

Somerset

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Ben Parker

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Minehead Town Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Minehead

Please see attached letter with all feedback information

Attached Documents:

- letter-from-minehead-town-council-to-boundary-commission.pdf

Minehead Town Council



Date: 23 December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Ward Boundary Review Consultation - Minehead Town Council Submission

I am writing on behalf of Minehead Town Council to provide our formal response to the ongoing consultation process for the ward boundary review for Somerset Council.

First, we welcome this review and greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide meaningful feedback through the consultation process. We value the guidance documentation that underpins such reviews and understand the complexities involved in considering multiple factors.

The current Somerset Council ward member boundaries divide the town, with residents of areas such as Alcombe and Ellicombe falling under the stewardship of Somerset Councillors who serve the Dunster ward. We believe this boundary review presents an ideal opportunity to unify the town of Minehead so that Somerset Council ward boundaries more accurately reflect the parish boundaries. Such alignment would provide residents with a clear and easy-to-follow local government structure with well-defined ward boundaries. Moreover, this would ensure that ward members for Somerset Council can represent the sole interests of the town without confusion, maximising the efficiency and accountability of public office, which is of particular importance in a large unitary council area like Somerset.

Our parish boundary currently covers nearly all of Minehead, and due to its relatively geographically isolated nature, we believe it generally serves the residents of the town adequately. However, we would like to highlight a small but important anomaly that we believe should be addressed. We propose a slight extension to the Somerset Council ward boundary beyond the current parish boundary line to ensure that Seaward Way and the Butlins resort are fully encompassed within the Somerset Council ward, creating a more comprehensive and cohesive representation of our community.

Town Clerk: Mr Ben Parker - Minehead Town Council, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Website: www.mineheadtowncouncil.co.uk

Minehead - A Fairtrade Status Town



While we recognise the Boundary Commission's preference for single ward councillors, we propose that Minehead would justify being a two-member ward. With a population of nearly 12,000 and forecasted growth, a two-member ward would further enhance efficiency and accountability through collaborative working. As the 'capital' of the West Somerset area, Minehead has extremely unique geographical circumstances that we strongly urge be taken into account during this review process.

We sincerely thank you for your attention and would welcome the opportunity to provide any further information or clarification you may require.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Craig Palmer
Chair, Minehead Town Council

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[REDACTED]
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Please see attached an additional response from Minehead Town Council.

Attached Documents:

- mtc-additional-letter-to-boundary-commission-re-ward-boundaries-review.pdf

Minehead Town Council



My Reference: MTC/BC

Date: 16 January 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Additional Minehead Town Council response to Somerset Council
Ward Boundaries Review**

I am writing with reference to the Local Government Boundary Commission review of Somerset Council ward boundaries, specifically regarding Minehead Town Council's initial submission dated 23/12/24 (Reference: 1152431). In light of recent developments, we wish to submit an additional response.

We have become aware that Kingston St Mary Parish Council has submitted feedback encompassing proposals not only for their immediate vicinity but for the entirety of Somerset's ward boundaries. While we acknowledge their legitimate concerns about preserving the identity of smaller parishes, we must strongly object to proposals that would fragment well-established communities such as Minehead.

The fundamental purpose of boundary reviews is to ensure ward arrangements effectively represent and serve their communities. We find it concerning that such far-reaching proposals have been put forward without any apparent consultation or engagement with the communities they would directly affect, including Minehead and other neighbouring parishes.

While we appreciate Kingston St Mary's concerns regarding potential absorption into Taunton, their proposals appear to prioritise their specific circumstances without due consideration for the broader implications across Somerset. This is particularly problematic for Minehead, as a distinct coastal town with unique geographical challenges, situated over 20 miles away with markedly different community needs and characteristics.

Therefore, Minehead Town Council firmly oppose Kingston St Mary's proposed ward boundary arrangements as they relate to Minehead. We believe any boundary modifications should be based on comprehensive local consultation

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[REDACTED]

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and a thorough understanding of each community's specific circumstances and requirements.

Kind Regards



Ben Parker
Town Clerk
On behalf of Minehead Town Council

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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