

# Bodmin Town Council



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The Review Officer (Cornwall)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Millbank Tower  
LONDON  
SW1P 4QP

Date: 10 September 2018

Our Ref: SMF/CBR/2018

Your Ref:

Dear Sir / Madam

## **Local Government Boundary Commission for England Electoral Boundary Review – Cornwall Council**

### **New Electoral Arrangements for Cornwall Council – Draft Recommendations – June 2018**

Bodmin Town Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Local Government Boundary Review consultation on the draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Cornwall Council. This matter was considered by Full Council when it met on 19 July 2018 and I have been instructed to respond making the following response.

These comments are made from the perspective that Bodmin Town Council is one of the largest and most proactive town councils in Cornwall. The Town Council provides a range of high quality services and facilities throughout the town and has a budgeted operational expenditure of £1.5 Million in the financial year 2018/19.

Bodmin is currently the fastest growing town in Cornwall and has an increased housing target figure within the Cornwall Local Plan of 3,000 additional homes over the plan period 2010 to 2030. The predicted growth and the increased demand for community infrastructure (schools, GPs, dentists and parks and opens spaces etc) to keep pace with that development will see the case work for any Cornwall Councillor increase significantly.

Bodmin Town Council is supportive of the Cornwall Council proposal which would result in a doughnut arrangement for the Bodmin Community Network area (copy proposed map attached) as it offers a good fit for the town.

Bodmin Town Council is of the view that a doughnut arrangement for these divisions (town and rural parishes) is the best option that would reflect local preference and which would harmonise with the electoral representation requirements for local residents living in Bodmin and for people living in the surrounding, rural parishes.

Whilst it is recognised that some small parts of Bodmin would be included within the rural division under this proposal, most notably for Bodmin residents living in the former St. Lawrence hospital area (identified on the attached plan as area 'B' with an electorate of 769 and including the residential areas of Beech Drive, Chestnut Grove and Park Drive), it is considered that this represents a reasonable approach achieving the best fit for Bodmin, whilst also assisting with the electorate numbers for the Lanivet division.

In terms of names for the divisions, Bodmin Town Council is strongly supportive of:

- Bodmin St. Mary's & St. Leonard;
- Bodmin St. Petroc's;
- Lanivet, Blisland & Bodmin St. Lawrence

The above separation / segregation of divisions are shown on the colour plan.

Bodmin Town Council would strongly support the use of 'St. Lawrence' in the naming of the rural Lanivet doughnut division, as that would preserve the historical identity with this part of Bodmin, as annotated area 'B' on the attached plan.

For information, I can advise that the use of 'St. Lawrence' reflects the historical use of this land package as it was once the former St. Lawrence's Hospital site and recognises that most local residents still refer to that part of the town as 'St. Lawrence's.' It would therefore seem appropriate to recognise that the 769 electors living in this part of the town will have strong views about retention of a name which reflects local character and maintains a significant connection with their area and a link with the town.

Bodmin Town Council is cognisant that there would be some final 'fine tweaking' and adjustments with where divisional lines are eventually drawn, particularly in respect of divisional boundaries through the centre of the town of Bodmin (and the concomitant effect on electorate numbers requiring some additional data analysis work), which would and realistically will lead to some minor variations being needed or proposed.

However, in principle, Bodmin Town Council strongly supports the three divisions as set out above (and indicated on the plan provided), as it is a model that would work for Bodmin and the rural doughnut, which would maintain a common sense approach to the relationship between people and place and the connections that are existent for these communities.

Bodmin Town Council would however advise that it objects, on an in principle basis, to the overall process of this exercise by the Boundary Commission as drawing lines on maps to achieve acceptable numbers of electors in each division does not align or reflect the town's historical attachment to the Borough (town) boundary which will create representational confusion for electors.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S.M. Facer". The letters are stylized and connected, with a small dot at the end of the signature.

S M Facer  
**Town Clerk**