

APPENDIX 2

1. Part One - Swindon Borough Community Governance Review (Stage Three)

Introduction – Stage Three

- 1.1 A Community Governance Review for the whole Borough of Swindon was initiated in December 2015. This Appendix details public responses to the Council's consultation and engagement activities in Stages One to Three.
- 1.2 Following a decision by Cabinet, on 17th August 2016, Stage Three commenced on Tuesday 23rd August to 30th September 2016. This marked the start of the formal public consultation as set out in the August Cabinet report. Stage Three invited comments on the formal proposal set out in the consultation map.
- 1.3 As with the earlier Community Governance Review stages of engagement, all residents, groups, associations, stakeholders and Parish Councils who had asked for feedback in the previous stages were notified in writing by email. This included notification of five public meetings taking place in September.
- 1.4 All resident groups and Parish Councils were invited to a stakeholder meeting on 1st September 2016 to receive an update on the start of formal consultation.
- 1.5 In support of the consultation, a leaflet was distributed through Royal Mail delivery to all households during September. From 23rd August 2016, displays on the Review with copies of the Cabinet report, consultation feedback forms and a return box were sited in four main libraries; West Swindon, Parks, North Swindon and Central. An online survey was also opened.
- 1.6 Swindon Borough Council's website was updated with information about the process to date, access to the relevant Cabinet papers, redacted copies of the submissions to date and access to information about the proposal for consultation.
- 1.7 Feedback was requested in any written format. At the close of the 30th September 2016, responses had been received as follows

Email submissions	131
Feedback forms	72
Online survey returns	217
Written comments	5
Petitions	2

A number of respondents used more than one format or made multiple submissions during the consultation period. 75 submissions did not provide either a contact name or a verifiable address.

1.8 Feedback from public meetings:

Broadgreen Community Centre, Central Swindon
Concern about potential impact on businesses, concern about the Council's mandate to progress new parishes, general questions about the validity of the process and timeframes.
West Swindon Library, West Swindon
46 residents attended.
Aren't there better ways to address the issues? Some of the Council's resources could work harder than they do currently e.g. operational hours during high season. Concern about unnecessary extra costs in relation to administration and bureaucracy. Who absorbs the costs for facilities accessed by residents generally? Concerns that people cannot afford to pay more and should be given the choice. Will there be a cap on parish precepts? Will businesses contribute? Queries about timeframes and the consultation process.
Pinetrees Community Centre, North Central Swindon.
32 residents attended.
Why should residents be charged more when services are not up to standard already? Why is so much money being spent on older people and vulnerable people? What is the rationale for not including a small proportion of households into Haydon Wick parish despite sending in submissions to this effect? The Council should have raised the Council tax over the years rather than creating this problem now. Why isn't there going to be a referendum? Concern about costs of bureaucracy and administration. What consideration is being given to a single parish? Will there be a cap on parish precepts?
Lawns Community Centre, Old Town/Lawn
60 residents attended
Concerns about how boundaries have been drawn and the rationale for dividing up certain communities. Queries and concerns about liability and maintenance of local facilities and assets. Concern about costs of the town centre. Queries and concerns about validity of the consultation process, timeframes and the lack of community support.
Eldene Community Centre – Eldene/Liden
16 residents attended
If services provided through Council tax are reducing, is all of this costing us more for less? What has been undertaken to ensure that the parish areas

proposed such as Central South, are viable? Will parishes have any protection from the Council's cuts? Concern that consideration must be given to poorer areas where they may be less willing to participate or to take community action. Some of the new parish areas proposed have masses of green space, has consideration been given to the relative costs across each Parish if they are to look after public open spaces? Shouldn't Covingham be expanded? Could Parishes be more creative in how they tackle local issues? Will there be a cap on parish precepts? Why isn't the Council considering one single parish? To what degree are the costs associated with older or vulnerable people being spent on immigrants or asylum seekers and refugees? How will equipment be distributed to parishes? Some feedback that there is support to group Eldene with Nythe and Liden.

Analysis of individual responses

- 1.9 Coding was applied to redacted, anonymous text with the possibility both that there could be more than one theme per submission and even that a theme could be repeated in that submission¹. The total number of coded remarks will not equal the total number of responses.
- 1.10 The most significant findings are set out in Figure One while all coded responses are listed in Table Two. Members can see the range of comments from those who replied. Given that individual submissions could contain a wide range of views a further breakdown of those who had indicated opposition to creating parishes was undertaken and full details are in Table One below. This additional analysis does indicate that there are still forms of community governance that would be acceptable.

¹ Software Used

Huang, Ronggui (2014). RQDA: R-based Qualitative Data Analysis. R package version 0.2-7.
<http://rqda.r-forge.r-project.org/>

Mirai Solutions GmbH (2016). XLConnect: Excel Connector for R. R package version 0.2-12.
<https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=XLConnect>

R version 3.3.1 (2016-06-21) -- "Bug in Your Hair" Copyright (C) 2016 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing Platform: i686-pc-linux-gnu (32-bit)

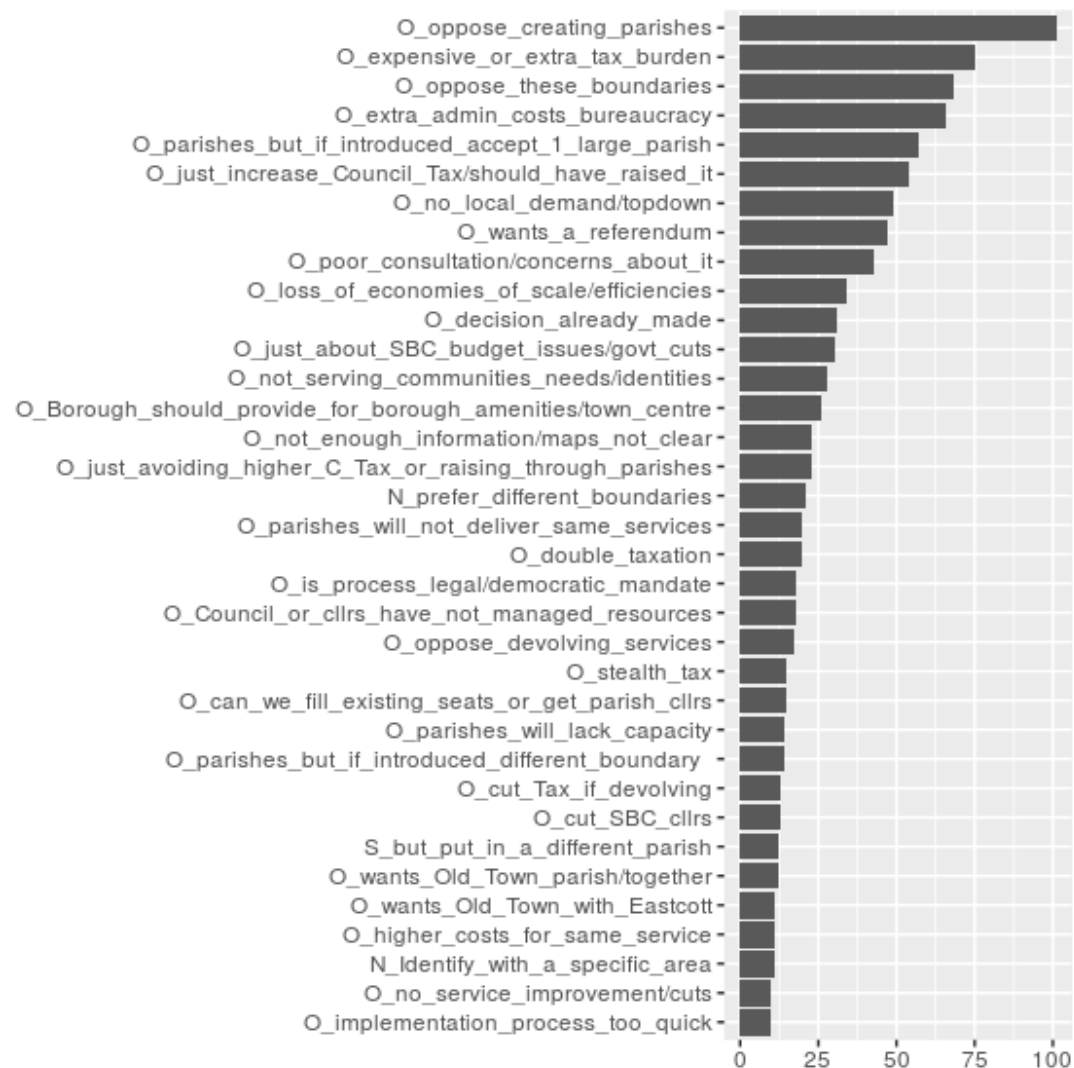
Wickham, Hadley (2009) ggplot2: Elegant Graphics for Data Analysis. Springer-Verlag New York

Wickham, Hadley (2016). tidyverse: Easily Install and Load 'Tidyverse' Packages. R package version 1.0.0. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=tidyverse>

Yihui Xie (2014) knitr: A Comprehensive Tool for Reproducible Research in R. In Victoria Stodden, Friedrich Leisch and Roger D. Peng, editors, Implementing Reproducible Computational Research. Chapman and Hall/CRC. ISBN 978-1466561595

Yihui Xie (2015) Dynamic Documents with R and knitr. 2nd edition. Chapman and Hall/CRC. ISBN 978-1498716963 Yihui Xie (2016). knitr: A General-Purpose Package for Dynamic Report Generation in R. R package version 1.14.

Figure 1: Most Common Responses



Total number of people replying =416

NB There may be more than one theme per respondent and each theme can be used more than once in a response.

Table 1 Breakdown of comments of those coded as opposing creating parishes

columnNames	countTerms
codedBy.O_oppose_creating_parishes	101
codedBy.O_expensive_or_extra_tax_burden	25
codedBy.O_parishes_but_if_introduced_accept_1_large_parish	22
codedBy.O_extra_admin_costs_bureaucracy	22
codedBy.O_no_local_demand/topdown	21
codedBy.O_poor_consultation/concerns_about_it	19
codedBy.O_just_increase_Council_Tax/should_have_raised_it	18
codedBy.O_wants_a_referendum	16
codedBy.O_oppose_these_boundaries	16
codedBy.O_decision_already_made	13
codedBy.O_loss_of_economies_of_scale/efficiencies	11
codedBy.O_Borough_should_provide_for_borough_amenities/town_centre	11
codedBy.O_just_about_SBC_budget_issues/govt_cuts	11
codedBy.O_Council_or_cllrs_have_not_managed_resources	7
codedBy.O_just_avoiding_higher_C_Tax_or_raising_through_parishes	7
codedBy.O_stealth_tax	7
codedBy.O_parishes_will_not_deliver_same_services	7
codedBy.O_not_serving_communities_needs/identities	6
codedBy.O_double_taxation	6
codedBy.O_can_we_fill_existing_seats_or_get_parish_cllrs	6
codedBy.O_parishes_will_lack_capacity	6
codedBy.O_wants_Old_Town_parish/together	5
codedBy.O_not_enough_information/maps_not_clear	4
codedBy.O_oppose_devolving_services	4
codedBy.O_implementation_process_too_quick	4
codedBy.O_will_not_save_projected_amount	4
codedBy.O_is_process_legal/democratic_mandate	4
codedBy.O_unanswered_questions	4
codedBy.O_imposed/devisive	4
codedBy.O_parishes_but_if_introduced_different_boundary	3
codedBy.O_cut_SBC_cllrs	3
codedBy.O_no_service_improvement/cuts	3
codedBy.O_risk_of_needing_parish_CT_referendum	3
codedBy.O_wants_Old_Town_with_Eastcott	3

codedBy.O_one_parish_paying_for_town_centre	2
codedBy.O_cost_of_extra_cllrs	2
codedBy.O_cost_of_paying_for_other_areas	2
codedBy.O_prove_ASC_costs_are_up	2
codedBy.O_not_serving_towns_identity/needs	2
codedBy.O_parish_wont_have_enough_tax_base	2
codedBy.O_different_services/tax_burdens_between_parishes	2
codedBy.O_stop the CGR	2
codedBy.O_people_cant_afford/wont_pay_precept	2
codedBy.S_but_different_the_boundary/name	1
codedBy.N_why_these_boundaries	1
codedBy.S_single_large_parish	1
codedBy.O_businesses_should_paying_more	1
codedBy.S_support_the_principle	1
codedBy.O_oppose_splitting_parish_BlunsdonStA	1
codedBy.O_better_use_for_money_spent_on_CGR	1
codedBy.N_wants_a_referendum	1
codedBy.O_cut_Tax_if_devolving	1
codedBy.O_reject_term_parish	1
codedBy.O_will_not_work	1
codedBy.N_all_about_finance	1
codedBy.N_concern_about_loss_of_economies_of_scale	1
codedBy.N_concern_about_paying_for_services	1
codedBy.O_oppose_prefer_different_boundaries	1
codedBy.O_may_exceed_CT_referendum_threshold	1
codedBy.O_wants_Haydon_View_to_be_in_Haydon_Wick	1
codedBy.O_what_services_will_SBC_cut	1
codedBy.N_decision_already_made/inevitable	1
codedBy.N_Borough_to_provide_Borough_services	1
codedBy.N_concern_about_parish_capacity	1
codedBy.N_concern_about_different_services_between_parishes	1
codedBy.O_oppose_appointted_shadow_cllrs	1
codedBy.O_oppose_forced_boundary_changes	1
codedBy.O_risk_of_corruption	1
codedBy.O_comments_about_shadow_parish	1
codedBy.O_impact_on_local_businesses	1
codedBy.O_lobby_central_govt/MPs_more	1
codedBy.O_one_large_parish_efficient_sustainable	1

codedBy.O_no_evidence_of_pilot_better_service	1
codedBy.O_run_Council_more_efficiently	1
codedBy.O_concern_about_shadow_council_membership	1
codedBy.O_concern_about_effect_on_staff	1
codedBy.O_will_it_work/lack_of_evidence	1
codedBy.O_wants_Woughton_boundaries_unchanged	1
codedBy.O_lack_of_engagement_with_business	1

Submissions received in Stage 3 about Specific Boundaries.

1.11 Blunsdon St Andrew

1 submission, restating the petition of 899 signatures in Stage One, requesting the creation of a St Andrews parish covering the St Andrews Borough Council Ward and leaving the remainder of the Blunsdon St Andrew Parish as a separate Blunsdon Parish.

1 submission to create a Blunsdon parish and to include the area covered by the Borough St Andrews ward in an enlarged Haydon Wick parish (see Haydon Wick below).

740 signatures on a petition opposing splitting the Blunsdon St Andrew parish.

1.12 Central Swindon North

3 submissions to include all of Penhill in Haydon Wick parish.

4 submissions to include Haydon View Estate, Penhill in Haydon Wick parish

1 submission in favour of Central Swindon North and South parishes

1 submission supported the proposed Central Swindon North, Central Swindon South and South parishes.

1.13 Central Swindon South/South

1 submission supported the proposed Central Swindon North, Central Swindon South and South parishes.

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

525 signatures on a petition to create a separate Eastcott parish.

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
- 1 submissions response explicitly wanted Old Town not to be in a parish
- 1 combine Lawn and Badbury Park in the same parish
- 1 submission in favour of Central Swindon North and South parishes
- 1 submission supporting a South Swindon parish

1.14 Chiseldon

- 1 submission to combine Lawn and Badbury Park in the same parish
- 1 submission retain Coate and Badbury Park in Chiseldon
- 2 submission opposing the creation of a Badbury Park parish
- 3 submission to retain Chiseldon in its current boundaries.
- 4 submission to create a Badbury Park parish

1.15 East (Nythe, Eldene and Liden)

- 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
- 1 submission to merge Covingham, Eldene, Liden and Nythe in a single parish

1.16 Haydon Wick

- 1 submission to create a Blunsdon parish and to include the area covered by the Borough St Andrews ward in an enlarged Haydon Wick parish (see Blunsdon St Andrew above)
- 3 submissions to include all of Penhill in Haydon Wick parish.
- 4 submissions to include Haydon View Estate, Penhill in Haydon Wick parish

1.17 West Swindon

- 7 submission supporting West Swindon

1.18 Wichelstowe

- 3 submission to add Wichelstowe to Wroughton
- 1 submission to add all of Wichelstowe to Old Town
- 1 submission to create a Wichelstowe parish
- 1 submission put East Wichel in Wroughton

1.19 Wroughton

- 3 submissions to leave the Wroughton boundaries unchanged,
- 2 submission to add Wichelstowe to Wroughton
- 1 submission to put East Wichel in Wroughton

1.20 One town parish

- 61 submissions in favour of one large parish

Table 2: All Coded Comments

Var1	Freq
N_accepts_principle	1
N_all_about_finance	1
N_already_pay_management_fee	1
N_Borough_ward_parish_wording_protocol_needed	1
N_community_and_employment_links_to_an_area	1
N_concern_about_consultation	1
N_concern_about_more_devolution	1
N_concern_about_quality_of_parish_cllrs	1
N_concern_about_tax_level	1
N_concern_about_transfer_of_assets	1
N_could_council_devolve_services	1
N_data_on_ASC_asylum_costs	1
N_does_not_oppose_boundary	1
N_Eastcott_in_South	1
N_Eastcott_in_South_Central	1
N_existing_parish_had_contested_elections	1
N_expand_or_change_existing_parishes	1
N_higher_CT_for_fewer_services	1
N_just_increase_CT/should_have_increased_it	1
N_make_residents_responsible_for_more	1
N_need_sustainable_communities	1
N_petition_submitted	1

N_poor_consultation/concerns	1
N_reject_splitting_parish	1
N_retain_economies_of_scale	1
N_split_Blunsdon_but_expand_Haydon_Wick	1
N_wants_Easctott_in_larger_parish	1
N_wants_Eastcott_parish	1
N_wants to be_in_Haydon_Wick	1
O_abolish_all_parishes	1
O_are_new_parishes_sustainable	1
O_Borough_has_other_concerns	1
O_boundary_not_clear/identifiable	1
O_but_no_further_comment	1
O_could_parishes_enforce_eg_litter_fines	1
O_if_imposed_new_Old_Town_boundaries	1
O_if_introduced_secure_economies_of_scale	1
O_impact_on_local_businesses	1
O_lack_of_engagement_with_business	1
O_may_exceed_CT_referendum_threshold	1
O_no_consideration_of_community_wellbeing	1
O_no_evidence_of_pilot_better_service	1
O_one_large_parish_better_for_transfer_of_staff/assets	1
O_one_large_parish_lower_admin_cost	1
O_oppose_appointed_shadow_cllrs	1
O_oppose_centre_businesses_paying_more	1
O_oppose_forced_boundary_changes	1
O_oppose_Nythe_Liden_Eldene	1
O_oppose_Old_Town_being_parished	1
O_oppose_politically_motivated_proposal	1
O_oppose_South_parish	1
O_principle_but_support_West	1
O_recreate_SCS_Ltd_as_parish_contractor	1
O_rejects_how_Special_Rates_used	1
O_risk_of_corruption	1
O_run_Council_more_efficiently	1
Other_comments_unclear	1
O_use_Special_Rate	1
O_wants_a_Wichelstowe_parish	1
O_wants_Coate&BadburyPark_in_Chiseldon	1

O_wants_Lawn_&_Badbury Park_combined	1
O_wants_Wichelstowe_in_Old_Town	1
O_wants_Woughton_boundaries_unchanged	1
O_what_services_will_SBC_cut	1
S_but_borough_to_provide_borough_services	1
S_but_bottom-up_not_top-down	1
S_but_concern_about_CT_after_special_rate	1
S_but_concern_at_names	1
S_but_concern_at_speed_of_change	1
S_keep_current_Wroughton	1
S_no_further_comment	1
S_only_existing_parishes	1
S_parishes_doing_more	1
S_petition_in_support_of_boundaries	1
S_secure_local_influence_and_services	1
S_should_merge_Liden_Eldene_Nythe_&_Covingham	1
S_single_large_parish	1
S_smaller_parishes_in_the_unparished_area	1
S_support_changes_to_Nythe	1
S_support_East	1
S_support_Lawn_in_East	1
S_support_Nythe_&_Covingham	1
S_support_Old_Town	1
S_support_Old_Town_in_South_Central	1
S_supports_2_town_centre_parishes	1
s_supports_3_parishes	1
S_supports_devolution	1
S_supports_East_Wichel_in_Wroughton	1
s_supports_Eldene	1
S_support_South_Swindon	1
S_support_Wroughton_without_Wichelstowe	1
S_unanswered_questions	1
S_wants_Liden_&_Eldene	1
S_wants_OldTown_in_South	1
N_affect_on_house_prices	2
N_concern_about_different_services_between_parishes	2
N_concern_about_timescale	2
N_merge_SBC_and_Wilts	2

N_need_experienced_parish_clerks/cllrs	2
N_stealth_tax_or_get_round_capping	2
O_already_pay_management_company	2
O_concern_about_effect_on_staff	2
O_concern_about_only_50%_transitional_funding	2
O_effect_on_CIL/S106_payments	2
O_no_further_comment	2
O_oppose_Badbury_Park_parish	2
O_parishes_wont_solve_budget_problem	2
O_reject_term_parish	2
O_risk_SBC_losing_income_to_parishes	2
O_SBC_to_have_intervention_powers	2
O_uneven_tax_services_burden_between_parishes	2
O_using_ward_cllrs_for_shadow_council	2
O_wants_Penhill_in_Haydon_Wick	2
O_wants_Wichestowe_in_Wroughton	2
O_what_else_will_devolve	2
O_will_it_work/lack_of_evidence	2
S_but_concern_about_community_cohesion/identity	2
S_wants_East_Wichel_in_Wroughton	2
N_Borough_to_provide_Borough_services	3
N_boundaries_confusing	3
N_concern_about_extra_costs_and_bureaucracy	3
N_concern_about_loss_of_economies_of_scale	3
N_concern_about_parish_capacity	3
N_double_taxation	3
N_wants_1_large_parish	3
N_wants_a_referendum	3
O_better_use_for_money_spent_on_CGR	3
O_comments_about_shadow_parish	3
O_concern_about_shadow_council_membership	3
O_one_large_parish_larger_taxbase_fairer	3
O_people_cant_afford/wont_pay_precept	3
O_prove_ASC_costs_are_up	3
O_will_not_work	3
S_but_concern_about_service_level	3
S_but_oppose_double_taxation	3
S_support_the_principle	3

S_wants_to_retain_Chiseldon_unchanged	3
N_decision_already_made/inevitable	4
N_refers_to_cllrs_leaflet	4
O_cost_of_extra_cllrs	4
O_lobby_central_govt/MPs_more	4
O_merge_with_Wilts	4
O_prefer_different_boundaries	4
O_wants_Haydon_View_to_be_in_Haydon_Wick	4
S_supports_Liden_Eldene_Nythe	4
S_supports_parishes	4
S_want_Badbury_Park_Parish	4
O_different_services/tax_burdens_between_parishes	5
O_one_large_parish_efficient_sustainable	5
O_reject_splitting_existing_parish	5
Other_comments	5
S_but_concern_at_higher_costs/loss_of_efficiency/effectiveness	5
N_are_parishes_able_to_deliver	6
O_no_clarity_on_who_is_responsible_for_what	6
O_oppose_large_parishes	6
O_oppose_splitting_parish_BlunsdonStA	6
O_parish_wont_have_enough_tax_base	6
N_concern_about_paying_for_services	7
N_why_these_boundaries	7
O_businesses_should_paying_more	7
O_cost_of_paying_for_other_areas	7
O_imposed/devisive	7
O_not_serving_towns_identity/needs	7
O_one_parish_paying_for_town_centre	7
O_oppose_prefer_different_boundaries	7
O_stop the CGR	7
O_will_not_save_projected_amount	7
S_support_West_Swindon	7
N_not_enough_information/maps_not_clear	8
N_wants_Eastcott_with_Old_Town	8
Other_no_comments_at_all	8
S_but_different_the_boundary/name	8
O_risk_of_needing_parish_CT_referendum	9
O_unanswered_questions	9

O_implementation_process_too_quick	10
O_no_service_improvement/cuts	10
N_Identify_with_a_specific_area	11
O_higher_costs_for_same_service	11
O_wants_Old_Town_with_Eastcott	11
O_wants_Old_Town_parish/together	12
S_but_put_in_a_different_parish	12
O_cut_SBC_cllrs	13
O_cut_Tax_if_devolving	13
O_parishes_but_if_introduced_different_boundary	14
O_parishes_will_lack_capacity	14
O_can_we_fill_existing_seats_or_get_parish_cllrs	15
O_stealth_tax	15
O_oppose_devolving_services	17
O_Council_or_cllrs_have_not_managed_resources	18
O_is_process_legal/democratic_mandate	18
O_double_taxation	20
O_parishes_will_not_deliver_same_services	20
N_prefer_different_boundaries	21
O_just_avoiding_higher_C_Tax_or_raising_through_parishes	23
O_not_enough_information/maps_not_clear	23
O_Borough_should_provide_for_borough_amenities/town_centre	26
O_not_serving_communities_needs/identities	28
O_just_about_SBC_budget_issues/govt_cuts	30
O_decision_already_made	31
O_loss_of_economies_of_scale/efficiencies	34
O_poor_consultation/concerns_about_it	43
O_wants_a_referendum	47
O_no_local_demand/topdown	49
O_just_increase_Council_Tax/should_have_raised_it	54
O_parishes_but_if_introduced_accept_1_large_parish	57
O_extra_admin_costs_bureaucracy	66
O_oppose_these_boundaries	68
O_expensive_or_extra_tax_burden	75
O_oppose_creating_parishes	101

Responses from Parish Councils in Stage Three:

Bishopstone Parish Council

- 1.21 No representation has been received from Bishopstone Parish Council or others in relation to parish boundary changes.

Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council

- 1.22 The submission from Blunsdon St Andrew 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

- 1.23 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.
- 1.24 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.
- 1.25 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.

- 1.26 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.**

- 1.27 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.
- 1.28 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.
- 1.29 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.
- 1.30 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).
- 1.31 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.

- 1.32 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.
- 1.33 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.
- 1.34 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.

- 1.35 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.
- 1.36 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!
- 1.37 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.
- 1.38 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)
- 1.39 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)

- 1.40 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.
- 1.41 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.
- 1.42 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

- 1.43 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.

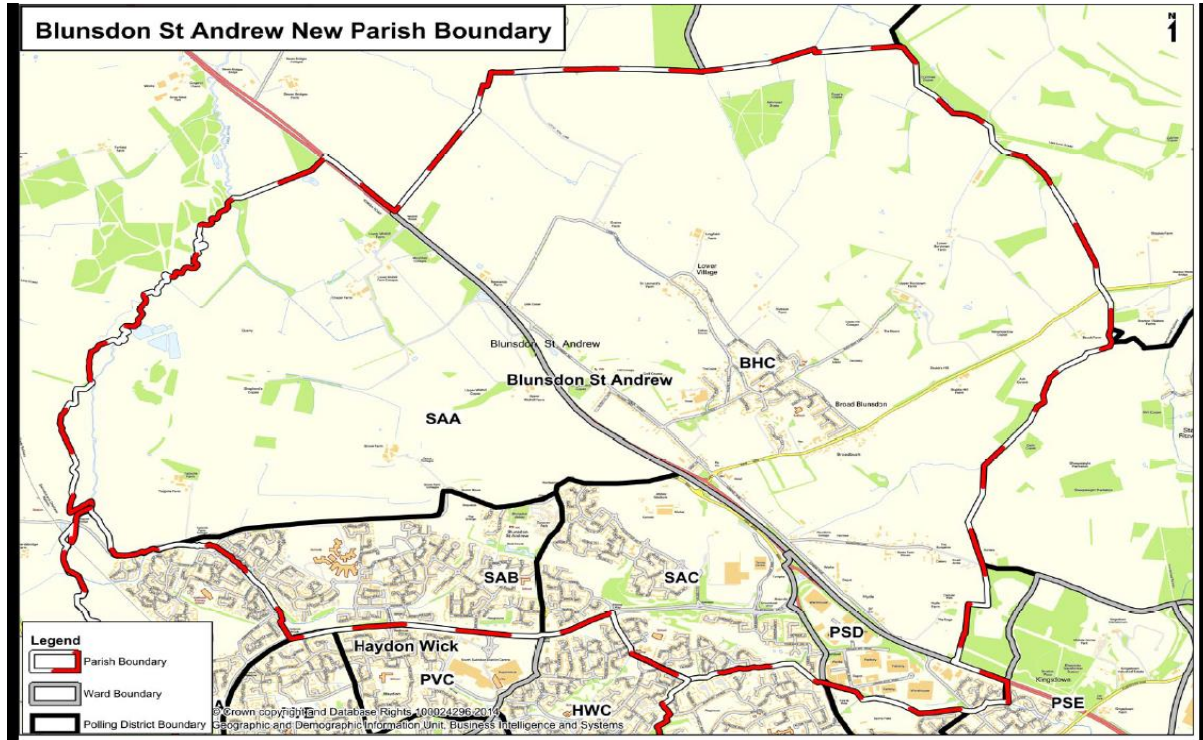
- 1.44 The Parish Council is firmly of the view, as demonstrated in this paper, that the boundaries set out in the Illustrative Maps would not be beneficial to residents and would in fact be more expensive.
- 1.45 This view has only been reinforced in the intervening months. We have provided evidence 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.
- 1.46 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.
- 1.47 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.
- 1.48 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

- 1.49 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.
- 1.50 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.
- 1.51 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.
- 1.52 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

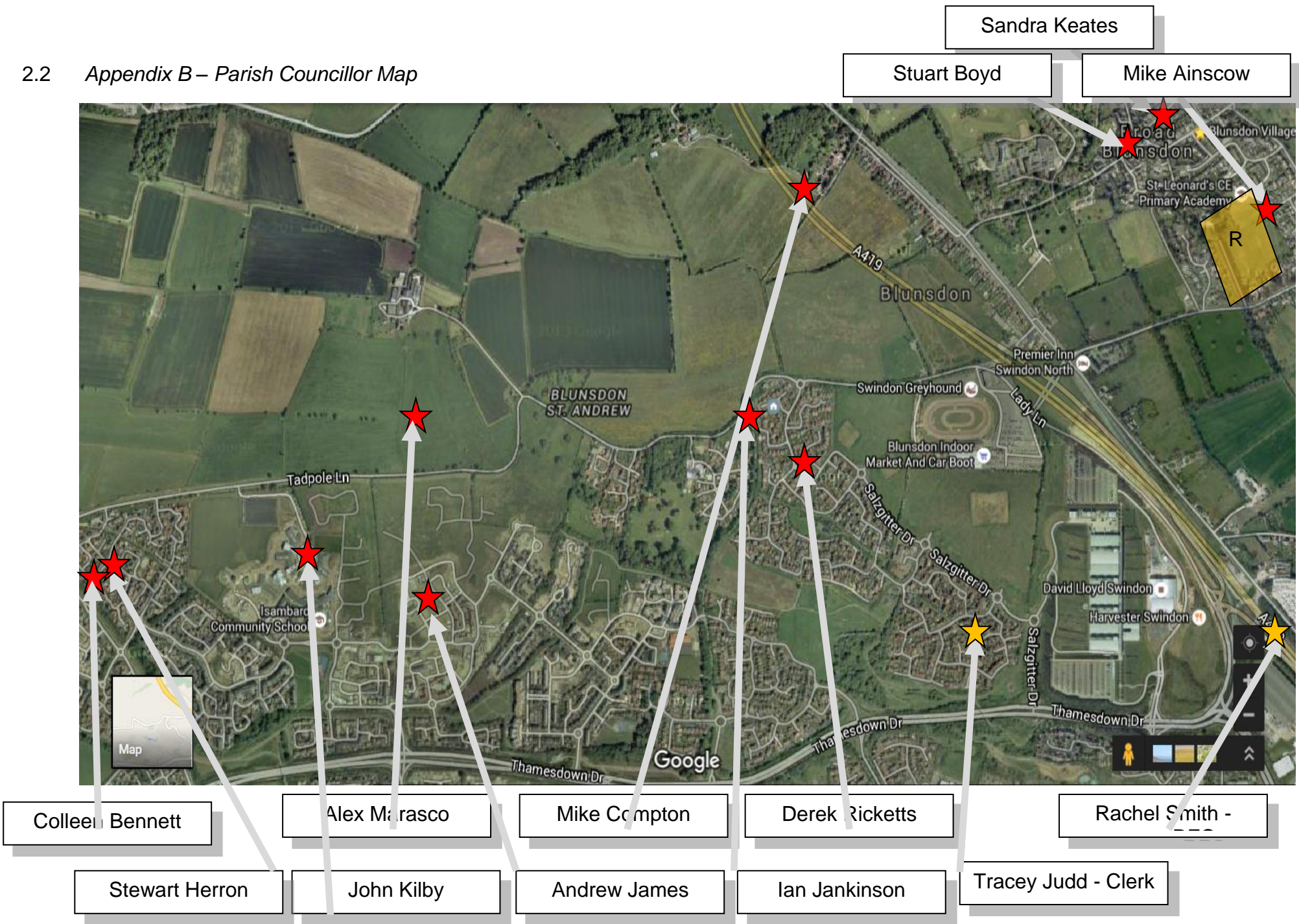




Illustrative Map 2



2.2 Appendix B – Parish Councillor Map



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

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

2.7 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

Castle Eaton Parish Council

- 2.8 No representation has been received from Castle Eaton Parish Council or others in relation to parish boundary changes.

Chiseldon Parish Council

- 2.9 The factual summary of the parish council's submission is as follows:
- 2.10 "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

- 2.11 "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

- 2.12 "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.
- 2.13 CPC made a submission to CGR phase 2 – this was published in the Cabinet report (17th August)
- 2.14 CPC submission to CGR phase 3 on 30th September 2016 – 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.
- 2.15 A joint survey was conducted by CPC and Badbury Park Community Association between 23/25th September 2016. 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.
- 2.16 Results
- 2.16.1 leaflets distributed to circa 300 households on Badbury Park & Coate Estate
- 2.16.2 there were 47 responses of which 8 were invalid
- 2.16.3 Chiseldon parish 30 (77%)
- 2.16.4 South Swindon 9 (23%)

- 2.17 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.
- 2.18 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.
- 2.19 A copy of the raw data is attached for information. The summary of the results were included in CPC submission to CGR 30th September. 2016"

Covingham Parish Council

- 2.20 Covingham Parish Council position is unchanged from Stage Two:
- 2.21 Covingham Parish Council does not want to be grouped with areas which were fundamentally very different. Covingham Parish Council has been established for many years and has a good reputation for providing for the residents of Covingham.
- 2.22 Covingham Parish Council are mindful of the impact that the New Eastern Villages will have on the area of Covingham and have been proactive in making comments where necessary. We would like to continue in this way going forward on behalf of residents of Covingham.

Hannington Parish Council

- 2.23 No representation has been received from Hannington Parish Council or others in relation to parish boundary changes.

Haydon Wick Parish Council

- 2.24 Haydon Wick Parish Council have submitted as follows:
- a) The Council wishes to advise the Borough Council that should it be agreed in the Community Governance Review process for additional areas, whether currently parished or unparished, to be merged into the current parish this would be acceptable;
- b) In recognition of the positive response to a poll conducted by the Haydon View Residents Association for Haydon View to become part of the Parish of Haydon Wick (a 92% vote in favour of the merging into the parish, based on 99 responses received from the 131 households in the area) the Councillors fully support the application made to the Borough Council for the boundary of the Parish to be amended to include Haydon View. This is in keeping with the purpose of the Community Governance Review to recognise the area which residents identify themselves as being part of and to ensure community adhesion. At a recent meeting held in Blunsdon St Andrew a comment was made by Borough Councillor Martin that a specific view opposing this proposal

had been received in Stage 2. Following a search by Borough Officers of the submissions made has confirmed that no such submission was received. It is understood that this decision not to merge Haydon View into the parish may have been based on general or verbal comments made relating to the creation of one single central parish;

c) The Council requests that the proposal to extend the southern boundary of the Parish, as shown on Illustrative Map 1 & Map 2 from Stage 2, to be reconsidered (to incorporate the section of Whitworth Road from Lime Avenue to footpath leading to Seven Fields {Pond Street}). Boundaries to run behind properties in Whitworth Road. This proposal originally arose following comments received by the Parish Council from local resident associations. Such a move would remove the current issues which arise on the artificial split between the two parts Moredon with the current boundary running along The Street;

d) To propose that the section of Abbeymeads currently within the Parish of Blunsdon St Andrew be moved into the Parish of Haydon Wick. This will remove the operational issues which currently arise with two parishes providing services in the area and the confusion for residents over which parish serves Abbeymeads. This situation will continue if the existing situation remains or if the current proposal to divide Blunsdon St Andrew is implemented. The move into Haydon Wick will meet the stated criteria of the Review in regard to ensuring community adhesion, acknowledge the view held by the majority of residents of the area they are part of and will ensure that a cost efficient and equal service to be provided in Abbeymeads. It is understood that this proposal is supported by current Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council;

e) The Council wishes to reiterate the need to remove Ray Ward with one (1) Councillor position and merge this position into Haydon End Ward giving nine (9) Councillor positions;

f) The Council wish for a minor adjustment to the boundary to be considered in regard to the boundary line Oakhurst Way to Tadpole Lane. Currently the boundary leaves Oakhurst Way and traverses a field before joining Tadpole Lane, it is proposed that it runs for the length of Oakhurst Way to the roundabout for the entrance of Tadpole Garden Village and then along Tadpole Lane. This would give a hard and easily recognisable boundary by following the highway;

g) The Council is concerned over the comments contained in the report on the Community Governance Review submitted to the Cabinet in August regarding a suggestion reported to have been made by the Priory Vale and St Andrew Ward Councillors to split the Parish and wishes to object to this proposal. The Director of Law & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, Stephen Taylor, has advised by email that this was a verbal suggestion and he is therefore unable to provide any detail. Further some of the Ward Councillors representing the two wards have indicated to the Council that they did not put this suggestion forward and do not support such a proposal. While it is accepted that the report has discounted the suggestion it is hoped that the Borough Council understands that it is worrying that this has been suggested and included in a report without any discussion with the Council. In the short time available until the end of the

consultation period a petition of some 211 signatures (which due to size of scanned file will be sent by post) has been collected to rebut the suggestion made to remove the Priory Vale Ward from the Parish of Haydon Wick.

The Council understands that the October meeting of the Cabinet will consider whether to vary the current transitional funding arrangements from a three year package to a reduced two year package in regard to the transfer of services to both new and existing parish councils as April 2017. The approach of only offering a two year package of 50% in year 1 and 25 % in year 2 will have an adverse effect on the precept set by the new parishes and is likely to impact on the willingness to consider future transfers. Should this be agreed then it will be crucial for any future transfer of services to be discussed early in the financial year rather than at best in last half of the year as has been the practise to date. This will enable parish councillors to fully assess the impact on the precept for the following year and, if a transfer is accepted, put in place suitable arrangements

2.25 Following the publication of Cabinet papers, Haydon Wick have submitted additional comments as follows:

2.26 "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.**"*

2.27 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.



- 2.28 “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.
- 2.29 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.

- 2.30 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.
- 2.31 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."

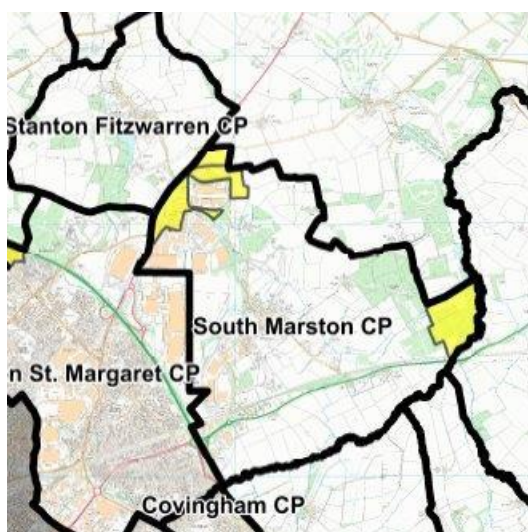
Borough Council Comments

- 2.32 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.
- 2.33 The Abbey Meads area in question is currently in the Blunsdon St Andrew parish.

Highworth Town Council

- 2.34 Highworth Town Council has submitted its agreement to the proposed changes to its boundaries with South Marston as follows:
- 2.35 "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)



Inglesham Parish

- 2.36 No representation has been received from Inglesham Parish or others in relation to parish boundary changes

Liddington Parish Council

- 2.37 Liddington Parish Council do not want to make any changes to the current boundary. Liddington Parish Council would like to request an increase in Parish Councillor numbers from 7 to 8.

Nythe Parish Council

- 2.38 Nythe Parish Council submitted Stage Two comments as follows:

Nythe Parish Council would like the Nythe allotments included within the Parish Boundary and are open to grouping of Parishes.

- 2.39 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.

South Marston Parish Council

- 2.40 South Marston Parish Council confirmed the agreement with Highworth Town Council in relation to 2.35 above and submitted as follows

- The PC agrees with A361 boundary proposal
- The PC will revert to the agreement made with Stanton Fitzwarren PC and will take over the area of the Supermarine currently within Stanton's boundary to take effect from the next full parish elections.

Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council

- 2.41 No representation has been received from Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council in relation to parish boundary changes.

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

- 2.42 In Stage Two, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council responded as follows

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council strongly believe that it is important to maintain its existing boundary especially to the East of the Parish to include the Honda site, the A419 should not be used as the boundary line. The one provision is to include a small housing estate within the Blunsdon boundary (Branwell Close, Pearce Close and Loveridge Close on the Hyde Road)

The Parish Council is not looking to take on other areas but if Penhill is imposed on us then we would work for the best of the community.

If the civil parish of St Margaret is to remain within its current boundary, we would wish to reduce the number of Councillors from 23 to 19.

The wards to be made up of the following:

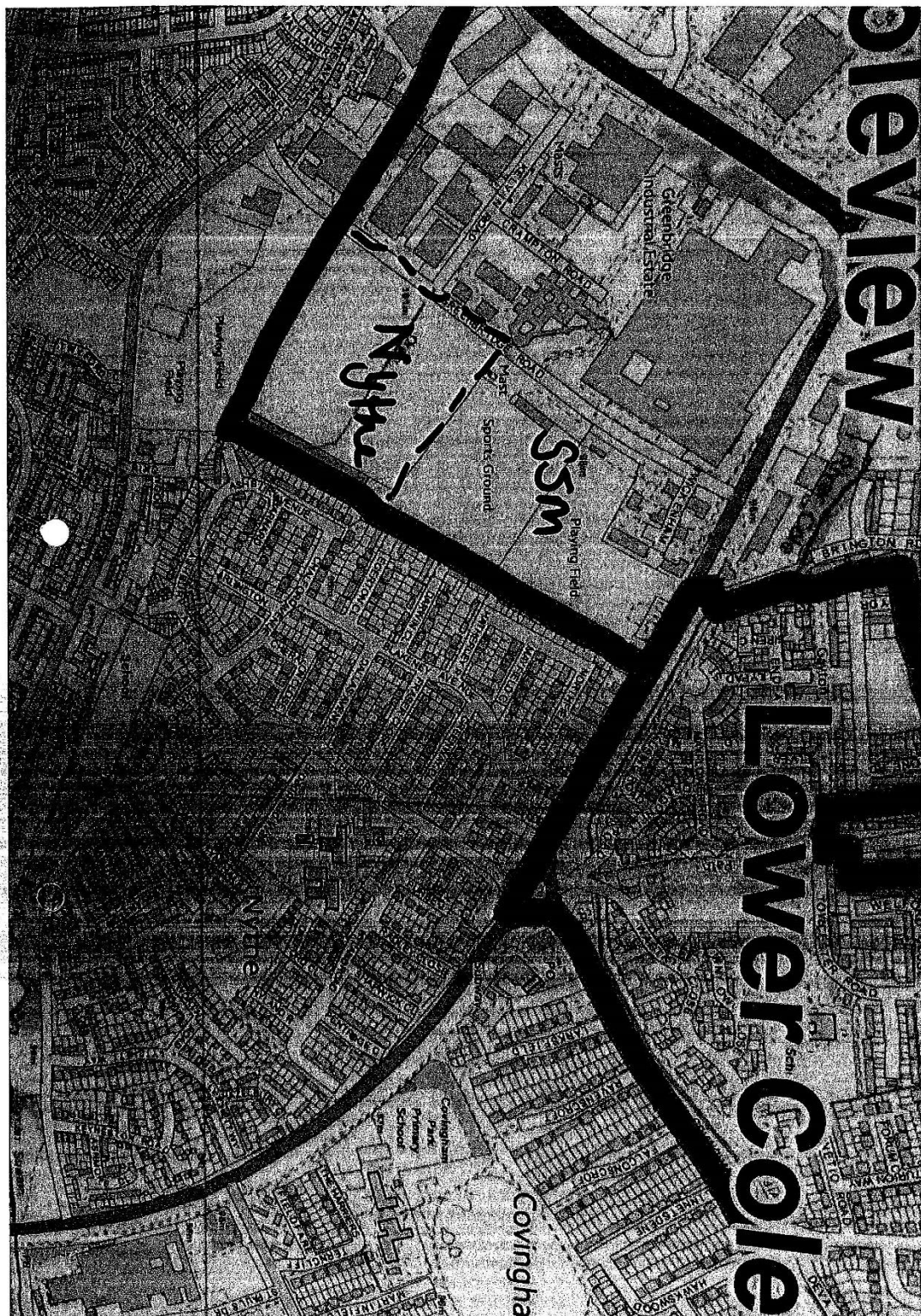
<i>Coleview</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Lower Stratton</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Lower Coleview</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Upper Stratton</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Merton</i>	<i>1</i>

- 2.43 Stratton St Margaret Parish Council was invited to consider proposals by Nythe Parish Council regarding changes to the boundary. Stratton St Margaret proposes:

2.43.1 To proceed with the request that Nythe allotments, currently managed by SBC, be transferred to Nythe Parish Council.

2.43.2 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.

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



Wanborough Parish Council

- 2.44 Wanborough Parish Council submitted in Stage 2 as follows:
- 2.45 We note the proposed marginal adjustments to the northern parish boundary and have no objection to either.
- 2.46 The reference to proposed marginal adjustments is a reference to the illustrative maps prepared for discussion purposes. These were not proposals and Members may feel that there is no need to change the northern boundary of this parish until there is sufficient development of the New Eastern Villages that would create new identities and community interests.

Wroughton Parish Council

- 2.47 Wroughton Parish Council have submitted as follows:
- 2.48 "In April 2016, Wroughton Parish Council resolved that 'Swindon Borough Council be informed that the Parish Council would like the boundary of the parish of Wroughton extended to include East Wichel in accordance with the boundary indicated on the attached map.' Our position has not changed from that resolution.
- 2.49 We are disappointed to see that all of Wichelstowe has been removed from the Parish of Wroughton in both illustrative maps. We believe that the existing community of East Wichel and the communities of Middle and West Wichel when they develop, will be best served by Wroughton as an experienced and well established Parish Council.
- 2.50 Wroughton Parish Council is unique in its setting within the Borough due to its relative low population density in comparison to its geographical area. To assist the Parish Council in the continued delivery of community services such as the library, Wroughton Parish must retain its current size and the increasing financial precept opportunity which will become available as mid and West Wichel are built out. It would be unfortunate to have our precept potential reduced at a time where our Parish has already successfully taken on some services locally and is striving to accommodate the increased service delivery responsibilities which have been and continue to be devolved from the centre.
- 2.51 If it would not be possible to include East Wichel within the area of Wroughton Parish Council, then we would wish to retain Middle and West Wichel within our existing boundary as encompassed within the Wroughton Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.52 Councillors John and Ray 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:
- 2.53 The general population in this proposed parish ward is higher than that of any other ward in the Central North boundary.
- 2.54 A significant number of people may not be registered on the electoral roll.

- 2.55 The Gorse Hill & Pinehurst Ward holds a greater proportion of the assets that are listed for transfer
- 2.56 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.
- 2.57 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.
- 2.58 Councillors Ballman have 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

- 2.59 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 in 2.27, 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.
- 2.60 Summary Responses from Residents Groups, Organisations or Associations

Badbury Park Residents Association

<p>The survey at Stage 2 was repeated again at Stage 3 between 14 and 28 September 2016 and again the results recommended Badbury Park to becoming its own Parish called "Coate at Badbury Park" who voted by 76.63% in favour of becoming their own parish, 13.43% voted to move into the new South Swindon Parish and only 11.94% voted to remain with Chiseldon Parish Council.</p>
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<p>The residents believe the recommendation made in the CGR Report to Cabinet (paragraph 3.29 to Cabinet on 17 August 2016) is void and should now reflect Badbury Park residents' wishes to become their own parish. Subsequently, the principle council must take into account the impact of community governance arrangements have on community cohesion and the 700 electors now on Badbury Park. Their report should not influence the Cabinets decision because we are still under construction because the residents' believe they can provide convenient and effective local governance with their Management Company who acts in a similarly way to the parish council.</p>
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<p>The majority of residents voted at Stage 2 and Stage 3 to become their own parish and their second choice was to move into the new proposed south Swindon Parish.</p>
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The proposed recommendations for the new South Swindon parish does not bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and will not result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services due to the anomalies with the precept and residents' Management Company. Badbury Park already set local priorities for local service by having a management company who works in a similar way to a parish council.

The majority of residents' have voted Not to stay with Chiseldon Parish Council and by making Badbury Park part of South Swindon will spilt the existing community, which will then become a large diverse community, that will not bring together the necessary benefits to build towards a better community, as the majority of the Badbury Park residents' Precept will onto improving South Swindon and not the community on Badbury Park, as they have already set their local priorities under their Management Company.

Following the residents consultation on the Community Governance Review it recommends the creation of the parish of Badbury Park and of a parish council for Badbury Park.

Subject to agreement to recommendation above, the recommends that the name of the new council shall be "Coate at Badbury Park Parish Council".

Conclusion: Badbury Park is asking SBC to seriously consider their request to become their own parish under the CGR, as the residents' could petition the Borough Council next year under the 2007 Act paragraph 40. Therefore, it would be more cost effective if the cabinet reconsidered the Badbury Park residents' wishes to become their own Parish Council.

Central Area Residents Improvement Group

Central Area Residents' Improvement Group do not agree with the proposals to parish any of the currently unparished areas of Swindon as are being presented by Swindon Borough Council, both with the intention and with the process. Despite this being named a consultation, it is absolutely clear that the Council is planning to go ahead with these plans and has little interest in what local people really think about the matter. If they did, they would be offering a referendum on the matter. Should parishing of the remaining areas of Swindon go ahead we wish to make our view clear: It is entirely unacceptable and unfair to expect the residents of the central area of Swindon to pick up the cost of town centre street cleaning and other maintenance. The argument has been that other areas with shopping centres have to do the same but these areas are not comparable to the town centre, as is evident by the large estimated increase in parishing precept for this area. It is particular unfair to expect this of an area which contains 3 of the 5 most deprived areas of Swindon. We understand the Council is saying that they intend for businesses to pick up this bill but we also know that the businesses are very much reluctant to and that there appears to be

no intention to make this mandatory. The only solution we can see to this problem is to create one large parish so that the cost can be evenly spread amongst all residents. We are also not happy about the proposal of having unelected parish councillors for any period of time. It's a wholly undemocratic way to implement what is already an undemocratic proposal.

Dorchester Road Group

The positions of the boundaries are largely irrelevant in the context of the overall impositions of artificial parishes for fiscal reasons.

I consider the creation of new parishes and devolution of services to be a dereliction of duty for SBC. Tax payers pay SBC to provide services, not to DIY and make more.

Haydon View Community Association

Repeat position from Stage One: Haydon View Rd, Eastville Rd, Sunningdale Road, Mendip Close and Orchid Close to be linked to Haydon Wick Parish.

I would further note that after the HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL meeting on the 26th sept that they have FULLY ENDORSED our request to merge the Haydon View estate in the H.W.P. Council. To date I have not seen any adverse comments/submissions against this proposal. Furthermore it will add Community Adhesion and recognition to our estate (re the name Haydon). The proposal includes positive boundaries and will at last an opportunity to us to further establish our relationship with H.W.P.C.

Most residents shop in the area, Attend doctors surgery, use the leisure centre etc., further more it will give us a sense of belonging. Over the last few years we have been part of

A) Whitworth ward.

B) Penhill ward

C) Pinehurst Ward

Kingshill Area Residents Association (KARA)

As a Residents' Association we were surprised and disappointed to learn from the Swindon Advertiser that we are no longer considered part of the same proposed Parish as the rest of Old Town – referred to as South Swindon. Covering Kingshill and Eastcott Areas we thought we would automatically be included in a larger parish with this area. We consider our area to be part of Old Town. We are also part of the catchment for Commonweal School the local Old Town post 11 school. This does not seem to have been taken into account.

Some of our residents continue to have accessed little or no information about the parishing process. Some have been unable to attend meetings. Some don't have access to the internet. Others who were aware signed either the on-line petition or the hand written petition both of which were

ignored by the Council.

The whole process has been disappointing to date both in its proposals and the way they have been delivered. And now we are unable to understand the logic of a division which creates a separate parish from the rest of Old Town thus excluding the residential area of our members.

Penhill Forum

In the absence of a full and proper referendum and since Parishing seems to be inevitable: We would want to be placed in an already established parish. Our preference would be Haydon Wick Parish. We think this is important to be able to learn from good Parish Councillors in a well-run parish.

Reasons: They are established and appear to be well managed. We border the Parish and share the largest piece of open space. Many of Penhill residents use and work in the facilities, shops, doctors, and library (should we lose ours) cycle routes, play areas.

Facilities are within easy walking/cycling distance via plentiful cycle routes. They appear to keep their parish precept to a sensible affordable level.

Their centre of administration is nearer to Penhill than any other parish and therefore more accessible. The line shown on your maps clearly points to this being a more sensible option for easily defined border along Whitworth Road and Cricklade Road.

Our second choice would be Stratton Parish, but feel we have less in common and note that their precept is already high and therefore even more of a burden to those living in an area of deprivation.

Pipers Way Residents Association

1- Please do not create new parishes to include Old Town.

2- Please do not split up the urban area of Swindon, but keep this 'unparished' area governed as one block.

3- Please do not rip Old Town from Eastcott, which is part of our community, and push us into alliance with sub-urban areas, which are not part of our day-to-day community.

The first answer that we would like to be recorded is please do not create a new parish including Old Town.

There is no evidence that the people of Old Town want parishes, no requests have been made to either ourselves, to the media or, in current knowledge, to Swindon Borough Council [SBC]. Indeed, at several public meetings the virtually unanimous votes, as handheld or secret ballots has been against any new parish for Old Town.

IF, and only IF, SBC insist on pursuing this idea against the will of the people, we would like you to consider our position on the boundaries of new parishes.

Old Town is a very clear historical space, hence we represent and draw membership and support from a fairly coherent community which is the southern half of Old Town. However, that representation of a southern Old Town is purely historical and convenience led, many of our residents live their lives in both halves of Old Town and indeed across the wider town and beyond, North v South Old Town is not a lifestyle, practical nor exact boundary. Many of our residents see themselves as part of the whole of Swindon and would wish representation on that manner.

There have been votes, ballots and discussion on this matter also and we would like you to note the outcome, Old Town sees itself as part of the wider urban Swindon.

Our second answer is that the clear wish of local residents appears to be a preference to be part of a larger parish to cover the whole, or major part, of the unparished area in urban Swindon.

However, IF, and only IF, SBC insist on pursuing smaller boundaries against the will of the people, we object significantly to the current proposed boundaries. This answer has a key element and then further responses that are relevant.

Our third answer is that Old Town North and South must be kept together as one and that cannot be ripped at the centre point by a line through Bath Road and Victoria Road. Old Town is a community that thrives together and is clearly definable by historical precedent, shared usage and practical day to day community exchange. The complete area of Old Town can be defined by a border as such: the bottom of Croft Rd; Lakeside roads that empty onto the south/south section of Marlborough Rd; Lawns and the east side of High St; Christchurch; The Regent Hotel on Victoria Rd; The Beehive Pub; Dixon St along to the cemetery; the end point of Clifton St; the bottom of Kings Hill; The Mall; and the Southern side of Westlecott/Springfield Roads. This definition is close to universally defined by those who live in both Old Town and Eastcott wards as proved recently by social media comments and polls. We share across the proposed boundary usage of community centres at Savernake St and Christ Church; usage of parking; usage of shops, cafes and pubs; usage of parks, leisure centre and open spaces; places of worship; attendance at Lethbridge, Croft, King William and Commonweal schools; and so much more. Importantly, the current boundary would split the food and drink businesses in Victoria Rd from those in Wood St and Devizes Rd, these are substantially the same business types and share the same customers, often on the same night, and they share a commercial association which traverses the boundary. It is important that these businesses share the same facilities, the same management and the same

governing bodies.

If it is clear that Eastcott must be treated as part of the same governance area as Southern Old Town, we may question some of the other areas that are bundled into this Southern Swindon package in preference to Eastcott. All of these areas are important and we imply no criticism, merely description.

Residential Lawns – including Windsor Rd. This area is very suburban, the housing was built much later than Old Town and is a very different style. It is quite a distance from Old Town and very few people would walk into the Old Town hub. The people attend different shops, pubs, schools than Old Town. There is no community group that ties the two and the area has a defined, separate community centre and residents association.

Eastern Marlborough Rd and Badbury Park are very far away from Old Town and cannot be seen to be naturally part of our community.

Marlborough Park is as yet unbuilt, but again differs significantly in architecture, population density and potentially lifestyle.

Wichelstowe, is new, clearly suburban and with their own centres, schools and residents associations. They have no connection to Old Town and probably much closer affinity with Wroughton.

Overall the proposed Southern Swindon Parish includes a very small number of residents to create incomes to run local parks and other facilities. Indeed the parish proposed is much smaller than South Central Swindon and the addition of Eastcott to the southern area may balance the sizes of population to a greater degree. The name – South Swindon Parish, means so little, it does not define our community and will be very confusing when compared to South Central Swindon. The proposed Parish has no defined parish offices or service centres and it seems equally unreasonable that these should be in Old Town, away from the centre of the proposed parish, or in Lawns, which is away from the majority of the community.

Finally we are massively concerned by the effects that creating such parishes will have on local people. We question if there is sufficient money and power locally to maintain and protect local green spaces and public amenities; we question the high percentage cost in administration to run a parish of 6,000 people at c£900k pa budget; we question if there is political will to create a vibrant totally elected political scene to represent such a small area; we question what may happen to residents associations, a necessary tier of local representation even under parish councils; we question if there are enough volunteers to cover all this proposed activity. If these questions are unclear or negative we should not proceed.

To summarise. This idea is not wanted by local people and we believe it

does not come from the community. This appears to be in direct contradiction of the spirit and wording of the very legislation used to enact this change. Indeed you have asked the community repeatedly throughout this year and there is statistical evidence that each further step towards creating parishes is in direct opposition to wishes of the community. This is not real or appropriate consultation.

As a residents association, we clearly ask Swindon Borough Council to stop the process of creating new parishes, to think again and more discursively engage with local communities to find other solutions to the challenges facing our town.

Rayburn Cresc Alliance

A parish council in the Central area is not wanted.

Rodbourne Cheney Residents Association

As representatives of the residents of Rodbourne Cheney we feel that it is incumbent upon us to make a representation to you by the end of March. However because of the lack of information concerning boundaries, possible precept rates and work to be undertaken by the parishes, we are not in a position to provide meaningful advice to our residents at this time. Indeed we question whether parishing is either necessary or desirable and the question should be put to all affected residents by means of a referendum. We appreciate that should this policy be forced upon us, we may have to choose between joining an existing parish or become part of a new one. We are adamant that we would not wish to see our area of Rodbourne Cheney divided.

Swindon Civic Voice

Previous stage of consultation has been ignored; parishes should not be imposed. The proposed boundaries are not viable as drawn, but given that previous consultation has been ignored, and this stage driven forward, we will not try to outline the reasons here. Instead we ask to meet with the external agent who is supposedly scrutinising the process. If parishing IS forced against citizens' wishes, then we believe that one new parish for the non-parished areas would be better than the divided ones proposed. This process raises the concern about past use of non-parish rates, in a fashion which has long disadvantaged residents living in them. This is because their additional rate has been used to service the whole town. This proposal to parish reveals that issue but does not resolve it in any way that is democratic, in the sense that ordinary citizens might relate to.

Wroughton Church Council

Wichelstowe should be part of Wroughton Parish. Creating an effective parish is about creating a cohesive community not just an administrative boundary. If the emerging communities of Wichelstowe are to consider

themselves part of a parish, they must be able to identify with that parish.

3. Part Two - Stage One and Stage Two Consultation Response

- 3.1 The first stage of consultation on review commenced at the beginning of January and concluded on 31st March 2016. During Stage One, over 700 people attended drop-in engagement sessions between 22nd February and 17th March 2016 at the following locations:-
- 3.2 Freshbrook Community Centre,
Highworth Community Centre,
Coleview Community Centre Stratton,
St Marys Hall Old Town,
Liden Community Centre,
St Peters Church Hall Penhill,
St Andrews Church Hall Walcot,
Pinetrees Community Centre Pinehurst,
Central Community Town Centre,
StoweAway Community Centre East Wichel,
Haydon Wick Parish Council Offices and
Broadgreen Community Centre.
- 3.3 At the end of Stage One, on 31st March 2016, 258 submissions were received.
- 3.4 Swindon Borough Council's Cabinet reviewed the submissions from the community engagement in Stage One at its meeting on 16th June 2016. The Cabinet agreed a number of recommendations, including:
- 3.4.1 Engage with local communities in June and July to address issues raised in the first stage of the Community Governance Review; and
- 3.4.2 Authorise the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Communities, to prepare illustrative maps for use during the engagement process.
- 3.5 Two illustrative maps were prepared to support further engagement in Stage Two. Map 1 linked to submissions and boundaries proposed in Stage One of the Review, Map 2 linked to major roads and key boundaries. Illustrative Maps 1 and 2 are attached in Appendix Two A and Appendix Two B.

Stage Two

- 3.6 Following the Cabinet meeting in June, four workshop sessions and 8 public meetings have been undertaken. Officers have also engaged directly with key stakeholder groups and Parish Councils. A feedback form inviting comments on the illustrative maps was available on the Council's website as well as a link to make responses through survey monkey. Submissions were invited from 22nd June to 31st July 2016. 139 submissions and 2 comments were received. Submissions were received as follows:

Email submissions	30
Feedback Forms/Written comments	70
Survey Monkey returns	39

- 3.7 The submissions received have now been reviewed and analysed, and are summarised in the paragraphs below together with comments and, where appropriate recommendations / draft proposals.

Stage Two feedback from engagement events in unparished areas

- 3.8 As part of public engagement in Stage Two, 8 public meetings (including 4 organised at request of members) were held and attended by a total of 181 residents.
- 3.9 In addition to public meetings, four workshops were held in unparished areas to gain qualitative feedback on community identity and community priorities in response to the illustrative maps. Existing residents groups, all ward councillors and a small number of residents who made detailed submissions in Stage One were invited to participate.
- 3.10 4 workshops for those who had expressed more detailed views at Stage 1 were held and attended by 27 residents;

A summary is as follows:

East Swindon
Mixed views on community identity and defined boundaries. Park North and Park South could be linked with Eldene but might more naturally link with Walcot East. Concern about community interest and capacity in the parish model and likelihood of getting involved. Could link the East grouping together as an East parish. Eldene and Liden look to have a natural fit geographically. Map 2 generally more favourable from residents living in Eldene and Liden.
West Swindon
General consensus that the West boundary on the maps reflects the area that represents West Swindon. Some agreement to renewing parish boundaries along previous ward boundaries rather than existing. General sense that the future would need to be about managing and protecting the assets and spaces that West Swindon has rather than taking on new responsibilities. Some interest in the option to reduce the West parish to smaller parishes at a future date if the community identity did not work as a result of the larger boundary.
North/Central Swindon
Some concerns about the scale of the non parished area. Can this

genuinely reflect community identities, particularly in relation to the diversity of the local population? The diversity of the central area could mean that a larger parish covering the non parished area might serve the wider community. Concern about local impact of the town centre/shopping area on related services. Interest in smaller community groups joining Haydon Wick parish.

Old Town/South Swindon

Concerns about the concept of parishes and the imposition on communities. If non parished areas are to be parished, there is some consensus that a single parish for the non parished area would serve local communities' needs better than smaller arrangements e.g. economies of scale, opportunity to go smaller in the future. Concern about costs/viability if popular assets such as Old Town gardens are transferred to parishes. Map 1 more preferable.

- 3.11 Illustrative maps and CGR information were published on the SBC website which attracted hits from over 500 residents;
- 3.12 Members were asked to publicise the events and process for feedback in their wards and networks;
- 3.13 Social media activity to promote the public meetings and maps/information was undertaken.

Stage Two feedback from Resident Groups, Forums or Associations

- 3.14 Feedback from groups, forums and associations is summarised as follows.

Badbury Park Residents Association

There was insufficient information on the proposed Community Governance Review to enable Badbury Park residents to express their views on the best way forward. The proposed recommendations for the new South Swindon parish does not bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and will not result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services due to the anomalies with the precept and residents' Management Company. Badbury Park and Broome Manor already set local priorities for local service by having a management company. Making Badbury Park part of South Swindon will spilt the existing community, which will then become a large diverse community, that will not bring together the necessary benefits; unless Badbury Park is made a Ward of South Swindon.

Eldene Residents Association

Of the two choices, it would be a lot more preferable to go with Liden, Nythe and Covingham. This is due to the general feeling of being more of a similar area, as well as seeing the benefits that joining existing Parishes would bring, in terms of the administrative expertise and contacts of existing Parish

Councillors.
Haydon View Community Association
Repeat position from Stage One: Haydon View Rd, Eastville Rd, Sunningdale Road, Mendip Close, and Orchid Close to be linked to Haydon Wick Parish.
Kingshill Area Residents Association (KARA)
Only a referendum would prove support - KARA does not support the creation of new parishes that the real reason for creation is about raising additional income beyond council tax - if it had to support the creation of parishes, it would support West Swindon plus a warded super parish (as described in dia 2 Central and South Swindon.
Meres Residents Association
Comments on both maps. Interest in canvassing support for a separate Liden Parish.
Penhill Forum
<p>We feel that linking to the Central Parish would give us very little say. We cannot set local priorities without knowing the areas/neighbourhood and communities within that planned area. Four choices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To seek to go in to Haydon Wick Parish Council, closer to services in Haydon Wick, shop in Haydon Wick, jobs available to us in Haydon Wick. Thamesdown Drive/Cricklade Road/Whitworth Road is a sensible main road boundary. 2. Blunsdon - or we are told that a new parish of St. Andrew may be created 3. Stratton Parish, from where Penhill originally came. 4. To become a new linked parish to the Central Swindon proposal but we felt that we may have problems finding enough capacity.
Pinehurst Initiative Forum
The Central Swindon area (on maps 1 and 2) looks large, especially as it is densely populated and has significant 'issues' in several of the areas. Surely this will lead to a very 'stretched' parish, in terms of funding/work.
Pipers Way Residents Association
We would specifically and completely reject the idea of Map 2 which splits many in Old Town into a different parish than the local civic, cultural and commercial centre. This statement in no way support Map 1 either.
Shaw Residents Association

In view of the small number of people who've responded to the consultation and the fact that there is no evidence of a community request from non parished areas, we believe that to proceed would be undemocratic. The SRA therefore maintains its position that Swindon Borough Council does not have a mandate to continue. However, should SBC choose to ignore this opinion, we believe it would make sense to start with one big parish and then, if there's a popular appetite, divide it up over the coming years. Such a scenario would also preserve at least some of the economies of scale currently enjoyed by the Borough. It would also minimise the additional administrative burden the creation of several new parishes would place on the tax payer.

Specifically, given that there is no petition or demonstrable public request for a West Swindon parish, we suggest it is more democratic to include West Swindon in the aforementioned central parish until such point in time that a public petition exists requesting it to become separate.

Swindon Tenants Voice

General commentary on the engagement/consultation process. No specific comments on any illustrative maps.

Stage Two summary of Individual Responses

3.15 A summary of the responses is as follows:

Comments	Number of responses <i>(not all responses responded to each category, responses below are not double counted)</i>
Responses with comments relating to either illustrative Map 1 or Map 2	<p>9 responses generally agreed with the illustrative maps</p> <p>13 responses partly disagreed with the illustrative maps</p> <p>18 responses disagreed with the illustrative maps</p> <p>6 responses proposed a single parish for non parished areas as a preference</p> <p>2 responses preferred a South Swindon parish (from Walcot and Park North ward)</p> <p>8 responses preferred illustrative map 1 (mostly residents in Walcot and Park North ward)</p> <p>39 responses preferred illustrative map 2 (majority of responses from Liden, Eldene and</p>

	Park South ward)
Do you think the potential parishes on the illustrative maps could give the opportunity for local people to set local priorities for local services?	<p>21 responses indicated yes</p> <p>38 responses indicated no</p> <p>13 responses indicated possibly</p> <p>10 responses said yes only in relation to illustrative map 2</p>
Do you think any of the potential parishes on the illustrative maps could help improve your neighbourhood area?	<p>10 responses said yes</p> <p>40 responses said no</p> <p>21 responses said possibly</p> <p>9 responses said yes if illustrative map 2</p>
Do you think any of the potential parishes on the illustrative maps could help grow a stronger sense of community feeling or identity where you live?	<p>8 responses said yes</p> <p>46 responses said no</p> <p>16 responses said possibly</p> <p>6 responses said yes if illustrative map 2</p>

Stage Two Parish Council responses and recommendations to the 17th August 2016 Cabinet Meeting

Bishopstone Parish Council

3.16 In Stage Two, Bishopstone Parish Council have responded as follows

We note the proposed marginal adjustments to the northern parish boundary and have no objection to either of the proposals.

3.17 The reference to proposed marginal adjustments is a reference to the illustrative maps prepared for discussion purposes. These were not proposals and Members may feel that there is no need to change the northern boundary of this parish until there is sufficient development of the New Eastern Villages that would create new identities and community interests.

3.17.1 Recommendation - It is recommended that there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Bishopstone Parish Council.

Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council

- 3.18 CGR Stage 1 - Blunsdon St Andrew formally submitted a request to retain the existing boundaries for Blunsdon St Andrew Parish. The Parish submitted that it serves the existing Parish with community facilities that promote cohesion.
- 3.19 A petition containing 899 signatures was submitted to the Community Governance Review at the close of Stage One seeking the creation of a new Parish Council for St Andrews.
- 3.20 In Stage Two, Blunsdon St Andrew submitted a detailed submission with a petition statement comprising 390 signatures. Their response includes the following statements:

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.

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.

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.

- 3.21 Given the strength of the petition from residents within the St Andrew area calling for a separate parish for St Andrew to be created, Members may wish determine that the existing parish area be split into two parishes, unless it is felt that the arguments put forward by Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council outweighs this.
- 3.21.1 Recommendation – It is recommended that the consultation map show a redrawn and renamed Blunsdon parish, with the A419 as its boundary, and with a new St Andrew Parish covering that area south west of the A419 that is presently part of the Blunsdon St Andrew Parish and that the parish have 11 parish councillors.

Castle Eaton Parish Council

- 3.22 No representation has been received from Castle Eaton Parish Council or others in relation to parish boundary changes and so no changes are proposed.
- 3.22.1 Recommendation - It is recommended that there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Castle Eaton.

Central Swindon North

- 3.23 It is considered that the area north of the Chippenham-Swindon-Didcot railway line and east of the River Ray presently outside a parish can justifiably be considered a distinct community. It recognises the parliamentary boundary along

the railway line and includes the smaller communities of Gorse Hill, Pinehurst, Rodbourne, Moredon, and Penhill. These are all older traditional neighbourhoods that were established before the massive recent expansions to the West and North West. The area also includes most of the North Central locality; hence, there is an established pattern of sub-local authority community identity and governance.

3.23.1 Recommendation – It is recommended that there be a new Central Swindon North parish 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. It is further recommended that the new parish should have 15 councillors.

Central Swindon South

3.24 The urban area without a parish south of the Chippenham-Swindon-Didcot railway line and excluding Old Town, Eldene and Liden was formerly known as part of Swindon New Town. It has been part of one local authority since at least 1900, which has created shared cultural, retail and transport links and in particular, the area will contain significant green open spaces including Queens Park, Faringdon Park. All these help create the shared values of association that combine these disparate small communities into a broader Central South Swindon identity.

3.25 Again, while there are numerous small community and neighbourhood identities, creating more numerous parishes to reflect them would inhibit effective and convenient governance or the provision of local services that would be available to other parishes. A single parish would have sufficient resources, in terms of residents, potential councillors, and tax base to provide both convenient and effective governance as well as to reflect local communities.

3.25.1 Recommendation – It is recommended that a parish be created covering the Swindon Borough Council wards of Central, Walcot and Park North, the LEA and LEB polling districts from the Liden, Eldene and Park South ward, the ETA, ETB, ETD and ETE polling districts from Eastcott ward and most of the ETC polling district less the area south of Church Place and east of Albert Street. It is further recommended that the new parish have 15 councillors.

Chiseldon Parish Council

3.26 In Stage One, Chiseldon Parish Council submitted a request to keep their current boundary arrangements with regard to the villages and hamlets that make up Chiseldon Parish. Badbury Park Residents Association submitted a separate proposal to create a new Parish for Badbury Park.

3.27 In Stage Two, Chiseldon Parish Council have submitted with comments as follows:

Chiseldon Parish Council voted to retain its existing Parish Boundaries. A vote was taken on Monday 14th March 2016 and further ratified at the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 11th July 2016 . The members also voted in favour of retaining both Badbury Village and Badbury Park within the boundary of Chiseldon Parish.

Chiseldon Parish Council proposes that Badbury Village is moved back under the Ward of Chiseldon & Lawn.

Chiseldon Parish Council request an increase in the number of Parish Councillors from 15 to 16 with effect immediately.

- 3.28 As set out in the main report, Members may wish to note the greater shared community identities and common interests between those neighbourhoods that lie north of the M4, which may be better reflected for the purpose of convenient and effective local governance in joining a newly created South Swindon parish. Alternatively, Members may wish to give greater weight to the Parish Council's representation.

3.28.1 Recommendation – That the existing parish boundary be redrawn to exclude all parts of the Parish north of the M4, the area so removed to form part of a new South Swindon parish. It is further recommended that the number of parish councillors remain at 15, since there would be only a slight reduction in the current population.

Covingham Parish Council

- 3.29 Covingham Parish Council made no submission for parish boundary changes in Stage One. In Stage Two Covingham Parish Council have submitted with comments as follows:

Covingham Parish Council do not consent to being grouped for the following reasons: Covingham Parish Council do not want to be grouped with areas which were fundamentally very different. Covingham Parish Council has been established for many years and has a good reputation for providing for the residents of Covingham.

3.29.1 Recommendation – Covingham Parish Council boundaries and the number of councillors remain unchanged.

Hannington Parish Council

- 3.30 No representation has been received from Hannington Parish Council or others in relation to parish boundary changes and so no parish boundary changes are proposed.

3.30.1 Recommendation - Hannington Parish Council boundaries and the number of councillors remain unchanged.

Haydon Wick Parish Council

- 3.31 Proposals from Rodbourne Cheney Residents Association and Haydon View Community Association were received in Stage One merging these areas into the existing Haydon Wick Parish. In Stage Two, Haydon Wick Parish Council have made a detailed submission including comments as follows:

Following a discussion on the illustrative maps, a presentation from the Haydon View Residents Association and a brief summary by the Chair of Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council on their draft submission the Councillors wish to make the following comments:

- a) In recognition of the wish of the majority of the residents in Haydon View (Haydon View Road, Eastville Road, Mendip Road & Sunningdale Road) to become part the Parish of Haydon Wick the Councillors resolved to fully support the application made to the Borough Council for the boundary of the Parish to be amended to include Haydon View ;*
- b) The proposal to extend southern boundary as shown on Illustrative Map 1 & Map 2 is accepted (with a variation to incorporate Haydon View and the section of Whitworth Road from Lime Avenue to footpath leading to Seven Fields {Pond Street}). Boundaries to run behind properties in Whitworth Road;*
- c) The Councillors have taken no view with regard to the proposals made on Illustrative Map1 & Map 2 north of the current boundary as they relate to the Parish of Blunsdon St Andrew;*

d) 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;

e) The Councillors wish to reiterate the need to remove Ray Ward with one (1) Councillor position and merge this position into Haydon End Ward giving nine (9) Councillor positions;

f) The Councillors wish for a minor adjustment to the boundary to be considered in regard to the boundary line Oakhurst Way to Tadpole Lane. Currently the boundary leaves Oakhurst Way and traverses a field before joining Tadpole Lane, it is proposed that it runs for the length of Oakhurst Way to the roundabout for the entrance of Tadpole Garden Village and then along Tadpole Lane. This would give a hard and easily recognisable boundary by following the highway.

3.32 Members may note that the area of Abbeymeads is included in the petition to create a separate St Andrew parish and Haydon Wick parish has provided no equivalent evidence to support expanding to the north. In addition, Members are advised that the other increases to the parish boundary may have adverse consequences on a proposed North Central Swindon parish and its ability to provide convenient and effective governance whereas Haydon Wick is already of a sufficient size and establishment to do this.

3.33 If this is agreed by Members, the new parish area be warded as follows: Haydon Wick – 9 councillors; Haydon End – 9 councillors; and it would mean abolishing the Ray Ward.

3.33.1 Recommendation That the existing parish boundary be retained and that the parish be warded as set out above with 18 parish councillors.

Highworth Town Council

3.34 Highworth Town Council have submitted in Stage Two as follows:

There are no apparent proposed changes to the Highworth Town Council Parish boundary shown in illustrative maps 1 and 2 so we have no comments to make on this.

- 3.35 The Town Council has stated subsequently:

On the indicative map...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).

We do not have a violent objection to the suggestion that the whole of Supermarine Sports Field be included in the same Parish area but would rather suggest that the boundary be set at the roadway at the bottom end of the sports fields so that they are wholly within the Highworth side of the Parish boundary.

- 3.36 Given that there is agreement between two parishes to transfer the entire area of industrial land in the most southern part of the parish to South Marston parish, polling district BHF of the Blunsdon and Highworth Borough ward would need to be amended by creating a new polling district BHJ.
- 3.37 Since there is no agreement between the Highworth Town and South Marston Parish Councils concerning the Sports Field, no change is recommended in that regard.
- 3.38 Recommendation – To amend the southern boundary of the parish as reflected above and that there be no change to the number of parish councillors.

Inglesham Parish

- 3.39 No representation has been received from Inglesham Parish or others in relation to parish boundary changes and so no parish boundary changes have been proposed.
- 3.39.1 Recommendation – Inglesham parish boundaries remain unchanged.

Liddington Parish Council

- 3.40 No representation has been received from Liddington Parish Council or others in relation to parish boundary changes and so no parish boundary changes have been proposed.
- 3.40.1 Recommendation – Liddington Parish Council boundaries and the number of councillors remain unchanged.

Nythe Parish Council

- 3.41 Nythe Parish Council has submitted Stage Two comments as follows:
- Nythe Parish Council would like the Nythe allotments included within the Parish Boundary and are open to grouping of Parishes.*
- 3.42 Feedback from some residents and ward councillors as set out in the main report indicates that extending the Nythe parish to include Eldene and Liden, which do not have a parish at present, would unite an area with shared community interests as well as providing for effective local governance and representation.

- 3.43 At present Nythe has 7 parish councillors and it is suggested that this be increased to 11 if the parish is expanded.

3.43.1 Recommendation – To extend the parish of Nythe to include the currently unparished areas of Eldene and Liden to create an Eldene, Liden and Nythe parish with 11 parish councillors.

South Swindon

- 3.44 The residents of the new homes at East Wichel have strong community identity links with other parts of the main urban area rather than with the largely rural Wroughton parish to the south. The West and Middle Wichel areas, once developed, will also have community, housing tenure and transport links that will make them more similar to the contiguous urban core to which they are attached. In addition to this, the M4 would also act as a clear actual and geographical barrier separating Wichelstowe from Wroughton.
- 3.45 There are strong historical community ties across Old Town, Lawn, and Broome Manor with the communities there sharing a common point of focus as “Old Town”, which is distinct from New Town. The area was contained in a single local government ward from 1949 to 2012. This area has shared transport links, cultural and retail facilities and large open spaces including The Lawns, the Polo Ground, and Old Town Gardens.
- 3.46 The residents of the new development at Badbury Park have expressed a desire to set up their own parish; however, as this area is still under construction, it is deemed too small at this time to provide convenient and effective local governance. Some residents of this area have indicated that they have more affinity to the contiguous urban core than to the largely rural Chiseldon village, and would see their community interests better reflected in a parish lying north of the M4.
- 3.46.1 Recommendation – It is recommended that a new parish be created covering the WWB polling district from the Wroughton and Wichelstowe ward, all the Old Town ward, that part of polling district ETC in Eastcott that lies south of Church Place and east of Albert Street, the entire CLA and CLC polling districts from the Chiseldon and Lawn ward and that part of polling district CLB from the same ward that lies north of the M4. It is further recommended that the new parish should have 15 councillors.

South Marston Parish Council

- 3.47 In Stage 2, South Marston Parish Council have submitted as follows:

1. *The South boundary with Wanborough: Oppose the proposed change: Retain the River Cole as the boundary: Traffic egress onto A420 and towards village: Proposed NEV development intimately linked with development north of the A420: [The Parish has] considerable familiarity with the NEV proposals and emerging policies.*

2. *North boundary with Stanton: Accept change from a meandering line within the South Marston Industrial Park to A361. Accept western portion of Supermarine Sports Field (but see 4. below)*

3. *East boundary with Highworth:*

a) *If 2. Above is implemented, then this would run across the middle of the Supermarine sports site. We recommend that the whole of the site is included in our parish.*

b) *Part of the easternmost development area of the NEV at Rowborough is within the Highworth boundary.*

3.48 As stated above, Highworth Town Council is happy to agree the parish boundary changes with regard to Rowborough but the Town Council propose the sports field be in Highworth, not South Marston.

3.48.1 Recommendation – it is recommended that the boundary with that Parish be aligned to the A361 and that the Rowborough part of Highworth be included within the parish of South Marston, and that the remaining boundaries and number of parish councillors be left unchanged.

St Andrew

3.49 An 899 signature petition has been received requesting the creation of a new parish out of the area in the Blunsdon St Andrew parish covered by the St Andrew Swindon Borough Council ward, with the A419 as the shared boundary. Blunsdon St Andrew has also submitted a 390 signature petition to the contrary as well as its objections to the loss of all its areas beyond the A419.

3.50 Additional submissions from the Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council to the last two Commissions looking at new borough council wards suggest a lack of shared community interests and community cohesion between those parts of the Blunsdon St Andrew parish that lie north east of the main road and the newer developments within the parish that are within the St Andrews Swindon Borough Council ward.

3.50.1 Recommendation – It is recommended that a new parish of St Andrew be formed for the area south west of the A419, covering all of the present Swindon Borough Council St Andrews ward. It is further proposed that this parish should have 11 councillors.

Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council

3.51 In Stage Two it has been proposed to change the boundary between South Marston Parish Council and Stanton Fitzwarren to follow the A361. Discussion has indicated that this is acceptable to Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council. No formal submission has been received.

3.51.1 Recommendation – To amend the parish boundary to the A361 as agreed by the parish councils of Stanton Fitzwarren and South Marston. It is

further recommended that the number of parish councillors remain unchanged.

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

3.52 In Stage Two, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council have responded as follows

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council strongly believe that it is important to maintain its existing boundary especially to the East of the Parish to include the Honda site, the A419 should not be used as the boundary line. The one provision is to include a small housing estate within the Blunsdon boundary (Branwell Close, Pearce Close and Loveridge Close on the Hyde Road)

The Parish Council is not looking to take on other areas but if Penhill is imposed on us then we would work for the best of the community.

If the civil parish of St Margaret is to remain within its current boundary, we would wish to reduce the number of Councillors from 23 to 19.

The wards to be made up of the following:

Coleview	3
Lower Stratton	6
Lower Coleview	3
Upper Stratton	6
Merton	1

If Penhill is included in the Parish then it is suggested that the number of Councillors increase by an additional 2 for the Penhill ward making the total for the whole Parish Council at 21.

3.53 Since the Parish Council has not made a formal submission to include Penhill, and there might be adverse consequences for a proposed North Central Swindon parish that would diminish its ability to be effective if such a change were made, Members may choose to leave this boundary unchanged.

3.53.1 Recommendation – That polling district PSD of the borough ward of Penhill & Upper Stratton be transferred from the existing Blunsdon St Andrew parish to Stratton St Margaret. It is further recommended that the number of parish councillors be reduced from 23 to 19 as requested by the parish council, to take effect from the next full parish elections.

Wanborough Parish Council

3.54 Wanborough Parish Council have submitted as follows:

We note the proposed marginal adjustments to the northern parish boundary and have no objection to either.

- 3.55 The reference to proposed marginal adjustments is a reference to the illustrative maps prepared for discussion purposes. These were not proposals and Members may feel that there is no need to change the northern boundary of this parish until there is sufficient development of the New Eastern Villages that would create new identities and community interests.

3.55.1 Recommendation - Wanborough Parish Council boundaries and the number of parish councillors remain unchanged.

Wroughton Parish Council

- 3.56 Wroughton Parish Council have submitted as follows:

In April 2016 Wroughton Parish Council resolved that 'Swindon Borough Council be informed that the Parish Council would like the boundary of the parish of Wroughton extended to include East Wichel in accordance with the boundary indicated on the attached map.' Our position has not changed from that resolution.

We are disappointed to see that all of Wichelstowe has been removed from the Parish of Wroughton in both illustrative maps. We believe that the existing community of East Wichel and the communities of Middle and West Wichel when they develop, will be best served by Wroughton as an experienced and well established Parish Council.

If it would not be possible to include East Wichel within the area of Wroughton Parish Council, then we would wish to retain Middle and West Wichel within our existing boundary.

- 3.57 As set out in the main report, Members may wish to note the greater shared community identities and common interests between those neighbourhoods that lie north of the M4, which may be better reflected for the purpose of convenient and effective local governance in joining a newly created South Swindon parish in an area that does not have a parish at present. In particular, Members may note the views of some residents in Badbury Park as well as the views of some Ward Members that confirm a distinct sense of community that such a parish could promote.

3.57.1 Recommendation – That the parish boundary be amended to exclude the area north of the M4 in the current WWB polling district and that there be no change to the number of parish councillors.

West Swindon

- 3.58 West Swindon is widely recognised to be an identifiable community that had a functioning local area forum before the creation of the West Locality, which has provided convenient and effective means for promoting local governance. The West Swindon Centre provides a focal point with sports, leisure, and retail facilities with which local residents identify. There were representations at the engagement meetings supporting this.

3.59 The areas that could be created as a parish would have boundaries largely similar to the current West locality, but excluding the area of the Mannington and Western Ward that lies east of the River Ray.

3.59.1 Recommendation – That a new parish be created covering the present wards in the West Locality: Lydiard & Freshbrook and Shaw, along with the current polling districts from the Mannington and Western Ward: MWB and MWC. It is further recommended that the new parish should have 15 parish councillors.