

Mid Devon District Council CGR Parish Review - First Stage Consultation Submissions

Submission1

Date: 16/12/2021 10:49:31 **Graham Vingoe**

Comments for: I work for TNMWD Citizens Advice and have regular contact with many of the Parish Councils and Meetings in Mid Devon. Whilst some of the parishes are unquestionably too small to function as a proper council ought to, the people who run them are excellent and helpful so it would be a shame for these to merge and potentially lose their local feel. Rather than reduce the number of councils, perhaps thought should be given to providing them with a baseline precept grant so that the very smallest feel it is worth continuing or provide funding to allow them to fully develop their local web presence so that the residents realise their value and want to engage with them more.

Submission 2

Date: 16/12/2021 14:13:11 **Roger Price, Puddington PC**

Comments for: I recognise the impact that extensive new housing developments may have had on an established Parish Council, which was configured to represent a much smaller community. In the case of Puddington, which I represent as a Councillor, little has changed for decades and I see no value in making any changes.

Submission 3

Date: 16/12/2021 16:31:06 **Sarah Dobson, Burlescombe**

Comments for: As some of the smaller parish councils struggle to get membership and therefore resource activities it might make sense to merge some. Better to have fewer councils doing things well than have smaller ones (supposedly with more local representation) unable to engage and represent views across their community

Submission 4

Date: 16/12/2021 16:44:46 **Keyth Richardson, Coldridge**

Comments for: Coldridge Parish Council as currently established is a natural council area. The residents of the outlying hamlets and farms all relate clearly to Coldridge and the village. The Parish Council and The Village Hall Committee work together to ensure there are facilities for all residents and a range of activities for the whole community. This council area does not need splitting down, nor does it need to merge with any other parishes.

Submission 5

Date: 18/12/2021 10:44:09 **Sasha Jackson, Cheriton Bishop**

Comments for: I feel very strongly that the parish boundary for Cheriton Bishop should be expanded to the East, up to the A30 flyover at the least. Currently land which residents view as in our village, is technically under the Tedburn St Mary (Teignbridge council) parish. This is absurd as all residents this side of the A30 use Cheriton Bishop's amenities. Houses have been built by Teignbridge council (with even more planned) that are allegedly Tedburn properties and within their housing quota - even though they are within what locals consider Cheriton Bishop boundaries. Tedburn St Mary residents are thrilled of course as the new housing is not being put in their village! (Who also view the boundary as unofficially at the A30 flyover). This puts enormous pressure on our village's current infrastructure and residents.

Submission 6

Date: 20/12/2021 15:23:56 **Jim Enright, Langford Newton**

Comments for: Newton St Cyres has been a Parish for over 125 years. It has a strong identity and the Parish Council is very effective. Change is not required or desired.

Submission 7

Date: 21/12/2021 16:06:29 **Dan Hughes, Normansland**

Comments for: Think the current Parish Council system and boundaries work quite well both in terms of geographical boundaries and accountability.

Feel any changes are more fiscal driven than genuinely assisting local residents in having an accountable elected representative for their immediate area.

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Submission 8

Date: 22/12/2021 16:37:34 **Graham Langford, Clayhidon**

Comments for: Using the Aims of the Review headings:

- Apart from reverting to Wellington area in Somerset (changed in the mid 1930's) there have been no new anomalies
- No new buildings or growth recorded
- Dissatisfaction with MDDC as the parish is seen as too far away from the District Council hub
- Any change would be worse
- No local services provided
- Identity would be lost and no improved

Submission 9

Date: 27/12/2021 11:26:21 **Jennifer Bell, Cadleigh**

Comments for: Cadeleigh is on the edge and is likely to be forgotten ... at the moment we have an MP in Central Devon and a County Council in Exeter and a District council in Tiverton. It is difficult to know where to start; it looks as if we are to be linked with Honiton now. There seems to be little coordination or communication already and ambulances are based elsewhere possibly in Taunton and arrive late. Authorities do not seem to know anything about the area make decisions based on little local knowledge. It looks as if yet more organisation will not be an improvement for small villages like ours.

Submission 10

Date: 31/12/2021 02:21:25 **Frances Wilcox, Cullompton**

Comments for: The parts of Halberton Parish that were severed when the motorway was built should be shared with Willand and Uffculme. The residents who live here can't get to Halberton to use their facilities without going through another Parish. It makes no sense to keep this area as part of Halberton. How this area is developed impacts on Willand and Uffculme.

Submission 11

Date: 31/12/2021 10:17:23 **Jane Broom, Cullompton**

Comments for: The boundary of Halberton parish should be pushed back towards Halberton on the M5 side of the parish. The parishes of Willand and Uffculme would then take up the slack. This would enable Willand and Uffculme to have a say on what is happening on their 'doorstep', rather than people miles away who are not really worried as the land is so far from their area.

Submission 12

Date: 31/12/2021 10:47:32 **Jason Lejeune**

Comments for: Maybe put up some ideas /offer suggestions so that the community can decide what's the best option. Then the district council would need to listen to the community and support their wishes, rather than ignore and do what the council wants to press forward with!

Submission 13

Date: 31/12/2021 15:17:19 **John Palmer, Uffculme**

Comments for: As Halberton is almost intertwined with Uffculme, decisions made on planning by Halberton can and do affect Uffculme. The housing development and proposed business park extensions along the road known as Uffculme Stright, or Uffculme road is one of these. Housing and the business estate increase local traffic not only to the motorway junction at J27, but on all local roads too. The residents of Uffculme suffer unfairly by decisions made in Halberton. Perhaps a change of boundary to a more sensible place would be in order, so as to place the area of development under the control of the council area more affected? I understand that Halberton may benefit from subsidies or grants for such development, but the geographical location places the strain on Uffculme more than the people who make those decisions. I'm sure this isn't the only case in question, but it's the one I've most knowledge about, thanks to a card I received in the post earlier.

Submission 14

Date: 31/12/2021 15:46:30 **Katie Stanbury, Uffculme**

Comments for: We bought our first home in Uffculme last year located in the Halberton Parish (new Uffculme estate - Lucombe Park). We support Uffculme during the year by supporting and attending the events,

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shopping in the local shops, eating at the cafes, our doctor surgery and much more (all within walking distance). The only time we go to Halberton is to buy local veg at the farm shop at Xmas and visit the hall to vote in elections (car use only). We feel we should be within the Uffculme region rather than Halberton.

Submission 15

Date: 03/01/2022 21:42:36 **Helen Barker, Uffculme**

Comments for: We live at Willow Pond Cottage, in Halberton parish but on the border of Burlescombe and Uffculme. We have lived here for three and a half years having moved from Cullompton. We were surprised to find we were in the parish of Halberton. To us it makes no sense to be part of Halberton and feel more affiliated to either Uffculme or Willand. Both our children attend Willand School and we both work in Willand. Our children attend clubs in both Willand and Uffculme. We do not feel connected to Halberton. We often miss key community information as we do not get the Willand or Uffculme newsletters, eg events for children in the holidays, the fireworks at Bridwell (which borders our field!), information re Road closures etc. We sometimes get a Halberton magazine, but not every issue and a lot of the info is irrelevant. I did consider volunteering to distribute the magazine for our area but realised I'd have to collect them from Halberton and I simply don't drive through Halberton being so close to J27 and the link road. We feel that the logical boundary to the parish is the M5. We don't benefit from money being spent to improve facilities that we would use or the general area or clubs within the parish. We are also concerned that decisions made about our patch of the parish don't affect Halberton residents eg the expansion of Hitchcocks business Park. Residents of Halberton are not affected by the noise and additional traffic, or lorries shaking their windows and floors! But they do benefit from the extra rates etc that the park has to pay. We do not drive through or attend any events in Halberton and do not feel part of the community. We have felt for a long time that we are in the wrong parish and welcome the opportunity to express our views.

Submission 16

Date: 06/01/2022 15:56:05 **Phili Talbot, Stoodleigh**

Comments for: When the North Devon Link Road A361 was created it resulted in small areas of some parishes, Washfield, Templeton, Stoodleigh etc being left on the "wrong side" of the link road. This would appear to be an ideal opportunity to regularise that situation.

Submission 17

Date: 11/01/2022 12:08:45 **Tabetha Maynard, Crediton**

Comments for: Crediton Hamlets parish Council covers too much of a sprawling area. Yeoford village has expanded greatly, has it's own school, pub etc. and should have it's own Parish Council like Bow, Copplestone, Colebrooke, Cheriton Bishop etc. I do not understand why the housing development in Crediton called Westernlea is in Crediton Hamlets? It is part of Crediton and should be part of Crediton Town Council. The tiny hamlet of Hookway in part 3 of Crediton Hamlets should be part of Newton St Cyres Parish Council. It is far nearer their main centre of population and the catchment for schools is Newton St Cyres or Haywards in Crediton for this area. I strongly believe it is in Yeoford's best interests to have it's own Parish Council. This is to provide more effective and convenient local services where the council can focus on the substantial village it has become. A Yeoford Parish Council would improve and develop a sorely needed community identity which is not being served by the current Crediton Hamlets Parish Council.

Submission 18

Date: 11/01/2022 14:02:58 **Morwena Rogers, Yeoford**

Comments for: It is frustrating that the village of Yeoford does not have its own parish council. I live in Yeoford and served on Crediton Hamlets Parish Council for four years. The shape and structure of the council is bizarre, incorporating streets on the outskirts of Crediton (and more oddly, the big Tesco supermarket on the other side of the town from us) as well as Yeoford and then swathes of countryside. The council is split into two wards, with just over half the councillors representing Yeoford and the others representing Hookway, an area of farmhouses and tiny hamlets close to Crediton. Often seats on the council are 'fixed' so that members resign if new councillors come forwards and are then co-opted back on to represent Hookway ward. Yeoford is a thriving community with a pub, a village hall, a recreation ground, a play area, a school, a church and a railway station which has grown markedly over the last few decades. During my time on and off the Parish Council, I have found it frustrating trying to get support for Yeoford. The reason given for the lacklustre attitude is always that the Parish Council covers other areas too, even though only Yeoford has community amenities in the parish. I would like to see a Yeoford Parish Council that covers the village and hamlets that are

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close enough to use the village amenities (e.g. Neopardy and Woodland Head) rather than Crediton. I believe this would be empowering for our village and enriching for our community.

Submission 19

Date: 12/01/2022 18:49:58 **Lorna Thomas, Lurley**

Comments for: I am a resident of Lurley and suggest the Council considers the current Church of England's parish boundaries as a more appropriate parish boundary map.

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=67bce0ed36dd4ee0af7a16bc079aa09a>. Is there a public footpath which would enable me to reach the Town Hall without walking through another civil parish? I've looked at Tiverton Town Council's budget and budgets of some parish councils and think there is a definite urban/village divide. If I must pay a parish contribution, I want it spent on facilities which sustain village community life. Perhaps outer Tiverton (Witleigh, Cove, Chevithorne & Lurley) should have its own parish council.

Submission 20

Date: 15/01/2022 17:06:14 **Paul Rogers, Bughill**

Comments for: Many roles in local parishes are unpaid and unrecognised for the value they bring. They are though the first level of engagement between individuals and the state and their role is often overlooked. Parishes do need to be kept local rather than merged into larger groups, but some of the governance, finance, and secretarial support could be provided by a more central group financed by the district council.

Submission 21

Date: 16/01/2022 22:03:30 **Tim Pointing, Uffculme PC**

Comments for: Re Uffculme PC. There is a large tract of land between the M5, Willand and Bridwell Avenue in Uffculme that falls into the Halberton Parish. There has been significant amount of development in this area which has a negative impact on Uffculme and Willand, but none on the Parish of Halberton. These development areas include: Hitchcocks Business Park, Luccombe Park, Pleasant Streams and other smaller developments along the Uffculme Straight. The Halberton Parish Boundary should stop at the M5 and the areas that are east of the M5 should be given over to Willand and Uffculme Parishes.

Submission 22

Date: 18/01/2022 14:42:24 **David May, Yeoford**

Comments for: I would like to propose that the Crediton Hamlets Parish Council boundary be changed and the remaining parish renamed Yeoford Area Parish Council. The current boundary appears to me to be illogical whereas these proposals enhance the synergy between the merging parts whilst the new Yeoford Area PC can more readily serve the needs of the remaining parishioners. The area east of a line drawn between Uton and Venny Tedburn be reallocated to Crediton and Newton St Cyres. Westernlea, which is clearly part of Crediton be moved into Crediton.

The area to the north of the A377, to be reallocated to Crediton and Coplestone. Please find attached Willand Parish Council's response to the invitation for comments at the first stage of consultation as part of the MDDC Parish Review.

Submission 23

Date: 19/01/2022 **Willand Parish Council**

Response of Willand Parish Council

1. Introduction.

1.1 Willand Parish Council has been trying to achieve a change to the Parish Boundaries between Willand, Halberton and Uffculme since 2002 when representations were made to MDDC and so these approaches should be well documented and available to the Committee.

1.2 Since that time Willand and Uffculme Parish Councils have worked together to try and achieve a change. Halberton Parish Council has been approached but understandably wish to retain the current position.

1.3 This document sets out the position currently and the reasons and argument for change. It also sets out an even greater change for consideration in the light of potential developments for the future which could lead to the expansion of the communities of Willand and Uffculme.

1.4 A detailed submission was again made to the Chief Executive in March 2017 and this current document updates that submission but Maps at Appendix 'A' and Appendix 'B' are repeated by attachment to this document. Also attached, at Appendix 'C', is a letter which was sent to the Chief Executive in October 2017

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which sets out the frustrations being experienced by even further delay. Since then a Ward Boundary Review by the Boundary Commission has been used as a reason for further delay.

2. Geography & History.

2.1 Willand has grown in population considerably over the past 20 years as has Uffculme, the latter with more modest numbers of housing. More houses are being built or have been approved for both villages. Sadly, infrastructure and facilities have not been provided to match the expansion of housing and population.

2.2 Halberton Parish acts as a 'buffer' between Willand, Uffculme and Burlescombe Parishes in places. The bulk of the Halberton land is open countryside or farms with little population. Halberton has a history which it understandably wishes to protect in that on the edge of Uffculme is Bridwell Park and House which is listed. If one looks at a map that property can be seen to be more relevant to Uffculme than Halberton.

2.3 With the building of the M5 motorway there is a section of Halberton Parish land to the East of the M5 which is in effect cut off from Halberton [*the Halberton Bulge*]. To the North is the boundary with Burlescombe [a long way from either actual village]; to the East Uffculme; to the South Willand and to the West a natural boundary formed by the M5 and then further South the Splatford Stream. This area [*the Halberton Bulge*] of Halberton parish has only a very small population and can only be accessed via Willand or via Sampford Peverell and Burlescombe parishes via the A38 and B3181. This area of land, apart from ancient history, has no relevant current connection with Halberton Parish or community.

2.4 In past years a development known as Culm Valley Way was built on Halberton Parish land but was really an extension to the west of Uffculme. As the residents of this new development were using Uffculme facilities the parish boundary was eventually 'modified' to include this section of land in Uffculme.

2.5 Willand and Uffculme Parish Councils have been working together to try and achieve parish boundary changes since 2002. Various 'excuses' have been put forward by officers at Mid Devon District Council, usually to wait until after the next election. They were then assured that it would be looked at after the 2019 election to be ready for any agreed change by the 2023 election. A map of the current Parish Boundary is attached at Appendix 'A' and proposals for Parish Boundary changes is attached for information at Appendix 'B'.

3. Practical Implications.

3.1 The residents of *the Halberton Bulge* pay their parish council tax precept to Halberton [*a lesser amount than Willand or Uffculme*] but in fact they use the facilities of Willand and Uffculme. This includes the Village Halls, Primary Schools, Pre Schools together with play areas and such sports facilities as there are. Uffculme and Cullompton Secondary Schools are used as opposed to Tiverton which has Halberton Parish as its catchment area. There are also allotments and community composting facilities. The local churches, shops and post office facilities are also used. They do not travel to or identify with such facilities in Halberton.

3.2 There are four business parks in this *Halberton Bulge* some of which are still expanding. They are closer to, and more relevant to, Willand or Uffculme BUT these Parishes are restricted in representation at planning meetings. Ward Councillors also have speaking time restrictions placed upon them as it is not in their Ward but Halberton Parish Council rarely make an objection or reasoned response to planning applications in this area of the parish. It has no physical or administrative effect on them but must have a very noticeable effect on Willand and/or Uffculme.

3.2.1 Langlands Business Park has developed from 'farm diversification' and is on the edge of Uffculme but accessed from the B3181 and then B3440 via a large roundabout in Willand. It is Halberton Parish but has a daily effect on Willand/Uffculme.

3.2.2 Hitchcocks Farm Business Park has grown from a 'farm diversification' into a large major award-winning business park which is still being allowed to expand and is in effect almost infilling between Willand and Uffculme. Halberton Parish but accessed and more relevant to Willand and Uffculme Parishes.

3.2.3 Willand Road Business Park just clips the edge of Willand Parish Boundary and is a smaller area of a few large units. Halberton Parish but nearly in Willand.

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3.2.4 Mid Devon Business Park – Phase 1. This is shown on maps as in the Willand Settlement Area but only a small portion of it is in Willand Parish, the bulk being in Halberton. Phase 2 has now been approved and is all in Halberton Parish but within the Willand Settlement Area. Both Phases can only be accessed through Willand.

3.3 There is one large development under construction next to Uffculme together with a number of isolated residences and a small ‘hamlet’ in Muxbeare Lane which are within the Halberton Parish.

3.3.1 A site of 90 houses is being built on a site known as Harvesters [*now named Lucombe Park*]. This site is on the road between Uffculme and Willand on the outskirts of Uffculme. It is in Halberton Parish yet all of the facilities identified to support the application are in Uffculme. Currently S106 monies are to be used for limited infrastructure improvement in Uffculme but the council tax goes to Halberton.

3.3.2 Residents of Muxbeare Lane and the farms in the *Halberton Bulge* may seek to be buried, or have ashes interred, in Willand Cemetery. They must pay double the fee at present as they are not residents of Willand and do not subscribe to the costs of maintaining the facility.

3.3.3 Unless registered for postal voting the residents of these areas have to travel to Halberton to vote but if they were in Willand or Uffculme they, in most cases, would only have to walk a few hundred yards to a polling station.

3.3.4 Residents of these areas used not to be able to be married in Willand or Uffculme churches but had to go to Halberton. When the parishes of Willand and Uffculme recently attempted to have the parish boundaries changed the church looked at changing their boundaries to be in alignment and have done so in a short time thus removing this administrative problem. Regrettably MDDC has not moved the parish boundaries to reflect the current position.

3.4 All of these practical issues identify that the *Halberton Bulge* is impractical by being retained in the Halberton Parish and all factors suggest that the area would sit more comfortably and practically in Willand or Uffculme Parishes.

4. The Planned Future.

4.1 The Local Plan allows for a major ‘tourist’ development in the region of Junction 27 of the M5. As boundaries are at present many refer to this development being at Willand but it is not. It will in fact involve three parishes, none of which is Willand.

4.2 The proposed developments could be contained within Willand if the boundary is moved, even further than currently proposed, to have the M5 as the western boundary from Willand to Junction 27 and then follow the A38 to Waterloo Cross and up to the Appledore area of the A38 where it meets the natural existing boundary for Uffculme.

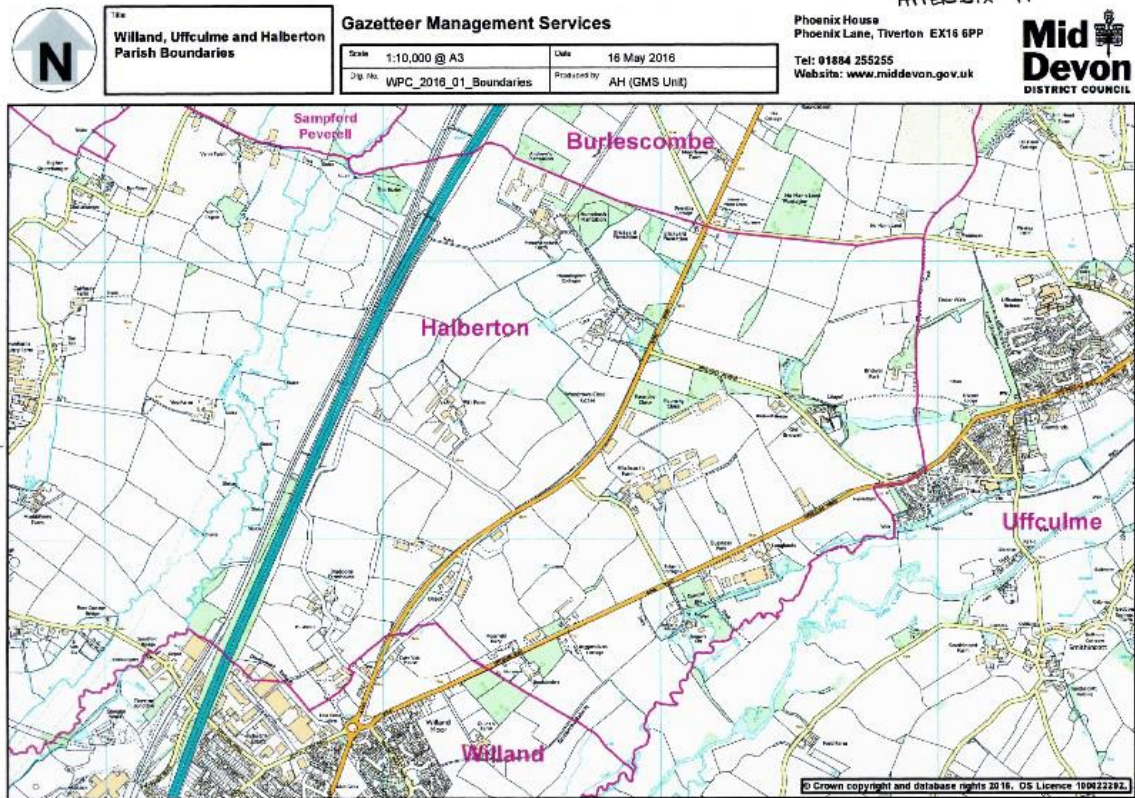
4.3 Willand Parish Council has commenced the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. With the parish boundaries as they are, and the suggested Ward Boundaries not helping resolve the issue, it is becoming an almost pointless task as there will be no sensible definable ‘Neighbourhood’ if the *Halberton Bulge* remains as part of Halberton Parish.

5. Conclusion.

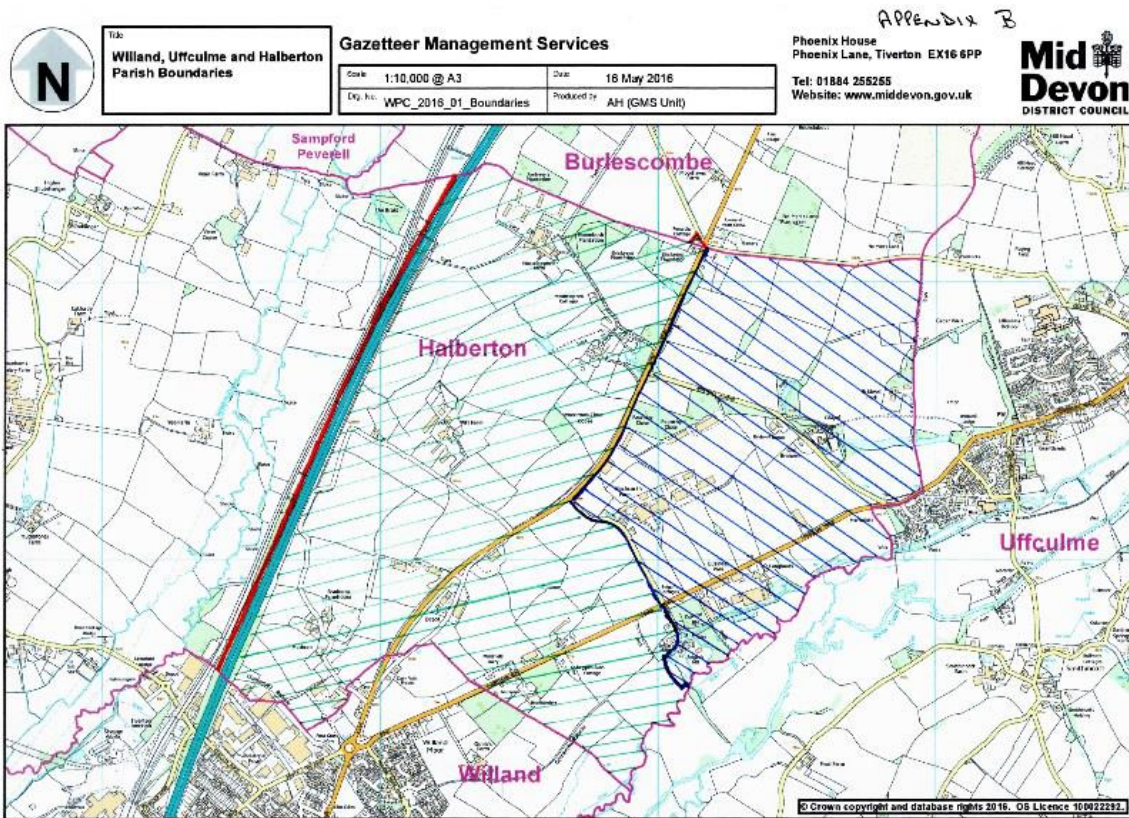
5.1 As a rural area, for the reasons given, it is argued that significant weight should be attached to boundaries following communities (as per Guidance on Community Governance Reviews) thereby allowing for and maintaining community cohesion, both in reality and representation.

5.2 It is suggested that the *Halberton Bulge* to the east of the M5 should be absorbed into Willand and Uffculme Parishes. It would be more practical, looking to the potential future developments, to also extend the boundary up the M5 and onto the A38 as outlined in paragraph 4.2 above.

APPENDIX 'A'



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APPENDIX 'C'

Dear Chief Executive,

Proposed Boundary Change Halberton – Uffculme – Willand

The Parish Council are extremely concerned as to the way MDDC Paid Officers are dealing with this issue. It is more a case of the fact that the issue is not being dealt with in an expeditious and efficient manner.

On 7 May 2002 the Parish Council wrote to the then appropriate Secretary of State concerning changes to our parish boundary. It is understood that the relevant documents were copied to MDDC and Ward Councillors. The document is attached as one file. Nothing happened.

On 6 November 2014 the Parish Council wrote to Councillor Chesterton, not only as a Ward Member but also as portfolio holder for Planning and Regeneration. A copy of the letter is attached with paragraph 10A the most relevant to this issue. The other Ward Councillors were copied. Councillor Chesterton requested a meeting to discuss the issues and the meeting was held on 12 November 2014 at which notes were made. The relevant note reads "Question 10A – RC wished to 'wait and see' but KG and BW felt that this was not acceptable as then it would either be too late or some other excuse would be made to disadvantage Willand. After further discussion RC agreed to start the process of trying to coordinate the parish and settlement area boundaries. **Action:- Richard Chesterton.**"

A verbal response was subsequently received to the effect that the Chief Executive would look at it after the MDDC elections [2015]. NOTHING FURTHER WAS HEARD.

At the end of 2015 and during 2016 discussions took place between Uffculme and Willand Parish Councils resulting in a document being prepared and sent with a covering letter to all Ward Councillors with appropriate maps in March 2017. All these four documents are attached.

On 28 March 2018 Councillor Chesterton sent an email – "In reference to your letter I have now heard back from Stephen Walford who has confirmed that Jackie Stoneman would be your contact at MDDC to discuss initiating a review of your parish boundaries. There is a process, which I'm sure Jackie can explain fully which I believe starts with a petition that could lead to a community governance review. It might be best though to hold off any contact with Jackie till after the County Council elections as all her time will be taken up in the short term." Jackie confirmed this in an email the same day.

The County Council elections came and went and then the delay was for the General Election. Nothing further was heard. FIFTEEN YEARS have passed from when the process was first started.

Further enquiry was made and on 14 September 2017 the following email was received from Councillor Chesterton – "Please can I pass on my apologies for tonight.

Could I also please report on a conversation that I had yesterday with Jackie Stoneman of the Elections team. I know Willand and Uffculme have a desire to review the parish boundaries.

Jackie informed me that it is her intention to hold a review of all Parish Boundaries in Mid Devon, prompted by the requests made for a partial review. However this review is unlikely to be concluded by the Parish Election in 2019, which might be that they would officially come into being in 2023 if that is the case."

THIS WILL BE 21 YEARS FROM WHEN THE ISSUE WAS FIRST RAISED.

Currently we have planning applications being submitted in Halberton Parish where Uffculme and Willand Parish Councils are not consulted under Planning Policy Guidelines. Our Ward Councillors and Parish Councillors are advised by officers that they cannot speak at planning meetings as the case is not in our Ward/Parish. Fortunately, the Chair of Planning Committee has taken a more practical position when approached recognising that the sites will have more of an impact on Uffculme and Willand than on Halberton. The same has happened with an appeal case. With all the speculative applications brought about by the failure to prove a five-year land supply and the further delay with the submission of the local plan this can only get worse. Our Member of Parliament is encouraging more local involvement and supporting the concept of local plans but this is not a practical prospect when we have such out of date and impractical boundaries and procedures.

Will you please look at this issue with a view to achieving a way forward now and not subscribe to further prevarication and delay.

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Yours sincerely
Barbara Bodkin
B M Bodkin
Clerk to Willand Parish Council
cc Councillor Richard Chesterton
Councillor Bob Evans
Councillor Barry Warren
Parish Clerk, Uffculme Parish Council

Submission 24

Date: 19/01/2022 14:43:46 **John Vauderwolfe, Tiverton TC**

Comments for: The parish of Loxbeare would be better suited if it became part of the parish of Tiverton

Submission 24a

Submission Date: 23/01/2022 12:05:50 **Carolyn Guscott, Cheriton Bishop**

Comments for: Please consider incorporating the property of The Orchard, Forder, Cheriton Bishop EX6 6HP within the Cheriton Bishop Parish as it currently sits on the border within the Hittisleigh Parish.

Reasons being:

1. The immediate neighbouring properties of Partridge Farm & West Ford are within the same hamlet of Forder yet are in the Cheriton Bishop Parish.
2. We all have the same postcode.
3. Telephone Exchange the same.
4. MDDC Cheriton Bishop waste / recycling collections the same.

Submission 25

Date: 24/01/2022 15:29:27 **Jane Holle, Shobrooke PC**

Comments for: Shobrooke Parish Councillors would like to record that they are not in favour of any boundary changes, abolition of parishes, grouping or ungrouping of existing parishes and would like Shobrooke parish to remain as it is at present.

Submission 26

Date: 24/01/2022 16:30:50 **Janet De Rochefort, Thelbridge PC**

Comments for: Currently, Nomansland is split between two parishes - Thelbridge and Cruwys Morchard. This makes no sense; it should be within a single parish boundary. Thelbridge has no focal point or significant centre of population apart from a part of Nomansland. Should any change to the parish boundaries parishes be recommended, then it would be important to ensure the new parish(es) fall within in a single District ward. One neighbour of Thelbridge Parish Council, Washford Pyne PC has no website, insofar as I can ascertain, which is in breach of the Transparency Code that came into effect in 2015. Woolfardisworthy, which also shares a boundary with Thelbridge and Washford Pyne does not have a parish council; perhaps an argument for amalgamating these three areas with a total population of less than 2,000. I should emphasise that these are my views and do not represent the views of any parish council.

Submission 27

Date: 25/01/2022 12:48:21 **Linnea Mills, Uffculme**

Comments for: I live at Selgars House, Uffculme, EX15 3DA. We are located between Willand and Uffculme and consider ourselves as Uffculme residents, e.g. Uffculme is where our local services are, including schools. However, we are administratively under Halberton Parish. Halberton is several miles away from here and provides us with no services (that I'm aware of). This boundary anomaly has left us in a dire situation whereby the land around us (which is part of Uffculme village but fall under Halberton) is being aggressively developed. Recently, we have seen a large expansion of Hitchcocks Business Park and the development of a large housing estate, Lucombe Park. Uffculme residents have voiced heavy opposition to these developments but Halberton Parish, which has administrative and political clout in these matters has not been very interested (why would then when it's not on their doorstep?). As such, I feel that Halberton Parish cannot effectively represent the Uffculme/Willand enclave of Halberton because of the distance from the Halberton village itself. Consequently, I wish for the parish boundaries to be redrawn so that the Halberton enclave of Uffculme/Willand fall under either Uffculme or Willand. I know that other Uffculme residents feel the same way.

Submission 28

Date: 25/01/2022 13:05:25 **Angels Cheshire, Uffculme**

Comments for: There is land between the M5, Willand and Bridwell Avenue in Uffculme, that falls within the Halberton Parish. There has been significant amount of development in this area which has a negative impact on Uffculme and Willand, but none on the Parish of Halberton. These development areas include: Hitchcocks Business Park, Luccombe Park, Pleasant Streams and other smaller developments along the Uffculme Straight. The Halberton Parish Boundary should stop at the M5 and the areas that are east of the M5 should be given over to Willand and Uffculme Parishes.

Submission 29

Date: 25/01/2022 13:13:00 **Jen Fulton Price., Uffculme**

Comments for: The Halberton/Willand/Uffculme parish boundaries at the Bridwell/Culm Valley Way/Luccombe Park end of Uffculme do not reflect the reality of new development in that area. Uffculme Parish does not receive any benefit from the new development (e.g. in the form of community charge revenues from Luccombe Park) but experiences negative effects of additional traffic and use of facilities. Ditto the industrial developments along the Uffculme Straight. These have no effect on Halberton Parish - a real anomaly exists. The review should ensure that Halberton parish boundary stops at the M5 and the other areas on the Willand/Uffculme side of the motorway be given over to those two parishes - this seems the entirely logical change to the new reality on the ground and is in keeping with some key aims of the current review: * Altering anomalies when changes have occurred, meaning the current boundary is no longer relevant. * Changing boundaries as a result of new buildings and growth. * To provide more effective and convenient local services. * To improve or develop community identity

Submission 30

Date: 25/01/2022 13:32:59 **Tony Lindsell, Uffculme**

Comments for: Re Uffculme Parish

There is a large tract of land between the M5, Willand and Bridwell Avenue in Uffculme, that falls within the Halberton Parish. There has been significant amount of development in this area which has a negative impact on Uffculme and Willand, but none on the Parish of Halberton. These development areas include: Hitchcocks Business Park, Luccombe Park, Pleasant Streams and other smaller developments along the Uffculme Straight. The Halberton Parish Boundary should stop at the M5 and the areas that are east of the M5 should be given over to Willand and Uffculme Parishes. The residents & businesses within those areas use the resources of Uffculme &/or Willand but the parish councils receive no financial support.

Submission 31

Date: 25/01/2022 16:16:03 **Rachel Kneale, Uffculme**

Comments for: Re Uffculme Parish

There is a large tract of land between the M5, Willand and Bridwell Avenue in Uffculme, that falls within the Halberton Parish. There has been significant amount of development in this area in recent years which has a significant and often negative impact on Uffculme and Willand, but none on the Parish of Halberton. These development areas include: Hitchcocks Business Park, Luccombe Park, Pleasant Streams and other smaller developments along the Uffculme Straight. The Halberton Parish Boundary should stop at the M5 and the areas that are east of the M5 should be given over to Willand and Uffculme Parishes.

Submission 32

Date: 26/01/2022 09:57:48 **Hazel Weaver, Uffculme**

Comments for: Re Uffculme Parish. There is a large tract of land between the M5, Willand and Bridwell Avenue in Uffculme, that falls within the Halberton Parish. There has been significant amount of development in this area which has a negative impact on Uffculme and Willand, but none on the Parish of Halberton. These development areas include: Hitchcocks Business Park, Luccombe Park, Pleasant Streams and other smaller developments along the Uffculme Straight.

The Halberton Parish Boundary should stop at the M5 and the areas that are east of the M5 should be given over to Willand and Uffculme Parishes.

Submission 33

Date: 01/02.2022 **Libby Turrell, Hittisleigh PC**

Comments for: I am emailing on behalf of Hittisleigh Parish Council, regarding the Parish Review. We have discussed this matter at Parish Council and we have consulted with people within and on the edges of the current parish boundary. We appreciate that this is the first stage of the consultation process and that any changes are unlikely to come in to effect until 2023. Our comments and suggestions are made in the context of the actual local Hittisleigh community being considered wider than the current parish boundary, alongside the historical 'carving off' of sections of Hittisleigh to other parishes in times past.

Hittisleigh Parish Council recommend the following:

- In the westerly direction the boundary would extend from West Ford Farm, along the river to the lane beneath West Fursham Farm and include West Fusham, East Fursham and Easton Barton – see map attached to this email. This addition to the parish would meet at Fursham Cross.
- In the easterly direction from Hittisleigh Mill, the new boundary would run up the Yeo river to Binneford, continue up the lane to meet the lane from Yeoford, turn left and then right down Road Down Lane and meet the existing boundary below Road Down Farm. Again see the attached map. Properties on the eastern side would include East Church Farm, Shortridge Farm, Trevince, Binneford House, Binneford Farm and Binneford Studio, Summer Corner, East Binneford Farm, Summerhill Farm, Woodside Bungalow and Road Down Farm.

A number of residents in these properties feel strongly that they would like to be within the Hittisleigh Parish, rather than within parishes with hubs at significant distance and to which they have less community connection. Several residents note that within their lifetime their property has been removed from Hittisleigh Parish, that their postal address is actually Hittisleigh and that they would like to be back within the Parish.



Submission 34

Date: 02/02/2022 12:00:15 **David Lucking, Yeoford**

Comments for: 377 could form a natural boundary for our parish. The south western spur adjoining Hittisleigh Parish could also be trimmed and added to that parish. Finally, as the remaining area would centre on a hub of Yeoford, Woodland Head and Neopardy the parish should rightly be renamed Yeoford and District Parish.

Submission 35

Date: 03/02/2022 **Lord Ivar Mountbatten**

I am writing to you to express my desire that my home, Bridwell House, should be moved from Halberton Parish to Uffculme Parish. I am a strong advocator of this and submitted a letter to the parish review back in 2001 expressing similar feelings back then. Nothing has changed in my desire, except that my feelings have grown over the last 20 years, that the change is long long over due. There is no logical reason for any of the land lying to the east of the M5 to remain in Halberton Parish; the M5 motorway is a massive barrier and had a similar physical feature been present 600 years ago, or whenever parishes were first created, the parish of Halberton would be vastly different as it is today. Notwithstanding the above, current issues that concern me with Bridwell are such things as litter and planning. It is common knowledge that I am in the process of opening up Bridwell to wider appeal and as things stand my immediate village, Uffculme, are often kept in the dark with such proposals as they are not automatically advised, even though such proposals would clearly affect them, but perhaps not Halberton. Another bugbear of mine is the state of littering that takes place on Bridwell Avenue and other principal approaches to the Village of Uffculme. Halberton is not remotely concerned with the continual mess and have, it seems, delegated all responsibility to Uffculme.

Submission 36

Date: 06/02/2022 11:17:10 **Shirley Cope, Stoodleigh**

Comments for: Re. Stoodleigh Parish.

I have never quite understood why our main access road (Stoodleigh Drive) is for a large part in Washfield. It is not used to get to Washfield village, so it is left to Stoodleigh residents to report any problems arising along the road. Also, the residents in the few houses along that part of the road tend to identify with Stoodleigh rather than Washfield, but have their vote in Washfield. I therefore request that the boundary be amended accordingly.

Submission 37

Date: 07/02/2022 17:35:15 **Kate Taylor, Willand**

Comments for: The parish boundary review is an ideal opportunity for Mid Devon Council to move into the 21st Century and take into consideration present day issues and facts rather than relying on historical boundaries which are no longer relevant. This relates in particular to where the building of the M5 and other developments have isolated parts of historical parishes. I refer in particular to the parish of Halberton where new developments have a significant influence on both Uffculme and Willand parishes but with few benefits for the residents of either. I hope that the need to balance numbers does not result in a tinkering of the edges which is what it would appear happened during the recent ward boundary review .

Submission 38

Date: 07/02/2022 21:20:43 **Simon Maynard, Yeoford**

Comments for: I think that Yeoford should have it's own Parish as the Crediton Hamlets parish is too large to represent the needs and concerns of all its residents. The residents of Hookway, for instance, have no links with Yeoford on the other side of the parish. They are not served by the amenities in Yeoford and vice versa. I feel that the Crediton Hamlets parish council have the difficult job of balancing the needs of this disparate parish. The vast majority of this large parish reside in or around the village of Yeoford and the parish boundaries should reflect this fact.

Submission 39

Date: 09/02/2022 08:39:49 **Nicholas Silk, Sandford**

Comments for: I would like to suggest that local election of councillors is of critical importance to any parish. If there are more seats than councillors then I suggest the number of Councillors should be reduced. This would make them become for representative of parishioners views and concerns. rather than just putting their own vies forward.

Submission 40

Date: 10/02/2022 12:25:15 **Roland Smith, Nymet Rowland**

Comments for: Nymet Rowland Parish

Keep it the same. Belongs with the ancient ecclesiastical parish. This whole costly exercise stinks of "jobs for the boys" whilst we are having our cars' suspension smashed to pieces by badly maintained roads.

Submission 41

Date: 10/02/2022 18:05:17 **Liz Brookes-Hocking, Crediton**

Comments for: It's a good idea to review parish boundaries as the towns in Mid Devon have expanded into surrounding green fields often in another parish. In terms of sustainability, it's crucial that developments are connected to the towns and to each other by active travel routes and public transport. It's important that people in the new developments feel themselves part of the community to which they are attached and that they use all the services the town provides, including its democratic bodies. It doesn't make sense to me to have some houses outside the town boundary but inside the urban settlement that elect and pay tax to a rural council that serves a different kind of community, with different priorities and interests. Where new towns or communities are to be established in a rural area, and which are expected to be larger than any other community in the existing parish, it could be appropriate to ensure that the new community has its own identity. This might or might not require a new parish and it may or may not be feasible. If it destroyed the integrity of the existing parish (by taking a large chunk out of the middle of it, for example), that could be counterproductive if the remaining area lost its cohesion. Alternatively, the affected parish might have to decide whether they wanted to take on a large entity with an urban character and different needs within their boundary.

In my view, the priority is to keep communities coherent in geography and governance whatever their size.

Submission 42

Date: 11/01/2022 **Malcolm Vallance, Sandford PC**

Appendix 2 (Boundary Review) 10/2/2022

Sandford Parish is in the District of Mid Devon and is situated approximately two miles north of Crediton and some ten miles from Exeter. The parish comprises the village of Sandford and the hamlets of Newbuildings, West Sandford and East Village together with outlying farms and cottages with a total population in excess of 1200. Sandford is a large rural parish with a great sense of community, and has two pubs, a community shop with Post Office owned and run by the community, a primary school, a recreation ground, plus a Parish Hall and two Churches and many local organisations and clubs. There is also a dedicated footpath/cycleway from Sandford village to Crediton via the 'Millennium Green'.

The Parish Council, at their Meeting, on 3rd February 2022, discussed the MDDC 2022 Parishes Boundary Review.

It was not felt any major changes were necessary to the number of Parish Councillors (currently 12).

Or to the Parish Boundaries to which we are currently in the process of replacing our missing Boundary stones. However it was agreed to accept a suggestion to include "Knathorne" and "Rolestone" (on the boundary with Sandford and Morchard Bishop) to be included inside the Sandford Parish Boundary. Parish Morchard Bishop Parish Council are aware of this proposal.

Appendix 2 (Boundary Review) 10/2/2022

Submission 43

Date: 11/02/2022 17:26:28 **Rachel Avery, Crediton TC**

Comments for: Crediton Town Council welcomes the Parish Review. For several decades there have been 50 houses inside the town settlement considered to be part of the town, but which are outside the town boundary with occupants paying council tax to another parish. Now, with the prospect of a major development of 257 houses being inside the settlement but outside the boundary and paying council tax to another parish, it is time for these anomalies to be ironed out. All existing houses in Westernlea and all of the proposed Creedy Bridge development should be inside the Crediton parish boundary and it should therefore be amended to accommodate them. When new developments are added to the town, it is essential that residents identify with it. Connectivity for active travel are important, not just for carbon reduction, but also in ensuring that people feel integrated and included physically in the town envelope. Equally, the sense of belonging to a community and having a stake in it are essential in developing a successful and resilient town. For democratic coherence it also makes more sense for residents of such new developments to be able to vote for the council of the town where they live and to contribute to its services through the parish share of their council tax. Given the length of time it takes to do a boundary review, when the next local plan is begun and sites are called for, all those that are considered viable should also be reviewed to see what impact they have on the town in terms of governance as well as settlement implications. Towns and villages are very protective

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of their identities and it's the identities and integrity of communities that should be considered when forward planning and governance meet.

Submission 44

Date: 14/02/2022 09:13:59 **Jeff Andrews, Morebath**

Comments for: I believe that it would be in the best interests of Morebath residents if the parish was merged with Bampton. The Parish Council is poorly supported and there are currently 3 vacancies for councillors. This indicates a general lack of interest in the community. It would help to be part of a bigger unit with greater resources.

Submission 45

Date: 14/02/2022 **Ian Batchelor, Halberton PC**

Halberton Parish Review – Notes

Executive Summary

Halberton Parish Council is responding to the request from Mid Devon District Council to contribute to the Parish Review currently taking place across the district.

The Parish Council, in carrying out its duties for the residents of Halberton Parish, strongly supports retaining the current parish structure and the vast majority of the existing boundary.

It is recognised that the Lucombe Park development to the East of the parish is effectively an extension of Uffculme village and, for the benefit of those residents, Halberton Parish Council proposes that solely the Lucombe Park area of the parish be ceded to Uffculme parish. But could equally be serviced by Halberton Parish due to the proven track record of servicing outlying areas such as Ash Thomas, Brithem Bottom, Seckerleigh.

Halberton Parish Council has engaged with Uffculme and Willand parish councils regarding this Review, and strongly disagrees with their proposals to annexe other larger areas of Halberton Parish. Those proposals offer no tangible benefits to the affected population, whilst showing little or no respect for the neighbouring communities.

The Parishes of Devon

Civil parishes can trace their origin to the ancient system of ecclesiastical parishes which historically played a role in both civil and ecclesiastical administration. Civil and religious parishes were formally split into two types in the 1860s and of course are now entirely separate.

Halberton Parish

Halberton's name is derived from "Haligbeort" (Albert), the name of the Saxon Chief, and "tun", a farm settlement.

Halberton was once important enough to be a "Hundred", an administrative division of a shire. This included the parishes of Halberton, Sampford Peverell and Willand, as well as parts of Uplowman and Burlescombe. Many of the farms date back to Domesday or shortly after and Halberton is still largely a farming community with a strong rural identity.

Parish Communities

In a rural District such as Mid-Devon, the communities outside of the main towns comprise a large number of small hamlets, some modest villages with limited services and a few larger villages with a wide range of services serving the immediate and surrounding areas.

In 2011, Halberton parish had a population of 1,765.

Of these, 865 lived in Halberton village and 900 lived in the outlying hamlets, including Ash Thomas, Brithem Bottom, Mountstephen and Selgars.

In 2022, prior to the 2021 Census being released, the population is estimated to be approximately 1,900.

There are village halls in Halberton and Ash Thomas serving many community groups from both within and outside of the parish. The Farm Shop in Halberton has a wide draw and is used by people across Mid Devon.

Parish Council – Community Engagement

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Halberton Parish Council meets monthly, or more frequently if necessary, and meeting agenda and minutes are published on the parish website, along with other community notices and other general information for the whole community.

The Parish Council regularly engages with members of the public and the business community when considering Planning Applications and when Highways issues occur. The Parish Councillors and other community volunteers are very familiar with all parts of this rural parish and have much experience of listening to the public's view and presenting considered reports to MDDC as part of the Planning Process

The Parish Council publishes the Halberton Newsletter and Business Directory every two months, and printed copies are delivered by Halberton volunteers to every household across the whole of Halberton parish. This service is provided at no cost to the public, being completely funded through advertising revenue. The newsletter and Parish website/facebook communicates reports and essential information to all parish members facilitating the transfer of information from other community groups to its audience .

Halberton and the Parish Review

Halberton's Parish Council is responsible for representing a population of approximately 1,900 living across a large rural area of 3,054 Hectares.

In the context of the Parish Review that is taking place, the Parish Council believes that it is in the best interests of all residents across the parish to retain the existing parish boundaries with its neighbouring communities – Tiverton, Butterleigh, Cullompton, Willand, Uffculme, Burlescombe, Sampford Peverell and Uplowman.

The Parish Council believes that it represents the interests of its residents to a very high standard, reflected by the opinions of District and County councillors and others.

Halberton Parish has a very low population density and a large area . Due to its geography residents will often visit other community areas as well as Halberton Village , but this should not be a reason to alter existing boundaries .

This is a common feature of rural parishes across Devon where communities are predominantly made up of small hamlets.

The Parish Council is actively servicing all areas parish from village centre to outlying houses and farmsteads .

Considering the Aims of the Parish Review

Mid Devon District Council has laid out a number of aims and objectives which the Parish Review might meet, and our report considered each of them.

1 Altering anomalies when changes have occurred, meaning the current boundary is no longer relevant

No significant changes have occurred recently to warrant any changes, the recent ward boundary review also came to this conclusion.

2 Changing boundaries as a result of new buildings and growth

Having stated that the existing boundary should be retained, it is accepted that the development of Lucombe Park is a significant extension of housing on the western edge of Uffculme into Halberton parish. Whereby this new housing estate could be incorporated into Uffculme Parish, we would argue that Halberton Parish has a good track record of looking after outlying areas. It is a quite a distance from any resources and should have some of its own, such as child's play park.

3 Local people have expressed views on the current structure

The Parish Council has not received any views objecting to the current boundary from any parish residents, either directly from the public or indirectly from other councils or agencies.

To bring about improved community governance

No improvements of this nature have been proposed or can be envisaged. We have a good record of welcoming new councillors from any part of the Parish . Halberton Parish councillors are stated above, Halberton Parish Council represents the residents of Halberton Parish to a high standard, and strongly supports retaining the current parish structure and the vast majority of the existing parish boundary.

4 easily accessible and maintain regular communications with many within the Parish

5 To improve local democracy

Due to the large geographic area of Halberton Parish it could be considered to increase the number of polling

stations in the parish, but, with the increased ease of postal voting this may not be deemed necessary in the future.

6 To provide more effective and convenient local services

Since almost all local public services are provided by either MDDC or DCC, changing the parish boundary will not offer any improvement.

7 To improve or develop community identity.

Every road, Hamlet and Village builds a community irrespective of where boundaries lie. People will build friendships through schools, churches, interest groups and social media . Halberton parish has a strong inclusive identity promoting community throughout its parish and beyond.

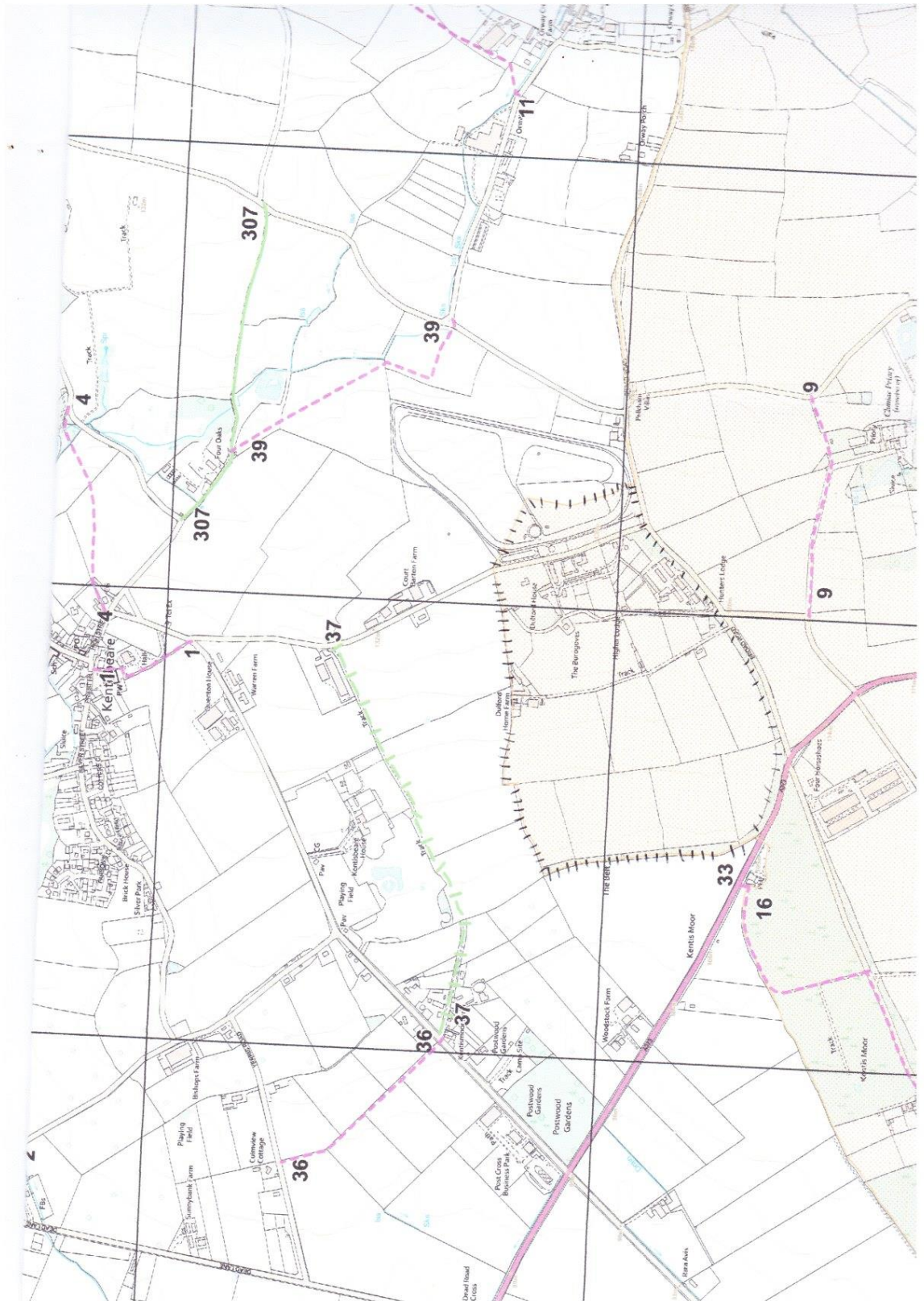
Submission 46

Date: 14/02/2022 **Melanie Shore, Kentisbeare PC**

Comments for: Kentisbeare Parish Council would like to suggest two areas be considered for a boundary change, as per the attached maps:

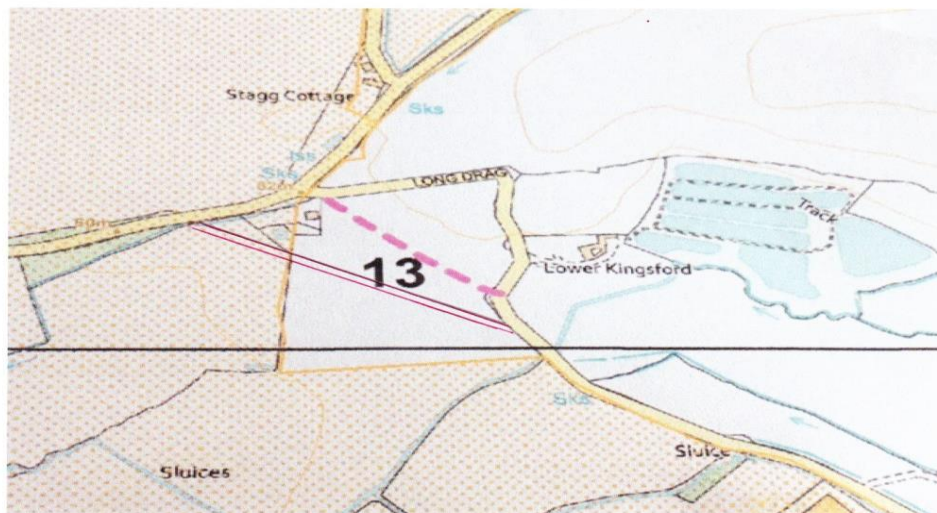
1. Duford Home Farm to Broad Road: The area from Duford Home Farm to Hunters Lodge on Broad Road that is currently within East Devon – as indicated on the attached map.
2. Lower Kingsford: From the line (possible *road, see below) as indicated on the map attached on each side of footpath 13. We would like to suggest a new *road here – as per the line indicated, which would be the boundary – to cut off the corner so that all traffic (including the traffic from Kingsmill Industrial Estate) could go via Kingsmill to access Junction 28 opposed to using Horn Road and

Stoneyford.



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Submission 47

Date: 15/02/2022 14:05:58 **David Marrow, Willand**

Comments for: I believe strongly that it's a nonsense that the Halberton area includes land immediately to the north and east of Willand where anything going on (eg proposed expansion to Hitchcocks Business Park) potentially affects Willand, not Halberton!

Another example is the new Lucombe Park houses being part of Halberton, not Uffculme.

Submission 48

Date: 15/02/2022 **Ray Radford, Devon County Councillor**

Comments for: As a resident of Halberton Parish and have been for 50 years I object to the fact that Willand and Uffculme are seeking to change our Parish Boundaries by re-aligning them into their Parishes.

I see absolutely no reason to change something that has worked since our Parish Boundary been in place all this time. I cannot see any benefit what soever. I have been on the Parish Council and am a Mid Devon District Councillor and a Devon County Councillor. I know it works well.

There will be no advantage to either Willand or Uffculme, if part of Halberton Parish is integrated into theirs. All services supplied by Devon County, Mid Devon District Council, Fire Authority, Police Authority, Health Authority, Highways, Social Services, Education, Planning matters and many other providers, all operate across Parish, District and County Boundaries.

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The Parish Council produce a bi-monthly magazine which we hand deliver to all properties right up to our surrounding Parish Boundaries, our neighbouring Parishes are Willand, Uffculme, Burlescombe, Sampford Peverell, Tiverton and Cullompton. Within our Parish we have Hamlets of Ash Thomas, Brithem Bottom and many other smaller settlements.

I do not object to moving boundaries, if there is a proven need, here there is no proven need and it is a case of changing a boundary for the sake of change. Willand and Uffculme, nor anyone else can offer a better service and representation to the communities than Halberton Parish Council. We all work extremely well together and can and will continue to do so. This is nothing more than land grabbing, while trying to straighten up Boundaries into straight lines, this does not work. Nearly all Parish boundaries follow, either rivers, streams, roads, hedges, etc, this is impossible to do and has worked successfully for 150 years. We have the right number of Councillors to represent the Community and it's Residents.

Just as a matter of interest, two years ago, the same request was made by our two adjoining Parishes, Willand and Uffculme, to adjust the District Boundaries to match our Parish Boundaries, but the Inspector did not agree as we had put a convincing case not to do so and the Inspector decided in our favour to keep the District Boundaries as they are.

Turning to our Boundary with Tiverton, I would object to any encroachment into Halberton Parish, as everything I have highlighted earlier, applies to the Tiverton/Halberton Boundary, on the bases that Tiverton is very much an Urban area and Halberton is very much a Rural area, particularly as Post Hill/Tiverton is very adjacent to Halberton boundary. There is absolutely no gain for Tiverton as our Parish Council ably represent all the needs of the Community and Residents in this catchment area .

Submission 49

Date: 15/02/2022 17:11:13 **Keith Mortimer, Crediton**

Comments for: I live in Crediton. It makes no sense for the part of the Westernlea Estate that is within the Crediton Hamlets Parish boundary to remain there; it should be part of Crediton Town. Similarly, reserved matters planning applications for land adjacent to Brookdale Threshers and the "Creedy Bridge" site are currently under consideration; when constructed these properties should also be part of Crediton Town.

Submission 50

Date: 15/02/2022 17:56:43 **David May, Yeoford**

Comments for: I would submit that Yeoford and its surrounding area would be better served by a smaller Parish Council than the current Crediton Hamlets PC so that it better represents the unique nature of Yeoford district and its inhabitants.

The current inclusion of certain fringe areas which are physically closer to and have greater synergy with other existing parishes benefits neither party. For example: the area of Crediton known as Westernlea is clearly part of Crediton Town. The area north of the A377, which forms an easily identifiable boundary, would be better served by Copplestone and Crediton. The area east of Venny Tedburn/Uton, separated by The River Culvery, would benefit from alignment with Newton St Cyres/Crediton.

The smaller parish of 'Yeoford and District' would:

- + Improve and develop community identity.
- + Improve community governance and democracy.
- + Provide more effective and convenient local services.

Yeoford has a proven track record of delivering significant community projects and campaigning to retain assets, in recent years delivering:

- + A magnificent community hall.
- + Playing fields.
- + Children's playground equipment.
- + Monthly community magazine The Yeoford Village Voice.
- + Successfully helped to ensure that our village pub was made a community asset which was subsequently purchased by new owners that have made it into a hugely successful business providing much needed employment.
- + Currently campaigning to reinstate a railway platform to link Yeoford to Okehampton which has attracted almost 1000 signatures to date.

Due to the limited time available no formal mass canvassing of residents has yet been undertaken but I and others believe that there would be more than sufficient support should it prove necessary to launch a petition.

Submission 51

Date: 16/02/2022 13:58:08 **Susannah Jarvis, Samford Peverall**

Comments for: Burlescombe parish council believes we should maintain the status quo unless we have a reason to change things. One thing we could consider is reducing the number of councillor positions from 9 to 7 and possibly review J27 being part of Burlescombe parish."

Submission 52

Date: 17/02/2022 09:23:16 **Barbara Marshall, Yeoford**

Comments for: I believe that Yeoford and its surrounding area would be better served by a smaller Parish Council than the current Crediton Hamlets PC so that it better represents the unique nature of Yeoford district and its inhabitants.

The current inclusion of certain fringe areas which are physically closer to other existing parishes benefits neither party.

For example:

The area north of the A377, which forms an easily identifiable boundary, would be better served by Copplestone and Crediton. The area east of Venny Tedburn/Uton, separated by The River Culvery, would benefit from alignment with Newton St Cyres/Crediton.

The area of Crediton known as Westernlea is clearly part of Crediton Town.

The smaller parish of 'Yeoford and District' would:

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- + Currently campaigning to reinstate a railway platform to link Yeoford to Okehampton which has attracted almost 1000 signatures to date.

Due to the limited time available no formal mass canvassing of residents has yet been undertaken but I believe that there would be more than sufficient support should it prove necessary to launch a petition.

Submission 53

Date: 18/02/2022 12:37:08 **David Slee, Yeoford**

Comments for: I would submit that Yeoford and its surrounding area would be better served by a smaller Parish Council than the current Crediton Hamlets PC so that it better represents the unique nature of Yeoford district and its inhabitants.

The current inclusion of certain fringe areas which are physically closer to and have greater synergy with other existing parishes benefits neither party. For example: the area of Crediton known as Westernlea is clearly part of Crediton Town. The area north of the A377, which forms an easily identifiable boundary, would be better served by Copplestone and Crediton. The area east of Venny Tedburn/Uton, separated by The River Culvery, would benefit from alignment with Newton St Cyres/Crediton.

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- + Provide more effective and convenient local services.

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- + Monthly community magazine The Yeoford Village Voice.

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+ Successfully helped to ensure that our village pub was made a community asset which was subsequently purchased by new owners that have made it into a hugely successful business providing much needed employment.

+ Currently campaigning to reinstate a railway platform to link Yeoford to Okehampton which has attracted almost 1000 signatures to date.

Due to the limited time available no formal mass canvassing of residents has yet been undertaken but I and others believe that there would be more than sufficient support should it prove necessary to launch a petition.

Submission 54

Date: 19/02/2022 10:55:39 **James Alford, Uffculme**

Comments for: Uffculme boundary's are wrong and have not been adjusted according in the 50 plus years I have lived here. How halberton boundaries take Bridwell and the houses on the "Uffculme straight" and benefit from the all the contributions made to MDDC from this massive build is beyond beggars belief. Uffculme should be classed up to the end of the Uffculme straight and always named that or Uffculme road look at your signage. Our boundaries should also be moved the other side of our village to include Uffculme block works and go to the A38 past the land fill site. This is obvious as there was a bungalow along that road who's occupants were the "Berry's" and they all attended both Uffculme schools. The houses in the straight are now out of the catchment area yet use all Uffculme services including the surgery and local amenities yet we get nothing back and most of those who have moved there were uffculme citizens some born and bred here. Please amend accordingly this is corrupt to us locals and very insulting making our own residents outsiders to our schools. Our school should have had the contributions to expand too alongside the expansion of our village to the appropriate long needed boundary adjustments certainly not halberton Expand our village in all sides accordingly not increase Halberton!

Submission 55

Date: 20/02/2022 08:44:23 **Adam Rich, Uffculme**

Comments for: Under the current, and proposed ward boundaries, I live and work in a real anomaly. Selgars Mill, and our little community of 5 or 6 neighbouring properties, are on the road between Uffculme and Willand, and have a strong affinity with Uffculme. Our address is also Uffculme. Since we are also close to the neighbouring village of Willand, being in that ward could also make some sense. However, we are included in the Halberton parish ward, which gives us a very strange identity, and a need to interact with a parish for which we have to travel through Willand to even get to! The feeling here is that we should be included in the Uffculme ward, or if needs be the Willand ward. Further, there is also a new housing development actually IN Uffculme which suffers the same problem of being included in the Halberton ward. We feel a review of this boundary is needed.

Submission 56

Date: 20/02/2022 **Jill Larcombe, Oakford PC**

Comments for: Oakford Parish Council are not proposing any changes to the parish boundary and would like to keep the current number of eight councillors. There are no proposals for any other changes.

Submission 57

Date: 20/02/2022 **Jill Larcome, Washfield PC**

Comments for: Washfield Parish Council are not proposing any changes to the parish boundary and would like to keep the current number of seven councillors. There are no proposals for any other changes

Submission 58

Date: 20/02/2022 16:12:40 **Iain Butcher, St Bovey Tracey**

Comments for: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Work for local residents, not businesses.

Submission 59

Date: 21/02/2022 12:07:04 **Rachel Hodder, Crediton Hamlets PC**

Comments for: At its meeting on Monday 14th February Crediton Hamlets PC listened to comments from 4 members of the public who spoke in support of changing the parish boundary so that Yeoford has its own parish, separate from Uton, Posbury, Westernlea and Hookway. They made no mention of the settlement of Woodland Head, which is also in the parish. Those who spoke were not in agreement about exactly where the new boundary should be. The Parish Councillors listened to the views of the parishioners but voted by a

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majority that they were in favour of the parish boundary staying as it is now. Their reasons were:

- Yeoford is well and fairly supported by the PC. Councillors work hard to ensure this. For example the PC supports the Yeoford Community Association annually and the play area has had a lot of S106/CIL funding approved by Councillors over many years.
- Councillors ensure that Yeoford is fairly represented on the Council. Of 9 Councillors, 3 live in Yeoford and 1 lives very nearby in Neopardy.
- Councillors have to consider what is best for the parish as a whole and they believe the other settlements in Crediton Hamlets will be best served by retaining the boundary as it is now.
- Only 4 parishioners spoke in favour of changing the boundary and Councillors had no information that other residents were in favour of a change. The parishioners did not give tangible evidence of why they felt the change would benefit Yeoford.
- Councillors will continue to ensure that Yeoford is fairly represented if and when existing Councillors from Yeoford retire.

Submission 60

Date: 21/02/2022 14:03:01 **Alison Marshall, Bradninch TC**

Comments for: Bradninch Town Council has resolved to put forward the following comments with regards to the MDDC Parish Review:

1. It recommends the removal of the split of 'rural' and 'town' wards currently seen within the Bradninch Town Council boundary.
2. It recommends that Stockwell be moved into the Silverton ward.
3. It recommends that the houses up to Penstone Barns, including Sunnyside Cottages and Park View Cottages, be incorporated into the Bradninch ward.

Submission 61

Date: 21/02/2022 14:39:45 **John Croker, Willand**

Comments for: Halberton is much smaller than both Uffculme and Willand and yet is able to "control" what goes on in areas that should be under the control of Uffculme and Willand. This has never made sense and yet Mid Devon perpetuates allowing this to continue happening.

Submission 62

Date: 21/02/2022 17:31:49 **Claire Slee, Yeoford**

Comments for: I would submit that Yeoford and its surrounding area would be better served by a smaller Parish Council than the current Crediton Hamlets PC so that it better represents the unique nature of Yeoford district and its inhabitants.

The current inclusion of certain fringe areas which are physically closer to and have greater synergy with other existing parishes benefits neither party. For example: the area of Crediton known as Westernlea is clearly part of Crediton Town. The area north of the A377, which forms an easily identifiable boundary, would be better served by Copplestone and Crediton. The area east of Venny Tedburn/Uton, separated by The River Culvery, would benefit from alignment with Newton St Cyres/Crediton.

The smaller parish of 'Yeoford and District' would:

- + Improve and develop community identity.
- + Improve community governance and democracy.
- + Provide more effective and convenient local services.

Yeoford has a proven track record of delivering significant community projects and campaigning to retain assets, in recent years delivering:

- + A magnificent community hall.
- + Playing fields.
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- + Monthly community magazine The Yeoford Village Voice.
- + Successfully helped to ensure that our village pub was made a community asset which was subsequently purchased by new owners that have made it into a hugely successful business providing much needed employment.
- + Currently campaigning to reinstate a railway platform to link Yeoford to Okehampton which has attracted almost 1000 signatures to date.

Due to the limited time available no formal mass canvassing of residents has yet been undertaken but I and others believe that there would be more than sufficient support should it prove necessary to launch a petition.

Submission 63

Date: 24/02/2022 12:39:21 **Malcolm Vallance, Sandford PC**

Comments for: (Sandford Boundary Review) 24/2/2022

Sandford Parish is in the District of Mid Devon and is situated approximately two miles north of CREDITON and some ten miles from Exeter. The parish comprises the village of Sandford and the hamlets of Newbuildings, West Sandford and East Village together with outlying farms and cottages with a total population in excess of 1200.

Sandford is a large rural parish with a great sense of community, and has two pubs, a community shop with Post Office owned and run by the community, a primary school, a recreation ground, plus a Parish Hall and two Churches and many local organisations and clubs. There is also a dedicated footpath/cycleway from Sandford village to CREDITON via the 'Millennium Green'.

The Parish Council, at their Meeting, on 3rd February 2022, discussed the MDDC 2022 Parishes Boundary Review.

It was not felt any major changes were necessary to the number of Parish Councillors (currently 12).

Or to the Parish Boundaries with the A3072 forming the natural Boundary between Sandford and CREDITON. We are currently in the process of replacing our missing Boundary stones.

However it was agreed to accept a suggestion to propose that "Knathorne" and "Rolestone" (on the boundary with Sandford and Mordach Bishop) be included inside the Sandford Parish Boundary. Mordach Bishop Parish Council are aware of this suggestion and are currently discussing this with the Parishioners involved.

Submission 64

Date: 24/02/2022 15:36:06 **Terry Amos, Yeoford**

Comments for: Over the years continuing significant development within CREDITON and surrounding areas indicates that larger communities are not necessarily best served through the current Parish Council governance models. This is an opportune time to review and establish a more coherent and effective model reflecting Yeoford's needs and its surrounding area. Therefore, it seems appropriate to recommend the establishment of a smaller Parish Council.

As stated, developments and the increasing awareness of expansion leads to several peripheral locations that could now be aligned more effectively and allow enhanced focus and democracy.

- the area of CREDITON known as Westernlea is clearly part of CREDITON Town.
 - the area north of the A377, which forms an easily identifiable boundary, would be better served by Copplestone and CREDITON.
 - the area east of Venny Tedburn/Uton, separated by The River Culvery, would align with Newton St Cyres/CREDITON.
 - Peripheral Communities' demographics could be more closely associated e.g. Binneford with Hittisleigh
- The smaller parish of 'Yeoford and District' would:
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Submission 65

Date: 25/02/2022

CREDITON HAMLETS PARISH COUNCIL

RESPONSE TO MDDC PARISH BOUNDARY REVIEW

Crediton Hamlet Parish Council has two Wards: Yeoford and Hookway. They are represented by five and four councillors respectively. Three of the Yeoford Ward Councillors live within Yeoford and two live on the outskirts of Yeoford, but within the boundary of the Ward. The Hookway Ward is represented by councillors who live within the other hamlets of the Ward ie Uton, Venny Tedburn and Hookway. In addition, one longstanding councillor now lives in Crediton, but previously resided in Yeoford. He represents and is the main point of contact for residents in Westernlea which is adjacent to Crediton Town.

At the February meeting of Crediton Hamlets Parish Council, when addressing the review of Parish Council Boundaries, a small but vocal group (4 in total) of Yeoford village residents expressed the desire to have a Yeoford only Parish Council. The Council felt this was not in the best interests of the Parish as a whole and voted accordingly.

The following considerations influenced that decision:

The Parish has about 1000 residents, approximately 500 of whom are resident in Yeoford Village. The Council is careful to give due consideration to that concentration of residents and holds the half of its meetings in Yeoford where it is easy for villagers to attend and always holds its meetings in Yeoford when there is an item on the agenda which has a focus particular to that area.

The other half of meetings are held in Crediton to make it easier for residents from the other side of the Parish to attend. The meetings are held in Crediton only because, apart from Yeoford Community Hall, there is not a suitable venue in the Parish.

When vacancies on the Parish Council arise, Councillors are mindful of the balance of representation of the two Wards and are careful to ensure that Yeoford is fairly represented by Councillors. For example, when a longstanding Councillor from the Yeoford Ward retired two years ago, Councillors ensured that the new Councillor lives in Yeoford.

The five Yeoford Ward councillors have excellent local knowledge about the thoughts and feelings of the bulk of the residents of Yeoford. They are well known in the community and easily contacted. Apart from the four residents who attended the February meeting, the Council has only received one letter in support of Yeoford having its own Parish Council. No other residents have contacted the Clerk, Council or individual Councillors and neither has any other correspondence has been received.

No parishioners from other parts of the Parish have contacted the Council expressing a desire to move to another parish. Usually residents only contact Parish Councils if they are not satisfied and therefore it should be assumed that the vast majority of parishioners are satisfied with the boundaries as they are now. It is important that his majority of residents is not disenfranchised from their participatory democracy by a small vocal minority.

There is a precedent for a larger village having its own Parish Council (Coplestone). However, Coplestone is a much larger and more dynamically evolving area where development is ongoing. Apart from very small scale developments Yeoford is unlikely to expand any more.

Reducing the size of the Parish Council area to one representing Yeoford alone does not offer value for money. A Clerk to the Council would be needed (at a similar cost to the one currently serving twice the number of people) and therefore less money would be available to spend on residents' needs. (Unless of course the Precept was significantly increased which might not be so popular with residents if they were aware of this consequence.)

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Councillors are always aware of Yeoford's needs as the largest and most diverse settlement in the Parish and they work hard to ensure that it is treated fairly. For example, over the years Yeoford has benefitted from S106/CIL money generated from developments in other parts of the Parish Council area in the region of £27,000.

To put this in context, in the last twenty years the only significant development in Yeoford has been Chapel Close which consists of three terraced, four detached and five affordable houses. Prior to this all development in Yeoford was in the 1980s and early 1990s. Should the boundary be changed, Yeoford village would no longer be able to benefit financially from such developments outside of the village.

In recent years Yeoford has received significant contributions towards its Play Area, Defibrillator, Community Gardening Project, Helicopter Landing Area and First Aid Training. The Parish Council continue to support the provision of other facilities in Yeoford and the wider Parish.

The council has always applied due diligence when releasing funds for projects. This may have been perceived by some within Yeoford as an unnecessary hindrance but Councillors consider this to be proper administration of public funds.

Breaking up and annexing the outer lying communities of the Parish to neighbouring Parish Councils (which is what those seeking to make Yeoford a single Parish Council are campaigning for) not only loses valuable local communication networks and knowledge but does not improve the representation of those residents, as they will be equally distant from other centres of population. If you are representing small rural hamlets and villages, that are geographically distant from one another and want to do so with equity, you have to consider what is best for them and not defer necessarily to the slightly larger concentration of houses.

Historically Crediton Hamlets Parish has been represented as a separate entity to recognise residents' contributions in both World Wars both on the War Memorial located in Crediton High Street and at Remembrance Day Services.

Over many years Crediton Hamlets Parish Council has accumulated much local knowledge about local rights of way, footpaths, boundaries and the various villages and hamlets. This historical knowledge is very useful and helps inform decisions. It would be a shame to lose it.

CONCLUSION

The current boundaries of Crediton Hamlets Parish Council work well and should not be changed. The above justification for leaving the boundaries as they are shows that it is perfectly possible for the Council to take account of the views and needs of ALL its residents and serve them ALL fairly. Yeoford is well and fairly represented now and would not be better represented if it had its own Parish Council. Dividing the area would only result in penalising other settlements in the Parish. The vocal views of a very small minority of residents should not be allowed to overrule the wishes of the silent majority.

Submission 66

Date: 25/02/2022 19:23:39 **Dugald Long, Yeoford**

Comments for: I would submit that Yeoford and its surrounding area would be better served by a smaller Parish Council than the current Crediton Hamlets PC so that it better represents the unique nature of Yeoford district and its inhabitants.

The current inclusion of certain fringe areas which are physically closer to and have greater synergy with other existing parishes benefits neither party. For example: the area of Crediton known as Westernlea is clearly part of Crediton Town. The area north of the A377, which forms an easily identifiable boundary, would be better served by Copplestone and Crediton. The area east of Venny Tedburn/Uton, separated by The River Culvery, would benefit from alignment with Newton St Cyres/Crediton.

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- + Currently campaigning to reinstate a railway platform to link Yeoford to Okehampton which has attracted almost 1000 signatures to date.

Due to the limited time available no formal mass canvassing of residents has yet been undertaken but I and others believe that there would be more than sufficient support should it prove necessary to launch a petition.

Submission 67

Date: 25/02/2022 19:24:12 **C Long, Yeoford**

Comments for: I would submit that Yeoford and its surrounding area would be better served by a smaller Parish Council than the current Crediton Hamlets PC so that it better represents the unique nature of Yeoford district and its inhabitants.

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Submission 68

Date: 26/02/2022 09:51:45 **Jennifer Pitts, Crediton**

Comments for: Crediton Hamlets Parish Council

I have heard that Yeoford wishes to be a stand alone parish council, I disagree with this as my property falls on the boundary & would be included in Yeoford. We have no coherent links to Yeoford & would NOT benefit at all from this move. We go to the town of Crediton for all our needs including to vote ! The parish should stay as it is, albeit a very spread out & seeming disjointed parish, I cant see any point in splitting it in all directions, as that would not be of any benefit to the various communities.

Submission 69

Date: 26/02/2022 11:45:03 **Sandra Amos, Yeoford**

Comments for: Over the years continuing significant development within Crediton and surrounding areas indicates that larger communities are not necessarily best served through the current Parish Council governance models. This is an opportune time to review and establish a more coherent and effective model reflecting Yeoford's needs and its surrounding area. Therefore, it seems appropriate to recommend the establishment of a smaller Parish Council.

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Submission 70

Date: 28/02/2022 09:15:05 **Jean Willey, Yeoford**

Comments for: I would submit that Yeoford and its surrounding area would be better served by a smaller Parish Council than the current Crediton Hamlets PC so that it better represents the unique nature of Yeoford district and its inhabitants.

Submission 71

Date: 28/02/2022 **Uffculme Parish Council**

Comments for:

[A separate document has been prepared for this submission]

Submission 72

Date: 08/03/2022 **Joy Norris, Cullompton TC**

Comments for: Further to our telephone conversation this morning, the following is the submission from Cullompton Town Council (as Resolved at the Town council meeting on 24 February 2022)

- A. The Cullompton Parish Boundary should be re-drawn to include the entirety of the Cullompton Garden Village within the parish of Cullompton.
- B. In the short-term, the entirety of the Cullompton Garden Village should be in the Cullompton Outer Ward
- C. In the long-term, the Cullompton Garden Village should be a separate ward and the number of Cullompton Town Councillors increased in proportion to the number of residents.
- D. The Willand /Halberton / Cullompton boundary could be tidier so that the road is the boundary and doesn't leave and then re-join the same parish within a short distance.

Submission 73

Dated: 01/03/2022 **Christopher Voarden, Copplestone PC**

Copplestone Parish request that MDDC increase the number of Parish Council Seats from seven (7) to nine (9).

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The following reasons for submitting this request are as follows.

- a. Membership of the Council has remained at seven since the formal inception of Copplestone Parish. Since this time, the size of the Parish has more than doubled. The ONS stats that as of December 2020, the population stood at just under 1500 persons. The Parish has grown in size with varying business of varying sizes being run from within the Parish by residents of Copplestone. Within the past 10-15 years there have been significant housing developments within the parish that have caused an influx of resident to the Parish. It is no longer a small Parish and is closing in on being a small town.
- b. With the increase in the population of the Parish, the Parish Council feel that two further seats on the council would allow more community involvement than is has now. For the first time in some years, there were two persons interested in being co-opted for a vacancy. This is unprecedented and shows that there is a demand to sit as a Parish Councillor.
- c. There are other Parishes within Mid Devon with a significantly smaller population (Zeal Monachorum) that have the same number of seats as Copplestone. Lapford Parish has 9 seats but a smaller population than Copplestone.
- d. Copplestone has in the past had issues with being quorate. At one point in time, there were four members only. In the space of 5 months thereafter, two meetings were not quorate due to illness or apologies being given.
It is felt that with more seats allowed, meetings would be quorate without having to factor in vacancies and absences that would push us over the watershed
- e. If the number of seats available is governed by the physical area of the Parish, this should be considered alongside the density of the population within the Parish. Copplestone has a dense population when compared to Down St Mary or Cruwys Morchard Parishes.

Submission 74

Date: 03/03/2022 17:08:09 **Beverley Harris, Bradninch**

Comments for: As a resident of Bradninch I think that the current two parish wards, town and rural, should be merged into one ward.

Submission 75

Date: 10/03/2022 **David Parker, Morchard Bishop PC**

Comments for: Morchard Bishop Parish Council have now spoken to land and home owners at the boundaries of our Parish and so I can report to you as follows:

With regard to the properties at South Emlett in the parish of Woolfardisworthy they wish to stay in the Parish of Woolfardisworthy.

With regard to the properties at Rolstone Barton and Rolstone Bungalow, we have spoken to residents and landowners and they feel much more part of Morchard Bishop than Sandford and they wish to stay in the parish of Morchard Bishop.

With regard to the properties at Knathorne including Gollands, we have spoken to the residents there and they too wish to stay within the Parish of Morchard Bishop.

With that in mind, Morchard Bishop Parish Council, at their meeting on Monday 7th March voted that there should not be any change to the Parish Boundaries of Morchard Bishop.

Of course we remain open to any other suggestions that you may have.

Submission 76

Date: 28/02/2022

Comments for: Halberton Parish Council

Halberton Parish Review – Notes

Executive Summary

Halberton Parish Council is responding to the request from Mid Devon District Council to contribute to the Parish Review currently taking place across the district.

The Parish Council, in carrying out its duties for the residents of Halberton Parish, strongly supports retaining the current parish structure and the vast majority of the existing boundary.

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It is recognised that the Lucombe Park development to the East of the parish is effectively an extension of Uffculme village and, for the benefit of those residents, Halberton Parish Council proposes that solely the Lucombe Park area of the parish be ceded to Uffculme parish. But could equally be serviced by Halberton Parish due to the proven track record of servicing outlying areas such as Ash Thomas, Brithem Bottom, Seckerleigh.

Halberton Parish Council has engaged with Uffculme and Willand parish councils regarding this Review, and strongly disagrees with their proposals to annexe other larger areas of Halberton Parish. Those proposals offer no tangible benefits to the affected population, whilst showing little or no respect for the neighbouring communities.

The Parishes of Devon

Civil parishes can trace their origin to the ancient system of ecclesiastical parishes which historically played a role in both civil and ecclesiastical administration. Civil and religious parishes were formally split into two types in the 1860s and of course are now entirely separate.

Halberton Parish

Halberton's name is derived from "Haligbeort" (Albert), the name of the Saxon Chief, and "tun", a farm settlement.

Halberton was once important enough to be a "Hundred", an administrative division of a shire. This included the parishes of Halberton, Sampford Peverell and Willand, as well as parts of Uplowman and Burlescombe. Many of the farms date back to Domesday or shortly after and Halberton is still largely a farming community with a strong rural identity.

Parish Communities

In a rural District such as Mid-Devon, the communities outside of the main towns comprise a large number of small hamlets, some modest villages with limited services and a few larger villages with a wide range of services serving the immediate and surrounding areas.

In 2011, Halberton parish had a population of 1,765.

Of these, 865 lived in Halberton village and 900 lived in the outlying hamlets, including Ash Thomas, Brithem Bottom, Mountstephen and Selgars.

In 2022, prior to the 2021 Census being released, the population is estimated to be approximately 1,900.

There are village halls in Halberton and Ash Thomas serving many community groups from both within and outside of the parish. The Farm Shop in Halberton has a wide draw and is used by people across Mid Devon.

Parish Council – Community Engagement

Halberton Parish Council meets monthly, or more frequently if necessary, and meeting agenda and minutes are published on the parish website, along with other community notices and other general information for the whole community.

The Parish Council regularly engages with members of the public and the business community when considering Planning Applications and when Highways issues occur. The Parish Councillors and other community volunteers are very familiar with all parts of this rural parish and have much experience of listening to the public's view and presenting considered reports to MDDC as part of the Planning Process.

The Parish Council publishes the Halberton Newsletter and Business Directory every two months, and printed copies are delivered by Halberton volunteers to every household across the whole of Halberton parish. This service is provided at no cost to the public, being completely funded through advertising revenue. The newsletter and Parish website/facebook communicates reports and essential information to all parish members facilitating the transfer of information from other community groups to its audience.

Halberton and the Parish Review

Halberton's Parish Council is responsible for representing a population of approximately 1,900 living across a large rural area of 3,054 Hectares.

In the context of the Parish Review that is taking place, the Parish Council believes that it is in the best interests of all residents across the parish to retain the existing parish boundaries with its neighbouring communities – Tiverton, Butterleigh, Cullompton, Willand, Uffculme, Burlescombe, Sampford Peverell and Uplowman.

The Parish Council believes that it represents the interests of its residents to a very high standard, reflected by the opinions of District and County councillors and others.

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Halberton Parish has a very low population density and a large area . Due to its geography residents will often visit other community areas as well as Halberton Village , but this should not be a reason to alter existing boundaries .

This is a common feature of rural parishes across Devon where communities are predominantly made up of small hamlets.

The Parish Council is actively servicing all areas parish from village centre to outlying houses and farmsteads .

Considering the Aims of the Parish Review

Mid Devon District Council has laid out a number of aims and objectives which the Parish Review might meet, and our report considered each of them.

1 Altering anomalies when changes have occurred, meaning the current boundary is no longer relevant

No significant changes have occurred recently to warrant any changes, the recent ward boundary review also came to this conclusion.

2 Changing boundaries as a result of new buildings and growth

Having stated that the existing boundary should be retained, it is accepted that the development of Lucombe Park is a significant extension of housing on the western edge of Uffculme into Halberton parish. Whereby this new housing estate could be incorporated into Uffculme Parish, we would argue that Halberton Parish has a good track record of looking after outlying areas. It is a quite a distance from any resources and should have some of its own, such as child's play park.

3 Local people have expressed views on the current structure

The Parish Council has not received any views objecting to the current boundary from any parish residents, either directly from the public or indirectly from other councils or agencies.

4 To bring about improved community governance

No improvements of this nature have been proposed or can be envisaged. We have a good record of welcoming new councillors from any part of the Parish . Halberton Parish councillors are easily accessible and maintain regular communications with many within the Parish

5 To improve local democracy

Due to the large geographic area of Halberton Parish it could be considered to increase the number of polling stations in the parish, but, with the increased ease of postal voting this may not be deemed necessary in the future.

6 To provide more effective and convenient local services

Since almost all local public services are provided by either MDDC or DCC, changing the parish boundary will not offer any improvement.

7 To improve or develop community identity.

Every road, Hamlet and Village builds a community irrespective of where boundaries lie. People will build friendships through schools, churches, interest groups and social media . Halberton parish has a strong inclusive identity promoting community throughout its parish and beyond.

Summary

As stated above, Halberton Parish Council represents the residents of Halberton Parish to a high standard, and strongly supports retaining the current parish structure and the vast majority of the existing parish boundary.