

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.240

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 240

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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To the Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
DISTRICT OF WYRE FOREST IN THE COUNTY OF HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the district of Wyre Forest 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 district.
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 Wyre Forest District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Hereford and Worcester County Council, the Member of Parliament for the constituency concerned, Parish Councils and the Parish Meeting in the district 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. Wyre Forest District Council were invited to prepare a draft scheme of representation for our consideration. In doing so, they were asked to observe the rules laid down in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 and the guidelines which we set out in our Report No 6 about the proposed size of the council and the proposed number of councillors for each ward. They were asked also to take into account any views expressed to them following their consultation with local interests. We therefore asked that they should publish details of their provisional proposals about a month before they submitted their draft scheme to us, thus allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. In accordance with section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council have exercised an option for a system of elections by thirds.
5. On 29 May 1975, Wyre Forest District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The District Council proposed to divide the area into 17 wards, each returning 1, 2 or 3 councillors, to form a council of 48.
6. We considered the draft scheme, together with the comments which we had received and those which had been forwarded by the District Council. These included an alternative scheme submitted by a local political party. This scheme provided for the division of the district into 16 three-member wards. The District Council also sent us a copy of a report which their officials had prepared for the division of the district into 15 wards, each returning 3 members, to produce a council of 45.
7. We noted that, on the basis of the present and future electorates of the proposed wards, all the schemes produced uneven standards of representation. We thought that it would be possible to achieve greater equality of representation and we asked the District Council to reconsider their proposals. In writing to the District Council we drew particular attention to the arrangements proposed for the larger towns of Stourport and Kidderminster which appeared to be seriously under-represented in comparison with the rural areas. This criticism applied to all the schemes submitted to us.
8. On 16 February 1976 the District Council informed us that they could offer no suggestions for revising their draft scheme.
9. We drew up a scheme based on 17 wards, each returning 1, 2 or 3 members to form a council of 42. On the recommendation of the Ordnance Survey we adopted some minor boundary alterations, in order to secure boundary lines which were more readily identifiable on the ground.

10. We considered that this scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future electoral arrangements for the district in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and with our guidelines; we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

11. On 5 August 1976 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 a copy of 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 other members of the public and interested bodies. We asked that comments should reach us by 15 October 1976.

12. Wyre Forest District Council informed us that they were opposed to a reduction in the present size of the Council. They suggested that, if the smaller council were adopted, the proposed 2 member Blakedown and Chaddesley ward should be divided into 2 single-member wards. Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council supported this view. The local County Association of Local Councils requested that the District Council should have 45 members. Stourport-on-Severn Town Council requested that their proposed representation should be increased by one to make 9 councillors and that the size of the council should be 45. Rock Parish Council asked that the proposed Rock and Ribbesford ward should return 2 councillors instead of the proposed one and two other parish councils thought that the proposed Blakedown and Chaddesley ward should return 3 councillors instead of the proposed 2 members.

13. Representations were also received objecting to the proposed Wolverley and Cookley, and Broadwaters wards where it was thought that the parish of Wolverley and Cookley should be divided into 2 single member wards and that the Sion Hill area of Kidderminster should be amalgamated with the proposed Broadwaters ward with its representation increased from 2 to 3 members. We also received a submission from a local political group with revised proposals for the proposed Wolverley and Cookley, Broadwaters, Greenhill, Aggborough and Spennells wards.

14. In view of this response 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, Mr D B F P Leigh was appointed as an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

15. The Assistant Commissioner held a meeting at the Civic Centre, Stourport-on-Severn on 10 February 1977. A copy (without enclosures) of his report is attached at Schedule 1 to this report.

16. The Assistant Commissioner recommended that our draft proposals should be confirmed subject to the following modifications:-

- a. the proposed Mitton ward should return 3 councillors instead of 2 councillors
- b. a single-member Blakedown ward comprising the parishes of Churchill and Blakedown and Broome should be created
- c. a single-member Chaddesley ward comprising the parishes of Stone, Chaddesley Corbett and Rushock should be created
- d. the parish of Wolverley and Cookley should be divided into 2 single-member wards, to be known as Wolverley ward and Cookley ward

e. the proposed Broadwaters ward should include the Sion Hill area of Kidderminster and should return 3 councillors instead of 2.

f. the proposed Aggborough and Spennells wards should be combined to form a 3 member ward.

17. We reviewed our draft proposals in the light of the Assistant Commissioner's report and comments which we had received. We concluded that the alterations recommended by the Assistant Commissioner should be adopted and, subject to these amendments, we decided to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

18. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 2 and 3 to this report and on the attached maps. Schedule 2 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. Schedule 3 shows our proposals for the order of retirement of councillors. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed wards, as defined on the maps, is set out in Schedule 4 to this report. The boundaries of the new wards are defined on the maps.

PUBLICATION

19. 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 Wyre Forest District Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report (without the maps) 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)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

J T BROGKBANK

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

R R THORNTON

ANDREW WHEATLEY

NEIL DIGNEY (Secretary)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

DISTRICT OF WYRE FOREST

REPORT OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Assistant Commissioner:

Mr. D.B.F.P. Leigh

Date of meeting:

10th February 1977

File No:

LGBC/D/18/1

1.1 On the 10th February 1977 I held a meeting at the Civic Centre, Stourport-on-Severn to hear representations on the draft proposals published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for the electoral arrangements for the District of Wyre Forest.

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

1.3 A list showing those attending the meeting and the interests they represented is attached (Document 1.)

Blakedown and Chaddesley WardMitton WardRock and Ribbesford Ward2.1 Commission's Proposals

Under the Commission's proposals the Blakedown and Chaddesley Ward comprises the parishes of Churchill and Blakedown, Broome, Stone, Chaddesley Corbett and Rushock and returns 2 district councillors. The Mitton Ward comprises the Central Ward and the Stour and Wilden Ward of the parish of Stourport-on-Severn and returns 2 district councillors. The Rock and Ribbesford Ward comprises the parishes of Rock and Ribbesford and returns 1 district councillor.

2.2 RepresentationsBlakedown and Chaddesley Ward

Mrs. J. Munslow District Councillor for Broome, Churchill and Blakedown preferred the existing arrangement whereby her parishes elected 1 councillor and the parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Rushock and Stone elected 2 councillors. If these had to be amalgamated in the proposed ward, representation should remain 3 councillors. Mr. R. Hobson, representing the Wyre Forest Area Committee of Parish Councils felt that the representation of rural areas should not be cut. Mr. D. Woodward District Councillor agreed. The Scheme aimed at parity of numbers but the proposed ward included areas of divergent characteristics.

Mrs. M.H. Seymour Chairman, Broome Parish Council, said that at one time the parish had been separately represented on the District Council. The proposed ward was large territorially and because of its mainly rural nature should have 3 councillors.

Mrs. A. Grazebrook, Chairman, Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council pointed out that a district councillor would find it difficult to cover the proposed ward and to attend parish council meetings. Mr. S.J. Williams member of the Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council supported the request for an additional district councillor for the ward. I was handed a statement (Document 2) of the views of the Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council.

Mr. P.A. Woodhouse representing the Kidderminster Constituency Labour Party and the Labour Group on the District Council supported the Commission's proposals. They opposed any rural weighting.

2.3 Mitton Ward

Mr. R.L. Nixon, Town Clerk, Stourport-on-Severn Town Council read a written submission (Document 3). Mr. R.F. Abbotts, County Councillor, Town Councillor and representing Stourport-on-Severn Labour Party had represented the ward for 25 years. It was a difficult area to administer with a large industrial estate on the Wychavon boundary, private housing estates to the north and a considerable itinerant population. He strongly supported the view that there should be a third district councillor for the ward. Mr. A.D. Thomas, Mayor, Stourport-on-Severn Town Council, pointed out that the Town Clerk's submission had the unanimous support of the Town Council.

Mrs. B. Gazard considered that since local government re-organisation costs had increased and it was more difficult for the public to obtain satisfaction. Mitton had special problems. There was a permanent gypsy site, an interim Green Belt and the urban part included a large conservation area. Mitton had the poorest representation of the proposed Wards and she disagreed with the reduction from 3 to 2 councillors.

Mrs. E. Mills, District Councillor, Town Councillor, representing the Conservative Party said that there was no political division on this point and that it was unanimously agreed that Mitton should have a third councillor. Mr. S. James Vice Chairman of the District Council, Town Councillor, representing the Conservative Party agreed and stated that should the Hartlebury area of Wychavon which had close links with Stourport-on-Severn be transferred to Wyre Forest the work of the Mitton Councillors would increase. Mr. P.A. Woodhouse, representing Kidderminster Constituency Labour Party and the Labour Group on the District Council said that the Party agreed with the Commission's proposals except in this respect.

Mitton should have 3 councillors. Mr. R. Hobson representing the Wyre Forest Area Committee of Parish Councils agreed.

The District Council provided me with plans showing the Green Belt and the Conservation Area (Documents 4, 5, 6 and 7)

2.4 Rock and Ribbesfort Ward

Mr. J. Simmonds District Councillor and Rock parish councillor said that Rock was the second largest parish in England, measuring some 9 miles from east to west and 6 miles from north to south. It had 7 distinct centres of population, 7 churches, 4 village halls and 3 caravan sites which were in use nearly all the year round. In the past it had been self-governing and later elected 2 district councillors. The proposal to reduce them to 1 was wrong. Mr. R. Hobson, representing the Wyre Forest Area Committee of Parish Councils agreed, as did Mr. D. Woodward, District Councillor, on the grounds that it would be difficult for a single councillor to cover the area. Mr. P.A. Woodhouse representing the Kidderminster Constituency Labour Party and the Labour Group on the District Council opposed an additional councillor for the ward. The number of people, not the number of acres was what mattered.

Assessment

- 2.5 If the suggestion were accepted that the representation of the Blakedown and Chaddesley Ward should be increased from 2 to 3 district councillors the following situation would result, based upon a 43 member council:

<u>Ward</u>	<u>No. of Councillors</u>	<u>Electorate</u>	<u>1981 Entitlement</u>
Blakedown and Chaddesley	3	3314	1.93

The concept of rural weighting, which was provided for in the Local Government Act, 1933, was repealed by the Local Government Act, 1972 and replaced by the rule requiring equality of representation. In its absence the entitlement shown above cannot be justified.

- 2.6 Those who spoke at the meeting were unanimous in their belief, regardless of political affiliation, that Mitton Ward needed 3 district councillors. Various reasons were advanced for the difficulty of administering the ward. It contained an industrial estate, private housing estates, a large itinerant population and included part of the interim Green Belt and a Conservation Area. Such a combination of circumstances is doubtless not unique but the strongly held views that were put forward lead me to think that this is a ward in which a degree of over-representation would be preferable to under-representation.

Under the Commission's proposals the 1976 entitlement was 2.58 and the 1981 entitlement 2.37. In the light of the District Council's current expectations about the growth of the

electorate in Spennells Ward (about 3100 instead of 5207 in 1981) the 1981 entitlement for Mitton will be marginally increased.

2.7 If the representation of the Rock and Ribbesford Ward were increased from 1 to 2 councillors the entitlement, based on a 43 member council would be :

<u>Ward</u>	<u>No. of Councillors</u>	<u>Electorate</u>	<u>1981 Entitlement</u>
Rock and Ribbesford	2	1897	1.11

Admittedly the Ward covers a large area but as explained above, rural weighting is not now a ground for increasing representation and the entitlement of 1.11 in 1981 is quite unsatisfactory.

I

RECOMMEND that

1. The representation of the parishes comprised in Blakedown and Chaddesley Ward remain 2 district councillors (See also recommendation in paragraph 4.3)
2. The representation of Mitton Ward be increased from 2 to 3 district councillors.
3. The representation of Rock and Ribbesford Ward remain 1 district councillor.

Council of 45 Members

3.1 Commission's Proposals

Under the Commission's proposals the District Council consists of 42 members.

3.2 Representations

Mrs. F. Oborski, District Councillor, representing the North Worcestershire Liberal Association and the Liberal Group on the District Council drew attention to the disparity between the ratio of electorate to members in the draft Scheme for Wyre Forest and in the neighbouring districts of Malvern Hills and Wychavon. In round figures, that in Wyre Forest was 1750/1, in Malvern Hills 1300/1 and in Wychavon 1500/1. These districts were all in the county of Hereford and Worcester and the difference might have repercussions on the arrangements for county electoral wards. In particular she supported an additional councillor for Mitton Ward. Mr. K. Robinson, Assistant Secretary, Hereford and Worcester County Council, said that under the County Councils proposals there would be 15 county councillors for the Wyre Forest District and this would fit in with a district council of 45 members in 15 wards as ward boundaries could then coincide. He agreed that this was on the basis of a 96 member County Council but that the membership of his Authority had not yet been finally determined. Mr. P.A. Woodhouse, representing the Kidderminster Constituency Labour Party and the Labour Group on the District

Council said that he supported a 42 member Council but would have preferred a system which provided for wards which would return 1 county councillor and 3 district councillors, as originally suggested by the Labour Party. Mr. S. Ewbank, Solicitor, Wyre Forest District Council said that the District Council were concerned about the erosion of the democratic principle. It was not the intention of the Local Government Act, 1972 to deprive district councils of members but that would be the effect of complying strictly with the rules. He drew attention to the words of paragraph (2)(a) of Schedule 11 of the Act, which require that the ratio of the number of electors to the number of councillors to be elected shall be "as nearly as may be" the same in every ward. This implied a measure of flexibility. Wyre Forest was an important district and 133rd in size out of 296 English non-metropolitan districts. It was entitled to have 45 members or more. The District Council had originally wanted 48. He put in a table (Document 8) showing a comparison between the draft Scheme and arrangements in Malvern Hills, Wychavon and Bromsgrove districts. This showed that some variation was acceptable. If a 45 member council were allowed it would show some departure from the norm but would restore the status quo. He submitted a table (Document 9) showing a numerical analysis for a 45 member council on the assumption that Blakedown and Chaddesley, Mitton and Rock and Ribbesford Ward~~s~~ each had an additional member. He drew attention to the forecast of 5207 for the 1981 electorate in Spennells Ward. In the light of development prospects in the Ward this figure should be revised. It was virtually guaranteed that an additional 550 (450 private : 100 Council)

houses would be completed by 1981 giving a minimum electorate of 3100 for the ward. It was uncertain whether further houses would be built so as to raise the 1981 electorate above this figure. The District Council therefore felt that if a 42 member council were decided on 1 councillor should be deducted from the 3 allowed for Spennells Ward and added to the 2 allowed for Mitton Ward.

3.3 Assessment

On the general question of the size of the District Council I would be prepared to recommend a council of 45 or, if necessary, more members provided that it could be shown that such an arrangement would be consistent with the rule about equality of representation which requires that the ratio of the numbers of electors to the number of councillors shall be, as nearly as may be, the same in every district ward, taking account of any likely changes in the number or distribution of the electorate in the succeeding 5 years. I have noted the table produced (Document 8) showing a disparity between the average number of electors to one councillor in Wyre Forest District and the neighbouring districts of Malvern Hills, Wychavon and Bromsgrove. I have also noted the comment made on behalf of the County Council. It would appear that the size of that Council has yet to be finally determined and is, of course, a matter that lies outside the scope of the proposals under discussion at the meeting.

3.4 The difficulty in this case lies not in the general principle of an increase but in finding specific acceptable suggestions as to how this may be achieved. The only ones made at the meeting related to the proposed Blakedown and Chaddesley Ward, Mitton Ward and Rock and Ribbesford Ward. I have recommended elsewhere (para. 2.7) an increase of one councillor for the Mitton Ward but am unable to recommend increases in the other two wards for the reasons stated in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.7 . In dealing with the proposed Aggborough and Spennells Wards I make a recommendation (in paragraph 6.5) which would result in a net loss of one councillor. If both recommendations are accepted there will therefore be no change in the proposed size of the Council of 42 members.

3.5 Since no acceptable means has been put forward to me whereby the size of the proposed Council can be increased to 45 members I have to

RECOMMEND that the Commission's proposal that the Council should consist of 42 members remain unchanged.

Blakedown and Chaddesley Ward4.1 Commission's Proposals

Under the Commission's proposals the Blakedown and Chaddesley Ward comprises the parishes of Churchill and Blakedown, Broome, Stone, Chaddesley Corbett and Rushock and returns 2 district councillors.

4.2 Representations

Mr. N. James, Chief Executive, Wyre Forest District Council, drew attention to the fact that under the present scheme the towns of Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley were surrounded by rural parishes returning 8 district councillors, each of whom resided in the area he represented. Experience showed that candidates from urban areas who stood for election in rural parishes were not well received as these parishes preferred to be represented by persons resident within them. Under the Commission's proposals both district councillors for the ward might come from one parish. Community of interest should outweigh considerations about numbers. With a 42 member council the proposed ward should be split into two wards each returning 1 councillor, the first comprising the parishes of Broome and Churchill and Blakedown and the second the parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Rushock and Stone. Mrs. M. Seymour, Chairman, Broome Parish Council agreed. There were two distinct communities. There was no school in Broome and children went to Blakedown.

There was no main road or public transport between Broome and Chaddesley. It was not a political issue in the Broome Parish Council who agreed with the division into two wards whether the District Council had 42 or 45 members. Mrs. J. Munslow district councillor for Broome and Churchill and Blakedown spoke in support and pointed out that in the ward as proposed it would be difficult for the district councillors to attend all five parish council meetings. Mr. R. Hobson representing the Wyre Forest Area Committee of Parish Councils concurred. There should be two wards whether the district council consisted of 42 members or 45.

4.3 Assessment

The joining of the two groups of parishes to form the proposed Blakedown and Chaddesley Ward is against the wishes of the majority of those who addressed me and would not seem to offer any particular advantage. If the proposed ward were split into two the result would be as follows (42 member council) :

<u>Ward</u>	<u>No. of Councillors</u>	<u>Electorate</u>	<u>1981 Entitlement</u>
1 (Parishes of Churchill and Blakedown and Broome)	1	1462	0.83
2 (Parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Rushock and Stone)	1	1852	1.05

The 1981 electorate is taken from the District Council's current forecast (Document 10)

The entitlements are acceptable and this arrangement would in my view be preferable for the reasons advanced at the meeting. In the absence of any specific suggestions about names for the two wards it seems to me that Blakedown Ward and Chaddesley Ward would be appropriate. I

RECOMMEND that there should be^a/Blakedown Ward consisting of the parishes of Churchill and Blakedown and Broome which would return one district councillor and a Chaddesley Ward consisting of the parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Rughock and Stone which would return one district councillor.

Wolverley and Cookley and Broadwaters Wards

5.1 Commission's Proposals

Under the Commission's proposals the Wolverley and Cookley Ward consists of the Parish of Wolverley and Cookley together with an area defined in Annex A to the Commission's letter of the 5th August 1976, referred to hereafter as the Sion Hill area. It returns 3 district councillors. The Broadwaters Ward is as defined in Annex A and returns 2 district councillors.

5.2 Representations

Mrs. F.M. Oborski representing the North Worcestershire Liberal Association and the Liberal Group on the District Council said that Wolverley and Cookley was a distinct community and should continue to be separately represented. The Sion Hill area should be transferred to the Broadwaters Ward. She put in the illustrative plan (Document 11). Mr. P. Harrison representing St. Mary's Ward Liberals concurred. Mr. P. Woodhouse representing the Kidderminster Constituency Labour Party and the Labour Group on the District Council considered that Wolverley and Cookley Ward should have 2 councillors and that the Sion Hill area should go into Broadwaters Ward which should return 3 councillors. He submitted a summary of his representations (Document 12) and a plan (Document 13) Mr. D. Woodward, Chairman, Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council said that Wolverley and Cookley were unique village communities and should

be separately represented as at present. Broadwaters Ward was better suited to multiple representation. Wolverley and Cookley were in the Green Belt and their interests were different from those of Broadwaters. On the 1981 projection of the electorate the present Broadwaters Ward would have an entitlement of 3.07, the Cookley Ward of the parish 1.14 and the Wolverley Ward of the parish 0.94. Dr. J. Adams, Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council said that there was no need to alter the existing arrangements. Broadwaters Ward was a part of Kidderminster and could not appropriately be linked with the rural area. The petition sent to the Commission supported this view. Bigger did not mean better in this context. Mrs. H. Bowles representing the Wolverley Village Residents Association agreed, as did Mr. R. Hobson representing the Wyre Forest Area Committee of Parish Councils. Mr. S. Ewbank, Solicitor, Wyre Forest District Council, said that the estimate of the 1981 electorate had been revised. The 1981 figure for the Wolverley and Cookley Ward should be reduced from 5254 to 4919. He referred to the table (Document 10) showing the Council's proposal for Wolverley and Cookley to be separate wards with 1 councillor each and a Broadwaters Ward returning 3 councillors. This could be achieved within the criteria laid down. Mr. P. Howes, a resident of Wolverley, pointed out that under the Commission's proposal all 3 councillors might come from the Urban part of the Ward. Mr. G.W. Hardwick, a resident of Wolverley supported the suggestion for separate wards for Wolverley and Cookley.

Assessment

5.3 Having seen the area I feel that the link between the Sion Hill area and the parishes of Wolverley and Cookley is not an entirely natural or comfortable one. Sion Hill would, by reason of its urban character, be more appropriately included in Broadwaters Ward.

5.4 The parishioners of Wolverley and Cookley clearly wish to be separately represented. Although it is ^{not} generally ~~not~~ practicable for every parish to be a separate ward it would in this case be possible to give effect to local wishes in the light of the revised forecast of the electorate (Document 10) and the suggested re-constitution of Broadwaters Ward.

5.5 The resulting arrangement would be as follows:

<u>Ward</u>	<u>No. of Councillors</u>	<u>1981</u>	
		<u>Electorate</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Broadwaters (including Sion Hill area)	3	5006	2.85
Wolverley (Parish)	1	1534	0.88
Cookley (Parish)	1	1865	1.06

The entitlements are tolerable and I

RECOMMEND accordingly

Broadwaters, Greenhill, Aggborough
and Spennells Wards

6.1 Commission's Proposals

Under the Commission's proposals the Broadwaters, Greenhill, Aggborough and Spennells Wards have the areas defined in Annex A to the Commission's letter of the 5th August 1976 and return 2, 3, 1 and 3 councillors respectively.

6.2 Representations

Mrs. F. Oborski, representing the North Worcestershire Liberal Association and the Liberal Group on the Wyre Forest District Council referred to the plan (Document 11) and put in a file of additional comments (Document 14) showing proposals for re-constituting these Wards. The proposal affecting the Sion Hill area of Broadwaters Ward has already been described in paragraph 5.2 above. As regards the boundary between Broadwaters and Greenhill Wards she believed that Hurcott Road did not form a natural division but was a linear shopping centre providing a focus of community interests in Greenhill Ward. The local schools and the Greenhill's Residents Association included both sides of Hurcott Road in their catchment areas. By contrast Birmingham Road formed a natural boundary and was moreover a dangerous road to cross. Aggborough Ward boundaries should be re-drawn to include part of the proposed Greenhill Ward as shown on the plan (Document 11) The existing Rowland Hill and St. Georges Wards had a community of interest

which should be preserved by their inclusion in one Ward.

Variant solutions were proposed for the boundary between Aggborough and Spennells Wards as shown on the plan (Document 11)

Serious doubt was felt as to the viability of Spennells Ward.

If her submission were accepted Aggborough Ward would return 2 or 3 district councillors according to the variant selected and Greenhills Ward would return 3 district councillors.

Mr. J. Stephen representing Baxter Ward Liberal Association agreed and drew attention to the importance of Hurcott Road as a focus of local interest. Mr. P. Woodhouse representing the Kidderminster Constituency Labour Party and the Labour Group on the District Council proposed the combination of Aggborough and Spennells Wards into one ward returning 3 district councillors. The consequent reduction in the number of councillors for the two wards from 4 to 3 would be offset by the allocation of an additional councillor to the Mitton Ward, leaving the size of the Council at 42 members. On the basis that the 1981 electorate would be 1677 for Aggborough and 3100 (reduced from 5207) for Spennells, the combined ward with 4777 electors would justify 3 councillors.

Assessment

- 6.3 Effect has already been given to the suggestion concerning the inclusion of the Sion Hill area in Broadwaters Ward in my recommendation in paragraph 5.5 above.
- 6.4 The proposals for other alterations in the boundaries of Broadwaters, Greenhill, Aggborough and Spennells Wards advanced on behalf of the Liberal Associations did not receive support from any other quarter at the meeting. Although the views about the suitability of Hurcott and Birmingham Roads as ward boundaries were clearly presented it is difficult in a continuously built up area to draw firm lines dividing community interests. Hurcott Road is a useful shopping street and in that sense a focus of interest but this does not appear to me sufficient reason to discard it as a ward boundary and any advantage in this respect possessed by Birmingham Road would seem marginal. Again while it may be that the existing Rowland Hill and St. Georges Ward have a community of interest the proposed ward boundaries have not given rise to any opposition by the generality of local residents.
- 6.5 I do however share the doubts expressed as to the future growth of Spennells Ward. The original estimate of the 1981 electorate was 5207 but I was informed by the District Council at the meeting that a growth from the 1976 figure of 901 to an electorate in 1981 of 3100 only could now be regarded as assured.

In view of the revised forecast I do not think ^{that} 3 councillors could be justified for Spennells Ward alone and the suggestion put forward for combining it with Aggborough Ward seems a sensible one. The result would be:

<u>Ward</u>	<u>No. of Councillors</u>	<u>Electorate</u>	<u>1981 Entitlement</u>
Aggborough and Spennells	3	4777	2.72

If my recommendation in favour of a third councillor for Mitton Ward is accepted there will be no change in the size of the Council overall. I

RECOMMEND that

1. Subject to my recommendation for the inclusion of the Sion Hill area in Broadwaters Ward in paragraphs above, there should be no change in the boundaries of the Broadwaters and Greenhill Wards.
2. The Aggborough and Spennells Wards should be combined to form one ward returning 3 district councillors.

Signed

Bernie Leigh

Dated

15th March 1977

DISTRICT OF WYRE FOREST: NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND
NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO.OF COUNCILLORS</u>
AGGBOROUGH AND SPENNELLS	3
ARLEY KINGS	3
BLWDLEY	2
BLAKEDOWN	1
BROADWATERS	3
CHADDESLEY	1
COOKLEY	1
FRANCHE	3
GREENHILL	3
HABBERLEY AND BLAKEBROOK	3
LICKHILL	3
MITTON	3
OFFMORE	3
OLDINGTON AND FOLEY PARK	3
ROCK AND RIBBESFORD	1
SUTTON PARK	3
WOLVERLEY	1
WRIBBENHALL AND ARLEY	2

DISTRICT OF WYRE FOREST

ORDER OF ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCILLORS

NAME OF WARD	NO. OF COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING WARD	1ST YEAR 1980	2ND YEAR 1982	3RD YEAR 1983
AGGBOROUGH AND SPENNELLS	3	1	1	1
ARELEY KINGS	3	1	1	1 PE
BEWDLEY	2	1	1 PE	-
BLAKEDOWN	1	-	-	1 PE
BROADWATERS	3	1	1	1
CHADDESLEY	1	-	1 PE	-
COCKLEY	1	-	-	1 PE
FRANCHE	3	1	1	1
GREENHILL	3	1	1	1
HABBERLEY AND BLAKEBROOK	3	1	1	1
LICKHILL	3	1	1	1 PE
MITTON	3	1	1	1 PE
OFFMORE	3	1	1	1
OLDINGTON AND FOLEY PARK	3	1	1	1
ROCK AND RIBBESFORD	1	1 PE	-	-
SUTTON PARK	3	1	1	1
WOLVERLEY	1	-	-	1 PE
WRIBBENHALL AND ARLEY	2	1	1 PE	-
		14	14	14

PE = Parish Election

DISTRICT OF WYRE FOREST - 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.

FRANCHE WARD

Commencing at a point where the road known as The Ringway meets Mill Street, thence northwestwards along said street and Franche Road to a point opposite the footpath between Nos 39 and 40 Franche Road, thence southwestwards to and along said footpath and northwestwards along the footpath leading to Chestnut Grove to a point opposite the southern boundary of the garages situated south of Nos 80-58 Chestnut Grove, thence southwestwards to and along said boundary and northwestwards along the western boundary of the garages to the rear boundary of No 60 Chestnut Grove, thence northwestwards along said rear boundary and the rear boundary of No 58 Chestnut Grove and northwards along the western boundary of No 58 Chestnut Grove continuing along the detail to the footpath that leads from Chestnut Grove to Wilton Avenue, thence southwestwards along said footpath to the footpath adjacent to the rear boundaries of Nos 48-30 Wilton Avenue, thence southwards and southwestwards along said footpath to the rear boundary of No 5 Ash Grove, thence southwestwards along said rear boundary, southwestwards and northwestwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 7-13 and Nos 14-4 Ash Grove and northwestwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 22-6 Wilton Avenue to the western boundary of No 6 Wilton Avenue, thence northeastwards along said boundary to Wilton Avenue, thence northwestwards along said avenue to Habberley Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to the southeastern boundary of Kidderminster Foreign CP, thence generally northeastwards along said CP boundary and northeastwards and southeastwards along the southern boundary of Wolverley and Cookley CP to the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, thence southeastwards, and following said canal to the River Stour, thence southeastwards along said river to the road known as The Ringway, thence southwestwards along said road to the point of commencement.

BROADWATERS WARD

Commencing at a point where the road known as The Ringway meets the eastern boundary of Franche Ward at the junction of said road and the River Stour, thence northwestwards, northeastwards and northwestwards along said eastern boundary to the southern boundary of Wolverley and Cookley CP, thence northeastwards and southeastwards along said CP boundary and generally southwards along the western boundary of Churchill and Blakedown CP to a point opposite Hurcott Road, thence southwestwards to and along said road to the road known as Horse Fair, thence southwestwards along said road to Dudley Street, thence southwestwards along said street and in prolongation thereof to the road known as The Ringway, thence southwestwards along said road to the point of commencement.

GREENHILL WARD

Commencing at a point where the road known as Comberton Hill meets the road known as The Ringway, (centre of the roundabout), thence northwards and northwestwards along The Ringway to the southern boundary of Broadwaters Ward, thence northeastwards along said ward boundary to the western boundary of Churchill and Blakedown CP, thence southwards along said CP boundary to Birmingham Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Chester Road North, thence southwards along said road to Chaddesley Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Comberton Road, thence northwestwards along said road and Comberton Hill to the point of commencement.

HABBERLEY AND BLAKEBROOK WARD

Commencing at a point where the road known as Bewdley Hill meets the eastern boundary of Bewdley CP, thence northwestwards along said CP boundary and northeastwards along the southeastern boundary of Kidderminster Foreign CP to the southern boundary of Franche Ward, thence northeastwards and southeastwards along said boundary and continuing southeastwards along Mill Street to the unnamed road to the west of Crown House (Government Offices), thence southwards along said unnamed road to the road and

footpath known as The Sling, thence southwards and southwestwards along said road and footpath to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, thence northwestwards along said canal to a point opposite the southern boundary of the Carpet Works, thence southwestwards to and along said southern boundary to Park Lane, thence northwestwards along said lane to the road known as Park Butts, thence southwestwards along said road, Bewdley Road and Bewdley Hill to the point of commencement.

SUTTON PARK WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Bewdley CP meets the southern boundary of Habberley and Blakebrook Ward, thence northeastwards and southeastwards along said southern boundary and continuing southeastwards and southwestwards along the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal to Stourport Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Sutton Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Woodward Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Tomkinson Drive (southern part), thence westwards along said drive to Parry Road, thence southwards along said road to Sutton Park Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Rifle Range Road, thence southwestwards along said road to its end, thence continuing along the footpath to a point opposite the southwestern boundary of Parcel No 2522 as shown on 1:2500 National Grid plan SO 80/8175 Edition of 1965, thence northwestwards along said southwestern boundary and continuing northwestwards along the southwestern boundaries of Parcel Nos 1830 and 1336 to the eastern boundary of Bewdley CP, thence generally northwards along said CP boundary to the point of commencement.

OLDINGTON AND FOLEY PARK WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Stourport-on-Severn CP meets the eastern boundary of Bewdley CP, thence northeastwards, northwestwards and northeastwards along said eastern boundary to the southern boundary of Sutton Park Ward, thence southeastwards and northeastwards along

said southern boundary to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, thence southwards and following said canal to a point opposite Platt's Wharf, thence southeastwards to and along said wharf to the northern boundary of Stourport-on-Severn CP, thence southwards and generally northwestwards along said CP boundary to the point of commencement.

AGGBOROUGH AND SPENNELS WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Oldington and Foley Park Ward meets the eastern boundary of Sutton Park Ward, thence generally northwards along the eastern boundary of Sutton Park Ward to the eastern boundary of Habberley and Blakebrook Ward, thence northeastwards and northwestwards along said eastern boundary to the eastern boundary of Franche Ward, thence northeastwards along said boundary and the southern boundary of Broadwaters Ward to and southeastwards along the southwestern boundary of Greenhill Ward and continuing southeastwards along Comberton Road to the western boundary of Stone CP, thence southwestwards and following said CP boundary to the southern boundary of the District, thence westwards along said District boundary and continuing generally westwards along the northern boundary of Stourport-on-Severn CP to the eastern boundary of Oldington and Foley Park Ward, thence northwards along said eastern boundary to the point of commencement.

OFFMORE WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of Stone CP meets the northeastern boundary of Aggborough and Spennels Ward, thence northwestwards along said ward boundary and northwestwards and northeastwards along the southeastern boundary of Greenhill Ward to the western boundary of Churchill and Blakedown CP, thence southwards along said CP boundary and generally southeastwards and southwestwards along the western boundary of Stone CP to the point of commencement.

ARELEY KINGS WARD

The Areley Kings West

Areley Kings East Wards of the parish of Stourport-on-Severn

BEWDLEY WARD

The Bewdley East

Bewdley West Wards of the parish of Bewdley

BLAKEDOWN WARD

The parishes of Broome

Churchill and Blakedown

CHADDESLEY WARD

The parishes of Chaddesley Corbett

Rushock

Stone

COOKLEY WARD

The Cookley Ward of the parish of Wolverley and Cookley

LICKHILL WARD

The Lickhill

North Wards of the parish of Stourport-on-Severn

MILTON WARD

The Central

Stour and Wilden Wards of the parish of Stourport-on-Severn

ROCK AND RIBBESFORD WARD

The parishes of Ribbesford

Rock

WOLVERLEY WARD

The Wolverley Ward of the parish of Wolverley and Cookley

WRIBBENHALL AND ARLEY WARD

The parishes of Kidderminster Foreign

Upper Arley

and the Wribbenhall Ward of the parish of Bewdley