councillors, but could find no argument which distinguished Wellington from any other urban area of similar size. The case seemed to depend on a conviction that warding in itself is socially divisive, but there seemed to be no evidence for that contention, which in any case seems to be equally applicable, if at all, to all urban wards.

19. I visited Wellington and was impressed by the fact that Rockwell Green was physically separated from the rest of Wellington and, to an outsider, would appear to be a separate community. I also observed that housing development was proceeding apace in the proposed Wellington South ward.

20. Mr. Debenham's arguments had great force, but they lacked much necessary supporting evidence so that I was unable to test whether his proposed wards would comply with other desiderata such as equality of representation. In these circumstances and in the absence of support from other parties, I do not feel able to consider them as a practicable alternative to the draft proposals.

Recommendation

21. I therefore RECOMMEND that you confirm your draft proposals to form three wards, Wellington North, Wellington South and Rockwell Green, returning two, three and one members respectively.

PARISH OF THORNE ST. MARGARET

Draft Proposals

22. The Commission propose the formation of a West Deane ward with a present electorate of 1,050 and including the parish of Thorne St. Margaret, and a Monument ward with an electorate of 1,330, each ward returning one councillor. The Monument ward incorporates the parish of Wellington Without.

Representations

23. In a letter to the Commission dated 19th June, 1975 the Wellington Without parish council stated that they had no objection to the draft proposals but suggested that for ease of administration the parish of Thorne St. Margaret should be transferred from West Deane to Monument ward. Mr. R. E. Walker, Chairman of Wellington Without parish council, attended to explain the suggestion, which was based principally on the fact that the boundary between the parishes of Wellington Without and Thorne St. Margaret split the village of Holywell Lake. Mr. L. J. Lane, borough councillor for the existing Monument ward, said that the parish of Thorne St. Margaret had not been consulted, and that no change should be made without obtaining their views.

24. Mr. Brassington said that while Holywell Lake had associations with Wellington Without, other parts of Thorne St. Margaret were more naturally associated with parishes in West Deane ward.

Assessment

25. There are minor boundary problems affecting Thorne St. Margaret but their solution would be better dealt with in any future review of parish boundaries than in the present exercise. It is possible that the transfer of the parish would create more problems than it solved and it should not be undertaken without prior consultation with the parishioners, there being no parish council. The transfer of Thorne St. Margaret (52 electors) from West Deane ward (1,050 electors) to Monument ward (1,330 electors) would marginally aggravate the existing imbalance.

Recommendations

26. I RECOMMEND that the parish of Thorne St. Margaret be retained within West Deane ward.

TAUNTON AND SURROUNDING PARISHES

Draft Proposals

27. The Commission propose that the area of the former borough of Taunton be divided into seven wards, Rowbarton, Lyngford, Fairwater, Castle and Wilton, Galmington, Halcon and Holway, each returning three councillors. Except in the naming of the wards the proposals were identical with those in the borough council's draft scheme.

Representations

28. When the borough council submitted its draft scheme, the Taunton Conservative Association objected to it, largely on the grounds, first that development beyond the boundaries of the old borough of Taunton had made those boundaries inappropriate in that they split existing communities, and, secondly, that the revised boundaries of the town wards broke up existing communities. The Association had submitted an alternative proposal, known as "scheme B", which added parts of the former borough to four of the surrounding wards and divided the rest into five wards. Following strong opposition by parishes affected and the subsequent rejection of the scheme by the borough council, the Association submitted an alternative proposal, "scheme C". This formed one ward from part of the old borough added to the parish of Trull, but otherwise left the wards outside Taunton as provided in the draft scheme. Within the former borough, it provided for eight wards, of which five wards each return three councillors, two would each return two and one either one or two. After publication of the Commission's draft

proposals the Association re-iterated their objections.

29. Mr. D. F. G. Horwood, a borough councillor, elaborated the views of the Taunton Conservative Association. He particularly drew attention to paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 11 of the Local Government Act, 1972 requiring regard to be had to the desirability of fixing easily identifiable boundaries and to any local ties which would be broken by fixing any particular boundary. He insisted that the draft proposals totally disregarded these requirements in relation to Taunton, both by splitting communities which spread across the old borough boundary and by breaking up existing wards within the town. He considered that scheme B was the best in present circumstances but he understood the reasonable objections of the adjoining parishes and therefore put forward scheme C as a compromise, which would provide a stable and satisfactory solution for the town wards, while leaving the way open to deal with the artificial division of communities straddling the old boundary when parish boundaries could be reviewed. He stressed the existence of separate communities within towns, a fact which he felt was not appreciated in rural areas, and said that the draft proposals would carve in two the very active community of Wilton. Moreover the change in the electoral pattern, which would itself have to be repeated before long, would defeat one of the principal objects of local government reorganisation, to create greater public interest.

30. Mr. E. S. Rickards, Vice-Chairman of Trull parish council, expressed the parish council's strong support for the Commission's draft proposals and complete opposition to being joined in one ward with part of Taunton. The parish already had considerable Taunton overspill and scheme C would add so much more that the old community of the parish would be overwhelmed. Mrs. M. H. H. Webb, borough councillor for Trull ward, who had already written expressing her agreement with the draft proposals, supported the parish council. She added that at present Trull had 1,500 overspill and about 1,000 other parishioners. Scheme C would increase the overspill by some 1,200. Mr. Rickards spoke of the confusion which would arise if, in combined borough and parish elections, some electors in the ward had votes for the parish and some not.

31. Mr. G. T. G. Hunter, a borough councillor for Wilton ward and Mr. C. S. Williams, a borough councillor for Castle ward, reiterated the danger of breaking up existing communities within the town and stressed especially the reality of the community based on the existing Wilton ward, and centred on the ancient church of St. George, which would be split in two by the draft proposals. Mrs. J. Corston believed that it was wrong to think in this way of water-tight compartments and that there were overlapping activities which made any particular ward boundaries irrelevant.

32. Mr. Debenham, pursuing his contentions referred to in connection with Wellington, submitted a proposal for the division of the area of the former borough into eleven wards of which one would return one councillor, one would return either one or two, and the remainder would each return two.

Assessment

33. It is true that development has removed all obvious trace of some of the old boundaries of Taunton, particularly in the north and south-west, and potentially also in the south-east. This, however, is not unusual on the periphery of towns and I think it would be wrong to involve unwilling adjoining parishes to anticipate the solution of problems which will fall to be considered in the review of parish boundaries. The Conservative Association recognised this in producing scheme C, but were clearly misled in thinking that the parish of Trull would accept the scheme. If, on the other hand, the areas of Taunton proposed to be included in Trull are to be returned to the former borough area, they must cause difficulties, since the adjoining Wilton ward, with a projected electorate for 1979 of 4,061 could not absorb the addition of some 1,200 electors without justifying more than three councillors. There would therefore need to be consequential alterations affecting the whole of scheme C.

34. It was suggested to me that a solution might be found by forming a new ward, with one councillor, for those areas to be excluded from Trull with the addition of that part of Wilton ward lying to the south of Galmington Road and the west of Trull Road. The present electorate of this additional area is 328, with a projected figure in 1979 of 626. The total electorate of such a ward in 1979 would thus be some 1,800, while that of Wilton ward would be reduced to some 3,400. While these figures might be just acceptable, they would be undesirably far from the requirement to aim at equality of representation.

35. It is difficult for the outsider to judge the existence of community feeling within specific areas of a town, though the opinions expressed to me at the meeting were convincing. I find it difficult, however, to believe that such feeling is dependent on the boundaries of electoral areas, established primarily for facilitating electoral proceedings and the relations between councillors and electors. In any case the discrepancies between the electorates of the existing wards must necessitate considerable boundary adjustments whichever scheme is adopted.

36. I was again impressed with the care taken by Mr. Debenham in the submission of his proposals, but, as in the case of his scheme for Wellington, they were not developed, nor accompanied by the necessary statistics, so as to enable me to recommend them. Nor could I discern any clear intrinsic advantage over the other proposals before me.

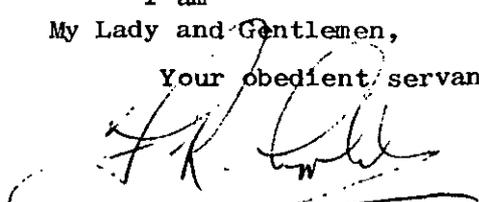
37. I concluded that either Mr. Debenham's proposals or scheme C (subject to adjustment in relation to Trull), could have been made the basis for a reasonable scheme of representation, but neither could be accepted as it stood. I do not consider, however, that they would be likely to have any clear advantage over the draft proposals, or that the fears aroused by the draft proposals are justified.

38. Several people expressed the view that it would be preferable to delay a decision on the draft proposals to enable further consideration to be given to the alternatives in the light of problems which had emerged at the meeting. They understood that this would probably mean that a new scheme of representation would not be ready in time for the next elections and that any delay would have other consequential effects.

Recommendations

39. I RECOMMEND that the Commission adhere to their draft proposals for the wards in the area of Taunton and the surrounding parishes.

I am
My Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant


F. B. Appleby

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON DEANE
REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION MEETING - 24th SEPTEMBER, 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Representing</u>
A. Brown	6 Courtland Road	Clerk, Wellington Parish Council
G. Allen	10 Corner Close	Wellington Parish Council
Mrs. M. H. H. Webb	Goosemoor, Trull	Borough Councillor - Trull Ward
E. S. Rickards	Baxen Hedge, Dipford	Vice-Chairman, Trull Parish Council
F. W. G. Brooks	Middle Green, Wellington	Borough Councillor - Wellington Ward
D. J. Webb	3 Northside, Rockwell Green	Chairman, Wellington Conservative Association
J. Meikle	The Grove, Hope Corner Lane	Conservative Group, Taunton Deane Borough Council
H. S. Pring	2 Clarence Street, Taunton	Member, Taunton Deane Borough Council
Dr. E. R. Goodliffe	Mount Pleasant, Stoke St.	Stoke St. Mary Parish Council
J. F. W. Jackson	Mallows, Kingston St. Mary	Kingston St. Mary Parish Council
T. W. Fraser	Ribbip, Staplegrove	Staplegrove Parish Council
Mrs. J. Corston	41 Cheddon Road, Taunton	Taunton Labour Party
A. Debenham	The Mount, Hendlade	Taunton Deane Councillor
J. A. Liddle	13 Britain's Ash, Bathpool	West Monkton Parish Council
Mrs. J. Hole	8 Trull Green Drive, Trull	Self
Mrs. S. Gwyther	Barrowdale, Bishop's Hull	Bishop's Hull Parish Councillor
S. F. Gwyther	Barrowdale, Bishop's Hull	Ratepayer
R. E. Walker	Holywell Lake	Wellington Without Parish Councillor
D. Wrench	Larkshea, Wellington	Wellington Parish Councillor
R. M. Clark	Wilton Vicarage	Parishioner of Wilton
D. F. G. Horwood	16 Westleigh Road, Taunton	Taunton Conservative Association
D. R. Jay	Somerset County Gazette	County Gazette
D. W. Brassington	Municipal Buildings, Taunton	Taunton Deane Borough Council
D. J. Rumsey	Municipal Buildings, Taunton	Taunton Deane Borough Council
N. Cheeseman	1A Church Square, Taunton	Taunton Conservative Association
A. E. Smith	34 Mountway Lane	Bishop's Hull Parish Council

Mrs. J. May	Waterslade Lodge, Taunton	Self
G. T. G. Hunter	11 Hoveland Lane, Taunton	Wilton Ward
C. S. Williams	91 South Road, Taunton	Castle Ward
L. J. Lane	Middle Ford Farm, Wellington	Monument Ward
R. May	Waterslade Lodge, Taunton	Trinity Ward
F. Bourne	Municipal Buildings, Taunton	Taunton Deane Borough Council

SCHEDULE 2

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON DEANE : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
BISHOP'S HULL	1
BISHOP'S LYDEARD	1
BLACKDOWN	2
BRADFORD-ON-TONE	1
CASTLE AND WILTON	3
CHEDDON FITZPAINE	1
CREECH ST MICHAEL	1
FAIRWATER	3
GALMINGTON	3
HALCON	3
HOLWAY	3
KINGSTON AND STAPLEGROVE	1
LYNGFORD	3
MILVERTON	1
MONUMENT	1
NEROCHE	1
NORTH CURRY	1
NORTH DEANE	1
NORTON FITZWARREN	1
ROCKWELL GREEN	1
ROWBARTON	3
RUISHTON AND STOKE	2
STOKE ST GREGORY	1
TRULL	2
WELLINGTON NORTH	2
WELLINGTON SOUTH	3
WEST DEANE	1
WEST MONKTON	1
WIVELISCOMBE	1

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON DEANE: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

ROWBARTON WARD

Commencing at the point where Cheddon Road meets Kingston Road, thence northwestward along said Kingston Road to a point opposite the rear boundary of number 75 Greenway Crescent, thence southwestwards to and along said boundary and the rear boundaries of numbers 73 to 17 Greenway Crescent to the path from Turner Road to Greenway Road, thence southwards along said path to Greenway Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Mill Lease Stream, thence generally northwards along said stream to the eastern boundary of Staplegrave CP, thence continuing northwards and following said boundary to the southern boundary of Cheddon Fitzpaine CP, thence northeastwards and following said boundary to Lyngford Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to Dorchester Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Eastwick Road, thence generally southwestwards along said road to Cheddon Road, thence southwestwards and following said road to the point of commencement.

LYNGFORD WARD

Commencing at the point where Priory Bridge Road meets Station Road, thence generally northwards along said Station Road and northeastwards along the eastern boundary of Rowbarton Ward to the southern boundary of Cheddon Fitzpaine CP, thence eastwards and following said boundary to the proposed eastern relief road, thence southwards along said road to Priory Avenue, thence southwestwards along said avenue and northwestwards along Priory Bridge Road to the point of commencement.

FAIRWATER WARD

Commencing at the point where The Bridge crosses the River Tone, thence southwestwards and following said river to the northeastern boundary of

Bishop's Hull (Without) CP, thence continuing northwestwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of Staplegrove CP, thence northwards and following said boundary to the southern boundary of Rowbarton Ward, thence southwards and following said boundary, the western boundary of Lyngford Ward, Station Road, Bridge Street and The Bridge to the point of commencement.

CASTLE AND WILTON WARD

Commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of Fairwater Ward meets the southern boundary of Lyngford Ward, thence southeastwards and following said boundary to Priory Avenue, thence southwestwards along said avenue to Cranmer Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Hugo Street, thence southwestwards along said street to a point opposite the western boundary of Victoria Park, thence southeastwards to and following along said boundary to the road known as Union Gate, thence southeastwards along said road to the road known as East Reach, thence northeastwards along said road to Wordsworth Drive, thence southwards along said drive to the path from said drive to Holway Road, thence continuing southwards and following said path to Holway Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Holway Avenue, thence southwestwards along said avenue to South Road, thence southeastwards along said road to a point opposite the northern boundary of number 24 South Road, thence southwestwards to and along said boundary, the northern boundary of the property known as Waterslade House and in prolongation thereof to Stockwell Stream, thence generally southwards along said stream to the western boundary of Stoke St Mary CP, thence northwestwards and following said boundary to the footbridge to the south of Bridge House, thence northwestwards along said footbridge to Sherford Road, thence southwestwards and northwestwards along said road to Trull Road, thence northeastwards and following said road and Cann Street to Park Street, thence westwards along said street to Wellington Road, thence northwestwards along said road to the stream known as Steps Water, thence northwards and northeastwards along said stream to the river flowing from the River Tone, thence northwestwards along said river to the southern boundary of Fairwater Ward, thence northeastwards and following said boundary to the point of commencement.

GALMINGTON WARD

Commencing at the point where the western boundary of Castle and Wilton Ward meets the western boundary of Stoke St Mary CP, thence southwestwards and following said CP boundary, the northern boundary of Trull CP and the eastern boundary of Bishop's Hull (Without) CP to the southern boundary of Fairwater Ward, thence southeastwards along said boundary to the western boundary of Castle and Wilton Ward, thence southeastwards and following said boundary to the point of commencement.

HALCON WARD

Commencing at the point where Wordsworth Drive meets the eastern boundary of Castle and Wilton Ward, thence northwards and following said boundary and the eastern boundary of Lyngford Ward to the southern boundary of Cheddon Fitzpaine CP, thence southeastwards and following said boundary and the western boundary of West Monkton CP to the northern boundary of parcel number 3262 as shown on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan ST 24/2524 edition of 1965, thence westwards and southwards along said northern and the western boundaries of said parcel to Black Brook, thence westwards and following said brook to Wordsworth Drive, thence westwards along said drive to the point of commencement.

HOLWAY WARD

Commencing at the point where the western boundary of Stoke St Mary CP meets the eastern boundary of Castle and Wilton Ward, thence northwards and following said ward boundary to the southern boundary of Halcon Ward, thence generally eastwards along said boundary to the western boundary of West Monkton CP, thence southwards and following said boundary, the southern boundary of said CP and the western boundary of Stoke St Mary CP to the point of commencement.

BISHOP'S LYDEARD WARD

The parishes of Bishop's Lydeard and Cothelstone.

NORTH DEANE WARD

The parishes of Ash Priors, Combe Florey, Halse, Lydeard St Lawrence, Tolland and West Bagborough.

NORTON FITZWARREN WARD

The parish of Norton Fitzwarren.

KINGSTON AND STAPLEGROVE WARD

The parishes of Kingston St Mary and Staplegrove.

CHEDDON FITZPAINE WARD

The parish of Cheddon Fitzpaine.

WEST' MONKTON WARD

The parish of West Monkton.

CREECH ST MICHAEL WARD

The parish of Creech St Michael.

RUISHTON AND STOKE WARD

The parishes of Ruishton, Thornfalcon and Stoke St Mary.

NORTH CURRY WARD

The parishes of North Curry and Durston.

STOKE ST GREGORY WARD

The parish of Stoke St Gregory.

NEROCHE WARD

The parishes of Orchard Portman, West Hatch, Hatch Beauchamp, Bickenhall, Curland and Staple Fitzpaine.

BLACKDOWN WARD

The parishes of Churchstanton, Pitminster, Otterford and Corfe.

TRULL WARD

The parish of Trull.

BISHOP'S HULL WARD

The parish of Bishop's Hull (Without).

WIVELISCOMBE WARD

The parishes of Wiveliscombe and Wiveliscombe Without

WEST DEANE WARD

The parishes of Ashbrittle, Bathealton, Chipstable, Langford Budville, Stawley and Thorne St Margaret.

MILVERTON WARD

The parishes of Milverton and Fitzhead.

BRADFORD-ON-TONE WARD

The parishes of Bradford-on-Tone, Nynhehead and Oake.

MONUMENT WARD

The parishes of Sampford Arundel, Wellington Without and West Buckland.

WELLINGTON SOUTH WARD

The Wellington South Ward of the parish of Wellington.

WELLINGTON NORTH WARD

The Wellington North Ward of the parish of Wellington.

ROCKWELL GREEN WARD

The Rockwell Green Ward of the parish of Wellington.