

**Electoral review of Sedgemoor District Council – Draft
Recommendations**

Response from Wembdon Parish Council

The proposal that all wards should have virtually equal numbers of electors, giving equal representation at all levels of Government (administration) is ideal if voting was compulsory.

The position today is, in our opinion, based on areas having an affinity with their representatives. Thus definite boundaries are important in deciding electoral wards. These boundaries, natural or man-made, are obvious everywhere.

The division between Bridgwater and Wembdon PC has always been obvious – farmland! The construction of the NDR/Homberg Way on green land has created a great man-made boundary between the two areas. Today the houses to the South of the NDR are adjoining Bridgwater and have more in common with the urban area rather than semi-rural Wembdon. Shops, public Houses, Doctors and entertainments are closer to Bridgwater than Wembdon.

It is our belief that, as you say, the estates South of the NDR should be part of North Bridgwater both for District Council and Town Council wards. We also recommend that the Quantock Meadow Estate, north of the A39 and adjoining Wembdon with footpaths (nearer facilities in Wembdon) would be better served by Wembdon PC than Bridgwater Town Council or Sedgemoor District Council.

We would therefore respectfully suggest that our proposals would make the old Sandford Ward, consisting of Wembdon, Perry Green and Chilton Trinity a viable area for one District Councillor and no need to involve the completely rural community of Cannington.

Parish Council of Wembdon

We submit that, despite your comment that your brief does not involve parish boundaries, you have by suggesting Bridgwater North D.C. Ward takes what is now part of Wembdon P.C. the question of parish boundary changes has been opened.

We have, as already proposed, given, in our opinion, a solution to the NDR/Homberg Way development. We feel that we should mention that the first development South of the NDR, built many years ago, was never considered as anywhere else than Bridgwater.

Finally, for over 30 years Wembdon P.C. has been made up of representatives from all over the parish area naturally and not by outside engineering. It is only in the last five years or so that the area, you wish to add to North Bridgwater, has not been directly represented on the PC despite our efforts to attract them, i.e. a new parish notice board to stimulate their interest. We are sure that in their eyes Bridgwater is their mentor.

Kevin Thorpe
Clerk, Wembdon Parish Council
15 July 2010