

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Electoral Review Committee

Place: Kennet Room - County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

Date: Thursday 20 April 2023

Time: 10.00 am

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on **12 April 2023**. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Lisa Alexander of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01722 434560 or email lisa.alexander@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

6 **Community Governance Review 2022/23 (Pages 3 - 122)**

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 13 April 2023

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Wiltshire Council

Electoral Review Committee

20 April 2022

Community Governance Review 2022/23 – Consultation on Draft Recommendations

Purpose

1. To consider responses to the consultation on the Draft Recommendations of the Committee as agreed on 4 January 2023.

Background

2. A Community Governance Review is a process whereby a principal authority can adjust the governance arrangements of parishes within its council area. This can include amending the number of councillors or wards, the external boundaries, or even the creation/merger/abolition/grouping of entire parishes.
3. The Electoral Review Committee (“the Committee”) has delegated authority from Full Council to oversee any review process in accordance with paragraphs 2.10.7-2.10.9 of Part 3B of the Wiltshire Council Constitution. This would include setting the scope for any review, its methodology and timescales, as well as preparing recommendations for consideration by Full Council.
4. At its meeting on 31 May 2022, the Committee approved areas for a review to take place beginning in 2022, and delegated approval of terms of reference. These were published in August 2022. The terms of reference are included as part of the information pack included with this report.
5. The parishes included within the Review were: Netheravon, Figcheldean, Warminster, Westbury, Bratton, Dilton Marsh, Heywood, Tidworth, Ludgershall, Castle Combe, Biddestone and Slaughterford, Nettleton, Grittleton, Yatton Keynell, Fovant, Donhead St Mary, Monkton Farleigh, Grimstead, or any parishes surrounding those listed, and any issues involving those parishes.
6. During the first phase of the review additional proposals for the areas set out in Paragraph 5 were received from parishes. Where these were received before the pre-consultation phase began, they were included within the pre-consultation information gathering. The information gathering also included:
 - Sessions between representatives of the Committee and affected unitary members and parishes;
 - An online survey of received proposals, with over 120 responses received;
 - Details of emailed representations.
7. In preparing any recommendations and making any decision the Committee and Full Council must take account of the statutory criteria for reviews and the need to ensure that community governance within the areas under review:

- Reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
- Is effective and convenient.

8. Council tax precept levels would not be a valid criterion to approve or disapprove of a proposal.

Main Considerations

Progress of the Review

9. During Stage One of the Review additional proposals for the areas set out in Paragraph 5 were sought. During Stage Two the Committee undertook pre-consultation information gathering as detailed in paragraph 6. This included reminder emails sent to parish councils for them to encourage local responses.
10. The Committee considered all information at its meeting which concluded on 4 January 2023, and prepared draft recommendations for consultation.
11. A consultation was therefore held from 7 February 2023 – 28 March 2023. Where the Committee proposed to transfer electors from one parish to another, a letter was sent to those potentially affected. Over 200 letters were therefore sent.
12. A briefing note and press release were circulated, and hard copies provided in local libraries.
13. Public meetings were held on 20 February, 22 February, 23 February, and 27 February, in Netheravon, Heywood, Grittleton and Biddestone & Slaughterford respectively.

Consultation on the Draft Recommendations

14. 29 responses were received on the online consultation portal during the consultation period. These responses are included within **Appendix A**.
15. The full details are included in the appendices, but a number of specific points are summarised below.

Consultation Summary

16. Following the start of the consultation start the Committee was made aware that the area proposed to be transferred to Heywood from Westbury included the Vivash Urban Park, of which the Town Council had very recently taken ownership and committed significant resources. Were the area transferred, ownership of the park would likewise be required to be transferred to Heywood Parish Council. Several of the responses addressed this point, with the Parish Council itself suggesting the proposal be amended to exclude the park.
17. The Town Council, among others, opposed any transfer to Heywood and reiterated alternative proposals including transfers from or merger with Heywood. It suggested that because the Town Council proposed a merger all residents of Heywood and Westbury should have been written to as part of the review. There is no requirement to physically

write to all electors as part of a consultation, only that the council consult in an appropriate manner, and the Committee has previously determined what it considers to be appropriate. As the Committee was not recommending to merge Westbury and Heywood, physically writing to all electors regarding that proposal was not part of its agreed and established methodology. As in its most recent reviews, the Committee can choose to write to an entire parish if appropriate, but as it was only recommending a small transfer, it determined to write to those directly affected, which did not prevent any others from also responding.

18. Bratton Parish Council and a number of representations from the local area raised objections with the process of the review and the lack of formal consultation on their proposal to transfer some land from Edington Parish, which the Committee did not include within its Draft Recommendations following consideration of all submitted information.
19. The Committee could determine it wishes to recommend the proposal and so consult upon it formally, or it may uphold its previous decision not to recommend the proposal. It is not a requirement to formally consult upon every proposal submitted to the Committee by interested parties, however the Committee did meet with the Parish Council about its proposal, undertook an online survey, and provided information about that survey to the Parish Council to encourage residents and others to respond at earlier stages, which can in fact be the extent of consultation in appropriate circumstances. This included a reminder email to the Parish Council during the online survey. The appendix includes the specific representations in response to the latest consultation, with additional clarifications made in correspondence with council officers.
20. Tidworth Town Council welcomed confirmation of the retention of Perham Down within their parish, and proposed amendments to the governance arrangements proposed by the Committee.
21. All responses received regarding the Netheravon proposals were in support.
22. Grittleton Parish Council representatives at the public meeting proposed very minor amendments to the proposals relating to The Gibb, currently split between Grittleton, Nettleton, and Castle Combe.
23. Yatton Keynell Parish Council reiterated its previous proposal for transfers of land from Chippenham Without. It should be noted that the Committee has twice considered that proposal and declined to recommend it. The Parish Council also suggested a minor amendment to include an area currently within Castle Combe.

Safeguarding Implications

24. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

25. There are no public health implications.

Procurement Implications

26. There are no procurement implications.

Equalities Implications

27. There are no equalities implications.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

28. There are no environmental implications.

Workforce Implications

29. There are no workforce implications.

Financial Implications

30. Additional consultation could incur additional resources, in particular in relation to the cost of using an external provider to physically mail out to those affected in certain areas if appropriate.

Legal Implications

31. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 gives the Council the power to undertake CGRs and sets out the criteria for such reviews. There is also statutory guidance on the conduct of such reviews that the Council would have to comply with.

Risks

32. A failure to consult appropriately on proposals from the Committee or provide appropriate reasoning for any decision to change governance arrangements would be potentially vulnerable to challenge.

Options

33. The Committee may confirm its draft recommendations for consideration by Full Council, it may remove some recommendations and refer the remainder to Full Council for consideration, or it may amend its recommendations. If amending its recommendations, the Committee would need to undertake additional consultations before Full Council could consider approving those recommendations.

Proposal

34. That the Committee consider the responses to the Draft Recommendations consultation.

35. To delegate to the Director, Legal and Governance, in consultation with the Chairman, the preparation of a detailed Final Recommendations document for consideration by Full Council, and/or preparation of any Additional Draft Recommendations for consultation.

Perry Holmes - Director, Legal and Governance

Report Author: Kieran Elliott, Democracy Manager (Democratic Services), 01225 718504, kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

12 April 2023

Appendices

Appendix A – Information Pack

Background Papers

Terms of reference of the Community Governance Review

[Draft Recommendations](#)

[Guidance on Community Governance Reviews](#)

[Terms of Reference of the Electoral Review Committee](#)

[Review terms of reference](#)

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CGR WORKSHOP INFORMATION PACK

Workshop: Electoral Review Committee

Place: Kennet Room

Date: Wednesday 12 April 2023

Time: 2.30 pm

This is not a public meeting

1 Overview

Areas under review

At its meeting on 31 May 2022 the Electoral Review Committee approved the terms of reference for a Community Governance Review to start on 19 August 2022, to include the following areas:

- Netheravon/Figheledean
- Warminster
- Westbury and surrounding areas
- Tidworth/Ludgershall
- Castle Combe, Biddestone and Slaughterford, Nettleton, Grittleton,
- Yatton Keynell
- Fovant, Donhead St Mary, Monkton Farleigh, Grimstead

It is proposed that as with the 2021/22 review, all members are able to attend the information gathering sessions for each area, led by the Chair/Vice-Chair, with all the information compiled for consideration by the Full Committee Consultation and Timetable.

The only consultation that is required is when the Committee forms its draft recommendations. However, there is an information gathering phase and in previous reviews the Committee has found it useful to undertake preConsultation surveying at that point to help formulate their views. The Committee can undertake consultation in a way it considers most appropriate. For consultation the principle in previous reviews was that where a whole parish option (eg merger) was proposed, to write to ALL electors in both parishes, and where only an area was to be transferred to write to those electors within that specific area.

Given previous consultations and information in some areas, it is proposed:

Pre-Consultation – Online surveys, briefing notes

Consultation – Online surveys, briefing notes, physical materials in local library, physical and/or online meetings where appropriate and letters sent to electors where merger/creation/transfer is proposed.

This will enable engagement with the local electors to enable the Committee to form its proposals, which would then be consulted upon fully.

Progress to date

Briefing Notes: At the start of the review, briefing note 22-18 was circulated on 15 August 2022 across Wiltshire, advising all parishes of the commencement of the 2022/23 Review, listing the areas to be included. A further briefing note 22-21 was circulated on 1 November 2022, to alert parishes to the online survey on the proposals currently received.

As well as emailing all Parish Councils which would be impacted on by a proposal if approved, separate emails to the parish councils surrounding the

scheme areas were also emailed to make them aware that as the CGR process moved forward, that further scheme requests may be submitted which could impact them.

Informal Information gathering sessions were offered to parish councils which had submitted a proposal or that would be impacted upon by the proposed schemes. Wiltshire Council Divisional Members were also invited to attend online sessions to discuss the proposals. These were held online during October and November 2022.

An online survey ran from 1 November - 30 November to seek views on proposals submitted by parish councils and others for the review areas.

2 **Terms of Reference (Pages 9 - 14)**

3 **Draft Recommendations (Pages 15 - 60)**

The CGR 2022-23 Draft Recommendations Document is attached.

4 **Area 1 - Westbury / Heywood / Bratton (Pages 61 - 94)**

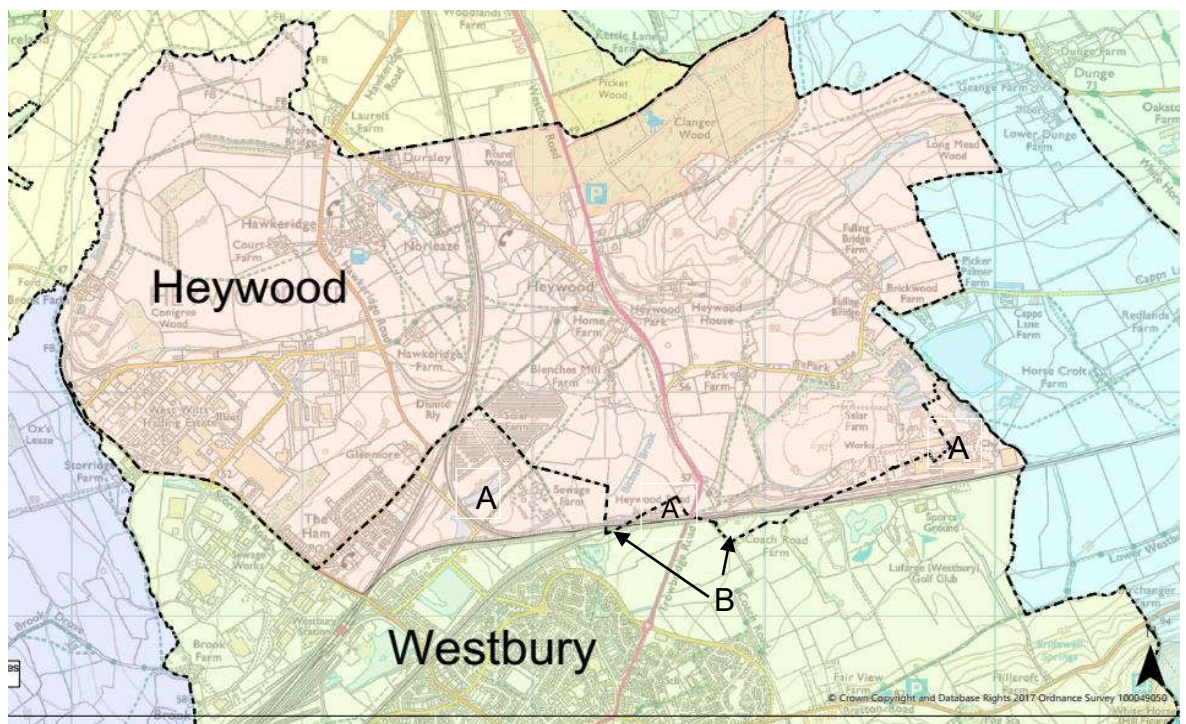
Recommendation 1

1.1 That the areas marked as A in the map below be transferred from Westbury Town to the parish of Heywood.

1.2 That the area marked as B in the map below be transferred from Heywood to Westbury Town, as part of the Westbury East Ward.

1.3 That the parish of Heywood be unwarded, with seven councillors.

1.4 To request that the LGBCE amend the Westbury North, Westbury East, and Ethandune Electoral Divisions to be conterminous with the proposed revised parish boundaries of Westbury and Heywood.



Documents attached:

- Notes from the Public Meeting held on 22 February 2023
- Survey responses
- Written responses P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P10, P11, P12

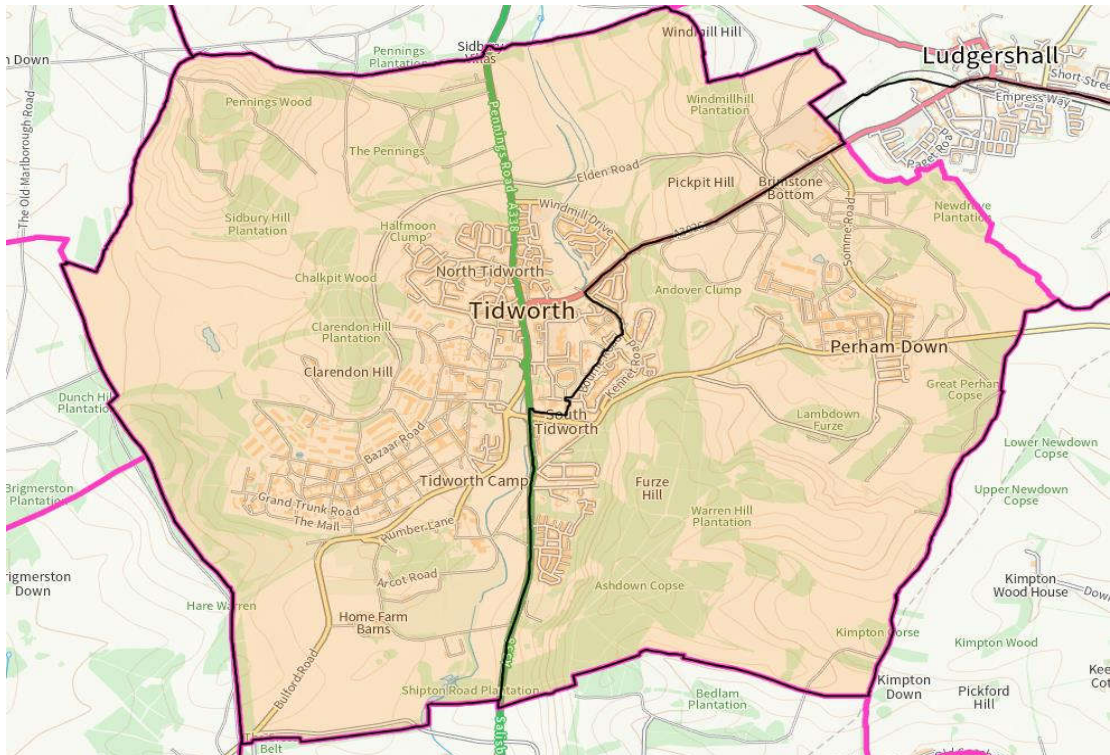
5 **Area 2 - Ludgershall / Tidworth (Pages 95 - 96)**

Recommendation 2

2.1 That Tidworth Town Council be reduced from nineteen councillors to fifteen.

2.2 That the North & West Ward contain ten councillors.

2.3 That the East and South ward contain five councillors.



Documents attached:

- Survey Response summary

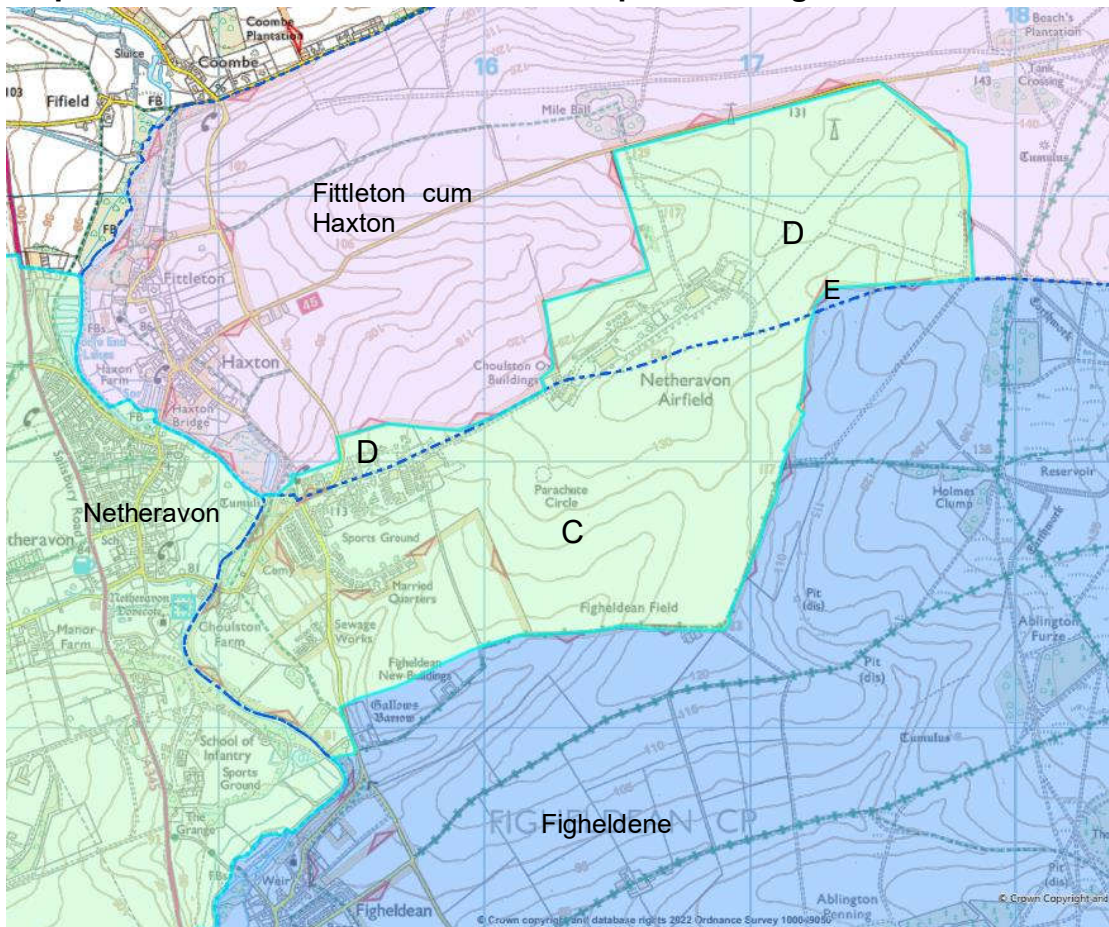
6 **Area 3 - Netheravon / Figheldene / Fittleton cum Haxton (Pages 97 - 102)**

Recommendation 3

3.1 That the area shown as C in the map below be transferred from the parish of Figheldean to the parish of Netheravon.

3.2 That the areas shown as D in the map below be transferred from the parish of Fittleton cum Haxton to the parish of Netheravon.

3.3 That the area shown as E in the map below be transferred from the parish of Fittleton cum Haxton to the parish of Figheldean.



Documents attached:

- Notes from Public Meeting on 20 February 2023
- Survey Response summary
- Written Representation P2

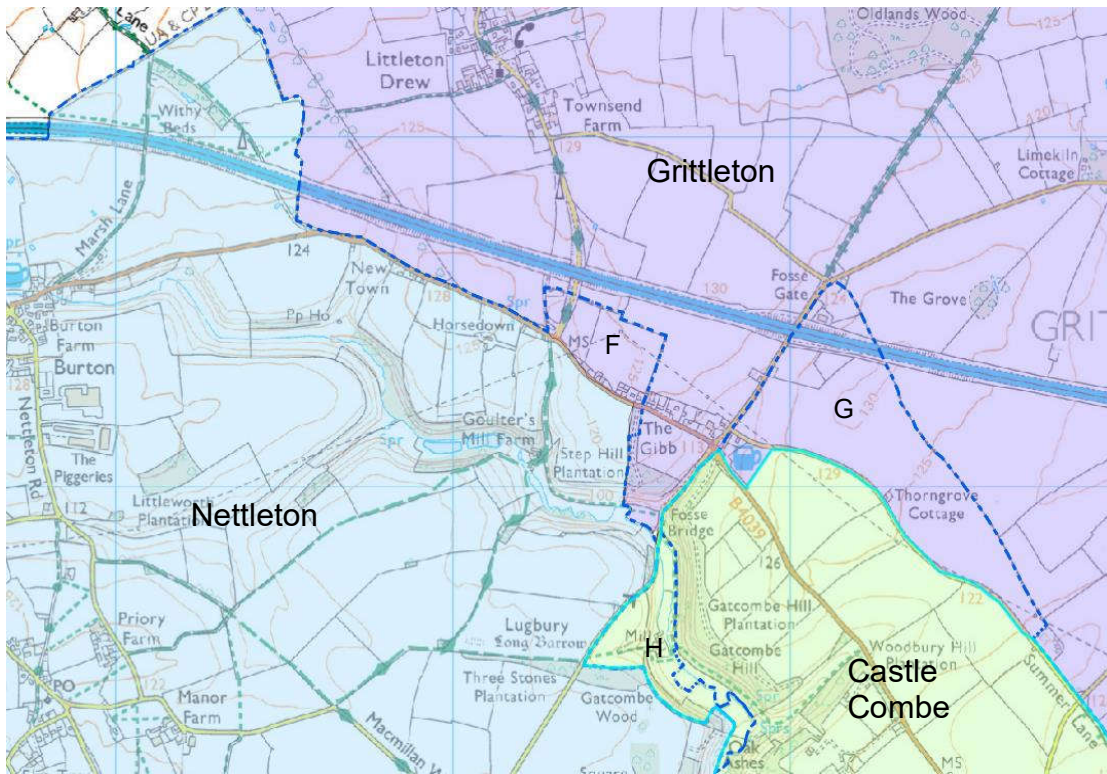
7 **Area 4 - Grittleton / Castle Combe / Nettleton (Pages 103 - 106)**

Recommendation 4

4.1 That the area shown as F in the map below be transferred from the parish of Nettleton to the parish of Grittleton.

4.2 That the area shown as G in the map below be transferred from the parish of Castle Combe to the parish of Grittleton.

4.3 That the area shown as H in the map below be transferred from the parish of Grittleton to the parish of Castle Combe.



Documents Attached:

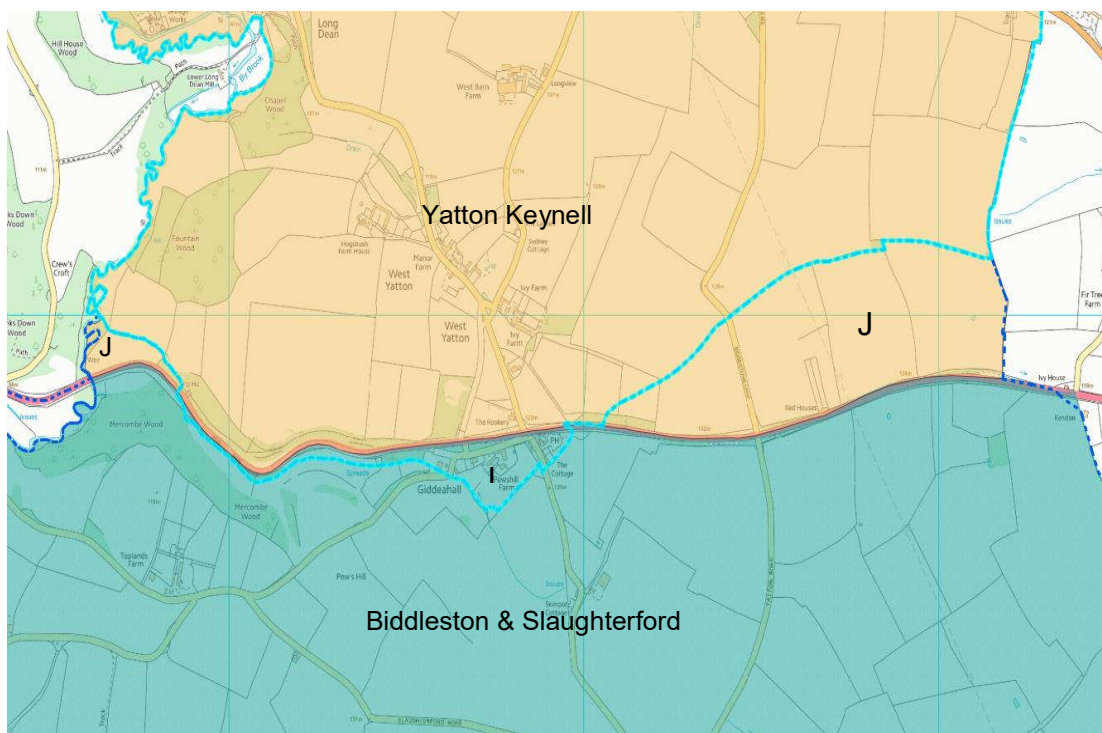
- Notes from Public meeting held on 23 February 2023
- Consultation response summary

8 **Area 5 - Yatton Keynell / Biddlestone & Slaughterford (Pages 107 - 110)**

Recommendation 5

5.1 That the area shown as I in the map below be transferred from the parish of Yatton Keynell to the parish of Biddlestone & Slaughterford.

5.2 That the areas shown as J in the map below be transferred from the parish of Biddlestone & Slaughterford to the parish of Yatton Keynell.



Documents attached:

- Notes from Public Meeting on 27 February 2023
- Consultation response summary

9 **Area 6 - Warminster (Pages 111 - 112)**

Recommendation 6

6.1 That Warminster Town Council be increased from thirteen councillors to fourteen.

6.2 That Warminster Town Council continue to comprise four wards, with councillor numbers as follows:

- i. **Warminster North – 2 Councillors**
- ii. **Warminster West – 4 Councillors**
- iii. **Warminster East – 4 Councillors**
- iv. **Warminster Broadway – 4 Councillors**

Documents attached:

- Consultation response summary

10 **Area 7 - Donhead St Mary / Fovant / Monkton Farleigh / Grimstead (Pages 113 - 114)**

Recommendation 7

7.1 That Donhead St Mary Parish Council be decreased from thirteen councillors to eleven councillors.

7.2 That Monkton Farleigh Parish Council be increased from seven councillors to eight councillors.

Documents attached:

- Consultation response summary

Note: Requests received from Grimstead & Fovant to withdraw schemes

11

Urgent Items

Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

Part II

Items during consideration of which it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed.

Community Governance Review 2022-2023

Terms of Reference

Introduction

On behalf of Wiltshire Council (“The Council”) and under authority as set out at Paragraphs 2.10.7 – 2.10.9 of Part 3B of the Constitution, the Electoral Review Committee (“The Committee”) at its meeting on 31 May 2022 resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review (“The Review”), in respect of the areas and within the scope listed below.

Description	Review parameters
Netheravon/Figheledean	Internal and external boundaries of the parishes of Netheravon and Figheledean, or any parishes surrounding those listed, including associated warding, councillor numbers and any other arrangements.
Warminster	Internal and external boundaries of the parish of Warminster, or any parish surrounding Warminster, including associated warding, councillor numbers and any other arrangements.
Westbury and surrounding areas	Internal and external boundaries of the parishes of Westbury, Heywood, Dilton Marsh, and Bratton, or any parishes surrounding those listed, including associated warding, councillor numbers and any other arrangements. To include consideration of a proposal to merge Westbury and Heywood.
Tidworth/Ludgershall	Internal and external boundaries of the parishes of Tidworth and Ludgershall, or any parishes surrounding those listed, including associated warding, councillor numbers and any other arrangements.
Castle Combe, Biddestone and Slaughterford, Nettleton, Grittleton, Yatton Keynell	Internal and external boundaries of the parishes of Yatton Keynell, Grittleton, Nettleton, Castle Combe, Biddestone and Slaughterford, or any parishes surrounding those listed, including associated warding, councillor numbers and any other arrangements.

Fovant, Donhead St Mary, Monkton Farleigh, Grimstead	Internal and external boundaries of the parishes of Fovant, Donhead St Mary, Monkton Farleigh, Grimstead, or any parishes surrounding those listed, including associated warding, councillor numbers and any other arrangements.
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The Review may also consider any other issues within the areas under review that fall within the scope of sections 87-92 of *The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007* ('the Act').

The Review above in some cases may require consent being granted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) for any internal or external changes as a result of the 2018-20 Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council and the consequential changes made to parish warding arrangements. For the avoidance of doubt, any review areas may include consulting on and recommending to the LGBCE consequential changes to Unitary Divisions if appropriate.

This Review is being carried out by the Council under the powers in Part 4 of the Act and will be undertaken in accordance with the legislative requirements of that Act and any relevant regulations made thereunder. It will also have regard to the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews published by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG, now the MHCLG).

What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a review of the whole or part of the Council's area to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of parishes and styles of new parishes;
- The electoral arrangements of parishes (including the number of councillors to be elected to the council and parish warding);
- Grouping or de-grouping parishes.

The Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and,
- Is effective and convenient.

In doing so, the community governance review is required to take into account:

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and,
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

Why undertake a Community Governance Review?

The Council is undertaking this Review following:

- Confirmation by Parliament of the Final Recommendations of the Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council by the LGBCE in March 2020;
- Changes to natural settlements caused by new and forthcoming development;
- Requests from parish councils in the areas listed

Who will undertake the Review?

The Council has appointed an Electoral Review Committee to carry out all aspects of the reviews and to make recommendations to the Council in due course. The Committee comprises a politically balanced membership of ten Members. Other Members and the public may attend the formal committee meetings. The relevant section of the Committee's terms of reference are set out in Part 3B Paragraph 2.10 of the Constitution as follows:

2.10.7 To oversee any community governance reviews within the Wiltshire Council area, including contacting all parishes for proposals, setting the scope for any review, its methodology, and its timescales. The Committee will prepare final recommendations for any changes for consideration by Full Council.

2.10.8 The Committee will consider whether it is appropriate to make, and is empowered to suggest for consultation and recommendation, changes to parish areas and parish electoral arrangements, to include:

- *The alteration, merging, creation or abolition of parishes;*
- *The naming of parishes and adoption of alternative styles for new parishes;*
- *Parish council size, number of councillors to be elected, and warding arrangements;*
- *Any other electorate arrangements.*

2.10.9 Where it would be appropriate to do so the Committee may recommend that as a result of proposed parish changes a unitary division be amended so that it remains coterminous with that parish. Any such change would need to be agreed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England if approved by Full Council.

As the relevant principal authority, Wiltshire Council is responsible for conducting any Community Governance Review within its electoral area. The Electoral Review Committee will oversee the review and produce draft and final recommendations. Full Council will approve the final recommendations before a Community Governance Order ("An Order") is made.

Consultation

The Council is required to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and to take the representations that are received into account. The Council will also

identify any other person or body who it feels may have an interest in the review and invite them to submit their views at all stages of the consultation.

Before making any recommendations or publishing final proposals, an appropriate consultation process will form part of the review to take full account of the views of local people and other stakeholders. The Council will comply with the statutory consultative requirements by:

- consulting local government electors for the area under review;
- consulting any other person or body (including a local authority) which appears to the Council to have an interest in the review; and,
- taking into account any representations received in connection with the review.

The Council will publicise the review on its website and with information available at appropriate Council Offices on request.

The methods of consultation will be those deemed appropriate for the proposals concerned. This may include a webpage created for the review containing all relevant information, briefing notes sent to appropriate town and parish councils and area boards, and press releases at appropriate stages.

Timetable

The Review will aim to be completed within 12 months of the date of commencement.

An indicative timetable for the Review is as listed below. This is subject to variation by the Committee as appropriate, within the overall prescribed time limit. In particular, the Committee may vary the timetable to take account of any additional consultations that it deems appropriate. The Director, Legal and Governance may also vary the timetable in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee at any time, if appropriate, to be reported to the Committee.

Stage	Action	Dates
Pre-review	Liaising with parish councils on suggested areas for consideration for review and receipt of initial submissions.	May-July 2022
Stage one	Commencement of CGR - Terms of Reference published.	August 2022
	Schemes uploaded to public portal for any initial comments, to be updated with any relevant additional information. To include any further schemes received which fall within the scope of the Review.	29 August – 21 October 2022

Stage two	Consideration of submissions received in relation to proposed schemes. Local briefings and meetings as appropriate with unitary councillors and/or parish representatives. <hr/> Pre-consultation surveying (if appropriate) <hr/> Draft Recommendations prepared.	24 October 2022- 20 January 2023
Stage three	Draft Recommendations consultation.	7 February - 28 March 2023
Stage four	Consideration of submissions received Additional consultations (if appropriate) Final Recommendations prepared.	1 April - 20 April 2023 May/June 2023 April-June 2023
Decision	Final Recommendations considered by Full Council.	May/July 2023

Electorate Forecasts

Existing parish ward electorate figures will be calculated from the August 2022 electoral register.

When the Council comes to consider electoral arrangements for the parish councils in its area, it is required to consider any change in the number or distribution of electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the Review starts.

Electorate forecasts have been prepared for the period to 2027 and will be included in information sheets for each scheme which is reviewed.

Consequential Matters

When all the required consultation has been undertaken and the review completed the Council may make an Order to bring into effect any decision that it may make. If the Council decides to take no action, then it will not be necessary to make an Order. If an Order is made it may be necessary to cover certain consequential matters in that Order. These may include:

- a) the transfer and management or custody of any property;
- b) the setting of a precept (council tax levy) for the new parish council;
- c) provision with respect to the transfer of any functions, property, rights and liabilities;
- d) provision for the transfer of staff, compensation for loss of office, pensions and other staffing matters.

The Council will also take into account the requirements of the Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008 when calculating the budget requirement of any new parish councils when setting the council tax levy to be charged.

Representations

Wiltshire Council welcomes representations during the specified consultation stages as set out in the timetable from any person or body who may wish to comment or make proposals on any aspect of the matters included within the Review.

Representations may be made in the following ways:

- Online (during surveys and consultations):
<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-cgr>
- By Email: CGR@wiltshire.gov.uk.
- By Post: Community Governance Review, Democratic Services, County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

Date of Publication of Terms of Reference: 19 August 2022

Timetable updated January 2023

Community Governance Review 2022/23

Draft Recommendations of the Electoral Review Committee

February 2023

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Links

[Terms of Reference of the Electoral Review Committee](#)

[Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review 2022/23](#)

[Guidance on Community Governance Reviews](#)

[Information Pack on projected electorates, submitted schemes, parish responses, public engagement and survey responses](#)

Online Draft Recommendations Survey

All documents can also be accessed from links available at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-cgr>

Contact CGR@wiltshire.gov.uk or CGR, Democratic Services, County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN for questions or other details.

What is a Community Governance Review?

1. A Community Governance Review is a process under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 which allows for the review of Town, City, and Parish Council governance arrangements. This is to ensure that they are reflective of the identity and interests of local communities, and that they provide effective and convenient governance.

What can a Community Governance Review change?

2. A Community Governance Review can make changes to parish governance when there is clear evidence to do so, including changing:
 - Parish areas: such as changes to boundaries between parishes, mergers of two or more parishes, or creating a new parish out of part of one or more existing parishes;
 - Electoral arrangements within parish areas: such as changes to the number of Parish Councillors, or introducing/changing parish warding arrangements;
 - The name of a parish;
 - The grouping together of parishes under a common Parish Council;
 - Other governance arrangements.
3. A Community Governance Review cannot change the Electoral Divisions of Wiltshire Council. However, it can request those Divisions be amended by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (“The LGBCE”), who are responsible for such decisions, in order to align to any changed parish boundaries.

The Electoral Review Committee

4. Wiltshire Council has established the Electoral Review Committee (“The Committee”) to oversee any Community Governance Review process.
5. This is a politically proportionate committee of ten Wiltshire Councillors to oversee the process and prepare recommendations for Full Council, who make the decision.
6. The members of the Committee when setting these Draft Recommendations were as follows:

Cllr Ashley O’Neill (Chairman)

Cllr Gavin Grant (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling

Cllr Allison Bucknell

Cllr Ernie Clark

Cllr Jacqui Lay

Cllr Ian McLennan

Cllr Paul Oatway QPM

Cllr Ian Thorn

Cllr Stuart Wheeler

On what grounds will a Community Governance Review be decided?

7. Any decision relating to parish arrangements must ensure that those arrangements:
 - Reflect the identity and interests of local communities;
 - Ensure effective and convenient local governance.
8. In conducting a review and making recommendations, the Committee follows the guidance issued by the relevant Secretary of State and the LGBCE.

9. Factors that are not relevant to the statutory and guidance criteria, such as council tax precept levels, cannot be taken into account.

Background to the 2022/23 Review

10. From 2017-2019 the LG BCE undertook an Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council. While this retained the number of divisions at 98, the changes as approved by Parliament made consequential changes to many town and parish governance arrangements.
11. Combined with development growth across existing town and parish boundaries, or creation of new communities with their own identity within an existing parish, Wiltshire Council determined that reviews were necessary in some areas to ensure the community governance arrangements were still reflective of local identity and interests, and were effective and convenient.
12. All parishes in Wiltshire were contacted in the summer of 2019 to see if there were any changes to governance arrangements they wished the Council to consider, and a number of requests were received. Due to resourcing, these would be considered when the Council, through the Committee, determined it was practicable to do so. Parishes were recontacted in subsequent years to confirm if they still wished to proceed with a review of their area.
13. Following a committee meeting on 31 May 2022, on 19 August 2022 Wiltshire Council published terms of reference for a Community Governance Review for the following parish areas:
 - Biddestone & Slaughterford
 - Bratton
 - Castle Combe
 - Dilton Marsh
 - Donhead St Mary
 - Flgheldean
 - Fovant
 - Grimstead
 - Grittleton
 - Heywood
 - Ludgershall
 - Monkton Farleigh
 - Netheravon
 - Nettleton
 - Tidworth
 - Warminster
 - Westbury
 - Yatton Keynell
14. The terms of reference also specified that any parishes 'surrounding those listed' were also included within the scope of the review. This was to enable complete consideration of any options which might emerge during information gathering. Such parishes included Fittleton cum Haxton, Edington, Colerne, Chippenham Without, and others.
15. For the avoidance of doubt, the Committee is able to recommend, and the Council to approve, governance changes which were not suggested by any parishes or individuals, if it considers it appropriate to do so under the criteria and guidance. Any such proposal would need to be subject to consultation before approval.

Pre-consultation

16. During the first stage of the review the Committee received additional proposals relating to the review areas and prepared background information on each area, such as electorate projections.
17. During the second stage the Committee undertook pre-consultation information gathering, including:
 - Sessions between representatives of the Committee and affected unitary councillors, and sessions with affected Parish Councils;
 - Online surveys for those areas potentially impacted by a change of parish in proposals as submitted to the Council.

Draft Recommendations Preparation and Consultation

18. At its meeting held on 21 December 2022 and 4 January 2023 the Committee considered an information pack compiling all relevant materials including parish meeting session notes, proposal details, electoral projections, Parish Council responses, and public representations received by email, post or online survey.
19. The Committee agreed draft recommendations for each area and delegated preparation and approval of a draft recommendations document to the Director, Legal and Governance, to set out reasoning and additional information on the recommendations in detail. This would follow discussions with the Chairman of the Committee, and circulation to the Committee. Where relevant information was received subsequent to the committee meeting, the views of the Committee were sought electronically to determine if this impacted their views or reasoning.
20. This document forms those draft recommendations. In some cases, recommendations may require consent of the LG BCE to be confirmed, as parish boundaries will need to be amended which were subject to consequential changes in the 2017-19 Electoral Review, formally made by Parliament in March 2020.
21. The Committee is required to undertake appropriate consultation on any draft recommendations. The consultation on these draft recommendations has been scheduled to run from 7 February to 28 March 2023.
22. It was agreed by the Committee that those residing in an area where they might potentially be moved between parishes would be written to with details of the draft recommendations to seek their views. An online survey would also be prepared for general consultation. Where considered appropriate, public meetings may be held.
23. Following consideration of any responses and other relevant information, the Committee will prepare Final Recommendations for consideration of Full Council. This would currently be intended for either May or July 2023.

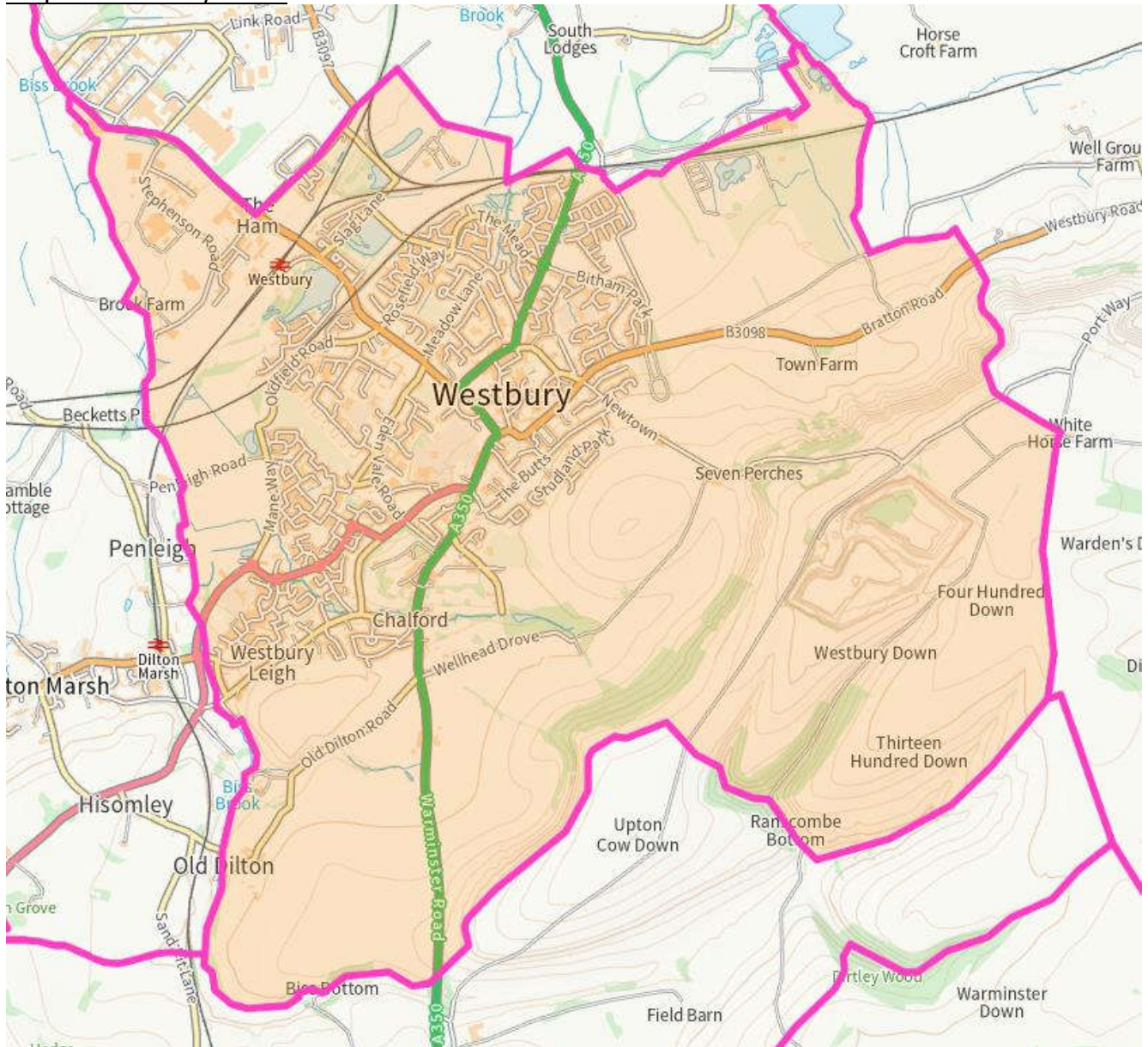
DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Westbury/Dilton Marsh/Heywood/Bratton/Edington

Background

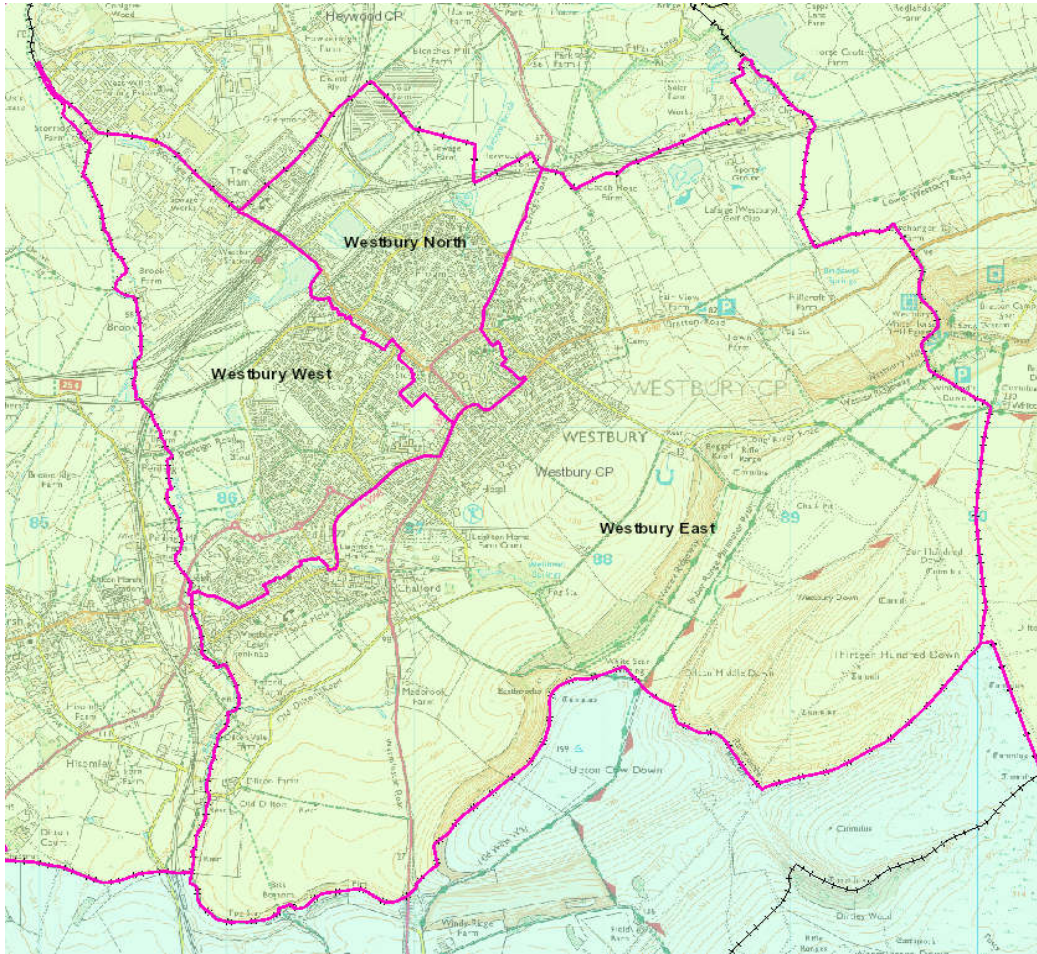
1. Westbury is an historic small town south of Trowbridge and north of Warminster close to the western border of Wiltshire. It is bordered by the parish of Dilton Marsh to the West, the parish of Heywood to the North, the parish of Upton Scudamore to the South, and the parish of Bratton to the East.
2. In August 2022 the town was estimated to contain approximately 12,073 electors. The town is served by Westbury Town Council, which contains up to fifteen councillors. There are three wards, each able to elect five councillors. The three wards are coterminous with Electoral Divisions of Wiltshire Council of the same name. Together with the Ethandune Division, the four Divisions make up the Westbury Area Board on Wiltshire Council.

Map of Westbury Town



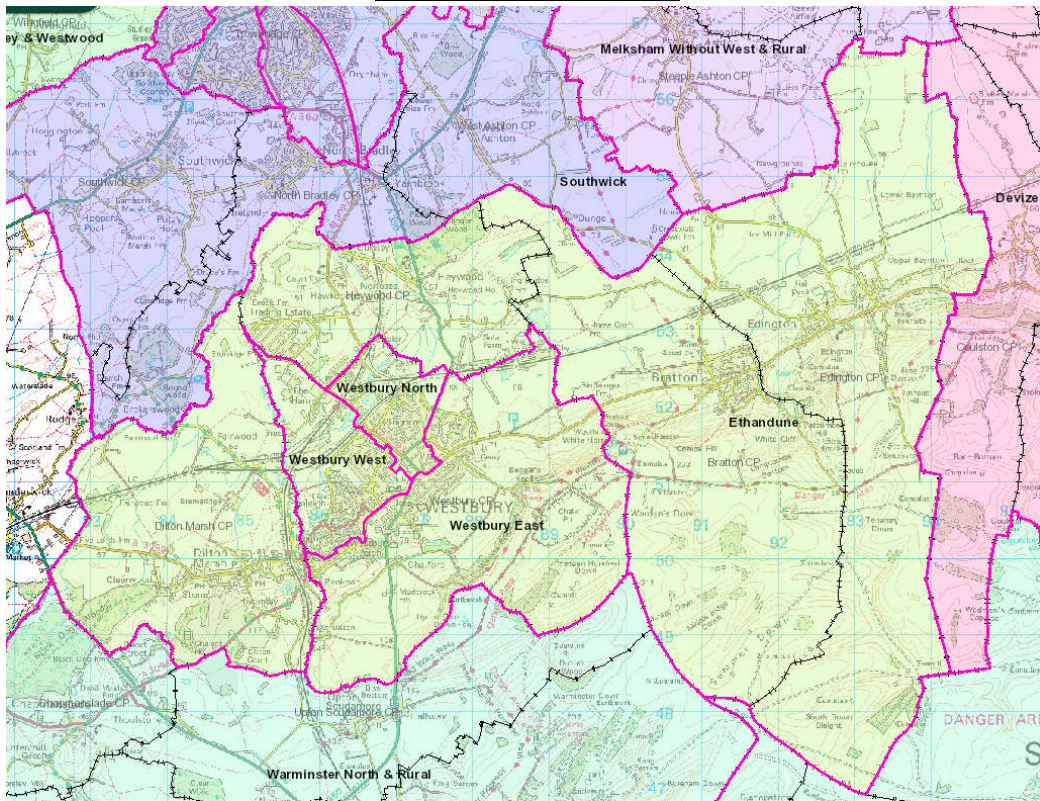
Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

Westbury Town Wards/Unitary Divisions



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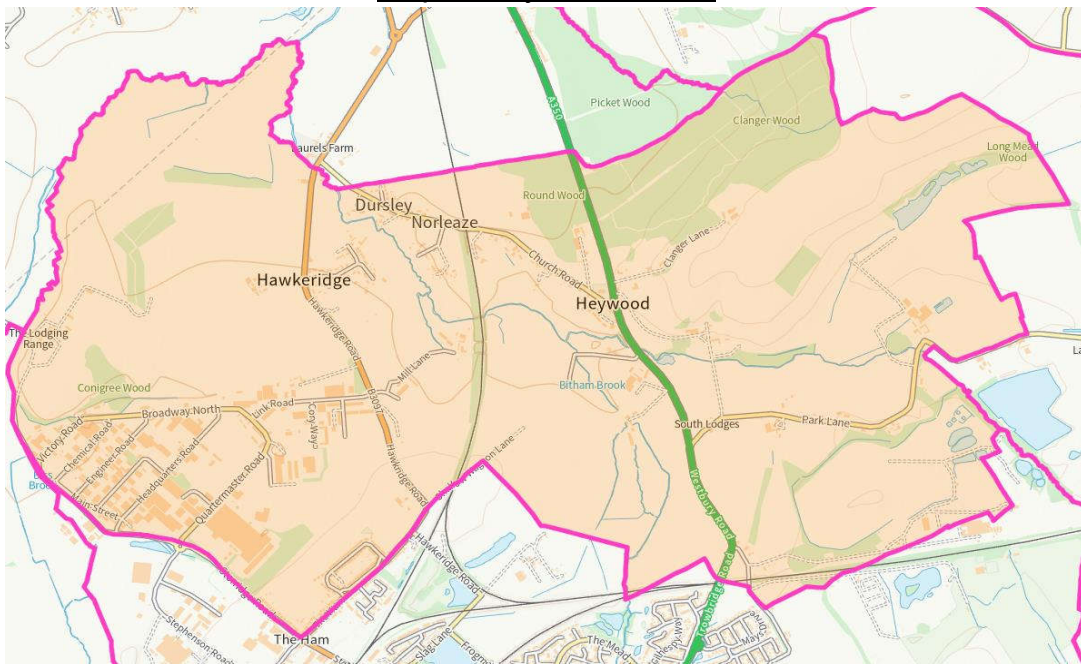
Westbury Area Board



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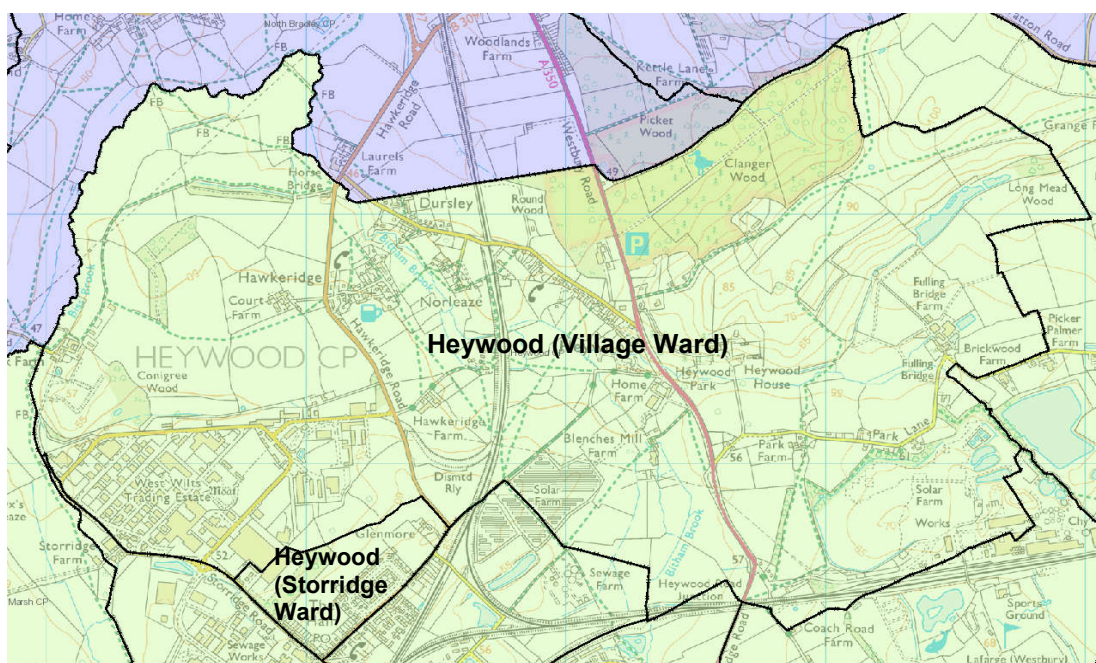
3. A review of the boundaries and governance arrangements of Westbury was requested by Westbury Town Council, including proposals for transfers of land from Dilton Marsh, Heywood, and Bratton. No requests were received relating to the boundary to the south with Upton Scudamore.
4. Heywood is a moderately sized parish to the north of Westbury. In August 2022 it was estimated to contain approximately 654 electors. The parish is served by a parish council, which contains up to 7 councillors. There are 2 wards, named Village and Storridge respectively. Together with the parishes of Dilton Marsh, Bratton and Edington, it forms part of the Ethandune Division of Wiltshire Council.

Map of Heywood Parish



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

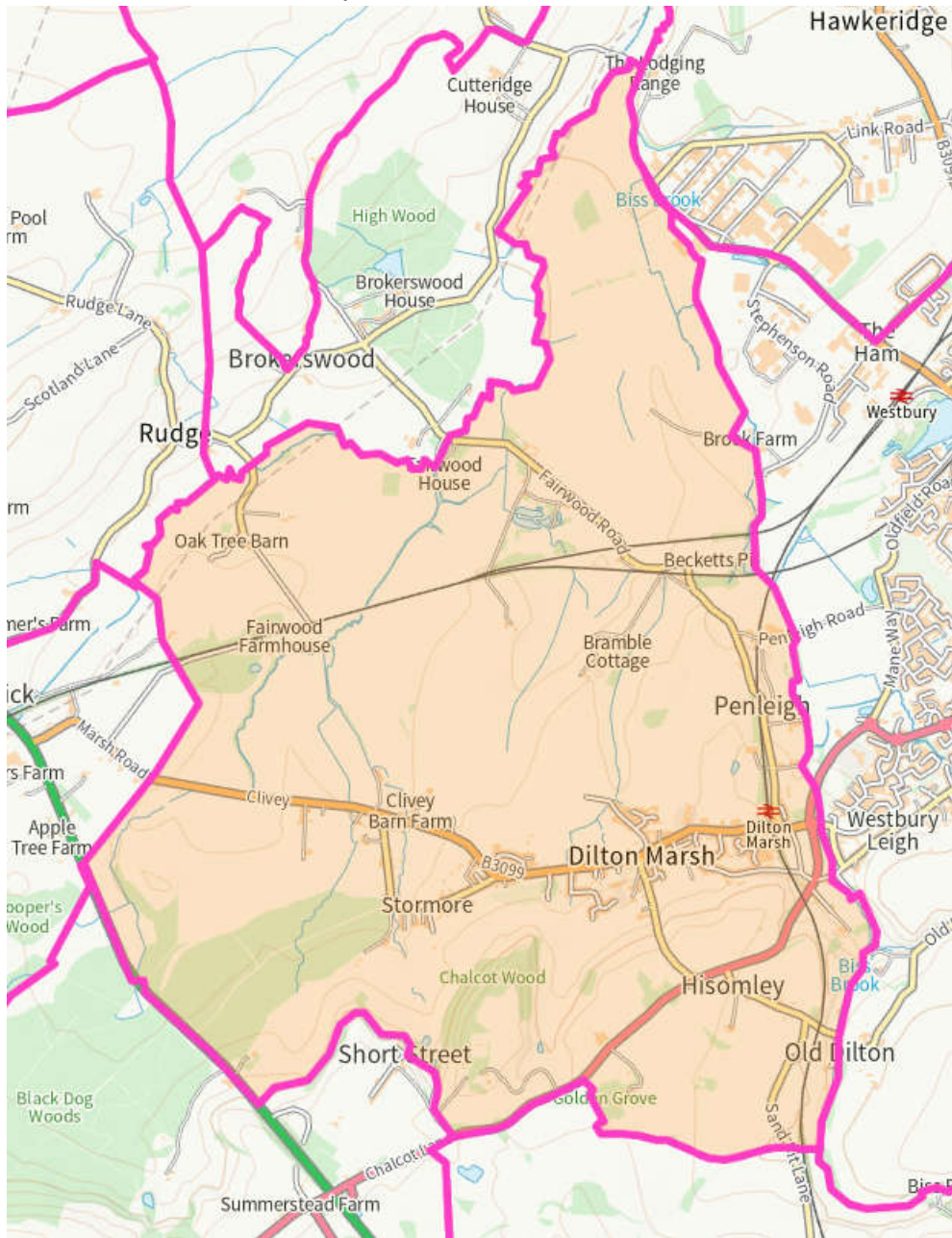
Wards of Heywood Parish



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- Dilton Marsh is a large parish to the west of Westbury. In August 2022 it was estimated to contain approximately 1528 electors. The parish is served by a parish council, which contains up to 13 councillors. The parish is unwarded. Together with the parishes of Heywood, Bratton and Edington, it forms part of the Ethandune Division of Wiltshire Council.

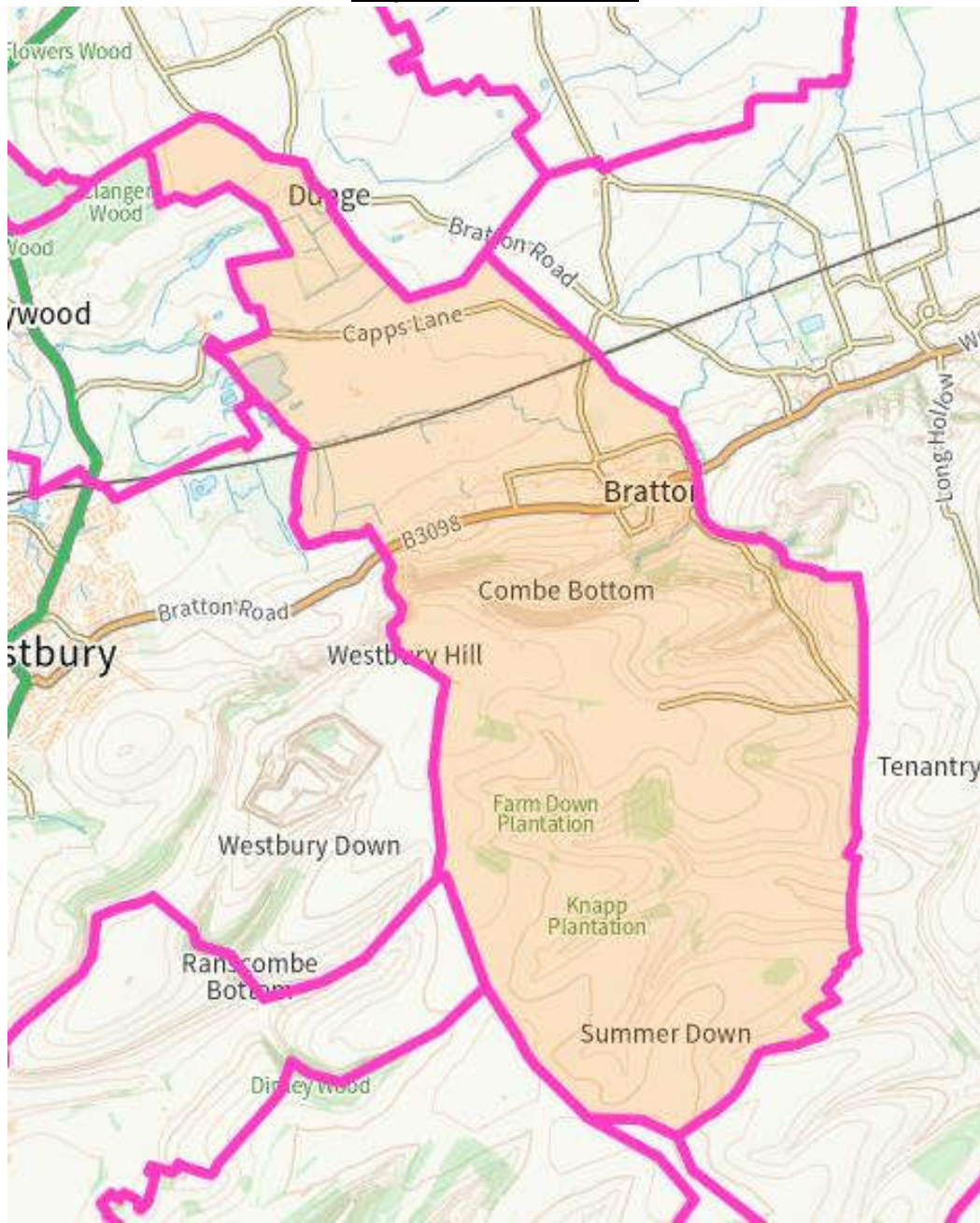
Map of Dilton Marsh Parish



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

- Bratton is a moderately sized rural parish to the east of Westbury. In August 2022 it was estimated to contain approximately 970 electors. The parish is served by a parish council, which contains up to 9 councillors. The parish is unwarded. Together with the parishes of Heywood, Dilton Marsh and Edington, it forms part of the Ethandune Division of Wiltshire Council.

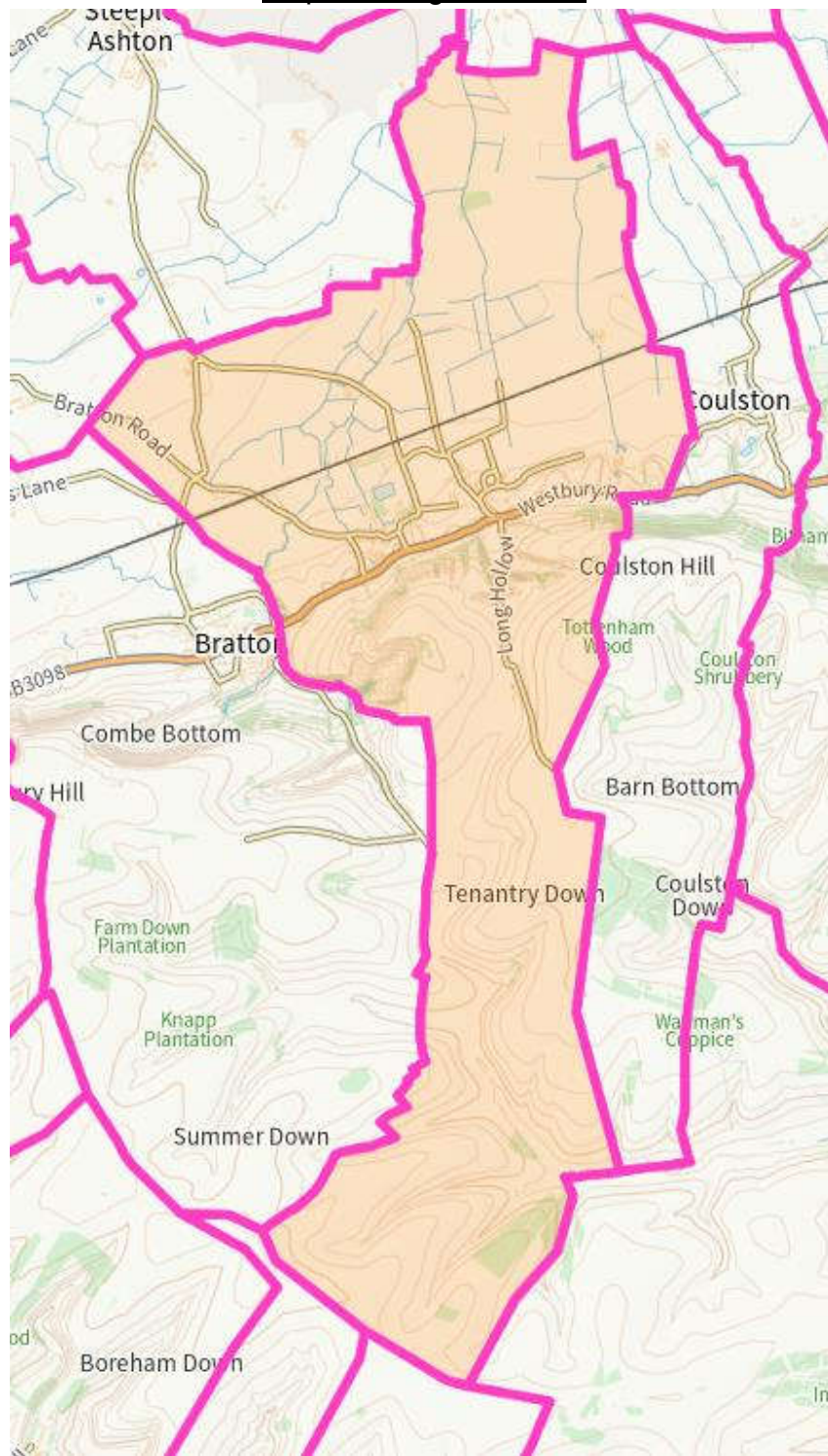
Map of Bratton Parish



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

7. Edington is a small rural parish to the east of Bratton. In August 2022 it was estimated to contain approximately 580 electors. The parish is served by a parish council, which contains up to 11 councillors. The parish is unwarded. Together with the parishes of Heywood, Dilton Marsh and Bratton, it forms part of the Ethandune Division of Wiltshire Council.

Map of Edington Parish



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

Initial Proposals and Pre-consultation information gathering

8. The initial request of Westbury Town Council which prompted the review stated there were several locations close to the current border of Westbury where 'common usage and practice have given places identity that is not compatible with their current location'.
9. It was requested that the boundary with Heywood be amended so that the West Wilts Industrial estate and the area known as The Ham be included within the town, and that the

boundary also be redrawn such that the ex-cement works were entirely within the town boundary and not split in half as currently designated, as well as straightening the boundary to make more sense. It was requested the boundary on the White Horse be redrawn so that the chalk figure and recreation land on the hill be located within Westbury itself, with Bratton Fort remaining in Bratton. Further, it was requested that the boundary between Leigh Park in Westbury and Dilton Marsh be amended by using Mane Way as the boundary mark.

10. Westbury Town Council subsequently updated its request. It listed 3 options in order of preference. The first option was that the parish of Heywood be merged, in its entirety, with Westbury Town. It was argued that the majority of properties were 'physically in Westbury' as shown by the settlement boundary as defined by Wiltshire Council spatial information.
11. The second option was that the initial changes proposed as relating to Heywood be adopted, with the remaining settlements at Hawkeridge and Heywood village to be merged with another parish, for example North Bradley to the north.
12. The third option was that should the first two options not be approved, to ensure that no land within the settlement boundary of Westbury lay outside the governance boundary of the town.
13. The parish councils for the areas impacted by the Town Council requests were contacted for their views.
14. Dilton Marsh Parish Council objected to the proposal, stating that a transfer of land to Westbury as proposed would adversely affect the established rural buffer zone, and that it was advancing its plans for a Neighbourhood Plan, and the plan area had already been set. It also considered the proposal would have a very negative effect on the Ethandune Electoral Division, and stated the proposal had been considered in 2017 and the status quo upheld. The Parish Council considered there had been no changes since that time which warranted reconsideration of that decision.
15. Bratton Parish Council objected to the proposal to transfer the area of the White Horse to Westbury. They stated that there were no governance reasons for such a transfer, and as such it was not justified under the criteria for a community governance review. They argued that any transfer would break the historic link with Bratton Camp, which would be split between two parishes.
16. Heywood Parish Council strongly objected to both the initial and updated proposal from the Town Council. It submitted a counter proposal to realign to what they stated were the original boundaries of Heywood when it was established in 1896. Additionally, for the boundary to run from the railway bridge on Station Road, along the railway line to the border with Bratton. They argued a transfer as proposed by the Town Council would negatively affect the administration of the parish, affect its financial viability, that Heywood was a rural parish as was the rest of Ethandune Division, that the parish formed a Neighbourhood Area, and that postal addresses referencing Westbury did not mean an

area was part of that community or of similar character. They did not support a merger with Westbury Town.

17. The Committee also met with representatives of Westbury, Heywood, and Bratton, regarding the various proposals, and sought engagement with the other parties.
18. Bratton Parish Council submitted a request for a transfer of the area around Fitzroy Farm in Edington to their parish. They considered there was a strong affinity between the area and Bratton, and noted efforts from their Parish Council to establish a paved footway to the amenities at Fitzroy Farm.
19. Edington Parish Council objected to the request from Bratton Parish Council. They considered there was a natural boundary between the villages which was the stream that formed the current border, the complex at Fitzroy was also used by a significant number of Edington villagers, and village name signs placed by Highways did not signify or justify a change.
20. An online survey was set up for November 2022 to allow comments on the submitted proposals. The councils in the area were asked to promote this, to assist the committee with any local views at this stage. Details and reasoning behind all comments are included with the information pack considered by the Committee and linked in this document.
21. 79 comments were received in total, 75 from residents of Heywood. No comments were received in relation to the initial Westbury Town Council requests in respect of Dilton Marsh and Bratton. 74 comments disagreed with the initial Town Council proposal relating to Heywood, 2 agreed, 2 suggested amendments, and 1 stated no opinion. 75 comments disagreed with the second Town Council proposal, including the merger, 3 agreed, and 1 proposed amendment. 63 comments stated agreement with the Heywood Parish Council counter proposal, 10 disagreed, and 6 stated no opinion.
22. In relation to the proposal from Bratton Parish Council 5 comments stated agreement, 11 disagreement, 1 suggested amendment with no detail, and 62 offered no opinion. However, none of the comments were from residents of Bratton or Edington themselves.

Committee Discussion

23. In relation the proposal to merge Heywood and Westbury, it was relevant and significant that the existing Heywood Parish Council was not supportive. Many comments had been received arguing the two areas did not share identity or interests, and had distinct characters. There was no interest expressed in merging the village area with the parish of North Bradley.
24. Based on the available figures approximately 38% of the Heywood electorate was resident in the Storridge ward which included part of The Ham, not a majority, and around 9 responses had been received from that area which were not supportive of the town proposals.

25. Whilst public views in themselves are not determinative, the Committee did not consider any compelling arguments had been made or evidence submitted which under the statutory criteria would justify a merger of the two parishes. The guidance on community governance reviews was clear that effective abolishment of a parish council should not be taken unless clearly justified, and not undertaken lightly. It should include clear and sustained local support for such action. There was no indication Heywood Parish Council was unviable, and the parish was not incapable of serving its residents. Any merger would require additional warding arrangements and it was not demonstrated how this would improve effective or convenient local government. Although the area of The Ham within Heywood may have been of semi-urban or urban character, the Committee did not agree the two parishes, or the greater part of them, shared identity and interests such that the entire area should be merged as one.
26. Considering all the information and guidance, the Committee therefore did not support a merger of Heywood and Westbury.
27. In relation to the proposals to transfer land from Dilton Marsh to Westbury, the existence or intention of a Neighbourhood Plan area would not automatically mean an area could or should not be transferred. Plan areas could include multiple parishes or cross parish boundaries, and even where a plan area was in place this would remain extant even should the parish boundary subsequently be amended.
28. Nevertheless, the Committee was not persuaded there were any compelling reasons of identity or governance that the boundary between Dilton Marsh and Westbury would be improved by the proposal. Mane Way as a whole was not proposed to be the boundary between the parishes, and it was not clear why for only the small section proposed that this would better reflect the identity and interests of the area. Any change of that nature would also require requesting the Electoral Divisions be amended, as the area could not be warded due to limited population. It was not clear that this would more effective or convenient.
29. In respect of the proposal to move the area around the White Horse from Bratton to Westbury, the Committee could see no justification under the criteria for such a change. Whilst the monument was commonly referred to by many as the Westbury White Horse this did not require inclusion within the actual boundaries of the town. There was no electorate in the proposed area, and an Electoral Division change would be necessary if the request were approved, and it was not considered it would improve the identity, interests or governance of the area.
30. The Committee carefully considered the arguments and counter arguments relating to transferring a large area of Heywood parish to Westbury, including the industrial estate, The Ham, and various other land running east to west and including the entirety of the old cement works, as requested by the Town Council.
31. The key issue and debate amongst the competing interests related to the settlement at The Ham. This is a relatively dense estate accessed from the Hawkeridge Road, north of

the railway line and south of the industrial estate. The part of the area within Heywood contains approximately 253 electors, out of a total of 654 for the parish of Heywood as a whole, and serves as the Storridge ward of the parish council.

32. Whilst arguing for a broader transfer of land across Heywood, the Town Council and supporters' argument was that the character of the community at The Ham was most aligned with that of the town, being urban in character and interests. Although it was not the case that a majority of Heywood's population is included in the area as had been suggested, it was the case that a significant proportion was included in that estate.
33. Heywood Parish Council had raised concerns about the transfer of Storridge ward leaving them with only 4 councillors, which would be unviable. However, the legal minimum number of councillors for a parish is 5 councillors, so this was not a consideration as were the area to be transferred the area remaining would have its councillor numbers increased. It was suggested the parish council might become unviable if the area were transferred, but it should be noted that there are multiple parish councils in Wiltshire which serve a smaller electorate than that of Heywood, even if the Storridge ward were removed. The Parish Council had also raised the parish being a Neighbourhood Area, though as has been noted the existence of such an area would not in itself argue definitively against any proposal that parish boundaries should under the criteria be amended.
34. Comments had been received that at present the border between the two parishes divided a single community at The Ham. It was suggested there was no clear dividing line between the areas, and they should be included together in any electoral arrangement as it was a single community. The Committee noted this could be achieved either to include it within Westbury or Heywood.
35. Historically, the Westbury North Division of Wiltshire Council from 2009-2021 had included the Storridge Ward of Heywood Parish Council. However, on recommendation of Wiltshire Council to unify the parish within a single division, the LG BCE had introduced amended Division boundaries which placed the entirety of Heywood Parish into the Ethandune Division from 2021 onwards. There had therefore recently been a consideration of the appropriateness of retaining at least the present community of The Ham in Heywood in an electoral arrangement with Westbury, which had concluded not to do so.
36. It was suggested by Heywood Parish Council that to expand the town of Westbury northwards as proposed would change the nature of the Electoral Division of Ethandune in terms of demand for housing. However, housing allocation sites and any development would take place, or not, irrespective of administrative boundaries of parishes or divisions. Furthermore, the Committee could only take into account projected electorate from five years from the start of the review. The Ethandune Division already included the semi-urban or urban community at The Ham, and were that area unified in one parish, and Division, the character of the parish and Division would in any case be impacted.
37. The Committee reviewed the comments regarding alignment, and current lack thereof, to

the settlement boundary of Westbury and the area within its governance boundary. It was the case that the settlement boundary for Westbury as used by Wiltshire Council for spatial information purposes included the entire built up area of The Ham and also the West Wilts Industrial Estate. According to the Council's website settlement boundaries can be defined as 'the dividing line between areas of built urban development, and non-urban or rural development'.

38. However, the Committee also noted that settlement boundaries did not in most instances align precisely to town or parish boundaries. For more rural areas they might encompass the core settlement of a parish, with the vast majority of land not included, since this was not part of any 'settlement', without suggestion the non-settlement parts were not integral to the identity of the parish as a whole. For more urban areas, a developed area might cross the boundaries of multiple parishes within the same settlement boundary, yet they could still retain their own identity. For example, the entire built up area of the parish of Staverton formed part of the settlement boundary of Trowbridge, as did a significant element of the parish of Hilperton, yet each currently retained their own identities as separate parishes. Even where this was not the case, as by definition the settlement boundary was only concerned with built up development for most parishes, including Westbury, this meant that there were hinterland elements not included, much of which might never be developed as part of the settlement proper, without a suggestion that those areas should be transferred to more rural parishes. In many areas settlement boundaries were not contiguous and could not in any case be unified under a town's governance without at least some non-settlement element being included.
39. Whilst it was therefore a factor to be considered in determining the character and identity of an area, a settlement boundary would not in itself mean an area's identity and interests were best reflected as being part of that larger urban area. The statutory guidance, in relation to parish warding, suggested for example that warding may be appropriate where a parish encompasses, among other possibilities, some urban overspill into the parish. In Heywood's case The Ham area currently formed a ward as Storridge ward. The guidance even envisaged a situation where a discrete housing estate could form its own parish rather than being a part of a town within which the estate lay.
40. Each case would need to be considered on its own merits, and in many instances it might be felt that an area of clear urban overspill appropriately should be transferred within the main urban settlement, but in others a distinct character may exist which would not justify this.

Committee Draft Recommendation Proposal

41. The Committee acknowledged the arguments and evidence on both sides relating to the boundary between Heywood and Westbury not being as effective or reflective of local communities as it could be. It accepted that the boundary appeared to divide a single community, and the Committee was persuaded that this situation should be resolved.
42. On balance, the Committee agreed with the proposal of Heywood Parish Council. Whilst

speculations on future development beyond the 5 year period and financial effects were not relevant or considered, the Committee agreed that the parish of Heywood had for a lengthy period been made up of a mixture of rural and semi-urban communities. It appeared that the parish council was viable and effective, and the larger portion of The Ham community was currently already within Heywood.

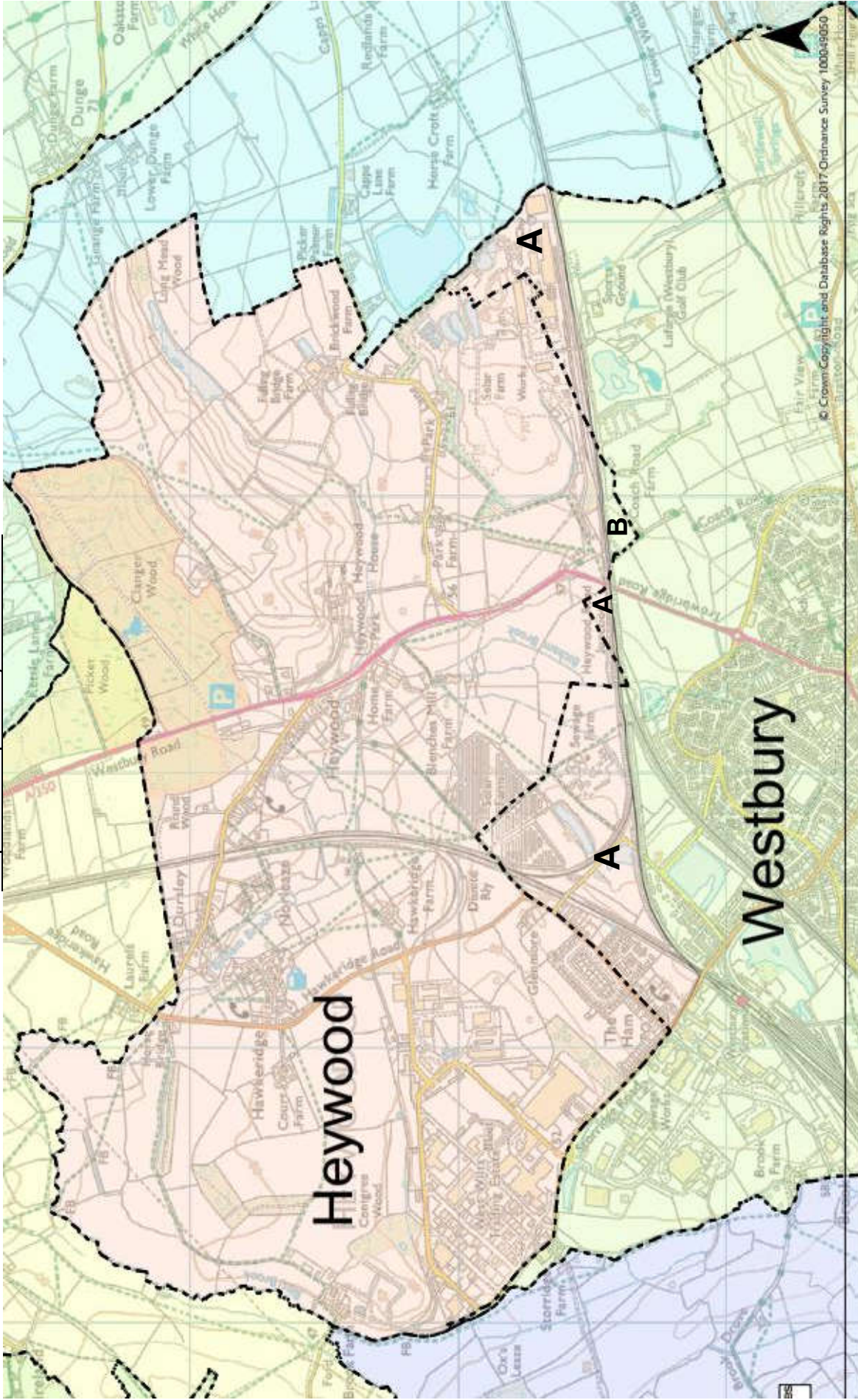
43. Accepting that in areas of increasing urbanisation it could be difficult to establish dividing lines between parishes, the Committee agreed that use of the railway line as suggested would provide a clear delineation in future between the two parishes. This would mean an increase in the proportion of the parish which was comprised of semi-urban character, but this was an established part of the parish and community as it already existed, so this would not be a fundamental change to its overall character, whereas in some other areas new housing developments formed distinct and new intrusions into the nature of the community. As such, it was not necessary or appropriate to transfer the area currently within Heywood into the town of Westbury, a change which would require more significant adjustments to parish level warding and affect governance arrangements.
44. Although the area to be transferred from Westbury could conceivably be warded, as it has sufficient electorate and sits in another Electoral Division, in the interests of more effective and convenient governance, the Committee proposed that the LGBCE be requested to amend the unitary Division boundary to align to the new parish boundary. Noting an earlier request from the Parish Council to the LGBCE, it was proposed that the parish be unwarded.
45. Having considered the evidence, statutory criteria, guidance, and other relevant information, the Committee therefore proposed the following:

Recommendation 1

- 1.1 That the areas marked as A in the map below be transferred from Westbury Town to the parish of Heywood.**
- 1.2 That the area marked as B in the map below be transferred from Heywood to Westbury Town, as part of the Westbury East Ward.**
- 1.3 That the parish of Heywood be unwarded, with seven councillors.**
- 1.4 To request that the LGBCE amend the Westbury North, Westbury East, and Ethandune Electoral Divisions to be conterminous with the proposed revised parish boundaries of Westbury and Heywood.**

Reasons: Paragraphs 54, 58, 74, 80, 81, 83 of the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews

Proposed Map of Heywood Parish



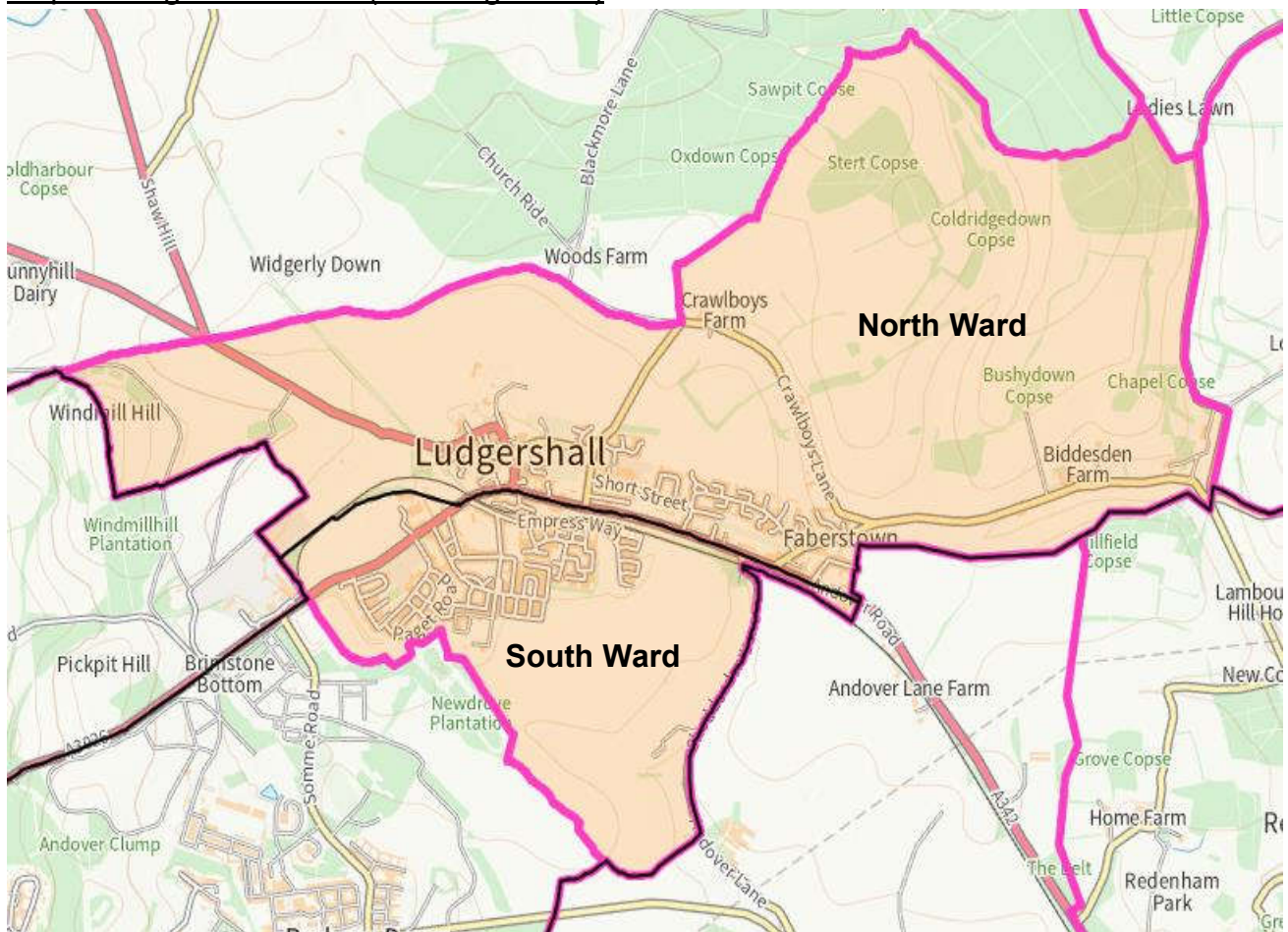
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Dotted line equals existing parish boundary. Shaded areas marked to be moved.

Ludgershall and Tidworth

Background

46. Ludgershall is a small town on the eastern border of Wiltshire. It is bordered by Tidworth to the West, Collingbourne Ducis to the North, and Chute and Chute Forest to the East. In August 2022 the town was estimated to contain approximately 3817 electors. The town is served by Ludgershall Town Council, which contains up to fifteen councillors. There are two wards, North and South, with eight and seven councillors respectively. The town is included within the Ludgershall North and Rural Electoral Division, and the Tidworth East and Ludgershall South Division. Together with the Tidworth North and West Division these make up Tidworth Area Board.

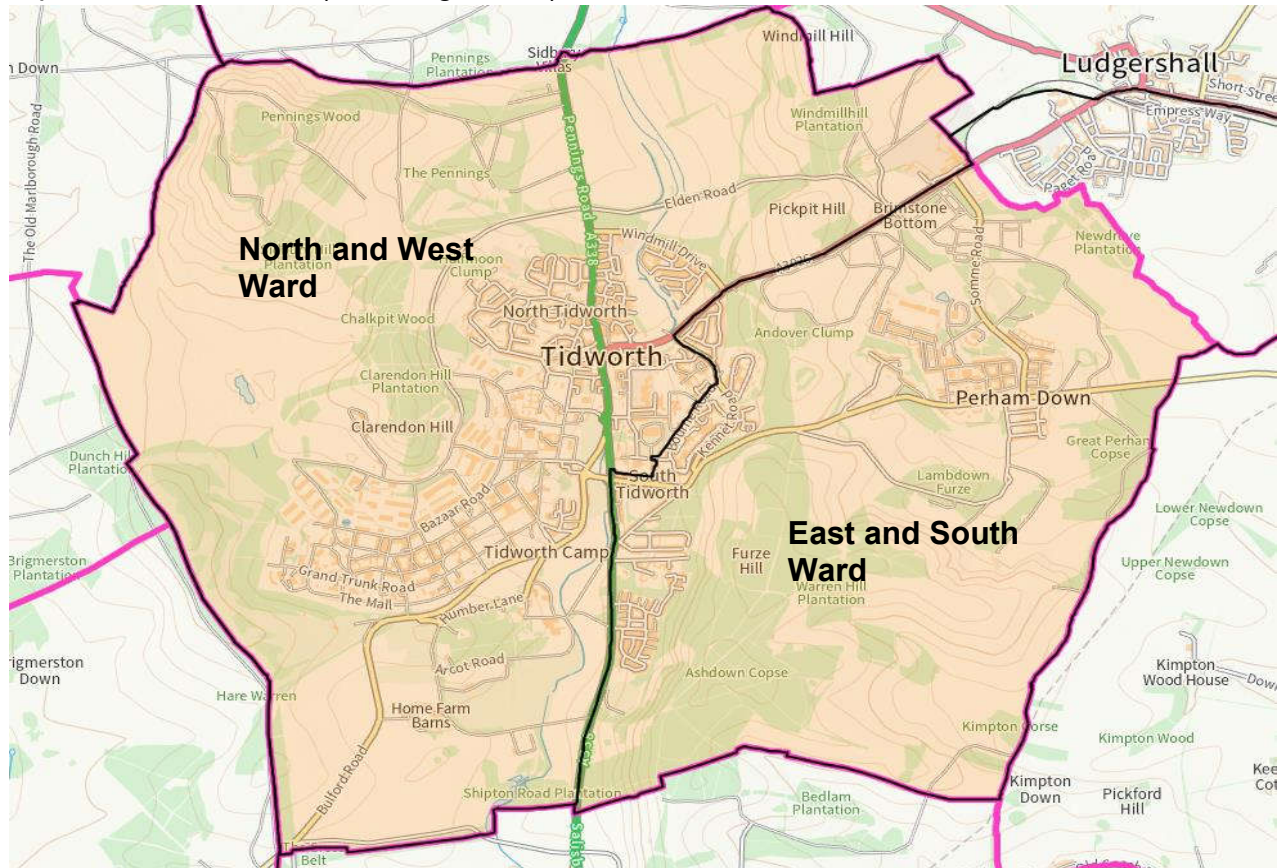
Map of Ludgershall Town (including wards)



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

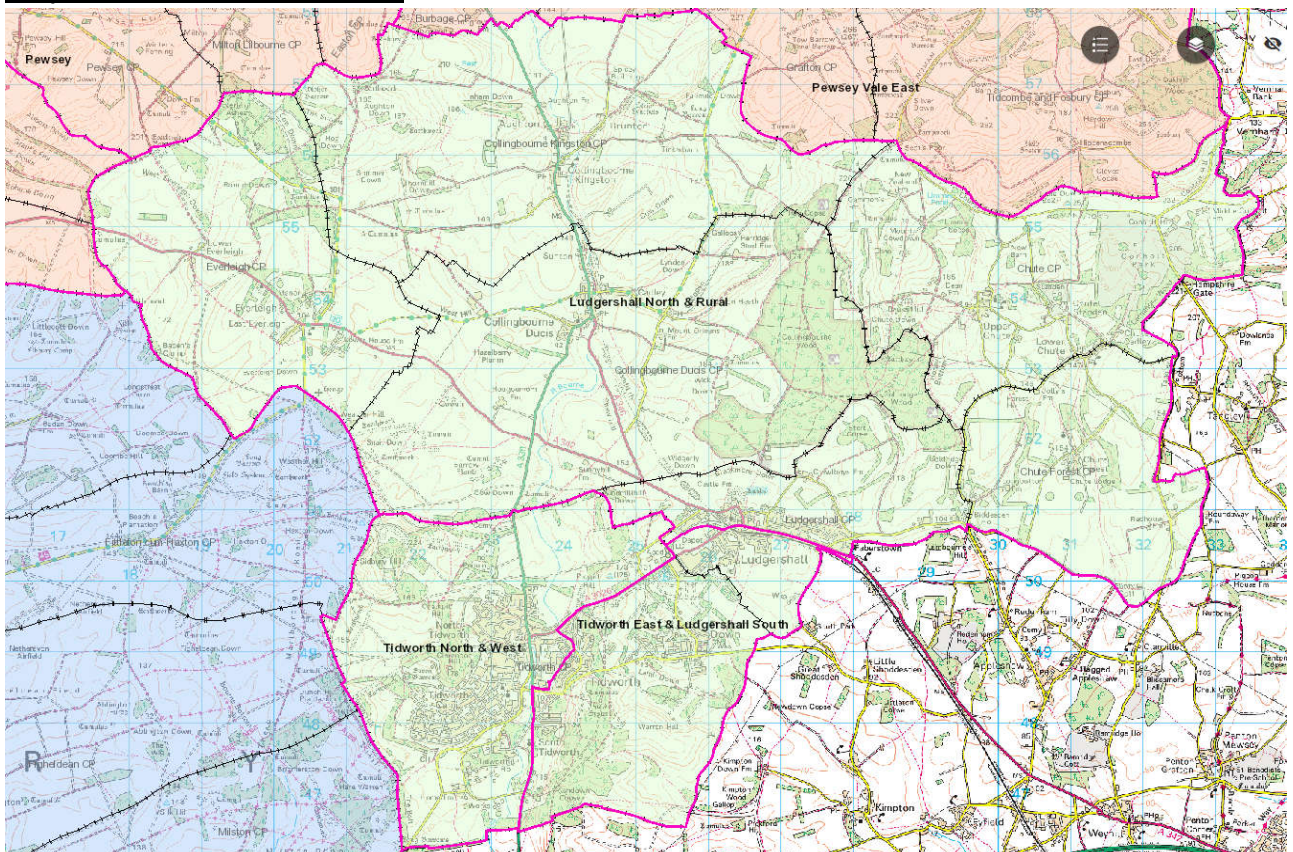
47. Tidworth is a small town on the eastern border of Wiltshire. It is bordered by Fittleton cum Haxton, Figheldean and Milston to the West, Collingbourne Ducis to the North, and Ludgershall to the East. In August 2022 the town was estimated to contain approximately 6065 electors. The town is served by Tidworth Town Council, which contains up to nineteen councillors. There are two wards, North & West, and East & South, with thirteen and six councillors respectively. The town is included within the Tidworth East and Ludgershall South Division, and the Tidworth North and West Division. Together with the Ludgershall North and Rural Division these make up Tidworth Area Board. There has been significant development in the parishes and other nearby areas due to the presence of the military camps in the region, with further expansion in Ludgershall projected.

Map of Tidworth Town (including wards)



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

Map of Tidworth Area Board



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Initial Proposals and Pre-consultation information gathering

48. Ludgershall Town Council proposed that the Perham Down area, currently within Tidworth, be transferred to Ludgershall Town. They stated this was because Perham Down had been historically included within Ludgershall in a number of different ways, including the current Electoral Division arrangements, church parishes, inclusion of residents in Ludgershall events, and the basing there of the 26 Engineers Regiment, who they stated have Freedom of the town of Ludgershall.
49. Tidworth Town Council strongly objected to the proposal. They stated that there are few substantive historical ties between Perham Down, currently part of the East and South Ward of Tidworth, and Ludgershall. They argued that inclusion in the unitary Electoral Division was simply a result of Tidworth being too large to be contained within a single Division, and not a reflection of community ties. They said the local parish church was in fact based in Tidworth, and that several army regiments are based in Perham Down. They stated that Perham Down itself was built as part of the Tidworth Garrison, and continues to see Tidworth as its local service centre.
50. Separate to the Ludgershall proposal, Tidworth Town Council requested that its number of councillors be reduced from nineteen to fifteen, due to difficulty filling such an amount over multiple elections.
51. An online survey was set up for November 2022 to allow comments on the submitted proposals. The councils in the area were asked to promote this, to assist the committee with any local views at this stage. Only one comment was received, from a resident of Ludgershall in agreement with the proposal of that Town Council.

Committee Discussion

52. The community of Perham Down was located between the main settlements of Ludgershall and Tidworth, within the current Tidworth boundary. The area as at August 2022 included over 500 electors, larger than many parishes in their own right, as a result of significant expansion in recent years. The proposal from Ludgershall Town Council would therefore represent a significant realignment of community boundaries in the area if it were enacted.
53. The two town councils seeking to represent Perham Down are similar in several ways, being small towns which have undergone significant recent expansion and enjoying close relationships with military communities in the area.
54. The key question for the Committee was what arrangement best reflected the identity and interests of Perham Down, and what governance arrangement would be most convenient and effective.
55. Although the area was in theory large enough to be a parish in its own right, no representations had suggested any desire or appetite for such an option. At this early stage of the process there had been limited public engagement for the proposal to transfer the area from Tidworth. Accordingly, the Committee was required to make a recommendation

on the basis of evidence and argument submitted in support and in objection to the proposal from the opposing town councils.

56. Ludgershall Town Council had set out a case as to why it believed administratively and in community terms it would be appropriate for Perham Down to be represented by itself. Tidworth Town Council provided counter arguments to the case of Ludgershall Town Council, arguing there was no reason to alter the representational arrangements in the area. Instead, it argued the only changes that were appropriate were internal arrangements regarding councillor numbers.

Committee Draft Recommendation Proposal

57. The Committee was not persuaded that sufficient evidence or arguments had been presented to justify under the criteria a transfer of the area at Perham Down. Each town council had submitted their opinion and evidence, and there was no compelling case made to suggest the identity and interests of Perham Down were aligned significantly more with Ludgershall as opposed to Tidworth. The community was also a physically distinct community rather than obvious urban overspill from either nearby settlement.

58. In governance terms the area was included within a ward of Tidworth Town Council, and if transferred would be within a ward of Ludgershall Town Council, making no more a convenient or effective an arrangement. In terms of Electoral Divisions it was noted that whichever parish the area was part of that arrangement would continue. The Ludgershall proposal did not include the non-Perham Down element of the Tidworth East and South Ward, and so even were Perham Down transferred, Tidworth as a result of its size would continue to be split between two divisions. There was therefore no appreciable improvement in effectiveness or convenience from the proposal.

59. In the absence of compelling justification, the Committee therefore declined to recommend a transfer of the area of Perham Down from Tidworth to Ludgershall.

60. The Committee accordingly considered the request of Tidworth Town Council to reduce its councillor numbers, and accepted the request as reasonable on the basis of the reasoning supplied. The area was required to be warded due to being divided by unitary Divisions, and the number proposed was not unviably low for the town.

61. Having considered the evidence, statutory criteria, guidance, and other relevant information, the Committee therefore proposed the following:

Recommendation 2

2.1 That Tidworth Town Council be reduced from nineteen councillors to fifteen.

2.2 That the North & West Ward contain ten councillors.

2.3 That the East and South ward contain five councillors.

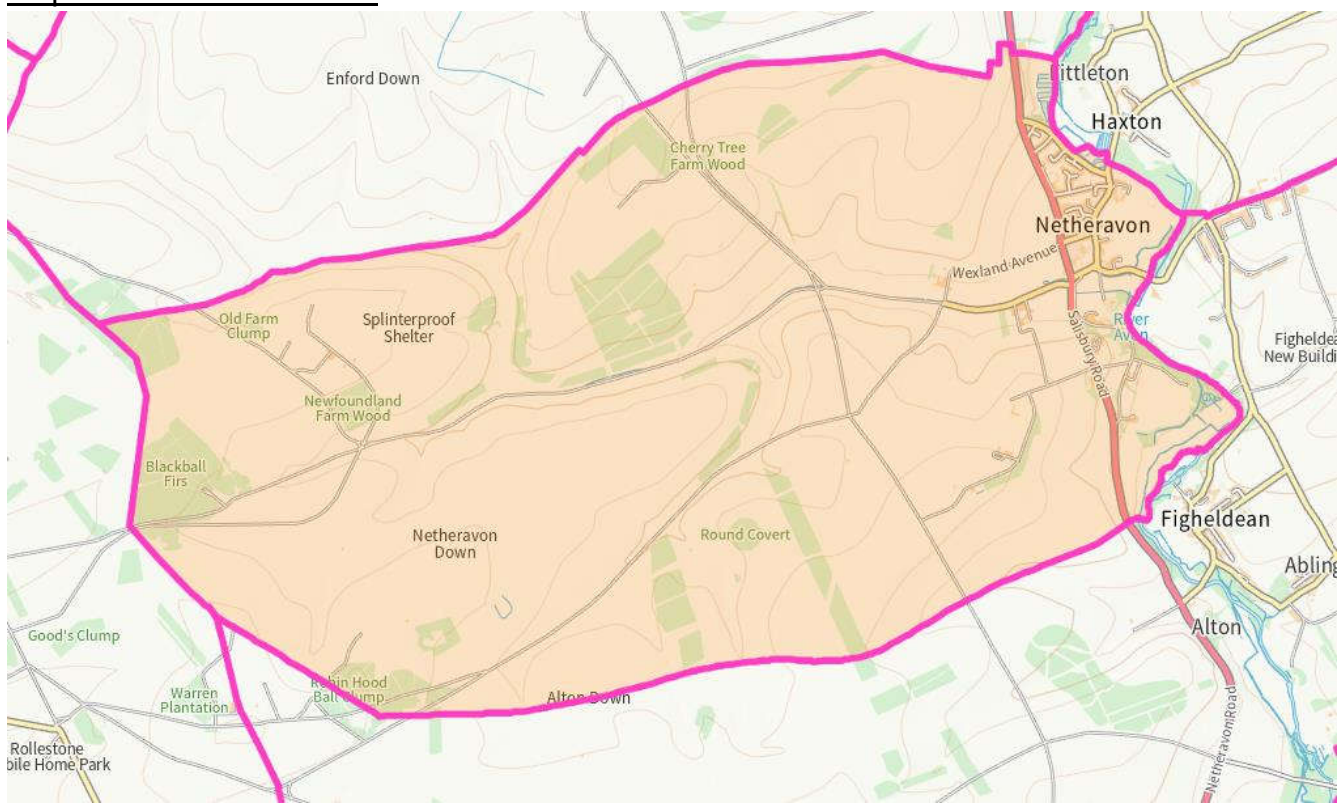
Reasons: Paragraphs 79 and 157 of the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews

Netheravon, Figheldean, Fittleton cum Haxton

Background

62. Netheravon is a moderately sized parish laying alongside the A345 running south from Upavon to Salisbury. It is bordered by Enford to the North, Fittleton cum Haxton to the East, Figheldean to the South and East, and Shrewton to the West. In August 2022 the parish was estimated to contain approximately 840 electors. It is served by a parish council of up to 10 councillors, and is unwarded. The parish is part of the Avon Valley Electoral Division of Wiltshire Council.
63. The Parish Council requested a review of its eastern boundary with Figheldean. Subsequently the Committee received proposals which also impacted upon Fittleton cum Haxton.

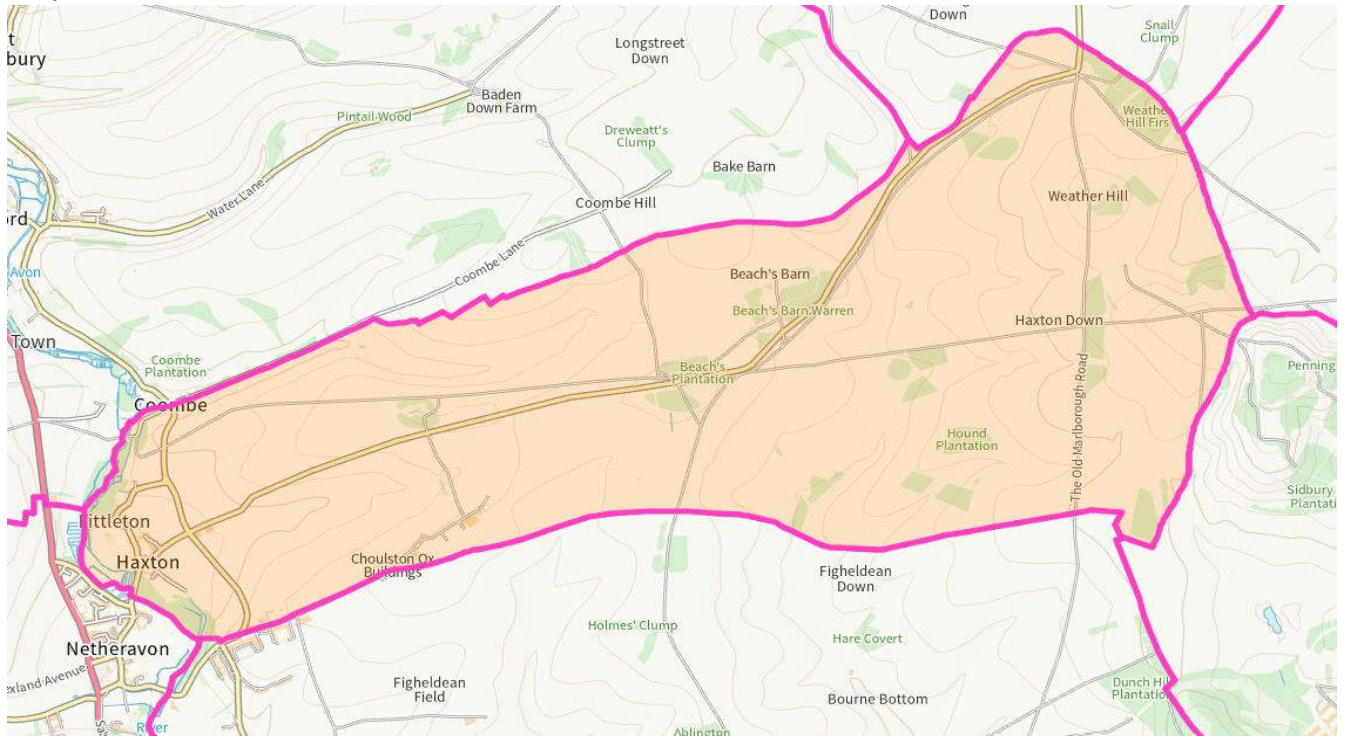
Map of Netheravon Parish



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

64. Fittleton cum Haxton is a small parish also laying alongside the A345 running south from Upavon to Salisbury. It is bordered by Enford and Everleigh to the North, Collingbourne Ducis and Tidworth to the East, Figheldean to the South and East, and Netheravon to the West. In August 2022 the parish was estimated to contain approximately 194 electors across its hamlets of Fittleton and Haxton. It is served by a parish council of up to 7 councillors, and is unwarded. The parish is part of the Avon Valley Electoral Division of Wiltshire Council.

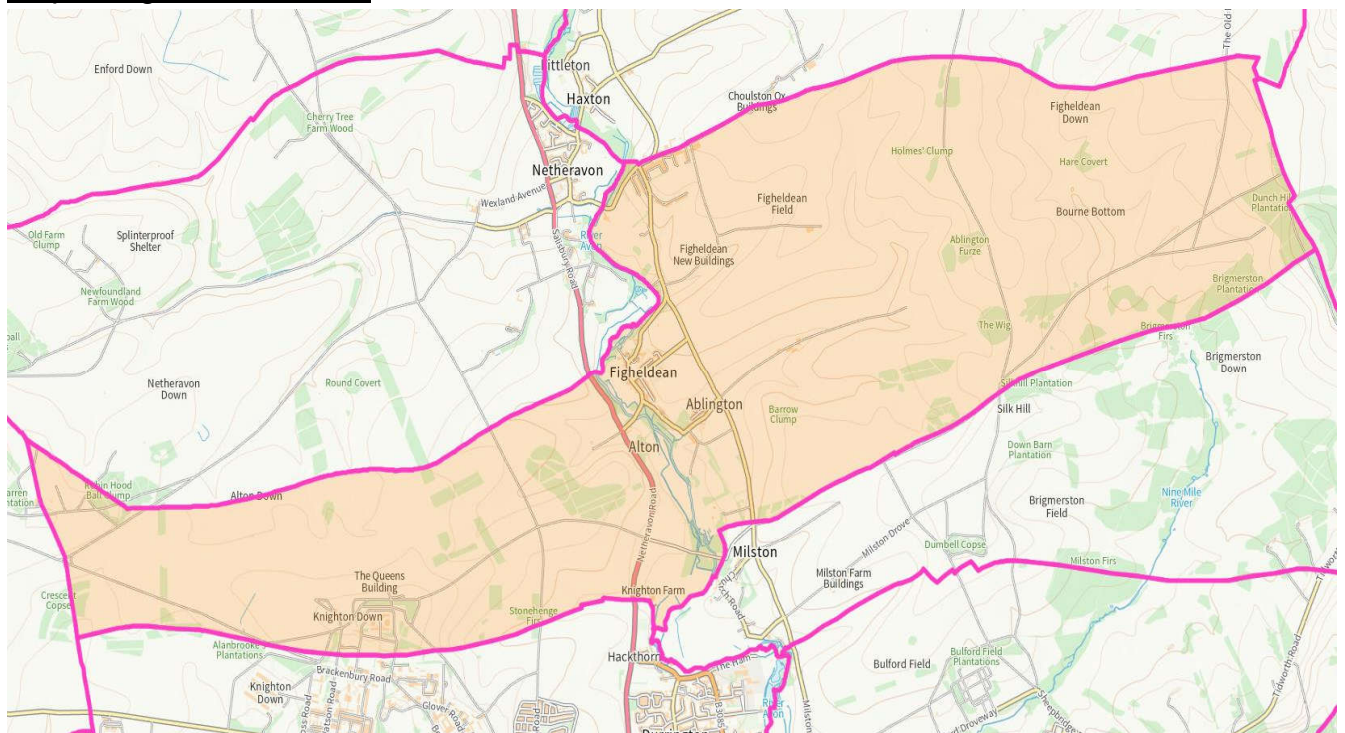
Map of Fittleton cum Haxton Parish



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/qb/>

65. Figheledean is a small parish also laying alongside the A345 running south from Upavon to Salisbury. It is bordered by Netheravon and Fittleton cum Haxton to the North, Tidworth to the East, Milston and Durrington to the South, and Shrewton to the West. In August 2022 the parish was estimated to contain approximately 430 electors. It is served by a parish council of up to 7 councillors, and is unwarded. The parish is part of the Avon Valley Electoral Division of Wiltshire Council.

Map of Figheledean Parish



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/qb/>

Initial Proposals and Pre-consultation information gathering

66. Netheravon Parish Council submitted a proposal to transfer the area of Netheravon Cemetery, the married service quarters properties, and associated Ministry of Defence grounds, currently in Figheldean, into Netheravon itself. They stated the current boundary was dictated by the flow of the river Avon, but that the actual spread of the community crossed this line. They argued the cemetery was owned and maintained by their parish council, that the married service quarters area were considered part of their village, with relationships such as schooling with Netheravon.
67. An online survey was set up for November 2022 to allow comments on the submitted proposals. The councils in the area were asked to promote this, to assist the committee with any local views at this stage. 8 comments were received, all from residents of Netheravon, with 6 in agreement and 2 expressing no opinion.
68. The Committee engaged with the potentially affected parish councils for their views, at which point the parish councils for Netheravon, Figheldean, and Fittleton cum Haxton, undertook further discussions and submitted an expanded proposal which had the agreement of all three councils.
69. This proposal extended the area to be transferred from Figheldean to Netheravon, and also included the entirety of Netheravon airfield and some other properties from Fittleton cum Haxton to Netheravon.

Committee Discussion

70. The Committee noted that the wider area involved parishes with communities straddling the river Avon and the road running to the south. In many cases the parishes were geographically large but with their main or sole settlements in close proximity by the river. In the case of Netheravon, there had been an expansion of properties which connected directly with the larger village, in part as a result of the military properties which had been constructed.
71. It was considered appropriate that the expansion of the community on the ground be recognised by adjusting the boundaries. The agreement of all three affected councils on a boundary which they considered reflected the identity and interests of the local communities was highly significant when determining a reasonable boundary.

Committee Draft Recommendation Proposal

72. The Committee therefore agreed to recommend the proposal submitted by Netheravon, Figheldean, and Fittleton cum Haxton Parish Councils. The proposal aligned to a clear area of the airfield, which was connected most with Netheravon. No changes were proposed to any other governance arrangements, and this was not considered necessary or appropriate under the criteria.
73. Having considered the evidence, statutory criteria, guidance, and other relevant information, the Committee therefore proposed the following:

Recommendation 3

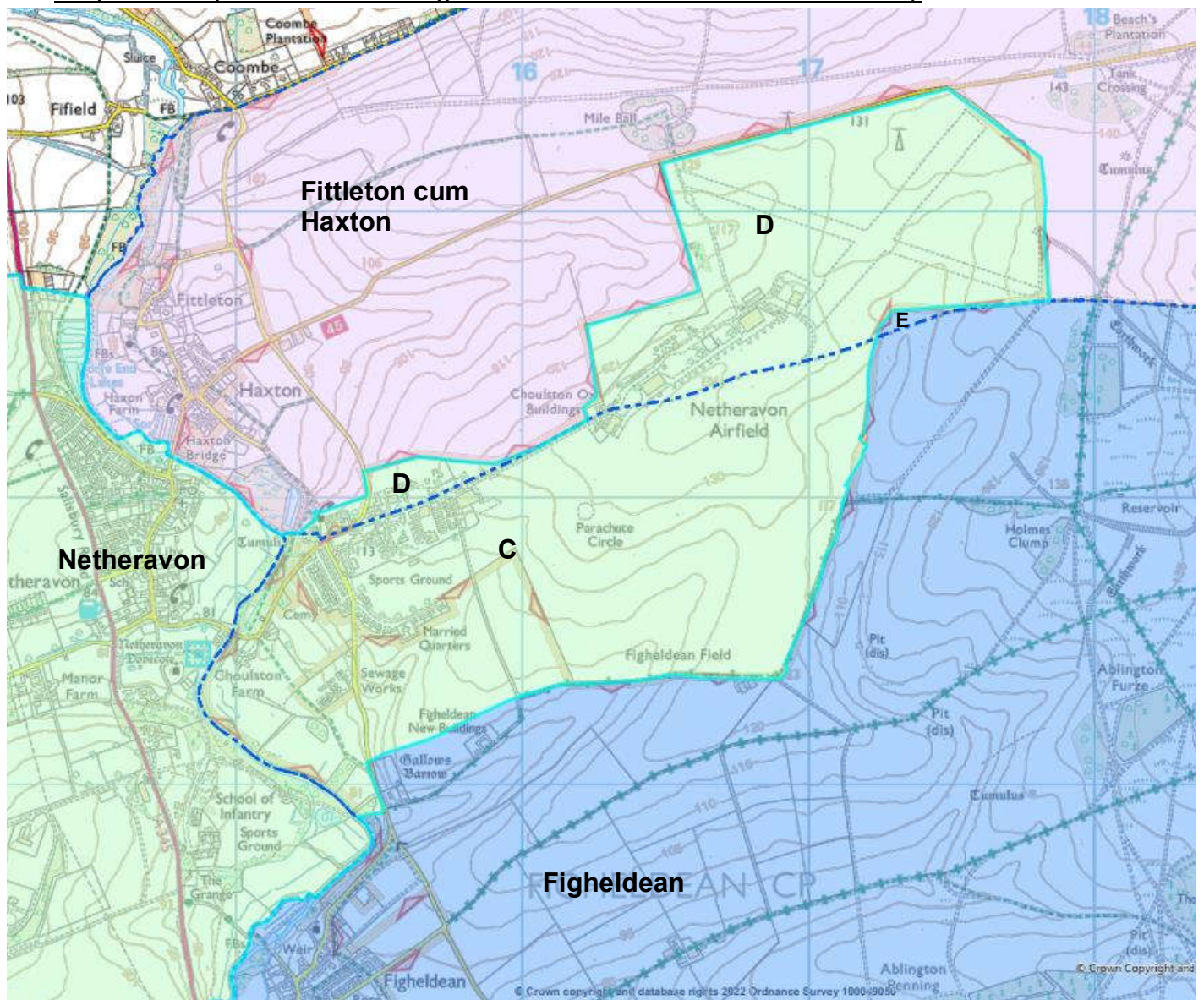
3.1 That the area shown as C in the map below be transferred from the parish of Figheidean to the parish of Netheravon.

3.2 That the areas shown as D in the map below be transferred from the parish of Fittleton cum Haxton to the parish of Netheravon.

3.3 That the area shown as E in the map below be transferred from the parish of Fittleton cum Haxton to the parish of Figheidean.

Reasons: Paragraphs 80, 83,84 and 85 of the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews

Proposed Map of Netheravon/Figheidean/Fittleton cum Haxton boundary



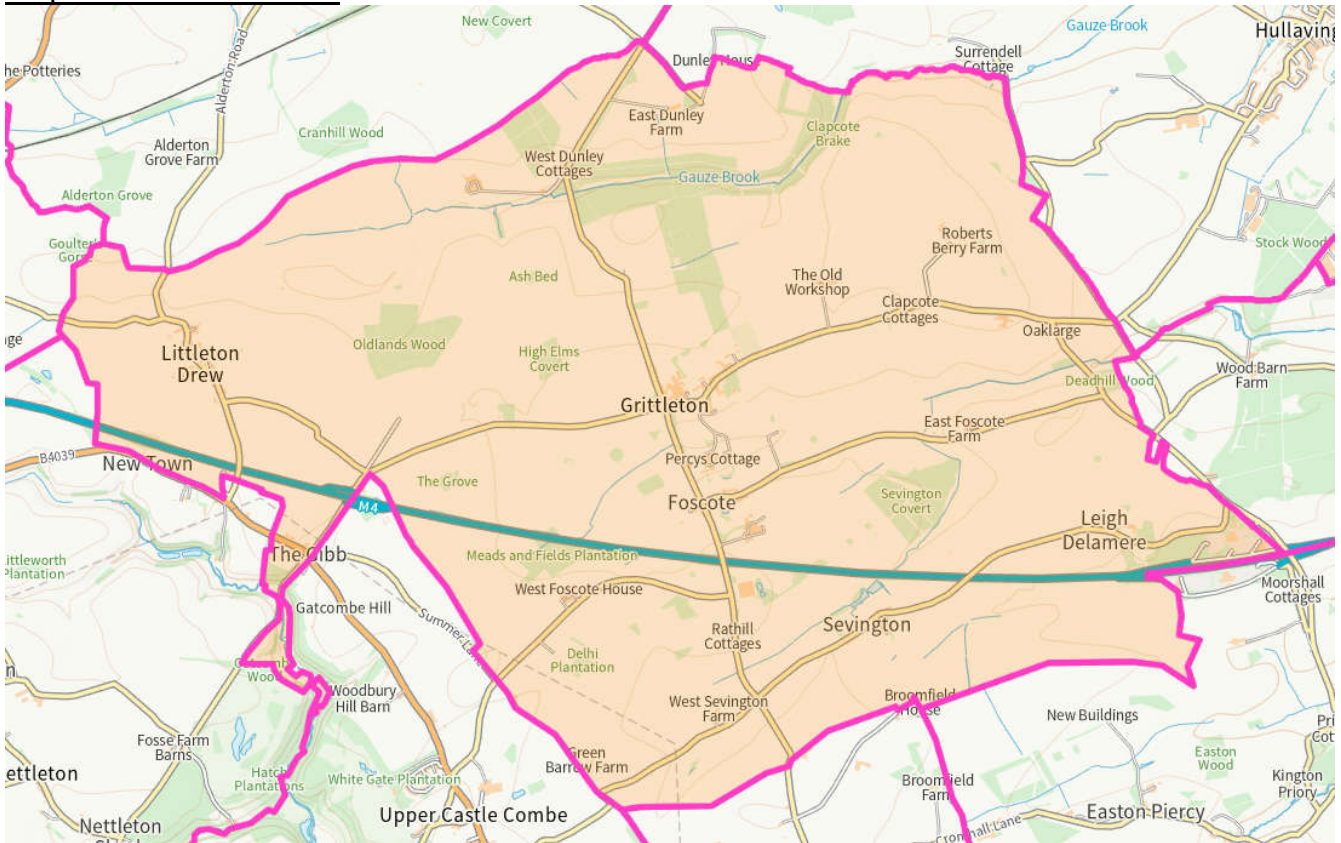
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Green shaded area to be transferred to Netheravon. Dotted line equals current parish boundary.

Grittleton, Castle Combe, and Nettleton

Background

74. Grittleton is a small parish including the communities of Grittleton, Littleton Drew, and Sevington, lying either side of the M4 on the Western border of Wiltshire. It is bordered by Luckington and Hullavington to the North, Stanton St Quintin and Kington St Michael to the East, Yatton Keynell, Castle Combe, and Nettleton to the South, and Acton Turville in South Gloucestershire to the West. In August 2022 the parish was estimated to contain approximately 439 electors. It is served by a parish council of up to 9 councillors, and is unwarded. The parish is part of the By Brook Electoral Division of Wiltshire Council.

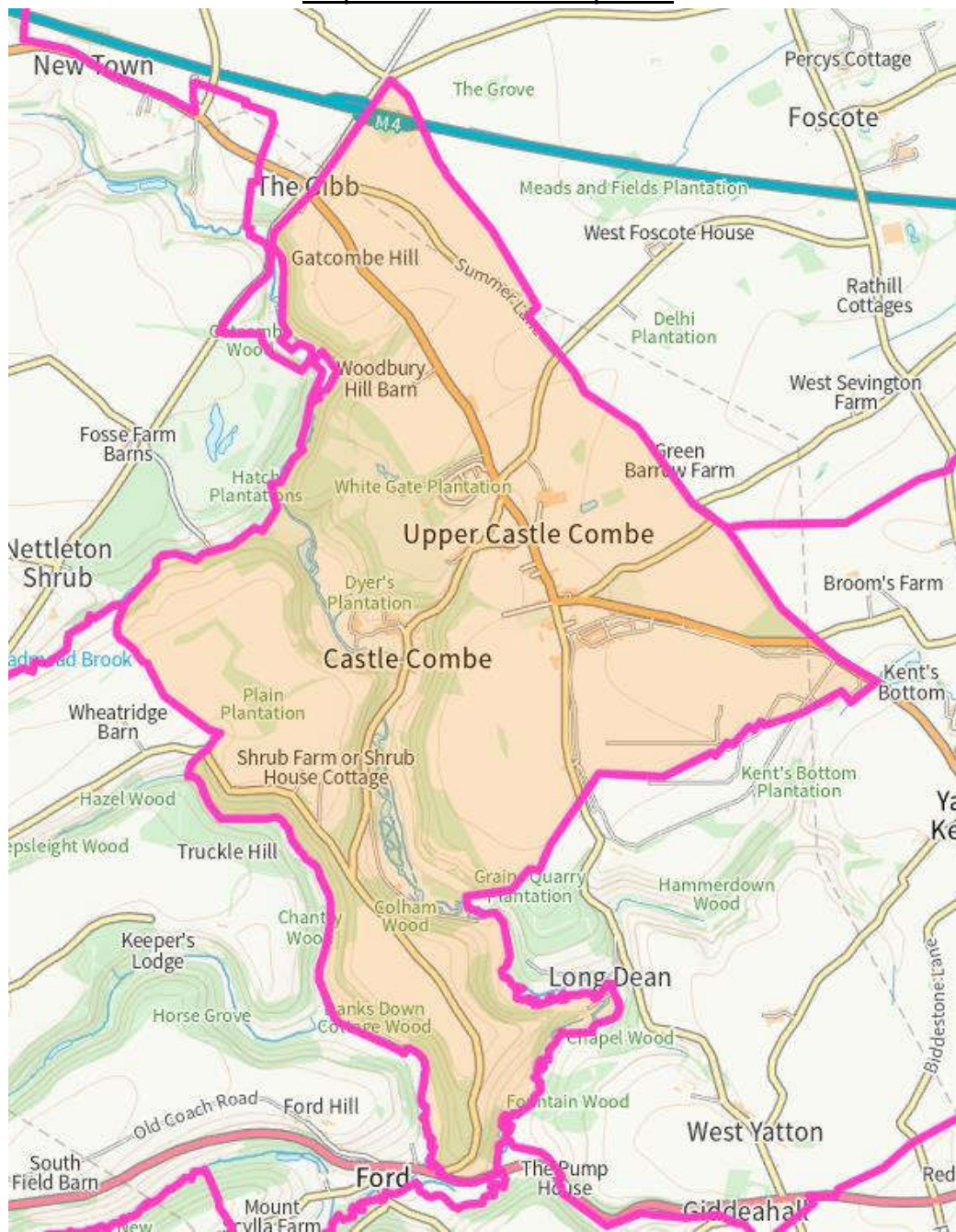
Map of Grittleton Parish



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

75. Grittleton Parish Council requested a review of its southern boundary in relation to the area known as The Gibb, where a community of properties was currently split between Grittleton, Nettleton, and Castle Combe. It was suggested this community should be unified within a single parish. No specific proposal or preference was submitted.
76. Castle Combe is a small parish bordered by Grittleton to the North, Yatton Keynell to the East, Biddestone & Slaughterford to the South, and North Wraxall and Nettleton to the West. In August 2022 the parish was estimated to contain approximately 268 electors. It is served by a parish council of up to 7 councillors, and is unwarded. The parish is also part of the By Brook Electoral Division of Wiltshire Council.

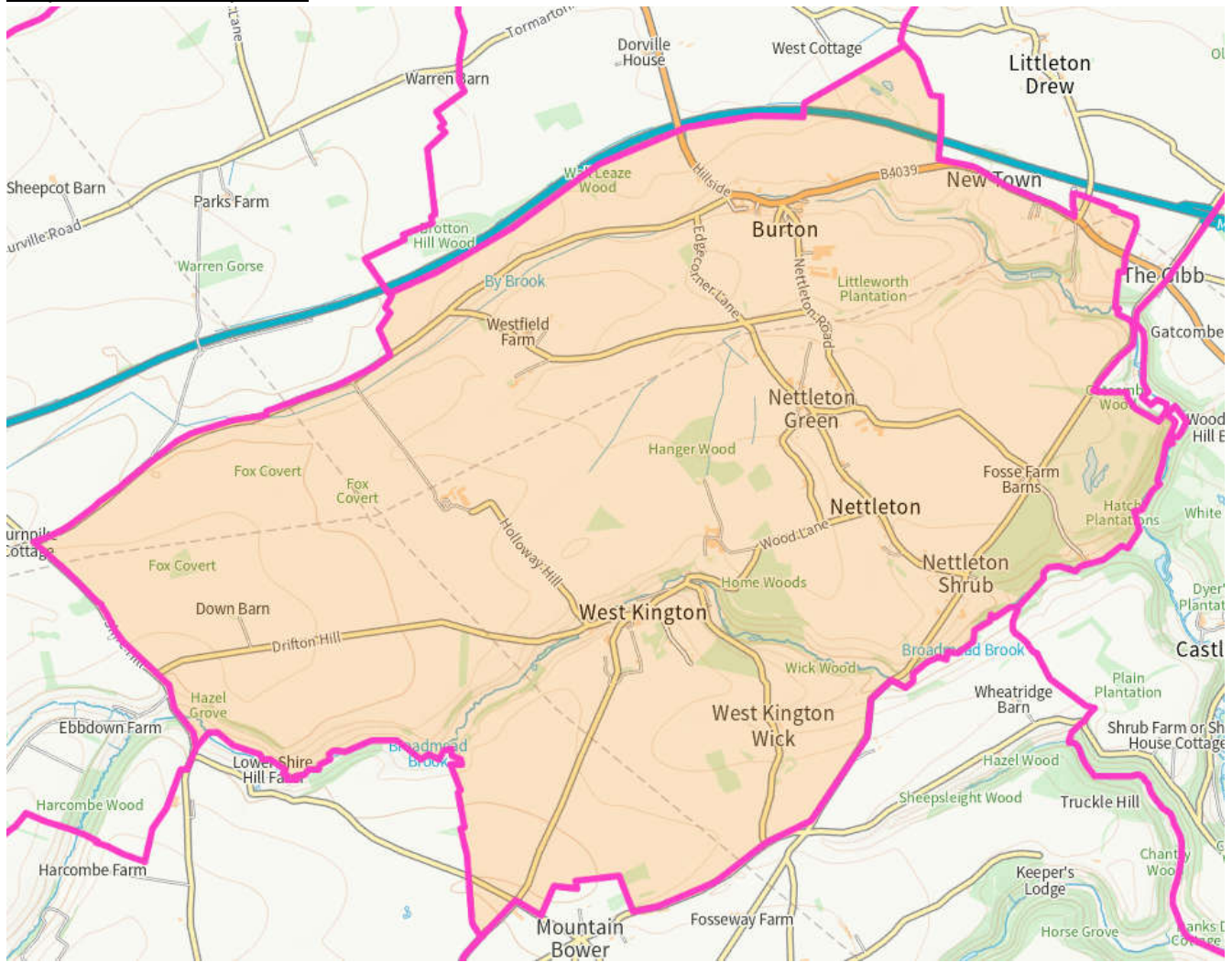
Map of Castle Combe parish



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/qb/>

77. Nettleton is a moderately sized parish on the eastern border of Wiltshire including the settlements of West Kington, Nettleton, and Burton. It is bordered by Grittleton and Acton Turville in South Gloucestershire to the North, Castle Combe to the East, North Wraxall and Marshfield in south Gloucestershire to the South, and Tomarton in South Gloucestershire to the West. In August 2022 the parish was estimated to contain approximately 570 electors. It is served by a parish council of up to 9 councillors, and is unwarded. The parish is also part of the By Brook Electoral Division of Wiltshire Council.

Map of Nettleton parish

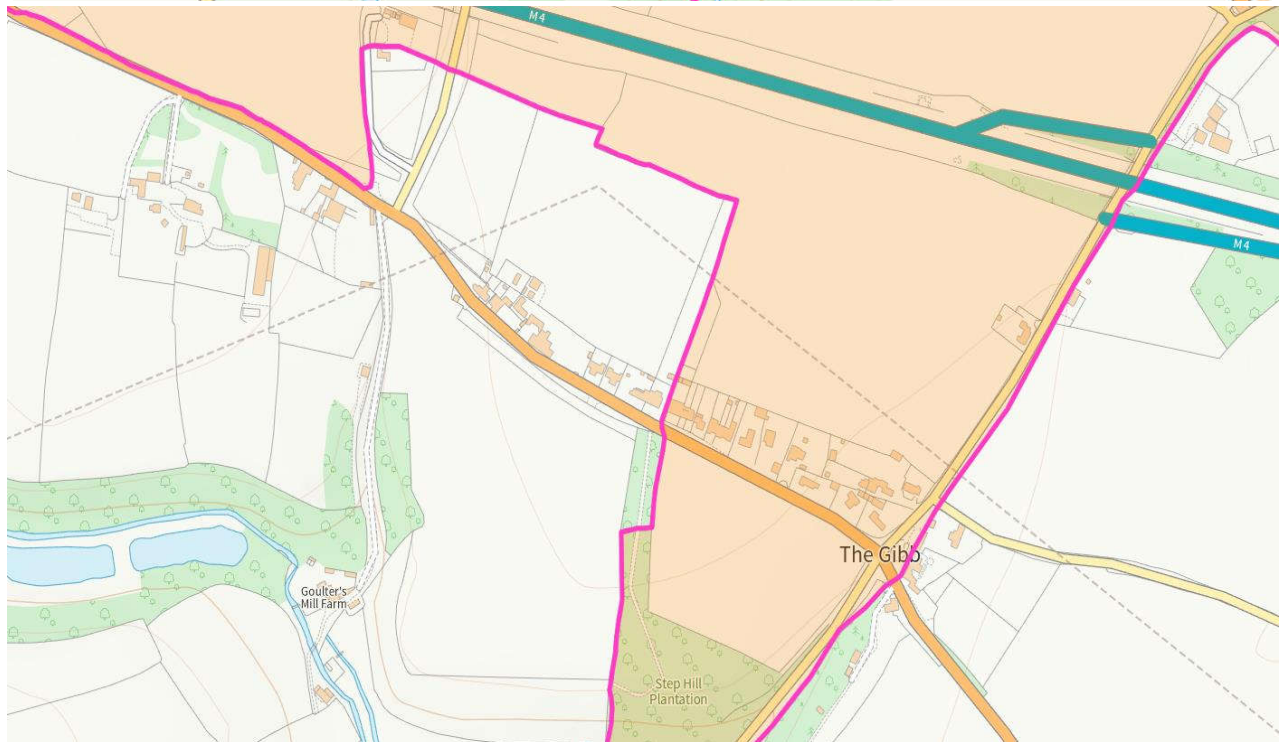
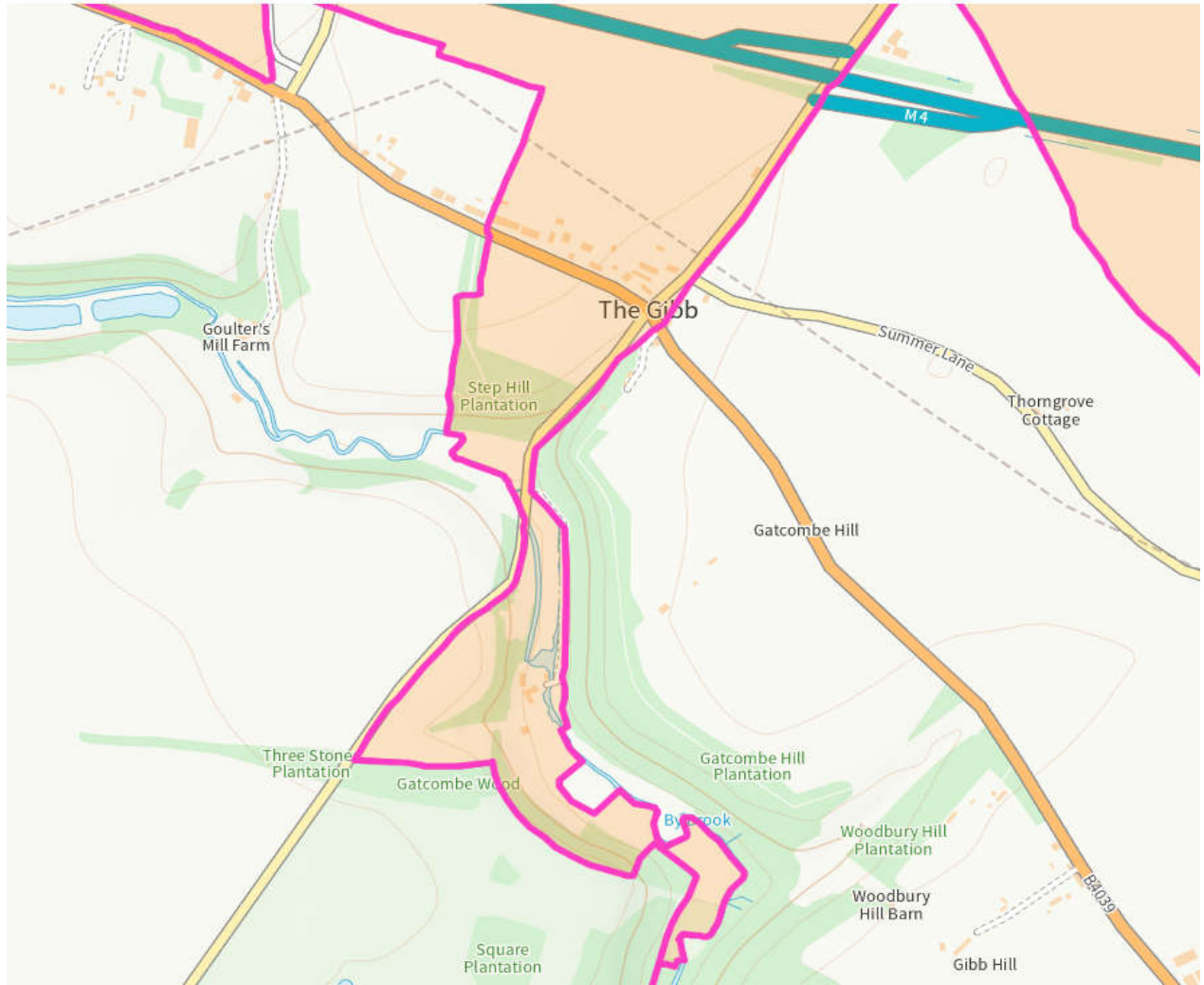


Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/qb/>

Initial Proposals and Pre-consultation information gathering

78. The current parish boundary of Grittleton includes a narrow spike of land running to the south broadly following the line of the By Brook watercourse and joining the Fosse Way road toward running from the north toward Nettleton Shrub.
79. The Gibb is a small settlement within the parish of Grittleton south of the M4 along the B4039 between Burton and Castle Combe. There is a crossroads where the B4039 meets the Fosse Way, and a road connecting north to the settlement of Littleton Drew, in Grittleton.
80. The largest residential part of the settlement lies within the parish of Grittleton, with a small number of properties including the Salutation Inn within Castle Combe, and a number of other properties running along the B4039 within Nettleton.

Maps of The Gibb



Maps from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

81. Grittleton Parish Council stated the general and historic view of the area would be that the residents would feel most aligned with Grittleton, though they stated no specific consultation had taken place. As part of the Committee's engagement with the local parish councils, it was suggested the strip of land running to the south including Gatcombe Mill could reasonably be transferred to Castle Combe, and Grittleton Parish Council agreed with that suggestion. They also agreed a very small section of Castle Combe containing only a few buildings north of the M4 would more appropriately align to the Grittleton communities.
82. Castle Combe Parish Council agreed that the area of The Gibb involving Nettleton and Grittleton should be unified under one of those councils. They considered the Salutation Inn, which was advertised as being part of Castle Combe, should remain within their parish. They proposed the narrow strip of land to the south of the settlement, alongside the Fosse Way, be transferred to their parish.
83. No response was received from Nettleton Parish Council to requests for engagement. A representation was received regarding historical ecclesiastical boundary changes involving benefices and parishes across North Wiltshire including this area, though the complexity of these did not directly relate to the simpler civil parish boundaries.
84. An online survey was set up for November 2022 to allow comments on the submitted proposals. The councils in the area were asked to promote this, to assist the committee with any local views at this stage. No comments were received.

Committee Discussion

85. The Committee was persuaded by the requests and representations from local councils that the current division of the community at The Gibb across several parishes should be addressed. It was felt that a simplification of the boundary would align to the criteria of better reflecting the identity and interests of that community, and be a more effective and convenient arrangement in governance terms.
86. The Committee noted there were a number of different options available, and whatever it ended up recommending it would be most interested in responses from residents of the area directly during consultation.
87. It was agreed that a small area to the south should be transferred to Castle Combe as suggested, noting the geographic proximity and the agreement of both impacted parish councils for this proposal. Likewise, it was agreed the small area of Castle Combe north of the M4 should be transferred to Grittleton given its separation from any settlement of Castle Combe.
88. In respect of the main area of The Gibb itself, this was some distance from the main settlements of Grittleton, Nettleton or Castle Combe parishes. The nearest significant settlement was that of Littleton Drew in Grittleton, and by road to Grittleton. Although the M4 might in isolation be seen as a natural boundary where only a few properties were involved, as suggested for a very small area of Castle Combe, there were direct connections across

it, so its construction after the designation of the parish boundaries had not negatively affected the community ties, and the parish already included significant areas of land south of the motorway, as well as outlying settlements such as Sevington and the main portion of The Gibb.

89. Therefore, when reviewing which area The Gibb naturally aligned with, the Committee considered the existing links with other communities, historic boundaries, and the geography of the region, as well as the spread of the houses and other properties in the area.

Committee Draft Recommendation Proposal

90. On balance it was considered that the larger part of the settlement lay within Grittleton, and connections to Littleton Drew and north along the Fosse Way were persuasive to arguing closer connection with that parish than either Castle Combe or Nettleton. It was determined that the road running north to Littleton Drew marked a sensible boundary with Nettleton, as the nature of properties and the geography of a natural incline toward the Gibb at that point marked a clear division between the areas, with the properties north of the road to be transferred from Nettleton.
91. In respect of the eastern boundary of the settlement, notwithstanding the representation of Castle Combe Parish Council the Committee felt that all the properties at the crossroad of the Fosse Way and B4039 were of a single character and identity. It did not appear there were reasons of community or governance which would justify why some properties at that confluence of roads would be in one parish and others in a different parish. The area was far removed from any settlements of Castle Combe itself, resulting in the Salutation Inn and other properties clearly aligning with The Gibb community.
92. It was not considered relevant in community terms where the Salutation Inn advertised its location as, especially as they could still advertise as being at or near Castle Combe, and their physical location would not be altered by an administrative reorganisation.
93. Accordingly, the Committee considered that a boundary running along Summer Lane, which already served as the boundary with Castle Combe for a part of its length, would make an appropriate dividing line between the parishes.
94. Having considered the evidence, statutory criteria, guidance, and other relevant information, the Committee therefore proposed the following:

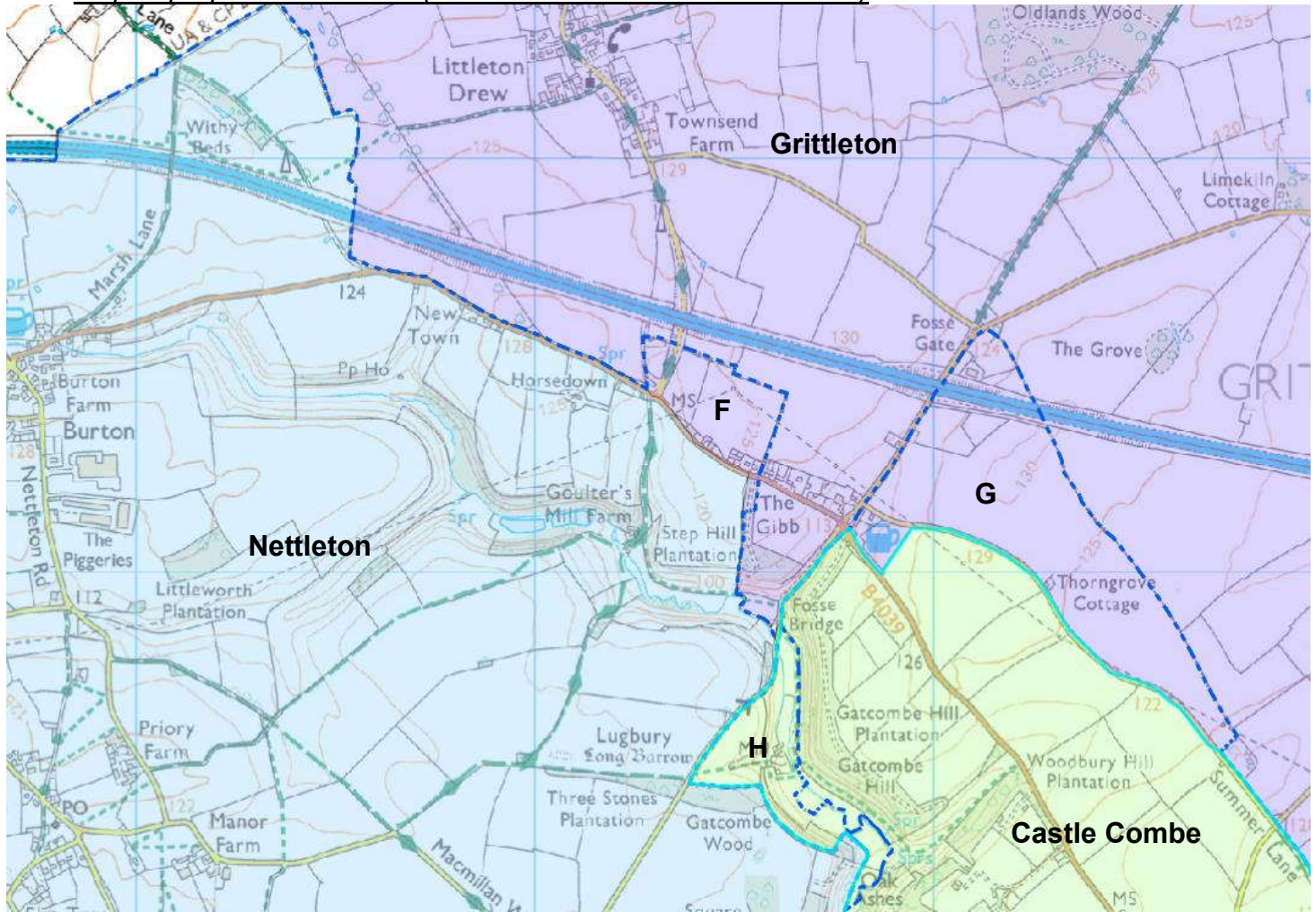
Recommendation 4

- 4.1 That the area shown as F in the map below be transferred from the parish of Nettleton to the parish of Grittleton.**
- 4.2 That the area shown as G in the map below be transferred from the parish of Castle Combe to the parish of Grittleton.**

4.3 That the area shown as H in the map below be transferred from the parish of Grittleton to the parish of Castle Combe.

Reasons: Paragraphs 80, 83, and 85 of the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews

Map of proposed The Gibb (Grittleton/Castle Combe/Nettleton)



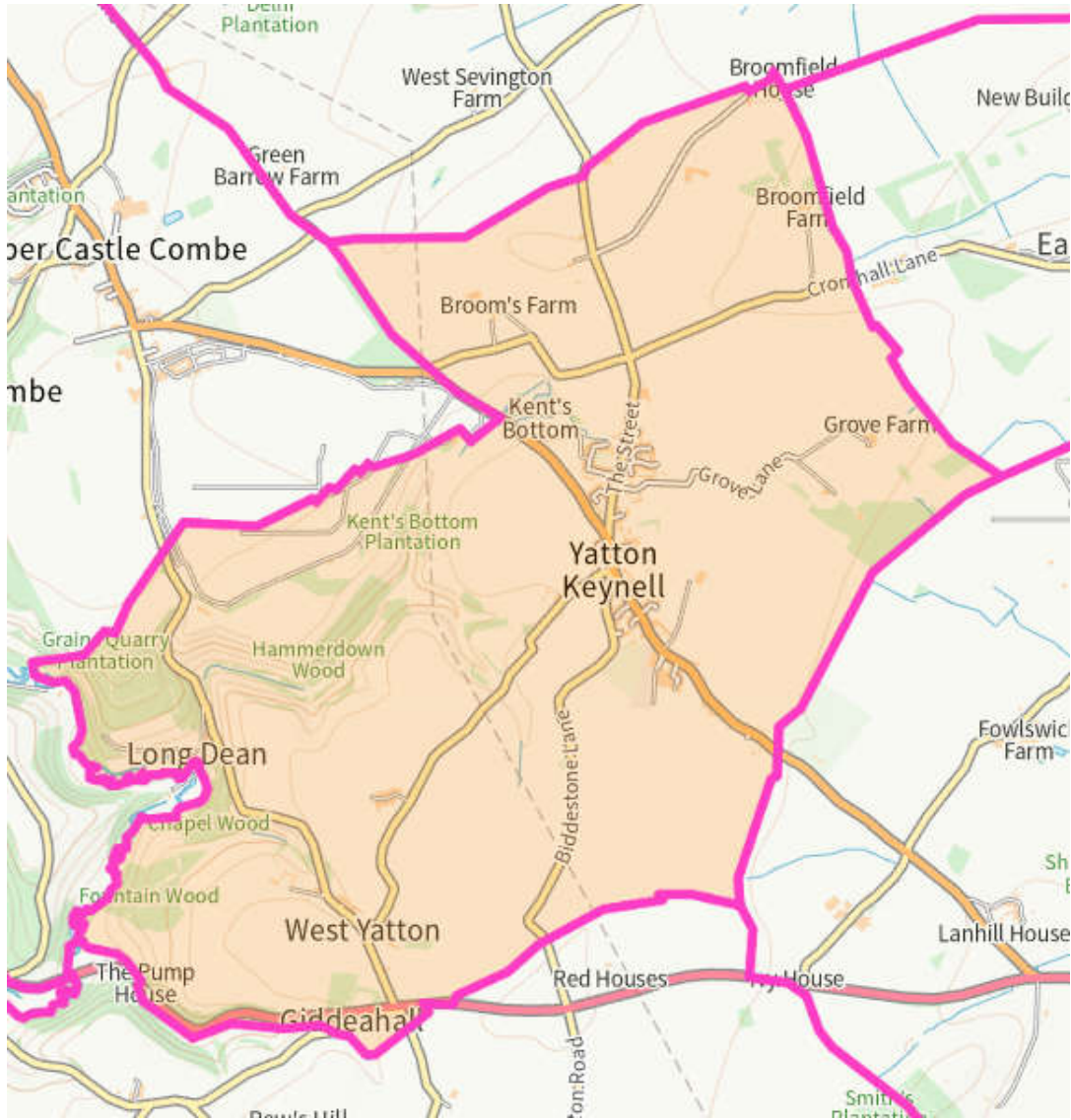
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Dotted line is existing parish boundary. Shaded areas showing new parish proposal.

Yatton Keynell and Biddestone & Slaughterford

Background

95. Yatton Keynell is a moderately sized parish near Chippenham. It is bordered by Grittleton to the North, Kington St Michael and Chippenham Without to the East, Biddestone & Slaughterford to the South, and Castle Combe to the West. In August 2022 the parish was estimated to contain approximately 645 electors. It is served by a parish council of up to 9 councillors, and is unwarded. The parish is part of the By Brook Electoral Division of Wiltshire Council.

Map of Yatton Keynell parish



Maps from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

96. Biddestone & Slaughterford is a small parish near Chippenham and Corsham. It is bordered by North Wraxall, Castle Combe, and Yatton Keynell to the North, Chippenham Without to the East, Corsham and Box to the South, and Colerne to the West. In August 2022 the parish was estimated to contain approximately 402 electors. It is served by a parish council of up to 9 councillors, and is unwarded. The parish is part of the By Brook Electoral Division of Wiltshire Council.

97. Yatton Keynell Parish Council had submitted a request to amend the boundary with Biddestone & Slaughtford, to use the main A420 road as the boundary for most of the length between the parishes, bringing some cottages north of the road into Yatton Keynell, whilst the area at Giddeahall moved into Biddestone & Slaughtford.
98. The Parish Council had also requested an area of Chippenham Without be moved into their parish. This request, which included an area with no electors but an area around a substation and gold academy, had also been made in 2019 and considered by the Committee in its 2019/2020 Community Governance Review. The Committee at that time did not consider there were sufficient grounds to support the proposal, and declined to make a recommendation to amend the governance arrangements as requested.

Initial Proposals and Pre-consultation information gathering

99. Both Yatton Keynell Parish Council and Biddestone & Slaughtford Parish Council supported the transfers between their parishes and using the A420 as a clear boundary, arguing that this was more reflective of the communities in the area.
100. Biddestone & Slaughtford Parish Council made a request that an area of the parish of Colerne be transferred, at the former paper mill site alongside the By Brook. They argued that the area was geographically much more aligned with Slaughtford than Colerne. They did not propose a precise line of which part should be transferred.
101. An online survey was set up for November 2022 to allow comments on the submitted proposals. The councils in the area were asked to promote this, to assist the committee with any local views at this stage.
102. In relation to the Yatton Keynell proposals, 30 comments were received. However, 13 expressed no opinion as they were commenting solely upon the Colerne option. 16 comments were in disagreement, however these were in relation to the proposal relating to Chippenham Without, not the A420 Giddeahall proposal.
103. In relation to the Biddestone & Slaughtford proposal for Colerne, 15 comments expressed no opinion as they were in relation to the Chippenham Without option, with 3 comments in agreement and 12 in disagreement. Comments in agreement considered the area naturally aligned more to the Slaughtford community. Comments in disagreement stated the Bybrook stream remained an appropriate boundary, that the area was well served by current arrangements and there was no benefit to a change.

Committee Discussion

104. Noting the agreement of the parish councils, the common use of main roads as natural and clear boundaries, and the small number of properties involved, the Committee was persuaded that the A420 would serve as a suitable boundary between Yatton Keynell and Biddestone & Slaughtford under the criteria. In particular they noted that the old road direct from Giddeahall no longer connected with West Yatton, with the crossing to via the A420 now further away, the nature of the settlement set back from the old road, and connections to the south.

105. However, given this left a few small, anomalous areas still lying on either side of the main road, the Committee considered that this should be the case all the way to the boundary with Chippenham Without and North Wraxall, in the interests of consistency. This would result in a very clear boundary for community and governance.
106. The mixed response to the proposal relating to Colerne was considered. On balance, the Committee did not feel sufficient evidence or reasoning had been provided to justify the proposal to move the former paper mill site from Colerne, and noted strong arguments had been made in objection to any need for change. It was noted that if the change were made, a request would need to be made to the LGBCE to amend the Electoral Divisions, as the parishes were in separate divisions of By Brook and Box & Colerne.
107. In respect of the proposal to move an area of Chippenham Without to Yatton Keynell, it was noted that if the change were made, a request would need to be made to the LGBCE to amend the Electoral Divisions, as the parishes were in separate divisions of By Brook and Kington.
108. At its meeting the Committee did not consider there had been justification provided under the statutory criteria which would support such a change. From provisional discussions with the Parish Council it had been noted they might withdraw their request due to the requirement of a Division change.
109. Following that meeting but before the beginning of the Draft Recommendations consultation Yatton Keynell Parish Council indicated they did in fact wish to proceed with their request relating to Chippenham Without.
110. Committee Members were updated as to the position of the Parish Council. However, this did not alter their view not to recommend a change as requested. No further reasoning, evidence or situation change had been proposed to justify a change from when it had previously been considered and rejected in the 2019/20 review. No residents would be impacted, there were negative administrative governance impacts in relation to the Division boundary, and they were not persuaded any reasons of community identity or interests existed which would justify recommending such a change. The strong and clear views of residents of the existing parish in opposition was also a considering factor.

Committee Draft Recommendation Proposal

111. The Committee therefore agreed to recommend a transfer between Biddestone & Slaughterford, and Yatton Keynell. No other changes to governance arrangements were considered necessary or appropriate.
112. Having considered the evidence, statutory criteria, guidance, and other relevant information, the Committee therefore proposed the following:

Recommendation 5

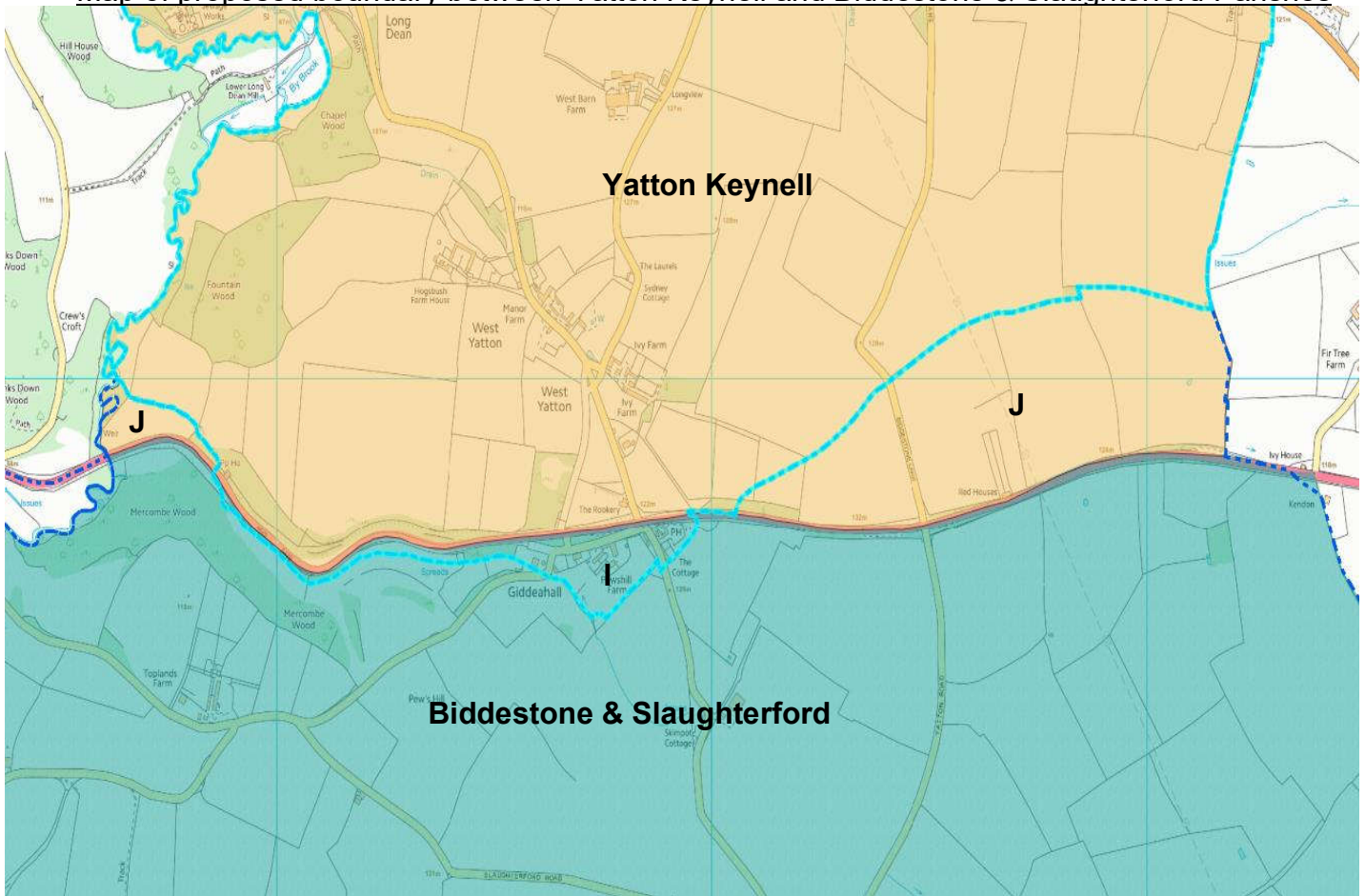
5.1 That the area shown as I in the map below be transferred from the parish of Yatton

Keynell to the parish of Biddestone & Slaughterford.

5.2 That the areas shown as J in the map below be transferred from the parish of Biddestone & Slaughterford to the parish of Yatton Keynell.

Reasons: Paragraphs 80, 83, and 85 of the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews

Map of proposed boundary between Yatton Keynell and Biddestone & Slaughterford Parishes



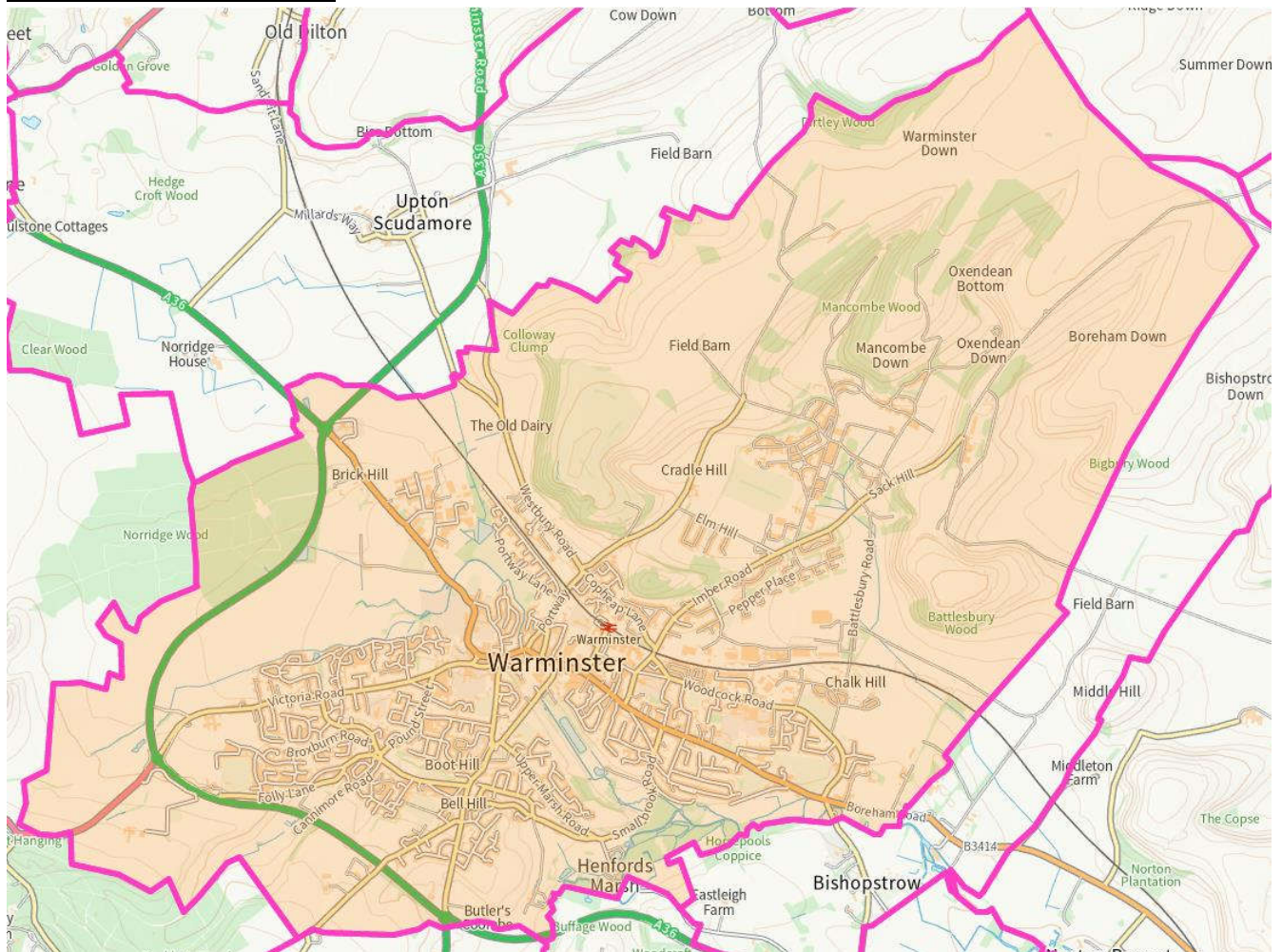
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Dotted line is existing parish boundary. Shaded areas showing new parish proposal.

Warminster

Background

113. Warminster is a medium sized town south of Westbury at the connection of the A350 and A36 roads close to the western boundary of Wiltshire and Frome. It is bordered by Upton Scudamore and Bratton to the North, Bishopstrow and Sutton Veny to the East, Longbridge Deverill to the South, and Corsley to the West. As of August 2022 it was estimated to contain approximately 13,852 electors. There is a Town Council of up to 13 councillors across four wards.

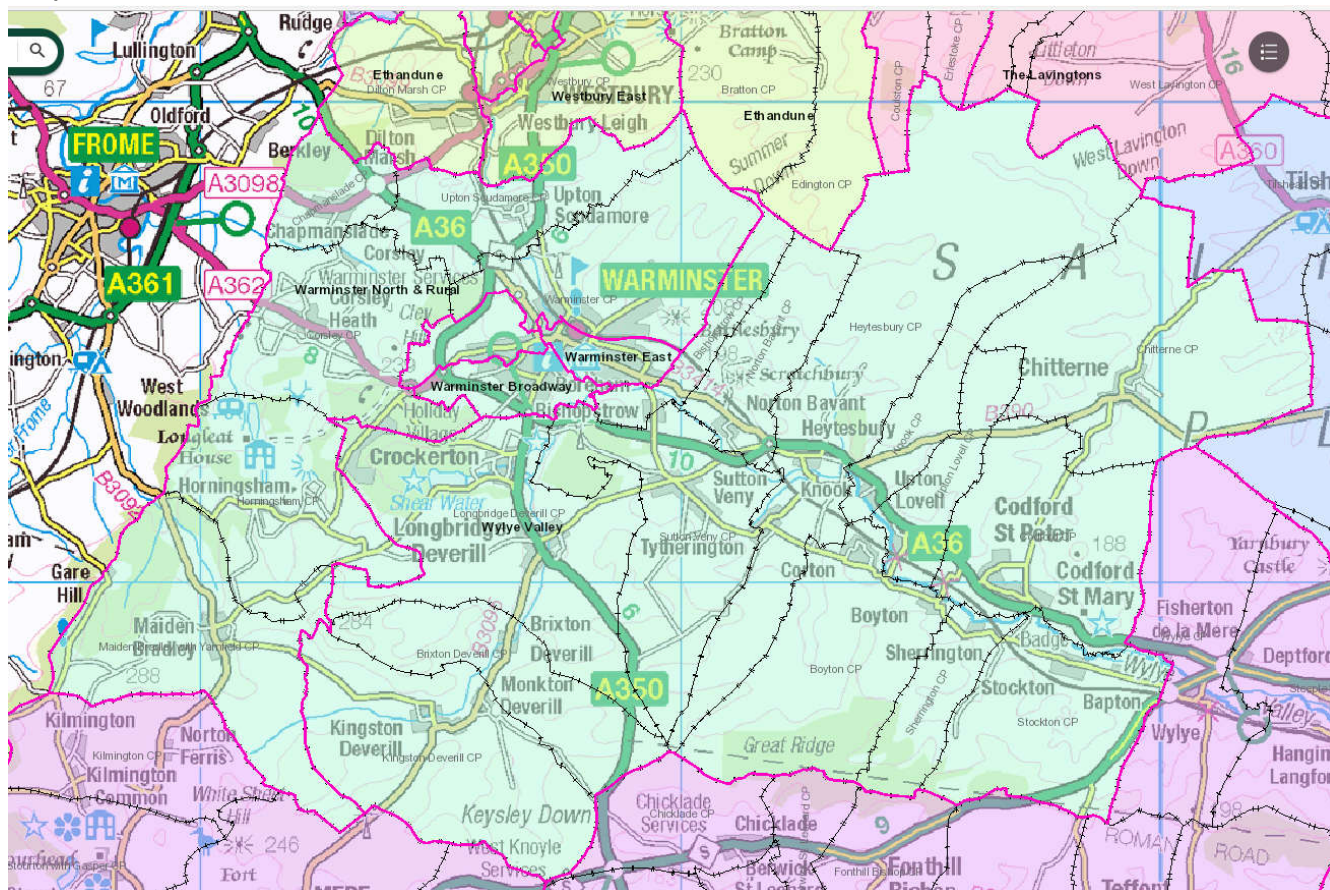
Map of Warminster town



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

114. Three of the wards are coterminous with Wiltshire Council Electoral Divisions of the same name, whilst a fourth town ward is included with a number of rural parishes as part of the Warminster North & Rural Division. Together with the Wylve Valley Division these make up the Warminster Area Board on Wiltshire Council.

Map of Warminster Area Board



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Initial Proposals and Pre-consultation information gathering

115. Warminster Town Council requested an increase in the overall number of town councillors from 13 to 14. These would be distributed 2,4,4,4 amongst the wards of North, East, West, and Broadway. At present the distribution was 2,4,4,3.
116. The Town Council requested the increase as they considered Warminster had an insufficient number of councillors to ensure effective governance. They provided comparisons with other town councils in Wiltshire who either had a greater number of councillors, or proportionate to their populations
117. The Committee noted the comments in the original submission that even at 14 councillors Warminster would have fewer than most other comparator towns in Wiltshire. During further information gathering the Town Council was asked if it still considered 14 to be an appropriate number, or if more councillors would be reasonable. The Town Council confirmed it was satisfied 14 would be appropriate.
118. An online survey was set up for November 2022 to allow comments on the submitted proposals. The councils in the area were asked to promote this, to assist the committee with any local views at this stage. One comment was received, in agreement with the proposal.

Committee Discussion

119. The Committee reviewed the wider area and did not believe there were any issues of boundaries or other governance arrangements which needed to be addressed, and therefore focused solely upon the request of the Town Council to increase its councillor numbers.
120. No official guidance or rules set out how many councillors a council should have or how these should be distributed. As the statutory guidance set out parishes ranged in size from those with a handful of electors to those with over 40,000. Five councillors was a minimum, but there were councils in Wiltshire with as many as 24 councillors. There were councils with the same number of councillors as others which were ten times their size. Accordingly, the Committee would need to consider the specific situation and needs of Warminster, taking account of its current arrangements.
121. It was correct to note that, at 13 councillors, Warminster Town Council was smaller than any similarly sized councils in Wiltshire. Although electoral equality, the number of electors per councillor, was not a requirement with town or parish wards, it was the case that at present the Broadway Ward represented significantly more electors per councillor than the other wards. West Ward represented the fewest, however this would increase due to incoming development.
122. A comment was received stating there was no evidence of a demand for more councillors beyond the proposed 14, noting there were 17 candidates for 13 seats at the last election. It argued wards 5 or above could be confusing to the electorate.

Committee Draft Recommendation Proposal

123. The Committee determined that Warminster had, comparatively, a low number of councillors for the scale of the town. The request from the Town Council was only a marginal increase, aligned with current wards and so did not negatively impact effective or convenient governance, and the proposal would provide a more effective spread of councillors across the town. The Committee therefore agreed with the request.
124. Having considered the evidence, statutory criteria, guidance, and other relevant information, the Committee therefore proposed the following:

Recommendation 6

6.1 That Warminster Town Council be increased from thirteen councillors to fourteen.

6.2 That Warminster Town Council continue to comprise four wards, with councillor numbers as follows:

- i) Warminster North – 2 Councillors**
- ii) Warminster West – 4 Councillors**
- iii) Warminster East – 4 Councillors**
- iv) Warminster Broadway – 4 Councillors**

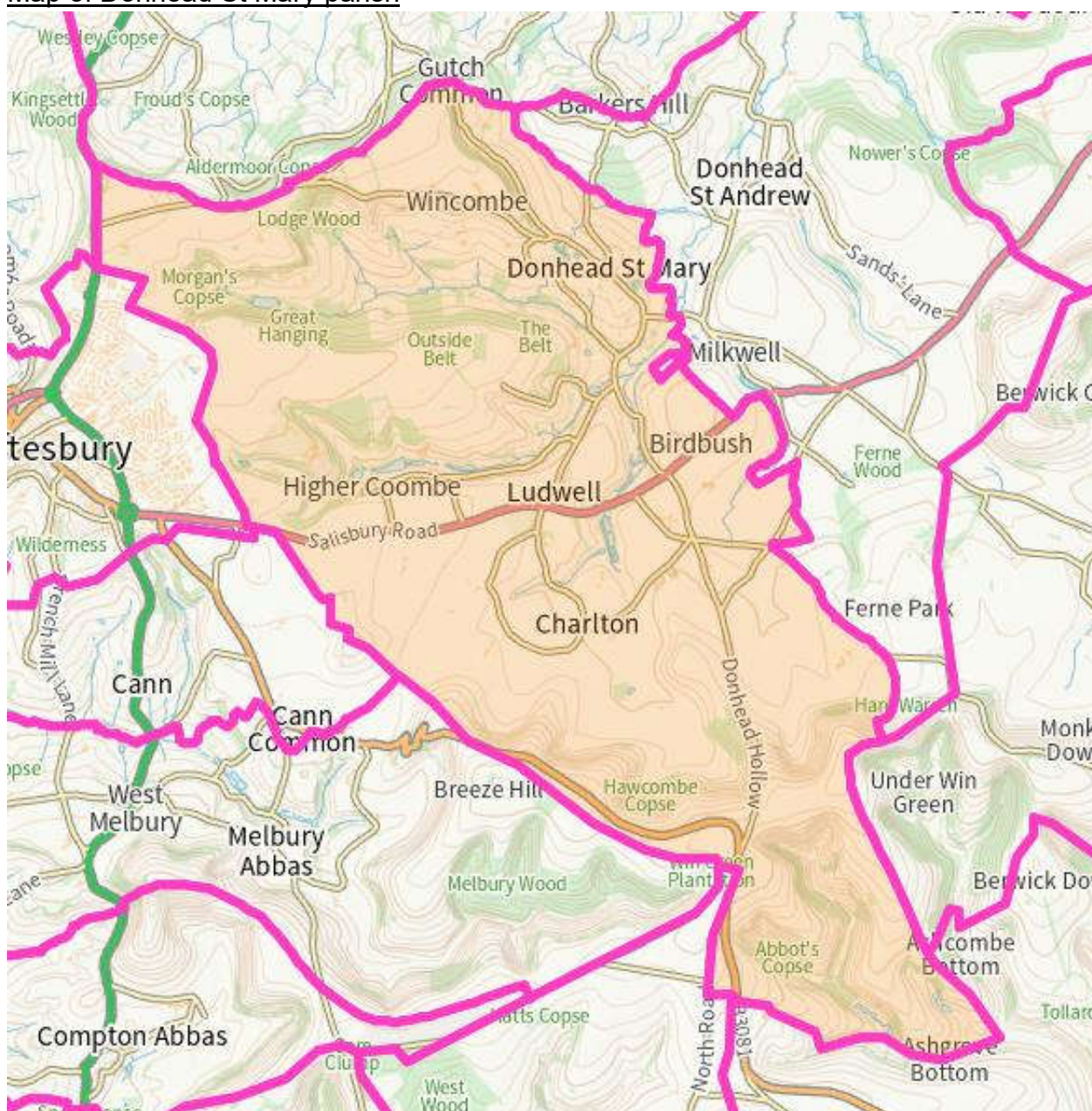
Reasons: Paragraphs 79 and 157 of the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews

Donhead St Mary, Fovant, Monkton Farleigh, Grimstead

Background

125. Several rural parish councils submitted similar, limited requests relating to their governance arrangements only. These are set out together, though geographically they are in different areas.
126. Donhead St Mary is a moderately sized parish near Tisbury, on the southern border of Wiltshire. It is bordered by Sedgehill and Semley to the North, Donhead St Andrew and Berwick St John to the East, Tollard Royal and Ashmore in Dorset to the South, and Motcombe, Shaftesbury, Melbury Abbas, and Cann, all of Dorset, to the West. As of August 2022 the parish had an approximate electorate of 851. It is served by a parish council of up to 13 councillors, and is unwarded.

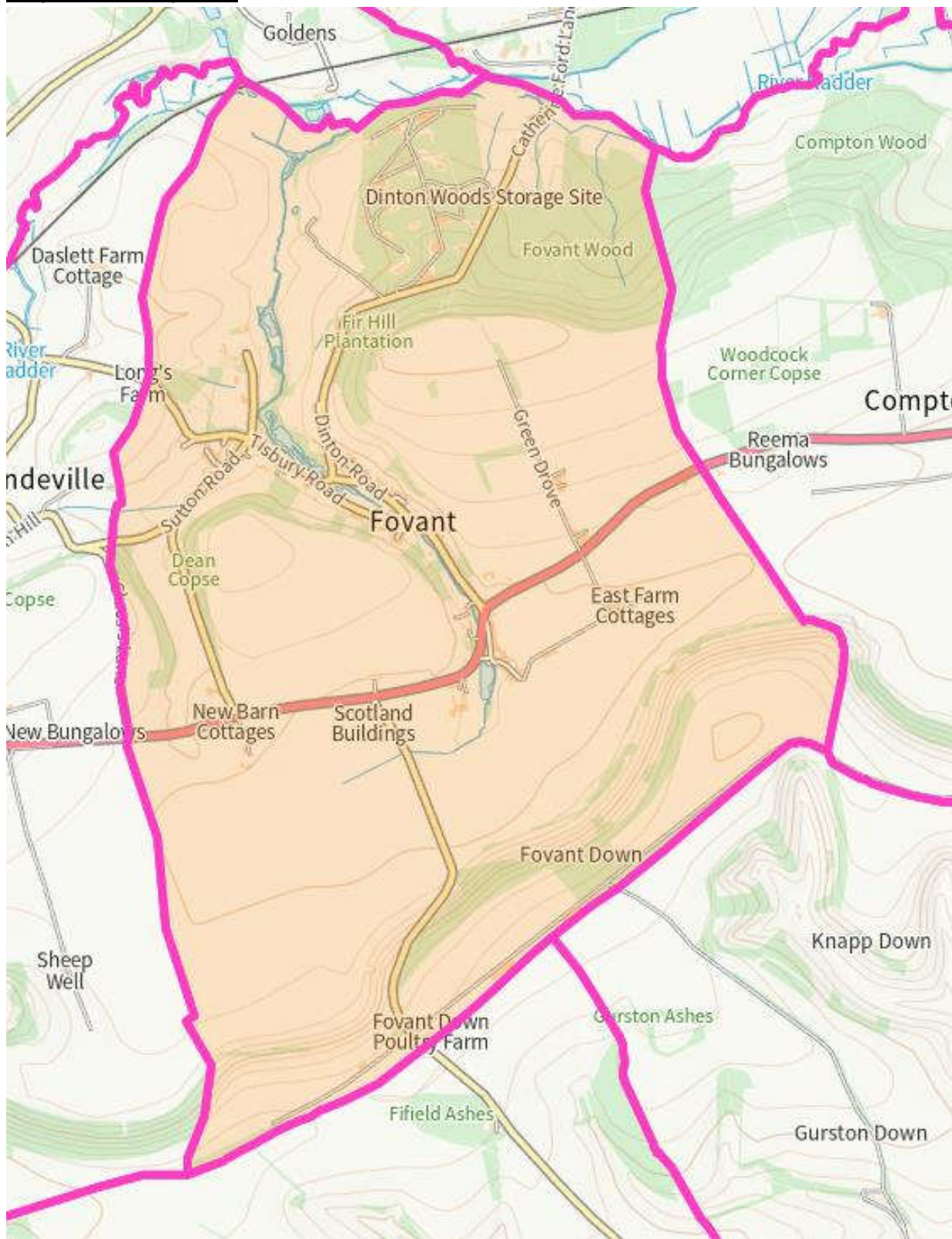
Map of Donhead St Mary parish



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

127. Fovant is a moderately sized parish near Salisbury. It is bordered by Teffont and Dinton to the North, Compton Chamberlayne to the East, Boradchalke and Ebbesborne Wake to the South, and Sutton Mandeville to the West. As of August 2022, it had an electorate of approximately 572. It is served by a parish council of up to 9 councillors, and is unwarded.

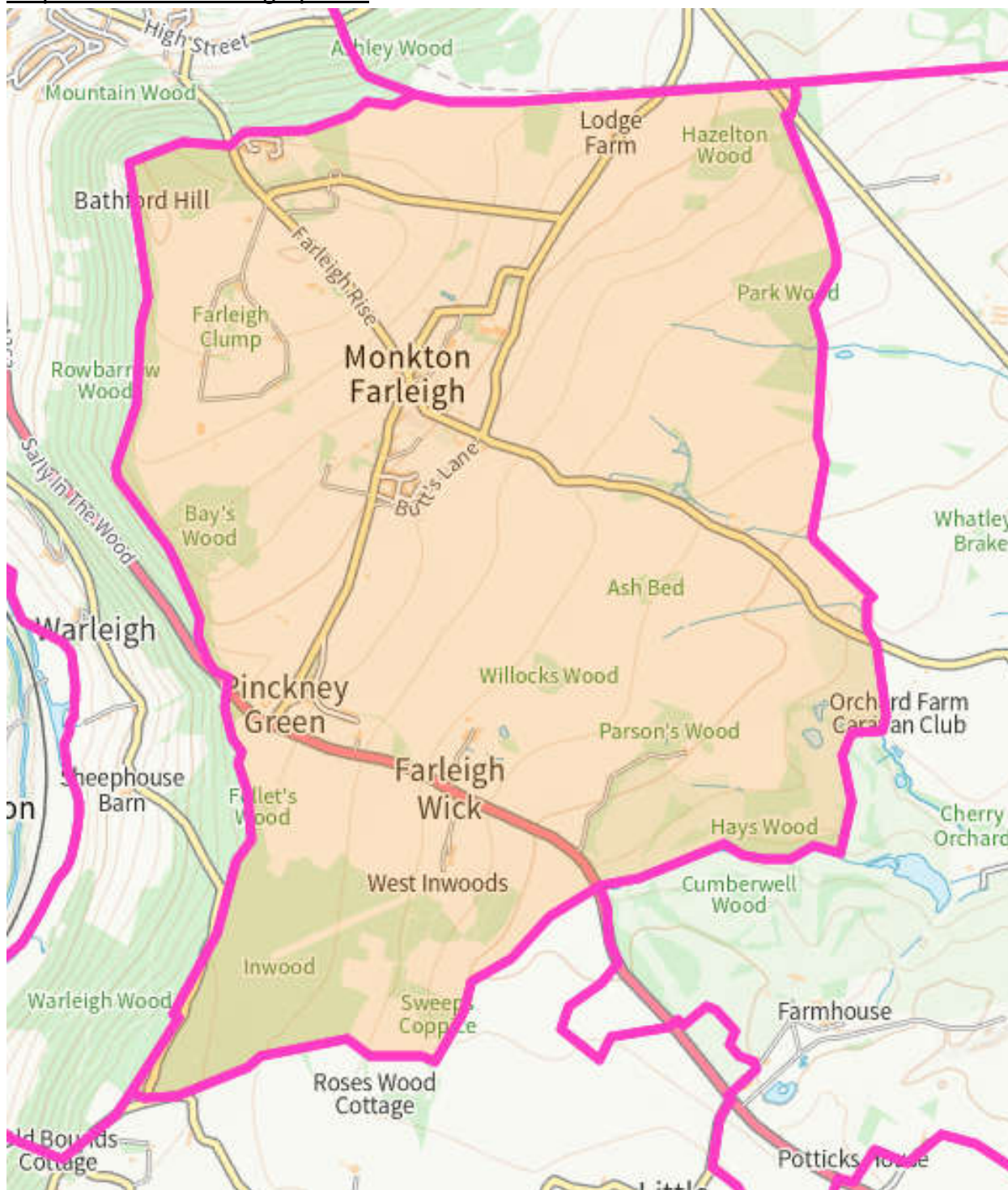
Map of Fovant parish



Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

128. Monkton Farleigh is a small parish on the western border of Wiltshire, north of Bradford-on-Avon and east of Bath. It is bordered by Box to the North, South Wraxall to the East, Winsley to the South, and Bathford in Somerset to the West. As of August 2022, it had an electorate of approximately 358. It is served by a parish council of up to 7 councillors, and is unwarded.

Map of Monkton Farleigh parish

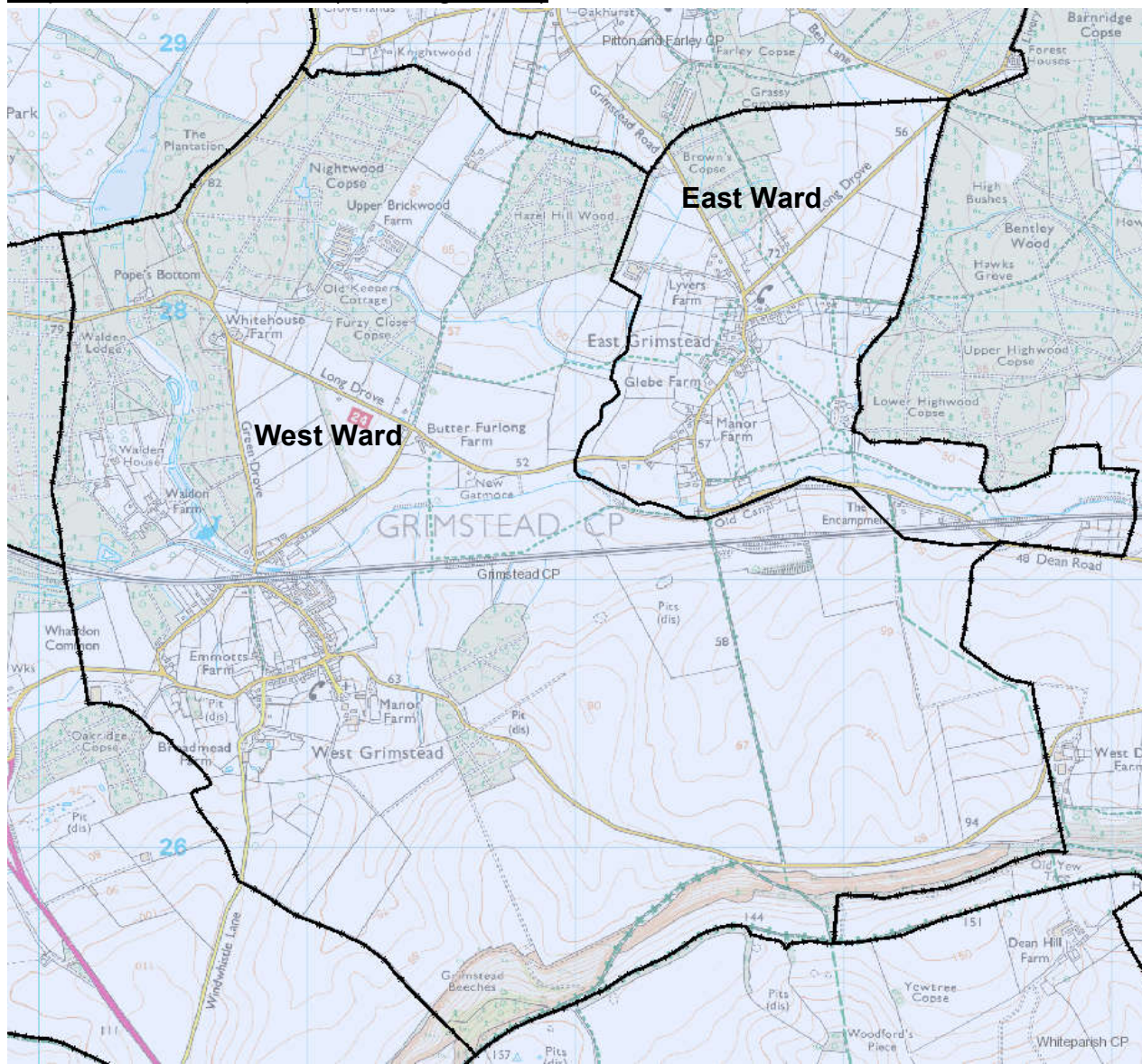


Map from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

129. Grimstead is a moderately sized parish south east of Salisbury. It is bordered by Clarendon

Park and Pitton & Farley to the North, West Dean to the East, Whiteparish to the South, and Alderbury to the West. As of August 2022, it had an electorate of approximately 475. It is served by a parish council of up to 7 councillors. It has two wards, East and West.

Map of Grimstead parish (including wards)



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Initial Proposals and Pre-consultation information gathering

- 130. Donhead St Mary Parish Council requested the total number of councillors be reduced from 13 to 11. They stated this was because there had been long periods of vacancies on the council.
- 131. Fovant Parish Council requested the total number of councillors be reduced from 9 to 7. They stated they had difficulty filling the existing seats, and that similar sized parishes operated effectively with only 7 councillors.
- 132. Monkton Farleigh Parish Council requested the total number of councillors be increased

from 7 to 8. They stated that they had occasions of difficulty being quorate, and that an extra councillor would reduce that risk.

133. Grimstead Parish Council had requested that the total number of councillors be increased from 7 to 8. They had also requested that the warding arrangements be removed. They had stated the wards were not necessary, and there was interest in more people serving on the council.
134. The Committee sought to engage with each of the councils as part of its information gathering. Donhead St Mary, Fovant, and Monkton Farleigh, all confirmed they still supported their requests and wished to proceed.
135. Grimstead Parish Council reconsidered its initial request, made some years prior, and withdrew its support for the proposed reduction and unwarding of the parish council.
136. An online survey was set up for November 2022 to allow comments on the submitted proposals. The councils in the area were asked to promote this, to assist the committee with any local views at this stage. Only one comment was received, expressing support for the proposal to reduce the councillors for Donhead St Mary.

Committee Discussion

137. The Committee was not obliged to recommend specific governance arrangements as requested from councils, or any other party. Nor was it obliged to cease a review simply because a request was withdrawn. In reviewing the areas, however, it did not consider there were any issues relating to boundaries or other governance arrangements that needed to be resolved. It therefore needed to consider each area on their local characteristics and circumstances against the statutory criteria.
138. There was no statutory or other guidance on appropriate councillor numbers for councils, which in Wiltshire ranged from the minimum of 5, to 24. Even small councils could operate effectively with a large number of councillors, if it was appropriate for their community and led to effective and convenient governance.
139. Accordingly, the Committee needed to determine if the requests, or other options, would lead to more effective and convenient governance, or better reflect the identity and interests of the areas in question.

Committee Draft Recommendation Proposal

140. The Committee accepted that 13 was a high number of councillors for a rural parish such as Donhead St Mary. Whilst it had a reasonable population, the Committee was persuaded that a reduction would be a more effective arrangement, and increase the possibility of future elections being contested for the parish.
141. In relation to the request from Fovant Parish Council, at its meeting the Committee was minded to accept the proposal from the Parish Council. It considered that given the scale

and compact nature of the community and parish, it was not unreasonable to reduce the number of councillors if the Parish Council felt this to be the most appropriate figure. They therefore recommended consultation to that effect.

142. Notwithstanding previous requests for information and confirmation, subsequent to the meeting Fovant Parish Council informed the Committee that they wished to withdraw their request. Committee members were updated to see if this impacted their initial view and recommendation. Whilst not obliged to adhere to a request once a review had been launched, the Committee did not feel there were compelling reasons for changing the governance arrangements, in the absence of support from the Parish council. Accordingly, the recommendation would be withdrawn and no changes proposed for Fovant.
143. In respect of Monkton Farleigh, the Committee considered the electoral situation, the scale of the parish, and whether it was necessary or appropriate to make even the minor change requested. On balance, the Committee was persuaded to recommend the increase as requested by the parish council.
144. Noting the withdrawal of the request from Grimstead Parish Council, the Committee did not consider there was any other reason or justification to make changes to the electoral arrangements of the parish.
145. Having considered the evidence, statutory criteria, guidance, and other relevant information, the Committee therefore proposed the following:

Recommendation 7

7.1 That Donhead St Mary Parish Council be decreased from thirteen councillors to eleven councillors.

7.2 That Monkton Farleigh Parish Council be increased from seven councillors to eight councillors.

Reasons: Paragraphs 79 and 157 of the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews

The Westbury/Heywood/Bratton Public Meeting –22 February 2023 – 18:30 – 20:00

In attendance:

CLlr Ashley O’Neill (chairman), CLlr Gavin Grant (vice-chair), Stuart Wheeler, CLlr Ian McLennan.

Public: 14, WC Cllrs: 2 (G King & S Wickham), Officers: 2

CLlr O’Neill delivered the presentation slides, setting out what a CGR is and why one was taking place in this area, and explaining the draft recommendation of the Committee.

Views were then sought from those present.

Points raised:

- WTC – Why has Vivash Park (VP) not been taken into consideration – we have been working with WC for a year, have adopted the park and now told that it may be taken away and given to Heywood. WC knew we were adopting this. Answer: At the time of forming the draft recommendations, the cmmtt were not aware of that. Legal advice had been taken and on this occasion the park would need to stay with the parish which owns that land. Please make those reps to the consultation.
- The boundary line should be moved to the higher railway line, so that the park ownership remains with WTC, as they have done a considerable amount of work
- VP developers CIL money was transferred to WTC when they transferred the park.
- Chair of HPC – appreciate the money and time spent on VP by WTC. This was not appreciated when we put forward the proposed line, agree that there is an argument that the park stays with WTC and the rest goes to HPC.
- VP is accessible by foot by both directions, but not easily by road. The railway line is not a barrier, there are bridges.
- Resident in Paxmans Road – I live in area to go to Heywood, what does un-warding mean to residents? Proposals seem sensible. The services we get are fairly limited as WC provide majority – so don’t see any changes to that – no reasons to be concerned. Answer: When there is an election – you elect to set wards if in place.
- What is the argument for removal of the warding? Answer: No set rule, it was felt sensible to test the un-warding suggestion which had been put forward during WC review.
- HPC – We don’t have an issue with being unwarded.
- Question: AON – any differences in terms of the community at the Ham – either side of the boundary? I didn’t know where the boundary ended until I had conversation with the Chair of HPC.
- Heywood was warded more than 40y ago by WCC, to get the numbers right, as Westbury Town felt underrepresented on the district council, so to get an add cllr it needed to be warded.
- WTC – The rec is to take away an urban part and put it in a rural parish. Could there be a new proposal with the boundary moving to A350? taking the Heywood area into Westbury. Answer: The Cmmtt did not feel that the argument of WTC was as strong as that made by HPC. Station Rd doesn’t feel like it’s part of Westbury, feels like you are going out of

Westbury. Regarding the Ham, is that one community or two? Cmmtt felt it was one community and should be in one parish area.

- Why not continue along railway and take the area where the incinerator would be.
- WTC is opposed to the proposal; half of the Ham is Westbury and should always be in Westbury. Whilst you say it doesn't feel like that to you – it is the case and should be kept so. Answer: What makes it Westbury?
- It is part of station area and VP area, the TC maintain the play areas (Paxmans) we do spend a lot of energy within this area and will defend that.
- Resident of Paxmans Rd – The railway line does delineate the end, you don't see the open space in the main town of Westbury. I do consider that when you pass the railway line, I consider myself living in a semi-rural area. What difference does it make to services on whether its rural or urban? Does it make any difference on a council service or a council representation of its cllr. The environment does change, there is open space, green space, agricultural spaces which are not in the town.
- HPC – when the council sits, it does not delineate itself as rural or urban, it sees itself as a community and feels like the community is delineated by the railway line. It is reflected in the NHP that is being put together.
- WTC – The trading estate area is not rural, I don't know anyone that says they go to Heywood Trading estate, its Westbury Trading Estate. I was surprised that it was in Heywood.
- HPC – It is part of the community of Heywood and called West Wilts Trading est
- It's a nonsense that the Ham is split by 2 parishes – Storridge Rd is in Heywood.
- Info - The early Survey noted 10 responses with 9 in favour of the HPC boundary.
- Heywood resident – who was included in the first survey? Answer: The survey was publicised by press release and through PC circulation with letters sent to any household which was proposed would be transferred from one parish to another.
- Resident Paxman Rd – I am concerned with the representation I will get, if it's the same or better then that's fine.
- Chair HPC – We are preparing a NHP, Westbury is further ahead, it would make sense that both have the same policies for both sides of the road in the Ham. That is partly why we proposed the line to include the whole of the Ham into Heywood. Answer: There are joint NHPs – you could involve them & work jointly on matters where there are split areas.
- Cllr GK, I regret that WTC and HPC didn't work together on the NHP and on the CGR proposal as we would have had a better solution.
- The contracts for maintenance of VP, with Ideverde, if across the 2025 implementation timeframe –a change of ownership would mess up contracts.

Cllr O'Neill provided details of how people could respond to the survey, the parish councillors took away hard copy forms and maps, and stated they would seek to promote the review to residents.

Recommendation 1 - Westbury/Dilton Marsh/Heywood/Bratton/Edington

- 1.1 That the areas marked as A in the map below be transferred from Westbury Town to the parish of Heywood.
- 1.2 That the area marked as B in the map below be transferred from Heywood to Westbury Town, as part of the Westbury East Ward.
- 1.3 That the parish of Heywood be unwarded, with seven councillors.
- 1.4 To request that the LGBCE amend the Westbury North, Westbury East, and Ethandune Electoral Divisions to be conterminous with the proposed revised parish boundaries of Westbury and Heywood.

Summary

- 10 comments in total
- 2 disagree (both residents of westbury - not in part proposed for transfer)
- 3 agree (all residents directly affected by proposal)
- 5 suggest amendment (2 in affected area / 2 Westbury area not affected / 1 Heywood PC.)

	Status	Agree/Disagree/ Suggest amended	Amended Proposal	Reasons
A1	A resident of the area directly affected by the proposals (Areas A or B)	Agree with the proposals		The current arrangement of a boundary along the middle of the Ham road makes little or no sense. Using the realway line is a better delineation for effective and convenient local governance.
A2	A resident of the area directly affected by the proposals (Areas A or B)	Agree with the proposals		I am happy with what is proposed.
A3	A resident of the area directly affected by the proposals (Areas A or B)	Agree with the proposals		It becomes a sensible boundary compared with the existing arbitrary one
A4	A resident of the area directly affected by the proposals (Areas A or B)	Suggest an amended proposal (for example agreement/disagreement with some but not all the recommendation)	I would like to know if it changes ANYTHING at all for my household on The Ham?	I would like to understand the impact on my household before I am made to change from Westbury to Heywood?
A5	A resident of the town of Westbury not from the areas proposed to be transferred	Disagree with the proposals		Must very strongly disagree with transferring Vivash Park, which belongs to Westbury and which as a fisherman I use regularly, to Heywood Parish. It's a ridiculous idea. Heywood complain about losing their play area in the Ham but this proposal rips Westbury's primary major green space away from town council ownership and achieves NOTHING but point scoring
A6	A resident of the area directly affected by the proposals (Areas A or B)	Suggest an amended proposal (for example agreement/disagreement with some but not all the recommendation)	As Westbury Town Council has taken over ownership of Vivash Park, how does this affect upkeep if transferred over to Heywood. Does Heywood have sufficient funds for the upkeep.	Agree with the change as it hardly affects people living in the ward.

A7	A representative of a parish council affected by the proposals, or a unitary representative from the area affected	Suggest an amended proposal (for example agreement/disagreement with some but not all the recommendation)	Community Governance Review 2022/23 Draft Recommendation of the Electoral Review Committee February 2023 Westbury/Dilton Marsh/Heywood/Bratton/Edington Recommendation 1.1 Heywood Parish Council believes that the CGR's draft recommendation has significant merit in that it reconnects the Ham as a community and sets the boundary line more closely on the southern edge to the Westbury to Pewsey railway line, providing a physical alignment with what is a clearly identifiable feature. However, the inclusion of the area of land within the triangle of railway lines formed by the Westbury to Trowbridge line, the Westbury to Pewsey line and the 1942 spur line and including Vivash Park brings into the parish of Heywood an area with no community relevance as it has no residents. Additionally, the area has benefitted from significant investment from Westbury Council which has financial, administrative and political capital investment from that Council and would best be maintained within Westbury. Amending the draft recommendation in this way would be coherent with the formal principles and the spirit of the review. Recommendation 1.2 Heywood Parish Council agrees that the area B shown on the published Proposed Map of Heywood Parish should be transferred to Westbury. The Council also proposes that the small triangle of land shown south of the Westbury to Pewsey railway line and to the west of Area B at the junction with the Westbury avoidance railway line should also be transferred to Westbury.	Community Governance Review 2022/23 Draft Recommendation of the Electoral Review Committee February 2023 Westbury/Dilton Marsh/Heywood/Bratton/Edington Recommendation 1.1 Heywood Parish Council believes that the CGR's draft recommendation has significant merit in that it reconnects the Ham as a community and sets the boundary line more closely on the southern edge to the Westbury to Pewsey railway line, providing a physical alignment with what is a clearly identifiable feature. However, the inclusion of the area of land within the triangle of railway lines formed by the Westbury to Trowbridge line, the Westbury to Pewsey line and the 1942 spur line and including Vivash Park brings into the parish of Heywood an area with no community relevance as it has no residents. Additionally, the area has benefitted from significant investment from Westbury Council which has financial, administrative and political capital investment from that Council and would best be maintained within Westbury. Amending the draft recommendation in this way would be coherent with the formal principles and the spirit of the review. Recommendation 1.2 Heywood Parish Council agrees that the area B shown on the published Proposed Map of Heywood Parish should be transferred to Westbury. The Council also proposes that the small triangle of land shown south of the Westbury to Pewsey railway line and to the west of Area B at the junction with the Westbury avoidance railway line should also be transferred to Westbury.
A8	A resident of the town of Westbury not from the areas proposed to be transferred	Suggest an amended proposal (for example agreement/disagreement with some but not all the recommendation)	The Ham should all be in Westbury, as part of Westbury. Vivash Park should remain in Westbury as Heywood would be unable to manage this as no staff. Neighbourhood Plan boundary would be in Heywood - not sensible	To enable people to live in an area that they identify with. WTC better able to provide the services required
A9	A resident of the town of Westbury not from the areas proposed to be transferred	Disagree with the proposals		time to sort out the split along the Ham, but nobody identifies The Ham as in Heywood. Keep Vivash Park in Westbury, how could Heywood manage that. If you take away properties the precept would have to go up in Westbury
A10	A resident of the town of Westbury not from the areas proposed to be transferred	Suggest an amended proposal (for example agreement/disagreement with some but not all the recommendation)	That all the areas contiguous with Westbury and the Westbury (e.g. the Ham) be absorbed into Westbury and the village of Heywood added to another parish	The people in the Ham lie in Westbury and have no practical connection with Heywood. the use facilities in Westbury, take part in events in Westbury, attended schools in Westbury, use Drs, libraries, shops etc. the connection with Heywood is accidental based in old farm boundaries.

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Written representations to the Draft Recommendations Consultation

Summary

Comment	Date received	Recommendation	Respondent	Details
P3	21/03/23	Recommendation 1	Heywood Parish Council	Support with amendment - remove the element of the Vivash Park, and clarify further small section south of railway line to transfer to Westbury
P4	22/03/23		Resident / Bratton Parish Councillor	Objection to process not including Bratton proposal as part of Draft Recommendations
P5	22/03/23		Bratton Parish Councillor	Objection to process not including Bratton proposal as part of Draft Recommendations
P6	22/03/23		Bratton Parish Councillor	Objection to process not including Bratton proposal as part of Draft Recommendations
P7	22/03/23		Local Resident	Supportive of Bratton PC proposal
P8	23/03/23		Bratton Parish Council	Objection to process not including Bratton proposal as part of Draft Recommendations
P10	28/03/23	Recommendation 1	Westbury Town Council	Objection - objection to process and proposal - reiterates previous WTC proposals
P11	28/03/23	Recommendation 1	Local Representation	Supports recommendation
P12	06/04/23	Recommendation 1	Cllr Gordon King - Unitary Cllr	Objection to proposals and detailed background on Westbury and wider area

P3

Recommendation 1.1

Heywood Parish Council believes that the CGR's draft recommendation has significant merit in that it reconnects the Ham as a community and sets the boundary line more closely on the southern edge to the Westbury to Pewsey railway line, providing a physical alignment with what is a clearly identifiable feature. However, the inclusion of the area of land within the triangle of railway lines formed by the Westbury to Trowbridge line, the Westbury to Pewsey line and the 1942 spur line and including Vivash Park brings into the parish of Heywood an area with no community relevance as it has no residents.

Additionally, the area has benefitted from significant investment from Westbury Council which has financial, administrative and political capital investment from that Council and would best be maintained within Westbury.

Amending the draft recommendation in this way would be coherent with the formal principles and the spirit of the review.

Recommendation 1.2

Heywood Parish Council agrees that the area B shown on the published Proposed Map of Heywood Parish should be transferred to Westbury. The Council also proposes that the small triangle of land shown south of the Westbury to Pewsey railway line and to the west of Area B at the junction with the Westbury avoidance railway line should also be transferred to Westbury.

Heywood Parish Council

P4

I am a resident of Bratton and support the proposal put forward by the Parish Council to redraw the eastern boundary to take in Fitzroy Farm, however, I now note that there was a survey in November on the proposals which I was unaware of and it is ominous that there were no comments from any Bratton or Edington residents that suggest it was not communicated.

When I read the recommendations under consultation I find that there are none for the Bratton proposal and it is my understanding that you are required by the Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007 to publish the recommendations and reasoning for the proposals, in this case there appears that there has not been due process and a breach of this requirement.

Given the circumstances I think that the consultation on the Bratton proposal should be re-run with the proper notification and recommendations published in line with the legislation.

Many thanks for your response, however I am now not sure what the status of our application is. Does it mean the "decision" is do nothing or ignore it, surely even do nothing is a recommendation that should be communicated.

As a Bratton Parish Councillor I am sure the parishioners will not be happy with "no response" as there is some strength of support for the proposal.

Bratton Parish Councillor

P5

I am a resident of Bratton and support the proposal put forward by the Parish Council to redraw the eastern boundary to take in Fitzroy Farm. However, I now note that there was a survey in November on the proposals of which I was not aware.

I refer to the document:-

Community Governance Review 2022/23 Draft Recommendations of the Electoral Review Committee February 2023

and within it -

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS Westbury/Dilton Marsh/Heywood/Bratton/Edington

18. Bratton Parish Council submitted a request for a transfer of the area around Fitzroy Farm in Edington to their parish. They considered there was a strong affinity between the area and Bratton, and noted efforts from their Parish Council to establish a paved footway to the amenities at Fitzroy Farm

22. In relation to the proposal from Bratton Parish Council 5 comments stated agreement, 11 disagreement, 1 suggested amendment with no detail, and 62 offered no opinion. However, none of the comments were from residents of Bratton or Edington themselves.

It is apparent from the fact that there were no comments from any Bratton or Edington residents that due notice of this survey was not communicated to these parishes.

When I read the recommendations under consultation I find that there are none for the Bratton proposal although it is my understanding that you are required by the Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007 to publish the recommendations and reasoning in your responses to the proposals, or in this case, the absence of them. It therefore appears that there has not been due process and I consider that this constitutes a breach of this requirement.

Given the circumstances I strongly request that the consultation on the Bratton proposal re the alteration of the parish boundary to include Fitzroy Farm should be re-run with the proper notification to all relevant parties, and recommendations published in line with the legislation.

Bratton Parish Councillor

P6

I am writing in support of the Parish Council's decision to recommend the widening of its eastern boundary to include Pickleberry and Fitzroy currently within the Edington Parish.

I am mystified that there has not been any wider consultation with the residents of Bratton (or Edington) which is probably why there has been no comments from residents of either Parish.

I did try to comment on the CGR consultation but the online system will only allow me to comment on the draft recommendations, however the Bratton submission to extend the boundary is not included.

I would ask that you review the process that has been followed before dismissing the Parish Council's proposal. The Parish Council has asked our Unitary Councillor to raise this matter with you.

Bratton Parish Councillor

(Within same email)

This suggestion appears to have du the proposal put forward by the Parish Council to redraw the eastern boundary to take in Fitzroy Farm, however, I now note that there was a survey in November on the proposals which I was unaware of and it is ominous that there were no comments from any Bratton or Edington residents that suggest it was not communicated.

When I read the recommendations under consultation I find that there are none for the Bratton proposal and it is my understanding that you are required by the Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007 to publish the recommendations and reasoning for the proposals, in this case there appears that there has not been due process and a breach of this requirement.

Given the circumstances I think that the consultation on the Bratton proposal should be re-run with the proper notification and recommendations published in line with the legislation.

I am a resident of Bratton and support the proposal put forward by the Parish Council to redraw the eastern boundary to take in Fitzroy Farm, however, I now note that there was a survey in November on the proposals which I was unaware of and it is ominous that there were no comments from any Bratton or Edington residents that suggest it was not communicated.

When I read the recommendations under consultation I find that there are none for the Bratton proposal and it is my understanding that you are required by the Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007 to publish the recommendations and reasoning for the proposals, in this case there appears that there has not been due process and a breach of this requirement.

Given the circumstances I think that the consultation on the Bratton proposal should be re-run with the proper notification and recommendations published in line with the legislation.

P7

I hear from local residents and discussions here that there is an outline proposal being considered by Bratton council to move the Eastern parish boundary of the village from the current Stradbrook stream boundary to approximately the position of Sandy Lane track in Edington.

I am writing to say that as a resident who would be affected by this proposal that I would fully support it in principle, though I would like to find out more about the proposals. From what I hear it would appear that due process in relation to Public consultation and Involvement has not occurred. Given the circumstances I think that the consultation on the Bratton proposal should be re-run with the proper notification and recommendations published in line with the normal legislation.

Please can you include me on any information relating to this proposal as I would like to know more.

In general, if the proposals are what I understand them to be, I would certainly be in favour of moving the parish boundary to the East. Personally I certainly feel a great deal of affinity with the village of Bratton, using the local shop, pub, my kids use the playground and local jubilee hall and I also have social connections with the village. My postal address is also deemed to be Bratton.

Whilst I am technically part of Edington parish currently, I have little connection with that village apart from very occasionally visiting the pub and of course voting there.

Local Resident

P8

I am directed by the Parish Council to send the below comments in relation to the current Community Governance Review consultation:

1. At its meeting of 14th March Bratton Parish Council unanimously agreed that its concerns about the Community Governance Review process should be presented to the Wiltshire CGR committee.
2. Bratton Parish Council are concerned that the process the CGR has used has effectively disenfranchised the residents of Bratton, and of Edington, from expressing their views on Bratton Parish Council's proposal for Fitzroy Farm to be incorporated into the Parish of Bratton.
3. Bratton Parish Council reviewed the 'Community Governance Review Briefing Note No. 22-21 and regarded this as an information bulletin, with no further action required until the current consultation addressed in Briefing Note 23-04 - Community Governance Review – Consultation'.

We respectfully point out that at no point was it made clear that the online survey would be taken as evidence for the Review, and that it is clearly outside the declared procedure, which indicates that that the time that residents would be consulted is at the current 'Community Governance Review – Consultation'. The Bratton Parish residents were therefore unaware of the November call for comments.

The BPC also submit that this anyway is surely of little significance as its own submission was on behalf of the whole Parish and in response to a need identified from a survey of every household made as part of its Neighbourhood Plan process, in 2019.

4. At the video meeting attended by two representative members of Bratton Parish Council, the Members of the CGR Committee were most courteous. Nothing was said or questions asked that suggested Bratton's submission was in any way inadequate. Nor has any further information been requested from Bratton.
5. The published document 'Community Governance Review 2022/23 Draft Recommendations' makes no recommendations for Bratton's application: either for, or against our submission. This means that there is nothing for Bratton's, nor Edington's, residents to comment on in the current 'Community Governance Review – Consultation'. We submit that this is effectively in breach of the requirements of the 'Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007 Act'.
6. We note that the 'Community Governance Review 2022/23 Draft Recommendations' report (#22) makes a statement that no comments were received from Bratton or Edington to the November online survey. We suggest that this demonstrates a failure of communication, and express surprise that no one involved saw fit to contact Bratton to ask why this might be the case. The statement is pejorative and unhelpful, and we request it is qualified to say that none should have been expected.
7. Bratton Parish Council therefore respectfully request that the CGR remedies this deficiency by now...
 - a. Notifying Bratton Parish Council properly about the CGR's recommendations concerning Bratton Parish's application; and then

b. Allowing sufficient time from receipt of such notification for this to be promulgated throughout the Parish and allow residents to respond to the Consultation.

Bratton Parish Council

P10

Westbury Town Council

Community Governance Review Submission.

Introduction.

This Submission is given in response to the Community Governance Review 2022/23 and specifically the Recommendations contained in the Minutes as recorded of the Electoral Review Committee, Wednesday 4 January 2023 which contains a series of recommendations. The response is specifically concerned with the Recommendations that affect Westbury Town Council.

In submitting our further comments we recognise that Westbury Town Council may not have dealt with this process in a way that we would wish to reflect the standards by which we operate, and we sincerely apologise to our neighbours for the way this has been undertaken, without consultation or an appropriate level of openness, a matter that we are seeking to rectify through the establishment of a forum for the sharing of issues within the wider Westbury area. This would hopefully avoid such issues arising in the future.

The Process

The original review submission was prepared by the previous Town Council. Prior to that being able to be formally submitted and discussed, the pandemic arrived, and the process was suspended. It is believed that, at that time, the Town Council assumed the whole process would end, and discussions would be restarted when the emergency was over.

When the new Westbury Town Council was elected in May 2021 the review was overlooked, and not revisited until late 2022 when Wiltshire Council announced that a presentation was required. In its haste to respond, the Town Council simply dug out the original document and submitted it, believing it to be the start of a process, rather than the conclusion.

With hindsight it is apparent that that document should have been presented to the new Council for review and discussion before being presented to the review panel. It is a matter of regret that it did not take place. Although time pressures were difficult the necessary time and resources should have been provided, and there remained some confusion about the restarting of the process.

The review by your committee was conducted via Teams and, although we presented our case as best we could, we were at a disadvantage in that the review panel had the advantage of maps and detail that we could not access, and which made our presentation difficult and no doubt not very persuasive.

Only at the very end was the question posed as to our comments regarding redrawing the boundary along the railway line in favour of Heywood. It was never mentioned that there

was a counter proposal, and although we have accepted our shortcomings in this matter, it is surprising that it was never brought to our attention, or our opinion sought. Even more surprising was that despite both councils having common councillors no information was ever communicated even on an informal level. We can only assume that the submission by Heywood Parish was a counter-reaction to some of our own proposals.

We have studied the Government guidance on governance reviews and note that it states that “over time communities may expand with new housing developments. This can often lead to existing parish boundaries becoming anomalous as new houses are built across the boundaries resulting in people being in different parishes from their neighbours”. In Westbury, extensive development has, indeed, happened but it has not, certainly in recent time, extended into Heywood Parish. In fact, the opposite is true that, until very recently, urban expansion has been contained within Westbury and yet the Committee now proposes to split these communities further. Your proposal, therefore, is to respond by creating precisely the situation that the Government identifies, by moving that housing into the neighbouring parish, which is unsettling and destructive for the community.

The Government guidance that a “governance review offers an opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries, tied to firm ground features, and remove the many anomalous parish boundaries that exist” is noted but we believe that this has been too arbitrarily adopted by the Committee, and totally ignores the same clause which goes on to say that it should “offer the chance to principal councils to consider the future of what may have become redundant or moribund parishes”. Historically a parish was an area that was centred on a church and more recently has been redefined as being centred on a village or a small town. Heywood has no functional church; neither could it be described as a village or a town. It is simply a collection of houses which conjoin two small housing settlements with an industrial estate stuck on the side along with housing north of The Ham to make up the numbers. Anywhere else it would be described as a suburb of Westbury, as indeed are the areas of The Ham and, to an even greater extent, the West Wilts Trading Estate. To lump these two important areas of the town of Westbury together and arbitrarily vest them in a small “moribund” parish flies in the face of common sense. We hear talk of “building communities” and “placemaking” being high on the Government’s agenda, but these proposals achieve precisely the opposite. The Committee have arbitrarily accepted one of three different railway lines that lie on the northern edge of Westbury but has ignored other more appropriate “firm ground features” such as the A350, the B3097, Bitham Brook or the Westbury – Trowbridge railway line, all of which could form logical boundaries.

In preparing draft recommendations the Committee must take account of the statutory criteria for reviews and the need to ensure that community governance within the areas under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area; and is both effective and convenient. We respectfully submit that the decision to transfer large parts of the Westbury urban area has been made without proper regard to this provision and fails to respect the identities and interests of either the Westbury or Heywood communities. It is definitely neither effective nor convenient. Furthermore, in 2019 the boundaries and parameters for the Westbury Neighbourhood Plan were fixed by Wiltshire Council and work is well advanced on that plan. We have now achieved Reg 14 and is about to be referred to Wiltshire Council and begin the Reg 16 consultation with a view to moving towards examination over the summer. On the other hand, the Neighbourhood

Pan for Heywood is at a much earlier point in the process. Whilst it would be a relatively simple process to merge the neighbourhood planning for Heywood into an established Westbury Neighbourhood Plan, it would certainly be a somewhat perverse decision to rip a key part of the Neighbourhood Plan area out of Westbury, simply to boost the numbers at a small adjoining Parish. It has been difficult enough through the plan process to deal with a wider Westbury Housing area that extends beyond the Town Council boundaries, in the knowledge that the bulk of new development will end up in Westbury, but at least Westbury has the infrastructure to deal with this.

Wiltshire Council's own terms of reference for the review states "For consultation the principle in previous reviews was that where a whole parish option (eg merger) was proposed, to write to ALL electors in both parishes, and where only an area was to be transferred to write to those electors within that specific area". The Westbury Town Council proposal (WE") put forward the suggestion to merge entirety of Heywood into Westbury. This suggestion should have triggered letters to ALL residents of both Westbury and Heywood. In failing to comply with its own terms of reference it has failed and done a huge disservice to the residents of both Heywood and Westbury. We request that such a matter be put to the people of Westbury and Heywood and, if necessary, be voted upon by the communities.

The Committee has claimed that it is not allowed to consider council tax precept levels, but we believe that this has been interpreted incorrectly. The Committee is instructed to ensure effective and convenient governance. Anything that reduces the effectiveness of a town council by reducing the number of residents paying for support that they will continue to receive is a flagrant breach of this obligation.

The proposal to transfer of a large number of housing units will result in a loss of revenue for Westbury Town Council, which will reduce the amount available for the town to spend which is catastrophic, and patently unfair on its residents as those households transferred to the neighbouring parish will continue to enjoy the amenities as before, Westbury being a town of high deprivation. This is not about precept but about the economic delivery of quality services to residents. As the transfer will result in improved income for the parish of Heywood, we would not expect them to have any appetite to reverse the transfer, or retain the status quo, but we would ask that the interests of the residents be protected and recognised in any proposal. The Paxman Estate has a large number of deprived families and individuals who regularly receive food bank deliveries via local councillors. We doubt the ability of a small, unstaffed parish, struggling to maintain its children's playground, to continue this provision, contrary to the interests of the whole local community.

Vivash Park is a Westbury Town project that has been years in the making and has involved much negotiation before its transfer from David Wilson Homes to the Town. It has been totally ignored in the governance review, and it was apparent that the existence of the park was not known to the Committee, otherwise we are sure it would have been mentioned. The running and maintenance of the park requires daily management due to the presence of the lake and access by the public, plus the onerous requirement to deter others from moving onto the land. It currently occupies a large part of staff time. Section 106 money has been spent on capital projects to bring the area up to standard and running costs are estimated, going forward, at in excess of £25,000 per annum, not to mention the salaried staff time and equipment that is taken up, something that Heywood

Parish cannot replicate. Whilst a suggestion has been made that this land remains within Westbury, as the town is better staffed and resourced to manage it on a daily basis, this is only part of the issue as the majority of users of the park come from areas that are in or planned to be in Heywood, meaning that in 9 years when the Section 106 monies run out, the people of Westbury will be expected to continue to maintain the park out of their pockets.

Westbury Town Council has put forward three entirely logical options for boundary reviews, albeit that the arguments at the time may not have been properly enunciated. These are:

1. Transfer back into Westbury the areas historically ceded to Heywood, namely the West Wiltshire Trading Estate, the residential areas north of The Ham, the former Cement Works, Park Lane, Hawke Ridge Business Park. We would be prepared to modify this to the extent that the Westbury boundary is amended to align with the loop line by the former cement works, thereby making the small land swaps in the current proposal, and then follow the loop to the Trowbridge line, but where it joins, the boundary should then follow Hawkeridge Road.
2. Merge Heywood entirely into Westbury. We realise that this may compromise other matters and suggest an alternative whereby the part of Heywood west of the A350 transfers to Westbury with the part east of the A350 merging with Bratton.
3. The status quo but ensuring that the Governance Boundary for Westbury aligns with the Settlement Boundary.

We would be pleased and available to discuss our representations further with the Committee.

Approved at a meeting of **Westbury Town Council**, Monday 27th March 2023.

P11

Map saved to folder

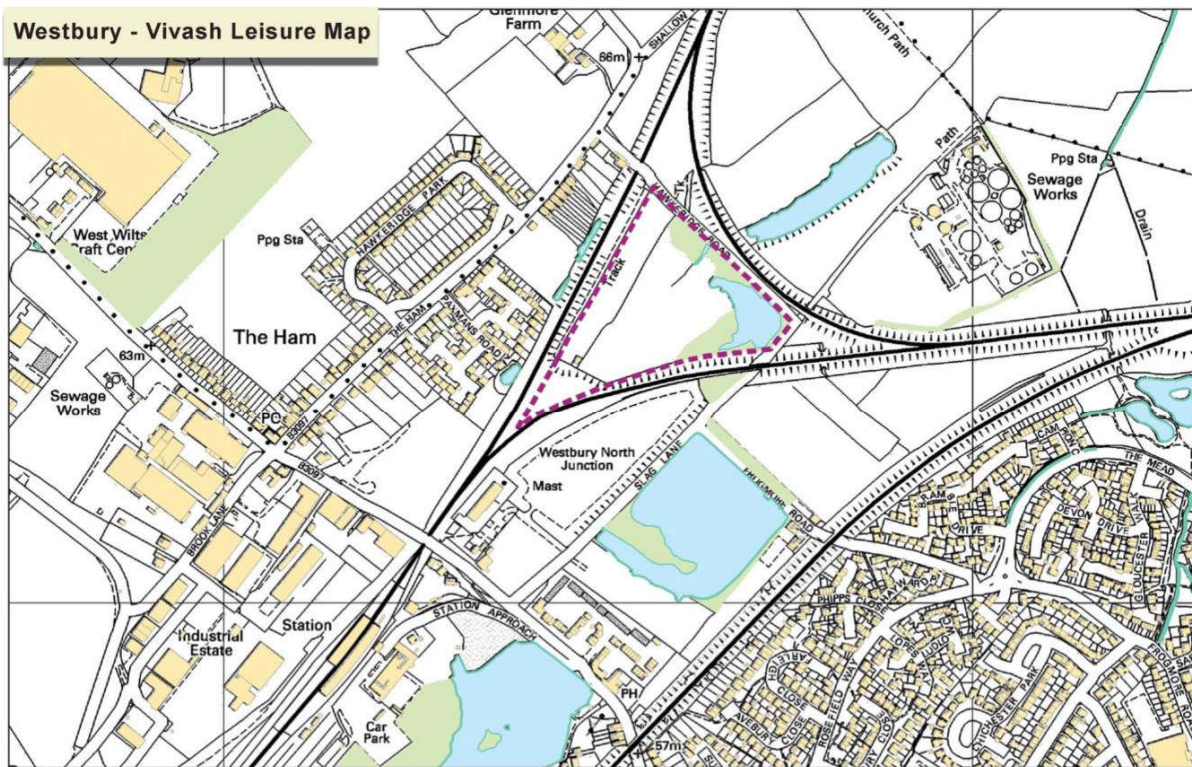
I am an elected member of both Heywood Parish Council and Westbury Town Council, but this response is made purely in a personal capacity.

As you know, I attended and spoke at the meeting of the Electoral Review Committee on Wed 04/01/2023, and at its meeting in Heywood Village Hall on Wed 22/02/2023.

Q4 - I support Draft Recommendation 01 of the Electoral Review Committee for the reasons set out in its Consultation document dated February 2023 (and as shown on the map on page 18).

In respect of [16] of that report, the 1896 boundary ran along Slag Lane from its junction with Station Road, and onwards along the track/public footpath running past the Sewage Treatment Works to its junction with the present boundary. At that time the only railway line in the vicinity was the Great Western Railway's Wilts Somerset and Weymouth line running into Westbury Station from Trowbridge. The railway line from Westbury Station to Stert (the Berks and Hants line) was not opened until 1901. The present boundary along The Ham was the result of a boundary change made in 1909. The Westbury Avoiding

line was opened in 1933 and the loop-line crossing Slag Lane in 1942. I attach a map ("Westbury - Vivash Leisure Map") showing these.



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As you know, the boundaries of the neighbourhood areas of both the draft Westbury Neighbourhood Plan and the draft Heywood Neighbourhood Plan follow the present boundary between Westbury and Heywood.

On the other governance issues raised by Westbury Town Council, I wish to record that with little or no assistance from the Town Council, Heywood Parish Council for many years pursued and eventually achieved two schemes that greatly benefited The Ham (including the people currently within the Westbury Town boundary), viz. 1) major road improvements there, including traffic speed control chicanes, highway drainage gullies, and a continuous footway link from Paxmans Road to Station Road; and 2) the roundabout access into Link Road and the West Wilts Trading Estate and beyond, off Hawkeridge Road (as part of HPH's Hawke Ridge Business Park development).

I have seen two drafts of Westbury Town Council's Submission to this consultation (but took no part in the several meetings which have discussed them). However, I must take exemption to the criticism of myself - the only member common to both councils - in the sentence in both of them reading "Even more surprising was that despite both councils having common councillors no information was ever communicated, even on an informal level". That is a travesty of the truth, and seeks to obscure the fact that Westbury Town Council decided and submitted its proposals to Wiltshire Council without prior consultation with any of its neighbouring parishes and without notifying them afterwards either. That was not accidental but entirely deliberate, and my disagreement with such a cavalier and disrespectful attitude to those councils was well known to both the members and the officers involved. A timeline of events will show that unlike Westbury Town Council, Heywood Parish Council did not take up the Electoral Review Committee's requests for

"expressions of interest" on 12/07/2019 and 28/08/2019, and that its Counter Proposals were not agreed until its meeting on Wed 23/10/2019, following news of the Town Council's proposals from Wiltshire Council (see its e-mails of 10/09/2019 and 01/10/2019). At no time did anybody at the Town Council approach me to keep them informed on any of this, and in any event, my view was then (and now) that that was entirely the task of the respective Town Clerk and Parish Clerk, and the officers of Wiltshire Council, and that I had to assume that there was an adequate formal procedure available to resolve such differences.

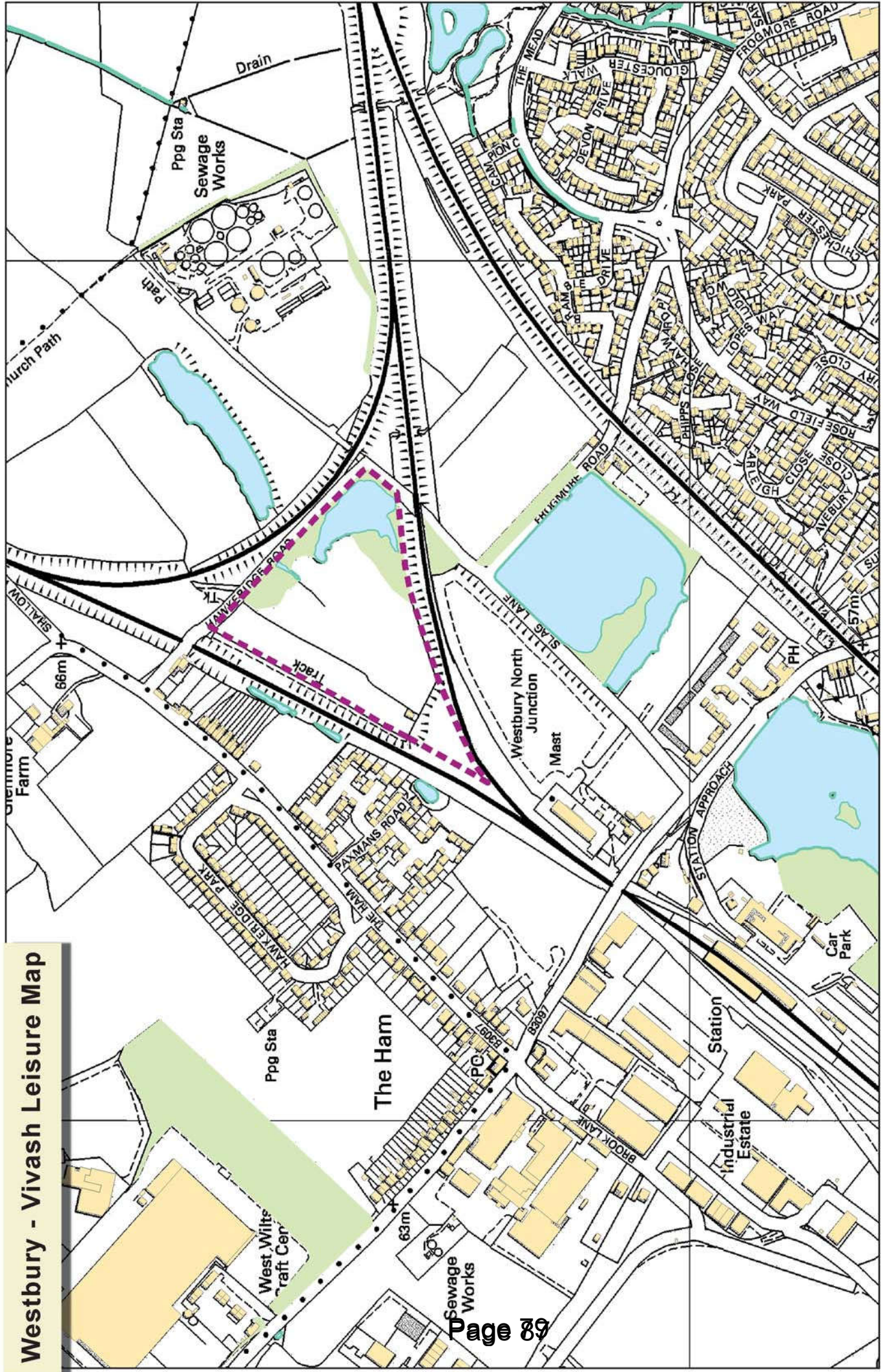
In [36] and [42] of the Consultation document, there is reference to a five-year period being an important consideration in Community Governance Reviews. As you know from previous CGRs (see my e-mail below of Mon 10/08/2020), I consider that that is based on a misreading/misunderstanding of the relevant statutory guidance (and hence an error of law). However, I do not think it has adversely affected the Committee's reasoning in this case so far.

P12

Attached

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Westbury - Vivash Leisure Map

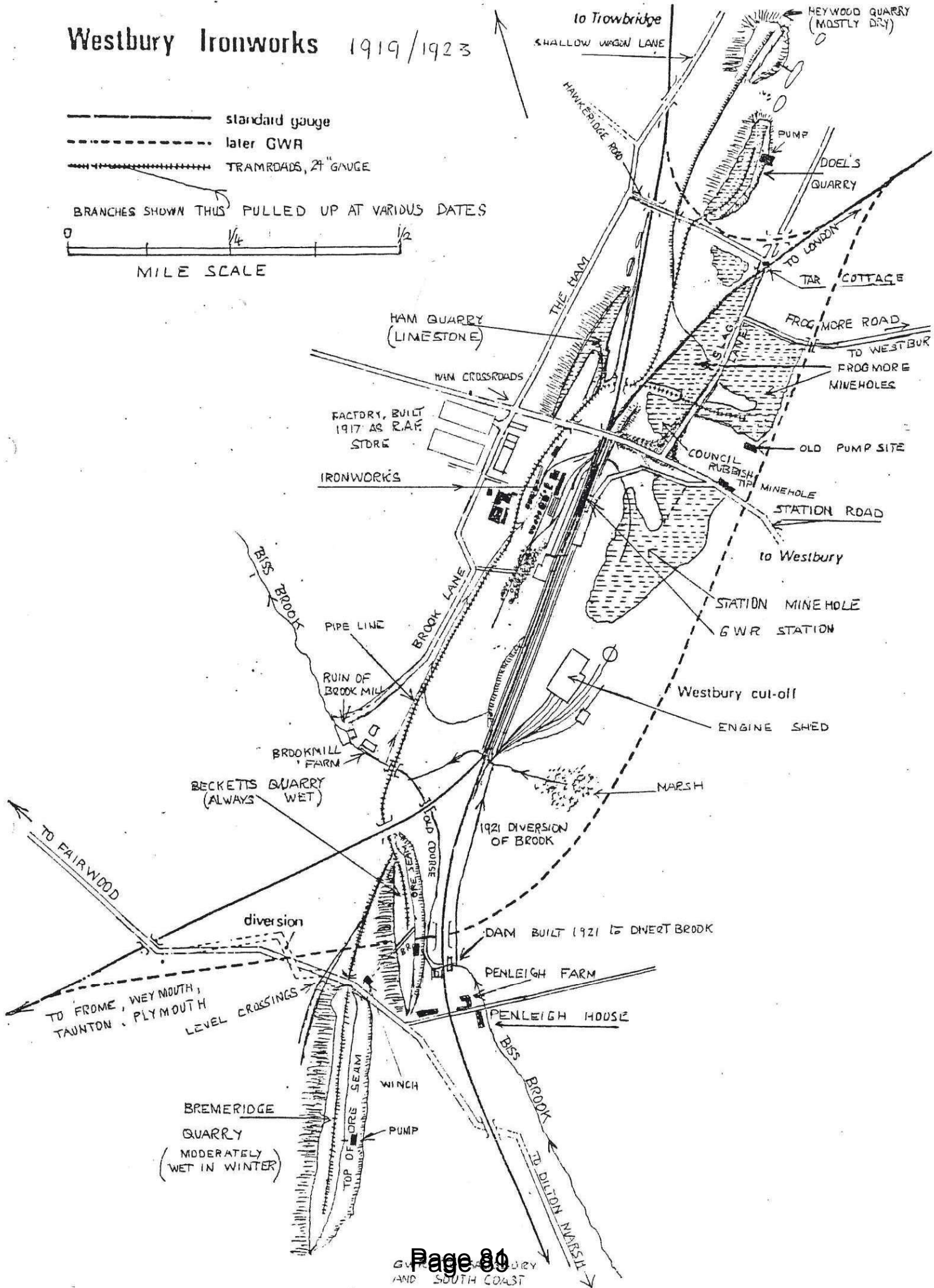
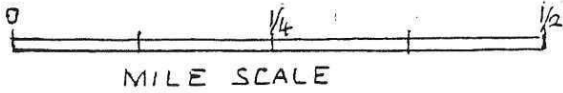


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Westbury Ironworks 1919/1923

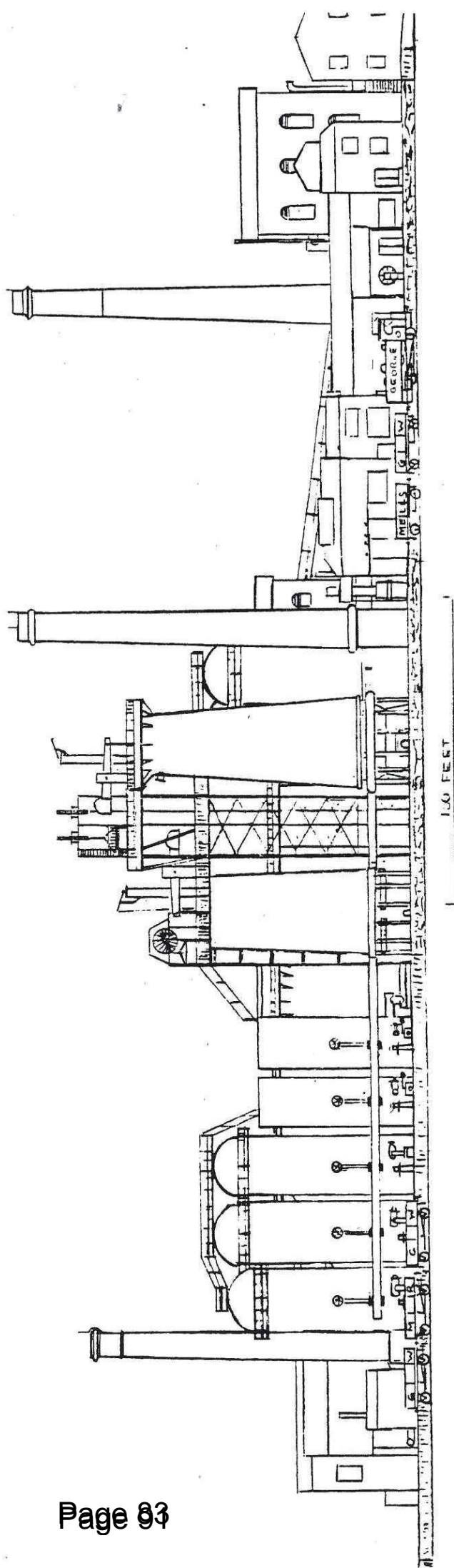
- standard gauge
- - - - - later GWR
- ||||| TRAMROADS, 27" GAUGE

BRANCHES SHOWN THUS PULLED UP AT VARIOUS DATES



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WESTBURY IRON WORKS
ELEVATION FROM G.W.R STATION c.1920



R. J. COGSH

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Statement of Cllr Gordon King, Westbury East Division:

Community Governance Review – Westbury & Heywood & Hawkeridge.

Westbury is a small market town tucked under the Salisbury Plain Questa once known as Westbury under the Plain.

It was central to what was the Westbury Hundred established in 1086 and was the centre for administration and justice, therein.

Westbury is comprised of seven ancient tithe areas which are Chalford, Westbury Leigh, Gooseland, Laverton/Leighton, Frogmore, Brook, and Ham including Storridge.

Brook and Ham were originally the rural fringe of the town until iron ore was discovered in Ham and the Westbury Iron Works was established in 1858.

This was the beginning of a heavy engineering tradition in Westbury directly opposite the Great Western Railway (Est1840's) and opposite extensive mine workings located all about the Railway lines and connected to the Great Western Railway at what is now Westbury Station by a network of miniature rail lines through which the iron ore was transported to the two furnaces and hence to the wider market.

Although now removed, this infrastructure is still traceable throughout the area claimed by Heywood Parrish as rail lines have been converted to footpaths and mines workings to ponds and parkland. Low bridges through which the railway worked remain. This industrial archaeology is important to Westbury's residents and is a constant reminder to new generations of residents. This industrial archaeology is cherished aspect of Westbury's development.

Some of these lanes and ponds have been converted to Parkland which are actively managed by Westbury Town Council. It was noticeable at the meeting at Heywood Hall that Heywood Parish Councillors had no knowledge of the existence of Vivash Park or the industrial heritage of the area they claim.

All that remains of the former iron works is a network of buildings that house small businesses and the Westbury Park Engineering Company which is Westbury's largest engineering and industrial employer continuing the tradition of heavy engineering in Westbury Ham. [Home - Westbury Park Engineering](#)

Westbury has 5 gateways: The A350 Trowbridge Road, A350 Chalford, A3098 Mane Way, B3098 Bratton Road, and B3097 Ham. All these gateways have significant traffic flow particularly the A350 and B3097 Ham which serves as access to the Westbury area trading estates, the railway station, and the residential estates of Ham. Any suggestion that Ham is semi-rural or rural is an under estimation of its either its busyness or setting,

The Ham forms a crossroads that includes Station Rd, Storridge Rd and Brook Lane. Both Storridge and Brook provide access to the Westbury Area Industrial estates. This junction is one of the busiest crossroads in the Westbury town area.

Residential development along The Ham commenced in the nineteenth century and was comprised of the Uitenhage House & Farm (now Redlands Guest House), railway and industrial workers cottages, and some larger private residences. There is a Romano British settlement of importance identified in the vicinity of Uitenhage House/Farm in 1870 and is in the space between what is now Paxmans Road and the Trowbridge Rail Line.

The Farmland of Uitenhage was sold off in parcels first in the 1980's for Hawkeridge Park and the latterly in the late 90's for Paxmans Road. Hawkeridge park is currently in Heywood Parish though Uitenhage House/Farm and Paxmans are in Westbury.

It has been suggested that the polling district FB2 was included in the Westbury North division to make up the numbers. Not so.

FB2 completes the Westbury Ham community area as it was known by the West Wiltshire District Council and was a constituent part of their Westbury Ham Ward which was maintained for community cohesion purposes.

Westbury railway station, and the industrial centre of Westbury are in Ham as is a very large social housing area that is included in the home office's data set of areas of significant deprivation and child poverty.

This area contains the descendants of those that operated the railway, the blast furnace, and the industrial centres. It is a clear and distinct community area that deserves recognition. This is Westbury Ham with Storridge which includes Hawkeridge Park and Storridge Road which has nothing in common with the Heywood community area.

The parish of Heywood & Hawkeridge comprises two hamlets known as Heywood (the larger) and Hawkeridge (the lesser) and closest to Westbury. Heywood is a long linear settlement without centre, pub, church, shop, or store. Because of this there is little in the way of community identification or cohesion. There are 396 houses in the parish of which by far the largest portion 192 are entirely within the Westbury Town precinct.

Most residents of Ham, Hawkeridge Park and Storridge Rd identify strongly with Westbury, use its facilities, contribute to societies and clubs, and participate entirely to its nighttime economy. It is telling that two residents one of Ham and the other of Storridge Rd chose to be Westbury Town & Wiltshire Councillors than Heywood Parish Councillors to contribute to development of those services, clubs & societies and facilities mentioned above. Indeed, Cllr Kate Knight (Westbury Town Council) was a resident in Ham for years and said recently "it never occurred to me that I was a resident in Heywood, I always believed I lived in Westbury. I often drove past Heywood, but I had no reason to go there."

Heywood & Hawkeridge PC has seven members and a part time clerk. It manages one play area which is often closed much to the annoyance of residents it has no other function other than as a consultative body.

Westbury Town Council has a full time Clerk, 9 staff divided into the delivery of internal and external services with considerable resource. Westbury Town Council is

progressive and actively works in partnership with others including those that H&H PC do not. For instance, the managers of the West Wiltshire reading estate work in partnership with WTC in the provision of CCTV cameras in Westbury and throughout the business park. Estate managers were astonished to find out they were in Heywood parish as they are anonymous to them; they have always felt part of Westbury to whom they look for support and to support contributing to our annual youth awards.

In Conclusion:

Heywood & Hawkeridge was a constituent part of the Westbury Hundred from 1086 to 1890 when it became an independent parish.

Heywood & Hawkeridge is a collection of two hamlets without a defined centre, community facility or sense of community identity. It has been slow to develop or establish any sense of sustainability. All development has been within the Westbury precinct.

The overwhelming majority of those who live in the precinct of Westbury believe they are Westbury residents in every sense other than precept and look to Westbury for services, use of facilities/clubs and social cohesion.

The Ham plus Storridge are constituents of the ancient Westbury Ham tithe area and have played a full part of Westbury's commercial and industrial development. It is substantially urban character it is not either rural or semi-rural in its nature.

For community and social cohesion purposes the Ham Ward should be brought back together as it has a shared history of development.

The areas of Ham (the minor part) and Storridge Road should be brought back into Westbury as should the West Wiltshire Trading Estate.

Proposal:

That in accordance with the above the Westbury parish boundary is extended northward from the crossroads at Station Rd, Storridge Rd, Brook Lane and The Ham to the junction of B3097 and the entrance of the West Wiltshire Trading Estate and is extended westward to boundary with Dilton Marsh parish at the location of the footbridge (FB on map).

Reason: Because this brings together the entire Westbury Ham district and unites neighbourhoods it also formalises the continued positive relationships between Westbury Town Council, its residents, and the administrators of West Wiltshire Trading Estate.

The Ham



Statement of Cllr Gordon King, Westbury East in response to the Community Governance Review – Westbury & Heywood & Hawkeridge.

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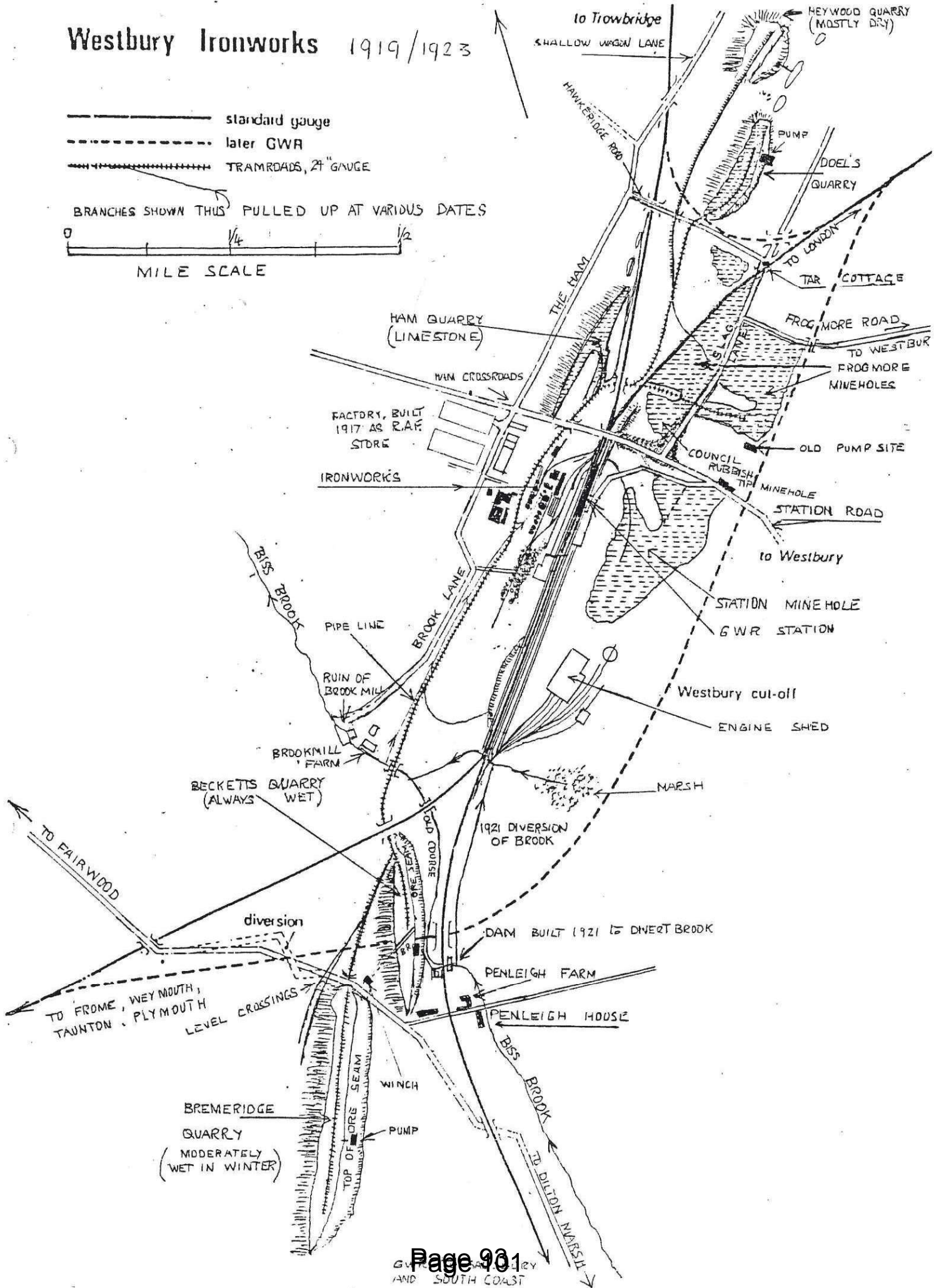
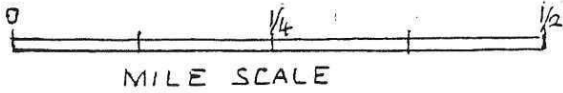
Page 92

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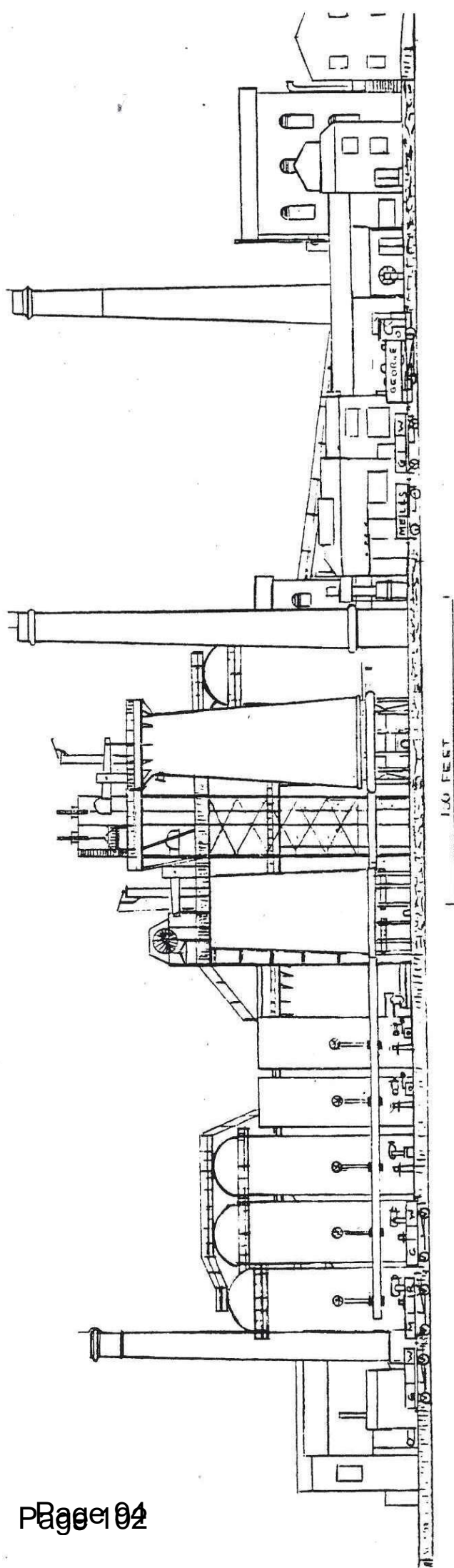
Westbury Ironworks 1919/1923

- standard gauge
- - - - - later GWR
- ||||| TRAMROADS, 27" GAUGE

BRANCHES SHOWN THUS PULLED UP AT VARIOUS DATES



WESTBURY IRON WORKS
ELEVATION FROM G.W.R STATION c.1920



R. J. COGSH

Recommendation 2 - Ludgershall and Tidworth

- 2.1 That Tidworth Town Council be reduced from nineteen councillors to fifteen.
- 2.2 That the North & West Ward contain ten councillors.
- 2.3 That the East and South ward contain five councillors.

0 Comments

	Status	Agree/Disagree/ Suggest amended	Amended Proposal	Reasons
B1				
B2				

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The Netheravon Public Meeting – Phoenix Hall 20 February 2023 – 18:30 – 19:00

In attendance:

Cllr Ashley O’Neill (chairman), Cllr Gavin Grant (vice-chair), Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Paul Oatway.

Public: 11, Officers: 2

Cllr O’Neill delivered the presentation slides, setting out what a CGR is and why one was taking place in this area, and explaining the draft recommendation of the Committee.

Views were then sought from those present.

Points raised:

- Would the boundary come down the hill from camp to Cheston farm and take in the cemetery? Yes.
- IBP – the residents in the Figheldean area do not communicate with FPC.
- A resident living in the camp area was supportive of the proposal, adding that it currently made no sense as residents there had always described themselves as living in Netheravon, when really they were located in Figheldene.
- No one present could confirm of a single person they were aware of in objection to the proposal.
- The PC representatives confirmed that they had sat together to agree on the points included within the modified proposal, prior to the submission.
- Netheravon had historically been an area that had been moved around to make up the numbers, and had been part of 2 other community areas before being placed where they currently were.
- Warding was not relevant as there was only a small number of residents to be moved.

Cllr O’Neill provided details of how people could respond to the survey, the parish councillors took away hard copy forms and maps, and stated they would seek to promote the review to residents.

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Recommendation 3 - Netheravon, Figheldean, Fittleton cum Haxton

- 3.1 That the area shown as C in the map below be transferred from the parish of Figheldean to the parish of Netheravon.
- 3.2 That the areas shown as D in the map below be transferred from the parish of Fittleton cum Haxton to the parish of Netheravon.
- 3.3 That the area shown as E in the map below be transferred from the parish of Fittleton cum Haxton to the parish of Figheldean.

Summary

- 10 Comments
- 10 agree (1 directly affected by proposal / 6 Netheravon resident / 3 PC)

	Status	Agree/Disagree/ Suggest amended	Amended Proposal	Reasons
C1	A resident of the areas directly affected by the proposals (Areas C, D or E)	Agree with the proposals		Despite living in Figheldean we are physically much closer to the village of Netheravon. Almost all our activity is linked to Netheravon. It is therefore more convenient and the place we identify with. Indeed people are surprised to learn the house is actually in Figheldean Parish.
C2	A resident of the current parish area of Netheravon	Agree with the proposals		This proposal is eminently sensible as residents of Choulston Farm Road, Choulston Close and Kerby Avenue have a Netheravon postal address, but at the moment live in the parish of Figheldean. Also the Netheravon Cemetery is situated in the parish of Figheldean and should be in Netheravon.
C3	A representative of a parish council affected by the proposals, or a unitary representative from the area affected	Agree with the proposals		
C4	A resident of the current parish area of Netheravon	Agree with the proposals		It is time that Netheravon Cemetery was in the parish which it serves.
C5	A representative of a parish council affected by the proposals, or a unitary representative from the area affected	Agree with the proposals		Fittleton-cum-Haxton Parish Council endorses the recommendations of the Committee, as these proposals rationalise and bring coherence to the parish boundaries.
C6	A resident of the current parish area of Netheravon	Agree with the proposals		As per all the reasons submitted by Netheravon Parish Council previously & discussed at the consultation meeting held in Netheravon Village Hall

C7	A representative of a parish council affected by the proposals, or a unitary representative from the area affected	Agree with the proposals		The boundary was always drawn wrong and didn't reflect the community properly, the cemetery for Netheravon is currently with the Figheidean boundary. The Service Quarters and all of those past the bridge in Netheravon all feel a stronger association with Netheravon, than they have ever done with Figheidean. The new boundary is based on what matters to a community and not using the River as an easy line to where the boundary was drawn.
C8	A resident of the current parish area of Netheravon	Agree with the proposals		Logical for the areas out lined to be drawn within the Netheravon boundary & I believe people living in the areas to be drawn in will have a greater sense of community
C9	A resident of the current parish area of Netheravon	Agree with the proposals		Makes more sense than what is in place currently
C10	A resident of the current parish area of Netheravon	Agree with the proposals		Brings a n area and its residents into the parish that is commonly seen and believed to be a part of that community

Written representations to the Draft Recommendations Consultation

Summary

Comment	Date received	Recommendation	Respondent	Details
P2	08/03/23	Recommendation 2	Tidworth Town Council	Support with amendment - different ward name and councillor number split

P2

Following on from our full town council meeting last night the members of Tidworth Town Council (TTC) Tidworth Town Council (TTC) welcomes the Panel's recommendation that Ludgershall has not proven the case for Perham Down to be moved from Tidworth to the Parish of Ludgershall. Tidworth is the natural home for Perham Down and the Council fully supports the recommendation for it to remain in its Parish.

Given the Panel's recommendation for Perham to remain within the Parish of Tidworth, TTC requests that the Parish Ward be renamed Tidworth South-East and Perham Down, so that Perham Down is included within the name for clarity. The Council does not wish to change the name of the County Division, just the Parish Ward.

TTC also welcomes the Panel's decision to reduce the number of Councillors from 19 to 15 as requested. However, now that the recommendation for Perham Down is that it should remain within the Parish of Tidworth, the Council would like the split to be 8 Councillors for the Tidworth North and West Ward, and 7 Councillors for the Tidworth South-East and Perham Down Ward.'

Tidworth Town Council

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The Gibb Public Meeting – Grittleton Village Hall 23 February 2023 – 1830 - 1920

Numbers: Public 3 (2 parish councillors), Committee members 2, local member 1 (Nick Botterill), Officers 1

Cllrs: Gavin Grant, Ashley O'Neill

Cllr O'Neill delivered the presentation slides, setting out what a CGR is and why one was taking place in this area, and explaining the draft recommendation of the Committee.

Views were then sought from those present.

Points raised

- There is a residential property south of the road by The Salutation Inn which has not been included, which possibly should be as part of the Gibb community.
- Those proposed to be moved from nettleton to Grittleton would have a nearer polling station with the latter.
- It was agreed by those present that Gatcombe Mill did not really belong in Grittleton, with details sought on why it was proposed to go to Castle Combe and not Nettleton. It was stated Castle Combe had requested this and the Committee had agreed with their case.
- It was confirmed those in the area proposed to be transferred had been written to, with a few responses received, supportive of the proposals.
- The views of Castle Combe and Nettleton PCs would be useful information, as the proposals expanded the area to be transferred from Castle Combe to Grittleton.
- The Committee sought details of if any other areas should be moved in to Grittleton, such as on the road toward Burton, or if the lines drawn did not seem appropriate in some other way – one suggestion was possibly drawing the line along the road throughout the Gibb, so the land to the south went to Nettleton.

Cllr O'Neill provided details of how people could respond to the survey, the parish councillors took away hard copy forms and maps, and stated they would seek to promote the review to residents.

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Recommendation 4 - The Gibb - Grittleton/Castle Combe/Nettleton

- 4.1 That the area shown as F in the map below be transferred from the parish of Nettleton to the parish of Grittleton.
- 4.2 That the area shown as G in the map below be transferred from the parish of Castle Combe to the parish of Grittleton.
- 4.3 That the area shown as H in the map below be transferred from the parish of Grittleton to the parish of Castle Combe.

Summary

- 2 Comments
- 2 agree (1 resident of area directly affected / 1 PC)

	Status	Agree/Disagree/ Suggest amended	Amended Proposal	Reasons
D1	A resident of the areas directly affected by the proposals (Areas F, G or H)	Agree with the proposals		The proposals will result in the The Gibb being in one parish rather than being divided between the three parishes of Nettleton, Grittleton and Castle Combe, with obvious benefits in terms of Local Governance and Community Identity.
D2	A representative of a parish council affected by the proposals, or a unitary representative from the area affected	Agree with the proposals		The Parish Council submitted the proposal in 2019 for the initial round of Community Governance Reviews, with a proposal to unify The Gibb within one parish council without specifying any preference as to which Parish Council should be chosen. The Parish Council believes that the proposal achieves the objectives of Effective & Convenient Local Governance and Community Identity and Interest by including all properties in one Parish Council as opposed to the current situation, where boundaries cut through the middle of the main group of houses on the B4039 and up the middle of the Fosseway.

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Giddeahall Public Meeting – Biddestone Village Hall 27 February 2023 – 1830 - 1905

Numbers: Public 4 (3 YK parish councillors, 1 Colerne parish councillor), Committee members 3, local member 1 (Nick Botterill), Officers 1

CLRs: Ashley O’Neill, Jacqui Lay, Ian McLennan

Cllr O’Neill delivered the presentation slides, setting out what a CGR is and why one was taking place in this area, and explaining the draft recommendation of the Committee.

Views were then sought from those present.

Points raised

- YK parish representatives stated they were very happy with the proposal, describing it as ‘eminently sensible’.
- That if they had looked at map of the fields more closely they would have drawn the line along the road all the way to Chippenham Without in the first place.
- They said there was one property currently in Castle Combe which is really part of the community at Long Dean in YK, and suggested it could be included as well.
- They reiterated their support for the twice requested transfer of the golf academy and substation area of Chippenham without, which the committee has twice declined to recommend.
- The representative from Colerne noted the committee had not recommended the request from Biddestone relating to Slaughterford Mill, and emphasised the unanimous support of Colerne PC not to change the boundary in that area, noting additionally it would impact electoral Divisions.

Cllr O’Neill provided details of how people could respond to the survey.

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Recommendation 5 - Yatton Keynell/Biddestone & Slaughterdorf

- 5.1 That the area shown as I in the map below be transferred from the parish of Yatton Keynell to the parish of Biddestone & Slaughterdorf.
 5.2 That the areas shown as J in the map below be transferred from the parish of Biddestone & Slaughterdorf to the parish of Yatton Keynell.

Summary

- 4 comments
 2 disagree (2 resident directly affected)
 2 amendments (1 resident YK / 1 PC)

	Status	Agree/Disagree/ Suggest amended	Amended Proposal	Reasons
E1	A resident of the areas directly affected by the proposals (Areas I or J)	Disagree with the proposals		i do not feel like i identify any more with Biddestone than Yatton Keynell, i do not wish to pay the extra Council tax costs.
E2	A resident of the areas directly affected by the proposals (Areas I or J)	Disagree with the proposals		i do not feel affiliated with Biddestone, i like being within Yatton Keynell and i use the services there such as the post office and pub, school and doctors.
E3	A resident of the parish of Yatton Keynell not from the areas proposed to be transferred	Suggest an amended proposal (for example agreement/disagreement with some but not all the recommendation)	To include Lower Long Dean Mill within Yatton Keynell Parish so all properties within the hamlet of Long Dean are within one parish. Also to include the Golf Driving Range at the southern end of the hamlet of Tiddlywink, so this provides a logical entry into the parish of Yatton Keynell	I agree with the basic recommendation as the A420 is such a busy road and there is no logical connection to Yatton Keynell as a result. The A420 makes a logical dividing line between the parishes of Yatton Keynell and Biddestone
E4	A representative of a parish council affected by the proposals, or a unitary representative from the area affected	Suggest an amended proposal (for example agreement/disagreement with some but not all the recommendation)	B4039, the current Parish boundary is located at the start of the hamlet of Tiddlywink, whereas most residents consider the golf academy as part of the village, request that the boundary is redrawn to include the golf academy. In the community of Long Dean there is one property which is in Castle Combe PC whilst the other properties are in Yatton Keynell, suggest that Lower Long Dean Mill is included within Yatton Keynell.	The Parish Council believes that the proposal achieves the objectives of Effective & Convenient Local Governance and Community Identity and Interest by using the A420 as the boundary between the two parishes.

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Recommendation 6 - Warminster

- 6.1 That Warminster Town Council be increased from thirteen councillors to fourteen.
- 6.2 That Warminster Town Council continue to comprise four wards, with councillor numbers as follows:
 - i) Warminster North – 2 Councillors
 - ii) Warminster West – 4 Councillors
 - iii) Warminster East – 4 Councillors

Summary

0 Comments

	Status	Agree/Disagree/ Suggest amended	Amended Proposal	Reasons
F1				

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Recommendation 7 - Donhead St Mary, Fovant, Monkton Farleigh, Grimstead

- 7.1 That Donhead St Mary Parish Council be decreased from thirteen councillors to eleven councillors.
- 7.2 That Monkton Farleigh Parish Council be increased from seven councillors to eight councillors.

Summary

3 Comments

3 agree (2 MF residents / 1 PC)

	Status	Agree/Disagree/ Suggest amended	Amended Proposal	Reasons
G1	A resident of the parish of Monkton Farleigh	Agree		Would give more flexibility for members of the Parish Council who work and sometimes find it difficult to make meetings e.g. nurse, farm manager.
G2	A resident of the parish of Monkton Farleigh	Agree		To ensure there are sufficient councillors present to hold meetings to provide a service to the community of Monkton Farleigh
G3	A representative of a parish council affected by the proposals, or a unitary representative from the area affected	Agree		That the parish council is run by voluntary councillors who all have work or caring responsibility. The increase in councillor number will enable us to ensure quorum and provide greater flexibility

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