

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.248**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO.248

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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To the Rt Hon Merlyn Rees, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out a review of the electoral arrangements for the London Borough of Barnet, in accordance with the requirements of section 50(3) of the Local Government Act 1972, present our proposals for the future electoral arrangements for that London Borough.
2. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 10 June 1975 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Barnet Borough Council, copies of which were circulated to the London Boroughs Association, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, the headquarters of the main political parties and the Greater London Regional Council of the Labour Party. Copies were also sent to the editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and of the local government press. Notices inserted in the local press announced the start of the review and invited comments from members of the public and from any interested bodies.
3. Barnet Borough Council were invited to prepare a draft scheme of representation for our consideration. In doing so, they were asked to observe the rules laid down in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 and the guidelines which we set out in our letter of 10 June 1975 about the proposed size of the council and the proposed number of councillors for each ward.

They were asked also to take into account any views expressed to them following their consultation with local interests. We therefore asked that they should publish details of their provisional proposals about six weeks before they submitted their draft scheme to us, thus allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. On 24 February 1976 Barnet Borough Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the borough into 20 wards each returning 3 councillors to form a council of 60 members.

5. We examined the Council's draft scheme together with an alternative scheme which had been submitted to us by a local political party. We also considered representations from a local ratepayers' association recommending a system of single-member wards and a council of 60 members or less.

6. We noted that the Council's draft scheme included a number of wards in which the standard of equality of representation could be improved.

We considered whether we should adopt the alternative scheme, for 70 single-member wards, but we decided that we would prefer the Council's scheme, if it could be suitably modified. We therefore invited the Council to reconsider their draft scheme and to suggest alterations to bring the scheme into line with the standard of equality of representation required by the 1972 Act.

7. On 24 November 1976 the Borough Council presented their revised draft scheme which, like their original scheme, proposed 20 wards each returning 3 councillors to form a council of 60 members.

8. We examined the revised scheme, together with four letters which had been sent to the Council and a revised alternative scheme, providing for 35 2-member wards, submitted to us by the political party mentioned in paragraph 5 above.

9. We concluded that the Council's revised draft scheme presented a satisfactory basis for representation in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 and our guidelines. We adopted it and formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

10. On 25 January 1977 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the Council's draft scheme. The Council were asked to make these draft proposals, and the accompanying map which defined the proposed ward boundaries, available for inspection at their main offices. Representations on our draft proposals were invited from those to whom they were circulated and, by public notices, from other members of the public and interested bodies. We asked for comments to reach us by 21 March 1977.

11. Barnet Borough Council informed us that they supported the draft proposals.

12. The local political party which had sent us two alternative schemes, said that they considered those schemes would provide fairer representation than the draft proposals; they also contended that a borough the size of Barnet should have a council larger than 60 members. A local resident wrote to us objecting to the proposed boundary between the Arkley and Hadley wards and a local ratepayers' association made representations for a council preferably smaller than 60 members and a system of 2-member wards.

13. In view of these comments, we decided that we needed further information to enable us to reach a conclusion. Therefore, in accordance with section 65(2) of the 1972 Act and at our request, Mr R E Millard, CBE was appointed as Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

14. The Assistant Commissioner held a local meeting at the Town Hall, Hendon on 19 May 1977. A copy of his report to us/is attached at Schedule 1 to this report.
(without Appendix 2)

15. In the light of the discussion at the meeting and of his inspection of the areas concerned, the Assistant Commissioner recommended that the draft proposals should be confirmed subject to three boundary adjustments, one between the Hadley and Arkley wards, one between the Burnt Oak and Edgware wards and one between the West Hendon and Golders Green wards.

16. We reviewed our draft proposals in the light of the comments which we had received and of the report of the Assistant Commissioner. We concluded that the amendments recommended by the Assistant Commissioner should be accepted. Subject to these modifications, we decided that our draft proposals should be confirmed as our final proposals.

17. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 2 and 3 to this report. Schedule 2 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. Schedule 3 is a description of the areas of the new wards. The boundaries of the new wards are defined on the attached map.

PUBLICATION

18. In accordance with section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, a copy of this report and a copy of the map are being sent to Barnet Borough Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report (without map) are being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

L.S.

Signed:

EDMUND COMPTON (Chairman)

JOHN M RANKIN (Deputy Chairman)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

J T BROCKBANK

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

R R THORNTON

ANDREW WHEATLEY

N DIGNEY (Secretary)

28 July 1977

TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS
IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

1. GENERAL

I have to report that on the 19th May, 1977, I held the local meeting to hear representations about the Commission's draft proposals for the future electoral arrangements for the London Borough of Barnet. The meeting took place at the Town Hall, Hendon, London, N. W. 4.

2. The names and addresses of those who attended the Meeting, and the interests whom they represented, are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

3. The Commission's draft proposals are set out in Appendix 2 to this report, with the detailed ward boundaries in Annex A to that Appendix.

4. The Commission's draft proposals are identical to the Borough Council's draft scheme.

5. The Borough Council made no comment on the Commission's draft proposals. The principal written representations came from the Borough of Barnet Liberal Party who put forward alternative schemes for one and two member wards, contended that the Council should have seventy, rather than sixty, members and questioned the accuracy of the Borough Council's electorate projections. There was also an objection from Mr. P. J. Morley to the transfer of part of the existing Hadley Ward to the Arkley Ward. The Liberal Party and Mr. Morley both appeared at the local meeting, where some additional oral representations were also made.

6. At the outset of the meeting, Mr. E.M. Bennett, the Chief Executive and Town Clerk, and Mr. L.J. Pym, the Leader of the Council, made opening statements outlining the history of the warding of the Borough and the principles which had guided the Borough Council in the preparation of their draft schemes. The existing twenty three-member wards, providing five wards for each of the four parliamentary constituencies covering the Borough, were formed following a review and public inquiry in 1966, and had been in operation since the 1968 elections. The scheme had the support of all three main political parties and was regarded by the Council as having worked very well indeed. Accordingly, their initial draft scheme, submitted to the Commission in December 1975, provided for retaining the existing pattern of wards in its entirety, except for two very minor boundary adjustments which have at no stage evoked comment. This draft scheme was not acceptable to the Commission because it did not produce the requisite degree of equality of representation in five of the wards, namely Brunswick Park, Burnt Oak, Hadley, West Hendon and Woodhouse.

7. The Commission accordingly invited the Council to suggest alterations in their draft scheme to produce a more equitable distribution of electorate in relation to these five wards. This the Council did and submitted to the Commission on the 24th November 1976 their second draft scheme, which was adopted by the Commission as their draft proposals. This second draft scheme provided for changes in the boundaries of four of the five wards criticised by the Commission; though one at least of the alterations (to which I refer later) was made by the Council with the greatest reluctance; the fifth, Woodhouse, was found to have on the register a large number of patients of the Friern Hospital who were not entitled to be registered. This error had been partially corrected in the 1977 register, which showed a consequent fall of 676 electors, and there would be a further fall in later years. With this reduction, the Woodhouse ward came within acceptable limits.

8. Mr. Pym, in generally commending the draft proposals, said that the Council considered that the least possible change in ward boundaries was in the best interests of the electors and that community of interest within the wards, and the use of the same polling districts and polling places, were important factors which, in their view, outweighed the achievement of parity of electorate for its own sake. For these reasons the Council continued to believe that a 60 member Council, made up of 20 three-member wards best served the interests of the Borough and its electorate.

9. SIZE OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. J. F. Hearn, Secretary of the Liberal Party Consultative Committee for the four Barnet constituencies, advanced the Liberal case for a Council of 70 members, rather than the 60 provided for in the Commission's draft proposals and favoured by the Borough Council. The Liberals pointed out that the present size of the Council, with 60 elected members and 10 aldermen, was the maximum permitted under the London Government Act 1963; the abolition of aldermen put a different complexion on the situation and this was clearly recognised in the Commission's guidelines which allowed a future Council of up to 70. As Barnet is one of the largest London Boroughs, they thought it appropriate that there should be this new maximum number of members.

10. On the practical side, the Liberals stated that the present meeting pattern, based on the Council's practice of meeting every five weeks, meant that each member was due to attend an average of 44 meetings a year. In the Liberal's view, this was as much as members could be expected to do. This meant that, if the total size of the Council were reduced to 60, the Council would have the alternatives of reducing the size of committees or the number of members on each.

11. Comparison with other London Boroughs showed that Enfield and Brent, which were both smaller than Barnet, had increased their elected members from 60 to 66. The wards in Barnet were larger in area and electorate than those of any other London borough. The smaller wards

In the old Barnet produced a higher electoral turnout than that in the then Hendon, but since the adoption of the present pattern in 1967, the turnout in the Barnet area had fallen to the level of Hendon. Finally, Mr. Hearn made the point that it was for the electorate rather than the Council to say whether 60 members gave adequate representation.

12. Mr. Pym, the Leader of the Council, said that they did not anticipate any practical difficulties resulting from a reduction in the total size of the Council from 70 to 60. There was at present an average of 14 or 15 members on each committee and the Council contemplated reducing this number to about 12 when there were no aldermen: this would keep the burden on members to the present level and he did not think that the holding of meetings (often more than one) on 52 evenings a year represented an unduly heavy task. Looking at other London boroughs, the situation in the 30 which had been more or less settled was that the membership averaged 59.6 per Council, divided between 24.4 wards.

13. Mr. Alan Fletcher, representing the Borough of Barnet Conservative Liaison Committee, suggested that the reduction of the total size of the Council from 70 to 60 members made no real difference. It was a matter for the Council to decide how they would do the work with 60 members. As Mr. Pym had already indicated, they contemplated reducing the size of committees. In addition, they intended to reduce the Council's representation on outside bodies, where there were even now difficulties over the attendance of Council representatives due to clashes of dates and times.

14. Mr. E. W. Hill, representing the Hendon North Constituency Labour Party, said that his party had no views on the question as to whether the Council should have 60 or 70 members. Mr. P. J. Morley, who appeared on his own behalf but was a member of the Electoral Reform Society and the Liberal Action Group for Electoral Reform, also had no comment on the size of the Council.

15. Conclusions and Recommendations

There is obvious force in the Liberal arguments for a Council of 70 members, as Barnet is the third largest of the London boroughs

and 70 is the new maximum permissible under the Commission's guidelines. On the other hand there is no particular magic in the figure of 70, and many would hold that a council of 60, with correspondingly smaller committees, could both adequately represent the electorate and conduct its business at least as, if not more, efficiently than one of 70 members.

16. But, in my view, the real weight in favour of a Council of 60 members lies in Mr. Pym's arguments in favour of retaining the existing pattern of 20 three-member wards with the consequent minimum of change and disturbance for the electorate. This is what the Council want and they are quite satisfied that they can perform their task satisfactorily with this number. One might take a different view if one were starting from scratch in framing new wards for the Borough, but in the circumstances of Barnet I am quite satisfied that the arguments against increasing the number of elected members above the present 60 are paramount.

17. I accordingly recommend that there should be no change in the provision in the draft proposals that Barnet should have a Council of 60 members.

18. SIZE OF WARDS

Mr. Hearn, for the Liberals, introduced his party's schemes for a Council of 70 members divided between either 70 one-member wards or 35 two-member wards. He indicated at the outset that he did not propose to pursue the scheme for one-member wards. The Liberals had produced full details of their schemes, with precise ward boundaries shown on maps which were before me. Mr. Hearn made it clear that he was arguing for two-member wards irrespective of the decision as to whether the Council should have 70 or only 60 members: he accepted, however, that if the decision was in favour of 60 members, the Liberal scheme would need recasting. At a later stage he also agreed that, even on the basis of 70 members, his scheme could be improved and could not, therefore, be agreed at the meeting. Mr. Bennett, the Chief Executive, strongly endorsed this view, adding that the Liberal scheme for a 70 member Council with two-member wards would require further careful examination. This

phase of the discussion was accordingly confined to the question of principle as to whether the wards should return two or three members each.

19. The Liberals, in their written representations which Mr. Hearn made clear were the basis of his case, accepted that the existing arrangement of three-member wards throughout the Borough met with general support when it was introduced before the 1968 elections and had been approved by all three main political parties. It was however, the Liberal view that the interests of the electors would best be served by single-member wards (although Mr. Hearn modified this to two-member wards). A variety of reasons were put forward in support of this view: three member wards had resulted in a loss of a sense of truly local representation, councillors representing areas too large for detailed personal knowledge and contact; residents felt removed from the Councillors; residents were less likely to know their local members and felt they were represented by committees rather than individuals; councillors did not feel the same commitment as they would if they were the sole representatives of their areas and had a reduced incentive to work for their constituents; residents tended to be sent from one member to another with their problems; three-member wards tended to encourage councillors to specialise; and the election at the same time of three councillors for an area tended to cause confusion.

20. Mr. Hearn, elaborating his party's written submission, pointed out that the London Boroughs of Enfield and Brent changed from three to two-member wards in 1967 and were retaining the system. Barnet's wards were considerably larger in area and population than those of other London Boroughs. The Royal Commission on Local Government and other bodies had favoured single-member wards.

21. The Friern Barnet Ratepayers' Association, who did not appear at the meeting, had submitted written representations advocating two-member wards.

22. Mr. Moreley, of the Electoral Reform Society, said that, while there were arguments for smaller wards, he favoured larger ones. He thought the proportion of electors effectively represented was more important than the

number of electors per councillor: he favoured proportional representation and one vote per elector in three-member wards.

23. Mr. Hill, for the Hendon North Labour Party, said that his party saw nothing to be gained by changing the existing pattern of three-member wards.

24. Mr. R. Langstone and Mr. Alan Fletcher, both representing the Borough of Barnet Conservative Liaison Committee, spoke in favour of three-member wards. Mr. Langstone said that adequacy of representation depended far more on the personality and other qualities of members than on the size of ward electorates. Mr. Fletcher pointed out that the varying size of wards in Barnet arose from the fact that, while some wards were largely built up, others contained extensive areas of green belt with no electors. In his experience as a councillor for many years, there was team work between the three members representing any ward; it was impossible for any member to be conversant with every aspect of the Council's work but three-member wards meant that each ward was represented on most committees. Mr. Fletcher added that there was a large number of ratepayers and residents associations in the Borough; they were largely tied to the existing wards, though some covered more than one ward and in some cases there were two or more such associations in one ward. These associations made representations and gave advice to members of the Council, and at least one of the ward councillors was expected to attend the annual meetings of each such association. Basically these associations were non-political and contained members of all parties. The Liberals accepted these facts but argued that these associations did not cover the personal representations of individual electors. Mr. Pym and Mr. Fletcher said that this problem was overcome by members holding "surgeries" to which individual electors could bring their problems.

25. Mr. Pym reiterated the point that the three members in a ward tended to work as a team and stressed that this co-operation existed even where the members were not all from one party. Mr. A. J. Freake, an independent member of the Council, agreed with this view. Mr. Pym

also explained that one or more members from each ward maintained close liaison with the appropriate Greater London Council member. The Council also regarded the three-member ward system as important in enabling each ward to be represented on most of the main committees. Finally, he said that the Home Secretary had told the Council in 1965 that it was better to have plural representation of wards to avoid temporary disenfranchisement in the event of death or resignation.

26. Mrs. Monroe Palmer, representing the Hendon South Liberals, expressed the view that the concept of a team of the three-members for one ward did not really work, where the members were of differing political persuasions.

27. Conclusions and Recommendations

There are widely differing views, not only in Barnet but also nationally, as to the desirable number of members to represent a single ward. The Liberals produced a well reasoned case in favour of one - or two - member wards, although they accepted that their predecessors in 1967 had concurred in the then general view that three-member wards best suited the needs of Barnet. While the arguments for one, two or three members per ward may be finely balanced, I am quite clear that no case has been made out to show that the present three-member system in Barnet is unsatisfactory. Indeed it is well established and understood and, apart from other considerations, a change would clearly disturb the present relationship between wards and residents and ratepayers associations. I, therefore, see no reason for change and accordingly recommend that the three-member ward pattern embodied in the draft proposals should not be altered.

29. ELECTORATE PROJECTIONS

The Liberal party had, in their written representations, questioned the Borough Council's electorate projections and sought to show that the likely electorates by 1981 would produce unacceptable disparities in numbers between wards; they submitted a table to substantiate their point. Mr. Hearn, in amplifying their case, explained that he had compiled his table by making the same adjustments in ward electorates as the Borough

Council in cases where the changes were substantial: in other cases he had assumed a static, or near static electorate based on the trends between the 1975 and 1977 registers of electors. Mr. Hearn said that his method was admittedly crude.

30. Mr. C. O. Troll, the Deputy Borough Planning Officer, explained in detail that his estimates of future electorates were based on a demographic projection on the Cohort Survival method, with adjustments in individual wards for likely or known development by the Council and private developers. He said that his results fitted the Greater London Council's projections in their memorandum R.M. 455, though towards the upper end of their range. Mr. Troll explained also a late adjustment he had made in the forecast for West Hendon Ward which increased the total electorate now and later by 610 to allow for some private enterprise development completed much later than at first anticipated. I refer to this adjustment later.

31. Mr. Troll went on to contest the Liberal's method of forecasting and, in particular, to stress that it was unsafe to base projections on short trends of two years. He produced an elaborate graph to illustrate this point.

32. Conclusion

In the light of Mr. Troll's very detailed explanation of the scientific methods he used to make his electorate projections (which I have not thought it necessary to set out at great length), and of Mr. Hearn's acceptance that his own rival method was crude, I have no doubt that the Borough Council's figures are the more reliable. Indeed, I was impressed with the great skill and care which Mr. Troll had employed and I am satisfied that his estimates are as reliable as such estimates can be in a field of notorious uncertainty. I, therefore, see no reason to question the Borough Council's forecast electorates for 1981.

33. WARD BOUNDARIES

The meeting then proceeded to discuss the five material

changes in ward boundaries which the Borough Council had made to meet the Commission's initial criticisms of disparate electorates and which had all been incorporated in the Commission's draft proposals. Four of these provoked objections with which I will deal seriatim: there were no other objections to detailed ward boundaries.

34. The Hadley-Arkley Boundary

The draft proposals provide that the part of Hadley ward north of Cherry Hill and west of the A1000, known as the Pricklers Hill area, should be transferred to the Arkley ward. Mr. P.J. Morley, who lives in the area objected strongly to the proposal on a variety of grounds. First, X those living in the area had strong local links with the remainder of the Hadley ward: they were included in the Hadley ward residents association, used the shops on the other side of the A1000 and belonged socially to the Hadley ward. There was no link with the Sherwoods Way area on the other side of the rail/^{way} and the only access to it was by the bridge at the north end of the area to be transferred, so that some residents would have about a mile to go to reach the polling station.

35. Mr. A.J. Freake, the independent Borough Councillor representing the Hadley ward, submitted the results of a poll he had conducted among residents in the area proposed to be transferred from Hadley to Arkley ward. I was told that, of the replies received from 37 properties, 5 were in favour of the change and 32 against.

36. Mr. Pym reiterated that this change was one which the Council put forward with the greatest reluctance. They regarded it as disregarding the more desirable and well established existing boundaries, with little or no benefit resulting for the community.

37. Mr. Bennett, the Chief Executive, said that while every effort would be made to find a new polling station in the area to avoid electors having to walk up to a mile to the polling station west of the railway, this presented difficulties as the area was purely residential and entirely built up. The number of electors involved was 608.

38. As the object of this change is to reduce the electorate of the Hadley ward to a more acceptable level, a number of other possible boundary changes to achieve this end were canvassed in the discussion. None of these, however, were open to less objection on various grounds than the proposed Pricklers Hill transfer.

39. I inspected the area. It is at once apparent that it centres on the shopping and other facilities of the A1000 and the properties are of broadly similar age and type to those on the other side of that road. While the A1000 might in some circumstances be nevertheless regarded as a good boundary, this possibility is entirely negated by the existence of the main line railway running along the west of the area, which is in fact the present ward boundary. The properties on the other side of the railway give the impression of being an entirely separate community and this effect is heightened by the only connexion being the bridge under the railway at the northern tip of the area.

40. Conclusions and Recommendations

It is fair to say that this transfer from the Hadley to the Arkley ward is one which no one would have contemplated except as a means of redressing an uneven electoral balance. Virtually no one likes it and the Borough Council are most unhappy about it. The electors affected will clearly find it difficult to understand the reasons for such a change.

41. It thus becomes a question whether considerations of electoral parity outweigh the serious objections to such a proposal. If the transfer of area were not made, the relevant figures would be as follows:

	No. of <u>Cllrs.</u>	1975		1977		1982	
		<u>Elect.</u>	<u>Entit.</u>	<u>Elect.</u>	<u>Entit.</u>	<u>Elect.</u>	<u>Entit.</u>
Arkley	3	11729	3.20	11918	3.23	11380	3.06
Hadley	3	12779	3.49	12914	3.50	12860	3.46

This compares with the entitlements under the draft proposals in 1981 of 3.22 for Arkley and 3.29 for Hadley. Both these figures are themselves high; although the Hadley entitlement of 3.46 in 1981, if the change were not made, is near the absolute limit of acceptability, it is not that much higher

than under the draft proposals. I am satisfied that this is a case where it would be right to accept a measure of inequality in the electorate of these two wards, rather than to make a change which the electors and everyone would regard as unreasonable and even unintelligible.

42. I accordingly recommend that the draft proposals should be altered in the Pricklers Hill area on the borders of the Hadley and Arkley wards so as to retain the existing ward boundary

43. East Barnet and Brunswick Park Wards

The draft proposals contain a proposal for altering the boundary between the Brunswick Park and East Barnet wards by moving it north-west from Grange Avenue and St. Mary's Road to Stuart Road. This change provoked no objections, and, after inspecting the area, I am satisfied that it is reasonable.

44. Colindale and West Hendon Wards

The draft proposals include provision for a detached area of Colindale ward lying in its South-West corner and to the west of the A5, to be transferred to the West Hendon ward. This change was apparently contemplated as an eventual alteration at the time of the 1967 review; the area had at one time been in West Hendon Ward. The area contains 948 electors and, on inspection, it was apparent that, although it is really detached from any other part of the Borough, it falls logically into the West Hendon Ward.

45. The only objection to this proposal came from Mr. T. Ashton, an official of the Greater London Labour Party. His contention was that its removal from the Colindale Ward would upset the balance of the electorate. It soon became apparent, however, that this was a purely political consideration which I told him that I could not take into account.

46. Conclusion and Recommendations

I am quite satisfied that the transfer of this area from the Colindale to West Hendon wards is sound and that it will help to produce a more balanced electorate between the two wards

when the extensive development on the former Hendon airfield is completed. I accordingly recommend no change in this aspect of the draft proposals.

47. Colindale and Burnt Oak Wards

The draft proposals contemplate the transfer from the Colindale to Burnt Oak Ward of an area in the north-west corner of the former, which lies to the west of the Greenway. Mr. Hearn, for the Liberals, questioned this change and suggested either that nothing should be done or, alternatively, that an area in the south-west corner of Edgware ward lying south of Station Road and west of the railway should be transferred to Burnt Oak ward. Mr. Hearn wondered whether too much was being transferred from Colindale Ward in view of its present low electorate: furthermore the transfer from Edgware to Burnt Oak, which he suggested, would remove some electorate from the already large Edgware Ward.

48. Mr. Pym said that the people of the area suggested for transfer by Mr. Hearn regarded themselves as part of Edgware. The change would also involve finding a new convenient polling station as they would otherwise have a mile walk, or train ride, to the nearest Burnt Oak polling station. Mr. Fletcher agreed, and also pointed out that the area was separated from the rest of Burnt Oak ward by a hospital, factories and the railway.

49. In the course of discussion it was suggested that the south-west boundary of Edgware ward, which follows Deans Brook and Edgware Brook, should in any case be adjusted to follow Deans Brook Road from the A5 to the railway. This would involve the transfer of 18 houses and 29 electors from Burnt Oak to Edgware Ward: everyone present agreed that this would be far more convenient for the electors concerned.

50. At the conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Hearn agreed that the case for his proposed change as against that in the draft proposals was evenly balanced.

51. Conclusions and Recommendation

Although the electorate of the Colindale ward is low, massive development, which I saw, is taking place on the site of the old Hendon airfield and I regard the 1981 estimate of an electorate of 10466 for this ward as realistic; there has already been an increase of 1524 between 1975 and 1977. I am, therefore, satisfied that too much is not being transferred from Colindale.

52. It is apparent on inspection that the area to the west of the Greenway, which the draft proposals contemplate transferring from Colindale to Burnt Oak ward is separated from the remainder of the former ward by large areas of open space and other features: it will also fit well into the Burnt Oak ward. On the other hand, the strong objections raised to the Liberals' proposal to transfer part of Edgware ward to Burnt Oak are very cogent and the proposal is clearly the less desirable of the two.

53. There seems everything to be said for the small boundary adjustment in the area of Deans Brook Road referred to in paragraph 49.

54. I accordingly recommend that the provision in the draft proposals for the transfer from Colindale to Burnt Oak ward of the area of the Greenway should not be altered. I also recommend that the boundary between the south-west corner of Edgware ward and Burnt Oak should be altered to follow Deans Brook Road from the A5 to the railway.

55. West Hendon and Golders Green Wards

The draft proposals provide for the transfer from Golders Green ward to West Hendon of a long narrow strip of territory between the Edgware Road and the main line railway, the object being to augment the electorate of West Hendon Ward. This proposal was the subject of strong objection by the Liberals, who characterised it in their written representations as being "the height of absurdity". They pointed out that the electorate in this strip is confined to four streets at the southern end which are over a mile from the nearest existing West Hendon electors, from whom they are also separated by the Staples Corner Interchange between

the M1 and the North Circular Road.

56. Mr. Hearn reiterated these objections at the meeting. Mrs. Monroe Palmer added that the electors concerned had a joint residents association with those of Brent Terrace on the other side of the railway, across which there was ready access.

57. Mr. Pym, for the Borough Council, and Mr. Fletcher, for the Conservatives, both conceded in discussion the undesirability of this change and favoured leaving the area in Golders Green ward.

58. I visited the area. The situation is as described by the Liberals and as indeed can be seen from the map. The properties concerned are a detached block of former railway cottages which have no sort of nexus with West Hendon: the massive structure of the Staple Corner Interchange is also a pronounced barrier.

59. Mr. Troll's late adjustment of his estimates for the West Hendon ward, to which I have referred earlier, also affect the situation. The removal of the 416 electors in the former railway cottages would still leave West Hendon with 10787 electors in 1981 and an entitlement of 2.89: Golders Green would rise to 11051, with an entitlement of 2.97.

60. Conclusion and Recommendation

In the light of the objections and of the revised figures for West Hendon ward, I have no doubt that it would be unwise to transfer to West Hendon the narrow strip between the railway and the Edgware Road. I accordingly recommend that this area should remain in the Golders Green ward.



July 1977

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING
TO ENQUIRE INTO THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR
THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
19TH MAY, 1977.

LIST OF ATTENDANCES

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
JOHN MURPHY	71, Church Road, N.W.4.	Hendon Times
H. L. STEAN	31, Hollyfield Avenue, N.11.	F.B.R.P.A.
D. M. STEAN	31, Hollyfield Avenue, N.11.	Conservative Assn. F.F.B.
R. LANGSTONE	212, Ballards Lane, N.3.	Borough of Barnet Conservative Liaison Committee & Finchley & Friern Barnet Cons. Assn.
ALAN FLETCHER	39, Woodcroft Avenue, N.W.7.	Borough of Barnet Conservative Liaison Committee
EDWARD W. HILL	96, Whitchurch Lane, Edgware	Hendon North Constituency Labour Party
A. J. FREAKE	36, Holyrood Road, New Barnet, Herts.	Hadley Ward Council Member (L.B.B.)
PETER J. MORLEY	8, Raydean Road, Barnet, Herts.	Myself.
W. F. PANNELL	4, Eysham Court, Station Road, New Barnet.	Chipping Barnet Division Liberal Association
R. M. WATKINS	Flat 3, 96 Station Road, New Barnet	Finchley and Friern Barnet Liberal Assoc.
J. F. HEARN	173, Booth Road, Colindale, London, N.W.9.	Borough of Barnet Liberal Party & Hendon North Liberal Assoc.
L. J. PYM	34, The Reddings, Mill Hill, N.W.7.	Leader - Barnet Council.
E. M. BENNETT	Town Hall, Hendon, N.W.4.	Chief Executive & Town Clerk
C. A. TAVNER	Town Hall, Hendon, N.W.4.	Principal Legal Assistant, Barnet Corporation
C. O. TROLL	Gateway House, Regents Park Road, Finchley, N.3.	Deputy Borough Planning Officer
G. M. SIMS	Gateway House, Regents Park Road, Finchley, N.3.	Principal Planning Assistant
F. B. WARD	Town Hall, Hendon, N.W.4.	Senior Legal Assistant, London Borough of Barnet

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

TO ENQUIRE INTO THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

19TH MAY, 1977.

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
K. W. COSTIGAN	116, High Street, Barnet	Barnet Press
R. M. HAYES	26, The Broadway, N.W.7.	Hendon North Cons. Assn.
L. A. CHURCH	56, Laleham Avenue, N.W.7.	Hendon North Cons. Assn.
SUSETTE PALMER	31, The Vale, N.W.11.	Hendon South Liberals
T. ASHTON	195, Walworth Road, S.E.17.	G. London Labour Party

LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET: NAMES OF WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u>
ARKLEY	3
BRUNSWICK PARK	3
BURNT OAK	3
CHILDS HILL	3
COLINDALE	3
EAST BARNET	3
EAST FINCHLEY	3
EDGWARE	3
FINCHLEY	3
FRIERN BARNET	3
GARDEN SUBURB	3
GOLDERS GREEN	3
HADLEY	3
HALE	3
HENDON	3
MILL HILL	3
ST PAUL'S	3
TOTTERIDGE	3
WEST HENDON	3
WOODHOUSE	3

LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

NOTE: Where the boundary is described as following a road, railway, river, canal or similar feature it should be deemed to follow the centre line of the feature unless otherwise stated.

ARKLEY WARD

Commencing at a point where Barnet Lane meets the northwestern boundary of the Borough, thence northeastwards along said Borough boundary and southeastwards along the northern boundary of the Borough to Grid reference TQ 2312996351, being a point in Galley Lane, thence eastwards along said lane and Wood Street to High Street (Great North Road), thence southeastwards along said street and Barnet Hill (Great North Road)

to the Northern Line Underground railway, thence southeastwards along said railway to a point opposite the northern boundary of Wyatts Farm Open Space, thence westwards to and along said boundary to Dollis Brook, thence generally westwards along said brook to Hendon Wood Lane, thence northwestwards along said lane to Barnet Road, thence generally westwards along said road and Barnet Lane to the point of commencement.

HADLEY WARD

Commencing at a point where the northeastern boundary of the Borough meets the King's Cross-Edinburgh railway, thence generally southeastwards along said railway to the footbridge between the path to Alverstone Avenue and Netherlands Road, thence southwestwards along said footbridge to said road, thence northwestwards along said road to Northumberland Road, thence generally westwards along said road to Pricklers Hill (Great North Road), thence northwestwards along said road to the road known as Cherry Hill thence southwestwards along said road to the northeastern boundary of Arkley Ward, thence northwestwards and westwards along said boundary to the northeastern boundary of the Borough, thence generally northeastwards and eastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

EAST BARNET WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Hadley Ward meets the northeastern boundary of the Borough, thence southeastwards along said Borough boundary

to the rear boundaries of Nos 1-55 Cedar Rise, thence southwestwards along said boundaries and in continuation thereof to the southeastern boundary of Oak Hill Park, thence continuing southwestwards along said boundary to the access road to said park, thence southeastwards along said road to the road known as Parkside Gardens, thence southwestwards along said road to Church Hill Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Stuart Road, thence southwestwards along said road and continuing southwestwards along the footpath between said road and Gallants Farm Road to Gallants Farm Road, thence southwards along said road to Alverstone Avenue, thence generally southwestwards along said avenue to the path that leads to the road known as Oakleigh Park South, thence southwestwards, northwestwards and southwestwards along said path to the King's Cross-Edinburgh railway, thence northwards along said railway and the eastern boundary of Hadley Ward to the point of commencement.

BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

Commencing at a point where Friern Barnet Road meets the King's Cross-Edinburgh railway, thence northwestwards along said railway to a point being the prolongation northeastwards of the southeastern boundary of No 38 Beresford Avenue, thence southwestwards along said prolongation and said boundary to the southwestern boundaries of Nos 38-2 Beresford Avenue, thence northwestwards along said boundaries, crossing Russell Lane and continuing northwestwards along the eastern boundary of No 43 Russell Lane, the rear boundaries of Nos 57-55 Russell Road and Nos 1-11 Simmons Way to Simmons Close, thence continuing northwestwards along said close to a point due east of the easternmost point of the Allotment Gardens thence due westwards to and northwestwards along the northeastern boundary of said allotments and the rear boundaries of Nos 17-13 Beech Avenue and in continuation to the Barnet Tunnel entrance wall, thence northeastwards along said entrance to the London-Edinburgh railway, thence northwestwards along said railway to the southern boundary of East Barnet Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said boundary to the northeastern boundary of the Borough, thence southeastwards along said boundary and southwestwards along the southeastern boundary of the Borough and continuing along

Friern Barnet Road to the point of commencement.

FRIERN BARNET WARD

Commencing at a point where Friern Barnet Road meets Friern Barnet Lane, thence northwestwards along said lane to Friary Road thence southwestwards along said road to a point opposite the eastern boundary of North Middlesex Golf Course, thence generally northwestwards to and along said boundary to the northwestern boundary of No 154 Friern Barnet Lane, thence northeastwards along said boundary to said lane, thence northwestwards along said lane to High Road (Great North Road), thence northwards along said road to Totteridge Lane, thence westwards along said lane to the Northern Line Underground railway, thence northwestwards along said railway to the eastern boundary of Arkley Ward thence continuing northwestwards along said boundary to and generally southeastwards along the southern boundary of Hadley Ward to the southwestern boundary of East Barnet Ward, thence southeastwards along said boundary and the southwestern boundary of Brunswick Park Ward to Friern Barnet Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the point of commencement.

TOTTERIDGE WARD

Commencing at a point where Lovers' Walk (path) meets Frith Lane, thence northwards along said lane to Partingdale Lane, thence northwestwards and westwards along said lane to Burtonhole Lane, thence northwards along said lane to the path between said lane and Laurel Farm, thence northeastwards along said path to Folly Brook, thence northwestwards along said brook to the unnamed lake (parcel No 3637 as shown on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan TQ 24/2593 Edition of 1962), thence southwestwards and northwestwards along the southern boundary of said lake to Folly Brook, thence generally westwards along said brook to the eastern boundary of Parcel No 3256 as shown on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan TQ 22/2393 Edition of 1962, thence northwards along said boundary and the eastern boundaries of Parcels Nos 3078 and 2487 to Totteridge Lane, thence westwards along said lane to Hendon Wood Lane, thence northwards along said lane to the southern boundary

of Arkley Ward, thence generally eastwards along said boundary to the western boundary of Friern Barnet Ward, thence southeastwards along said boundary to Friary Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the road known as Torrington Park, thence westwards along said road to High Road (Great North Road), thence southwards along said road to Lodge Lane, thence westwards along said lane to Gainsborough Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Holden Road thence generally westwards along said road and continuing westwards along the path between Holden Road and Dollis Brook to Dollis Brook, thence southwestwards along said brook to Lovers' Walk (path), thence northwestwards along said path to the point of commencement.

WOODHOUSE WARD

Commencing at a point where North Circular Road meets High Road (Great North Road), thence northwards along said High Road to the southern boundary of Totteridge Ward, thence northwards and generally northeastwards along said boundary to the western boundary of Friern Barnet Ward, thence northeastwards southeastwards along said boundary, northeastwards along the southern boundary of said ward and the southern boundary of Brunswick Park Ward to the eastern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southwards and northwestwards along said boundary to the point where it crosses Coppetts Road, thence northwards along said road to North Circular Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the point of commencement.

ST PAULS WARD

Commencing at a point where Squires Lane meets the Northern Line Underground railway, thence northwestwards along said railway to Ballards Lane, thence northeastwards along said lane to Lovers' Walk (path), thence northwestwards along said path to Nether Street, thence northeastwards along said street to Lovers' Walk (path) thence northwestwards along said path to the southeastern boundary of Totteridge Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said boundary to the western boundary of Woodhouse Ward, thence southwards along said boundary to

Squires Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to the point of commencement.

EAST FINCHLEY WARD

Commencing at a point where the southeastern boundary of the Borough meets the Northern Line Underground railway, thence northwestwards along said railway to East End Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the road known as Deansway, thence southwards along said road to the road known as Brim Hill, thence westwards along said road to Ossulton Way, thence northwards along said way to East End Road, thence northwestwards along said road to North Circular Road, thence northeastwards along said road to the Northern Line Underground railway, thence northwestwards along said railway to the southeastern boundary of St Pauls Ward, thence northeastwards along said boundary and southwards and northeastwards along the southern boundary of Woodhouse Ward to the southeastern boundary of the Borough, thence southwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

FINCHLEY WARD

Commencing at a point where Great North Way meets Dollis Brook, thence generally northwards along said brook to the Northern Line Underground railway (Mill Hill East), thence northwestwards along said railway to Frith Lane, thence northeastwards along said lane to the southern boundary of Totteridge Ward, thence southeastwards along said boundary and generally southeastwards along the southwestern boundary of St Pauls Ward to the western boundary of East Finchley Ward, thence continuing southeastwards and southwestwards along said boundary and continuing southwestwards along North Circular Road to Great North Way, thence northwestwards along said way to the point of commencement.

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

Commencing at a point where the southeastern boundary of the Borough meets North End Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Finchley Road, thence north-

westwards along said road to the southern boundary of Finchley Ward, thence northeastwards along said boundary to the southwestern boundary of East Finchley Ward, thence generally southeastwards along said boundary to the southeastern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

CHILDS HILL WARD

Commencing at a point where the southwestern boundary of the Borough meets Cricklewood Lane, thence northeastwards along said lane to Claremont Road, thence northwestwards along said road to the road known as The Vale, thence northeastwards along said road to Hendon Way, thence northwestwards along said way to the road known as Wayside, thence southeastwards along said road to the road known as Gresham Gardens, thence northeastwards along said road, Woodstock Road to and crossing the Northern Line Underground Railway and continuing along the road known as The Riding to Golders Green Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Ravenscroft Avenue, thence northeastwards along said avenue to Wentworth Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Ravenscroft Avenue, thence northeastwards along said avenue to the western boundary of Garden Suburb Ward, thence southwards and southeastwards along said boundary to the southeastern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southwestwards along said boundary and northwestwards along the southwestern boundary of the Borough to the point of commencement.

GOLDERS GREEN WARD

Commencing at a point where the northwestern boundary of Childs Hill Ward meets the southwestern boundary of the Borough, thence northwestwards along said Borough boundary to North Circular Road, thence northeastwards along said road to Bridge Lane, thence southeastwards along said lane to the western boundary of Garden Suburb Ward, thence southwards along said boundary to the northwestern boundary of Childs Hill Ward, thence generally southwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

WEST HENDON WARD

Commencing at a point where the northwestern boundary of Golders Green Ward meets the southwestern boundary of the Borough, thence generally northwestwards westwards and northwards along said Borough boundary to Edgware Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Garrick Road, thence northeastwards along said road and in prolongation thereof to the London-Leicester railway, thence northwards along said railway to Colindeep Lane, thence southeastwards along said lane and Watford Way to Queens Road, thence northeastwards along said road to Brent Street, thence southeastwards along said street to the northwestern boundary of Golders Green Ward, thence southwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

HENDON WARD

Commencing at a point where the northeastern boundary of West Hendon Ward meets the London-Leicester railway, thence northwards along said railway to Aerodrome Road, thence eastwards along said road to Watford Way, thence northeastwards along said way to the path through Sunny Hill Park to Sunningfields Crescent, thence northeastwards along said path and continuing northeastwards and northwards along the eastern boundary of said park to Great North Way, thence southeastwards along said way to Holders Hill Road, thence northeastwards along said road to the path between said road and Hendon Avenue, thence eastwards along said path to the western boundary of Finchley Ward, thence southwards along said boundary and eastwards along the southern boundary of said ward to the western boundary of Garden Suburb Ward, thence southwards along said boundary to the northern boundary of Golders Green Ward, thence northwestwards and southwestwards along said boundary to the northeastern boundary of West Hendon Ward, thence generally northwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

COLINDALE WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of West Hendon Ward meets the southwestern boundary of the Borough, thence northwestwards along said Borough boundary to a point opposite the rear boundaries of Nos 132-122 The Greenway, thence northeastwards to and along said rear boundaries and continuing northeastwards along the stream adjacent to the properties on the southeastern side of The Greenway to Silk Stream, thence northwestwards along said stream to Montrose Avenue, thence northeastwards along said avenue to the road known as Lanacre Avenue thence southeastwards along said road to a point opposite the southeastern boundary of Albany Court, thence northeastwards to and along said boundary and the rear boundaries of Nos 16-212 Blundell Road and continuing to the rear boundaries of Nos 214-220 Blundell Road, thence northwestwards along said boundaries and in prolongation thereof to the southeastern boundary of Woodcroft Park, thence northeastwards along said boundary and in prolongation thereof to the London-Leicester railway, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along said railway, the western boundary of Hendon Ward and continuing southwards and generally westwards along the northern boundary of West Hendon Ward to the point of commencement.

BURNT OAK WARD

Commencing at a point where the northwestern boundary of Colindale Ward meets the southwestern boundary of the Borough, thence northwestwards along said Borough boundary to Deansbrook Road thence eastwards along said road to the Burnt Oak to Edgware Railway thence northwards along said railway to Dean's Brook, thence generally northwards along said brook to the dismantled Edgware to The Hale railway, thence eastwards along said dismantled railway to a point being the prolongation northwestwards of the southwestern boundary of Lyndhurst Park, thence southeastwards along said prolongation and said boundary and in prolongation thereof, crossing Deansbrook Road to Lyndhurst Avenue, thence southwestwards along said avenue to the road known as Eversfield Gardens, thence southeastwards along said road and Blundell Road to a point opposite the southeastern boundary of Woodcroft Park, thence northeastwards to and along said boundary to the northwestern boundary of Colindale Ward, thence generally southwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

MILL HILL WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Hendon Ward meets the eastern boundary of Colindale Ward, thence northwestwards along said eastern boundary and continuing along the London-Leicester railway to Bunn's Lane, thence southeastwards along said lane to Watford Way, thence northwestwards along said way to Barnet Way, thence northeastwards along said way to Marsh Lane, thence northeastwards along said lane and Highwood Hill to the western boundary of Totteridge Ward, thence eastwards, southwards, eastwards and southwards along said boundary and continuing generally southwards along the western boundary of Finchley Ward to the northern boundary of Hendon Ward, thence generally southwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

HALE WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Burnt Oak Ward meets Deans Brook, thence generally northeastwards along said brook to Edgware Way, thence westwards along said way to Broadhurst Avenue, thence northwestwards along said avenue to the road known as Lynford Gardens, thence northwards along said road and Cranmer Road to Glengall Road, thence northeastwards along said road to Kenilworth Road, thence northwards along said road to the access road to the garages between No 2 Bushfield Crescent and No 140 Kenilworth Road, thence northeastwards along said access road and the northwestern boundary of the garages to the southwestern boundary of Oaktrees Hostel, thence southeastwards along said boundary to the path between Luther Close and Knightswood Close, thence northwards along said path to the southern boundary of Grendon Lodge, thence eastwards along said boundary, the rear boundaries of No 35-42, the northern boundary of No 43 and 44 Luther Close and the rear boundary of the garages in Luther Close to Grid reference TQ 2019793648 thence eastwards in a straight line to Grid ref TQ 2093593573, being a point in Barnet Way, thence northwards along said way to the southern boundary of Arkley Ward, thence generally southeastwards along said boundary to the western boundary of Totteridge Ward, thence southwards along said boundary to the western boundary of Mill Hill Ward, thence south-

westwards, southeastwards, northwestwards and southeastwards along said boundary to the northwestern boundary of Colindale Ward, thence southwestwards along said boundary to the northeastern boundary of Burnt Oak Ward, thence continuing southwestwards and northwestwards along said boundary and westwards along the northern boundary of the said ward to the point of commencement.

EDGWARE WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Burnt Oak Ward meets the southwestern boundary of the Borough, thence northwestwards along said Borough boundary and eastwards along the northwestern boundary of the Borough to the southern boundary of Arkley Ward, thence southeastwards along said boundary to the western boundary of Hale Ward, thence generally southwards and southwestwards along said boundary and the northern boundary of Burnt Oak Ward to the point of commencement.