

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 151

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 151

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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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 REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH
OF NORTH WARWICKSHIRE IN THE COUNTY OF WARWICKSHIRE

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the Borough of North Warwickshire 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 31 December 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the North Warwickshire Borough Council, copies of which were circulated to the Warwickshire County Council, Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the borough, 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 of the local government press. Notices inserted in the local press announced the start of the review and invited comments from members of the public and from any interested bodies.
3. North Warwickshire 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 the council and the proposed number of councillors for each ward. They were asked also to take into account any views expressed to them following their consultation with local interests. We therefore asked that they should publish details of their provisional proposals about a month before they submitted their draft scheme to us, thus allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. The Council have not passed a resolution under section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The provisions of section 7(6) will therefore apply and the elections of all district councillors will be held simultaneously.
5. On 29 May 1975, North Warwickshire Borough Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the district into 19 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 councillors to form a Council of 33 members.
6. Following the publication by the Borough Council of their draft scheme, we received letters from four parish councils and a local association. Polesworth Parish Council requested the allocation of an additional councillor to the proposed three member Polesworth district ward which would be divided into two wards each returning two councillors. This request was supported by the Polesworth and District Ratepayers and Residents Association. Coleshill Town Council asked for an extra councillor to be added to the proposed two-member Coleshill North ward. Shuttington Parish Council asked to be grouped in a district ward with the parishes of Newton Regis and Seckington and not, as proposed, with the Warton ward of the parish of Polesworth. Corley Parish Council asked to be grouped with the parish of Fillongley rather than with the parishes of Arley and Astley, as proposed.
7. The Borough Council sent us copies of representations which they had received at the consultation stage from Middleton Parish Council and Curdworth Parish Council, both of whom suggested parish groupings and allocations which were not adopted in the Council's draft scheme. Neither parish council pursued its submission.
8. We studied the draft scheme and noted that it showed some unevenness in the standard of equality of representation. We considered whether there were modifications which might be made to secure a more even standard.

9. In order to improve the standard of equality of representation and, in response to the representation from Corley Parish Council, we decided to regroup the proposed Arley, Fillongley and Coleshill South wards, to form 3 wards each returning two district councillors. Thus the Arley ward would comprise the parish of Arley; the Fillongley ward would comprise the parishes of Astley, Corley, Fillongley, Maxstoke and Shustoke; and the Coleshill South ward would comprise the parishes of Great Packington, Little Packington and the South ward of the parish of Coleshill.

10. To further improve the standard of equality of representation, we proposed that the Hurley ward and the Kingsbury ward in the Council's draft scheme should be amalgamated to form a single ward comprising the whole of the parish of Kingsbury and should return three district councillors.

11. We decided to propose the inclusion of the Birchmoor ward of the parish of Polesworth in the proposed Dordon ward. Although this would improve the standard of representation we were aware that it might lead to the breaking of local ties. We therefore decided that this proposal should be accompanied by a letter advising the Borough Council and the Parish Council of the reasons for the change. We stated that, should there be strong reasons for opposing this transfer, another solution might be to divide the Polesworth ward which they had proposed, and pointed out that this would require action by the Borough Council under the provisions of section 50(4) of the 1972 Act, to secure wards for parish electoral purposes which could be used singly or in groups to form district wards.

12. In response to the representation from Shuttington Parish Council, we decided to include the parish of Shuttington in the proposed Newton Regis ward and the parish of Austrey in the proposed Warton ward.

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

14. On 22 August 1975 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the Council's draft scheme. Following the detection of an error in the memorandum in respect of the proposed Warton ward, a correction was issued on 2 September 1975. The Council were asked to make these draft proposals and the accompanying map, which illustrated 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 17 October 1975.

15. In response to our draft proposals, we received representations from the Borough Council objecting to the Commission's proposal to include the Birchmoor ward of the parish of Polesworth in the proposed Dordon district ward, and reverting to their original submission, of a district ward comprising the Polesworth and Birchmoor wards of the parish of Polesworth, returning three councillors.

16. The Borough Council, supported by Kingsbury Parish Council, also objected to the Commission's proposal to make the whole of the parish of Kingsbury a three-member ward.

17. The Borough Council also objected to the Commission's draft proposals for the Coleshill South, Arley and Fillongley ward on the grounds that they would be at variance with the existing county electoral division pattern. They also thought that Fillongley ward would be awkward in size and shape. The Council had no further objections to the draft proposals.

18. Polesworth Parish Council, supported by a local association, reiterated their earlier request that the area comprising the Birchmoor and Polesworth wards of the parish of Polesworth be divided into two wards each returning two councillors. They were opposed to the Borough Council's proposal of 3 councillors for this area.

19. Atherstone Town Council requested that the Atherstone North ward be allocated three councillors instead of two.

20. In view of these comments, we decided that we needed further information to enable us to reach a conclusion. Therefore, in accordance with section 65(2) of the 1972 Act and at our request, you appointed Mr Winston Bryan as an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

21. The Assistant Commissioner held a meeting at Atherstone on 5 January 1976. A copy (without enclosures) of his report to us of the meeting is attached at Schedule 1 to this report.

22. In the light of the discussion at the meeting and of his inspection of those areas concerned the Assistant Commissioner recommended that the draft proposals be modified so that the Birchmoor ward of the parish of Polesworth should be included in the Polesworth district ward and return three councillors; and that the Hurley ward and Wood End ward of the parish of Kingsbury should be a single district ward returning two councillors; and the Kingsbury ward of that parish should be a separate two member district ward.

23. We considered again our draft proposals in the light of the comments which we had received and of the Assistant Commissioner's Report. Having noted the representational and other factors involved in the alterations recommended by the Assistant Commissioner, we concluded that the alterations should be adopted and, subject to these amendments, we decided that our draft proposals should be confirmed as our final proposals.

24. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 2 and 3 to this report. Schedule 2 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. Schedule 3 defines the areas of the new wards. The boundaries of the new wards are illustrated on the attached map.

PUBLICATION

25. In accordance with Section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, a copy of this report and a copy of the map are being sent to North Warwickshire Borough Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

L.S.

Signed

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

DIANA ALBEMARLE

T C BENFIELD

ANDREW WHEATLEY

DAVID R SMITH (Secretary)

25 March 1976

Review of the Electoral Arrangements for
the Borough of North Warwickshire

Report of Winston Bryan appointed by the Home Secretary as Assistant Commissioner in accordance with Section 65(2) of the Local Government Act, 1972, on the proceedings of the Local Meeting held at the Council Chamber, 129 Long Street, Atherstone, on Monday, 5th January 1976 at 10.30 a.m., together with recommendations.

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Review of the Electoral Arrangements for the Borough
of North Warwickshire - Local Meeting held at the
Council Chamber, 129 Long Street, Atherstone on Monday,
5th January 1976 at 10.30 a.m.

Persons in Attendance

<u>Name of Person</u>	<u>Interest Represented</u>
Mr. R.H. Kealy. Chief Executive	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Mr. J. Brierley } Chief Executive's Mr. J.G. Chetwynd } Department	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Mr. B.E. Tunnicliffe	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Mr. C. Gilbert	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Mr. C.B. Ford	Atherstone Town Council
Mr. P. Wildblood	Atherstone Town Council
Mr. R.K. Critchley	Polesworth Parish Council
Mr. J.S. Rollings	Polesworth and District Resident and Ratepayer Association
Mr. B. Morgan	Polesworth and District Resident and Ratepayer Association
Mrs. B. Dalloway	Polesworth and District Resident and Ratepayer Association
Mr. S.R. Rutherford	Newton Regis Parish Council
Mrs. E.M. Crook	Newton Regis Parish Council
Mr. A.K. Collinge-Hill	Shuttington Parish Council
Mrs. G.E. Blower	Meriden Constituency Labour Party
Mr. A.R. Pargetter	Corley Parish Council
Mr. T.W. Harper	Corley Parish Council
Mr. S. Chetwynd	Grendon, Merevale and Bentley Parishes
Mr. P.R. Cole	Atherstone Conservative Party
Mr. P.F. Thomas	Coleshill

THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS - OBJECTIONS RAISED THERETO -
AN OUTLINE OF THESE OBJECTIONS AND SUBMITTED ALTERNATIVE
PROPOSALS

Having considered the Borough Council's draft scheme and all the comments, the Commission decided to adopt the Council's draft scheme but with the following modifications:-

- (a) The transfer of the Birchmoor Ward of the parish of Polesworth to the proposed Dordon Ward

In this instance the Commission took the unusual step of commenting on this proposal and offered an alternative - namely that if there are strong reasons why this proposal should not be adopted, an alternative way of ensuring a satisfactory standard of representation would be to divide the Polesworth Ward (as originally proposed by the North Warwickshire Borough Council) into two or more district wards together returning 4 members.

OBJECTIONS from:-

- (i) The North Warwickshire Borough Council
 - (ii) The Polesworth Parish Council
 - (iii) The Polesworth and District Resident and Ratepayer Association
- (i) The North Warwickshire Borough Council

The North Warwickshire Borough Council, through their Chief Executive, restated their views for the retention of the existing 3 members Borough Ward for Polesworth and Birchmoor, provision for which was made in that Council's draft scheme of representation submitted on 29th May, 1975.

In his restatement of his Council's views, the Chief Executive drew attention to the fact that the retention of Polesworth with Birchmoor as a 3 member ward would produce an electorate of 4519 - 1506 electors per member in 1976 and an estimated electorate of 4793 in 1980 - 1598 electors per member.

While the Borough Council accepts these ratios of electors to members to be outside the guideline of 1000/1500 electors per member, it considers the suggested ratio as acceptable because Polesworth is an urban parish and that 3 members can represent adequately the Ward.

- (ii) The Polesworth Parish Council

Mr. R.K. Critchley, a member of the Polesworth Parish Council - its authorised representative and spokesman at the Local Meeting expressed the extreme concern of that Parish Council to the transfer of Birchmoor to the Dordon Ward which is found by the Parish Council to be totally unacceptable.

The Parish Council consider that this proposed transfer would sever a number of local ties, that is to say:-

- (a) Birchmoor is and always has been a village within the Parish of Polesworth - it clearly has its local administrative ties at parish level with Polesworth and not Dordon.
- (b) At District or Borough Council level, Birchmoor has always enjoyed good relations with and service from its Councillors - the present three all live in Polesworth - it is considered most desirable that this tie is not broken.
- (c) Birchmoor Village adjoins Polesworth, whereas the centre of Dordon is some miles away. Of the two routes from Birchmoor to Dordon, one involves actually travelling through a built-up part of Polesworth and the other along a narrow winding country lane and then down the A5 trunk road for over a mile before approaching the centre of Dordon.

- (d) Because of the remoteness of Dordon and the nearness of Polesworth, it is quite natural that Birchmoor residents, only having very limited local facilities, use and have come to rely upon the shopping, business, medical, social and other services in Polesworth.
- (e) The only Church in Birchmoor is an Anglican Mission whose Sister Church is Polesworth Abbey. The ecclesiastical parish is, in fact, known as Polesworth-with-Birchmoor and the Parish Council feels that it would be appropriate to keep the two villages together for both civil and ecclesiastical purposes, thus retaining a long standing tie.
- (f) The Parish Council consider therefore, that Birchmoor has no affinity whatsoever with Dordon, and because of this and other views expressed which have been dealt with above, requests that the village of Birchmoor be transferred from Dordon to Polesworth Ward.

(ii)(a) The Polesworth Parish Council - Further Request

The Parish Council further request the Commission to consider dividing the present Birchmoor and Polesworth Wards of Polesworth into two Wards each returning two members

In submitting this request the Parish Council refer to the Borough Council's suggestion for the formation of a 3 member Ward - referring to the ratio of electors to members as referred to earlier in this report by the Chief Executive when re-stating the views of the Borough Council for the retention of the existing 3 member Borough Ward for Polesworth and Birchmoor.

The Parish Council considers this to be too high a ratio, and cites the publication by the Borough Council, (before formulating its own proposals) as a guideline a suggested ratio of one Councillor for every 1000 to 1500 electors and it is contended in this connection that the Borough Council's own proposal for Birchmoor and Polesworth falls outside its own guideline. The Parish Council's suggestion of the creation of 2 x 2 member Wards was re-stated.

The Parish Council first suggested to the Borough Council and to the Commission that the road known as B5000 (Tamworth to Polesworth) would be the most logical boundary between the two Wards, but the Borough Council's view was that the B5000 division did not produce an equitable balance of electorate, since the figures would have been:-

	<u>1975 electorate</u>	<u>1975 ratio per member</u>	<u>1980 electorate</u>	<u>1980 ratio per member</u>
North of B5000	1,916	958	1,933	967
South of B5000 (including Birchmoor)	2,602	1,301	2,859	1,430

The resultant division and the Ward boundaries are shown on Map 1 attached.

The Parish Council stated that the boundary which the Borough Council considered to give the best electoral figures involved using the centre lines of:-

Grondon Road
Market Street
Fairfields Hill
Birchmoor Road
Hermitage Lane
Continuing to the Tamworth boundary
up Hermitage Hill

as shown on Map 2 attached.

The electorate figures for the North and South Wards on this basis would be:-

	<u>1975</u> <u>electorate</u>	<u>1975 ratio</u> <u>per member</u>	<u>1980</u> <u>electorate</u>	<u>1980 ratio</u> <u>per member</u>
North of suggested boundary	2,058	1,029	2,332	1,166
South of suggested boundary	2,461	1,231	2,461	1,231

The Parish Council submit that the above ratios come reasonably close to the Commission's average for the whole of the Borough, which works out at 1283 currently and 1346 in 1980.

The Parish Council state that they would be prepared to accept either of the boundaries indicated on the attached Maps 1 and 2 to enable 2 x 2 member Wards to be created. The Parish Council further state that, in their letter of 31st. December 1974 addressed to the Chief Executive, North Warwickshire District Council, paragraph 12 under the heading "Size of Council", the Commission suggested that a non-metropolitan district should have a membership of between 30 and 60 Councillors, according to its area and responsibilities, and as the Borough Council currently has a membership of 33, the Parish Council consider that the granting of an additional member for the Polesworth/Birchmoor area will fall well within the Commission's suggested membership range.

(iii) The Polesworth and District Resident and Ratepayer Association

Mr. J.S. Rollings representing this Association stated that it supports whole-heartedly the case made out by the Polesworth Parish Council and made the following submissions in support:-

- (a) Birchmoor is traditionally and physically linked with Polesworth - the residents using the shopping, school, medical and Church facilities - such services in Dordon being further away and unconnected with Birchmoor, and that Birchmoor has always been in the Parish of Polesworth.
- (b) Should the proposal of the Commission be adopted, it would be that the Birchmoor community would have to raise problems not through a Polesworth Parish Councillor but through a Dordon Borough Councillor - an awkward arrangement for a community having no affinity with Dordon.
- (c) The increasing number of electors in the area more than justifies a total of 4 representatives, and this representation would share the work load on the existing Councillors and give maximum benefit to the Polesworth/Birchmoor community, especially since this is already designated as a key settlement area with subsequent increases in population.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATION OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

OBSERVATIONS

I visited the districts of Birchmoor, Polesworth and Dordon and concur completely with views expressed relative to the affinity of Birchmoor with Polesworth, but notwithstanding the weight of the arguments advanced for the division of Birchmoor and Polesworth Wards of Polesworth Parish into two District Wards each returning 2 members, it appears to me that this would be an unnecessary increase in Local Authority membership, and that 3 members can adequately represent the Ward.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

the Birchmoor Ward of the parish of Polesworth be not transferred to the proposed Dordon Ward, but remain with Polesworth as a 3 member ward.

(b) The Regrouping of the following Parishes or Parish Wards into two new Wards

	<u>Ward</u>	<u>No. of Councillors</u>	<u>Name</u>
(i)	The parishes of Newton Regis, Seckington and Shuttington	1	Newton Regis
(ii)	The parish of Austrey and the Warton ward of the parish of Polesworth	1	Warton

The undermentioned representatives made observations on the above proposal of the Commission:-

Mr. S.R. Rutherford	-	Chairman, Newton Regis Parish Council
Mr. R.H. Kealy	-	Chief Executive, North Warwickshire Borough Council
Mr. C. Gilbert	-	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Mrs. G.E. Blower	-	Meriden Constituency Labour Party
Mr. A.R. Collinge-Hill	-	Shuttington Parish Council

All the representatives expressed agreement with the Commission's proposal as set out above.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATION OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

OBSERVATIONS

In view of the complete agreement on the Commission's proposal, I have no adverse comment to make.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

the proposal of the Commission for the regrouping of parishes or parish wards into two new Wards of Newton Regis and Warton be adopted.

(c) The Regrouping of the following Parishes or Parish Wards into three new Wards

	<u>Ward</u>	<u>No. of Councillors</u>	<u>Name</u>
(i)	The parish of Arley	2	Arley
(ii)	The parishes of Astley Corley, Fillongley, Maxtoke and Shustoke	2	Fillongley
(iii)	The parishes of Great Packington and Little Packington and the South Ward of the parish of Coleshill	2	Coleshill South

There were differing opinions expressed on this proposal of the Commission as follows:-

(a) The North Warwickshire Borough Council

The North Warwickshire Borough Council through their Chief Executive, expressed disagreement with the Commission's proposal for the proposed Fillongley Ward as they affect the parishes of Maxstoke and Shustoke - that the Ward would be too large and widespread for effective representation and would be incompatible with Borough and County electoral arrangements - this proposed Ward being an exception as all other Wards are so compatible. In support of the argument advanced, the Chief Executive submitted that if the parishes of Maxstoke and Shustoke were to be included in the proposed Fillongley Ward, the parishes forming the suggested ward would be split between the two following different County Electoral Divisions:-

Arley County Electoral Division

Astley
Corley
Fillongley

Coleshill County Electoral Division

Maxstoke
Shustoke

The Warwickshire County Council in a letter dated 15th October, 1975 addressed to the Chief Executive of the North Warwickshire Borough Council referred to their decision to submit, in due course, a proposal for a membership of 61 based on eight Electoral Divisions for the North Warwickshire District with an average of 5587 electors based on an estimated 1980 electorate of 44,700. They state that both the Meriden No. 1 (Arley) and Meriden No. 2 (Coleshill) Electoral Divisions are well below this average and there can be no guarantee that the present County Electoral Divisions in the District will be preserved intact.

(b) The Corley Parish Council

Mr. T.W. Harper (Deputy Chairman) and Mr. A.R. Pargetter representing the Corley Parish Council stated that:-

- (i) The Corley Parish Council fully support the Commission's proposals for the proposed Fillongley Ward to comprise the parishes of Fillongley, Astley, Corley, Maxstoke and Shustoke.
- (ii) It is considered that this proposed Ward gives a better representation of the electorate for these parishes - 1276 per member, whereas the existing arrangements for Ward No. 13 produce a representation of the electorate of 1482 per member.
- (iii) The parishes referred to in the Commission's proposal i.e. Fillongley, Astley, Corley, Maxstoke and Shustoke provide an agricultural and residential zone, whereas previously it was a mixture of a former mining community dominating an agricultural and residential area.
- (iv) The Parish Council are of the opinion that residents in Corley are inclined to orientate towards Coventry or Coleshill whereas the residents of Arley appear to associate with Nuneaton with a resultant lack of common interest between the two areas.

(c) The Meriden Constituency Labour Party

Mrs. E. Blower representing the Meriden Constituency Labour Party stated that that Organisation are of the opinion that it would be better for Arley Ward to have 2 members and that on the grounds of its geographical position the parish of Corley should be taken out of the Arley ward, but that the parishes of Maxstoke and Shustoke should remain with Coleshill South as these parishes have more affinity with the village of Coleshill.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATION OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

OBSERVATIONS

I visited the districts of Astley, Corley, Coleshill, Maxstoke and Shustoke in order to be better able to appreciate the geographical situations of these parishes and their relationship with the proposals.

Whilst appreciating the arguments advanced for and against the Commission's draft proposals, I am of the opinion that the Commission's draft proposals for the regrouping of the various parishes into three new Wards would produce a greater equality of electorate and would provide a good representational basis for the administration of these proposed new Wards.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

the following parishes or parish wards be regrouped to form three new wards as follows:-

<u>Ward</u>	<u>No. of Councillors</u>	<u>Name</u>
The parish of Arley	2	Arley
The parishes of Astley, Corley, Fillongley, Maxstoke and Shustoke	2	Fillongley
The parishes of Great Packington and Little Packington and the South Ward of the parish of Coleshill	2	Coleshill South

(d) The Combining of the proposed Hurley and Kingsbury Wards into a 3 Member Ward

OBJECTIONS from:-

- (i) The Kingsbury Parish Council
- (ii) The North Warwickshire Borough Council
- (iii) The Meriden Constituency Labour Party

(i) The Kingsbury Parish Council

The Kingsbury Parish Council was not represented but I received a letter at the Local Meeting from Mr. H.J. Tonks, Clerk to the Parish Council, in which he stated that he had received instructions from the Parish Council to say that that Council oppose the reduction in its representatives on the Borough Council from 4 to 3.

He drew attention to the criteria for 1 Councillor for every 1500 electors. He further stated that because of the very considerable new developments in progress in the parish, this figure will be exceeded very soon by quite a wide margin, and in view of this fact his Council feel that the number of representatives should remain at 4.

(ii) The North Warwickshire Borough Council

The North Warwickshire Borough Council oppose this reduction for the following reasons:-

- (a) The widespread nature of the Ward for Councillors to represent as Hurley and Wood End are each approximately 3 miles distant from Kingsbury, and
- (b) The desirability of ensuring that Hurley and Wood End have more

(b) Cont'd..

direct representation, since the situation could arise that persons living in Kingsbury Village, in view of its larger electorate could secure all three seats.

(iii) The Meriden Constituency Labour Party

Mrs. G.E. Blower representing the Meriden Constituency Labour Party stated that that Organisation also opposed this reduction as it is considered that the Kingsbury and Hurley Wards should be separate.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATION OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

OBSERVATIONS

The Borough Council's argument in this particular was a strong one which highlighted the necessity to ensure that there is adequate direct representation and their special point relating to the widespread nature of the Ward and the distances involved were noted. The statistical data produced of the 1975 electorate and that projected for 1980 is also a factor to be considered.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

the proposal of the Commission to combine the proposed Hurley and Kingsbury Wards into a 3 member Ward be not adopted, but that the Kingsbury and Hurley Wards remain as separate Wards.

(e) A Request from Atherstone Town Council for additional Representation on the grounds that they are sufficiently larger than Coleshill to justify an extra Councillor

Mr. C.B. Ford (Chairman) and Mr. P. Wildblood (Vice-Chairman) represented the Atherstone Town Council.

Mr. Wildblood stated that the Atherstone Town Council were informed on 4th February 1975 that the Borough Council's Policy and Resources Committee had approved, as a basis for consultation, the division of the Parish into two Wards (North and South) by using the centre of Long Street and Witherley Road as a boundary between the two - the proposed representation being 3 Councillors for the North Ward and 2 for the South Ward - the North Ward having an electorate of 3077 and the South Ward an electorate of 2531 and that the criteria which the Borough Council had in mind at that time was the ratio of 1 Councillor to 1000/1500 electors.

However the Borough Council did not endorse their Policy and Resources Committee's views in this matter and proposed 4 representatives only - 2 for each Ward.

The Town Council make the comparison of Atherstone with Coleshill Town Council whose total electorate of 4308 is split as to 2177 and 2131 producing a proposed 4 Councillors, notwithstanding that Atherstone's electorate is 1200 more than that of Coleshill and Atherstone North Ward has almost 1000 more electors than either of Coleshill's Wards. Mr. Wildblood stated further that the Atherstone Town Council do not wish to make comparisons for comparisons sake but it should be noted that Atherstone is a sizeable town, is the civic and urban centre, has an industrial estate, and the structure plan envisages an increase in the electorate before any re-allocation of representatives can be made, and with these facts in mind the North Ward's representation should be increased to 3 Councillors, which is the consensus of opinion of local residents.

Mr. C.B. Ford (Chairman, Atherstone Town Council) endorsing Mr. Wildblood's remarks stated that in his long experience he had always found it difficult for the North Ward members to adequately "cover" the North Ward - one of the difficulties in this respect being the sizeable housing estate comprising some 700 houses.

Mr. Kealy, Chief Executive, North Warwickshire Borough Council, agreed that his Council had had second thoughts on this matter but the main reason for the Council's re-thinking was based on the principle that in the more urban parishes there should be a higher ratio of Councillors to electorate than in the rural parishes, and consider that the North Ward can be adequately represented by 2 Councillors.

Mr. B.E. Tunnicliffe (North Warwickshire Borough Council) spoke in favour of the 2 x 2 representation.

He referred to the Industrial Estate which he stated was very well managed and that few electors attended members "surgeries" in the North Ward as it appears the members are able to deal with various matters by day-to-day contact.

Mr. P.R. Cole on behalf of the Atherstone Conservative Party and Mrs. G.E. Blower on behalf of the Meriden Constituency Labour Party both supported the 2 x 2 representation.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATION OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

OBSERVATIONS

I visited the Atherstone North Ward with particular reference to its area, its boundary division with the South Ward, its industrial and housing estates, and Coleshill. While a very strong case was made by the representatives of the Atherstone Town Council for additional representation by providing 3 Councillors for the North Ward, I found the industrial estate to be very compact, and the housing estate reasonably so and for these two factors alone could see little justification in recommending additional representation, coupled with the fact that the drawing of a comparison between Atherstone and Coleshill is not a valid comparison and one which stands up to close examination as Coleshill is so rural in character.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

no additional representation be granted to Atherstone Town Council but that its representation remains at 2 Councillors for the North Ward and 2 Councillors for the South Ward.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Birchmoor Ward of the parish of Polesworth be not transferred to the proposed Dordon Ward, but remain with Polesworth as a 3 member Ward.

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2. That the following parishes or parish Wards be regrouped into two new Wards of Newton Regis and Warton:-

	<u>Ward</u>	<u>No. of Councillors</u>	<u>Name</u>
(i)	The parishes of Newton Regis, Seckington and Shuttington	1	Newton Regis
(ii)	The parish of Austrey and the Warton Ward of the parish of Polesworth	1	Warton

.....

3. That the following parishes or parish wards be regrouped to form three new Wards as follows:-

	<u>Ward</u>	<u>No. of Councillors</u>	<u>Name</u>
(i)	The parish of Arley	2	Arley
(ii)	The parishes of Astley, Corley, Fillongley, Maxstoke and Shustoke	2	Fillongley
(iii)	The parishes of Great Packington and Little Packington and the South Ward of the parish of Coleshill	2	Coleshill South

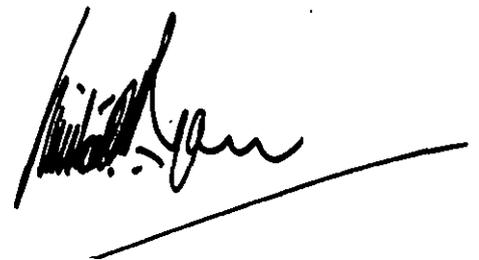
.....

4. That the Kingsbury and Hurley Wards remain as separate Wards.

.....

5. That the representation for Atherstone remain at 2 Councillors for the North Ward and 2 Councillors for the South Ward.

.....



BOROUGH OF NORTH WARWICKSHIRE: NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND
NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u>
ARLEY	2
ATHERSTONE NORTH	2
ATHERSTONE SOUTH	2
BADDESLEY ENSOR	1
COLESHILL NORTH	2
COLESHILL SOUTH	2
CURDWORTH	1
DORDON	2
FILLONGLEY	2
GRENDON	1
HARTSHILL	2
HURLEY	2
KINGSBURY	2
MANCETTER	3
NETHER WHITACRE	1
NEWTON REGIS	1
POLLSWORTH	3
WARTON	1
WATER ORTON	2

BOROUGH OF NORTH WARWICKSHIRE - DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

NEWTON REGIS WARD

The parishes of Newton Regis, Seckington and Shuttington.

WARTON WARD

The parish of Austrey and the Warton ward of the parish of Polesworth.

POLESWORTH WARD

The Polesworth and Birchmoor wards of the parish of Polesworth.

DORDON WARD

The parish of Dordon.

CURDWORTH WARD

The parishes of Curdworth, Middleton and Wishaw.

HURLEY WARD

The Hurley and Wood End wards of the parish of Kingsbury.

KINGSBURY WARD

The Kingsbury ward of the parish of Kingsbury.

BADDESLEY ENSOR WARD

The parish of Baddesley Ensor.

GRENDON WARD

The parishes of Baxterley, Bentley, Merevale and Grendon.

ATHERSTONE NORTH WARD

The North ward of the parish of Atherstone.

ATHERSTONE SOUTH WARD

The South ward of the Parish of Atherstone.

MANCETTER WARD

The parishes of Ansley, Mancetter and Oldbury.

HARTSHILL WARD

The parishes of Hartshill and Caldecote.

NETHER WHITACRE WARD

The parishes of Lea Marston, Nether Whitacre and Over Whitacre.

WATER ORTON WARD

The parish of Water Orton.

COLESHILL NORTH WARD

The North ward of the parish of Coleshill.

COLESHILL SOUTH WARD

The parishes of Great Packington, Little Packington, and the South ward of the parish of Coleshill.

FILLONGLEY WARD

The parishes of Astley, Corley, Fillongley, Maxstoke and Shustoke.

ARLEY WARD

The parish of Arley.