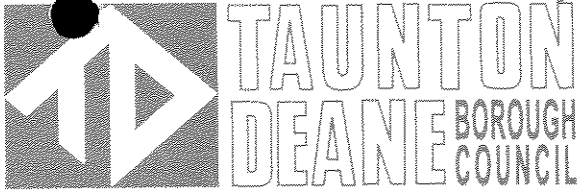


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From Councillor Terence Hall,



MEMBERS' ROOM

Member for Manor and Wilton Ward

7th August 2006

The Secretary
The Electoral Commission
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London SW1P 2HW

Dear Sir

**Recommendations of the Boundary Committee for England
Future electoral arrangements Taunton Deane in Somerset**

I write to express the view that in framing its final recommendations dated July 2006, the Boundary Committee (BC) paid insufficient regard to observations it received concerning its proposals relating to the five Wards of Taunton/Eastgate, Taunton/Manor & Wilton, Taunton/ Killams & Mountfields, Comeytrowe and Bishops Hull.

The list below shows the electoral position of the five wards in 2009 if existing boundaries were maintained and the increase + or reduction - in the number of electors needed to achieve the average of 1603 per councillor for arithmetic equality.

Ward Name	Electorate 2009	Council Seats	Electoral Equality
Bishops Hull	2880	2	+ 326
Comeytrowe	4264	3	+ 545
Eastgate	3857	2	- 651
Killams & Mountfield	2570	2	+636
Manor & Wilton	4455	3	-54

All of these wards are well established and have boundaries that closely mirror the communities they represent and should not be altered without good reason. However the forecast level of inequality is too great in some Wards and reduction is necessary.

Bishops Hull and Manor & Wilton Wards

The BC recommendations include transfer of Henley and Ashley Roads from Manor & Wilton to Bishops Hull. These two roads are in the Manor Estate, which gave the Ward its name Manor & Wilton. They contribute in total some 164 electors and have little or no connection with Bishops Hull. Commonsense and community of interest dictates these roads should remain in the Manor & Wilton Ward.

It would be reasonable to transfer 72 electors from the Wellington Road postal codes TA1 5AP and 5AW to Bishops Hull, as this would only be an extension of the Bishops Hull Ward on the side of Wellington Road that Bishops Hull Village exists.

The impact of this suggestion will be to reduce the number of electors transferred to Bishops Hull from Manor & Wilton by 92 and increase from 3% to 6% the variance

"These are the views of an individual Councillor"

from the average. This is the same that the BC have accepted for Comeytrove and is in line with many other wards and therefore is regarded as acceptable.

Manor & Wilton and Eastgate Wards

The BC recommendations envisage transferring 250 electors from Manor & Wilton to Comeytrove and 220 from Manor & Wilton to Bishops Hull. My alternative proposals would transfer 250 from Manor & Wilton to Comeytrove (as BC) and 128 from Manor and Wilton to Bishops Hull i.e. would retain 92 more electors in Manor & Wilton than the BC recommendations. The BC recommendations also include transfer of the existing Eastgate CO polling district of 162 electors to Manor and Wilton Ward.

The combined effect of all the BC recommendations relating to Manor & Wilton ward results in a ward of 4571 (i.e. 238 electors short of the 4809 needed to achieve equality with the average). My proposals reduce the shortfall to 146 electors.

The existing boundary of the CO polling district currently meanders from Tancred Street to the Town Bridge at St James's Street at the back of the shops in East and North Streets. Between that boundary and the Eastgate side of the main streets of East and North Streets are a total of 90 electors.

The main streets of East and North Streets are a natural boundary between Manor & Wilton and Eastgate wards. **It is suggested that the Eastgate/ Manor & Wilton boundary be moved to the main streets of East and North Streets between Tancred Street and St James's Street.**

This would have the result of increasing Eastgate and reducing Manor by 90 electors neither of which would materially affect electoral equality but returning the level of electors in Manor & Wilton to the same as that recommended by the BC.

Eastgate and Killams & Mountfields Wards.

The BC recommendations if implemented will create an enclave of a relatively small number of Killams & Mountfield electors within an area, which has traditionally been associated with Eastgate Ward and its predecessor and which has no community of interest with the Killams & Mountfield ward.

The natural boundary between Eastgate and Killams & Mountfields Wards in this area is South Street and I request the boundary be adjusted to recognise this.

The impact on these two wards will be to reduce electoral inequality marginally in Eastgate but increase it marginally in Killams and Mountfields. This small worsening in Killams and Mountfields is justified for the improved community interests.

Summary

These proposals consist of a small number of changes that result from the application of local knowledge and if accepted will bring about considerable improvements to the final recommendations of the Boundary Committee. I commend them to you for consideration.

