

# Somerset

## Personal Details:

Name: Mrs Sue Osborne  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Postcode: [REDACTED]  
Organisation Name: Somerset Council Ilminster Division (District or county councillor)

## Comment text:

Related subject: Ilminster Division

### REPRESENTATION FROM CLLR SUE OSBORNE FOR ILMINSTER AREA

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## Attached Documents:

None attached

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**Related subject:** South Somerset - Ilminster Division

I support the amended proposals as presented at the Somerset Council Constitution and Governance Committee on the 3rd March 2025. These proposal were endorsed by this committee for onward submission to the Boundary Commission as the Somerset Council submission to the Boundary Review process,

The extension of time given by the Boundary Commission from the 20th February to the 4th March 2025, is considered to be unprecedented.

Whilst the Conservative group submitted the original Somerset submission which the Constitution and Governance Committee declined to submit, with side letters from members citing thier concerns, other submissions emerged, notably from the Liberal Democrat Group and Kingston st Mary Parish Council.

Whilst not ideal, I find that the LD submission in respect of Ilminster division is more acceptable than the original Somerset Council proposals This proposal recognises that the surrounding villages of the division do not fit with urban Chard Town Council wards. They do fit better with its fellow market town of Crewkerne.

Several of the Ilminster parishes have shared boundaries with Crewkerne rural parishes.

Another option proposal that is worthy of consideration is that Ilminster town has two polling districts of roughly equal size covering the north and south of Ilminster.

This means that Ilminster and its surrounding villages could be accommodated within 2 divisions and that Ilminster would retain 2 councillors as is the present case.

For ease of reference, please see the parish groupings as per the LD proposals.

#### 74 - Ilminster

S-BDY Ilminster Ilminster 2368 2374

S-BEY Ilminster Ilminster 2308 2329

S-BYY Whitelackington \* Ilminster 123 135 4838

\* = Parish meeting

#### 76 - Combe St

Nicholas & Ilton

S-AAY Ashill Ilminster 442 476

S-APY Combe St.

Nicholas

Chard North 1138 1167

S-ACY1 Broadway Ilminster 655 661

S-ACY2 Horton Ilminster 717 724

S-AFY2 Knowle St Giles\*Ilminster 141 142

S-AVY Donyatt Ilminster 346 348

S-AZS Isle Abbotts South Petherton &

Isle Moor

159 156

S-BAS Isle Brewers\* South Petherton &

Isle Moor

119 119

S-AYAS Ilton South Petherton &

Isle Moor

827 838

S-BVY Wambrook\* Chard North 142 149

S-BZY Whitestaunton\* Chard North 225 237 5016

\* = Parish meeting

Please note that Knowle St Giles is a parish meeting that closely aligns with both Chaffcombe and Dowlish Wake that have been placed into Division 82 - Crewkerne West.

Knowle St Giles shares facilities with both Dowlish Wake and Chaffcombe.

Chaffcombe and Knowle St Giles collaborate closely on their alternate year flower festivals which are major sources of income for their respective churches

Knowle St Giles can be added to Crewkerne West without upsetting the +/- 10% tolerance of 4867 electors.

As it is a Parish meeting which meets twice per year, it will not unduly add to the councillor workload of this division.

79 - Chard South

S-AJAY Chard Chard Jocelyn Chard South 2086 2095

S-AKY Tatworth and

Forton

Chard South 317 306

S-CAY1 Cricket St

Thomas\*

Iminster 38 38

S-CAY2 Winsham Iminster 645 650

S-BTY Tatworth and

Forton

Chard South 1882 1880 4969

\*=Parish meeting

Please note that Winsham and Cricket st Thomas are very closely bound by historical ties.

Many Winsham people worked on the Cricket st Thomas estate, especially pre WW1.

The Parish meeting of Cricket st Thomas has not met for many years.

Cricket st Thomas residents look to Winsham for thier democratic engagement, the use of its local facilities such as pub, shop and school and the many activities provided in Winsham for their social and leisure needs.

82 - Crewkerne

West

S-BHY Misterton Crewkerne 812 818

S-AOY1 Wayford Crewkerne 94 99

S-BBY1 Dinnington\* South Petherton &

Islemoor  
57 54  
S-BBY2 Hinton St.  
George  
South Petherton &  
Islemoor  
368 383  
S-BOY1 Seavington St.  
Mary#  
Seavington South Petherton &  
Islemoor  
328 329  
S-BOY2 Seavington St.  
Michael#  
Seavington South Petherton &  
Islemoor  
134 134  
S-AFY1 Chaffcombe Ilminster 185 187  
S-ALY1 Chillington\* Ilminster 86 87  
S-ALY2 Cudworth\* Ilminster 42 45  
S-AWY1 Dowlish Wake Ilminster 262 255  
S-AWY2 Kingstone\* Ilminster 88 82  
S-AOY2 West Crewkerne Crewkerne 459 463  
S-ARY Crewkerne Crewkerne 1344 1344 4280

\*= Parish Meeting

# Seavington st Michael and Seavington st Mary are separate parishes and polling districts but act together through one parish council known as Seavington Parish Council.

\*= Parish meeting.

Please note I would like to suggest a name change for this division from Crewkerne West to Crewkerne West and Ilminster Rural.  
This is to recognise and reflect that many parishes in this division also look to Ilminster for shopping, school, social and leisure activities.

Proposed option to to use two Ilminster Polling Districts to form two separate Ilminster divisions.

As stated in my opening remarks above this option is worthy of consideration and would ensure that in practice Ilminster retains its current 2 Councillor representation.

Whilst this proposal is not perfect, it should still be considered with all other options/proposals so that every angle has been covered and considered.

It is worth noting that Ilminster's surrounding parishes look closely to Ilminster for its range of services such as shops, sports, education, leisure and cultural activities. Ilminster residents in turn utilise some village facilities such as village halls, playing fields and pubs which ease the pressure on the growing demand for Ilminster facilities.

The existing Ilminster division has a large number of small, diverse parishes within a geographically large area combined with a relatively compact central Ilminster core.

The 2 Ilminster Divisions would be

Ilminster North based on Ilminster polling District BDY with 2374 electors

Ilminster South based on Ilminster polling District BEY with 2329 electors

Ilminster North would be made up of the following polling districts/parishes

Ilminster polling district BDY 2374

Whitelackington\* 138

Kingstone\*. 82

Dowlish Wake. 255

Chillington\*. 86

Cudworth\*. 42

Knowle St Giles\*. 142

Chaffcombe. 187

Seavington st Mary#. 329

Seavington st Michael#. 134

Dinnington\*. 54

Hinton St George 383

Winsham. 650

Cricket St Thomas\*. 38

Total electors. 4894

\* Parish meetings - Parish meetings usually meet once or ideally twice a year.



# The parishes of Seavington st Mary and Seavington st Michael, whilst separate parishes meet as one parish council known as Seavington Parish Council.

Taken together, this makes this number of parishes in one division more workable in terms of councillor workload.

Please note that whilst Winsham and Cricket St Thomas see themselves as aligned with Chard and Crewkerne, and do share boundaries with some Ilminster parishes, they are included here to

Ensure that the optimum Ward size, +/- 10% is arrived at.

Without these two parishes, the total electors would be 4206, slightly below the minimum of 4380.

Ilminster South would be made up of the following parishes/polling divisions.

Ilminster polling district BEY. 2329

Horton. 724

Broadway. 661

Ashill. 476

Donyatt. 348

Total Electors. 4538

Please note the total number of electors whilst less than the optimum 4867 is more than the minimum of 4380.

It therefore falls within the +/- 10% tolerance level.

Finally, please find below my original submission to the Boundary Commission made prior to the 20th January deadline.

Cllr Sue Osborne 3rd March 2025

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