
From: sharon raggett [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 July 2016 10:36
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: Boundary review of Teignbridge

Dear Sirs

Please find attached a document from Abbotskerswell Parish Council, i have been unable to upload it on the website and would be grateful if you can acknowledge receipt.

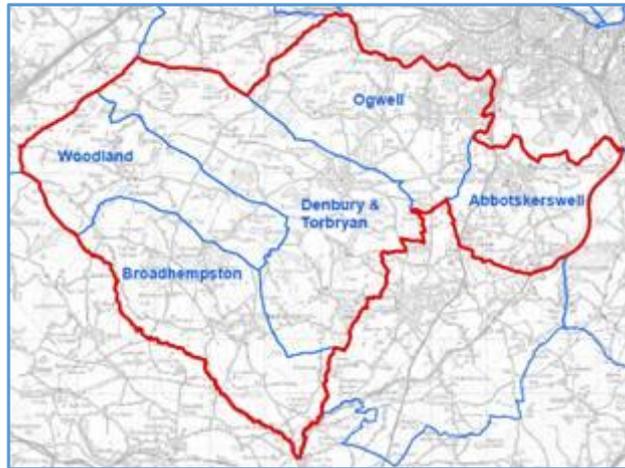
Many thanks

Sharon Raggett
Clerk

Abbotskerswell Parish Council's Submission - Electoral Review of Teignbridge 2016

Abbotskerswell Parish Council (APC) would like to comment specifically on ward changes for Ambrook Ward in Teignbridge that are being consulted upon by the Boundary Commission.

Firstly, Ambrook Ward is currently a two-member ward with an electorate of 4,791 and is serviced by two ward councillors who cover 5 parishes as shown in the map below.



Given the wide geographical area being covered and the administrative demand placed on our two ward councillors having to attend 5 parish council meetings and other related meetings, Abbotskerswell Parish Council does not feel it is being serviced appropriately by the two ward councillors. This is not intended as a criticism of either councillor but recognition of the demand being placed on their time with working across five parish councils.

To resolve this Abbotskerswell would like to see Ambrook split electorally into two wards. One created with two parishes: Ogwell and Abbotskerswell, recognising they are similar rural parishes on the fringe of large urban parish of Newton Abbot. The other servicing Woodland, Broadhempston and Denbury & Torbryan.

If the electorate metrics do not fit, then APC suggests a second option of linking Abbotskerswell with Denbury & Torbryan as an alternative worthy of consideration.

Secondly, the Commission offers advice that changes reflecting the interests and identities of local communities can be considered during this review. APC is a council which is recognised for its determination to protect the natural environment and bio-diversity. There is a serious irregularity with the existing administrative boundary which affects the wellbeing of a protected species, namely Greater Horseshoe Bats (GHB). The College Ward boundary bisects a woodland called Conitor Copse a County Wildlife Site (CWS SX86/046). This administrative irregularity is detrimental to the survival of GHBs in South Devon and can be ameliorated with a minor boundary change

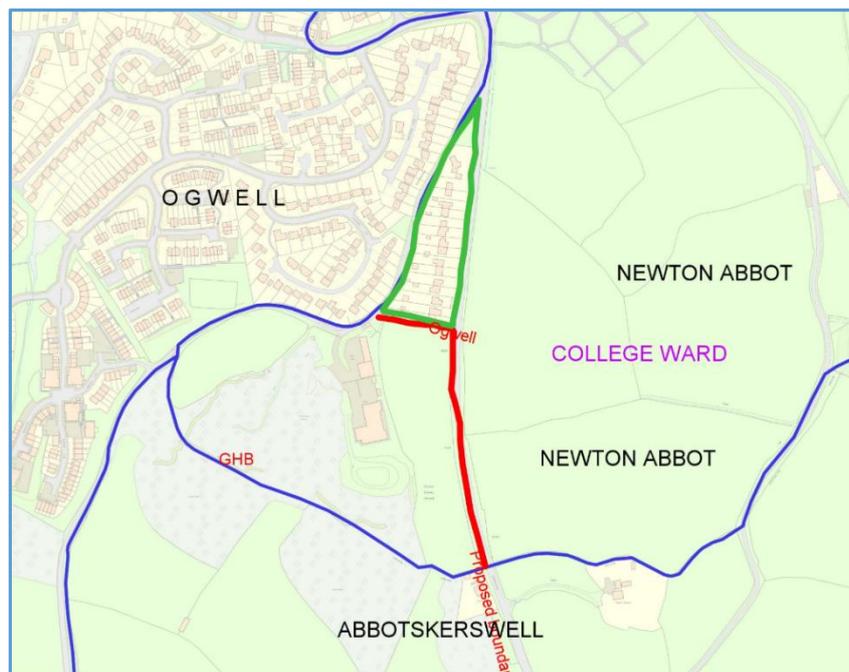
Conitor Copse contains a GHB roost of significant importance and is within the wider internationally South Hams Special Area of Conservation (SHSAC) and this SAC has the protection under European Law and UK from the EU Habitats Directive.

However, as can be seen, the Copse and its GHB roost are at the juxtaposition of College Ward and Ambrook where Ogwell Parish meets Abbotskerswell Parish.



Furthermore, Newton Abbot Town Council is a largely urban parish, unlike Ogwell and Abbotskerswell which address rurality issues. As a consequence, the protection of an internationally recognised and legally protected site is severely prejudiced by the woodland being split in two by an such an administrative boundary. APC propose that it is in the interest of all three councils that one council should take ownership for protecting the site and its biodiversity. APC is best positioned to do this. This will mean that all of Conitor Copse should fall into the Parish of Abbotskerswell.

APC's recommendation is that College Ward boundary should be realigned to the A381 as shown below.



The benefits that accrue from this simple change are:

- that the College Ward and Ambrook Ward boundary is repositioned along an understandable arterial road boundary - the A381;
- that the houses bounded by the green line naturally fit more appropriately within Oghwell Parish, meaning that near neighbours reside in the same parish, i.e. Oghwell; and,
- that by introducing the proposed red boundary changes, this offers far greater protection for GHBs which are under the threat of extinction, having seen their population decline by 95% over the last 100 years.

APC trust you will consider favourably APC's two proposals in your deliberations.