

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.37

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 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 THAMESDOWN IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the borough of Thamesdown in accordance with the requirements of section 63 of, and of Schedule 9 to, the Local Government Act 1972, present our proposals for the future electoral arrangements for that borough.
2. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 13 May 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Thamesdown Borough Council, copies of which were circulated to the Wiltshire County Council, Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the district, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and to the local government press. Notices inserted in the local press announced the start of the review and invited comments from members of the public and from any interested bodies.
3. Thamesdown 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. In accordance with section 7(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council had exercised an option for a system of elections by thirds.

5. On 23 September 1974 the Thamesdown Borough Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area into 18 wards each returning 1 or 3 members to form a Council of 46, the same number as at present.

6. Following the publication by the District Council of their draft scheme we received only one letter, from the County Council, asking us to note that it might not in all cases be possible, when drawing up proposals for the county electoral arrangements, to have regard to the boundaries of the proposed district wards and that in two cases, where the County Council intended that a proposed district ward should serve also as a county electoral division, the number of electors would be higher than the likely average for county electoral divisions. The Borough Council sent us copies of the letters which they received after their publication of the scheme together with copies of their earlier correspondence with the County Council, parish councils and the local political parties during the period when their draft scheme was in preparation.

7. We studied the draft scheme and, in a number of instances, we considered whether there were modifications which could be made to secure a more even standard of representation. We looked also at the problem put to us by the County Council about the difficulty of matching these proposed arrangements for the Borough with the County Council's view of the future electoral arrangements for the county. A number of possible changes were examined but, having regard to the composition of the proposed wards, the nature of their boundaries or the pattern of local ties, we concluded in every case that there were no sensible changes which could be made.

8. We then considered those of the comments which had been made to the Borough Council which they had not felt able to adopt and incorporate in their draft

scheme. In most instances we decided that the Council's decision to refuse the proposals made to them had been appropriate. However, in response to representations submitted by a parish council and a local political association we decided to propose the transfer of the parish of Liddington from the proposed Ridgeway ward to the proposed Downs ward. The proposed Ridgeway ward would then comprise only the parish of Chiseldon and we decided that it should be named accordingly.

9. Subject to the two changes referred to in the preceding paragraph and to some minor alterations recommended by the Ordnance Survey in the interests of better boundaries, 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.

10. On 6 November 1974 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the Council's draft scheme. The Council were asked to make these draft proposals and the accompanying maps, which defined the proposed ward boundaries, available for inspection at their main 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 31 December 1974.

11. The Borough Council raised three points of detail, one affecting our proposed arrangements for the order of retirement of councillors and two others dealing with the northern boundary of the proposed Lawns ward. These points were resolved in consultation with the Council's officers and the Ordnance Survey and we agreed to modify our draft proposals where necessary.

12. The Wiltshire County Council wrote to us supporting the observations of the Borough Council about the northern boundary of the proposed Lawns ward and

informing us that the comments which they had made to us earlier were equally relevant to our draft proposals.

13. A local political party reiterated a comment which they had made earlier to the Borough Council suggesting that Albion Street should be transferred from the proposed Central ward to the proposed Eastcott ward.

14. The Councils of two of the parishes in the proposed Downs ward wrote to us supporting our draft proposals. One of them, however, reported that three at least of the four parish councils in the proposed ward would prefer the ward to be named "Ridgeway".

15. Another local political association pressed us to adopt a number of changes to bring our draft proposals more into line with proposals prepared at an earlier stage by the Borough Council's officers. The changes involved the inclusion of the parishes of Stanton ^{Fitzwarren} ~~Warrington~~, Hannington and South Marston, in the proposed Highworth ward, the modification of the boundary between the proposed Lawns and Eastcott wards and the redrawing of the boundaries in the Pinehurst locality of Swindon.

16. Pinehurst was also the subject of representations which we received from the local community council requesting that the whole of the Pinehurst community area should be included in one or, at most, two wards.

17. Finally we received a letter from the Stratton St Margaret Parish Council from which it appeared that they wished to object to our draft proposals on the grounds that there was little assurance on the adequacy of the future representation of the parish on the county council.

18. In view of these comments 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 D B F P Leigh as an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

19. The Assistant Commissioner held a meeting at the Civic Offices, Swindon on 15 May 1975. A copy of his report to us of the meeting is attached at Schedule 1 to this Report.

20. The Assistant Commissioner recommended that our draft proposals should be modified so that William Street as well as Albion Street in Swindon should be included in the Central ward instead of in Eastcott ward as we had proposed. In addition he recommended that the proposed Downs ward should be renamed "Ridgeway" ward.

21. We considered again our draft proposals in the light of the comments which we had received and of the Assistant Commissioner's Report. We concluded that the alterations recommended by the Assistant Commissioner should be adopted and, subject to these amendments and those referred to in paragraph 11 above, we decided that our draft proposals should be confirmed as our final proposals.

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

PUBLICATION

23. 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 Thamesdown 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. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed wards, as defined on the maps, is set out in Schedule 4 to this report.

L.S.

Signed

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

DIANA ALBEMARLE

T C BENFIELD

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

ANDREW WHEATLEY

F B YOUNG

DAVID R SMITH (Secretary)

10 July 1975

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

BOROUGH OF THAMESDOWN

REPORT OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Assistant Commissioner: Mr. D.B.F.P. Leigh

Date of Meeting: 15th May 1975

File No. LCBC/D/39/2

1.1 On the 15th May 1975 I held a meeting at the Civic Offices, Swindon, to hear representations on the draft proposals published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for the electoral arrangements for the Borough of Thamesdown relating to the following proposed wards:

Lawns

Central

Eastcott

Whitworth

Gorse Hill

Western

Moredon

St. Margaret

St. Philip

Blunsdon

Downs

Highworth

1.2 Later the same day I visited the areas discussed at the meeting.

2 A list showing the names and addresses of those attending the meeting and the interests they represented is attached. (Document 1)

Whitworth, Gorse Hill, Western and Moredon Wards

Commission's proposals

- 3.1 Under the Commission's proposals the Pinehurst Community Area is split between four wards viz. Whitworth, Gorse Hill, Western and Moredon. The area is shown edged red on the annexed plan (Document 2). Each of the four wards elects 3 Councillors and the 1974 electorate and entitlement of each is shown in the following table.

	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Electorate</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Whitworth	3	6206	2.95
Gorse Hill	3	6642	3.16
Western	3	7177	3.41
Moredon	3	8131	3.86

Representations

- 3.2 Mr. W.H. Reeves, together with Mr. W. Bryant and Mr. F.W. Wright representing the Pinehurst Community Council, referred to the Council's letter dated the 15th December 1974 to the Commission explaining the well defined identity of the Pinehurst Community which was the first planned estate in the area having originally been developed in the 1920's, linked to the town of Swindon by a ribbon road but separated from it by a green belt. Further building took place after the last war. The Community has its own Churches, civic room and library and a number of Community organisations. The Community Council's proposal was to keep the area within Moredon and Whitworth Wards and to achieve this by re-drawing their boundaries as shown by the black line on the plan (Document 2)

This would not detract from Gorse Hill and Western Wards which would lose some of their electorate. Conversely, Whitworth and Moredon Wards had ample scope for development. The possible introduction of statutory Community Councils should be taken into consideration. The Community Council were also concerned about the schools serving the Community area and felt that their views would be more effectively expressed if their proposal were accepted.

3.3 Councillor R.K.B. Savage, West Ward, Thamesdown Borough Council put in a statement (Document 3) Plan A (Document 4) and Plan B (Document 5). His preferred solution (Alternative 3) is to include the whole of the Pinehurst Community Area in Whitworth Ward. On his figures this would add 3635 to the electorate of Whitworth Ward making a total of 8403. His Alternative 1 would divide the Community Area between Western and Whitworth Wards as shown on Plan A. Alternative 2 would divide the Community Area between Whitworth and Gorse Hill Wards. Mr. Savage stated that he had no preference as between Alternatives 1 and 2. He stressed that areas which have a clearly defined community of interest should, if possible, be incorporated in one Ward and drew attention to the importance of keeping the ratio of electors to councillors the same in different wards. The officer's draft scheme had better reflected the interests of the Pinehurst Community Area until it was changed by the Borough Council.

3.4

Mr. G Young, Solicitor representing the Devizes Constituency Conservative Association and the Swindon Conservative and Unionist Association (hereafter called "the Conservative Associations") said that they accepted that Pinehurst was a separate community with its own shops and Old People's Home and it was important that it should be kept together so far as possible. He called Councillor P. Macpherson, Leader of Conservative Group, Thamesdown Borough Council who said that his Group recognised that the re-drawing of Ward boundaries was a sensitive matter. He drew attention to the fact that the Officers' draft scheme had been an objective document but it had been changed by the Thamesdown Borough Council following their receipt of a letter dated April 1974 from the Secretary of the Labour Party (Appendix D to the comments submitted to the Commission with the Associations' letter of the 19th December 1974) on the basis of political argument. He also referred to Appendix B to the comments. Penhill residents were used to voting with Whitworth electors. He supported the representations of the Pinehurst Community Council. Mr. Young urged that the ward boundaries should follow the proposals in the Officers' draft scheme.

3.5

Mr. W.H. Reeves stated that the Pinehurst Community Council liked Alternative 3 as proposed by Mr. R.K.B. Savage. He also put in an extract from a Borough Council publication "Social Profiles of Community Areas in Swindon" (Document 6)

3.6 Mr. D.A. Parham, Director, Legal and Administrative Services and Borough Solicitor, Thamesdown Borough Council, stated that the Council had followed the statutory criteria in preparing their scheme. Pinehurst Community Area was not a statutory area but they had taken Polling Districts into account. The Officers' draft scheme had been a consultative document only. It had been considered at length by the Council and was now of no effect, having been superseded by the Council's scheme. He did not like the southern extension down Pinehurst Road shown on the Community Association's plan (Document 2)

3.7 Mr. G. Hamilton, a member of the staff of the Chief Executive of Thamesdown Borough Council said that the Pinehurst area was first developed as an isolated community surrounded by green fields. Further building had later taken place around it and it was now part of a larger urban area and had largely lost its separate identity. The schools serving the Community Area were on its periphery or outside it and Gorse Hill was used as its shopping centre. The Council were building dwellings on both sides of Pinehurst Road to the south of the area, narrowing the gap between it and Ferndale Road. In drawing the Ward boundaries it has not been possible to follow the boundaries of this and other Community Areas and at the same time to observe the Statutory Criteria.

3.8 Councillor A.J. Masters, Leader of the Thamesdown Borough Council said that he lived in the Pinehurst area. There were no clear limits to the Community Area. Originally it has been a close-knit Community centred on The Circle but post-war development had altered the position. While it was true that under the previous arrangements the North Ward covered both Penhill and Gorse Hill, Pinehurst had closer links with Gorse Hill than with Penhill.

Assessment

3.9 The wish of the Pinehurst Community to be placed within the confines of one, or at most two, wards is understandable in the light of the history of the area and of the strong sense of community that has led to the formation of the Community Council and other local organisations. The physical separateness of the area has to a considerable degree been diminished by post-war building and more building is contemplated to the south along Pinehurst Road. The distinctive character of the area does, however, to some extent remain.

3.10 One solution (Mr. Savage's Alternative 3) would include the whole of the Community Area in Whitworth Ward. If the electorate of the area is taken as 3632 the position would then be as shown in the following table:

	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Electorate 1974</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Whitworth	3	6206 + 2197 = 8403	3.99
Gorse Hill	3	6642 - 1100 = 5542	2.63
Western	3	7177 - 686 = 6491	3.08
Moredon	3	8131 - 411 = 7720	3.67

(Note: For the purpose of calculating the entitlement the average 1974 electorate per ward has been taken as 2105.)

The effect on the entitlement of Western (3.41 to 3.08) and Moredon (3.86 to 3.67) is slightly beneficial. The effect on Gorse Hill (3.15 to 2.63) leads to over-representation while Whitworth (2.95 to 3.99) becomes seriously under-represented. Indeed it all but qualifies, on the 1974 figures, for an additional Councillor. However the circumstances do not in my view justify the creation of a four member ward. In view of the effect on entitlements I cannot regard this solution as satisfactory.

3.11 A second proposal (Pinehurst Community Council) would re-distribute the electorate of the Area between Whitworth and Moredon Wards. According to the Community Council's letter of the 15th December 1974 this would involve a transfer of 436 electors from Western to Moredon and of 471 electors from Corse Hill to Whitworth with the effect shown in the following table:

	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Electorate 1974</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Whitworth	3	6206 + 471 = 6677	3.17
Corse Hill	3	6642 - 471 = 6171	2.93
Western	3	7177 - 436 = 6741	3.20
Moredon	3	8131 + 436 = 8567	4.07

These entitlements are acceptable save for the fact that Moredon Ward becomes even more under-represented than Whitworth did in the preceding solution. For similar reasons I do not recommend it.

3.12. A third proposal (Mr. Savage's Alternative 1) re-distributes the Pinehurst electorate but between Whitworth and Western Wards as follows :

	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Electorate 1974</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Whitworth	3	6206 + 1100 = 7306	3.47
Gorse Hill	3	6642 - 1340 = 5302	2.51
Western	3	7177 + 651 = 7828	3.71
Moredon	3	8131 - 411 = 7720	3.67

The drawback about this proposal is that Gorse Hill becomes a ward with only 5302 electors and there would be difficulty in enlarging it because it is bounded on the east by the Parish of Stratton, on the south by the railway line and on the north by Whitworth Ward.

3.13 A fourth suggestion (Mr. Savage's Alternative 2) takes 686 electors from Western Ward and 411 from Moredon Ward and by a change in boundary adds them to Whitworth Ward. This scheme however leaves 1100 of the Pinehurst Community electors in Gorse Hill Ward with which, as Mr. Savage observes, they have no common community of interest.

3.14 Finally, a fifth proposal was made by the Conservative Associations that the Ward boundaries should follow those in the Officers' draft scheme which included The Circle and the streets surrounding it in Whitworth Ward. This would keep Penhill and the nucleus of the Pinehurst Community within Whitworth Ward but is subject to the disadvantage that Corse Hill is left as a Ward with only about 5300 electors with the results described in paragraph 3.12 above.

3.15 While the desirability of keeping the Pinehurst Community within one or two wards is recognised, the proposals outlined seem to me to have disadvantages attached to them that outweigh the benefits they might confer. Accordingly I RECOMMEND that the Commission's proposals remain unaltered.

Central and Eastcott Wards

Commission's proposals

- 4.1 The Commission's proposals include Albion Street in Central Ward and William Street in Eastcott Ward.

Representations

- 4.2 Mr. D. Davis, Secretary, representing the Wiltshire No.2 District Co-ordinating Committee of the Labour Party said that his Committee felt that Albion Street should be included in Eastcott Ward. Their reasons were that electors would thereby be enabled to vote at the nearby polling station at the Clifton Street School instead of having to vote at Westcott School, which involves crossing a busy road. The position of these polling stations is shown on the annexed plan (Document 7). Further, the inclusion of Albion Street in Eastcott Ward would produce a better boundary between the two Wards, following the line of the old Canal.

- 4.3 Mr. G. Young, Solicitor representing the Conservative Associations and Councillor Macpherson stated that the Associations wished Albion Street to remain in Central Ward which would otherwise be unacceptably reduced in size. They also considered that William Street should be in Central and not in Eastcott Ward as proposed in the Officers' draft scheme.

4.4 Mr. G. Hamilton a member of the staff of the Chief Executive, Thamesdown Borough Council, said that although the Canal, which had long since been filled in, was a geographical feature the boundary between Central and Eastcott Wards had been drawn so as to provide a reasonable balance of numbers and to reflect community of interest. Mr. A.J. Masters, Leader of the Thamesdown Borough Council stated that Albion Street had been in the old Queen's Ward which was now Central Ward. Representations had been received from residents in Albion Street who wished to be in Central Ward.

Assessment

4.5 Although the Clifton Street School polling Station would be more accessible to the electors of Albion Street than would be that at Westcott School the distance from either would not appear to be excessive. In a town like Swindon the need to cross even a busy road should not, in my view, be decisive. Nor, it may be thought, would the old Canal form a markedly better boundary than the urban streets which delimit much of this and other Wards. It is significant that residents in Albion Street made representations which led to its inclusion in Central Ward. Central Ward, with a 1974 electorate of 5871 has an entitlement of 2.79 and Eastcott Ward with a 1974 electorate of 7460 an entitlement of 3.54. In my view the balance would be improved by the inclusion of William Street as well as Albion Street in Central Ward, following the boundary in the Officers' draft scheme and I

RECOMMEND that Albion Street and William Street be included in Central Ward.

Eastcott and Lawns WardsCommission's proposals

- 5.1 The Commission's proposals include the existing houses to the west of Princess Margaret Hospital and new development to the north of Okus Road in Lawns Ward.

Representations

- 5.2 Mr. G. Young, Solicitor representing the Conservative Associations referred to the area in question and pointed out that Tythe Barn Crescent and Okus Road had been in the old King's Ward which would become Eastcott Ward. The Officers' draft scheme had included it in Eastcott Ward. This was especially appropriate because of the gradient of the land and the Commission's proposals should be amended accordingly.
- 5.3 Mr. D.A. Parham, Director, Legal and Administrative Services and Borough Solicitor and Mr. G. Hamilton, a member of the staff of the Chief Executive, Thamesdown Borough Council said that the old boundaries were an anachronism which needed to be changed. Future development was expected as shown on Map C annexed (Document 8) There would be no vehicular access between this and Eastcott Ward although pedestrian access would be provided.

Assessment

5.4 It appears to me to be more consistent with the plans for new development to include the area in question in Lawns Ward and this also tends to equalize the electorate of the two Wards. The 1974 electorate of Eastcott Ward is 7460 and that of Lawns Ward 7079. I

RECOMMEND that the Commission's proposals remain unaltered.

Downs WardCommission's proposals

- 6.1 The Commission propose to group the parishes of Liddington, Wanborough (Wanborough Ward) Bishopstone and South Marston to form a borough ward called Downs Ward.

Representations

- 6.2 Mr. N.J. Dowden representing Wanborough Parish Council stated that the four parish councils were unanimously of the opinion that Downs Ward should be named Ridgeway Ward. I have also received a letter dated the 12th May from the Clerk of the Wanborough Parish Council (Document 9) informing me that the four parishes have formed a committee of representatives from each of them to deal with common problems. This committee feels strongly that since this important ancient route runs through three of the parishes the name Ridgeway should be perpetuated by re-naming the borough ward.

Assessment

- 6.3 This representation, which reflects the unanimous view of the four parishes concerned was not opposed. It seems to me an acceptable one and I accordingly

RECOMMEND that Downs Ward be re-named
Ridgeway Ward.

Downs and Highworth WardsCommission's proposals

- 7.1 The Commission's proposal includes the parish of South Marston in the Downs Ward.

Representations

- 7.2 The Conservative Associations consider that South Marston parish should be in Highworth Ward. Lt.-Comd. K.H.R. Thresh on their behalf stated that South Marston has no connection with Wanborough and looked to Highworth as a focus for shopping and other purposes. He pointed out that under the Officers' draft scheme South Marston was included in Highworth Ward. The electorate of South Marston parish was 390. The natural boundary of Downs Ward was the road A420 and the railway line.
- 7.3 Mr. T. Cooper, Chairman, South Marston Parish Council said that his parish wished to remain in Downs Ward in accordance with the Commission's proposals. South Marston was a rural parish and wished to be associated with the other similar rural parishes in Downs Ward rather than with Highworth. There was no public transport to Highworth and South Marston did not regard it as their Centre.
- 7.4 Mr. G. Hamilton on behalf of Thamesdown Borough Council stressed the importance of maintaining a proper balance between Downs and Highworth Wards.

7.5 The letter dated 12th May from the Clerk of the Wanborough Parish Council (Document 9) draws attention to the view of the committee of representatives of the parishes proposed to be included in Downs Ward that South Marston parish should remain in the ward as being in all respects similar to the other parishes through type, size, interest and finance. If South Marston joined Highworth it would again be in the position of a very small rural parish in a large, predominantly urban area.

7.6 Mr. G. Young, Solicitor representing the Conservative Associations stated that in view of South Marston's desire to remain in Downs Ward he would not press for its inclusion in Highworth Ward

Assessment

7.7 It is clear from the representations that not only South Marston but also the other parishes in the proposed Downs Ward strongly desire that South Marston should remain in Downs Ward on the grounds that it is a small rural parish with similar interests to theirs and that they do not regard Highworth as their centre. I consider that the Commission's proposal is to be preferred and accordingly

RECOMMEND that the parish of South Marston
be included in Downs Ward

Blunsdon and Highworth Wards

Commission's proposals

- 8.1 Under the Commission's proposals the parishes of Stanton Fitzwarren and Hannington are included in Blunsdon Ward.

Representations

- 8.2 Mr. G. Young and Lt.-Comd. K.H.R. Thresh on behalf of the Conservative Associations urged that Stanton Fitzwarren and Hannington should be included in Highworth Ward, as in the Officers' draft scheme. These parishes look to Highworth rather than to Blunsdon as their centre and are more naturally associated with Highworth. The electorate of Stanton Fitzwarren was 166 and of Hannington 170.

- 8.3 Mr. S. Hamilton for the Thamesdown Borough Council stated that they supported the Commission's proposal.

Assessment

- 8.4 Hannington and Stanton Fitzwarren are rural parishes and it is difficult to distinguish them from South Marston in this respect. It does not appear to me that they have any greater affinity with Highworth than South Marston has or that there is any other reason to treat them differently and I accordingly

RECOMMEND that the parishes of Hannington and

Stratton St. Margaret

Commission's proposals

- 9.1 Under the Commission's proposals Stratton St. Margaret Parish is divided into two district wards, St. Philip and St. Margaret, each returning three Councillors.

Representations

- 9.2 Mr. B. Cockbill representing Stratton St. Margaret Parish Council put in a statement (Document 10) The Parish Council's point of view had not been correctly understood. It was their contention that the parish could be warded for parish elections, thereby protecting its county representation and the three parish wards grouped to form one district ward returning six borough councillors. Paragraph 13 of the Commission's letter dated 13th May 1974 to The Chief Executive, Thamesdown District Council states that the number of councillors per ward should not exceed 3 unless there are very exceptional circumstances. But a six member ward is permissible under Section 7(4) (b) of the Local Government Act, 1972. Although the requirements of Schedule 11 paragraph 1 (2) (d) would necessitate the warding of the parish into three for parish council purposes, paragraph 3 of the Schedule which refers to district council elections contains no similar stipulation. The Parish Council consider that Stratton St. Margaret should be a single ward returning six district councillors.

- 9.3 Councillor Macpherson, Leader Conservative Group, Thamesdown Borough Council said that he saw no exceptional circumstances that would justify the creation of a six member ward.
- 9.4 Mr. G. Hamilton, representing Thamesdown Borough Council said that the basis of their review had been to provide three or single member wards.
- 9.5 Mr. Cockbill in reply said that owing to the course that the Borough and the Commission had taken with regard to the Parish Council's submissions he was not, on their behalf, in a position to state in detail what the exceptional circumstances were that made it desirable to have a six member ward but that the Parish Council might wish to put these forward later. Generally, he wished to add that he recognised the difficulties of the Borough Council in preparing the scheme. He felt, however, that single member wards would create confusion and be unfair especially if the single member were to be elected Mayor or Deputy Mayor.

Assessment

9.6 Very compelling evidence of exceptional circumstances would, in my view, be required in order to justify the creation of a six member ward but, for the reason stated above, no details of the exceptional circumstances were in fact given at the meeting and on the evidence before me I accordingly

RECOMMEND that the Commission's proposals remain unaltered.

Signed

Beverly Leigh

Date

30th May 1975

List of Documents

1. Attendance list
2. Plan of Pinehurst Community Area
3. Statement - Mr. R.K.B. Savage
4. Plan A - Mr. R.K.B. Savage
5. Plan B - Mr. R.K.B. Savage
6. Extract from "Social Profiles of Community Areas in Swindon"
7. Plan - Polling stations Central and Eastcott Wards
8. Map C - proposed development near Okus Street
9. Letter dated 12th May 1975 from Wanborough Parish Council
10. Statement - Mr. B. Cockbill.

SCHEDULE 2

BOROUGH OF TILMESDOWN : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

NAME OF WARD	NO OF COUNCILLORS
BLUNSDON	1
CENTRAL	3
CHISELDON	1
COVINGHAM	1
DORCAN	3
EASTCOTT	3
GORSEHILL	3
HIGHWORTH	3
LAWRS	3
MORNDON	3
PARK	3
RIDGEMAY	1
ST MARGARET	3
ST PHILIP	3
WALCOT	3
WESTERN	3
WHITWORTH	3
WROUGHTON	3

BOROUGH OF THAMESDOWN : ORDER OF RETIREMENT OF COUNCILLORS

ORDER OF RETIREMENT

NAME OF WARD	NO. OF COUNCILLORS	1ST YEAR	2ND YEAR	3RD YEAR
BLUNSDON	1	1PE	-	-
CENTRAL	3	1	1	1
CHISELDON	1	-	1PE	-
COVINGHAM	1	-	-	1PE
DORCAN	3	1	1	1
EASTCOFT	3	1	1	1
GOOSEHILL	3	1	1	1
HIGHWORTH	3	1	1PE	1
LAWIS	3	1	1	1
MOREDON	3	1	1PE	1
PARK	3	1	1	1
RIDGEWAY	1	-	-	1PE
ST MARGARET	3	1	1)	1
ST PHILIP	3	1	1)	1
WALCOT	3	1	1	1
WESTERN	3	1	1	1
WHITWORTH	3	1	1	1
WROUGHTON	3	1	1PE	1
	46	15	15	16

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

BOROUGH OF THAMESDOWN - DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

NOTE: Where the boundary is described as following a road, railway, river, canal or similar feature, it should be deemed to follow the centre line of the feature unless otherwise stated.

CENTRAL WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of the District meets the southern boundary of Wootton Bassett Road, thence north-eastwards and following said District boundary to the eastern boundary of Parcel No 1810 on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan SU 12/1384 Edition of 1971, thence southwards and following said boundary to the northern boundary of Wootton Bassett Road, thence eastwards along said boundary to the London to Bristol Railway, thence north-eastwards along railway to National Grid Reference SU 1619285781 on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan SU 16/1785 Edition of 1969, thence south-eastwards in a straight line to National Grid Reference SU 1622985725 being a point on the northern boundary of Wills Sports Ground, thence southwestwards along said boundary to the northern boundary of Swindon County Ground, thence north-westwards, south-westwards and south-eastwards to the northern boundary of No 113 County Road, thence eastwards and south-eastwards along the rear boundary of said property and in prolongation thereof to the north-eastern corner of the County Ground Hotel, thence south-eastwards along the eastern boundary of said hotel and the eastern boundary of the access to the rear of properties of Nos 119-153 County Road and in prolongation thereof to a point opposite Fleming Way, thence generally westwards to and along said Way to the subway which leads to The Parade, thence south-westwards along said subway and said Parade to the path that runs to the north of the former Wilts and Berks Canal, thence south-westwards along said path, crossing Commercial Road, to Cambria Bridge Road, thence south-eastwards along said road to a point opposite the backway of Nos 1 to 38 William Street; thence southwestwards along said backway and continuing along the northern wall to Clifton Street Schools building to the eastern boundary of No 41 Radnor Street; thence southeastwards along said eastern boundary to a point opposite the backway of Nos 40 to 61 William Street; thence southwestwards to and along said backway, crossing Stanmore Street and continuing along the backway of Nos 62 to 80 William Street to Kingshill Road; thence northwestwards along said road and the road between the Mission Hall and No 227 Kingshill Road and in continuation to the footpath to the rear of No 47 Westcot Place, thence southwestwards along said path to Wootton Bassett Road, thence westwards along said road to a point

opposite the eastern boundary of No 1 Wootton Bassett Road, thence southward to and along said boundary to the rear access of Nos 1-52 Wootton Bassett Road, thence south-westwards, westwards and northwards along said access to a point opposite the rear boundaries of Nos 1-5 Ladds Mill Cottages, thence westwards to and along said rear boundary and rear boundary of The Running Horse Public House to the western boundary of said public house, thence northwards along said boundary to the southern boundary of Wootton Bassett Road, thence generally westwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of the property known as The Chestnuts, thence southwards, westwards and northwards along said boundary, southern boundary and western boundary of said property to the southern boundary of Wootton Bassett Road, thence westwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

WESTERN WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Central Ward meets the western boundary of the District, thence north-westwards and following said District boundary and the southern boundary of Haydon Wick CP to Purton Road, thence generally south-eastwards along said road, Akers Way and Beech Avenue to a point opposite the western boundary of No 207 Beech Avenue, thence southwards to and along said boundary to the rear boundaries of Nos 207-53 Beech Avenue, thence eastwards along said boundary to the western boundary of the Corporation Yard, thence southwards along said boundary to the western boundary of the Allotment Gardens, thence generally south-westwards along said boundary to Heron Burna Stream, thence south-eastwards and following said stream to Pinehurst Road, thence south-westwards along said road to a point opposite the northern boundary of No 51 Pinehurst Road, thence westwards to and along said boundary and the rear boundaries of Nos 51-1 Pinehurst Road and eastwards along the southern boundary of No 1 Pinehurst Road to a point opposite the rear access to Nos 79-1 St Mary's Grove, thence south-eastwards to and along said access to the access to the rear of Nos 216-188 Ferndale Road, thence eastwards along said access to

St Mary's Grove, thence south-eastwards along said grove and Whitehouse Road to the northern boundary of Central Ward, thence south-westwards and following said boundary to the point of commencement.

MOREDON WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Western Ward meets the western boundary of the District, thence westwards and following said District boundary to the northern boundary of Haydon Wick CP, thence south-eastwards and following said boundary and eastern boundary of said parish to the northern boundary of Parcel No 5775 on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan SU 14/1587 Edition of 1970, thence south-eastwards along said boundary and the northern boundaries of parcel Nos 6277, 7658, 8956, to the western boundaries of Nos 59-53 Sunningdale Road, thence south-eastwards along said boundaries, and the western boundaries of Nos 49-15 Haydon View Road, and the fence to the rear of the garages of Nos 13-1 Haydon View Road to Whitworth Road, thence westwards along said road to the western boundary of Pinhurst School; thence generally southward along said Western boundary to the northern boundaries of Nos 56-36 Beech Avenue, thence north-eastwards and south-eastwards along said boundaries to Beech Avenue, thence north-eastwards along said Avenue to the cul-de-sac serving the area known as The Bungalows, thence south-eastwards along said cul-de-sac to a point opposite the rear boundaries of Nos 33-51 Beech Avenue, thence south-westwards to and along said boundaries to the northern boundary of Western Ward, thence westwards and following said boundary to the point of commencement.

WHITWORTH WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Moredon Ward meets the southern boundary of Blundson St Andrew CP, thence eastwards and following said CP boundary to the western boundary of Stratton St Margaret CP, thence southwards and following said boundary to Whitworth Road, thence westwards along said road to a point opposite the eastern boundary of No 1 Whitworth Road thence southwards to and along said

boundary and westwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 1-43 Whitworth Road to the boundary between No 45 Whitworth Road and 184 Pinehurst Road, thence north-westwards along said boundary to the northernmost corner of 184 Pinehurst Road, thence westwards in a straight line to the easternmost point of the boundary between 165 Pinehurst Road and 47 Whitworth Road, thence south-westwards along said boundary and rear boundaries of Nos 163-149 Pinehurst Road and south-eastwards along the southern boundary of No 149 Pinehurst Road to Pinehurst Road, thence generally south-westwards along said road and Beech Avenue to a point opposite the eastern boundary of No 31 Beech Avenue, thence southwards to and along said boundary and south-westwards and north-westwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 31-17 Beech Avenue to the boundary between No 15 Beech Avenue and No 26 Linden Avenue, thence north-westwards along said boundary to the northernmost corner of No 26 Linden Avenue, thence westwards in a straight line to the boundary between No 23 Linden Avenue and No 13 Beech Avenue, thence south-westwards along said boundary, the rear boundaries of Nos 11-9 Beech Avenue to the boundary between No 9 Beech Avenue and No 33 Limes Avenue, thence north-westwards along said boundary to Beech Avenue, thence westwards along said avenue to a point opposite the eastern boundary of No 7 Beech Avenue, thence south-eastwards to and along said boundary and south-westwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 7-1 Beech Avenue and continuing along the fence to the south of the garages to the cul-de-sac serving the area known as The Bungalows, thence northwards along said cul-de-sac to the western boundary of Moredon Ward, thence north-westwards and following said boundary to the point of commencement.

GORSE HILL WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Western Ward meets the northern boundary of Central Ward, thence north-westwards and following said eastern ward boundary to the southern boundary of Moredon Ward, thence north-eastwards and following said boundary and the southern boundary of Whitworth Ward to the western boundary of

Stratton St Margaret CP, thence southwards and following said boundary to the London to Bristol Railway, thence south-westwards along said railway and the northern boundary of Central Ward to the point of commencement.

WALCOT WARD

Commencing at a point where Cricklade Street meets Drove Road, thence north-eastwards along said Road to a point opposite the eastern boundary of Central Ward, thence north-westwards to and along said boundary to the southern boundary of Gorse Hill Ward, thence north-eastwards along said boundary to the western boundary of Stratton St Margaret CP, thence southwards and following said boundary to a point opposite the eastern boundary of Park Senior High School and playing fields, thence southwards to and along said boundary to Marlowe Avenue, thence westwards along said avenue to a point opposite the eastern boundary of No 86 Courtenay Road, thence south-eastwards to and along said boundary, south-westwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 86-62 Courtenay Road, south-eastwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 40-26 Buckhurst Crescent and south-westwards along the southern boundary of No 26 Buckhurst Crescent to the path to the south of Nos 28-26 Buckhurst Crescent, thence north-westwards and south-westwards along said path to Buckhurst Crescent thence south-westwards along said crescent to the cycle track that runs between Buckhurst Crescent and Chickerell Road, thence south-eastwards along said track to a point opposite the northern boundaries of Nos 56-55 Chickerell Road thence westwards to and along said boundary, south-eastwards along the western boundary of No 55 Chickerell Road, and south-eastwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 54-⁴⁹~~59~~ Chickerell Road to the access road to Nos 22-28 Bideford Close thence south-westwards along said access and continuing along the path between the access and Bideford Close, to Bideford Close, thence south-westwards along said Close to a point opposite the path which runs to the north of Nos 7 and 20 Bideford Close, thence south-westwards along said path to the eastern boundary of Richard Jefferies Secondary School, thence south-eastwards along said boundary to Whitbourne Avenue, thence south-westwards along said avenue to Queen's Drive thence southwards along said Drive to a point opposite

the southern boundary of Churchfields School and playing fields thence westwards to and along said boundary to Falmouth Grove, thence westwards along said grove to a point opposite the southern boundary of No 20 Falmouth Grove, thence south-westwards along said boundary, north-westwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 20-14 Falmouth Grove to the southern boundary of 13 Merrivale Grove, thence south-westwards and north-westwards along said boundary, the southern boundary of Merrivale Grove, the southern boundary of No 14 Merrivale Grove and northwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 14-2 Merrivale Grove to the rear boundaries of Nos 10-2 Thurlestone Road and the southern boundary of No 15 Parklands Road, thence north-westwards along said boundaries to Parklands Road, thence westwards along said road to the footpath between Parklands Road and Cricklade Street, thence generally westwards along said path to the point of commencement.

PARK WARD

Commencing at a point where the south-eastern boundary of Walcot Ward meets the southern boundary of Stratton St Margaret CP, thence south-eastwards and following said CP boundary to Dorcan Stream, thence southwards and following said stream, through the parcels to the east of Shaftesbury Avenue, to the A345 Swindon to Marlborough Road, thence north-westwards along said road and Queen's Drive to the south-eastern boundary of Walcot Ward, thence northward and following said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

DORCAN WARD

Commencing at a point where the A345 Swindon to Marlborough Road meets the eastern boundary of Park Ward, thence northwards and following said boundary to the southern boundary of Stratton St Margaret CP, thence eastwards and following said boundary and western boundary of Wanborough CP to the northern boundary of Liddington CP, thence south-westwards and following said boundary and northern boundary of Chiseldon CP to the A345 Swindon to Marlborough Road, thence westwards along said road to the point of commencement.

LANNIS WARD

Commencing at point where the northern boundary of Wroughton CP meets the former Wilts and Berks Canal; thence generally northwards along said canal thence north-eastwards to the southern boundary of the Brick Merchant's yard, thence south-eastwards and north-eastwards along said boundary to a point being in prolongation of the western boundary of the property known as Okus, thence south-eastwards along said prolongation, said western boundary and the southern boundary of said property to a point opposite the rear boundary of No 10 Bankside, thence south-eastwards to and along said boundary and rear boundaries of Nos 8-6 Bankside to the rear boundary of No 142 Okus Road, thence eastwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 142-72 Okus Road thence northwestwards following the prolongation northwestwards of the eastern boundary of No 72 in said road to the rear boundary of No 36 Bowood Road, thence eastwards along the rear boundaries of said property and Nos 38 to 78 in said road to the eastern boundary of No 78 thence southwards in a straight line to the northwestern corner of No 38 Okus Road, thence eastwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 38-28 Okus Road and the vacant plot between Nos 38-16 Okus Road, to the western boundary of No 16 Okus Road, thence northwards along said boundary to Kingshill Road, thence south-eastwards along said road and Bath Road to a point opposite the western boundary of No 102 Bath Road, thence northwards to and along said boundary, eastwards and following the rear boundaries of Nos 102-42 Bath Road and the northern boundary of the Moose Hall to Eastcott Road, thence south-eastwards along said road to Bath Road, thence eastwards along said road to Albert Street, thence north-eastwards along said street and the road known as Little London to Church Road thence eastwards along said road to Cricklade Street, thence northwards to the southern boundary of Walcott Ward, thence eastwards and following said boundary and southern boundaries of Park Ward and Dorcan Ward to the northern boundary of Chiseldon CP thence southwards and following said boundary and northern boundary of Wroughton CP to the point of commencement.

EASTCOTE WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Lawns Ward meets the northern boundary of Wroughton CP thence southwestwards and following said CP boundary to the southern boundary of Central Ward, thence eastwards and following said ward boundary to the western boundary of Walcot Ward, thence southwards and following said boundary to the northern boundary of Lawns Ward, thence southwards and following said boundary to the point of commencement.

BLUNSDON WARD

The parishes of Blunston, ^{St. Andrew} Castle Eaton, Stanton Fitzwarren and Hannington.

HIGHWORTH WARD

The parishes of Highworth and Inglesham

ST PHILIP WARD

The St Philip Ward of the parish of Stratton St Margaret.

ST MARGARET WARD

The St Margaret and Colview and Nythe Wards of the parish of Stratton St Margaret.

COVINGHAM WARD

The Covingham Ward of the parish of Wanborough.

RIDGEWAY WARD

The Wanborough Ward of the parish of Wanborough and the parishes of Bishopstone, Liddington and South Marston

CHISELDON WARD

The parish of Chiseldon

WROUGHTON WARD

The parish of Wroughton.