

Cabinet

Wednesday, 19 October 2016

Additional Information

Agenda Item No. 7 – Community Governance Review

Update to Cabinet Report

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Update to Cabinet Report

Addendum to Appendix Three

1. Feedback from Blunsdon Parish Council

1.1 The submission from Blunsdon Parish Council is set out below:

Additional comments are as follows

- As the PC is strongly opposed to separating the Parish it is not appropriate to suggest membership numbers for each of the resulting parishes should the proposal be adopted: such details can be left for determination if necessary once a decision has been made.
- The current Kingsdown Parish Ward should remain a warded part of Blunsdon St Andrew Parish, as residents have requested.

Introduction

- 1.2 The Community Governance Review is primarily being undertaken to look at proposals to Parish the town areas of Swindon in order to facilitate the transfer of services into those Parishes. For the transfer of services to be effective and efficient it is important to have sustainable Parish Councils, so that the resulting increase in precept does not unduly burden the taxpayer. It has been acknowledged that the Consultation Map ([Appendix A](#) – Illustrative and Existing Maps - is not based on any facts or figures and has not taken account of any impacts, positive or negative on residents. As a result, there is still no evidence or business case to demonstrate that the changes shown on the Illustrative Maps would be beneficial to residents. The absence of any such empirical evidence, would suggest there is an arbitrary, minority held desire to split the current Parish of Blunsdon St Andrew at any cost.
- 1.3 Two months on and we are still in the position of having no evidence to support the proposal to split the parish. How can this be a constructive consultation when the reasons and rationale for the proposal have not been made clear. At a recent meeting with the Borough Solicitor, he stated that the reasons and rationale would not be forthcoming until the decision had been made and even then they would not be detailed. This is not transparent decision making and the Parish remains of the view that there is a desire to split the Parish irrespective of residents` views, the cost of doing so or the efficiency of two Parishes operating where one has done so very well for a number of years.
- 1.4 This submission demonstrates why the Parish of Blunsdon St Andrew should not be split and how it operates efficiently and effectively for the benefit of its residents across the entire Parish. Furthermore, Blunsdon St Andrew PC is fully committed to and capable of taking on the designated services from April 2017.
- 1.5 This response has been produced in line with the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review, namely;

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

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

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

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

- 1.6 Blunsdon St Andrew, although historically regarded as rural, is clearly now an Urban Parish with some rural aspects, not the other way around as is often suggested. The Parish will become increasingly urban with the proposed developments scheduled within the Parish – Kingsdown NC5, (1650), Ermin Street (190), Abbey Farm and the 'Triangle' (400), Abbey Stadium (500) and Tadpole Garden Village c.1500 to go) approx. 4,200 new households.
- 1.7 The Parish has many facilities that are utilised by residents from various parts of the Parish. The facilities are not localised to separate parts of the Parish. Many of the sports teams and other community user groups draw their membership from across the Parish, for example, Blunsdon Football Club and Blunsdon Cricket Club and children from Blunsdon Village use the community facilities and the pre-school at Redhouse. The regeneration of Abbey Stadium will provide an important facility for the whole parish and the wider community of Swindon. Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council has been engaged in this project from the outset, providing valuable feedback to help shape the development in the interests of residents.
- 1.8 The Parish Council has made grants available to various groups and organisations across the Parish – Abbey Meads Community Primary School, Butterflies, North Swindon Fun Day, Redhouse Community Centre, Police Bicycles and BIOS Van to give a few examples.
- 1.9 Redhouse Community Centre has become the focal point of the Parish, with the Parish Office now being located there and open to residents for their Parish issues. In addition, our Parish Councillors live and operate across the Parish making them accessible to residents and a real part of community life. ([Appendix B](#) - Parish Councillor Map).
- 1.10 The Parish Council is progressive and responsive and aims to fulfil the demands of the different communities within it. ([Appendix C](#) – Parish Workload. This involves working hard with the Community Centre in Redhouse to provide much needed services to residents, supporting the Abbey Meads School Community operation and helping to create a Neighbourhood Plan to ensure measured development in the rural areas. It uses modern methods to engage successfully with residents, be it in resolution of an issue or advice or signposting to other organisations and

agencies. The Parish Councillors are located evenly across the Parish making them accessible to residents, they work as a team, utilising their different skills and experiences across the Parish as a whole. The Parish Council has good working relationships with neighbouring parishes and has worked successfully with Haydon Wick PC on a number of issues e.g. Section 106 monitoring, highways and transfer of services.

- 1.11 The Parish is viewed as one by the Parish Council but more importantly by residents. The petition on which Illustrative Map 1 was produced, was only directed at one sector of the Parish, this is not in the interests nor does it reflect the identity of the residents – it's divisive. The results were unsurprising in that if you asked any group of residents if they would like their Council Tax to be cheaper, the answer is going to be yes! We have taken the attached set of facts and figures to our residents over the last two weeks and have secured 360 signatures in support of remaining as one Parish. ([Appendix D](#) – Petition responses. These will be hand delivered with the hard copy version on 1st August 2016.
- 1.12 Blunsdon St Andrew is still of the view that the petition to split the Parish is flawed. While the Parish understands it was not the trigger to commence the review, it appears to have been given significant weight to date. In fact, in the August Cabinet Report it was the only piece of relevant and current "evidence" cited. The two other points relied on were derived from data in 1999 and 2011! At the Public meeting on 14th September, we were told by Cllr Martin that the Borough Council does not have adequate resources to check the validity of any petition received. As such, it is almost acceptable that a petition drafted by a resident may not be entirely accurate, however, the petition to split St Andrews from Blunsdon was drafted by a Borough Councillor who has a responsibility to be honest and open with the electorate and not mislead them. Furthermore, we also learned at the same meeting that this petition had in fact been checked, by the Borough Solicitor himself. In addition, in a recent article in the Link magazine, Cllr Tomlinson claimed to have the support of the Borough Solicitor for her petition, this is of concern as we have been assured of his independence and neutrality in this matter. The residents of St Andrews Parish Ward have signed a petition on the basis they will pay less Council Tax, they will not. Additional signatures to retain the Parish on existing boundaries have been obtained (on paper and online) and these will be hand delivered with the hard copy version on 30th September 2016. The total number of signatories on this petition is currently 733.
- 1.13 Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council already delivers on the desires outlined in a previous petition and we're preparing to take on the other services suggested from SBC. ([Appendix E](#) - Exit or Remain) The Parish Council has established good productive working relationships with Borough Officers, Planning, Highways, and Environmental Health by way of example and also has excellent working relationships with Justin Tomlinson MP, and most of the Ward Councillors. This enables the PC to work collaboratively with colleagues for the benefit of all Parishioners.
- 1.14 It can be difficult to recruit and retain Parish Councillors. Blunsdon St Andrew is very fortunate to have experienced, committed community-focussed

Councillors. This experience should be invaluable in assisting the Borough to implement changes in the areas that are to be newly Parished. Much has been made of this during the engagement sessions with the Borough, so to dilute that experience and the team working that has been built up by splitting the Parish would be a travesty.

- 1.15 There has been a suggestion during this period of engagement that existing Parish Councillors may not be utilised to form any new Parish or Shadow Parish Council. These individuals are the most local and direct level of democratically elected leadership and as such would be best placed to form a new Parish Council. It is of concern that this does not appear to be the favoured option in this case. Given the vast amounts of work in the very short timescales available it would make eminent sense to work in this way, however, indications are that Ward Councillors, the very same ones that instigated the petition, would in fact take control. Again, in the absence of any clear explanation or evidence to support this eventuality, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that there are other motivations driving this agenda, the aim being control of their own little empire. At the Public Meeting on 14th September, Cllr Tomlinson promised the Parish Council a response to an email sent five days earlier asking for details in support of her statements made to date. At the date of this document, this response has not been received, clearly there is no evidence or justification to split the Parish just a Political whim!
- 1.16 Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council is the most cost effective PC in the Borough, with a precept of approximately £18 per household per year. Satisfaction with the performance of the PC recorded in a 2015 survey showed some 80% as satisfied or very satisfied.
- 1.17 Currently the ratio of spend between Blunsdon Village and the remainder of the Parish is 30% to 70% respectively, in monetary terms this equates to approx. £28K and £68K of last year's Precept. (£96,000)
- 1.18 All income-earning assets are in Blunsdon so that in effect, rather than was suggested by the petition, this income helps to keep the precept low across the whole Parish. Although Redhouse Community Centre generates income, it is a self-financing organisation and therefore does not contribute to Parish income. ([Appendix F](#) – Income and Expenditure [figure 6]) Blunsdon as a Parish on its own would see an increase in precept of almost 250%, to around £45 for the current levels of service; this would be further increased by £65 to take on existing transfer of services. This is not sustainable and therefore is in direct conflict with the purpose of the review. Furthermore, St Andrews would save approx. £4 per household and the set up and operation costs of a new Parish would be between £5 and £10 which would bring the Precept back to more than the current level. The residents would then have to take on the costs associated with transfer of services. ([Appendix G](#) – Kirsty Coles' breakdown of ToS costs. These figures have now been revised as at 12.30 on 29th July 2016)
- 1.19 At the Public Meeting on 14th September Cllr Martin provided some indicative costs for the proposed split of Blunsdon St Andrew Parish. These figures were

completely different again to those supplied previously. The PC accepts that these figures will change as the process develops, but the Tax base does not change significantly day to day nor does the spend on current service provision so it's hard to have any confidence in the figures being used. The indicative costs provided at this meeting were a Precept of approx. £43 per household for St Andrews and approx. £57 per household for Blunsdon. The figure for St Andrews is understated as it has been calculated including revenue that is utilised in the current calculation of the Precept, derived from assets in Blunsdon. If the Parish is split, St Andrews would not benefit from this "subsidy" and therefore the Precept would be higher than the indicative figures given. Despite all the confusion with figures and indicative costs provided, one thing is patently clear – both Parishes of Blunsdon and St Andrew will lose out under this proposal and residents of both Parishes will pay significantly more than they currently do, or than they would have if the Parish remained as Blunsdon St Andrew. The most cost effective way for the Borough to transfer services for the area of Blunsdon and St Andrews is to leave the Parish as one, keeping the Precept to its lowest level for the provision of efficiently procured services. There is also the issue of whether this Precept is calculated to include the transition payments from SBC or that these payments have still to be applied. It would also appear that the levels of transition funding are to be significantly reduced from that which the Parishes have been using to model their arrangements. A sum equivalent to the current cost of services to SBC, was to be transferred to the Parishes for year one. This is now likely to be 50% of the current cost which will impact Parishes and their residents much harder and sooner than expected. In the case of Blunsdon St Andrew this reduced funding, on top of the proposed split, will have a significant impact of the financial stability of the Parishes and will leave residents paying far more than they would if the Parish remained on its current boundaries.

- 1.20 On a separate but related matter, the Parish Council is concerned at the potential costs it will incur if current SBC staff are transferred with the service. Rates of pay, pension issues and redundancy costs will significantly increase the cost of service provision and as a consequence the Precept. In addition, the Parish Council is also concerned about the transitional arrangements and the support on offer from SBC. There is much detail to agree, previous agreements and contracts will need to be unpicked and redrafted and yet we have no information about how and when this will take place nor how these decisions/negotiations will be managed.
- 1.21 Blunsdon St Andrew as a Parish on its current boundaries promotes diversity of age and ethnicity and whilst there are arguably differences between the two areas of the Parish, together they provide a sustainable, balanced, cohesive community, which is served well by the Parish Council.

Conclusion

- 1.22 Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council submit that it should continue to operate on its current boundaries, with the exception of the proposal from Haydon Wick to assume Abbey Meads into its boundary, which we believe has merit, provides clarity and would benefit those residents.

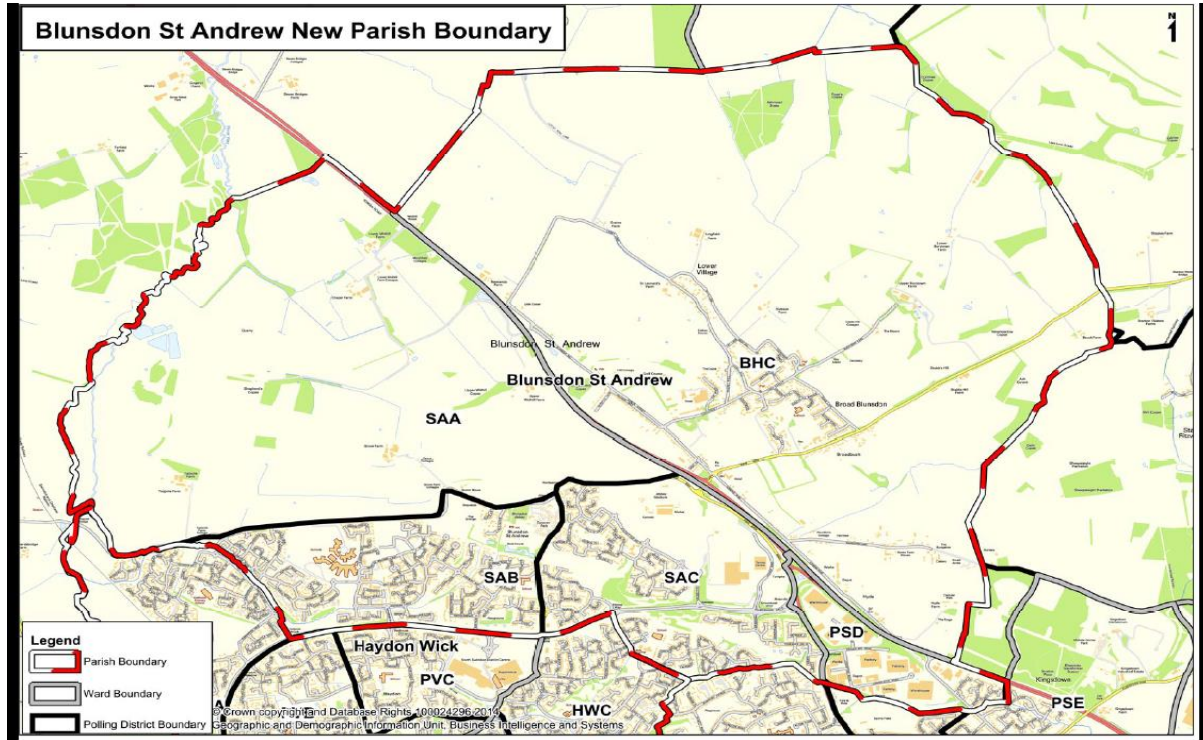
- 1.23 The Parish Council is firmly of the view, as demonstrated in this paper, that the boundaries set out in the Illustrative Maps would not be beneficial to residents and would in fact be more expensive.
- 1.24 This view has only been reinforced in the intervening months. We have provided evidence that the most efficient and cost effective means of transferring services is for Blunsdon St Andrew PC to continue as is and build on its considerable strengths in taking on this new challenge. Tentative plans have been put in place for the provision of services transferring from SBC in April 2017, these arrangements are only viable for the Parish of Blunsdon St Andrew as a whole and it will not be possible or practical to implement if the Parish is split. The Review timetable does not allow sufficient time for either Parish accurately to consider a budget or to negotiate tenders for contracts to carry out the services transferred. This is a flawed process that might work for unparished areas but does not take into account the technical requirements to make provision for a full year's services to our community and therefore the decision for the Parish to remain is the most sensible one.
- 1.25 We are an experienced, committed and community focussed Parish Council serving our community well and looking forward to the challenge of providing even better services for our residents through the opportunities presented by the Transfer of Services programme.
- 1.26 Finally, we believe the focus of effort and resources at this point in time should be to establish successful new parishes in the Town area. There is experience within the PC to help support this transition and as advocates of Parishing this would be a valuable resource in what is a major undertaking. The timescales for implementation of any changes agreed as part of this review are extremely tight and therefore to ensure the best chance of success focussing on the Town area would seem like the logical way forward.
- 1.27 Again, this view has only been reinforced. Having attended a stakeholder meeting at SBC, which was mainly attended by representatives from the non Parished areas, it was evident that the purpose, role and responsibilities of a Parish Council were not clear to them. The process by which budgets are set and income raised were also unclear. While this is to be expected, it further demonstrates how much work will be required to establish and operate these new Parishes. When you then consider the fact that Parishing the Town areas is very unpopular and therefore willingness to be involved may be lacking it makes sense to concentrate valuable and scarce resources to these areas where change is necessary and will be hugely difficult. As previously stated there is no reason nor evidence to support why any change is necessary in respect of Blunsdon St Andrew. It can continue to operate efficiently and effectively without being a further drain on the public purse, residents' pockets or the limited resources available to implement this vitally important project. In the interests of our residents and common sense we urge you to retain the Parish of Blunsdon St Andrew.

Borough Council's Comment

- 1.28 The submission by Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council at Stage 2 has been summarised in Appendix 3 at paras 2.18 to 2.21. The Borough Council has been asked to include the parish council's submission at Stage 3 in full.
- 1.29 The submission is self-explanatory. As is acknowledged in 1.21, however, there are arguably differences between the two areas of the parish – ie east and west of the A419. This has been expanded on in the report and the differences highlighted in Appendix 5 of the report (paragraphs 2.3 to 2.10 refers). Whether the two areas are cohesive is a judgment call and for the reasons set out in this report and in previous reports, it is considered that this is not the case.
- 1.30 So far as the area of Abbey Meads which Blunsdon St Andrew parish council suggest in their submission as being transferred to Haydon Wick parish council is concerned, this would lie in the proposed St Andrews parish if Members choose to continue to proceed with creating that parish. The area is clearly identified on the map supporting the petition to create St Andrews as being within that new parish, and not within Haydon Wick. It is considered that Abbey Meads better reflects the identity and interests of a St Andrews parish than that of Haydon Wick and would secure more effective and convenient community governance within that area by retaining the unity of the northern sector development.
- 1.31 So far as comments about individuals are concerned, the Director of Law and Democratic Services (referred to as the Borough Solicitor in paragraph 1.12) confirms his independence and neutrality in this matter. He supports all members and confirms that the petition met the criteria set out in section 80 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. In relation to the assertion made in paragraph 4.3, it is not true to say that “the reasons and rationale for any decision would not be forthcoming until the decision had been made and even then they would not be detailed.” The report itself sets out the detailed reasons and rationale for the recommendations.

2. APPENDICES FROM BLUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL SUBMISSION

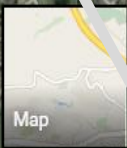
2.1 [Appendix A](#) – Illustrative and Existing Maps





Illustrative Map 2





2.3 Appendix C – Parish Workload

Workload carried out across the whole Parish

As you may be aware the Borough Council are currently conducting a consultation concerning the review of Boundaries in Swindon. Their view is that it would be good to create Parishes in the non-parished areas of the town and revisit some of the existing Parish Boundaries. The two illustrative maps produced by the Borough Councillors show a division of Blunsdon St Andrew Parish thereby creating a new St Andrews Ward Parish in line with the Borough Council Ward (St Andrew's Ridge, Ash Brake, Redhouse and Tadpole Garden Village) or that the same area is subsumed by Haydon Wick Parish Council. This would mean that Blunsdon St Andrew Parish, established since 1894, would only then cover the existing area East of the new A419.

Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council is strongly against this idea. 75% of the allocated Parish Councillors are drawn and work from within the suggested 'new' Parish area and we provide and administer many services across the Parish but these specifically in the proposed new parish:-

- ✓ 91% of our play areas are in the proposed new area and 100% of the maintenance costs
- ✓ 81% of our 53 dog bins are in the proposed area and are serviced by us
- ✓ The majority of planning matters that take up Parish time are in that area
- ✓ We run the new Community Centre there
- ✓ We help fund the Redhouse Residents Association
- ✓ We help fund the Community part of Abbey Meads School
- ✓ We help fund Butterflies Children's Centre activities
- ✓ We help fund the Bios Van project for youth
- ✓ We have installed outdoor fitness equipment and have planned and budgeted for more
- ✓ A 70% share of the Parish staff's hours/admin costs is spent there
- ✓ The Parish Clerk works from her office there
- ✓ We have even refurbished the K6 Telephone Box there!

We have provided notice boards and signs and police bicycles and funded street parties and given Diamond Jubilee commemorative medals to all school pupils.

We have a great relationship with Highworth Town Council and Haydon Wick Parish Council and work with them on many projects from road safety to transferring assets.

2.4 Appendix D – Petition Results

2.5 As at 30th September 2016, there are 733 signatures on our Petition. These have been submitted with the hard Copy version of this document.

2.6 Appendix E – Exit or Remain?

Petition for Bluxit! Or petition for Remain. (You know what happened in the other one!)

With reference to the Community Governance review suggesting that the Parish is split at the A419, we have been doing some calculations...

The statements in the petition raised by Swindon Borough Councillors Vera Tomlinson and Mary Friend say the following

‘1. There is no commonality between Blunsdon (small village) and St Andrew’s Ward (new build west of 419).’

This may appear to be true, however the reality of what we and the Parish Clerk **do** at Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council, does not reflect that statement, in fact things are very much the same.

We consider planning applications, and rely on the local knowledge of our elected Parish Councillors to help make decisions across the whole Parish, fewer in the Village than St Andrew’s Ward.

We arrange for the Play Areas to be kept litter free, safe and in good working order in both areas.

We arrange for the dog bins to be emptied in both areas.

We run a Village Hall and a Community Centre the same way

We support local residents’ associations, all schools, help provide services for youth, and for the aged.

‘2. The Precept raised is currently managed by Blunsdon (St Andrew) Parish Council. The majority of the Precept is collected from the St Andrew’s ward residents, but most of that Precept is spent in Blunsdon Village.’

It is true that we manage the Precept as do all Parish Councils, however we manage it so well that it is the lowest Precept in the Borough (£18.43 per band D). As the majority of the houses in the Parish are west of the A419, overall we do collect more from that area. **It is not true that most of the Precept is spent in Blunsdon Village**, we spend more money and time in the larger area comprising Redhouse, St Andrew’s Ridge, Abbey Meads, Ash Brake, Groundwell West and Tadpole Garden Village.

‘3. The Precept from the St Andrew’s Ward is needed for our Ward and should be managed by our own Parish Council. For example, on road crossings, grass cutting, dog bins, children’s play parks and running our own Community Centre.’

As can be seen from the breakdown of the end of year accounts, we do manage the Precept well and spend the majority of it in the area west of the A419 on dog bins, play areas and setting up the Community Centre which, like the Village Hall, contribute to their own running costs. Road crossings and grass cuttings are currently paid for in your Council Tax.

If after reading this, you believe the Parish should be split think on this. If it does split your Precept contribution in both areas will increase! The cost of

setting up and running a new Parish along with taking over the services that you already pay for as discussed will cost you more. Please take this into consideration and sign our counter-petition. Or let your local Parish Councillor know if you want your name removed. They are **Mike Compton, Derek Ricketts and Ian Jankinson** (St Andrew's Ridge), **Andrew James, Colleen Bennett, John Kilby and Stewart Herron** (Redhouse). **Alex Marasco** (Tadpole Garden Village) Thank you – Ian Jankinson

2.7 Appendix F – Income and Expenditure - Taken from the 2015/16 end of year accounts All figures are approx..

	<u>Abbey Meads Ward</u>		<u>Blunsdon/Kingsdown Ward</u>	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
Precept (£96,000)	79,104		16,896	
Council Tax Grant	11,650		2,533	
Village Hall		12,464	15,724	12,464
Redhouse Comm Centre		12,000		
Burial Ground		1,668	2,662	1,668
Rec Ground: maintenance		3,054	626	3,054
Car park/compound		6,378		6, 378
Pavilion			1,150	2,027
Transferred Play Areas	65,000	53,745		
Dog bins	24	6,778		1,400
Gen Admin		6,290		4,000
Miscellaneous: K6		1,025		
Tennis courts				353
Grants		12,600		
Publicity		423		423
Employees: Admin		21,700		9,300
Groundsman		6,550		9,200
Caretaker				4,290
Pensions		4,250		4,920
	155,778	148,925 71.46%	39,591	59,477 28.54%
Precept Raised £96,000.				
Band D Equivalent H/holds		4,777	581	
Precept per H/hold	£14.36		£47.15	
Cost of New Parish		£5 – 10	0	

2.8 Appendix G – Kirsty Coles’ breakdown of ToS costs

Map 1

Parish	Existing Parish Band D Charge	Number of Band D properties	Current SBC Spend on services provided by some parishes	Indicative extra parish cost per Band D household if existing parish model replicated Borough-wide
Haydon Wick - current parish	£33.48	6,854	£17,970	£2.62
Haydon Wick - extension		1,582	£19,717	£12.46
Blunsdon CP - existing boundary	£18.14	5,358	£92,379	£17.24
Blunsdon CP - reduced boundary	£18.14	581	£36,917	£63.54
St Andrew CP	£18.14	4,777	£55,462	£11.61
Castle Eaton CP	£41.87	113	£1,750	£15.49
Hannington CP	£38.21	116	£4,650	£40.09
Highworth CP	£119.27	2,960	£3,300	£1.11

Map 2

Parish	Existing Parish Band D Charge	Number of Band D properties	Current SBC Spend on services provided by some parishes	Indicative extra parish cost per Band D household if existing parish model replicated Borough-wide
Haydon Wick - current parish	£33.48	6854	£17,970	£2.62
Haydon Wick - extension		6359	£75,179	£11.82
Blunsdon CP - reduced boundary	£18.14	581	£36,917	£63.54
Castle Eaton CP	£41.87	113	£1,750	£15.49
Hannington CP	£38.21	116	£4,650	£40.09
Highworth CP	£119.27	2,960	£3,300	£1.11

3. Feedback from Chiseldon Parish Council

3.1 The factual summary of the parish council's submission is as follows:

3.2 "Re Community Governance Review phase 3 – Final Proposal is to take Badbury Park out of Chiseldon and into a Central Swindon South Parish"

Summary of the Parish Council's current Position

3.3 "I [the Chair of Chiseldon Parish Council] have been requested to formally write on behalf of Chiseldon Parish Council (CPC) and register our profound disappointment to the final proposal of the CGR to take Badbury Park out of Chiseldon Parish and into a Central Swindon South Parish."

Supporting evidence/facts

3.4 "The ward Councillors have been made fully aware that over the last few months CPC carried a motion in Parish Council on two separate occasions to support retaining our existing boundaries and to keep Badbury Park within the Parish – March 2016 and July 2016. Ward Councillors Foley and Shaw both attended the first meeting and Cllr Shaw the second – both were copied in subsequent minutes.

3.5 CPC made a submission to CGR phase 2 – this was published in the Cabinet report (17th August)

3.6 CPC submission to CGR phase 3 on Sept 30th – to confirm Cllr Foley has seen this submission having requested a copy from CGR in her email to Cllr Martin 30th September. It has also been made a public document on the CGR website.

3.7 A joint survey was conducted by CPC and Badbury Park Community Association between 23/25th September. The poll asked residents to give their opinion on whether they wished to remain within the parish of Chiseldon or move into a newly formed 'South Swindon Parish'. Responses were made via online and by telephone.

3.8 Results

3.8.1 leaflets distributed to circa 300 households on Badbury Park & Coate Estate

3.8.2 there were 47 responses of which 8 were invalid

3.8.3 Chiseldon parish 30 (77%)

3.8.4 South Swindon 9 (23%)

3.8.5 Engagement in the survey was low, possibly because of the previous work done by the former Chair of the BPCA in polling and re-polling residents and suspected confusion as to whether Badbury Park could become unparished or become a parish in its own right.

3.8.6 These options however were discounted as in Phase 2 of CGR it was felt that while Badbury Park was still under construction, the size of the population would not offer 'convenient and effective governance', similarly such a small parish would not benefit from economies of scale in contract negotiations leading to poor value.

3.8.7 A copy of the raw data is attached for information. The summary of the results were included in CPC submission to CGR 30th September."

4. Feedback from Central Swindon North

4.1 Councillor John Ballman raised a number of issues about the number of parish councillors for the parish ward covering the Gorse Hill and Pinehurst Borough Council ward namely:

4.1.1 The general population in this proposed parish ward is higher than that of any other ward in the Central North boundary.

4.1.2 A significant number of people may not be registered on the electoral roll.

4.1.3 The Gorse Hill & Pinehurst Ward holds a greater proportion of the assets that are listed for transfer

4.1.4 It is likely the Gorse Hill & Pinehurst Ward will make a greater financial contribution to the precept than other wards but the lower number of parish councillors representing them means that this may not fair representation on any decision making.

4.1.5 There are the same number of polling districts as with Rodbourne Cheney but despite the points above, Rodbourne has a higher number of parish councillors.

4.2 Councillor Ballman has requested that the number of parish councillors for the proposed Gorse Hill and Pinehurst Parish Council ward be the same as the number of parish councillors for the proposed Rodbourne Cheney ward.

Borough Council comment

4.3 It is understood that the electorate for the proposed Gorse Hill and Pinehurst parish ward is currently in the region of 8,000 whereas the electorate for the proposed Rodbourne Cheney ward is in the region of 9,000. However, as set out below, Haydon View Residents' Association and Haydon Wick Parish Council would like to transfer the Haydon View area from Gorse Hill and Pinehurst area of the proposed Central Swindon North, to Haydon Wick parish.

5. Feedback from Haydon Wick Parish Council

5.1 "Following receipt of the 19th October 2016 Cabinet Report on Community Governance, the Parish Council has noted the comments in para 2.43 regarding the submission requesting that the Borough Council agree to the inclusion of Haydon View into the Parish of Haydon Wick particularly that the

Cabinet has no objection in principle to this happening. The wording of para 2.43 is as follows:

"2.43 The existing Haydon Wick parish has a record of delivering effective.....in that area on its current boundaries. **The changes proposed in relation to Haydon View do not make it clear the boundary of that area. Were additional evidence and a map submitted, Cabinet has no objection in principle to the inclusion of Haydon View in Haydon Wick parish.**".

- 5.2 The document attached to this email [figure 1 below] shows the area in question with the current boundary shown in pink and the proposed extended boundary shown in blue. In keeping with the approach followed by the Borough overall, the extended boundary is drawn using either highway or footpath resulting in a clear boundary."

Figure 1 Possible boundary change to Haydon Wick Parish Council – the addition of the Haydon View area.



- 5.3 “The Parish Council has requested that the Cabinet reconsiders the submissions in Appendix Three of the report from the Parish in para 1.28 subsection b) for Haydon View to be included and note the support for that request as set out in the same appendix in para 1.43 from the Haydon View Community Association.
- 5.4 In addition the Parish Council wish to add that in a number of previous reviews when the Community Association requested to be moved into the parish the main reason given for not agreeing with the submission was that the boundary of Haydon View had no physical connection with the boundary of Haydon Wick. This situation changed in the implementation of the last

review in May 2015 when the cemetery and Seven Fields (in its entirety) were moved in the Parish of Haydon Wick placing the boundary on the western side of Haydon View. Merging an area that has always identified itself as being part of Haydon Wick not only in name but in the area which the residents use for shopping, medical facilities, schools and leisure is in keeping with the stated intent of the review of ensuring community identity is maintained and/or recognised.

- 5.5 Should Haydon View be included within the Parish then the area would join Haydon Wick Ward. At this stage, Haydon Wick parish council is not seeking an extra parish Councillor but is considering asking the Community Association to put forward a representative to attend parish council meetings as a non-Councillor to ensure the needs of Haydon View are highlighted and to have a voice in Council proposals. The Borough Council considers that this is a matter for the parish council.
- 5.6 The Parish Council propose that the section of Abbeymeads currently within Blunsdon St Andrew be moved into the Parish of Haydon Wick. The new boundary to run from the junction of Thamesdown Drive and Elstree Way (eastern junction) to the junction of Thamesdown Drive and the A4311 (Cricklade Road). The boundary then to run along the centre line of Cricklade Road to the point where the HP5 footpath (Sherwood Walk) joins the Cricklade Road. This footpath runs between the areas of Abbeymeads and Penhill. All the properties to the north of the footpath will be in Haydon Wick. This will remove the operational issues which currently arise with the two Parishes providing services & the confusion caused to residents over which Parish serves Abbeymeads and enable a cost efficient service to be provided. It is understood that this proposal is supported by Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council.”

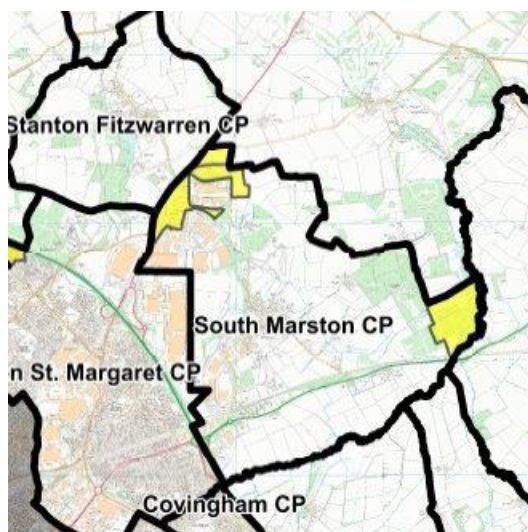
Borough Council Comments

- 5.7 The Haydon View area in question currently forms part of the GPA polling district in the Gorse Hill and Pinehurst Ward. A telephone conversation with the Parish confirmed that the parish council would accept the boundary through Whitworth Road as drawn on figure one in order to provide effective and convenient community governance.
- 5.8 The Abbey Meads area in question is currently in the Blunsdon St Andrew parish.

6. Feedback from Highworth Town Council

- 6.1 Highworth Town Council has submitted its agreement to the proposed changes to its boundaries with South Marston as follows:
- 6.2 “On the indicative map attached we do not have any objection to South Marston Parish Council (SMPC) assuming responsibility for the south east corner of our Parish area, adjacent to the A420 that includes part of the NEV development at Rowborough (shown in yellow) [Figure 2].”

Figure 2 Possible boundary change between Highworth Town Council and South Marston Parish - Rowborough (section in yellow in the south east corner of the requested parish boundary)



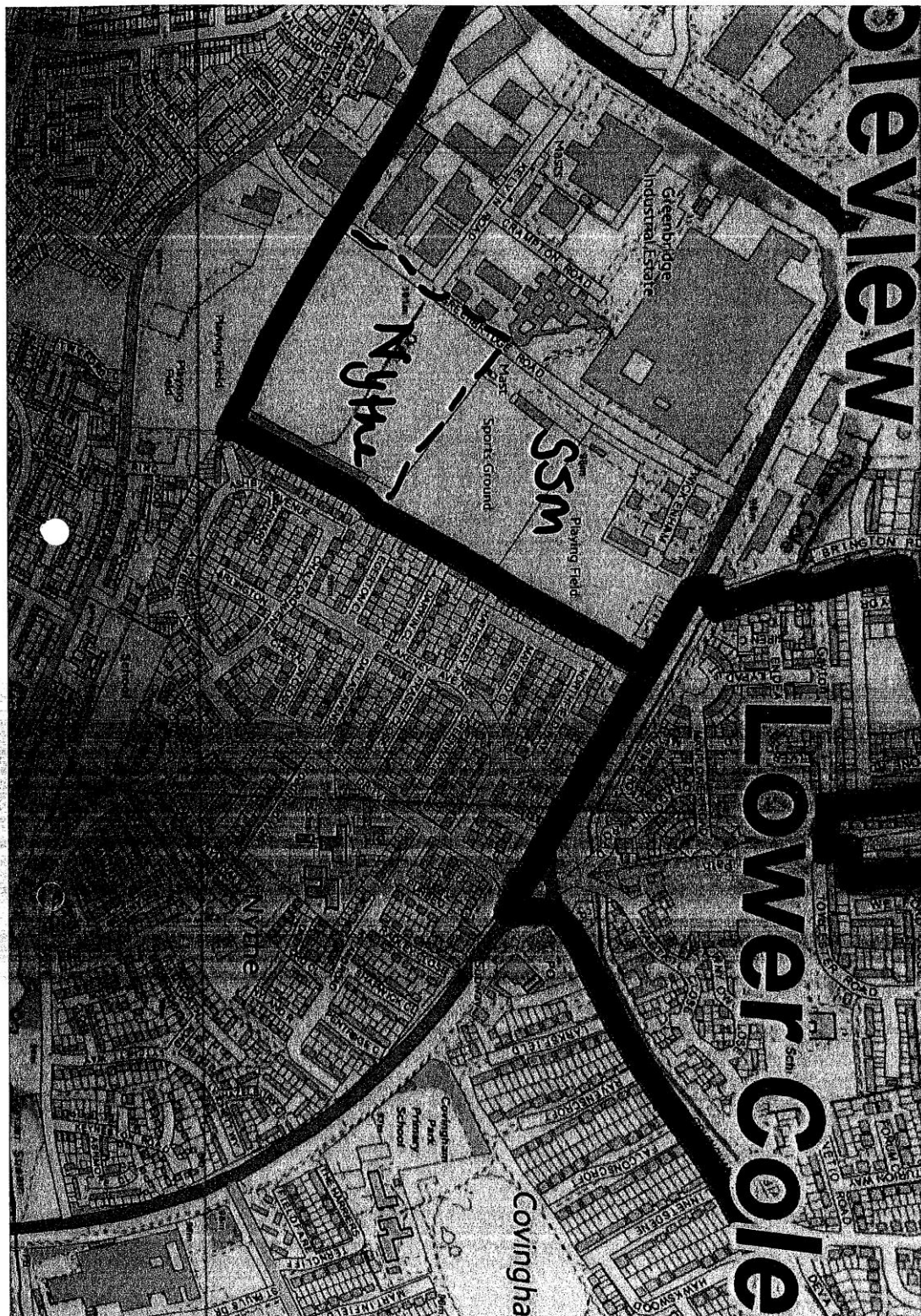
7. Feedback in relation to Nythe

- 7.1 Councillor Dale Heenan as ward and parish councillor has made a submission that the parish be divided into three wards each electing three parish councillors, with the wards based on the polling districts that broadly correspond to the geographical areas of Nythe, Eldene, and Liden. It is suggested that such an arrangement of wards would give better representation to these distinct communities.

8. Feedback from Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

- 8.1 Stratton St Margaret Parish Council was invited to consider proposals by Nythe Parish Council regarding changes to the boundary. Stratton St Margaret proposes:
- 8.1.1 To proceed with the request that Nythe allotments, currently managed by SBC, be transferred to Nythe Parish Council.
 - 8.1.2 To offer an alternative to moving the boundary line along West View as shown in the attached [Figure 3]. The Parish Council owns and maintains the playing fields and is currently in a lease agreement with a third party.
- 8.2 The Cabinet Member for Communities will update Cabinet at the meeting on 19th October 2016.

Figure 3 Possible boundary change between Stratton St Margaret Parish Council and Nythe Parish Council – West View Road (allotments)



Update to Appendix Five

9. Corrections and Updated Submission

Blunsdon St Andrew

- 9.1 Cabinet is invited to note the submission by the Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council, as set out above and the Borough Council's comments thereon.
- 9.2 Cabinet is asked to decide the weight to be attached to the submission having regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and secures effective and convenient community governance in that area.
- 9.3 Members are asked to note the agreement between Blunsdon St Andrew Parish to transfer the Abbey Meads area into Haydon Wick Parish. However, the area of Abbey Meads would lie in a St Andrews parish if Members choose to continue to proceed with creating one. The area is clearly identified on the map supporting the petition to create St Andrews as being within the new parish.

Central Swindon North

- 9.4 Cabinet is requested to note the submission and map set out above from the Haydon View Residents' Association of the area it would like to be included in the Haydon Wick parish and that the Haydon Wick Parish Council is supportive of this change. The submissions make clear that such a change would better reflect community identities of those residing in the Haydon View area.
- 9.5 Members are also asked to note a restatement by the Rodbourne Cheney Residents Association asking for their area to be included in Haydon Wick parish. However, there is a concern that such a transfer might have a significant effect on the ability the Central Swindon North parish to deliver effective and convenient community governance.
- 9.6 Cabinet asked to decide whether to recommend that the number of parish councillors in the proposed Rodbourne Cheney and the Gorse Hill and Pinehurst wards be changed.

Amended Recommendation (paragraph 2.16 in the initial papers)

- 9.7 Central Swindon North Parish - That the area consisting of the Swindon Borough Council wards of Gorse Hill and Pinehurst, and Rodbourne Cheney, in addition to polling districts MWA and MWD from the Mannington and Western ward and polling districts PSA, PSB and PSG from the Penhill and Upper Stratton ward, less the Haydon View part of polling district GPA – Haydon View Road, Mendip Close, Orchid Close, Sunningdale Road, and part of north side of Whitworth Road (Claermont Court to No. 68) - form a new Swindon Central North parish with 15 councillors to secure more effective and convenient community governance within that area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.

Haydon Wick

- 9.8 Members note that Haydon Wick Parish Council has indicated above and in Appendix that it is willing to accept the area identified by the Haydon View Residents' Association, with the inclusion of part of Whitworth Road to make for an easily identifiable and recognisable boundary.
- 9.9 Haydon Wick Parish Council has also indicated its willingness to accept all of Abbey Meads, which currently within Blunsdon St Andrew be moved into the Parish of Haydon Wick. The new boundary to run from the junction of Thamesdown Drive and Elstree Way (eastern junction) to the junction of Thamesdown Drive and the A4311 (Cricklade Road). The boundary then to run along the centre line of Cricklade Road to the point where the HP5 footpath (Sherwood Walk) joins the Cricklade Road.
- 9.10 However, Members may wish to note that the area of Abbey Meads would lie in a St Andrews parish if Members choose to continue to proceed with creating one. The area is clearly identified on the map supporting the petition to create St Andrews as belonging to the new parish, not being transferred to Haydon Wick.

Amended Recommendations (to replace paragraph 2.45)

- 9.11 Haydon Wick Parish – That the boundaries be extended to include the Haydon View part of polling district GPA – Haydon View Road, Mendip Close, Orchid Close, and Sunningdale Road and part of north side of Whitworth Road (Claremont Court to No. 68), as the evidence from the residents' association and the Parish Council, indicates that any change would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.

Highworth

- 9.12 As set out above, Highworth Town Council and South Marston Parish Council have reached agreement to transfer the Rowborough area from Highworth to South Marston.

Amended Recommendations (to insert after paragraph 2.47)

- 9.13 Highworth – that the area known as Rowborough as marked on the map above (figure 1) be transferred to South Marston parish as this would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.

Nythe, Eldene, and Liden

- 9.14 That the proposed warding arrangements be changed to have three parish wards each electing three councillors as this would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.

Amended Recommendations (to replace paragraphs 2.59)

- 9.15 That the new parish be divided into three wards, as set out below:
- 9.15.1 Eldene ward covering the LEC polling district with 3 councillors,
 - 9.15.2 Liden ward covering the LED and CDE polling districts with 3 councillors, and
 - 9.15.3 Nythe ward covering the CDB polling district with 3 councillors.

South Marston

- 9.16 As set out above, Highworth Town Council and South Marston Parish Council have reached agreement to transfer the Rowborough area from Highworth to South Marston.

Amended Recommendation (to insert after paragraph 2.60)

- 9.17 South Marston – that the area known as Rowborough as marked on the map above as figure 1 be transferred to South Marston parish from Highworth as this would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.

Wroughton

- 9.18 The area known as Hay Lane Camp is presently in the Wroughton and Wichelstowe Borough Council ward as polling district WAA but not within Wroughton Parish Council. The area has no affinity to West Swindon as it lies in an enclave south of the M4 and north of the Swindon-Chippenham railway line. Its main road link is to Wroughton village centre.

Amended Recommendation (to replace paragraph 2.84)

- 9.19 Wroughton – that the areas within the WAA polling district be added to Wroughton parish as this would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.

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New/Existing Parish Areas and Polling Districts	Borough Wards	Suggested Parish Wards
Bishopstone PC RWD	Ridgeway	None
Blunsdon PC		
BHC	Blunsdon & Highworth	None
PSD Total	Penhill & Upper Stratton	Kingsdown
Castle Eaton PC BHA	Blunsdon & Highworth	None
Central Swindon North PC GPA, GPB, GPD, GPE MWA, MWD RCA, RCB, RCC, RCD PSA, PSB, PSG Total	Gorse Hill & Pinehurst Mannington & Western Rodbourne Cheney Penhill & Stratton	Gorse Hill Mannington Rodbourne Penhill
Central Swindon South PC CEA, CEB, CEC, CED CLA, CLC ETA, ETB, ETC, ETD, ETE LEA, LEB OTA, OTB, OTC, OTD WPA, WPB, WPC, WPD Total	Central Chiseldon & Lawn Eastcott Liden, Eldene & Park South Old Town Walcot & Park North	Central Eastcott Liden Walcot & Park North
Chiseldon PC CLB RWA Total	Chiseldon & Lawn Ridgeway	Chiseldon Badbury
Covingham PC CDC	Covingham & Dorcan	None
Hannington PC BHB	Blunsdon & Highworth	None
Haydon Wick PC HWA, HWB, HWC, HWD, HWE PVE, PVF PVA, PVB, PVC, PVD Total	Haydon Wick Priory Vale Priory Vale	Haydon Wick Haydon Wick Haydon End
Highworth PC BHF, BHG, BHH, BHI	Blunsdon & Highworth	None
Inglesham BHE	Blunsdon & Highworth	None
Liddington PC RWB	Ridgeway	None
Nythe, Liden & Eldene PC CDB, CDD LEC, LED Total	Covingham & Dorcan Liden, Eldene & Park South	Nythe Liden & Eldene
South Marston PC		

SMD	St Margaret & South Marston	None
St Andrews PC SAA, SAB, SAC, SAD	St Andrews	Abby Mead
Stanton Fitzwarren PC BHD	Blunsdon & Highworth	None
Stratton St Margaret PC CDA GPC PSC, PSE, PSF SME SMA, SMB SMC Total	Covingham & Dorcan Gorse Hill & Pinehurst Penhill & Upper Stratton St Margaret & South Marston St Margaret & South Marston St Margaret & South Marston	Lower Coleview Merton Upper Stratton Upper Stratton Lower Stratton Coleview
Wanborough PC RWC	Ridgeway	None
West Swindon PC LFA, LFB, LFC, LFD, LFE MWB, SHE MWC SHA, SHB, SHC, SHD,SHF Total	Lydiard & Freshbrook Mannington & Western Mannington & Western Shaw	Lydiard & Freshbrook Westlea Toothill Shaw
Wroughton PC WWA, WWB, WWC, WWD, WWE, WV	Wroughton & Wichelstowe	None

Total electorate for Borough

Electorate (September 2016)	Existing/Provisional No. of Cllrs (proposed changes)	Cllr: Elector ratio
555	9	1:62
1,473	11	1:134
<u>267</u> 1,740	1	
207	5	1:41
7,968	5	
3,979	2	
9,094	6	
<u>3,733</u>	<u>2</u>	
24,774	<u>15</u>	1:1652
9,287	5	
3,094	3	
7,576	5	
3,411	2	
7,838	4	
<u>8,637</u>	<u>4</u>	
39,843	23	1:1732
1,907	14	
<u>130</u>	<u>1</u>	
2,037	15	1:136
3,323	15	1:222
204	5	1:41
8,976		
1,242	9	
<u>7,186</u>	9	
17,404	18	1:967
6,677	15	1:445
90	Parish Meting only	
301	7	1:43
3,718	7	
<u>4,802</u>	<u>8</u>	
8,520	15	1:568

698	9	1:77
8,433	11	1:439
183	5	1:37
1,555	3	
887	1	
5,038	6	
312	0	
5,633	6	
<u>2,510</u>	<u>3</u>	
15,935	19	1:839
1,630	11	1:148
8,375	6	
2,088	2	
1,795	1	
<u>7,512</u>	<u>6</u>	
19,770	15	1:1318
6,168	15	1:411
<hr/>		
158,492		
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