

Community Governance Review

Weymouth and surrounding parishes and Vale of Allen

Initial Consultation Responses

	Comments	Additional information
Vale of Allen		
1	<p>I suggested in an earlier survey that the houses on the west side of the road running through Gaunts Common from St James' School to the junction with the road from Hinton to Holtwood at Horsehoes should be moved from Vale of Allen/Hinton area into the Holt parish. As far as I know, residents on the west side of the road have much more to do with Holt than Hinton or Vale of Allen. My wife and I certainly do - we go to Holtwood Church, and we have friends living in Holt and along Lodge Road. We have virtually nothing to do with Hinton. It is also a nuisance for us to have to go to Hinton to vote. The proposal is therefore ambiguous in my view. It mentions that the proposal is to move the residents on one side of the road running through Gaunts Common, but on which side of the road, and in which direction? The only sensible change is to include all of the residents of Gaunts Common in Holt parish, which of course means moving the residents living on the west side of the road through Gaunts Common into Holt parish. This is what I would support. Including them in the Hinton parish makes no sense at all, and I would NOT support it.</p>	<p>If Dorset Council wishes to include maps in these documents, they should be more legible. It is impossible to see exactly where the current and suggested boundaries are because the maps are out of focus and there is no means of increasing the scale to try to make sense of it all.</p>
2	<p>I am writing to support the proposal to include the hamlet of Bradford in the parish of Witchampton.</p> <p>I have lived in Bradford for the past 19 years. Our postal address is Witchampton according to the Royal Mail postcode finder.</p> <p>We are just over a mile from Witchampton village centre, and despite living near the Droves track which accesses Pamphill directly, this is a rough, unsurfaced road, which was a frequent cause of punctures when it was accessible, and Pamphill is still nearly 4 miles away using this route. There are locked gates here, so access to Pamphill involves a 7-10 mile journey one way, depending on which route is used, to allow us to vote.</p>	

	<p>Our son attended Witchampton preschool as a toddler, and we were dismayed to learn on applying for a first school place that our catchment school was Pamphill. We would be facing a tenfold increase in petrol usage as well as the loss of friendship groups if he was forced to attend Pamphill. Fortunately for us, Witchampton first school was under subscribed that year.</p> <p>I have been involved in committees for the Preschool and Witchampton Cub pack, a governor for Witchampton First School, and am heavily involved in the Church and wider community of Witchampton, including volunteering at the village shop. To be classed as the parish of Pamphill makes no geographic, economic or social sense!</p> <p>I have spoken to all the residents in Bradford (I deliver the Witchampton Parish newsletter to them!) and every single one of them identifies themselves as being part of the Witchampton community.</p> <p>Here's hoping common sense prevails, and the historic boundary, which has absolutely no relevance to the contemporary population of Bradford, is moved to incorporate us into Witchampton.</p>	
3	<p>I am E-mailing you as per the request of the Chairman of Vale of Allen Parish Council.</p> <p>Back in 2006 when we were in the throes of purchasing xxxx I rang Dorset Council and spoke to the relevant party on why the Hamlet of Bradford was in the Parish of Pamphill. The lady said it was historical and it could not be changed. I am very pleased that there is now a chance to change the parish boundary and I totally support the proposal. You will note our address is xxxx, Witchampton not xxxx, Pamphill.</p>	
4	<p>My wife and I live at xxxx, Witchampton and we would like to express our view that the Parish boundary should be changed to include the Bradford Area.</p> <p>We have lived here for over 40 years, and all of our 4 children attended Witchampton First School. We had to fight for a place for the eldest child, as we were told that we were in the catchment area for Pamphill First School (two or three miles as the crow flies but considerably further by road).</p> <p>I was a school governor at Witchampton First School and chair of governors there for several years too.</p> <p>We have no social or other connections to Pamphill, and we have always been drawn to activities in Witchampton, the Church, the Club, Fetes, Boxing Day Box Car races, village Choir and other</p>	

	<p>events. My wife was on the committee for the playgroup for several years and now our grandchildren use the playground on the edge of Critchel Park.</p> <p>Before Postal voting we had a real trek to the Polling Station at Pamphill Village Hall.</p> <p>Witchampton Parish boundary is quite small and it seems quite illogical in this day and age. It might have been appropriate 100+ years ago when all the cottages and other properties in the Bradford area were probably inhabited by individuals who had links to, or were employed by Kingston Lacy Estate. All the farm drives are now closed off to all but horse riders and dog walkers, so there is no longer more direct routes to Pamphill.</p> <p>We would be grateful if you would register our view that the boundary SHOULD be changed to include Bradford. If you are unable to pass this on to the appropriate decision makers and we need to go onto the website to express our views then I am happy to copy the points above.</p>	
5	<p>As a resident of Holtwood for 74 years and a former pupil of Gaunts County Primary School (St James) I am appalled by the Vale of Allen Parish Council's proposal for boundary changes. This would seem to be a return to areas of the former Glyn Estate with no recourse to Holt parishioners for comment. I appreciate that as I am not a resident of Gaunts Common, I am not at liberty to vote upon these 'proposals'. However, I must protest most strongly against these 'proposals'. My Grandfather and my Father were both former pupils of Gaunts School and former Holt Parish Councillors, maintaining a keen interest in the School. With the extension to the school in 1972 the intake was amalgamated with the former Holt School and renamed St James School to recognise its association with the Holt Parish Church of St James. The other non-residential properties should, of course, remain in Holt Parish, as should the properties around Burts Triangle. It would be sensible for all of Gaunts Common to now belong to Holt Parish. With regard to Gaunts Common in my opinion it makes sense that the whole Gaunts Common village including both sides of the road with common BH21 4JR postal codes, St James school which has a Gaunts Common address and HOLT soccer ground should all be in Holt parish.</p>	
6	<p>With regard to Gaunts Common in my opinion it makes sense that the whole Gaunts Common village including both sides of the road with common BH21 4JR postal codes, St James school which has a Gaunts Common address and HOLT soccer ground should all be in Holt parish.</p>	
7	<p>Support recommendation – makes compelling sense to me.</p>	

8

Vale of Allen Parish Council – Support recommendation.

**Locally
Bradford –**

The hamlet of Bradford currently lies within the parish of Pamphill and Shapwick. It comprises of eleven dwellings as follows:

Property	Postcode
Bradford House	BH21 5BX
West Acre	BH21 5BX
Old Barn Cottage	BH21 5BX
Bradford Farm Cottage	BH21 5BX
Sunnymeade Cottage	BH21 5BX
Clapperboard Cottage	BH21 5BX
1 Bradford Farm Cottages	BH21 5BX
2 Bradford Farm Cottages	BH21 5BX
Bradford Farm	BH21 5BX
Lambing Cottage	BH21 5BX
Old Lawn Farm	BH21 5DA

Bradford lies at the Northern extremity of Pamphill Ward and is about 1 mile from the village of Witchampton. A number of Bradford residents have raised with Vale of Allen Parish Council (VoAPC) the historical inconveniences of being part of Pamphill rather than Witchampton.

The 11 properties that are within this hamlet have no vehicular access other than through the village of Witchampton yet are required to vote in local and parliamentary elections in Pamphill. Any children of primary school age are in the Pamphill CE Primary school catchment area rather than that of Witchampton CE Primary, 1 mile distant. The access to Pamphill by road is about 10 miles

See accompanying maps below.

	<p>either via Wimborne or the True Lover's Knot. This clearly is inconvenient and a true anomaly. This is an historical anomaly stemming from the time when this hamlet was part of the Kingston Lacy estate. The old drovers road across King's Down is now gated so no direct vehicular access is available.</p> <p>It is worth adding that in terms of social engagement the local inhabitants very much look to Witchampton (church, social club, playgroups etc). It is our intention to survey all of the affected households to obtain a clear understanding of their wishes on this matter.</p> <p>The proposed revised boundary would run from Little Coppice along the the Hardy Way until just north of King Down Farm when it would run along the field boundary towards the maintained road which terminates at Old Lawn Farm. This boundary would place all of the land holding of Bradford Farm in Witchampton and the Kingston Lacey land in Pamphill. The boundary would then follow the farm road to Old Lawn Farm, skirting it to the South before following the surface drainage to the River Allen. See attached OS map.</p> <p>It is the contention of VoAPC that the boundary between the Witchampton Ward of VoAPC and Pamphill and Shapwick PC should be adjusted to incorporate the Hamlet of Bradford into Witchampton and that the catchment area for Primary Schools should be changed accordingly.</p>	
9	<p>Holt Parish Council - The review's aim is to improve community cohesion by having a whole village or rural community within one parish or if that is not possible then at least properties on opposite sides of the road in the same parish. The boundary dividing the Gaunts Common community is not ideal as it runs along the road through the centre of the community. Holt Parish Council would like the situation to be improved but the Vale of Allen proposal to sub-divide the community north south, rather than as currently (east west) is in the opinion of the Holt Parish Council no improvement on the current situation. It would in fact sever the long-standing relationship between Holt Parish and St James' First School. It would also move the Holt Football club into the parish of Hinton. Residents of Holt Parish have objected to being moved into the adjacent parish and there have also been letters of support for the idea of all of Gaunts Common becoming part of Holt parish as well as for the status quo to be retained. Therefore, as Holt Parish Council neither wishes to accept a solution which would be against wishes of residents nor try to impose a solution against their wishes the Council OBJECTS to the Vale of Allen proposal.</p>	
10	<p>I have lived in Bradford for 36 years. All local social contact is in Witchampton. I have absolutely no links with Pamphill. Our children all attended Witchampton school which is a short drive from our house. Pamphill school, in whose catchment area we live, is a much more inconvenient drive. In</p>	

	<p>terms of voting, it has always seemed ridiculous that we need to almost drive past Witchampton and have considerable inconvenience to drive to Pamphill. I fully support the proposal, which makes complete sense geographically.</p>	
11	<p>We have lived in Bradford for over 20 years and our children all attended Witchampton first school. We would rather vote in and be considered as part of the Witchampton community than part of Pamphill.</p>	
12	<p>This is my submission to the current CGR relating to the boundaries around Gaunt's Common.</p> <p>I am xxxx of xxxx FURZEHILL Wimborne Dorset xxxx xxxx.</p> <p>I am not a resident of Gaunt's Common, so this is the view of an outsider who has an interest in CGRs. I am also a Holt Parish Councillor now. This is my own more detailed analysis of the geographical situation of Gaunt's Common. As you have mentioned before getting the views of the residents is the difficult bit.</p> <p>My submission consists of a pdf of text.</p> <p>This documents references 5 maps, which are each a separate pdf.</p> <p>It also references the word document, which lists the properties, proposed by Vale of Allen Parish to be moved between parishes, with which I was kindly supplied by your team. It has been very useful. (The reference is at the end of the second paragraph). Provided Dorset Council includes that information in the overall consultation somewhere so that it is published. Then you may delete: the last sentence; the last two sentences; or the whole paragraph. I hope this makes sense.</p> <p>CGR SUBMISSION RELATING TO THE GAUNT'S COMMON AREA</p> <p>The Vale of Allen Parish Council has submitted a proposal to change the Parish Boundaries between Hinton Parish and Holt Parish around the Gaunt's Common area.</p> <p>There was very little justification given explaining the reasoning for proposing these changes. Clarification was sought from Dorset Council in order to know precisely which dwellings would change parishes. That information is attached.</p>	<p>See accompanying maps and property list below.</p>

Ideally all of a community should be in the same Parish if possible. The proposal from the Vale of Allen Parish Council does not achieve this. Consequently, as I am of the opinion that there is an effective way of changing the parish boundaries that would enable all of the Gaunt's Common community to be in the same parish. I object to the Vale of Allen Parish Council's proposal as it is practical to have all of Gaunt's Common in the same parish, if a change of boundaries is considered necessary.

Fortunately, it is not difficult to define the Gaunt's Common community, as the limits are easy to identify.

Gaunt's Common sits on the C24, which runs north to south, with the D40611 coming in from the East.

There are Gaunt's Common and 30mph restriction signs on the three access roads.

Gaunt's Common starts 250 metres south of the junction of the C24, with the D40604 and D40612.

Gaunt's Common finishes at the St James School, on the C24, and there are then 380 metres to the Junction with the C125 without any further dwellings on either side of the C24. Holt United Football Club grounds are on the eastern side.

On leaving Gaunt's Common on the D40611, there are no further properties for over 400 metres.

Gaunt's Common, as described above, directly Corresponds to 4 Postcodes: these are BH21 4JR - BH21 4JP – BH21 4JW - BH21 4JN.

The addresses of these 4 postcodes have just the name of individual properties, followed by Gaunt's Common, Wimborne and the postcode.

The next dwellings on all the 3 access routes to Gaunt's Common are all in Holt Parish.

Such a community should ideally all be under the control of the same Parish Council. However, currently the C24 is the boundary between Hinton Parish and Holt Parish.

Within Gaunt's Common as defined above there are: St James School; St James Cottage Nursery; and 50 dwellings in Holt Parish; and 38 dwellings in Hinton Parish.

Consequently, geographically the easiest way to bring all of Gaunt's Common into the same Parish is by transferring the 38 Hinton Parish dwellings into Holt Parish.

Vale of Allen Parish Council have proposed a hybrid arrangement of moving some properties across to Holt Parish and some properties across to Hinton Parish, which does not achieve the preferred objective of having all of Gaunt's Common in one Parish and yet it would move a few more properties between Parishes.

Seven dwellings and Holt United Football Club, which are not within the Gaunt's Common Community of 4 Postcodes would be moved, under the proposal from the Vale of Allen Parish Council, to Hinton Parish from Holt Parish.

Of those 7 dwellings, Holt United Football Club and 6 of the dwellings, which are further south of Holt United Football club:, are already in Holt Parish; are not close to any Hinton Parish dwellings; and should therefore remain in Holt Parish.

Alice Cottage, the one remaining dwelling of the 7, has a Stanbridge Postcode BH21 4JD and is much closer to the Stanbridge Community than any Holt Parish dwelling. Therefore, It may be geographically sensible to move Alice Cottage into Hinton Parish with the rest of the Stanbridge Community.

Three dwellings, which are not within the Gaunt's Common Community of 4 Postcodes, would be moved, under the proposal from the Vale of Allen Parish Council, to Holt Parish from Hinton Parish. It may be geographically sensible to move those 3 dwellings, which are in the Chalbury Postcode BH21 7EU, into Chalbury Parish as they are so close to Chalbury Common, rather than being moved to Holt Parish or remaining in Hinton Parish.

3 INDEPENDENT OPTIONS

An option for Gaunt's Common, as defined by the 4 Postcodes: BH21 4JR - BH21 4JP – BH21 4JW - BH21 4JN, is to move all of the properties not already in Holt Parish into Holt Parish.

An option, for three Hinton Parish dwellings at Chalbury Common, is that they are moved to Chalbury Parish

An option for one Holt Parish dwelling at Stanbridge is for it to be moved into Hinton Parish.

Attached are 5 maps based on Dorset Explorer showing to where the boundaries might be moved.

The revised boundaries are shown as straight lines. This is mainly for simplicity, but also so that the area directly opposite Holt United Football Club is also under the same Parish Council in case a major planning application was submitted on that land. Similarly, at the northern end of Gaunt's Common.

OBJECT

This submission is not trying to say how the boundaries should be altered, but how they could be altered and what the results would be geographically.

Unless there is a willingness for change by the residents concerned, then the status quo should be maintained. It can cause considerable disquiet, if electors are moved between parishes against their wishes.

ELECTORAL VARIANCE

Any submission which mentions a possible boundary change should comment on possible effects on warding. Holt Parish is already due to have two wards because of the addition of the Furzehill Lobe and two extra councillors in 2024.

If extra Gaunt's Common electors are added to Holt Ward, probably less than 7% of the present number, then electoral variance has to be considered, as there are already more electors per councillor for Holt Ward compared with the new Furzehill Ward.

Holt Parish Council has operated with nine councillors for many years, the increase to eleven in 2024, will already be quite a change. Consequently, it is hoped that, if all of Gaunt's Common were to be absorbed into Holt Parish, it would not result in a further increase in the number of councillors for Holt Parish Council.

As Hinton Parish is one of 5 grouped parishes, which form the Vale of Allen Parish Council, losing a significant proportion of its electors may result in a reduction in the number of councillors for Hinton Parish.

Weymouth Option 1 (including parts of Chickerell)		
1	Support Option 1 - no comments offered	
2	Support Option 1 – no comments offered	
3	Support Option 1 - I feel that it would be beneficial for Lanehouse to be ALL part of the Weymouth area, rather than the current situation where it is split between Weymouth and Chickerell. It will help unite the community of Lanehouse, e.g. the children would go to the same school, St Edmund's would be the church, etc. When I lived in Lanehouse I didn't identify with Chickerell - even though I was born in Chickerell - and didn't use any Chickerell facilities/amenities. Chickerell has long feared being taken into Weymouth. I believe they thought having 'town status' would help avoid that happening. Chickerell now has so many new houses built and still being built, so the Lanehouse and Cobham Drive areas, being on the fringes of the current Chickerell area, will be even less well served by Chickerell Town Council.	
4	Support Option 1 – no comments offered.	
5	Winterborne Farringdon Grouped Parish Council - Does not comment on the inclusion or exclusion of Chickerell. Comments apply to all proposals affecting the Grouped Parish Council area. Generally supports inclusion of development area in Bincombe moving to Weymouth TC but raises concern about the loss of properties in Nightingale Drive potentially rendering Wint. Farringdon GPC as unviable.	See full response, including maps, below.
6	Support Option 1 with observations - Chickerell and Littlemoor have been part of Weymouth for many years this change would be recognising the practical reality. The geographical feature that defines the area is the Ridgeway with a distinct separation between the communities south of the Ridgeway and those to the north. There are some anomalies such as Sutton Poyntz, and to some extent Preston, which feel different to Weymouth even though its residents are reliant on the shops and employment provided by Weymouth (to the same extent as Weymouth residents). Winterborne Farringdon do not want their current parish balance distorted by a 500 dwelling development at Bincombe. However, very limited powers are held by Weymouth Town Council (essentially parks and the esplanade) and I believe that the proposed boundary changes are much more relevant to the powers held by Dorset Council (such as planning, education, transport). The large size of Weymouth Town Council and the size of its budget encourages residents to feel that its councillors are responsible for many issues over which they have no control, and this is not helped by the large number of councillors with positions on both Weymouth Town Council and Dorset Council. WTC	

	<p>has the responsibilities of a Parish Council but it is actually a combination of a large number of disparate parishes. The size of its budget may be a reason why its councillors were complaining about services being transferred from Dorset Council to them (with no budget increase). Again it seems to be a confusion about its role and responsibilities. It cannot happen in most parishes. No-one currently in West Dorset will want to be incorporated into the Weymouth Town Council area because it has a much higher precept than other areas and so their Council Tax bills will increase. However, it is wrong for Weymouth Residents, many of whom live in deprived areas, to have to pay more to support business interests. The Esplanade and beach are essentially a resource for the residents of Dorset not just for Weymouth residents (many of whom are retired and not affected by the beach). In summary, I believe that the proposed changes have some logic but need to be applied to Dorset Council even more importantly than to Weymouth Town Council (because of their relative powers). Residents of Weymouth were told that our rates would not increase as a result of the re-organisation, but the bills paid by residents did increase because of the introduction of a significant precept. This was extremely disingenuous and have damaged trust. The proposed changes will be unpopular because they will be seen by residents (even those already in Weymouth) as a plan to increase revenue because the precept is higher in Weymouth than in the surrounding areas.</p>	
7	Support Option 1 – no additional comments made.	
8	Support Option 1 – no additional comments made.	
9	<p>Support Option 1 -</p> <p>1. Chickerell is and should obviously be part of the overall Weymouth town council area.</p> <p>2. Even at 24 the number of town councillors is too high for the limited responsibilities of the town council.</p> <p>3. The town council's budget raising powers are too great and the overall cost of the town council is too high.</p>	My personal preference would be to do away with the town council completely as being an unnecessary layer.
Weymouth Option 2 (excluding parts of Chickerell)		
1.	Support Option 2 – no comments offered.	
2.	Support Option 2 with observations. Ward name – Chickerell & Lanehouse.	Surely with the new development at Chickerell the electorate for 2026 must

		be more than the stated figure of 2199. I think that with the building work in hand at Chickerell it should remain as it is at present.
3.	Support Option 2 – we prefer to stay within the West Dorset area and not to be swallowed by Weymouth.	
4.	Support Option 2 - I understand that my household will transfer from Chickerell into Weymouth shortly. I have lived in Chickerell since 1981 and have no wish to be moved to Weymouth. I object to this move without any option. There has been no referendum / vote or any means of disputing the move democratically. This is purely a change based on political motives. In another part of Dorset, if I remember correctly, there had been a proposed boundary (or similar) change recently. Here there was an option of registering a majority view of the involved parties. The majority view given informally in a straw poll was for no change and this was accepted. I expect the will of the majority to be respected in this case. Any council action seems a forced takeover of part of Chickerell without regard to democracy. We are seeing similar in Ukraine at the moment (but hopefully without an invasion or war). Isn't this a similar case of this area belonged to Weymouth in the past so it is quite reasonable for the boundary to be changed back to its 1972 ownership.	
5.	Support Option 2 - Chickerell is a town and community in its own right, we do not want to be enveloped by Weymouth. Any Chickerell properties moving over to Weymouth will just have the same services available to them but they will pay higher council tax whereas the remaining residents of Chickerell will very likely also have to pay more to counteract the loss of revenue from those properties. I believe there are numerous projects in the pipeline for Chickerell that are being enabled with the help of new and proposed development within the Chickerell boundary, will these projects still be viable? Will Chickerell Town Council still be able to afford to maintain a new sports facility or an extended community hall if they do not have as much precept to call upon? This will mean that Chickerell will have had all of the significant development and no added infrastructure. With regard to present services, I believe all neighbouring parishes use each others infrastructure whether it be beaches, play areas (of which Chickerell has a very popular one) and swimming pools (a recent Chickerell development gave a substantial amount of money to Weymouth swimming pool recently). So I do not believe that can be used as a valid argument for moving properties from Chickerell to Weymouth. The communities in Lanehouse and Cobham regularly participate in social events within Chickerell Town and are encouraged to feel a sense of belonging with their own town council noticeboards etc. I strongly oppose Option 1.	I urge you to think about the consequences for the Chickerell community if Option 1 were to be approved. We are not a part of Weymouth, we have never been a part of Weymouth and we do not want to be swallowed up by Weymouth.

6.	Support Option 2 - I oppose any move to take parts of Chickerell to incorporate into Weymouth as this will have a negative effect on Chickerell.	Incorporation of any parts of Chickerell will have a negative impact on the ability of Chickerell council to provide facilities for its residents.
7.	Support Option 2 - Will prevent long term growth of Chickerell by removing a large part of the town. No need for this proposed land grab to go ahead.	
8	Support Option 2 with observations - Chickerell is a fast developing area and badly needs improved facilities including a Doctor's Surgery and Health Centre for its ever increasing population. Virtually all its revenue comes from council tax, not having any paying car parks or other revenue streams. Any reduction in the size of Chickerell will have a severe impact on their ability to provide the basic facilities that modern life expects. However there are a few anomalies that have appeared over the years as the area has developed. The Cobham Drive, Lanehouse and Littlesea estates are solely accessed by roads that are in Weymouth and logically should be part of Weymouth. Similarly any housing that is accessed by Camp Road at Wyke should be in Weymouth. The junction of Lanehouse Rocks Road and Chickerell Road is an obvious place for Weymouth to end and Chickerell to start. The suggestion that Granby Industrial Estate should be split along the Cumberland Drive/ Hampshire Road corridor is a complete nonsense. There are many businesses that have premises on both sides of this corridor. Imagine the confusion, and probably added expenses, that these Companies will incur by having to apply to both Councils for various permissions/permits. The idea that you can look at a map and pick out green corridors between Weymouth and Chickerell is also a nonsense as there aren't any. The only logical one is the Chickerell Link Road but that is a step to far and would reduce Chickerell to a parish size.	I propose that any area of Weymouth postal district that cannot be accessed by a main road in Chickerell should be part of Weymouth. namely Lanehouse, Littlesea, Cobham Drive and certain roads accessed from Camp Road. The road boundary should be the traffic lights at the Marquis of Granby and Wessex Stadium roundabout.
9	Support Option 2 - Chickerell Council has served the Lanehouse area well over many years and as a former Commandant of the Bridging Can and Chickerell Camp I can state that that many thousands of soldiers and cadets have been grateful for the assistance given by the Council on many occasions. This could be negated if this break up of the Council areas of responsibility goes ahead. It is also understood that there would be a likely increase in the Parish rate for residents of between £80 - £100 per annum. Costs of these changes are not mentioned in the paper but any increase in the rates at this time of financial pressures on all families would not fit well with residents and Central Government. I strongly urge you not to go ahead with this proposal with regard to the Lanehouse area.	Please do not go ahead with this proposal, especially at this time of severe financial difficulties being experienced by Lanehouse residents.

10	<p>Support Option 2 - It needs to be remembered that the vast majority of matters/problems raised by residents are those which Dorset Council matters and not Weymouth Town Council. Therefore it makes absolute sense for the town wards to mirror the unitary wards.</p> <p>Littlemoor & Preston. This clearly defines the area the ward covers.</p>	<p>When the new Town Council wards are finally confirmed can DC issue a clear statement as to which matters are their responsibility and which are under the responsibility of the TC. It seems that the Town Council just keeps expanding into areas of work which they have no remit for.</p>
11	<p>Support Option 2 - no comments given.</p>	
12	<p>Support Option 2 - Let's continue with the original plan of reducing the number of councillors.</p>	
13	<p>Support Option 2 - appears the most sensible and far reaching.</p>	
14	<p>Dorset Councillor Jean Dunseith - Support Option 2 - Chickerell has not sought to change any of the Parish boundaries during this exercise. Weymouth TC has made proposals to include parts of Chickerell which are unnecessary and of no benefit to residents and could have an impact on the future infrastructure provision of our growing town. That is not to say that there could be some minor tidying up in a few areas as over time development has gone up to and over the boundary between Chickerell and Weymouth such as Littlesea Estate and Cobham Drive. It would be easier to transfer these few houses into Chickerell Parish rather than take the whole area into WTC. Generally residents are not in favour of relocating to Weymouth TC as most of their services are provided by Dorset Council. Nottingham has a small population and is well below the number of electors in other areas of Weymouth and could be incorporated into Upwey/Broadwey or Radipole. 24 Councillors would seem to give good representation and about right for WTC.</p>	
15	<p>Support Option 2 - Because Chickerell has good town council that supports the community it serves such as social functions, library, chemist, doctors and active councillors who arrange and take part in the community in which they serve. Would Weymouth improve on this the answer is NO because their only interest in grabbing part of Chickerell is MONEY.</p>	
16	<p>Chickerell Town Council - Support Option 2 - Community Governance Review – Chickerell Town Council's Response</p> <p>Dear Sirs</p>	

Community Governance Review

Following your publication of the draft recommendations of above, Chickerell Town Council (CTC) having reviewed the document would like to make the following comments:

1. Chickerell Town Council's Mayor, Cllr J Worth and the Town Clerk met again with Weymouth TC representatives in November 2022. CTC made it clear that their position had not changed and that they did not agree with the Option 1 proposal. However, a compromise was discussed as a possibility.
2. Compromise A "Chickerell concedes future development at Southill and Camp Road and Weymouth concedes totality of Cobham Drive and Lanehouse Estate" was drawn up on the understanding that both sides would require approval from their full council before any agreement was reached. Cllr L Wakeling and Cllr D Harris both agreed that giving up Cobham Drive and the Lanehouse Estate was a sensible compromise and would "tidy up" the boundaries in accordance with LGBCE guidelines. Unfortunately a follow up meeting had to be cancelled due to ill health.
3. Weymouth TC also gave a compromise (compromise B) that had not been discussed at the meeting and was weighted heavily in their favour.
4. Chickerell Town Council met on 20th December 2022 to discuss Dorset Council's options 1 and 2 and compromises A and B. After some discussion it was agreed that Option 2 "none of Chickerell be moved into Weymouth" was the only option that CTC could support.
5. Parish boundaries are historical and appreciated as such. Changes will incur unnecessary costs, for example being shown on Ordnance Survey maps and those requiring such amendments.
6. Changes to the parish boundary would almost certainly incur costs to Dorset Council. Such potential costs need to be of REAL benefit to residents. Considering Dorset Council provide all key services - waste, education, highways etc., what will be the REAL benefit received by those residents? CTC has a good reputation with its residents for being non-political and not paying its Councillors. We also ask are there services that CTC or WTC supply which really are affected by parish boundaries?
7. WTC's proposes parish boundary lines are in need of 'tidying up' in accordance with LGBCE guidance, CTC argue as the vast majority of Lanehouse and Cobham Drive estates are in Chickerell it would be more practical to transfer the few properties outside of Chickerell into

Chickerell's existing parish and not to move the bulk of those estates to Weymouth. Both WTC representatives could see the sense in this at our meeting. Councillors and a past Mayor have been housed in both Cobham and Lanehouse in the past which clearly demonstrates residents of those estates feel part of and are able to contribute to the Chickerell community. The West Dorset Local Plan recognised the fact that Chickerell should remain a separate community whilst acknowledging its close relationship with Weymouth – no grounds to modify boundaries.

8. A point raised during CTC/WTC meeting discussed the sharing of Chickerell's infrastructure such as many young people of Weymouth using play and multi-use games areas including preschools and primary schools who regularly make use of the Willowbed Play Area, arriving in mini buses. Residents of Weymouth would also be served by the proposed new health centre to be built using contributions from CHIC1 and CHIC2 developments. Children of the residents of the proposed Southill development (located in Chickerell) would likely use Chickerell Primary Academy as well as Chickerell's Budmouth School with its sports centre - the latter funded in part by WDDC and CTC. It is also worth noting that Chickerell residents cannot rent a Weymouth allotment whilst Weymouth residents are welcome to put their names forward for a Chickerell allotment.

9. The potential removal of such a large number of households from the parish of Chickerell will create major adverse impact on future infrastructure provisions, some of which have been proposed and identified in the Neighbourhood Plan such as a new health centre, a further sports facility, youth provision within Willowbed Hall and a skate park. These are projects that have been identified and contributed towards in the Section 106 Agreements of recent and upcoming developments within Chickerell. Chickerell Town Council has a duty to see these projects through to completion.

10. Chickerell has accepted significant residential development in recent years (many hundreds still to be built), for which more infrastructure is badly needed. As mentioned above, future projects have been identified and contributed towards and CTC have been working towards fulfilling their duty in the provision of these projects. The proposed changes in Option 1 would, most likely, mean the future projects mentioned above could be delayed or, in the majority of cases, deemed not viable or sustainable in the future. Without evidence of a real benefit and given the possible adverse effects on current Chickerell residents both financially and due to the unsustainability of future projects, the status quo should be maintained.

11. Appreciating the historical element of parish boundaries previously mentioned, the precise position is largely irrelevant and as Dorset is now a Unitary Council, we ask careful consideration is given to potentially expending funds to amend them for no valid reason or financial benefit.

	12. Without evidence of the REAL benefit and given the possible adverse effects on current CTC residents council tax, the status quo should be maintained. We argue the draft recommendation omits to recognise and address the cost implications to our authorities and tax payers.	
17	Support Option 2 - I strongly oppose moving any of Chickerell to Weymouth, what real benefit do residents gain? Just public expense in boundary administration for no real purpose.	
18	Support Option 2 - Weymouth currently have too many councillors, and appear to have a large staffing budget as new roles are often advertised. With a poor bus service, and a lack of amenities it is much easier to visit other towns. Even though Chickerell has grown over the last few years, councillors are easy to contact and are personally known to most residents.	
19	Support Option 2 - This is nothing but a land grab by Weymouth Council. Leave things as they are.	
20	Support Option 2 with observations - This is the better of two poor options available. It retains Chickerell as a unit and sensibly extends to the planned development within Bincombe. What is does not address is the number of councillors elected for a town council that has ceded most of its statutory powers to the unitary council. The proposals also lacks proportional representation/oversight of the councils commercial activities in the harbour. Littlemoor and Bincombe Lodmoor, Sutton Poyntz & Preston. The problem with naming the wards to the discrete areas is that whilst it creates simple naming, we also subtly reinforce social boundaries associated with the areas.	Retain the Option 2 boundaries. Make the threshold of 1 councillor per 4000 constituents. Make provision for the two wards that encompass the harbour to have an additional councillor who can focus on representing the activities of the harbour.
21	Support Option 2 - no additional comments made.	
22	Support Option 2 - no additional comments made.	
23	Support Option 2 - what would be gained by implementing the proposed changes as councillor opposed to leaving things as they are?	
24	Support Option 2 - no additional comments made.	
25	Support Option 2 - no additional comments made.	

26	Support Option 2 - I believe the residents of Chickerell would be best served by remaining in their own parish and not becoming part of Weymouth.	
27	Support Option 2	No increase in Councillor numbers should be agreed. The Dorset Council and parish council boundaries should be reviewed.
28	Support Option 2 - To be honest I don't understand the land grab by Weymouth. Other than Weymouth benefiting from increase households council tax. It seems that Weymouth council is doing little to promote the town and maintain services. Leave things alone and let the boundaries stay as is.	Keep your hands off Chickerell.
29	Support Option 2 - Chickerell does not want to lose its identity – boundaries are historical. What evidence or benefits to Chickerell residents. NONE only cost to Dorset Council and Ordnance Survey Maps for the boundary changes.	
30	Support Option 2 - What loss of parts of Chickerell were taken into Weymouth. What benefit would it be for Chickerell residents only gain for Weymouth Town Council Finance. Leave the boundaries of Chickerell alone. Chickerell would lose income and council tax would rise.	
31	Support Option 2 - I start by complaining of the layout of the forms provided by Dorset Council. These forms are very confusing and not very negotiable for the residents of Chickerell. Chickerell does not want to lose its identity, parish boundaries are historical. Weymouth Town Council seems hell bent on taking over parts of Chickerell. What is the reason for this? Is it finance or empire building? We are told cost does not come into the review but what is the evidence or real benefit to residents. The cost to Dorset Council and Ordnance Survey Maps in this financial climate would be ridiculous when Dorset Council is trying to save money.	
32	Support Option 2 - As a resident of Chickerell and a Councillor for 34 years I am totally against Weymouth Town Council taking any part of my Town. I feel this was planned by Dorset Council and Weymouth Town Council without our (Chickerell Town Council) knowledge. At a meeting of the Dorset Council, the Weymouth Councillor stated that Chickerell Town Council were informed of the proposals put forward by Weymouth but it was proved this was not so. Representatives of Weymouth and Chickerell Town Councils met to work out a compromise alternative which was passed by Chickerell Tow Council but thrown out by Weymouth Town Council. Surely in the present financial time these proposals would be a very costly exercise by Dorset Council.	

	Chickerell residents are confused by your review form so you are not getting right results for the survey.	
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Comments on Littlemoor Parish arrangements only

1	<p>Oppose recommendation - Littlemoor is a community with a historic identity. It is classed as a deprived community with the old estate in particular being the centre of this. It needs as localised representation as possible therefore adding it in with another 500 homes will further dilute this. The area to the North has little in common with Littlemoor. They have a different MP a different Dorset Councillor and were part of the previous West Dorset Council as opposed to the Weymouth and Portland Borough. If included as part of Weymouth it should be its own area. If not the other two options are for it to become its own parish council or to remain part of its current parish like it has for the past several hundred years.</p> <p>2nd survey response: This proposal would split the community of Littlemoor in two. One half in the west Dorset constituency, the other half in the South Dorset constituency. One in the Littlemoor & Preston ward of Dorset council and the other in the Winterbourne and Broadmayne ward of Dorset council. They will be separated by a 40mph main road. Each will under the proposed and passed planning have separate primary schools and separate community facilities. It seems odd that despite all these differences it would be proposed that this would be part of the same parish/town council ward. Arguments have been made that the people living in these houses that haven't even been started on in terms of construction will use Weymouth services such as healthcare, libraries and car parks etc and therefore it should be in the Weymouth town council area but none of these services are services carried out by the town council and it is irrelevant what town council area they're in. These houses as stated haven't even began to be built yet we are looking at changing the historic and fundamental identity of a community. Upwey and Broadway will under the new constituency boundaries share the same MP as this area and will also not be divided by the main road but the issue around split Dorset councillors. Littlemoor has been a defined community for many years and has had a large amount of development within its boundaries already which has diluted the areas historic close knit community. To add a further 500 houses would further this. Littlemoor is ranked the third most deprived community in Dorset. It is important that it has its own representation at a local level and is not merged with additional areas. A poll of Littlemoor</p>	<p>Alternative proposal – Area north of Littlemoor to be made its own ward under the name of Bincombe Downs or Bincombe or become a separate Parish Council. This would ensure the area of Littlemoor does not have two MPs and three Unitary Councillors.</p> <p>2nd survey response: Littlemoor as a deprived community which has a complex of feeling ignored should have its views respected.</p>
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	residents showed 80% of residents opposed the 500 houses being added to the Littlemoor area.	
2	I support the view of our Councillor Louie O'Leary that the current borders for Littlemoor should remain the same for the reasons he has outlined.	I support the view of our Councillor Louie O'Leary that the current borders for Littlemoor should remain the same for the reasons he has outlined.
3	On Friday 11th November the LCAG committee unanimously voted to register opposition to these proposals by supporting the submission put forward by Councillor Louie O'Leary which seeks to maintain Littlemoors current borders and outline for the reasons he has stated.	On Friday 11th November the LCAG committee unanimously voted to register opposition to these proposals by supporting the submission put forward by Councillor Louie O'Leary which seeks to maintain Littlemoors current borders and outline for the reasons he has stated.
4		I support the view put forward by Louie O'Leary keeping Littlemoors boundary unchanged and as they are currently for the reasons he has said. Do not move Littlemoor's border north.
5		I oppose moving Littlemoors northern border and support the views submitted by Councillor Louie O'Leary that it should not be moved for the reasons he has given. Littlemoor should not be divided.
6	As a Littlemoor resident I agree with the views put forward by Cllr Louie O'Leary that Littlemoors border should remain as it is for the reasons he has stated. Listen to Littlemoor please.	
7	I support the views put forward by Cllr Louie O'Leary that Littlemoors northern border with Bincombe should remain the same for the reasons he has given. Please respect the views of the residents of Littlemoor.	
8	I support the position put forward by Cllr Louie O'Leary that Littlemoors northern border should remain the same and Littlemoor remain its own area. Littlemoor should be listened to in regards to its future.	

9	We oppose the plans to move Littlemoors border and believe it should remain as is for the reasons outlined by Cllr O'Leary. Please respect the views of us the residents in Littlemoor.	
10	We support the view of Councillor Louie O'Leary in supporting the retention of Littlemoors natural northern border for the reasons he has outlines. Please listen to Littlemoor and the views of its residents.	
11	I oppose the moving of Littlemoors northern border and agree with the views of Councillor Louie O'Leary. I do not object to the housing but to the splitting up of a community. Please listen to the views of Littlemoor residents.	
12	I support the view put forward by Councillor Louie O'Leary that Littlemoors border should remain the same the reasons he outlined. Please listen to the views of the community of Littlemoor.	
13	As a lifelong Littlemoor resident I support the view of Councillor Louie O'Leary that Littlemoors northern border should remain the same for the reasons he has stated. Please respect the views of local residents in their wishes.	
14	I oppose the moving of Littlemoors border north for the reasons outlined by our local Councillor Louie O'Leary please do not divide our community. Please listen to our views as local residents.	
15	Please listen to the views of Littlemoor residents who support the view of local Councillor Louie O'Leary based on the reasons he stated. Please listen and respect our views.	
16	I support the view of Councillor Louie O'Leary in wishing Littlemoor's northern border to remain the same. Please listen and respect the views of Littlemoor in keeping Littlemoors borders as they are.	
17	On Friday 11th November the Littlemoor Community Action Group committee unanimously voted to register opposition to these proposals by supporting the submission put forward by Councillor Louie O'Leary which seeks to maintain Littlemoors current borders and outline for the reasons he has stated.	

Vale of Allen - Response no. 8 – Vale of Allen Parish Council Accompanying maps

15/12/2022, 11:46

DorsetExplorer



Route 2 to Pauphill via True Lovel's Knot
 Route 1 to Pauphill via Wimborne



<https://explorer.geowessex.com>

Proposed Boundary Change
 Poole Hill
 Witchampton
 Old Drovers Road - now padlocked.



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**Vale of Allen - Response no. 12 –
Accompanying maps and property list**

Vale of Allen Property List

Vale of Allen

From Pamphill Parish to Witchampton Parish

Property	Post Code
Lambing Cottage	BH21 5DB
Bradford Farm	BH21 5BX
West Acre	BH21 5BX
Bradford House	BH21 5BX
Old Barn Cottage	BH21 5BX
1 Bradford Cottages	BH21 5BX
2 Bradford Cottages (Sunnymede Cottage)	BH21 5BX
3 Bradford Cottages	BH21 5BX
4 Bradford Cottages	BH21 5BX
Clapperboard Cottage	BH21 5BX
1 Old Lawn Farm	BH21 5DA

From Holt Parish to Hinton Parish

Property	Post Code
Alice Lodge	BH21 4JD
The Bothy	BH21 4JH
Gardners Cottage	BH21 4JS
8 Gaunts	BH21 4JH
7 Gaunts	BH21 4JH
9 Gaunts	BH21 4JH
10 Gaunts	BH21 4JH
Trotwood Cottage	BH21 4JN
Pato House	BH21 4JN
8 Burts Cottages	BH21 4JW
7 Burts Cottages	BH21 4JW
Ladywell Cottage	BH21 4JW
5 Burts Cottages	BH21 4JW
4 Burts Cottages	BH21 4JW
3 Burts Cottages	BH21 4JW
2 Burts Cottages	BH21 4JW
1 Burts Cottages	BH21 4JW
Pensam	BH21 4JN
Meadow View	BH21 4JN
Quornwood	BH21 4JN

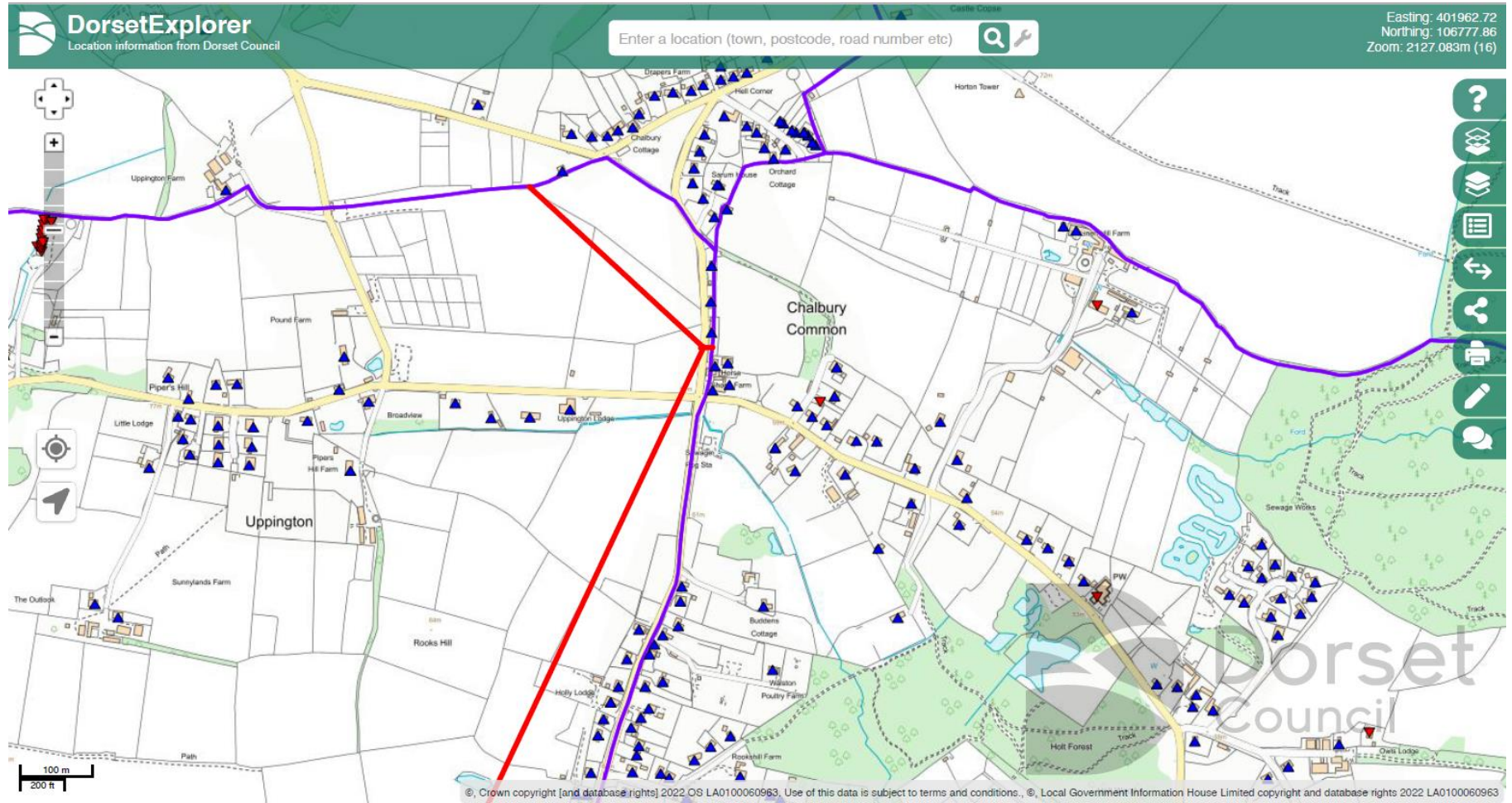
From Hinton Parish to Holt Parish

Property	Post Code
Rose Cottage	BH21 4JP
Larks Rise	BH21 4JP
Primrose Cottage	BH21 4JP
The Hatch/Forest View	BH21 4JP
Capricorn Cottage	BH21 4JP
Hillview	BH21 4JR
Dacombs Cottage	BH21 4JR
Evergreen Cottage	BH21 4JR
Wayside	BH21 4JR
Uplands	BH21 4JR
Fields View	BH21 4JR
Hedge End	BH21 4JR
The Palfreys	BH21 4JR
Ash Cottage	BH21 4JR
Caravan adj Ash Cottage	BH21 4JR
Fair View	BH21 4JR
Orchard End	BH21 4JR
Henddol	BH21 4JR
Annexe Lavender View	BH21 4JR
Snowdrop Cottage	BH21 4JR
Holly Lodge	BH21 4JR
Meadowcroft	BH21 4JR
West Wood	BH21 4JR
Horseshoes Cottage	BH21 7EU
White Lodge	BH21 7EU
Portman Chase Lodge	BH21 7EU

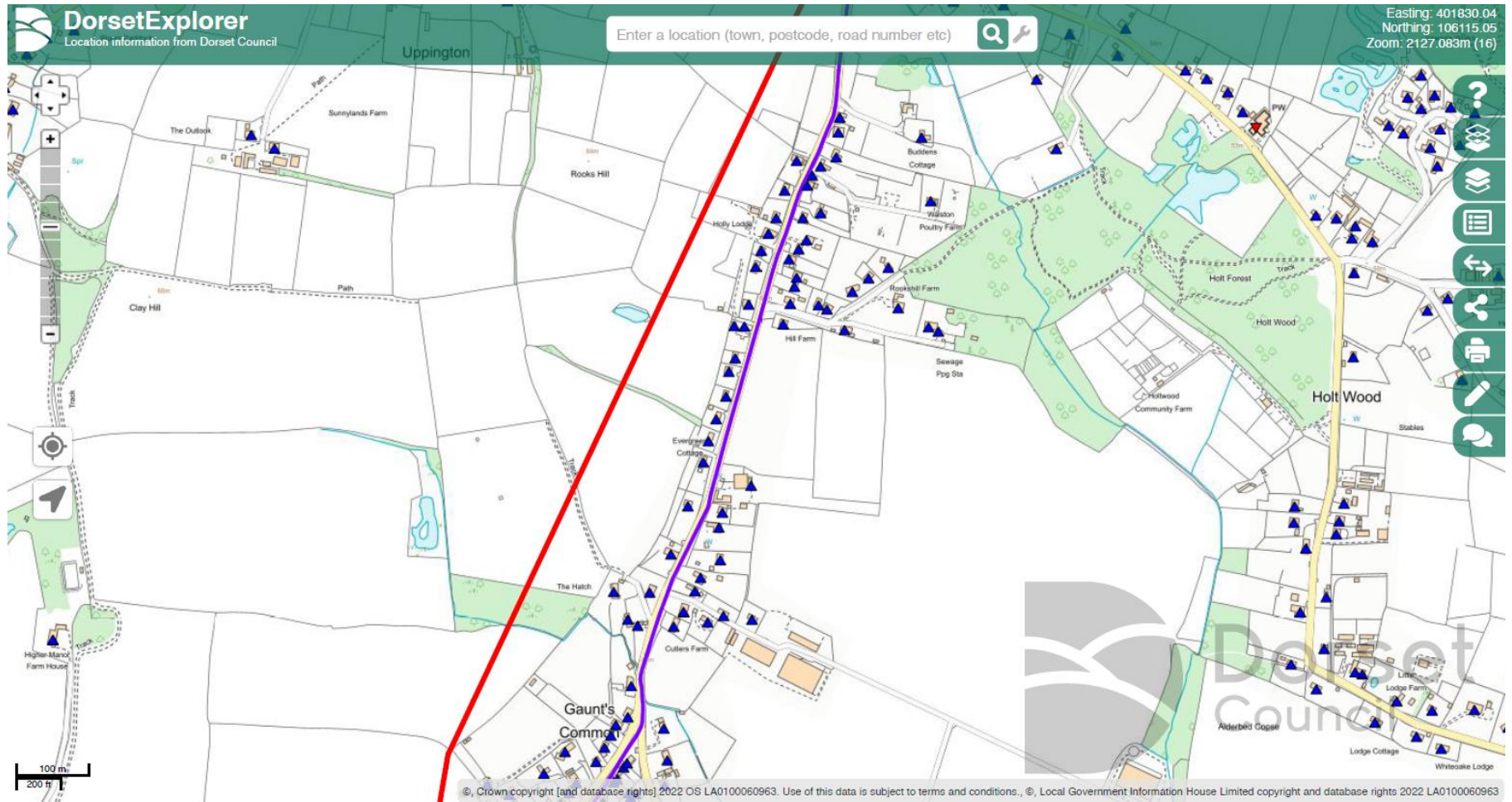
From Hinton Parish to Witchampton Parish

Property	Post Code
Specklesfield	BH21 5AY
Little Mead	BH21 5AY
The Old Dairy	BH21 5AF
High Lea	BH21 5AF

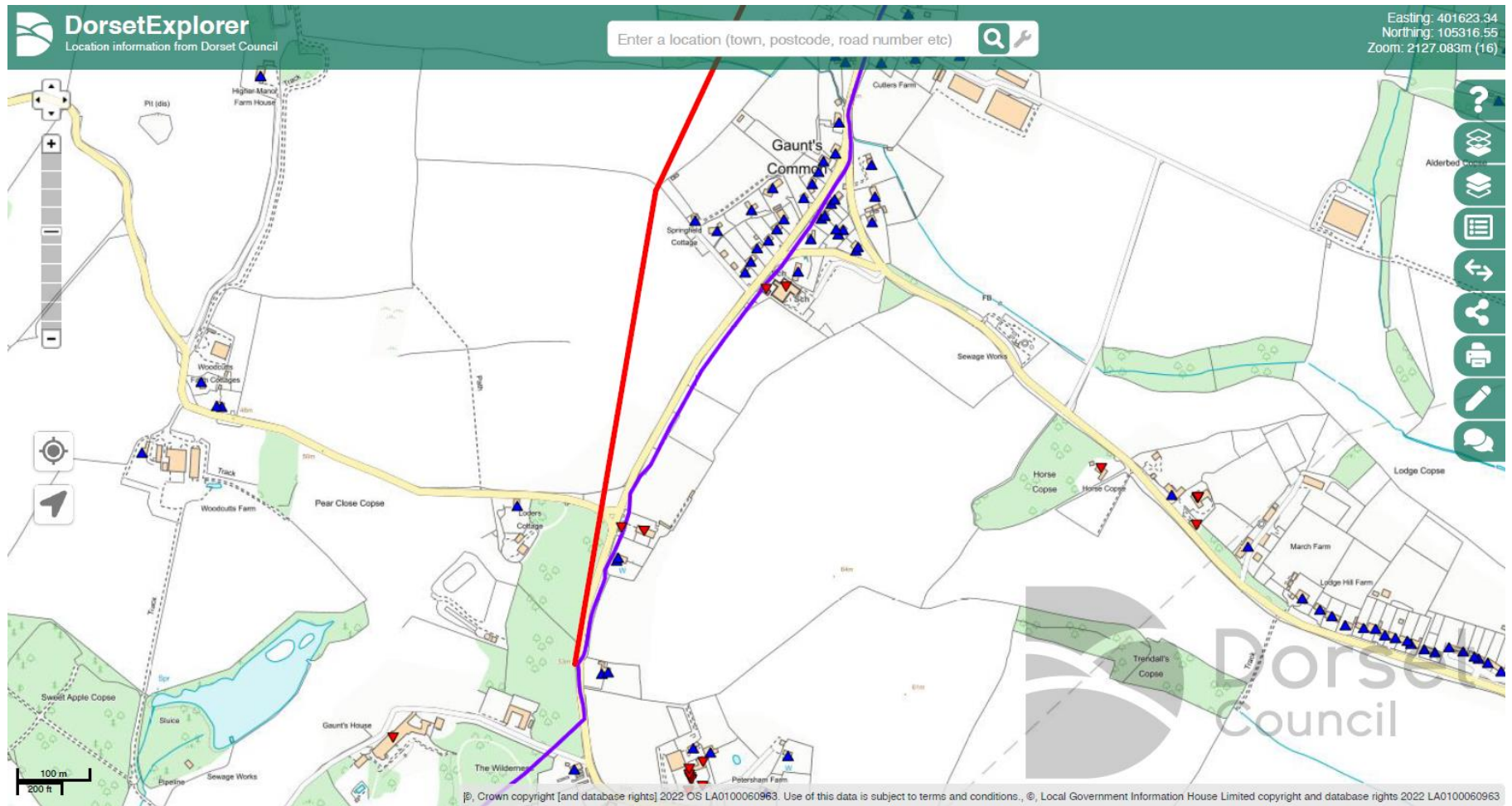
1. Dorset Explorer – Chalbury



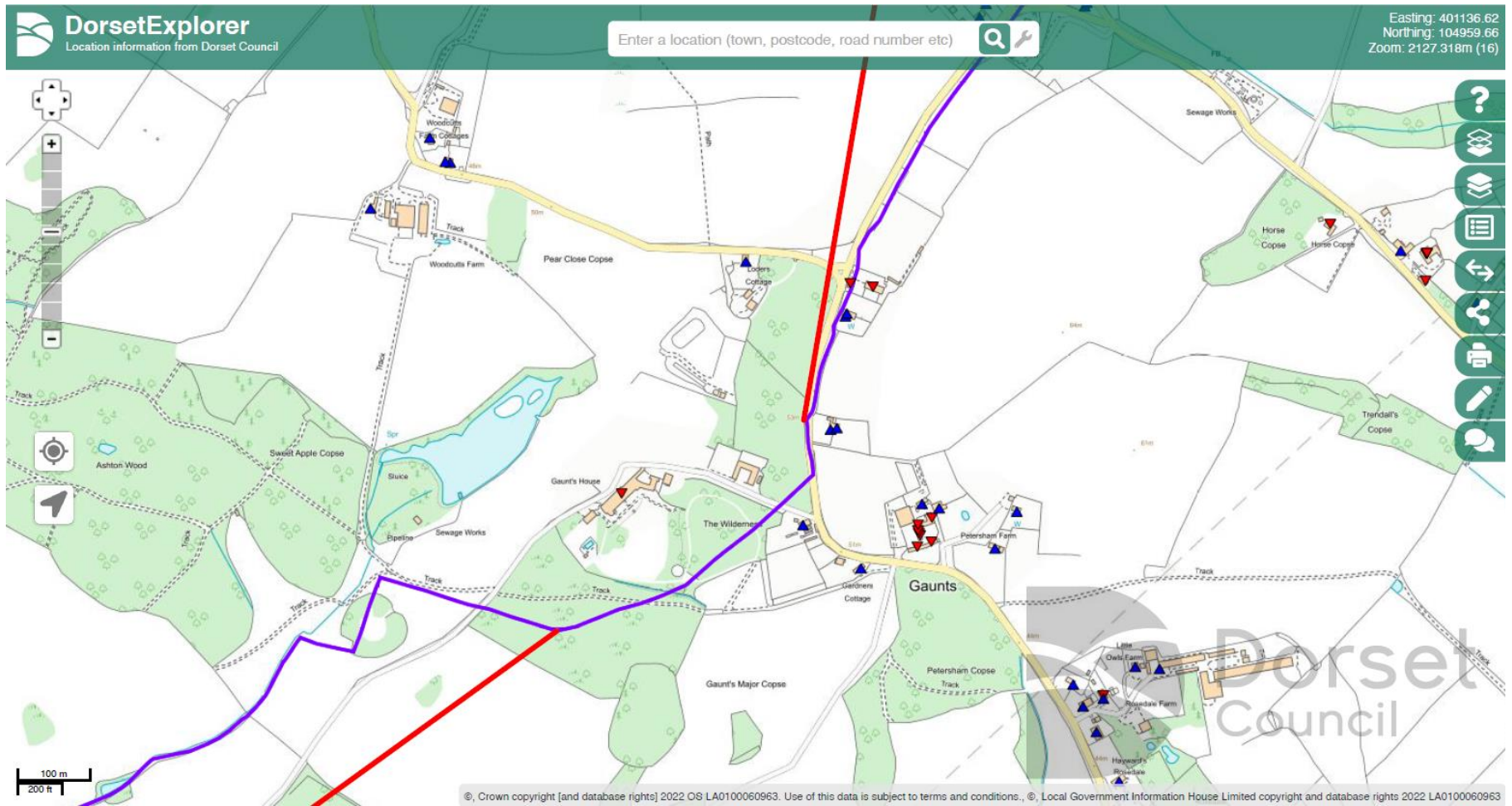
2. Dorset Explorer - North



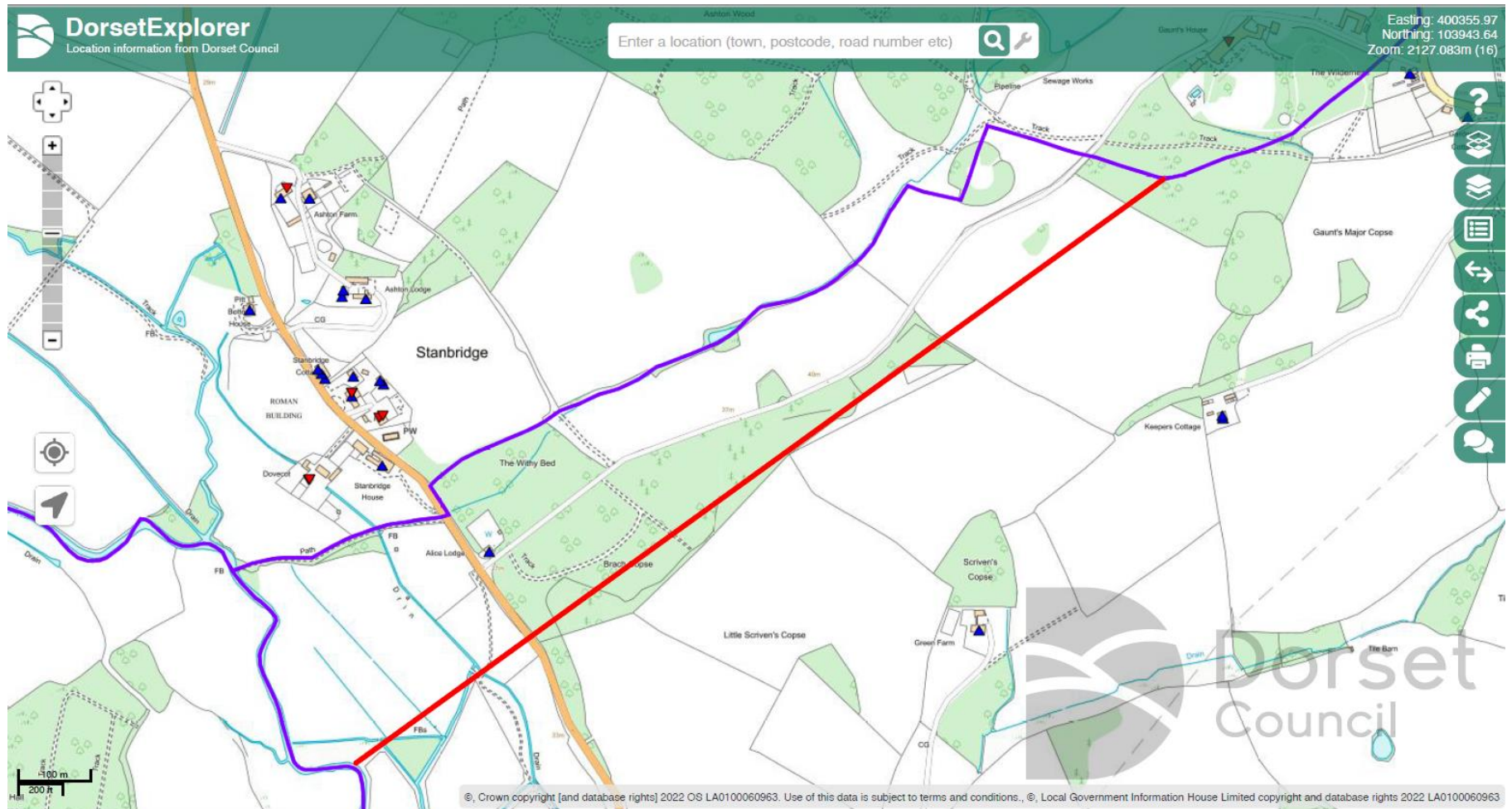
3. Dorset Explorer – Central



4. Dorset Explorer - Gaunts



5. Dorset Explorer – West



Other responses received that don't support either Weymouth Option 1 or Weymouth Option 2

Response from Weymouth Town Councillor David Northam – Wey Valley Ward

Personal Response to Community Governance Review Consultation: Stage 1

Weymouth Chickereil and Winterborne Farringdon

By Councillor David Northam-Wey Valley Ward-Weymouth Town Council.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the Stage 1 Proposals for Weymouth. I OPPOSE the 2 Options recommended for Weymouth. I support Option A 1st Preference proposed by Weymouth Town Council on 22nd Dec.

The Dorset Council Consultation Process is fundamentally flawed on 5 counts

1. Dorset Council fixing the maximum number of councillors to 24.

Paragraph 14.2 of the review document wrongly asserts that NALC guidance indicates a maximum of 25 councillors. WTC sought clarification from NALC who state that this is no longer NALC guidance and has not been for a number of years and state they have no intention of setting such guidance as 'the decision on councillor numbers should be made locally based on legislation and local context and needs.' Both of the 2 options proposed by Dorset Council propose reducing the current number of councillors from 29 to 24. There is no explanation as to why this is considered necessary – this approach to the consultation will pre-dispose responders' to the consultation to considering that 25 is the maximum number.

2. Predisposition of Dorset Council Cabinet member Cllr Ferrari.

Councillor Ferrari, a member of the Dorset Council conducting the CGR, stated at a Full Council meeting on 22nd of December and repeated this in the Dorset Echo on 24th December that he stood for election to Dorset Council in 2019 with a pledge to reduce the number of councillors. He is not listening to the arguments and is pre-disposed to the arguments being made and is not engaging in a meaningful consultation.

3. Dorset Council basing the warding on Dorset Council ward boundaries.

Cllr Flowers, the Dorset Council Leader, stated at a public meeting with Weymouth Town Council on 13th Dec that he would not consider changing the DC ward boundaries. This is stated in the consultation as a principle for the review 'Dorset Council adopted a principle that it would not create a situation where parish boundaries were crossed by Dorset Council ward boundaries.'

This is contrary to the practice of the LGBCE normally use parish boundaries and wards as the building blocks for their Electoral Reviews of upper boundaries.

LGBCE have stated that there is not a duty on Dorset Council to make parish wards or parishes coterminous with district ward boundaries.

4. Lack of consideration of alternative options

The options presented largely ignores the submission previously made by Weymouth Town Council for 14 wards and 30 councillors based on growth of the town beyond its 1933 boundary-equality of representation across wards and the number of councillors reflecting Weymouth being the largest urban area in within Dorset Unitary domain.

5. Omission of Littlemoor Ward from Appendix 3

Appendix 3 omits Littlemoor Ward from the table of wards in Weymouth. This omits the 2 councillors within that ward and fails to provide electoral data of LIT2 and LIT3 for electoral comparison – this is estimated to be nearly 3000 electors.

[Proposed Area, Size and Warding for Weymouth Town Council.](#)

The following paragraphs provide the basis for objection to the Dorset Council proposed Options 1 and 2.

Option 1 and 2 only differ in respect to the extent in which the south western boundary takes into account the post 1933 developments; Option 1 better representing the full scope of this. The DC wards set in 2019 did not include the whole of Weymouth within a set of DC wards. This has caused confusion to residents of Nottingham and Lanehouse who are in Chickerell Dorset Council ward and Weymouth Town Council. In addition residents east of the railway line and north of Littlemoor Road find themselves in Winterborne and Broadmayne wards whilst being fully connected to Weymouth.

[Proposed revision of Weymouth Town Area.](#)

Option 1 does recognise much of the growth of Weymouth since the Town Boundary was set in 1933 by including growth on the south western boundary of the town into Chickerell Ward and acknowledges the similar growth east of the Railway Line and north of Littlemoor Road and the Littlemoor Urban Extension for which development is going through planning and a significant part has received Outline Planning Permission. This proposed external boundary is broadly supported. I support Weymouth Town Council's proposal agreed on 21st Dec at Full Council to move the boundary with Portland Town to the new Ferry bridge over the fleet linking Weymouth and Portland from the historic line of the old Ferry bridge.

However, there is an opportunity to address the Northern Boundary of Weymouth by considering this to lie along the South Dorset Ridgeway following the track and road from Northdown Farm westwards past Down Farm across the bridge over the relief road to the track running westwards. This unifies the northern boundary in a highly visible way and brings the small community of Bincombe within Weymouth to which all its road access and services are connected.

Determining a new boundary between Weymouth Town and Chickerell Town is going to be contentious. However, it is incontestable that the current boundary is out of date with instances of houses being divided by the line. Coherence of housing blocks and road and pedestrian linkages supports the proposed division. A more radical view would be to accept that Charleston has more shared interests with neighbouring Westham than with Chickerell and to move the boundary to include Budmouth School and the Granby Industrial Estate to be within Weymouth given that the majority of the children and workers in these areas live in Weymouth. The new developments being built and proposed to the West of Southill will also look to Southill and Weymouth for their services and facilities and are connected to Southill rather than Chickerell. **Option 1 external boundary is broadly supported.**

Option 2 only recognises the growth north of Littlemoor Road and the current boundary of Westham West WTC ward. **Option 2 external boundary is not supported..**

Size of Weymouth Town Council

The proposal to reduce the number of councillors to 24 is objected to. Dorset Council provide no rationale for this decision.

The population of Weymouth has only increased by a small percentage over the last 5 years but has significantly increased since 1933 when the Council was first established in its current boundary. Option 1 brings over 2,200 additional electors into Weymouth Town bringing the total number of electors from the 43,800 listed in Appendix 3. This is more than double that of Dorchester which elects 20 councillors. The population per councillor (assuming the current 29 councillors) for Weymouth is 1830 while for Dorchester it is 1070. Unlike Dorset Council ward members are only given an allowance of £1,000 – so the cost to the council is not a factor. Weymouth Town Council operates more services and a greater scale than other towns oversight of the spending is provided by the Town Council who operate a committee system open to all councillors ensuring a spread of views. In terms of local electoral equality, there is a significant difference between a voter in Dorchester compared with Weymouth. I support Weymouth Town Council's recommendation for an increase to 30 councillors to account for the new area boundary.

Having a high number of councillors encourages candidates to stand by keeping the load within each ward to a manageable number. Unlike other Towns the seats in main and bye-elections have all been contested. Having smaller wards enables candidates to stand who offer a diverse range of characteristics and electoral pledges. The larger a ward the more effort is required to campaign and communicate with residents.

Since its inception in 1933 Weymouth has favoured wards having at most 3 councillors and preferably 2 councillors. It is good that in this new proposal has recognised that the 7 wards, as previously proposed by Dorset Council, was insufficient and the new proposal is for 13 wards. However this includes anomalous wards of Nottingham which currently only has 177 electors and 'Lanehouse and Chickerell' which is the south-western growth of Weymouth but is not a community in itself.

The neighbourhood plan identified more than 25 distinct communities within Weymouth. A more equitable basis of warding would be 15 wards of 2 councillors totalling 30 councillors.

I oppose both Option 1 and Option 2 ward boundaries for several reasons;

1. They are predicated on fitting within Dorset Council's larger ward boundaries which divide extant distinct communities in Weymouth.
2. There was considerable debate and dissent by W&PBC councillors in 1998 when the Dorset Council Unitary boundaries were imposed by the BCE on the basis of achieving equality of representation across the new Unitary wards. At this time, W&PBC were concerned that the new DC wards did not represent communities and shared interests. They proposed having more wards with the single councillors but this was rejected by the Boundary Commission.
3. As stated in paragraph 161 of the LGBCE Guidance of 2010-this clearly states that the **principal consideration for urban parishes should be a focus on locality and each locality should have its own sense of identity**. Weymouth is the largest urban area in Dorset Council and has distinct and separate communities/localities with their own identity and interests who share an allegiance to the Town of Weymouth. The new proposed Option 1 ward of Lanehouse and Chickerell does not represent a locality and has no sense of identity.
4. Dorset Council has chosen to give precedence to paragraph 164 for its own convenience, ie following DC ward boundaries, rather than addressing the needs of the communities within Weymouth and the local Town Council. I support the boundaries proposed by Weymouth Town Council as Option A 1st Preference – I do not support the 2nd Preference.
5. Dorset Council has not given equal consideration to paragraph 161 ,162-163-164-165-166-and 167. These considerations are addressed as follows:
 - a. 162 which talks of wards having clear community identity and shared interests. The proposed new ward of Lanehouse & Chickerell does not do this. Its boundary represents administrative convenience. Within the ward there are 3 distinct communities which have no shared interests;
 - i. Lanehouse the development along Lanehouse Road and to the East of Lanehouse Road are within Westham West ward of Weymouth Town Council and the newer development West of Lanehouse Road use facilities on Lanehouse Road including shops-churches-laundrette-buses.
 - ii. The newer estate at Cobham Drive is bounded on its western edge by the Granby Industrial Estate.
 - iii. The development west of Radipole Lane which covers the new old peoples home and the proposed new housing development. This new development will utilise the community facilities and services within Southill rather than Lanehouse.
 - iv. The Littlemoor and Preston communities are hugely different with Index Of Multiple deprivations at opposite ends of the scale. Preston as a very old population whilst Littlemoor has one of the youngest in Dorset. The new development north of Littlemoor provides a further opportunity for strengthening this community with sites for employment and community facilities. Littlemoor and Preston should be separate wards.
 - v. The Rodwell and Wyke communities are historically separate but urban development as blurred the boundaries. The Weymouth Town Council

- b. 163 which talks of boundaries needing to be easily identifiable which do not divide communities. The Weymouth Town Council recommendations follow natural features or man-made boundaries where possible and embrace communities which have identity.
- c. 164 consider desirability of dividing high level boundaries when setting Parish ward boundaries. This is a consideration not a mandate.
- d. 165 give consideration of level of representation between each ward and the number of electors they represent. The current ward boundaries provide electoral equality (+/- 10% of average number of electors/councillor) with the exception of one ward which is 11% below the mean. But the new ward boundaries in Option 1 and 2 do not with 5 wards in Option 1 greater 10% difference. Creating a new ward for Nottingham with only 177 electors is not democratically equitable – it would be better for this area to be linked with the adjacent Wey Valley ward or Upwey & Broadway ward. **Both Option boundaries are electorally unacceptable when boundaries could be adjusted to provide electoral equality.**

Response from Winterborne Farringdon Parish Council

Winterborne Farringdon Group of Parish Councils submission to Community Governance Review

The position of Winterborne Farringdon Group of Parish Councils [WFGPC] remains as submitted to the previous 2020/21 Review. Further discussions with Weymouth Town Council [WTC] confirm that we are likeminded **aside from the emphasis** that we, WFGPC, place on remaining in step with Dorset Council [DC] ward boundaries where they involve existing populated areas.

So, **WFGPC agree** with WTC (and the DC proposal) that the southern boundary of Bincombe should be shifted north to encompass the whole of the proposed ‘North of Littlemoor’ development area [marked D1 and D2 on the accompanying map] but **WFGPC oppose** the transfer of the existing populated area [C on the map comprising some 190 dwellings] to WTC until such time as the DC ward boundaries can be realigned in concert. WFGPC believe that, while LGBCE might be relaxed about an adjustment to ward boundaries where there is currently no population, LGBCE would be reluctant to allow changes involving current populations that would undermine the carefully constructed electoral equality of DC wards so soon after establishment.

A side issue for WFGPC is that its remaining population were area C to be removed to WTC, would be too low to sustain the overheads (clerk, venue etc.) even of quarterly meetings. So, de-grouping WFGPC and just holding 5 annual Parish Meetings might still be necessary.

While a hybrid solution, having area C in WTC for parish/town level governance but in Winterborne & Broadmayne ward for DC governance, is technically possible [Nottingham is a current example], it does nothing for clarity of local governance and should be avoided if possible.

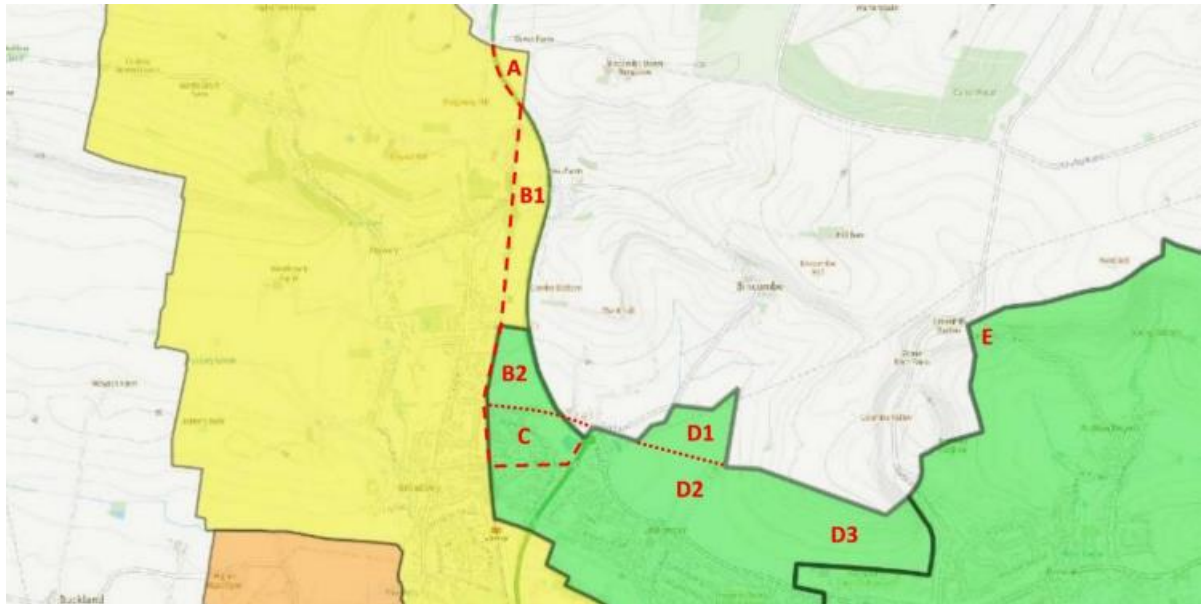
ANNEX – Detailed comments (repeated for the record)

1. Boundaries common to WFGPC and WTC

Where WFGPC share a common boundary with WTC, we are in agreement with the exception of the disposal of area C explained above and knock on effects on B1 and B2.

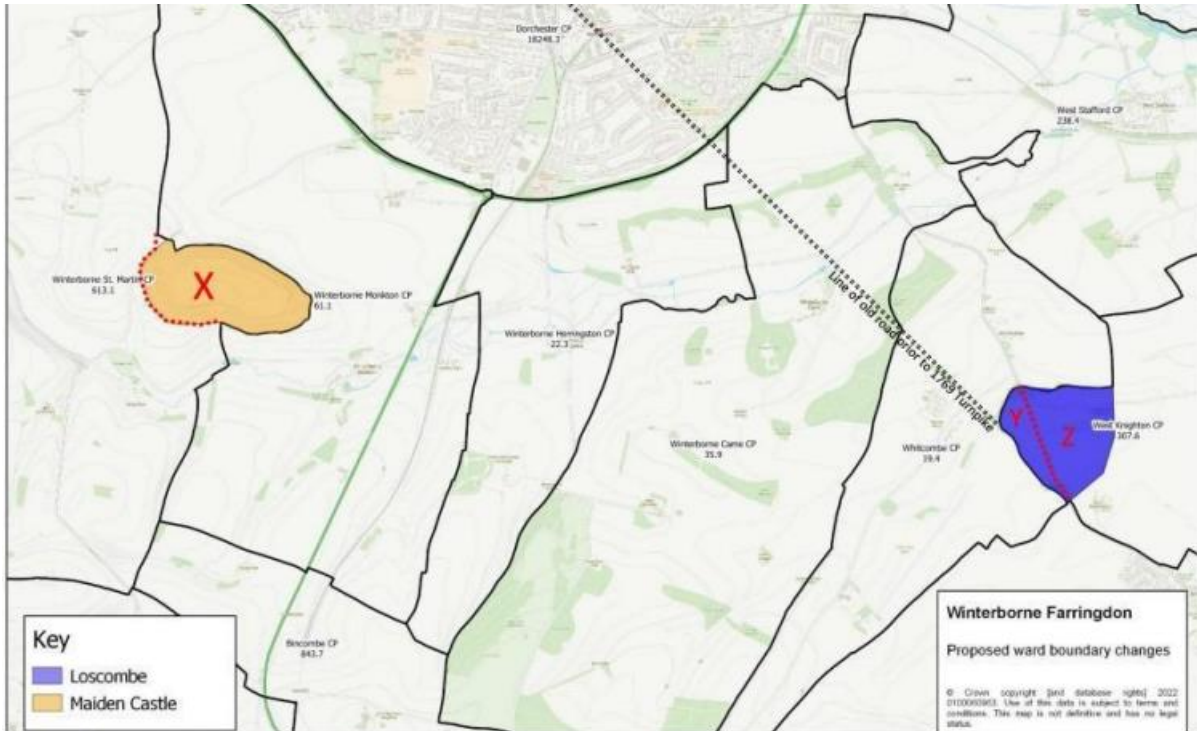
- A. The E boundary of the small area denoted A on the accompanying map follows the line of the railway in a tunnel so is invisible on the ground. **WFGPC and WTC are agreed** that the boundary should be moved W to the line of the new A354.
- B. WTC suggest that the 2 largely unpopulated areas marked B1 and B2 on the accompanying map be taken into WTC (Upwey & Broadwey and Littlemoor & Preston wards respectively) arguing that the new A354 is a more visible boundary. **WFGPC dissent** both because:
 - i. the railway, emerging at that point onto a high embankment, is a far more prominent boundary than the A354 where considerable efforts were made during construction to blend it into the scenically important rural approach from the Ridgeway to Weymouth, and;
 - ii. inclusion of B1 and B2 into WTC would preclude the area marked C remaining within in Bincombe parish, so decisions B and C are linked.
- C. WFGPC, while recognising the long term logic, differ from WTC over the timing as explained in the main text above.
- D. **WFGPC and WTC are agreed** that proper community governance at the town/parish level for the new developments marked D1 and D2 on the accompanying map can best be provided by WTC. Within that position there are nuances:

- i. D1 is currently proposed for educational use and thus raising no community governance issues so WFGPC would be relaxed if it had to remain Bincombe;
 - ii. WFGPC is most concerned about D2 where all the housing is to be located. **D2 remaining in WFGPC would so unbalance the demographics of WFGPC that it would no longer be a viable as a Group.**
 - iii. D3, the south slope of 'the Tout', is not currently proposed for housing and WFGPC would hope that it remains part of the AONB; but geography links it with Preston so WFGPC has no objection the proposed move of D3 to WTC.
- E. WFGPC has no objections to the unexplained boundary anomaly at the NW end of Plaisters Lane (only introduced in 1933) being rectified.



2. Boundaries with other parish/town councils

WFGPC's boundaries with Martinstown PC and Knightsford GPC, are generally satisfactory but the Review has highlighted two geographic anomalies; neither raises significant Community Governance issues but WFGPC would be happy to see the anomalies rectified. As a minimum WFGPC would like to see the SW boundary of Loscombe shifted east to the A352 (the line of the old road which forms the parish boundary was moved in 1769) to allow WFGPC better to represent parishioners whose house entrance onto a busy road otherwise lies in a different parish.



Please note - references to lettered areas in this response should be checked against the drawings included within the full text of this council's response, which is attached.

Response from Weymouth Town Council

Weymouth Town Council Response to Dorset Council's 2023 Community Governance Review

Community Engagement

The Council feels that the principal consideration should be #161 in the LGBCE guidance that urban parishes warding should focus on locality, whether this be a housing estate, a shopping centre or community facilities, with each locality likely to have its own sense of identity.

Weymouth Town Council (WTC) has met with our neighbours Chickerell Town Council (CTC) to the west, and Winterbourne Farrington Group Parish Council (WFPC) to the north.

WTC met amicably with WFPC on 2 December. Views had not changed since the previous meeting last summer. WTC and WFPC agree to Dorset Council's proposed changes to the top of Plaisters Lane in Sutton Poyntz, the inclusion of the new development at Littlemoor. The proposed development at Littlemoor is urban in nature and will identify with Weymouth Town. WFPC have made clear, that they feel a development of this size would overwhelm the rural parish of WFPC. WTC and WFPC also agree that the small triangle of land, on Ridgeway Hill, that has been severed from Weymouth by the 2011 relief road, should be transferred to WFPC. WTC and WFPC agreed, to disagree about Nightingale Drive. WTC believes it's urban in nature, and part of Weymouth. WFPC believe, whilst urban in nature, without Nightingale Drive WFPC would be unsustainable.

WTC met with CTC on 8 December, also an amicable meeting. WTC and CTC agreed that the communities along the west of Weymouth should not be split by a boundary line. We discussed different ways this could be achieved, CTC took away some ideas from the meeting, however, CTC was unable to meet with WTC again before the deadline for replies to this consultation.

Weymouth Town Council hosted a Public Meeting on 13 December, attended by Cllr Spencer Flower, officers, and several other members of the steering group. This was an opportunity to present the two DC proposals to residents and listen to residents' views. Many WTC councillors were present to listen to views. A range of views were presented, particularly around the Littlemoor area.

With respect to the Littlemoor urban expansion, The planning application (WP/16/00253/OUT) shows significant recent commitment by the developer – 45 detailed documents added to an already-approved application, in the last month! Whilst there are a small number of people who do not agree with this development taking place at all, WTC acknowledges that it is approved, and will happen. WTC can see the mutual benefits in fully integrating the new houses into the town of Weymouth.

Additional Supporting Information

WTC enquired to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) regarding NALC circular 88/1126 - referred to in Dorset's consultation paper 14.2. and was told:

The advice in circular 88/1126 is no longer published on NALC's website and is not a current NALC policy or advice and has not been for many years. We do not currently have any guidance on councillor numbers and have no plans to produce any. Local councils and their communities are so diverse, the decision on councillor numbers should be made locally based on legislation and local context and needs.

WTC also sought clarity from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), on the best order, or sequencing for boundary reviews. We note that the LGBCE normally use the parish boundaries and wards as the building blocks for their Electoral Reviews of upper boundaries. LGBCE responded to us saying:

Parishes are the building blocks for electoral reviews that this Commission conducts. District wards are typically the building blocks for parliamentary reviews.

When making recommendations for parish electoral arrangements as part of a CGR there is not a duty on Dorset Council to make parish wards or parishes coterminous with district ward boundaries. This is different to the duty that this Commission has when it conducts reviews – we must create parish wards when we recommend a district ward that cut across a parish. It is for Dorset Council to consider whether it wishes to achieve coterminous boundaries. It does not have to do this in the same way across the authority.

One often cited reason for reducing councillor numbers is; if there are insufficient candidates to stand, parish councils can end up with empty seats, or many co-opted councillors. Whilst this might be the case with some other town and parishes, at the last full elections for WTC in 2019, 70 different candidates contested the 29 seats – showing a healthy level of democracy for this council at this size. Weymouth Town Council currently has a wide range of councillors who bring an amazing depth of knowledge and experience to the town, benefiting our residents. Since Weymouth Town Council came into being in 2019 there have been three by-elections, all of which have been contested.

Opportunity to extend this Review

Weymouth has an anomalous boundary at our southern border. The extant boundary between Weymouth Town Council and Portland Town Council is located at the centre point of the previous Ferry Bridge at Small Mouth Cove. This bridge was demolished in 1985 and replaced with the new Ferry Bridge 100m to the south. This boundary should have been fixed during the Weymouth and Portland Borough days; however, it was never addressed. The extant boundary is marked by a single road sign, otherwise this boundary is in a nonsensical location. This boundary, although not affecting a single residential property, is contrary to paragraphs 16 & 58 of the CGR guidance. This old, anomalous boundary continues to influence both the upper boundaries, and census data based on political boundaries. Any reasonable person would expect the boundary to be at the centre of the current bridge, not the centre of a bridge that was demolished over 37 years ago.



Weymouth Town Council formally requests that the steering group updates the CGR terms of reference, to include the Ferry Bridge boundary. This question should be put out to public consultation, in the next round of this CGR.

Comments on town ward seat numbers

WTC strongly objects to large “multi-member” wards. In wards with four or more seats, it’s difficult for residents to assign responsibility, and it might allow some councillors to “hide” behind others. With too larger wards, in an urban area, there is disconnect between councillors and their communities, and some councillors simply cannot be held to account.

WTC also does not support single member wards at parish level. Parish council are the lowest level of UK democracy, and the starting point for politics. In particular, for first time councillors, it’s helpful to have peer-councillors in the same ward to support and share the load. Parish councillors are elected officials who give freely of their time to support their community, and from time-to-time, may well have personal, family or other commitments, or period of sickness. Two or Three member wards provide that extra level of cover that protects both councillors and residents.

For these reasons, WTC supports an ideal ward size of 2 or 3 members for Weymouth. Some of the compromises below do not meet this size requirement.

Weymouth is a diverse town, now with a population of 56,000 (census 2021), with many distinct sub-communities. Parish wards should not be too large, and Parish Councillors should be part of their community, with good local knowledge.

Being a Parish Councillor is a vital community role, and we want to encourage as diverse range of candidates as possible to represent their communities. Having sufficient Councillors to share the work, and avoid the role being over onerous, helps to encourage a wider range of demographics to stand as candidates – particularly women, carers, those with disabilities, and working-age candidates.

WTC has benchmarked the number of councillors per population in other larger town councils across Dorset (2019 Dorset Explorer figures – NB population figures, as elector data is not publicly available):

Town Council	Population	Number of Councillors	Population/Councillor
Bridport	14,700	18	816
Dorchester	21,400	20	1070
Portland	13,300	14	950
Swanage	9,800	12	816
Weymouth	53,200	29	1830

We feel that WTC provides as many, or more services to our residents as other Dorset towns – but we have a much lower level of representation than other towns.

Our preference for 29 or so Councillors, would enable us to have smaller wards aligned to communities, and maintains the current level representation, but it still a higher level of representation than any other town in Dorset.

DC Option 2 for Weymouth

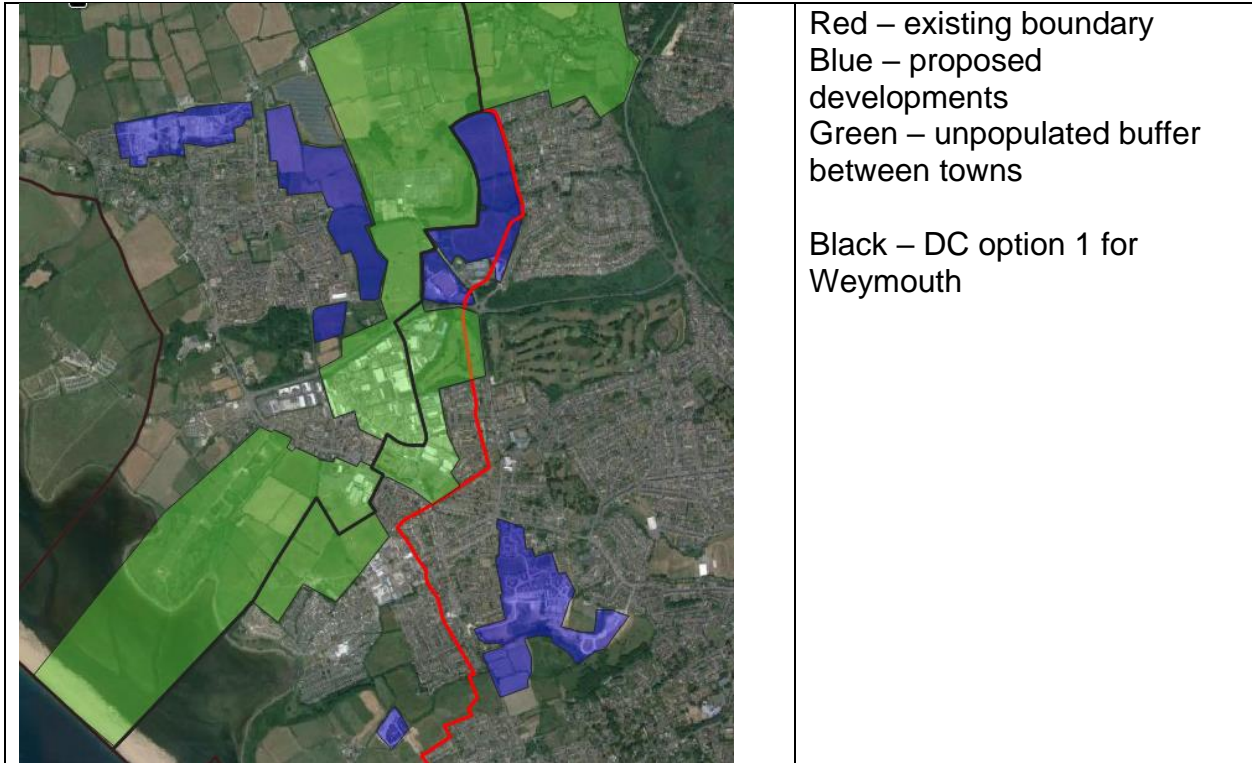
WTC cannot support option 2 for the following reasons:

It completely fails to fix the historic anomalies along the western border of Weymouth. This is contrary to paragraphs 15, 16, 17, 26, 84 & 85 of the guidance on Community Governance Reviews (CGR). The Cobham Drive and Littlesea estates have been divided by the West Dorset/WPBC boundary since their construction in the late 20th century. These need to be addressed, and united at this review.

The proposed Nottingham and Lanehouse WTC wards present very poor electoral equality compared to the rest of Weymouth. The electors/seat for these two wards at 498 and 1113 are a very long way away from the average for the other wards in this proposal which is 1943. This would give Nottingham four times the representation, and Lanehouse double the representation, of the electors in other eleven wards of Weymouth.

DC Option 1 for Weymouth

WTC broadly supports the external boundary in option 1 for Weymouth. This option addresses historical anomalies caused by developments that have straddled the boundary in the last 50 years. This option also prevents anomalies in the next few years, where there are proposed developments extending Southill and off Camp Road. This option creates an unpopulated buffer between the towns of Weymouth and Chickerell, this follows the guidance paragraph 83.



WTC proposes two minor boundary modifications to Proposal 1

Firstly, as above, WTC request the Terms of Reference are updated to include the Ferry Bridge boundary. Whilst this would not affect a single resident, it does influence upper boundaries and census output areas.

The second minor change is a small triangle, now cut off by the relief road. It was formerly marked by the line of the railway tunnel underground, but the 2011 relief road completely severs it from Weymouth. WTC agrees with WFPC, that this triangle should transfer to WFPC. This is also a minor change that would affect zero residents.



The proposed Nottingham ward has four times the representation of other wards, is unacceptable to Weymouth Town Council. There is no justification for electoral inequality on this scale, Nottingham should be (a separate polling district) within Upwey and Broadwey town council ward. The proposal shows other small areas being included in town wards along the northern side, so this is not impossible. This is compatible with the advice received from the LGBCE, the same as the proposed additional polling districts to the north side.

Weymouth Town Council provides two improved warding options for consultation:

First Preference Proposal

Weymouth Town Council proposes our first preference warding. This is very much our preferred option. This is for 30 seats in 14 wards. Average electors per seat 1436. This proposal is based on communities and aims to address some of the issues in the upper boundaries. This forms the best building-blocks for future reviews of upper boundaries. These proposed wards have the best electoral quality.

See attached map “WTC first preference”

name	electors	seats	n/seat	var to ave
Broadwey, Nottingham & Upwey	2861	2	1430	-6
Preston & Sutton Poyntz	4395	3	1465	28
Wey Valley	3004	2	1502	65
Littlemoor	3737	3	1245	-191
Lodmoor	3310	2	1655	218
Melcombe Regis	3290	2	1645	208
Rodwell	2856	2	1428	-8
Westham East	3061	2	1530	93
Westham North	3136	2	1568	131
Wyke Regis East	3119	2	1559	122
Pye Hill	2919	2	1459	22
Wyke Regis West	2960	2	1480	43
Lanehouse & Westham West	2207	2	1103	-333
Southill & Radipole Village	2228	2	1114	-322

Second Preference Proposal

Weymouth Town Council proposes our second preference warding. The Council would rather our first proposal was taken forward but recognise we need to clarify our position should a focus on DC boundaries be retained and our request focus on natural communities not be adopted. This is for 28 seats in 12 wards. Average electors per seat 1538. This proposal is primarily based on DC ward boundaries and does not address some of the issues in the upper boundaries. These do not form suitable build-blocks for a review of the upper boundaries, and would require further review, via another CGR before the next LGBCE review. These proposed wards have weaker electoral equality than our first preference. This option includes two wards that require naming and Weymouth Town Council are happy to provide suggestions if required.

See attached map “WTC second preference”

name	electors	seats	n/seat	var to ave
Preston	4395	3	1465	-73
Upwey & Broadwey	4024	3	1341	-197
Melcombe Regis	3511	2	1755	216
Westham East	3226	2	1613	74
Lanehouse	1803	1	1803	264
ward A	4651	3	1550	11
Southill	2824	2	1412	-126
Littlemoor	3739	2	1869	330
Westham West	4006	3	1335	-203
Rodwell	3064	2	1532	-6
Wyke Regis	3727	2	1863	324
ward B	4113	3	1371	-167

WTC first preference



WTC second preference

