

# Somerset

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Ms Linda Hyder

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**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:** North Petherton Town Council (Parish or town councillor)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** North Petherton

Please see my comments on uploaded file below

## Attached Documents:

- lh-boundary-commission-jan-25.docx

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION CONSULTATION ON NEW DIVISION BOUNDARIES IN SOMERSET**

I am Deputy Mayor of North Petherton Town Council and have been a resident of the town for the past 40 years. In addition to my role as a local councillor, I have spent many years as a school governor at the local primary school, as well as being closely involved with local community organisations, including running a group for older people, helping to set up a food resilience and food waste project and supporting our local library.

The North Petherton Town Council area is broadly the same as the current Somerset Council's North Petherton Ward, represented currently by its 2 councillors. The only difference is that the "county" ward includes 3 additional very small hamlets, served by their own parishes.

North Petherton includes the original historic urban centre of North Petherton on the A38 arterial road, together with several rural hamlets, contrasting with some very large new residential developments and a commercial/industrial area close to the M5 motorway. Despite its apparent diversity and close proximity at its northern end to the town of Bridgwater, there is a common sense of identity and the geography of river, canal and roads and motorway, together with the central local facilities of schools, doctors and dentists, library, church, shopping and leisure /sports facilities, cemetery, allotments and open spaces, all foster our strong sense of one community. The 2 current Somerset Council councillors have represented North Petherton for many years and work hard together and with their colleagues from the Town Council to establish and maintain a sense of community cohesion, regardless of any party-political differences.

The population of North Petherton has been growing fast in recent years due to the new residential developments at both ends of the town. With a further 500 dwellings already having planning agreements and still more in the pipeline, the population is set to increase within the next few years from an electorate of 8134 in August 2024 to nearer to 12,000 residents. Therefore, I consider that North Petherton should continue to be represented by at least 2 Somerset Council councillors.

I also strongly recommend that the current ward boundary should be maintained to retain the common identity of North Petherton, with its natural central focus, resulting from its geography and infrastructure.

Linda Hyde

19 January 2025

