

Somerset

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Diogo Rodrigues
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Bridgwater

I am submitting this proposal in my capacity as a Councillor representing Bridgwater East and Bawdrip.

The current division will need to be split into three in order to fit with the recommended electorate figure. The proposals have been drawn up to reflect the most local connections with an urban suggestion of East Bridgwater, a urban/rural suggestion of East Bower and a rural suggestion of Westonzoyland.

I have provided reasons the suggestions within the attached document.

Attached Documents:

- bridgwater-east-and-bawdrip-changes.docx

Bridgwater East and Bawdrip Changes

Division: East Bridgwater

BAC – 1568

BAH – 3472

These two polling districts currently make part of the existing Bridgwater East & Bawdrip electoral division. The electorate here already understand, and feel connected, with one another's areas as a result.

It is recommended that these two polling districts make one new division.

Both polling districts are similar in that they are exclusively residential areas. Both are served by a set of shops in their own polling districts, which serves both sets of electorates well. Both have their own play areas/parks, which serves both sets of electorates well. Both districts are quite independent in that they are well served by the existing facilities in their own areas.

They are the two furthest polling districts east of the town of Bridgwater, both seeing new housing developments to the east of their boundaries. Both will be sharing the same pressures and challenges because of this development over the next 5-10 years.

This recommendation would create a division with an electorate number of approximately 5040

Division: East Bower

BAP1 – 3453

BAP2 – 482

BAB – 463

BAU – 339

These four polling districts currently make part of the existing Bridgwater East & Bawdrip electoral division.

BAP1 & BAP2 make up the Parish council – Bridgwater Without.

Bridgwater Without Parish Council is linked with BAU (Chedzoy Parish Council) as it shares the main road that goes into Chedzoy - Chedzoy Lane. Morganians Rugby Club, located in BAP1, is also the closest sports venue for BAU and it is seen by the electorate as an extension of Chedzoy. Bridgwater Without Parish Council area share similar challenges with Chedzoy Parish Council due to their proximity.

Bath Road runs through BAP1 and BAB, which links both districts together. They share similar challenges due to their proximity.

As these polling districts currently sit together in one Division, it is recommended that they remain so.

This recommendation would create a division with an electorate number of approximately 4737

Division: Westonzoyland

BCI – 1443

BBG – 655

BBQ – 521

BCC – 334

BBI – 202

BBH – 111

BAA – 999

W-DAN - 425

Westonzoyland is currently part of the Birdgwater East and Bawdrip division. Westonzoyland is a large Village and it is recommended to group it with smaller villages/parishes to the east and north of it. They all share the same rural challenges and are connected through road infrastructure, use of same schools, access to closest shops and health services. They are mostly historically linked through the old district council boundary and so already have a historic connection.

This recommendation would create a division with an electorate number of approximately 4690

Somerset

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Diogo Rodrigues

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Deputy Leader of the Conservative group on Bridgwater Town Council (Parish or town councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Bridgwater Town Council area

I have attached a set of proposals for the Bridgwater Town Council area in my capacity as a Bridgwater Town Councillor.

We have given a reasons and local connection evidence within our proposals which we hope is understandable.

Attached Documents:

- bridgwater-town-council-boundary.docx

Bridgwater Town Council Boundary

Division: East Bridgwater

BAC – 1568

BAH – 3472

These two polling districts currently make part of the existing Bridgwater East & Bawdrip electoral division. The electorate here already understand, and feel connected, with one another's areas as a result.

It is recommended that these two polling districts make one new division.

Both polling districts are similar in that they are exclusively residential areas. Both are served by a set of shops in their own polling districts, which serves both sets of electorates well. Both have their own play areas/parks, which serves both sets of electorates well. Both districts are quite independent in that they are well served by the existing facilities in their own areas.

They are the two furthest polling districts east of the town of Bridgwater, both seeing new housing developments to the east of their boundaries. Both will be sharing the same pressures and challenges because of this development over the next 5-10 years.

This recommendation would create a division with an electorate number of approximately 5040

Division: Sydenham

BAD – 1926

BAG – 1715

BAE (Part of) – 910

BAF (Part of) – 287

BAD & BAG are historically known as the ‘*Sydenham Estate*’ in Bridgwater. They share the main through road of Parkway. Those who live here would describe themselves as living in ‘*Sydenham*’ – it is not recommended to split this well established community into two separate divisions.

There is a row of shops on Parkway. Although located in BAG, these shops are the most local ones used by residents in BAD. The Café here is the only one in the Sydenham Estate, again used by residents in both BAD & BAG.

Sydenham Community Centre, located in BAG, is the main community hub for Sydenham and is known by locals to serve the entire estate (Both BAD and BAG).

Coronation Park, located in BAD, is the local park/play area used by residents of both BAD and BAG.

Bridgwater College Academy is the most local school, although located in BAG, it is the main school for those living in BAD too.

BAD and BAG are areas with high levels of deprivation, and as such they share very similar challenges.

Additionally

BAD and BAG are not sufficient in themselves to form a division with the desired approximate 4800 electorate. Therefore, we are suggesting the following roads from the below 2 polling districts make part of this new division.

BAE/PART OF –

Bath Road, Devonshire Street, Wellington Road, Edward Street, Polden Street, Mariners Close, Cornborough Place, Cannon Close, Rosebery Avenue, Albion Close, Bailey Street, Branksome Avenue.

This is approximately an additional 910 electorate. It is recommended that this becomes an extension of the BAG polling district.

WHY

BAG currently covers 60% of Bath Road. This extension would bring in the remaining residents living on Bath Road so they are part of the same polling district. There is a shop/off-license in the Bath Road part of BAE which is the closest shop that best serves Bath Road residents of BAG and BAE.

Bridgwater Train Station, located off Wellington Road in BAE, is split between BAE AND BAD (A train platform in each). This proposed change means the train station, although used by residents in the entire town, would be brought into one polling district area.

The closest GP for most of the electorate living in this part of BAE is Redgate Medical Centre, which is located in BAD.

BAF/PART OF –

Linden Close, Loxleigh Avenue, Loxleigh Gardens, Penzoy Avenue.

This is approximately an additional 287 electorate. It is recommended that this becomes an extension of the BAD polling district.

WHY

The nearest shop for this set of electorates in BAF is the Co-op off Westonzoyland Rd which is in BAD. The nearest medical centre is Redgate Medical Centre, which is in BAD. The nearest community pub is the Commercial Inn, which is in BAD. This area of BAF is intrinsically linked with this BAD district.

There is a long-standing fish and chip shop located on Westonzoyland Road in BAF which is the main takeaway food shop used by the Clarks Road electorate in BAD.

This recommendation would create a division with an electorate number of approximately 4838.

Division: Bridgwater Central

BAK – 1794

BAM – 1332

BAL (Part of) – 577

BAF (Part of) – 1439

BAK and BAM are currently part of the Bridgwater South division. It is recommended that these two remain grouped as there is nothing materially different to suggest that they should be broken up. Residents in BAM and BAK continue to share Blake Gardens as a local green space. Residents in BAM continue to walk into BAK for town centre facilities through Taunton Road.

BAF/Minus the following roads, which already placed in previously recommended division (Sydenham).

Linden Close, Loxleigh Avenue, Loxleigh Gardens, Penzoy Avenue.

This leaves an electorate of approximately 1439 in BAF. It is recommended that the remainder of BAF join these polling districts to form one division.

WHY

The Eastover part of BAF is an extension of the Town Centre in BAK (Fore Street & High Street). Residents living in and around Eastover use Town Centre services and vice versa. Broadway links both BAF and BAM. Residents south of Broadway in BAF walk/cycle into the Eastover and Town Centre of BAK to access facilities.

The closest shopping facility for those in BAM is the Morrisons that is in the BAL district. This is the same for a large part of the electorate in BAK and BAF.

BAL/PART OF –

West Street, Milton Place, St. Matthews Green, Westfield Close, Albert Street, Friarn Avenue, Halswell Close.

This is approximately an additional 577 electorate. It is recommended that this becomes an extension of the BAK division.

WHY

The electorate in this part of BAL use BAK as their main entertainment area. The nearest dentistry service for those in BAL is in BAK. Most of this BAL part is to the east of Bridgwater and Taunton Canal, which lends itself to being more geographically linked with BAK. The GP service most used for those in BAL is in BAM.

This recommendation would create a division with an electorate number of approximately 5142

Division: Victoria

BAJ – 3119

BCF – 989

BAE (Part of) – 950

BAJ and BCF are currently part of the Bridgwater West Division. BAJ and BCF have historically been known as the 'Victoria' area of Bridgwater. Chilton Trinity School in BAJ serves the electorate in BCF. BCF access and use the green spaces in BAJ, including Victoria Park. Victoria Park Community Centre is in BAJ, and also serves the electorate in BCF.

BAE/Minus the following roads already placed in previously recommended division (Sydenham)

Bath Road, Devonshire Street, Wellington Road, Edward Street, Polden Street, Mariners Close, Cornborough Place, Cannon Close, Rosebery Avenue, Albion Close, Bailey Street, Branksome Avenue.

This leaves an electorate of approximately 950 in BAE. It is recommended that the remainder of BAE join these polling districts to form one division.

WHY

BAE is connected to BAJ through Western Way. Most of the remaining geographical area of BAE is industrial/retail. This is a centre of employment for the electorate in both BAE and BAJ. It is also the central shopping area for both districts. The East Quay Medical centre in BAE serves the electorate in both BAE and BAJ.

This recommendation would create a division with an electorate number of approximately 5058

Division: Bridgwater West

BAN – 2034

BAO – 2323

BAY - 356

BAL (Part of) – 577

BAN, BAO and BAY are currently part of the Bridgwater West Division. It is recommended that this remain grouped together as there is no reason to change it. Haygrove School in BAN remains the main school for electorate in the area. St Matthews field in BAN remains the main green space for the electorate in the area. BAN and BAO are the eastern most districts of the Bridgwater Town area, both which are part of a single ward on the Town Council. BAY, although part of a neighbouring parish, is designed to be linked with BAO, with some electorate in BAY accessing St Marys & St Joseph's School in BAO.

BAL/Minus the following roads already placed in previously recommended division (Bridgwater Central) –

West Street, Milton Place, St. Matthews Green, Westfield Close, Albert Street, Friarn Avenue, Halswell Close.

This leaves an electorate of approximately 577 in BAL. It is recommended that the remainder of BAL join these polling districts to form one division.

WHY

It is recommended that part of BAL be brought into this division. This part of BAL is on the western side of Bridgwater and Taunton canal which naturally sits with BAN. Electorate in this part of BAL will use Westover Green School, St Joseph's School, and Haygrove School in BAN for education. They will also use St Matthews Field as the largest green space, also located in neighbouring BAN. Access to this part of BAL is by Wembdon road, which is connected to BAN.

The communities work together as a whole and are intertwined. The BAN electorate believe that they are in Durleigh (which is BAY) and they are an integrated community. Parents, schools, children are all combined into one division which is really important for the local connections.

This recommendation would create a division with an electorate number of approximately 5290

Division: Hamp

BAI – 3522

BBK – 228

BBN (Part of) - 860

BAI and BBK are both part of the current Bridgwater South division. Although BAI and BBK are part of two different parishes, BBK is seen to be in the same estate of BAI known as 'Hamp'. It is recommended that this remains.

BBN/PART OF –

Octavia Close, Snowberry Close, Lilliana Way, Bilberry Lane, Angelica Drive, Rosa Way, Verbena Walk, Gardenia Walk, Hollyhock Close, Roberta Walk, Acacia Walk, Korresia Walk, Cristata Way, Barberry Drive, Forsythia Way, Cornflower Close, Jasmine Close, Lotus Drive, Southlea Gardens, Bramble Road, Primrose Walk, Lucerne Crescent, Bugle Way, Sorrel Drive, Cowslip Walk, Foxglove Walk, Violet Path, Tansey Court, Teasel Path, Clover Way, Buttercup Walk, Bluebell Drive, Orchid Way.

This is approximately an additional 860 electorate. It is recommended that this becomes an extension of the BAI division.

WHY

It is recommended to include part of BBN. Though this is known as 'Wilstock' it is seen by many as an extension of the Hamp estate. Some of the vehicle access points to this part of BBN is Rhode Lane, which runs through BAI. The nearest shops used by those in BBN are Morrisons Daily and One Stop, both in BAI. The nearest post office used by those in BBN is in One Stop, in BAI. The ReCreation Community Hub is used by those in BBN and is also located in BAI. One of the nearest primary schools which serves those in BBN is Hamp Academy, located in BAI. The Secondary school which serves those in BBN is Robert Blake School, located in BAI.

This recommendation would create a division with an electorate number of approximately 4610 (*The BBN part of this recommended division is a growing development and so may include more than the 4610 electorates. This is hard to model with the data available, but this division could include more of BBN and still be within the suggested electorate number +/- 10%*)