

Wansdyke

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 48**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
WANSDYKE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF AVON

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the District of Wansdyke in accordance with the requirements of section 63 of, and Schedule 9 to, the Local Government Act 1972, present our proposals for the future electoral arrangements of that district.
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 Wansdyke District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the district, the Avon County Council, the Member of Parliament for the constituency concerned and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of the local newspapers circulating in the area and 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. Wansdyke 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 also asked to take into account any views expressed to them following their consultation with local interests. We therefore asked that they should publish details of their provisional proposals about a month before they submitted their draft scheme to us, thus allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. In accordance with Section 7(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, District Council had opted for a system of whole council elections.

5. On 31 October 1974 the Wansdyke District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the district into 30 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 members to form a council of 48; three more than at present.

6. The District Council received no comments in response to their publication of their draft scheme. We received only one letter, from the Ubley Parish Council, requesting that the parish should continue to be grouped with the parishes of Compton Martin, East Harptree and West Harptree rather than with the parishes of Chew Stoke and Nempnett Thrubwell as the District Council had proposed.

7. We studied the draft scheme and noted that, in terms of equality of representation, there was some unevenness. We thought that, because of the character of the district and the pattern of local ties, some degree of imbalance was inevitable. We considered a number of possible improvements. In most instances we concluded that no change should be made. However, in the case of the proposed Saltford ward of Keynsham we noted that the electorate of the ward, both now and as forecast by the District Council in five years time, was insufficient to warrant the allocation of three councillors, as the District Council had proposed. We decided to propose that the ward should be represented by only two councillors.

8. We considered the proposal put forward by the Ubley Parish Council and noted that its acceptance would involve the retention of the present arrangement whereby the parish of Nempnett Thrubwell is detached from the rest of the ward comprising the parish of Chew Stoke. We noted that there are two other wards in the district with detached parts. The parish of St Catherine forms a detached part of the ward comprising that parish and the parishes of Swainswick, Charlcombe, North Stoke and

Kelston while the parish of Freshford is detached from the ward comprising that parish and the parishes of Claverton, Monkton Combe and South Stoke. In both instances the District Council proposed that the wards should be retained unchanged. We consider that wards with detached parts are, in principle, undesirable and that they are not to be recommended unless there is a very strong case in terms of geography and/or local ties. In the case of the parish of Freshford we considered that there was a strong geographical case in favour of allowing the present arrangements to continue. In the case of Nempnett Thrubwell and St Catherine, however, we were not convinced of the need to maintain the present wards. Accordingly we decided to reject the proposal submitted by the Ubley Parish Council and to propose the modification of the draft scheme so that the parish of St Catherine would be included in the proposed ward comprising the adjoining parish of Batheaston.

9. We then reviewed the District Council's correspondence with the Norton Radstock Town Council which had occurred at an earlier stage in the review and noted that there was a divergence of opinion as to the manner in which the present Midsomer Norton ward should be divided to create two separate district wards, and as to the number of district councillors to be assigned to each. We considered whether, in the light of this correspondence, the arrangements proposed by the District Council in their draft scheme required any modification but concluded, on balance, that none should be made.

10. In relation to the names of the wards we noted that in order to avoid controversy the District Council had decided that where a proposed ward comprised more than one parish its name should include the names of each of the constituent parishes in alphabetical order. In a number of instances the result was very cumbersome. We decided, therefore, to propose that the names should be abbreviated and that the name of the parish in the proposed ward with the largest electorate should be used. However, in the case of the ward comprising the parishes of Compton Martin, East Harptree and West Harptree we thought it better to depart from this principle and to propose the name "Harptrees".

11. Subject to the changes referred to in paragraphs 7, 8 and 10 above we decided that the District Council's draft 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 our guidelines and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

12. On 22 January 1975 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the Council's draft scheme. The Council were asked to make these draft proposals, and the accompanying map which defined the proposed ward boundaries, available for inspection at their main office. 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 21 March 1975.

13. The District Council responded to the draft proposals objecting to the proposal to include the parish of St Catherine in the proposed Batheaston ward instead of in the proposed Charlcombe ward as they had originally proposed. They objected also to the proposal to assign only two councillors to the proposed Keynsham Salford ward. The latter objection was supported by the Avon County Council, by the county councillor for Keynsham East, by a local residents association and by a local political association who suggested also that the name of the ward should be abbreviated to read simply "Salford". We heard also from the North Radstock Town Council who suggested that the two proposed wards to be created from the present Midsomer Norton ward of the Town - namely Redfield and Midsomer Norton - should both bear the name Midsomer Norton but with a numerical or some other form of suffix to differentiate between them. Finally we heard from the Paulton Parish Council who suggested that the proposed ward comprising that parish should be divided into three wards each returning one councillor.

14. We considered again whether the parish of St Catherine should be included in the proposed Batheaston ward as we had proposed. In the light of the more detailed evidence which had become available we concluded it would be right to reverse our earlier decision and to recommend that it should be included in the proposed Charlcombe ward.

15. In relation to the proposed Keynsham Saltford ward the county councillor who had written to us endeavoured to substantiate the case for an additional councillor by referring to a recent planning application for a housing development on an area of "white land" in the proposed ward. If approval was given the development might lead to an increase in the electorate by 1979 greater than that which the District Council had originally predicted. For the rest, the case for three members appeared to be based on the argument that this was the number of councillors representing the ward on the former Keynsham Urban District Council. We made enquiries about the planning application to which the county councillor referred. We found that the application had been refused by the District Council but that it was likely to be subject to an appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment. There was thus a large measure of doubt about the development. Moreover there was no guarantee that the increase in the electorate which the District Council had originally predicted would be wholly realised. We concluded that we would not be justified in recommending an extra member for the ward on this somewhat uncertain basis. As to the other argument we did not consider that the level of representation on the former Urban District Council was necessarily relevant to the future electoral arrangements for the new district.

16. Regarding the name of the proposed Keynsham Saltford ward, we noted that the Saltford area of the former Keynsham Urban District appeared to have an identity of its own and we decided therefore to agree to the suggestion that it should be named simply "Saltford".

17. We decided to agree to the Norton Radstock Town Council's request that the names of the two wards of Midsomer Norton should include that name and we agreed to recommend the names "Midsomer Norton Redfield" and "Midsomer Norton North".

18. In relation to the parish of Paulton we noted that, because of the provisions of paragraph 3(2)(b) of Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, the Parish Council's proposal for 3 single member district wards would involve a review of the parish electoral arrangements by the District Council with a view to the creation of a compatible system of parish wards. Accordingly, we asked the District Council for their views on the proposal. They replied that in their view the parish should not be divided into wards. We reviewed the question and concluded that there were insufficient grounds for us to take the matter further and, accordingly, we resolved to confirm our draft proposal that the parish should constitute a single district ward returning 3 members.

19. Finally we noted that the Avon County Council were concerned about the Speckelmead area of Paulton which would lie partly in the proposed Paulton ward and partly in the proposed Farrington Gurney ward. We thought that this could satisfactorily be resolved only by a review of the parish boundaries. We have no capacity to be able to undertake such a review at present.

20. Subject to the modifications referred to in paragraphs 14, 16 and 17 we decided that our draft proposals should be confirmed and that we should formulate our final proposals accordingly.

21. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedule 1 to this report and on the attached maps. Schedule 1 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each ward. The boundaries of the new wards are defined on the maps.

PUBLICATION

22. 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 Wansdyke District Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council offices at Keynsham Bristol. 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 2 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)

31 July 1975

SCHEDULE 1

DISTRICT OF WANSDYKE : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
BATHAMPTON	1
BATHEASTON	2
BATHFORD	1
CAMELEY	1
CAMERTON	1
CHARLCOMBE	1
CHEW MAGNA	1
CHEW STOKE	1
CLUTTON	1
COMPTON DANDO	1
FARMBOROUGH	1
FRESHFORD	1
HARPTREES	1
HIGH LITTLETON	1
HINTON CHARTERHOUSE	1
KEYNSHAM EAST	3
KEYNSHAM NORTH	2
KEYNSHAM SOUTH	3
KEYNSHAM WEST	2
MIDSOMER NORTON NORTH	2
MIDSOMER NORTON REDFIELD	2
NEWTON ST LOE	1
PAULTON	3
PEASEDOWN	2
PUBLOW	1
RADSTOCK	3
SALTFORD	2
STOWEY SUTTON	1
TIMSBURY	1
WESTFIELD	3

SCHEDULE 2

WANSDYKE DISTRICT : 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.

KEYNSHAM
NORTH WARD

Commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of Whitchurch CP meets northeastern boundary of Compton Dando CP, northwards and eastwards along the eastern boundary of Whitchurch CP and the northern boundary of the District, southwards along the River Chew to Chew Bridge northwestwards along Bath Hill West, southwards along Temple Street, westwards along Rock Road, southwestwards and southwards along Park Road, westwards along Handel Road, northwards along Charlton Park, westwards along Charlton Road, northwestwards along Lockingwell Road, westwards along Westfield Close, northwards along the eastern boundary of No 11 Westfield Close and continuing to and westwards along footpath between Lockingwell Road and Charlton Bottom, to the eastern boundary of Compton Dando CP; northwards along said eastern boundary to point of commencement.

KEYNSHAM
EAST WARD

Commencing at the point where the northern boundary of Compton Dando CP leaves the River Chew west of Chawton Place, northwards along the River Chew and the eastern boundary of North Ward to the northern boundary of the District, eastwards along said District boundary, southwards along the old LMS railway, westwards along the footpath leading to Stidham Farm and in prolongation of the footpath leading south from said farm, southwards along said path crossing the railway and continuing southwestwards and northwestwards along the track leading to World's End Lane to the western boundary of parcel No 4984 on

OS 1:2500 plan ST 66/6767 Revision of 1972, southwards along said western boundary, crossing Bath Road in a straight line to western boundary of parcel No 2469; southwards along said western boundary and westwards along the path from Bath Road to Chandag County Infants School; southwards along the stream flowing through parcel No 0147 and continuing to and along the western boundaries of parcels No 9320 and 0006 and 0006 and 9692 as shown on OS 1:2500 ST 66/6766 Edn of 1965, crossing Manor Road and continuing along the western boundary of parcel No 8882, westwards along Courtnay Road, and southwards along the western boundary of parcel No 8563, westwards along the northern boundaries of parcels No 8140 and 5842 southwards and eastwards along the western and southern boundaries of the latter, and southwards along the western boundary of parcel No 6200 and eastwards and southwards along the northern and eastern boundaries of Parcel No 4300 as shown on OS 1:2500 plan ST 66/6765 Edn of 1966 to and westwards and following the northern boundary of Compton Dando CP to the point of commencement.

SALTFORD WARD

Commencing on the northern boundary of Compton Dando CP at the junction with the eastern boundary of East Ward, northwards along said ward boundary and eastwards along the northern boundary of the District to and along the western boundaries of North Stoke and Kelston CPs, and westwards along the northern boundary of Corston CP and Compton Dando CP to the point of commencement.

KEYNSHAM WEST WARD

Commencing on the northern boundary of Compton Dando CP at the junction with Parkhouse Lane, northwestwards along said ward boundary to and eastwards along the southern boundary of North Ward to and southwards along Charlton Park, southwestwards along Queens Road,

southwards along Tenby Road, westwards and southwestwards along Warwick Road, southwards to Coronation Avenue; northwestwards along said avenue; to and southwards along Walton Close, Rowan Walk, Cherry Tree Close, and May Tree Walk to and eastwards and southwards along the northern and eastern boundaries of parcel No 4431 as shown on OS 1:2500 ST 64/6567 Edn of 1971, and southeastwards along the southern boundary of parcel No 4811 to and southwestwards along Parkhouse Lane to the point of commencement.

KEYNSHAM
SOUTH WARD

Commencing on the northern boundary of Compton Dando CP at the junction with the eastern boundary of West Ward, northwards along the said ward boundary, eastwards along the southern boundary of North Ward, southwards along the western boundary of East Ward, and westwards along the northern boundary of Compton Dando CP to the point of commencement.

CHEW STOKE WARD	The parishes of Chew Stoke, Nempnett Thrubwell and Ubley
CHEW MAGNA WARD	The parishes of Chew Magna and Norton Malreward
PUBLOW WARD	The parishes of Publow and Stanton
COMPTON DANDO WARD	The parishes of Compton Dando and Whitchurch
NEWTON ST LOE WARD	The parishes of Corston, Marksbury, Newton St Loe and Priston
CHARLCOMBE WARD	The parishes of Charlcombe, Kelston, North Stoke, Swainswick and St Catherine
BATHEASTON WARD	The parish of Batheaston
BATHAMPTON WARD	The parish of Bathampton
BATHFORD WARD	The parish of Bathford
HARPTREES WARD	The parishes of Compton Martin, East Harptree and West Harptree

STOWEY-SUTTON WARD The parish of Stowey-Sutton

CAMELEY WARD The parishes of Cameley, Farrington Gurney and
Hinton Blewett

CLUTTON WARD The parishes of Chelwood and Clutton

FARMBOROUGH WARD The parish of Farmborough

TIMSBURY WARD The parish of Timsbury

CAMERTON WARD The parishes of Camerton, Dunkerton and
Englishcombe

PEASEDOWN ST JOHN WARD The parish of Peasedown St John

HINTON CHARTERHOUSE WARD The parishes of Combe Hay, Hinton Charterhouse,
Shoscombe and Wellow

FRESHFORD WARD The parishes of Claverton, Freshford, Monkton Combe
and Southstoke

HIGH LITTLETON WARD The parish of High Littleton

PAULTON WARD The parish of Paulton

MIDSOMER NORTON REDFIELD WARD The Midsomer Norton Redfield ward of the parish of
Norton Radstock

MIDSOMER NORTON NORTH WARD The Midsomer Norton North ward of the parish of
Norton Radstock

RADSTOCK WARD The Radstock ward of the parish of Norton Radstock

WESTFIELD WARD The Westfield ward of the parish of Norton Radstock