

**From:** John Farrand Rogers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 September 2016 17:26  
**To:** reviews <[reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** Proposed wards in Teignbridge

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this email on behalf of the Central Devon Liberal Democrats, who approved this response at a meeting this morning.

We would like to thank you for the attention you paid to our original submission – although at the same time, we find it hard to see any other feasible alternative!

Best wishes

John Farrand-Rogers

Data Officer, Central Devon Liberal Democrats

## Draft Proposals by the Boundary Commission for the Teignbridge District

### A Response from Central Devon Liberal Democrats

1. With one exception, we support all the proposals for the wards in the Central Devon Parliamentary Constituency, including the proposed names. The exception is the proposed ward of Tedburn & Moretonhampstead.
2. We note that the Boundary Commission gave consideration to the suggestion for the creation of a new ward within Moretonhampstead Parish, which would have permitted the creation of one ward for Tedburn St Mary and Dunsford Parishes, along with the new ward; and another ward consisting of Moretonhampstead Parish and its hinterland.
3. However, it rejected this proposal, largely because Moretonhampstead is surrounded by a rural area; and because no clear boundary was identified. This was impossible for us to do, since we did not have access to the projected number of electors broken down into different areas of the Parish.
4. We note that the Boundary Commission is now proposing a total of 47 councillors, instead of 46, which was the original basis for its calculations.

5. This means that, whereas previously the average number of electors per councillor was 2405, with a spread of 2165-2645; the new arrangement is for an average of 2352 electors per councillor, with a spread of 2117 - 2587.

6. We would like to suggest the division of the proposed Tedburn & Moretonhampstead ward along the lines previously suggested, but without the artificial hiving off a small part of Moretonhampstead Parish.

7. According to the projected figures provided by Teignbridge District Council, there will be a total of 2020 electors in the Parishes of Tedburn St Mary and Dunsford. This total is 97 outside the acceptable tolerance of 10% divergence.

8. At the same time, the total figure for the Parishes of Moretonhampstead, North Bovey, Manaton and Lustleigh is 2598, which is 11 electors over the upper limit.

9. However, the figures provided by the District Council may not be as robust for these parishes as they are elsewhere.

10. In the case of Moretonhampstead Parish, three areas were originally identified by Dartmoor National Park Authority as being suitable for development. This was not on the basis of planning criteria, but because the landowners were reported to be willing to sell the land. However, support for development from parishioners was on the basis that the houses would be affordable, and for local people. In contrast, the landowners decided to hold out for more expensive house development. There is, therefore, no certainty that these houses will be constructed. This means that the projected figures for 2022 may be on the high side.

11. At the same time, it is the policy of the current government to encourage the conversion of unused farm buildings into housing. This, if it happens, will by its nature be small-scale and piecemeal. As such, it would be impossible for Teignbridge District Council to include any such development in its projected figures. This means that the projected figures for Tedburn and Dunsford Parishes for 2022 may be on the low side.

12. Since the official figures may be exaggerated, we would argue for the separation of this area into two distinct wards. As a whole, they would be represented by two councillors, though one might have a slightly larger

number of electors than the other. But the creation of two single-councillor wards would have no knock-on effect on adjacent wards.

13. In practical terms, if the Commission decided to proceed with the proposal for a two-member ward, it seems likely that the two councillors would belong to the same political group, and then for practical purposes, they would divide the area between them.

14. If, however, the two councillors came from opposing groups, each of them would almost certainly attempt to cover the entire ward, which is a very large geographical area - in fact, the most vast of all the proposed wards in the District.

15. There are two further points. The difficulties of road communication seem not to have been given sufficient weight by the Commission. The quickest way from Manaton to Pathfinder is via the B282, up to Whiddon Down, and then along the A30. We would like to suggest that members of the Commission try this out for themselves! It does not make for very efficient communication.

16. The final argument is that for planning matters, the parishes in the suggested Moretonhampstead & Lustleigh ward come under the Dartmoor National Park Authority (as does most of Dunsford Parish). On the other hand, for planning purposes most of the Tedburn & Dunsford ward comes under the supervision of the Teignbridge District Council.