

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 123

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 123.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN

Sir Edmund Compton, GCB, KBE.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Mr J M Rankin, QC.

MEMBERS

The Countess Of Albemarle, DBE.

Mr T C Benfield.

Professor Michael Chisholm.

Sir Andrew Wheatley, CBE.

Mr P B Young, CBE.

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

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CITY OF CANTERBURY
IN THE COUNTY OF KENT.

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the City of Canterbury 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 of that City.
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 Canterbury City Council, copies of which were circulated to the Kent County Council, Parish Councils 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 the local newspapers circulating in the area and of the local government press. Notices inserted in the local press announced the start of the review and invited comments from members of the public and any interested bodies.
3. The Canterbury City Council were invited to prepare a draft scheme of representation for our consideration. When doing so, they were asked to observe the rules laid down in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 and the guidelines which we set out in our Report No. 6 about the proposed size of the Council and the proposed number of councillors for each ward. They were also asked to take into account any views expressed to them following their consultation with local interests. We therefore asked that they should publish details of their provisional proposals about a month before they submitted their draft scheme to us, thus allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. The Council have not passed a resolution under section 7(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the elections of all district councillors will be held simultaneously in accordance with section 7(6).

5. On 17 January 1975, Canterbury City Council presented their draft scheme of representation. They proposed to divide the area into 25 wards, each returning 1, 2 or 3 councillors, to form a council of 49 members.

6. We considered the draft scheme submitted by the Council and the comments which had been made upon it. We noted that the draft scheme complied with our own guidelines but we considered that there was some justification for the objections raised regarding the grouping of parishes. We, therefore, decided to adopt the City Council's scheme for the urban areas of the district, but to detach the parish of Thanington Without from the Wincheap ward and to re-group the parishes to provide for eleven rural wards each returning one councillor. We examined the possibilities for modifying the electoral arrangements for Herne Bay in order to secure a more even standard of representation. It appeared to us that any modification would require the drawing of boundary lines which would break local ties. We noted that the proposals were generally accepted in the area which, as a whole, would be correctly represented. We decided not to propose any changes. Ordnance Survey had recommended seven minor boundary changes so as to secure more readily identifiable boundary lines and we decided to accept these recommendations.

7. 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 the 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 members of the public and interested bodies. We asked that comments should reach us not later than

8. Comments received in response to our draft proposals raised objections to our proposals for the wards in the rural areas of the district. They also raised objections to certain wards in the urban area and asked for alternative arrangements to be given further consideration.

9. 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 J Whatley as an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

10. Notice of the local meeting was sent to all who had received our draft proposals or had commented upon them, and was published locally.

11. The Assistant Commissioner held a meeting at the City Secretary's Office, 41 Old Dover Road, Canterbury on 22 October 1975 and visited the area which was **(without enclosures)** the subject of comment. A copy of his report is attached at Schedule 1 to this report.

12. In the light of the discussion which took place at the meeting and his inspection of the area the Assistant Commissioner recommended the adoption of the District Council's original proposals for the Fordwich, Littlebourne, Bridge, Barham, Wincheap and Stone Street wards but with the following changes of name - Fordwich to become Sturry South, Littlebourne to become Little Stour, Bridge to become North Nailbourne and Barham to become Barham Downs. He also recommended that our proposed Marshside ward should be augmented by the addition of the parish of Westbere and an alteration to the boundary between our proposed Herne and Reculver wards.

13. We considered again our draft proposals in the light of the comments which had been received, and of the Assistant Commissioner's report. We concluded that the modifications recommended by the Assistant Commissioner should be adopted and, subject to these amendments, we hereby confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

14. 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

15. In accordance with section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 a copy of this report and copies of the maps are being sent to Canterbury City Council and will be made available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report (without maps) are being sent 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)

November 1975

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REPORT ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

CANTERBURY CITY

J. WHATLEY

OCTOBER 1975

To The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

REPORT of a local meeting held at the office of the City Secretary, 41 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 22nd October, 1975 to consider the Commission's draft proposals concerning the electoral arrangements for the City of Canterbury

PRESENT:

| Name | Address | Organisation Represented |
|-------------------|---|--|
| E.F.C. Brown | 9 Hawks Lane, Canterbury | Conservative Assn. |
| Pat Bolton | Forge House, 6 Hollow Lane, Canterbury | " " |
| C.E. deLima | 59 Windsor House, Whitstable | Caretaker |
| P.E. Greenwood | The Barton, Patricbourne | Acting Clerk, Patricbourne P.C. |
| G. Fryer | Chota, Bekesbourne | Parish Council |
| E.R. Buckwell | Yockletts Farm, Waltham | Waltham P.C. |
| R.J.E. Waye | 28 Hill View Road, Harbledown | Harbledown P.C. |
| B. Raffety | Fordwich House, Fordwich | Parish Council |
| E.C. Newing | 32 Jubilee Road, Littlebourne | Parish Council |
| J.H. Slade-Powell | New Place, Ickham, Canterbury | Parish Council |
| Mrs. E. | Stowyhurst, Nargate Close, Littlebourne | Conservative Society, Littlebourne Womens' Inst. |
| G. Lilliot | Hook Farm, Grove | Wickhambreaux Parish |
| N.A.S. Andrews | 3 Sandpitt Cottages, Wickhambreaux | " " |
| J.F. Montgomery | Wickhambreaux Court | Area Committee, Kent Assn. of Parish Council |

| Name | Address | Organisation Represented |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| L. Shirley | Little Bridge Place, Bridge | District Councillor and Bridge Sub-Postmaster |
| A.R. Palmer | 158 Ashford Road, Thanington | Chairman, Parish Council of Thanington Without |
| J.C. Bardsley | Downsmead Farm, Kingston | Kingston Parish Council |
| D.J. Margrie | 90 Wife of Bath Hill, Canterbury | Canterbury Constitu- ency Labour Party |
| M. Fuller | 33 St. Michael's Place, Canterbury | " " and District Councillor |
| Gay | | Chief Executive, City of Canterbury |
| Brookes | | City Secretary's Department |
| J.J. Watts | Whitehall, Adisham | Chairman, Adisham PC |
| R. Braithwaite | | Kentish Gazette, Canterbury |

COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS

The Commission's draft proposals were issued on 5th May, 1975 and are as follows:-

| <u>Name of Ward</u> | <u>Number of Councillors</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Barton | 3 |
| Blean Forest | 1 |
| Chartham | 1 |
| Chestfield | 2 |
| Gorrell | 2 |
| Great Stour | 1 |
| Harbledown | 1 |
| Harbour | 2 |
| Herne | 3 |
| Heron | 3 |

| <u>Name of Ward</u> | <u>Number of Councillors</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Little Stour | 1 |
| Marshside | 1 |
| Northgate | 3 |
| North Nailbourne | 1 |
| Reculver | 3 |
| Seasalter | 2 |
| South Nailbourne | 1 |
| Stone Street | 1 |
| St. Stephens | 3 |
| Sturry North | 1 |
| Sturry South | 1 |
| Swalecliffe | 2 |
| Tankerton | 2 |
| West Bay | 3 |
| Westgate | 3 |
| Wincheap | 3 |

A description of the boundaries of the wards proposed by the Commission is attached as Appendix A.

OBJECTIONS TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS

1. Objection to the Commission's proposed Great Stour Ward was made by:

- (a) Littlebourne PC; and
- (b) Westbere P.C.

2. Objection to the Commission's proposed Little Stour Ward was made by:

- (a) The Ickham, Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux Conservation Society;

- (b) Bekesbourne P.C.,
- (c) Adisham P.C., and
- (d) Kingston P.C.

3. Objection to the Commission's proposed Stone Street Ward was made by:

- (a) Thanington Without P.C., and
- (b) Canterbury City Council

4. Objection to the Commission's proposed North Nailbourne Ward was made by:

- (a) Bridge P.C., and
- (b) Upper Hardres P.C.

5. Objection to the inclusion of the Hersden Ward of the Parish of Sturry in the Commission's Marshside Ward was made by Chislet P.C.

6. General objections to the Commission's proposals in the urban areas of the district were made by Canterbury Constituency Labour Party and Canterbury Branch Labour Party, both of whom pressed for the creation of single-member Wards in those areas. They also asked that the Parish of Chartham be warded.

7. Canterbury Constituency Conservative Association submitted an alternative scheme for the district, involving a regrouping of parishes in some of the rural areas and a revision of ward boundaries in some of the built up areas.

8. Chartham P.C. asked that existing arrangements remain unchanged.

9. Objections to the names of the Commission's proposed Marshside and South Nailbourne Wards were made variously by Chislet P.C., Kingston P.C., Canterbury City Council and Barham P.C.

PROPOSALS ADVANCED AT THE MEETING

Mr. Gay for the City Council directed his remarks initially to the merits of the Commission's proposals. He said that the City Council preferred their own proposals but did not take the view that the differences were overwhelming. However, the City felt that Thanington Without should be brought within the boundaries of Wincheap Ward. Its ties were closer with Wincheap than with the other parishes in the proposed Stone Street Ward. Ecclesiastically it has a connection with the Wincheap area. The resultant enlarged Wincheap Ward would not be too large. However, if Thanington Without were removed from the proposed Stone Street Ward there might be a "domino" effect on the other parish groupings in the rural part of the District.

He then dealt with the question of timing. He said that in the view of the City Council the overriding objective was that there should be a re-warded City ready for the May elections and he referred to the Statement in paragraph 12 of the Commission's Report No. 6, to the effect that it was desirable that the Home Secretary should have made the necessary Order by September 1975. Practical difficulties for the City Administration and for the political parties would be raised if there were any further delay. There would also be a cost implication if the position were not clarified by Christmas. The expense of additional printing and checking of the electoral register would be many thousands of pounds. He therefore hoped that the Commission and the Home Secretary would proceed with the utmost despatch so as to ensure early consideration and a final decision.

If it were not possible to achieve this then an announcement should be made to this effect before Christmas so that members of the public would be aware that the 1976 elections would have to be held on the present basis.

Mr. Palmer, Chairman of Thanington Without Parish Council supported the views of the City Council. The Parish Council wished the Parish to be included in Wincheap Ward. The Ecclesiastical Parish also included an area within that Ward.

Mr. Montgomery stated that he was a City Councillor, a member of the Ickham, Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux Conservation Society, the Chairman of the Canterbury Area Committee of the Kent Association of Parish Councils and a past Chairman of the old Bridge Blean R.D.C.

He supported the views already expressed concerning Thanington Without. He suggested that the proposed Marshside Ward might be enlarged by the addition of part of the area of the old Herne Bay U.D.C. The river valley between Westbere and Littlebourne is a geographical feature which effectively separates the two parishes: to combine them in the same proposed Great Stour Ward is impractical. The same problem of communication makes the inclusion of Adisham in the proposed Little Stour Ward inappropriate. Generally speaking, the rural areas favoured the City Council's original proposals.

Mr. Andrews, Clerk to Wickhambreaux Parish Council, said that his Council supported Mr. Montgomery. The main functions of a district councillor are social. For geographical reasons there is no social relationship between Adisham and the other parishes in the proposed Little Stour Ward. The Commission might think this a valid reason for

preserving the status quo. The Parishes of Ickham, Wickham and Stodmarsh are united. The Diocese proposes to include Littlebourne also. There is a fair degree of support for this.

Brigadier J. H. Slade-Powell represented Ickham Parish Council and Ickham, Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux Conservation Society. He stated that both organisations opposed the regrouping of ^{Ickham and} Well with Bekesbourne and Adisham and wished the grouping to remain as it is now, i.e. Ickham and Well, Wickhambreaux (including Stodmarsh) and Littlebourne. He submitted a written proof of evidence which is reproduced as Appendix "B".

Mr. Watts, a member of Adisham P.C. and a resident in the village for 69 years said they would be happy to be in the same ward as Kingston, Barham and Womenswold and hoped it might be named Barham Downs Ward.

Mr. Newing, a member of Littlebourne P.C., stated that his Council was unanimous in rejecting the Commission's proposals. The position of the village within the parish is more important than the extent of the parish boundary and Littlebourne village is in the eastern half of the parish. The Stour Valley effectively separates Littlebourne from Fordwich or Westbere. Social life is as important as the electoral roll. Local organisations have in the past tended to be based on the three parishes. The Little Stour River flows along the edge of the village of Littlebourne and therefore Great Stour is an inappropriate name for a ward including the village.

Mr. Bardsley, representing Kingston P.C. supported Mr. Watts of Adisham. The two villages were on friendly terms. The name of the Ward should be Barham Downs.

Mr. Raffety, a member of Fordwich P.C., protested against Fordwich being shunted around for no good reason. The village wished to be linked with Sturry, and not with Westbere and Littlebourne, since bus journeys were necessary to reach the latter two villages.

Mr. Tyler, a member of Bekesbourne P.C., said his Council wished to remain with Patricxbourne and Bridge, the latter village having shops and schools used by Bekesbourne people.

Mr. Buckwell, a member of Waltham P.C., opposed the Commission's proposals and supported the City Council and Mr. Palmer. Waltham has no connection with Thanington.

Mr. Greenwood, speaking for Patricxbourne Parish Meeting, wished to be associated with Mr. Tyler's remarks. Bekesbourne and Patricxbourne were like Siamese twins and did not want to be separated. The boundary between the two Parishes was down the middle of Patricxbourne village street.

Mr. Shirley, sub-postmaster at Bridge, and a District Councillor, supported Mr. Tyler and Mr. Greenwood. Geographically Bekesbourne fits in with Bridge. Hardres people do not use the facilities in Bridge.

Mr. Brown, the Conservative Agent, stated that he spoke without political motivation and that he believed his suggestions would be of general benefit. He assumed that the motive behind the Commission's proposed grouping of parishes had been one of trying to make up for the loss of a councillor in the area of the old Bridge Blean R.D.C., consequent on the Chartham Parish now being represented by only one member, instead of two as heretofore. This

reasoning was invalid in Canterbury. The effect of local government reorganisation had been to bring town and country together. There was no enmity between them. In ten years' time the old distinctions would have vanished.

He submitted the Conservative Association's proposals for the whole District. In connection with the proposed union between Littlebourne and Fordwich, he pointed out that the boundary between the two was in the middle of Twenley Park Woods. Littlebourne village was on the eastern side of the Parish and no district councillor could represent both. Fordwich should be joined with Sturry South.

He proposed that Marshside Ward should be extended to include Westbere.

As regards the proposed wards in Canterbury, he stated that his Association would like to see the boundary of Wincheap Ward redrawn so as to exclude areas north of the railway line, and the boundary between Westgate and St. Stephens' Wards redrawn so as to extend the area of the former to include certain areas in the neighbourhood of Beverley Farm. These suggestions are in line with those already submitted to the Commission.

He also stated that building was taking place in St. Stephens Ward and the population of that ward would increase in the future.

He enquired whether the Commission was aware that house building had started in the Seasalter area, and was informed that their forward estimate of population indicated that they were so aware.

He submitted his Association's proposal that the boundary between Reculver and Herne Wards should be adjusted so as to include in the former the areas of Hawthorn Corner, Gray's Farm and Fowler's Bridge.

Finally, he supported Mr. Gay's remarks about timing pointing out that Lists B and C should be prepared by 30th November.

Mr. Montgomery pointed out that if the proposals of the Conservative Association were adopted the number of councillors representing the old rural district would be reduced from 12 to 10. He said that councillors in the rural areas were used to rural weighting which recognised that councillors represented fewer constituents.

Mr. Fuller, for the Labour Party, said he was the leader of the Labour Group on the City Council. Referring to the various proposals which had been made for establishing a new electoral basis, he observed that if the Commission's terms of reference for parish boundaries have to be followed in one case they have to be followed in all cases. He on his part assumed that the Commission considered that the City Council's proposals violated the established guidelines and mixed together the town and rural areas. The difficulty about altering one part of the jigsaw was that you finished up by altering it all. The parishes evidently wanted to return to the City Council's own proposals, or the original arrangements made for the 1973 elections which were arbitrary, but had resulted in co-operation at a practical level. The choice appeared to be to accept a set of proposals which violate established guidelines or which work in practice. From the point of view of equality

of representation the Commission's proposals are more satisfactory than the City Council's.

He then referred to the Labour Party proposals of 1974 for single member wards and said that if this were accepted for the rural areas it should be acceptable for the built up areas also. The advantages of single member wards are:

- (a) closeness of contact with the electorate;
- (b) electors know their councillors better;
- (c) small wards tend to increase the participation of the electorate at election times;
- (d) in multi-member wards there is a bias in favour of candidates those/whose names begin with letters in the first half of the alphabet;
- (e) in small towns like Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable, a sizeable proportion of the electorate do not think of the whole town as their area;
- (f) it is easier to organise elections in a single member ward;
- (g) casual vacancies are easier to deal with and costs of elections are reduced;
- (h) the district wards must be considered in relation to the proposed County electoral divisions. The County Council's proposals for Whitstable and Herne Bay could provide for two County Councillors there, two for the old Bridge Blean Rural District, divided on a division between East and West, and two for Canterbury. This would be easier of achievement if the entire District were divided into single wards. For example,

under the Commission's proposals the five wards in Canterbury itself would have to be divided between two County electoral divisions, and whatever the basis of the division there would be a marked discrepancy between the number of electors in each division.

On the other hand a problem with single member wards is that you get rapid changes in the number of electors in each ward, because building is concentrated in certain areas.

The Labour Party's proposals have taken into account the proposed known developments in the Seasalter and Forty Acre areas. However, they now realise that they have not made enough allowance for development in the Northgate area, and when the population there reaches 3000 it will be necessary to split Northgate into two wards, North and South.

Mrs. Elizabeth Jeffries of the Littlebourne Women's Institute and a member of the Littlebourne, Ickham and Wickhambreaux Conservation Society, who has lived in Littlebourne for fourteen years, submitted a written statement of the objections to the proposal to link Littlebourne with Fordwich and Westbere, which is reproduced as Appendix "C".

A letter from Mr. W. G. Hopkin, County Secretary, Kent County Council, regarding the draft warding proposals for Canterbury was handed to me and is reproduced as Appendix "D", together with the two appendices thereto, numbered D1 and D2. It was observed that the total number of County Councillors envisaged by the County Council is in excess of the maximum normally acceptable to the Commission.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING AT THE MEETING

Mr. Gay supported what Mr. Brown had said regarding the unanimity which existed between councillors representing the urban and rural parts of the City. They increasingly come to regard themselves as City Councillors, any division among them being on political not geographical lines. He was unable to comment on behalf of the City Council on the proposals of the Conservative Association to vary the boundaries between Reculver and Herne, Wincheap and Westgate and St. Stephens and Westgate Wards. The City Council had suggested that the boundary between the two last named should run along the rear of the properties on the East side of Whitstable Road, but the Commission's proposals appeared to exclude some of these properties for no apparent reason. As he had previously stated, the important issue was to reach a decision as soon as possible.

The City Council had not examined the Labour Party's proposals for single member wards throughout the District and he was therefore unable to comment on them.

The City Council had proposed two or three member wards so as to create as little change as necessary. People do not like continuous change for no apparent reason. He raised no objection personally to single member wards and conceded that their introduction might make easier the drawing of boundaries for the County Electoral Division.

Mr. Fuller said that the Labour Party had used easily defined features such as main roads and railway lines as the boundaries for their proposed single member wards. He thought they corresponded to areas with which people could identify.

Neither Mr. Brown nor Mr. Fuller could comment on the proposals put forward by the other. Details had been forwarded to the City Secretary, but not to one another.

INSPECTIONS

On the day before the Meeting I visited all the rural parishes with the exception of Harbledown, Blean and Hackington, concerning which there is no controversy.

On the afternoon of the Meeting I visited the built up portions of Whitstable and Herne Bay and inspected the boundaries between St. Stephens, Westgate and Wincheap Wards.

ARGUMENTS ADVANCED AT THE MEETING

I was impressed by the arguments in favour of combining Thanington Without with Wincheap, of including Upper Hardres in Stone Street Ward, of adding Bekesbourne to North Nailbourne Ward and of combining Adisham, Kingston, Barham and Womenswold in a ward to be called Barham Downs Ward.

I was also impressed by the arguments in favour of combining Littlebourne, Ickham and Well and Wickhambreaux in one Ward. Various names were suggested for this ward, i.e. Littlebourne, Twenley Park, Little Stour, Lesser Stour. It appeared that the greatest support was forthcoming for the name Little Stour.

I was also impressed by the argument in favour of including Fordwich in Sturry South Ward.

There were no representatives of Westbere at the Meeting to support the written contention of the Parish Council that it should not be included in Marshside Ward, but in Sturry South instead, nor were there any representatives of Chislet to support the contentions of the Parish Council, contained in

their letter to the Commission dated 15th June, 1975.

I am of the opinion that greater equality of representation requires that Westbere should be included in the Marshside Ward, that the arguments in favour of including the Hersden Ward of the Parish of Sturry in the proposed new ward outweigh the arguments to the contrary, and that the name of the Ward should be Marshside.

The proposed alteration of the boundary between Reculver and Herne Wards would appear to make for greater convenience of representation and to have only a slight effect on the number of the electorate included in each Ward and I consider that it should be adopted.

It appeared to me that the arguments advanced on behalf of the Conservative Association in favour of altering the boundaries between the proposed Westgate and St. Stephens Wards and the proposed Westgate and Wincheap Wards might have far reaching effects, but had not been considered by other parties represented at the meeting, nor had much publicity been given to them. In these circumstances, I consider that no action should be taken on them at present.

The proposals of the Labour Party for single member wards in the built up portions of the District raised several important and interesting issues. Those included in the paragraphs numbered (a), (b), (c) and (h) in Mr. Fuller's statement above in particular received my careful consideration. I also noted that the boundaries of such wards would have to be precisely adjusted to take into account future anticipated development, the certainty and timing of which are impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy. I was impressed by Mr. Gay's statement that the City Council had itself proposed two or three member wards so as to create as little change as possible.

I also noted that notwithstanding the fact that these proposals had been formulated in November 1974 the other parties represented at the Meeting were unable to comment on them.

In the circumstances, therefore, I consider that no action should be taken on them at present.

The impressions I formed during my inspections tallied with the conclusions at which I arrived after listening to the arguments advanced at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the arrangements for the future election of District Councillors for the City of Canterbury in the County of Kent be as follows:-

| <u>Name of Ward</u> | <u>Number of Councillors</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Barham Downs | 1 |
| Barton | 3 |
| Blean Forest | 1 |
| Chartham | 1 |
| Chestfield | 2 |
| Gorrell | 2 |
| Harbledown | 1 |
| Harbour | 2 |
| Herne | 3 |
| Heron | 3 |
| Little Stour | 1 |
| Marshside | 1 |
| Northgate | 3 |
| North Nailbourne | 1 |
| Reculver | 3 |
| Seasalter | 2 |
| Stone Street | 1 |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| St. Stephens | 3 |
| Sturry North | 1 |
| Sturry South | 1 |
| Swalecliffe | 2 |
| Tankerton | 2 |
| West Bay | 3 |
| Westgate | 3 |
| Wincheap | 3 |

I further recommend that the boundaries of the wards aforesaid be as follows:

RECULVER WARD

SEE SCHEDULE 3.

HERNE WARD

SEE SCHEDULE 3.

SWALECLIFFE WARD

- 19 -

TANKERTON WARD

CHESTELELD WARD

GORRELL WARD

SEASALTER WARD

HARBOUR WARD

WEST BAY WARD

HERON WARD

NORTHGATE WARD

BARTON WARD

WESTGATE WARD

ST. STEPHENS WARD

)
As stated in the Commission's Draft Proposals with the proviso that the boundary between Westgate Ward and St. Stephens Ward shall be redrawn, if necessary to conform with the line suggested in the proposals submitted to the Commission by Canterbury City Council on 17th January 1975

WINCHEAP WARD

As stated in the Commission's Draft Proposals, with the addition of the Parish of Thanington Without.

BLEAN FOREST WARD

The Parishes of St. Cosmus and St. Damien in the Blean
Hackington

STURRY NORTH WARD

The North Ward of the Parish of Sturry

STURRY SOUTH WARD

The South Ward of the Parish of Sturry

The Parish of Fordwich

MARSHSIDE WARD

The Parishes of Hoath

Chislet

Westbere

and the Hersden Ward of the Parish of Sturry

HARBLEDOWN WARD

The Parish of Harbledown

LITTLE STOUR WARD

The Parishes of Ickham and Well

Littlebourne

Wickhambreaux

NORTH NAILBOURNE WARD

The Parishes of Bekesbourne

Patricxbourne

Bridge

Bishopsbourne

BARHAM DOWNS WARD

The Parishes of Womenswold

Adisham

Kingston

Barham

STONE STREET WARD

The Parishes of Lower Hardres

Upper Hardres

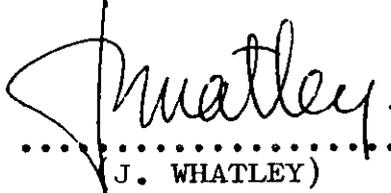
Petham

Waltham

CHARTHAM WARD

The Parish of Chartham

Dated this 30th day of October 1975


.....
(J. WHATLEY)

Assistant Commissioner

CITY OF CANTERBURY: NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

| <u>NAME OF WARD</u> | <u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| BARTON | 3 |
| BLEAN FOREST | 1 |
| CHARTHAM | 1 |
| CHESTFIELD | 2 |
| GORELL | 2 |
| BARHAM DOWNS | 1 |
| HARBLEDOWN | 1 |
| HARBOUR | 2 |
| HERNE | 3 |
| HERON | 3 |
| LITTLE STOUR | 1 |
| MARSHSIDE | 1 |
| NORTHGATE | 3 |
| RECVLVER | 3 |
| SEASALTER | 2 |
| NAILBOURNE | 1 |
| STONE STREET | 1 |
| ST STEPHENS | 3 |
| STURRY NORTH | 1 |
| STURRY SOUTH | 1 |
| SWALECLIFFE | 2 |
| TANKERTON | 2 |
| WEST BAY | 3 |
| WESTGATE | 3 |
| WINCHEAP | 3 |

CANTERBURY DISTRICT

RECVLVER WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of the District meets the northern boundary of Chislet Parish, thence westwards and following said northern boundary to grid ref TR 2081166960, thence due west to the Roman Road, thence northeastwards along said road to Thanet Way, thence eastwards along said way to Sweechbridge Road, thence northwards and following said road to the Herne Bay-Margate Railway, thence westwards along said railway to Canterbury Road, thence northwards along said road to Central Parade, thence due north in a straight line crossing the foreshore to the northern boundary of the District, thence generally eastwards and southwards following said northern and eastern boundary of the District to the point of commencement.

HERNE WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of Reculver Ward meets the western boundary of Chislet Parish, thence generally southwestwards following said northern boundary, the northwestern boundary of Hoath Parish, the northern boundary of Sturry Parish, thence northwards following the eastern boundary of Hackington Parish to the eastern boundary of The Radfall, thence generally northwards along said eastern boundary to a footpath at National Grid Reference TR 1553363948 leading to Thornden Wood Road, thence northwestwards along said footpath crossing said road and continuing in a straight line due west to the eastern boundary of parcel 7454 as shown on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan TR 14/1564, Edition 1971, thence northeastwards and northwestwards along the eastern and northern boundaries of said parcel and northeastern boundary of Parcel 6672 to a footpath leading to Frogs Island Farm, thence northeastwards along said footpath to a drain to the rear of the farm out-buildings, thence northwestwards along said drain to its end, thence northwards in a straight line to the southernmost corner of parcel 6245 on Ordnance

Survey 1:2500 plan TR 14/1565, Revision 1969, thence northwestwards along the southwestern boundary of said parcel to and westwards and northwards along the southern and western boundaries of parcel 5346 to and northwestwards along the northern boundary of parcel 3950 to Molehill Road, thence northeastwards along said road to a point opposite the southeastern corner of parcel 6915 as shown on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan TR 14/1566, Edition 1971, thence northeastwards and northwestwards along the eastern and northern boundaries of said parcel and northwards along the eastern boundaries of parcels 6519 and 6132 and northwestwards along the northern boundary of last mentioned parcel and continuing northwestwards along the southern boundary of parcel 5057 to and northwards along the eastern boundary of 113 Maydowns Road and the eastern boundaries of parcels 3662, 3677 and 5287 as shown on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan TR 14/1566, Edition 1971, to and crossing Thanet Way in a straight line to and along the eastern boundary of parcel 4993 and in prolongation thereof to the Whitstable-Margate Railway, thence eastwards along said railway to Cobblers Bridge, thence southwards along said bridge to and along a footpath leading to Thanet Way, thence eastwards along Thanet Way to National Grid Ref TR 1871567165, thence due north to the southern boundary of Reculver Ward, thence eastwards and southwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

CHESTFIELD WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of Herne Ward meets the Whitstable-Margate Railway thence generally southwards following said western boundary to the northern boundary of Hackington Parish thence generally westwards and northwards following said parish boundary and northern boundary of St Cosmus and St Damian in the Blean Parish to a dismantled railway (Whitstable-Canterbury) thence northwards along said dismantled railway to the southern boundary of Parcel No 3000 as shown on 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Plan TR12/1364 Edt 1971 thence eastwards along said southern boundary to a track leading to South Street thence northwards along said track to and northwestwards along South Street to Millstrood Road thence westwards along said road to the dismantled railway at Southstreet Crossing thence northwestwards along the dismantled railway to the Whitstable-Margate Railway thence eastwards along said railway to the point of commencement.

GORRELL WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of Chestfield Ward meets the Whitstable-Margate Railway, thence generally southwards following said western boundary to the northern boundary of St Cosmus and St Damian in the Blean Parish, thence generally westwards and southwestwards following said boundary to Honey Hill A 290 road, thence generally northwards along Pean Hill, Clapham Hill, Borstal Hill and Canterbury Road to the Whitstable - Margate Railway thence northwestwards along said railway to the point of commencement.

SEASALTER WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of Gorrell Ward meets the Whitstable-Margate Railway thence southwards following said western boundary to and generally southwestwards following the northern boundary of St Cosmus and St Damian in the Blean Parish to the western boundary of the District thence generally northwestwards northeastwards southwards and eastwards following the western and northern boundaries of the District to a point due north of a footpath leading to Joy Lane at National Grid Reference TRO9801 65654 thence due south crossing the foreshore to and along said footpath to the Whitstable-Margate Railway thence northeastwards along said railway to the point of commencement.

HARBOUR WARD

Commencing at a point where the Whitstable-Canterbury Railway (dismantled) meets the northern boundary of Gorrell Ward thence southwestwards and northwards following the northern boundaries of Gorrell Ward and Seasalter Ward to and northeastwards following the northern boundary of the District to a point in prolongation northwestwards of the centre line of the Harbour thence southwestwards along said prolongation the centre of the Harbour entrance and in prolongation thereof to Harbour Street thence eastwards along said street to Lane's Walk thence southeastward along said walk to Westgate Terrace thence eastwards along said terrace to and southeastwards along Station Road to a point opposite the southern boundary of the Council Depot thence northeastwards along said boundary to the dismantled Whitstable-Canterbury Railway thence southeastwards along said railway to the point of commencement.

TANKERTON WARD

Commencing on the northern boundary of Chestfield Ward at its junction with Bennells Avenue thence westward following said northern boundary to and northwestwards following the eastern boundary of Harbour Ward to the northern

boundary of the District thence generally eastwards following said northern boundary to a point being due north of the junction of Bennells Avenue and Marine Parade thence due south across the foreshore to and along Bennells Avenue to the point of commencement.

SWALECLIFFE WARD

Commencing at a point on the northern boundary of Chestfield Ward at its intersection with a track leading from Colewood Road to Thanet Way thence westwards following said northern boundary to and generally northwards following the eastern boundary of Tankerton Ward to the northern boundary of the District thence generally eastwards following the said northern boundary to a point being due north of National Grid Reference TR1464267723 thence due south across the foreshore to said point and continuing southwestwards and westwards along the road adjacent to the eastern and southern boundaries of the Seaview Caravan Park to a point opposite a drain being National Grid Reference TR1424967546 thence southeastwards to and along said drain and in prolongation thereof to Whitstable Road thence southwestwards and northwestwards along said road and Colewood Road to a track adjacent to Brickfield Cottages and leading to Thanet Way thence southwards along said track to the point of commencement.

WEST BAY WARD

Commencing at a point on the northern boundary of the District at its intersection with a prolongation northwards of the road known as Lane End, thence southwards across the foreshore along said prolongation and said road to and southwestwards along Sea Street to and southeastwards along Albany Drive and in prolongation thereof across the Circus to the Whitstable-Margate Railway thence westwards along the said railway and continuing along the northern boundary of Herne Ward to and generally northwards following the eastern boundary of Swalecliffe Ward to the northern boundary of the District thence generally eastwards following said northern boundary to the point of commence-

ment.

HERON WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of the District meets the western boundary of Reculver Ward thence southwards and eastwards following the western boundary and southern boundary of said ward to the northern boundary of Herne Ward thence southwards, westwards and northwards following said ward boundary to the southern boundary of West Bay Ward thence generally eastwards and northwards following the southern and eastern boundaries of said ward to the northern boundary of the District thence generally eastwards following said northern boundary to the point of commencement.

NORTHGATE WARD

Commencing at a point where the southeastern boundary of Fordwich Parish meets the western boundary of Littlebourne Parish thence generally southwards following said western boundary to Littlebourne Road (A257) thence westwards along said road and St Martin's Hill to a point opposite the eastern boundary of No 35 St Martin's Hill thence northwards to and along said boundary to and westwards following the rear boundaries of Nos 35 to 27 in said road crossing Querns Road to and along the rear boundaries of Nos 25 and 23 St Martin's Hill and southwards along the western boundary of last mentioned property to said road thence westwards along St Martin's Hill to a point opposite the eastern boundary of No 13 thence northwards to and along said boundary to and westwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 13 to 1 in said road thence crossing North Holmes Road to the eastern boundary of Her Majesty's Prison thence generally northwestwards and southwestwards following the eastern and western boundary of said prison and western boundary of St Augustine's Session House to Longport thence westwards and northwards along Longport to and westwards along Church Street (St Pauls) crossing Broad Street to the City Wall thence northwards and northwestwards along the City Wall to St Radigund Street thence

eastwards along said street to Duck Lane thence northwestwards along said lane and continuing to and northwards along the waterway leading to the River Great Stour thence southwestwards along the southeastern branch of the said river to its junction with the northwestern branch of the River Great Stour thence generally northeastwards along said river to a point opposite the southwestern corner of Sturry Parish thence northward to said parish boundary thence generally eastwards following the southern boundary of Sturry Parish and southeastwards and northeastwards following the western and southeastern boundaries of Fordwich Parish to the point of commencement.

BARTON WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of Northgate Ward meets the western boundary of Littlebourne Parish thence generally southwestwards and westwards following said western boundary northwestern boundary of Bekesbourne Parish and northern boundaries of Patricxbourne Parish and Lower Hardres Parish to and crossing Nackington Road and continuing along the access road to Simon Langton Grammar School to and generally northwards along a footpath which leads to Juniper Close to a point opposite the rear boundary of No 12 in said Close thence northwestwards to and along said boundary and southern boundary of No 1 Stuppington Lane to said lane thence northeastward along said lane to and northwestwards along South Canterbury Road to and northeastward along Puckle Lane to a point opposite the southwestern boundary of No 1A in said lane thence northwestwards northeastwards and eastwards along the southwestern northwestern and northern boundaries of properties Nos 1A to 7 in said lane thence northeastwards along Puckle Lane to a point opposite the southern boundary of No 8 in said lane thence northwestwards northeastwards and southeastwards to and along the southern northwestern and northeastern boundaries of Nos 8 and 9 in said lane thence northeastwards along Puckle Lane to Old Dover Road thence northwestwards along said road to the Canterbury-Dover Railway thence westwards along said railway to Nunnery Fields thence northwards

along Nunnery Fields to a point opposite the southern boundary of No.1 thence generally northwards to and along said southern boundary and rear boundaries of Nos. 50 to 36 Old Dover Road thence southwestwards and northwestwards along the eastern and rear boundary of No. 26 Old Dover Road and continuing along the southwestern boundary of the Police Station to Rhodaus Town thence northeastwards along Rhodaus Town, Upper Bridge Street and Lower Bridge Street to the southern boundary of Northgate Ward thence generally eastwards following said southern boundary to the point of commencement.

WINCHEAP WARD

The parish of Thanington Without and an area bounded by a line commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Thanington Without Parish meets the southern boundary of Harbledown Parish thence northeastwards following said southern boundary and continuing along the River Great Stour to Rheims Way thence southeastwards southwards and again southeastwards along Rheims Way to and along Pin Hill to and northeastwards along Rhodaus Town to the western boundary of Barton Ward thence generally southwards along said western boundary to the northern boundary of Lower Hardres Parish thence generally southwestwards following said northern boundary to and generally northwards following the eastern boundary of Thanington Without Parish to the point of commencement.

WESTGATE WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of Barton Ward meets the northern boundary of Wincheap Ward, thence generally westwards following said northern boundary to the eastern boundary of Harbledown Parish, thence northwards westwards and generally northwards following said eastern boundary and the southern boundary of St Cosmus and St Damian in the Blean Parish to the path running southeastwards and southwestwards, crossing University Road and continuing southwestwards to St Thomas Hill, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along said path to a point opposite the rear boundary of 12 St Thomas

Hill, thence southeastwards to and along the rear boundary of 12 St Thomas Hill, thence southeastwards along the eastern boundary of said property to and generally southeastwards along the rear of properties 10 to 2 St Thomas Hill and 138 to 120 Whitstable Road, thence southwestwards along the western boundary of last mentioned property to Whitstable Road, thence southeastwards along said road to a point opposite the northwestern boundary of 116 Whitstable Road, thence northeastwards to and along said boundary to and generally southeastwards along the rear boundaries of properties 116 to 12 Whitstable Road to and northeastwards along Forty Acres Road to and southeastwards along Roseacre Close to a point being the prolongation northeastwards of the northwestern boundary of 37 St Dunstan's Street, thence southwestwards along said prolongation to the northwestern corner of said property, thence generally southeastwards along the rear boundaries of said property, the northern boundary of 5 West Place, to and along the rear boundary of Roper House, thence generally southwestwards along the southeastern boundary of Roper House and 33 St Dunstan's Street to said street, thence southeastwards along said street to a point opposite the northwestern boundary of 32 St Dunstan's Street, thence northeastwards to and along said boundary, to and generally southeastwards along the rear boundaries of 32-29 St Dunstan's Street, to and northeastwards along Roper Road to a point opposite the rear boundary of 28 Roper Road, thence southeastwards to and along said rear boundary, to and southwestwards along the northwestern boundary of the railway property to St Dunstan's Street, thence southeastwards along said street to a point opposite the southeastern boundary of the railway property, thence northeastwards to and along said boundary to a point being in prolongation northwestwards of the southern portion of the access road to Station Cottages, thence southeastwards along said prolongation and access road to Station Road West, thence southwestwards along said road to and southeastwards along St Dunstan's Street, to and northeastwards along Kirby's Lane to a point opposite the rear boundary of 18 St Dunstan's Street, thence generally eastwards along the rear boundaries of 18 to 8 St Dunstan's Street, thence

southwestwards and southeastwards along the western boundary of 8 and the rear boundaries of 7 to 5 St Dunstan's Street to North Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to and southeastwards along St Dunstan's Street to the River Great Stour, thence northeastwards along said river to the western boundary of Northgate Ward, thence generally eastwards and southeastwards following said western boundary and southwestwards following the western boundary of Barton Ward to the point of commencement.

ST STEPHENS WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of Northgate Ward meets the northern boundary of Westgate Ward thence generally southwestwards and northwestwards following said northern boundary to and generally eastwards following the southern boundaries of St Cosmus and St Damian in the Blean Parish and Hackington Parish to the northern boundary of Northgate Ward thence generally westwards and southwestwards following said northern and the western boundary of said ward to the point of commencement.

BLEAN FOREST WARD

The parishes of St Cosmus and St Damian in the Blean and Hackington

STURRY NORTH WARD

The North Ward of the parish of Sturry

STURRY SOUTH WARD

The parish of Fordwich and the South Ward of the parish of Sturry

MARSHSIDE WARD

The parishes of Hoath, Chislet and Westbere and the Hersden Ward of the parish of Sturry

HARBLEDOWN WARD

The parish of Harbledown

LITTLE STOUR WARD

The parishes of Wickhambreaux, Ickham and Well and Littlebourne

NORTH NAILBOURNE WARD

The parishes of Bridge, Patricxbourne, Bishopsbourne and Bekesbourne

BARHAM DOWNS WARD

The parishes of Kingston, Barham, Womenswold and Adisham

STONE STREET WARD

The parishes of Lower Hardres, Petham, Waltham and Upper Hardres

CHARTHAM WARD

The parish of Chartham