

Appendix Five

Recommendations to Council

1. Submissions, Comments, and Recommendations

- 1.1 The full detail of the responses to the consultation for Stage Three is set out at Appendix Three to the main report. A total of 416 responses were recorded including two petitions. It should be noted that the most frequent comment was that of opposition to creating new parishes (101 references). Within those respondents, there was a willingness to accept one or more larger parishes.

2. Recommendations by Parish/Area

Bishopstone

- 2.1 No recommendations for changes were received from the Parish Council or other residents.

Recommendation:

- 2.2 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Bishopstone and that Bishopstone Parish Council retains its nine parish councillors.

Blunsdon St Andrew

- 2.3 There was 1 submission to create a Blunsdon parish and to include the area covered by the Borough Council's St Andrews ward in an enlarged Haydon Wick parish. Following the earlier petition at Stage One of 899 signatures in favour of dividing the current parish to create a new St Andrews parish with the A419, in effect, forming the eastern boundary, there were subsequent petitions of 390 signatures at Stage Two and 740 signatures at Stage Three opposing such a split for the reasons set out in the petitions.
- 2.4 The initial petition favouring the split has been re-stated, supporting the proposed change. The St Andrews Borough Council ward has clearly defined boundaries and encompasses an area with community identities that are distinct from that part of Blunsdon St Andrew that lies north east of A419. The remaining area around Broad and Lower Blunsdon would also retain a strong community identity and sufficient size to function as a parish.
- 2.5 At the Stage Two consultation, Stratton St Margaret parish expressed a willingness to accept the Kingsdown parish ward contained within polling district PSD from the Blunsdon St Andrew parish. This polling district adjoins the rest of the Kingsdown area, which is in the Stratton Parish but no further evidence was provided.
- 2.6 Blunsdon St Andrew Parish has not given its consent to such a change and without mutual consent between parishes and no compelling evidence that the transfer would better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and secure effective and convenient community governance within the area, Cabinet recommends that such changes not be imposed.
- 2.7 Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council have declined to suggest membership numbers for a Blunsdon Parish Council should this be recommended stating that

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“such details can be left for determination if necessary once a decision has been made.” The Borough Council suggests that if the Borough Council’s St Andrews ward is created as a new parish, then the number of parish councillors on the re-named Blunsdon Parish Council be 11 as this was their previous number.

Recommendations:

- 2.8 *Kingsdown Ward* - That the area in the current PSD polling district remains in the Blunsdon St Andrew parish.
- 2.9 *St Andrews Parish* - That the area south west of the A419 covering the SAA, SAB and SAC polling districts form a new St Andrew parish as this would better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and secure effective and convenient community governance within the area. It is further recommended that the new parish be unwarded and have 11 councillors.
- 2.10 *Blunsdon Parish* - That the remainder of Blunsdon St Andrew parish north east of the A419 be renamed Blunsdon parish, as it would better reflect the identities and interests of the more established Lower and Broad Blunsdon communities in that area. It is further recommended that that the renamed parish have 11 parish councillors and that it be warded with the current Kingsdown ward having 1 member, and the current Blunsdon ward having 10 members.

Castle Eaton

- 2.11 No recommendations for changes were received from the Parish Council or other residents.

Recommendation:

- 2.12 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Castle Eaton and that Castle Eaton Council retains its five parish councillors.

Central Swindon North

- 2.13 There was a range of responses at Stage Three with 3 submissions to include all of Penhill in Haydon Wick parish and a further 4 asking that the review include the Haydon View area, in Haydon Wick parish. There was 1 submission in favour of Central Swindon North and South parishes and 1 submission supported the proposed Central Swindon North, Central Swindon South and South parishes.
- 2.14 Having considered the responses, Cabinet remains of the view that the area outside existing parishes east of the River Ray and north of the Chippenham-Swindon-Didcot railway line presently outside a parish can justifiably be considered a distinct geographical unity capable of reflecting and promoting the various community interests within that boundary. Cabinet has also noted that the size of such a proposed parish would be suitable to provide convenient and effective local governance.

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- 2.15 The Borough Council suggests that due to the size of the proposed parish, it would be sensible and practicable to ward the new parish and it is considered that there should be a parish council of 15 members, and the proposed warding arrangements reflect the current borough council wards and polling districts as set out below.

Recommendations:

- 2.16 *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 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.
- 2.17 That the new parish be divided into four wards, as set out below:
- 2.17.1 Gorse Hill ward with 5 parish councillors, covering the Gorse Hill and Pinehurst Borough Council ward,
- 2.17.2 Western ward with 2 parish councillors, covering the MWA and MWD polling districts from the Mannington and Western ward,
- 2.17.3 Rodbourne ward with 6 parish councillors, covering the Rodbourne Cheney ward, and
- 2.17.4 Penhill ward with 2 parish councillors, covering the PSA, PSB, and PSG polling districts from the Penhill and Upper Stratton ward.

Central Swindon South/South

- 2.18 One submission supported the proposed Central Swindon North, Central Swindon South and South parishes set out in the consultation.
- 2.19 Of the other responses, a number related explicitly to the Eastcott area namely: 1 submission to move Eastcott from proposed Central Swindon South to the proposed South Swindon parish; 1 submission to keep Eastcott in Central Swindon South; 1 submission to keep Eastcott in a larger parish; 1 submission saying 16 people favoured Eastcott as its own parish; and a 525 signatures on a petition to create a separate Eastcott parish, with the parish being defined as the present Eastcott Borough Council ward, less that part south of Wood Street (the Old Town core).
- 2.20 The following responses referred to Eastcott and Old Town: 19 responses seeking to put Eastcott with Old Town; 13 submissions wanting all of Old Town in a single parish; 1 submissions to keep Old Town in the proposed South parish; 2 submissions to put Old Town in South Central parish; and 1 submission response explicitly wanted Old Town not to be in a parish.

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- 2.21 The following responses related to other parts of Central Swindon South or South: 1 to combine Lawn and Badbury Park in the same parish 1 submission in favour of Central Swindon North and South parishes; and 1 submission supporting a South Swindon parish.
- 2.22 There is no general agreement, however, as to what comprises the areas known as “Old Town” and “Eastcott”. Some individual responses noted that Bath Road, the current ward boundary, is not a community boundary, but the petition asserts that it is. It is also not clear at what points Eastcott residents cease to be in Old Town and associate more with the Town Centre. On that basis, it is not considered that a separate Eastcott Parish would either secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area or better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 2.23 While it is noted that in the future Badbury Park may be large enough to provide effective and convenient local governance, to complement its growing sense of community identity, the current size of the parish suggests it would not be viable and would not either secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area or better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area. Cabinet considers that the presence of Badbury Park in a new Swindon South Central Parish would help ensure the effectiveness of that parish and better reflect the community identity of that area.
- 2.24 Given the feedback at this stage of the consultation, it is suggested that a large single parish for central Swindon south of the railway line would best secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 2.25 Members are also invited to note the responses concerning Wichelstowe, which are set out below in relation to the Wroughton parish.
- 2.26 The Borough Council suggests that due to the size of the proposed parish, it would be sensible and practicable to ward the new parish and it is considered that there should be a parish council of 23 members, and the proposed warding arrangements reflect the current borough council wards and polling districts as set out below.

Recommendations:

- 2.27 *Central Swindon South/ South parishes* - That the Council not proceed with the creation of separate Central Swindon South, and South Swindon Parishes for the reasons outlined above.
- 2.28 *Central Swindon South parish* – That a new Central Swindon South parish be created covering the Swindon Borough Council wards of Central, Eastcott, Old Town, and Walcot and Park North, along with the LEA and LED polling districts of Park South, and the CLA and CLC polling districts from the Chiseldon and Lawn ward on the basis that 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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- 2.29 That the new parish be divided into six wards, as set out below:
- 2.29.1 Lawn and Badbury Park ward covering the CLA and CLC polling districts with 3 parish councillors.
 - 2.29.2 Old Town ward covering the present Old Town Swindon Borough Council ward with 4 parish councillors.
 - 2.29.3 Central ward covering the present Swindon Borough Council Central ward with 5 parish councillors.
 - 2.29.4 Eastcott ward covering the Swindon Borough Council Eastcott ward with 5 parish councillors.
 - 2.29.5 Park South ward covering the LEA and LED polling districts with 2 parish councillors and
 - 2.29.6 Walcot & Park North ward covering the Swindon Borough Council Walcot & Park North ward with 4 parish councillors.

Chiseldon

- 2.30 The Stage Three consultation yielded 1 submission to combine Lawn and Badbury Park in the same parish, 1 submission to retain Coate and Badbury Park in Chiseldon, 2 submissions opposing the creation of a Badbury Park parish, 3 submissions to retain Chiseldon in its current boundaries and 4 submissions to create a separate Badbury Park parish. Consultations undertaken by the Badbury Park Residents' Association indicated support for a separate parish with joining a South Swindon parish as the second preference. Details of this submission are attached at Appendix Three.
- 2.31 Chiseldon Parish Council made a formal submission, included at Appendix Three stating that its opposition to dividing the parish. There were 39 responses out a possible 300 houses with 30 in favour of remaining in Chiseldon and 9 for belonging to a South Swindon parish.
- 2.32 Cabinet is not minded at this time to support creating a separate Badbury Park parish as the area, which has still not been fully developed with housing, would lack the means to provide convenient and effective local governance.
- 2.33 Given that Chiseldon would remain an effective and efficient means of delivering local governance without Badbury Park, and given that the presence of Badbury Park in a Swindon South Central Parish would better secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area. Cabinet is invited to recommend the following changes.

Recommendations:

- 2.34 *Chiseldon parish* - That the Badbury Park part of Chiseldon parish (polling district CLC) be transferred to a new Central Swindon South parish but leave all other

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borders unchanged 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.

- 2.35 That Chiseldon Parish Council retains its 15 parish councillors and that the Badbury ward remain unchanged with one member, and 14 members for the amended Chiseldon ward.

Covingham

- 2.36 There was 1 submission to group the Nythe and Covingham parishes, 1 and 1 submission to merge Covingham, Eldene, Liden and Nythe in a single parish.
- 2.37 Covingham Parish Council has declined to proceed with any grouping arrangements as it believes it would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area in its present configuration.

Recommendation:

- 2.38 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Covingham and that Covingham Parish Council retains its 15 parish councillors.

Hannington

- 2.39 No recommendations for changes were received from the Parish Council or other residents.

Recommendation:

- 2.40 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Hannington and that Hannington Parish Council retains its five parish councillors.

Haydon Wick

- 2.41 In addition to any evidence at Stages One and Two, there was 1 submission to create a Blunsdon parish and to expand Haydon Wick parish, 3 submissions to include all of Penhill in Haydon Wick parish, and 4 submissions to include Haydon View, currently in the Rodbourne Cheney ward.. Haydon View Community Association also made a submission calling for Haydon View Road, Eastville Road, Sunningdale Road, Mendip Close, and Orchid Close to be included within the Haydon Wick boundaries.
- 2.42 Haydon Wick parish also made a submission, included at Appendix Three, setting out
- 2.42.1 The desire to include Haydon View,
- 2.42.2 Changing the parish boundary through Abbeymeads to ensure consistent service delivery and accountability, and

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2.42.3 Amending the parish ward boundaries to remove the single Member Ray ward.

- 2.43 The existing Haydon Wick parish has a record of delivering effective and convenient community governance within the area and reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area on its current boundaries. The changes proposed in relation to Haydon View do not make clear the boundary of that area. Were additional evidence and a map to be submitted, Cabinet has no objection in principle to the inclusion of Haydon View in Haydon Wick parish.
- 2.44 Cabinet is of the view that there was insufficient evidence that the whole of Penhill has shared community interests with Haydon Wick to suggest that including that area in Haydon Wick parish would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area..

Recommendations:

- 2.45 *Haydon Wick Parish* - That the boundaries of the Haydon Wick parish remain unchanged. It is noted that it has not been demonstrated that any change would secure more secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area or better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 2.46 That the parish be divided into two wards, as set out below:
- 2.46.1 Haydon Wick ward remains as it is with 9 parish councillors, and
- 2.46.2 Haydon End ward has the former Ray Ward (polling district PVD) added to it, and will comprise 9 parish councillors.

Highworth

- 2.47 No recommendations for changes were received from the Town council or other residents.

Recommendation:

- 2.48 That there be no change to the parish arrangements to Highworth and that Highworth Town Council retains its 15 town councillors.

Ingelsham

- 2.49 No recommendations for changes were received from any residents.

Recommendation:

- 2.50 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Inglesham and that the Parish remains without a parish council.

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Liddington

- 2.51 Liddington Parish Council made a submission requesting an increase in the number of parish councillors from seven to eight. However, there was no supporting evidence as to how this 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. In addition, it is believed that there has not been a contested parish election in Liddington for some years.

Recommendation:

- 2.52 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Liddington and that Liddington Parish Council retains its 7 parish councillors.

Nythe, Eldene and Liden Parish

- 2.53 Most of the submissions regarding the east of the borough have been generally supportive of extending Nythe parish. There was 1 submission opposing creating an East parish, 1 for a Liden and Eldene parish, 6 in support of a parish covering Nythe, Eldene and Liden, including one requesting minor boundary changes to include the Nythe allotments, 1 submission for an Eldene parish, 1 submission to combine Nythe and Covingham, 1 submission to put Lawn in the East parish, and 1 submission to merge Covingham, Eldene, Liden and Nythe in a single parish.
- 2.54 There was a specific request to move the parish boundary from West View Road to Greenbridge Road to include the Nythe allotments and to move the north west boundary from the hedge row through the Oakfield site to Marlowe Road so the whole area is in one parish. While no residential properties would be affected, the submission contends that such a change would help to secure more effective and convenient community governance by giving Nythe Parish ownership of its allotments, which are currently within the Stratton St Margaret parish boundaries. It would also ensure more effective and convenient community governance for the Oakfield site by placing it entirely within a single parish and not dividing it between Nythe and Stratton St Margaret.
- 2.55 However, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has not given its consent to such a change and without the mutual consent of the parishes involved, Cabinet has been minded to decline to impose changes.
- 2.56 The submissions relating to expanding the parish to cover Eldene and Liden support the view that 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

Recommendations:

- 2.57 *Nythe parish* – That the southern boundary of the parish be expanded to cover Eldene and Liden, presently in the CDE, LEC and LED polling districts.
- 2.58 That Nythe Parish be re-named as Nythe, Liden and Eldene parish

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2.59 That the new parish be divided into two wards, as set out below:

2.59.1 Liden and Eldene ward covering the CDE, LEC, and LED polling districts with 8 councillors, and

2.59.2 Nythe ward covering the CDB polling district with 7 councillors.

South Marston

2.60 At Stage Two the Borough Council proposed straightening the border between South Marston and Stanton Fitzwarren to run along the A361 instead of through the Supermarine Industrial Estate. No recommendations for changes were received from the Parish Council or other residents. This change would not have affected any residents but would have provided more effective and convenient community governance within the area. However, as there has been no agreement between the two parishes as to this change, it is not recommended that this change be made.

Recommendation:

2.61 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to South Marston and that South Marston Parish Council retains its seven parish councillors.

St Andrews

2.62 There was 1 submission to create a Blunsdon parish and to include the area covered by the Borough Council's St Andrews ward in an enlarged Haydon Wick parish. Following the earlier petition at Stage One of 899 in favour of dividing the current parish to create a new St Andrews parish with the A419, in effect, forming the eastern boundary, there were subsequent petitions of 390 signatures at Stage Two and 740 signatures at Stage Three opposing such a split. The initial petition favouring the split has been restated.

2.63 While there were no further submissions from local residents at this stage supporting the proposed change, the St Andrews Borough Council ward has clearly defined boundaries and encompasses an area with community identities that are distinct from that part of Blunsdon St Andrew that lies north east of A419. The remaining area around Broad and Lower Blunsdon would also retain a strong community identity and sufficient size to function as a parish.

Recommendations:

2.64 *St Andrews Parish* - That the area south west of the A419 covering the SAA, SAB and SAC polling districts form a new St Andrew parish as this would better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and secure effective and convenient community governance within the area.

2.65 That the new parish be unwarded and have 11 councillors, which is the number of councillors for the parish ward covering that area presently on Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council.

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Stanton Fitzwarren

- 2.66 At Stage Two the Borough Council proposed straightening the border between South Marston and Stanton Fitzwarren to run along the A361 instead of through the Supermarine Industrial Estate. No recommendations for changes were received from the Parish Council or other residents. This change would not have affected any residents but would have provided more effective and convenient community governance within the area. However, as there has been no agreement between the two parishes as to this change it is not recommended that this change be made.

Recommendation:

- 2.67 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Stanton Fitzwarren and that Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council retains its seven parish councillors.

Stratton St Margaret

- 2.68 At the Stage Two consultation, Stratton St Margaret parish council expressed a willingness to accept the Kingsdown parish ward contained within polling district PSD from the Blunsdon St Andrew parish. This polling district adjoins the rest of the Kingsdown area, which is in the Stratton Parish but no further evidence was provided.
- 2.69 Blunsdon St Andrew Parish has not given its consent to such a change and without mutual consent between parishes and no compelling evidence that the transfer would better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and secure effective and convenient community governance within the area, Cabinet has been minded to decline to impose changes.
- 2.70 There was a specific request to move the parish boundary from West View Road to Greenbridge Road to include the Nythe allotments and to move the north west boundary from the hedge row through the Oakfield site to Marlowe Road so the whole area is in one parish. While no residential properties would be affected, the submission contends that such a change would help to secure more effective and convenient community governance by giving Nythe Parish ownership of its allotments, which are currently within the Stratton St Margaret parish boundaries. It would also ensure more effective and convenient community governance for the Oakfield site by placing it entirely within a single parish and not dividing it between Nythe and Stratton St Margaret.
- 2.71 However, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has not given its consent to such a change and without the mutual consent of the parishes involved, Cabinet has been minded to decline to impose changes.

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- 2.72 As part of its Stage Two submission, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council did request reducing the number of councillors from 23 to 19 and no subsequent comments have been made on this request.

Recommendations:

- 2.73 *Stratton St Margaret parish* - That there be no change to the parish arrangements for Stratton St Margaret Parish Council.
- 2.74 That the number of wards remain at their boundaries remain unchanged at five and that the number of councillors per ward be as follows
- 2.74.1 Lower Coleview ward (polling district CDA), 3 councillors instead of 4
- 2.74.2 Merton ward (polling district GPC) no change with 1 councillor
- 2.74.3 Upper Stratton ward (polling districts PSC, PSE, PSF, SME) 6 councillors instead of 7
- 2.74.4 Lower Stratton ward (polling districts SMA and SMB) 6 councillors instead of 7
- 2.74.5 Coleview ward (polling district SMC) , 3 councillors instead of 4.

Wanborough

- 2.75 No recommendations for changes were received from the Parish council or other residents.

Recommendation:

- 2.76 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Wanborough and that Wanborough Parish Council retains its 11 parish councillors.

West Swindon

- 2.77 As part of Stage Three there were 7 submissions supporting the creation of a West Swindon parish and none stating explicit opposition.
- 2.78 The evidence at Stages One and Two of this process demonstrated a West Swindon parish would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.

Recommendation:

- 2.79 *West Swindon parish* - That a West Swindon parish be created consisting of the Borough Council wards of Lydiard and Freshbook and Shaw, along with the MWB and MWC polling districts of the Mannington and Western ward.
- 2.80 That the new parish be divided into four wards, as set out below:

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2.80.1 Lydiard and Freshbrook ward with 6 parish councillors, covering the Swindon Borough Council Lydiard and Freshbrook ward,

2.80.2 Shaw ward with 6 parish councillors, covering the Swindon Borough Council Shaw ward except for the SHE polling district, and

2.80.3 Westlea ward with 2 parish councillors, covering the MWB and SHE polling districts

2.80.4 Toothill ward with 1 parish councillor covering the MWC polling district.

Wroughton

2.81 As part of Stage Three there were 3 submissions to add Wichelstowe to Wroughton, 1 submission to add all of Wichelstowe to Old Town, 1 submission to create a Wichelstowe parish and 1 submission put East Wichel in Wroughton. In addition, there were 3 submissions to leave the Wroughton boundaries unchanged and 2 submission to add Wichelstowe to Wroughton.

2.82 The Wroughton parish has an established record of both reflecting community interest and in providing effective and convenient local governance, including being one of the pioneers in seeking devolved services from the Borough Council. Moreover, the current pace of development in Middle and West Wichel means that a stand-alone Wichelstowe parish would not be practicable at this time.

2.83 Therefore, it is considered that the objectives of securing more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflecting the identities and interests of the community in that area are best achieved by retaining the present Wroughton parish boundaries.

Recommendation:

2.84 That Wroughton Parish remain unchanged in both its boundaries and the number of parish councillors.