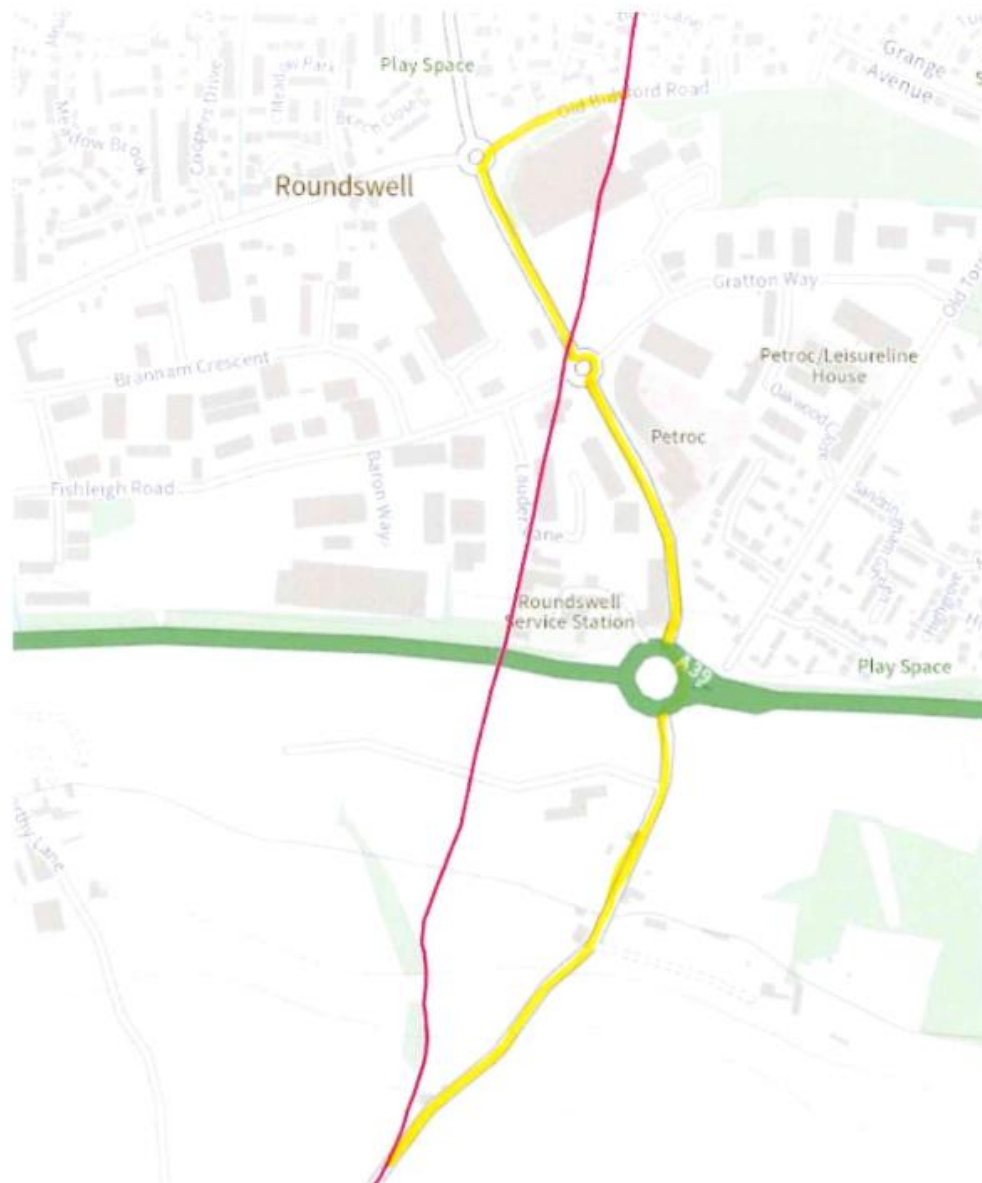


Terms of Reference – Appendices

TAW1

TAW1 Tawstock Parish Council - Boundary Change



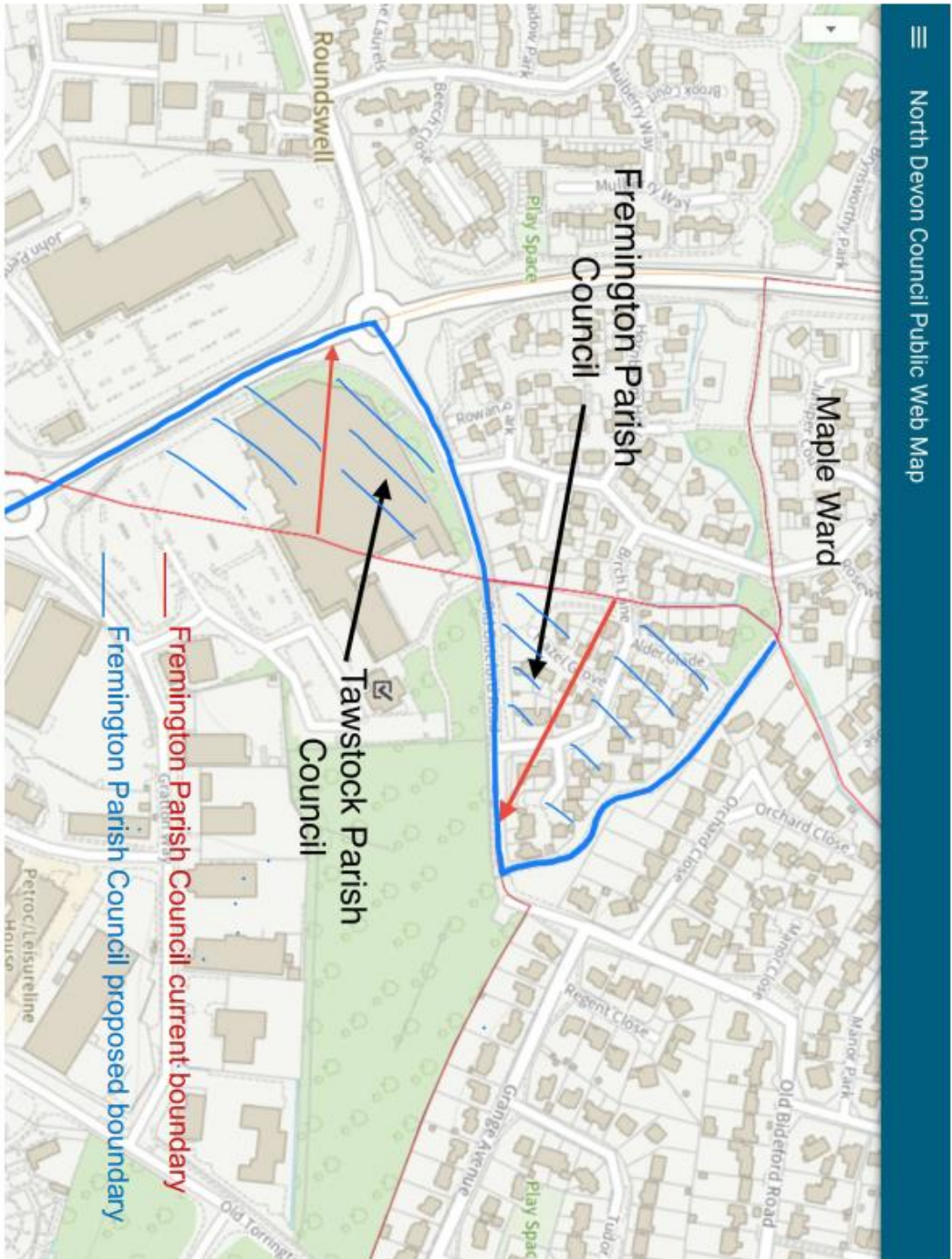
 Tawstock Parish Council current boundary

 Tawstock Parish Council proposed boundary

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FREM2



BAR1 - Barnstaple Town Council submission

The full document submitted by Barnstaple Town Council is below for clarity of their proposals.



Barnstaple Town Council

Barum House, The Square, Barnstaple EX32 8LS

Telephone: 01271 373311

Email: admin@barnstapletowncouncil.gov.uk

Web: <https://barnstapletowncouncil.gov.uk>

Mr Robert Ward, Town Clerk

Response to Invitation for a Community Governance Review

February 2025

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Introduction

At the Barnstaple Town Council Meeting on Monday 17th February the following submission was approved.

Extract from Town Council minutes.

The Town Clerk explained the process for the submission and decision making for the Community Governance Review.

The responsibility for the decision is with the principal authority, in this case North Devon District Council and the legislation that relates to the process is:

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and community governance reviews

Chapter 3 of Part 4 of the 2007 Act devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation of parishes and their electoral arrangements to local government and local communities in England.

At this stage North Devon District Council has invited individual Parishes within North Devon to make a submission on the basis of the five questions below and it will ultimately be the District Council that makes the decision for any changes.

The closing date for the submission of proposals is 28th February 2025.

A consultation process will take place following the County Council elections in May 2025.

Changes will be implemented following the Parish elections in May 2027.

Following the explanation of the process Cllrs J Hunt, L York, P Leaver, S Jusef, J Orange, D Clayton & K Stevenson as members of North Devon District Council withdrew from the debate and did not take part in any votes in relation to this item.

Rationale for Changes Being Proposed.

Barnstaple Town Council is making proposals for changes in parish boundaries and governance arrangements to reflect the following:

1. Identities and interests of the different communities in the area.

The Town Council considers that this is a 'community of identity' test, which is applicable to the new developments and some existing settlements that are presently adjacent to its boundary.

2. It is effective and convenient.

The Town Council considers that this is a 'viability' test and is keen to ensure that arrangements are viable and can actively and effectively promote the well-being of residents and to contribute to the real provision of services in the area in an economic and efficient manner.

3. Democratic representation.

The Town Council normally has the majority of Councillor seats filled and contested at each election. Most Parishes within North Devon do not achieve this.

Most of the residents within the areas identified believe they are part of the town of Barnstaple.

4. Service Delivery.

Residents directly benefit from the services and facilities that are offered by the Town Council including, but not limited to:

- Rock Park recreation facilities
- Community Grants to voluntary organisations and community groups.
- Community, Heritage and youth activities delivered across the Town; distinction is not generally made to whether participants live within the current parish of Barnstaple.
- Town Centre environmental maintenance and improvements
- Wider town environmental maintenance including the highway verges, shrub beds and support for environmental improvements.

5. Benefits realisable from these proposals.

A change to the boundary would bring urban developments (some very recent) into the town increasing the population.

This would give the Town Council greater opportunity to:

- continue to afford community projects.
- continue to provide services for the benefit of all local residents in the wider Barnstaple catchment, these include engagement with statutory services, Street Marshals, local facilities including public open space improvements, support for voluntary organisations.
- give the Town Council a greater democratic voice with the principal authorities and central government.
- bring increased opportunities and access to a wider range of funding.
- to provide future growth opportunities for the Town.
- support for the future devolution of services, and assets particularly considering the English Devolution White Paper and future budget pressures on Principal Authorities.

Proposals for Barnstaple Community Governance changes.

The options considered below are based on the guidance provided by North Devon Council, on the basis that further dialogue will be required before a decision is made.

1. Do you feel that any existing parish area should be altered or abolished?

Pilton West Parish Council to consider three options:	
1.	The new developments of Shearford Close and Trayne Heights that immediately border the Barnstaple Parish to move the boundary to bring these into Barnstaple.
2.	The Pilton West Parish Land east of Bradiford Water.
3.	Absorb whole of Pilton West Parish.

Landkey Parish Council	
1.	The remaining land east of the A361, to coincide with the north section boundary of the Mount Sandford development from Planning Application 54923.

Tawstock Parish Council Northern & Southern Urban Wards	
1.	From the A39 to the A3125 up to the junction near Oakland Avenue. This would bring in the new developments on Old Torrington Road, Petroc College and the existing settlements around the Old Bideford Road.

Fremington Parish Council to consider five options:	
1.	Move parish boundary to follow A3125 from A39 roundabout to Cedars Roundabout, includes the Maple and Roundswell & Woodville Wards.
2.	Option One plus Cedars Roundabout to the River Taw options to be considered to simplify parish boundary along Oakland Avenue.
3.	Option One plus a boundary through Oakland Park South, includes most of the Anchor Wood Ward.
4.	Option One plus move west to follow Lower Cross Road and west of Anchorwood View.
5.	A motion was proposed by Cllr M Pullen, 2 nd by Cllr C Horrell to include a fifth option to move the boundary to Tews Lane, to run from the A39 to the River Taw this would bring some of the Bickington Ward into Barnstaple.

2. Do you feel that the name of an existing parish should be changed?	
	No changes proposed
3. Do you consider that any parish should be grouped with another parish or other parishes?	
	No changes proposed

4. Should the number of councillors on an existing council be changed?	
1.	The Town Council currently has 24 Councillors across 7 Wards
2.	The number of councillors relative to the resident population is significantly higher than towns of a similar population.
3.	If an increase in population is the outcome of this review it may not be necessary to increase the number of councillors.

5. Do you consider the parish should be divided into parish wards?	
1.	The Parish of Barnstaple is currently divided into 7 Wards.
2.	A proposed change of Ward boundaries would be necessary as part of this review.
3.	Ward representation is uneven across the parish, ranging from 252 electorate per councillor to in excess of 1,000.
4.	The boundaries within the parish do not best represent some of the communities
5.	The boundary of Pilton & Yeo Valley and Fort Hill cuts through the Gorwell estate.
- The following principles should be used for deciding Ward boundaries:	
1.	Not to have single Councillor Wards
2.	1,000 to 1,500 electorate per Councillor
3.	Ward Boundaries follow logical community lines
4.	Maximum of 6 Wards

Rationale for Proposed changes (4)

The Town Council currently supports, either 'in kind' or through direct funding local organisations, including:



NORTHERN DEVON FOODBANK
**HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN NEED**



Barnstaple Ability FC

AGEconcern

Barnstaple & North Devon | Supporting Independent Living



1st North Devon (Barnstaple)

Barnstaple's Scout Group, fun and adventure for our young people



**BARNSTAPLE
LIONS CLUB**



KIND.
at the corn store



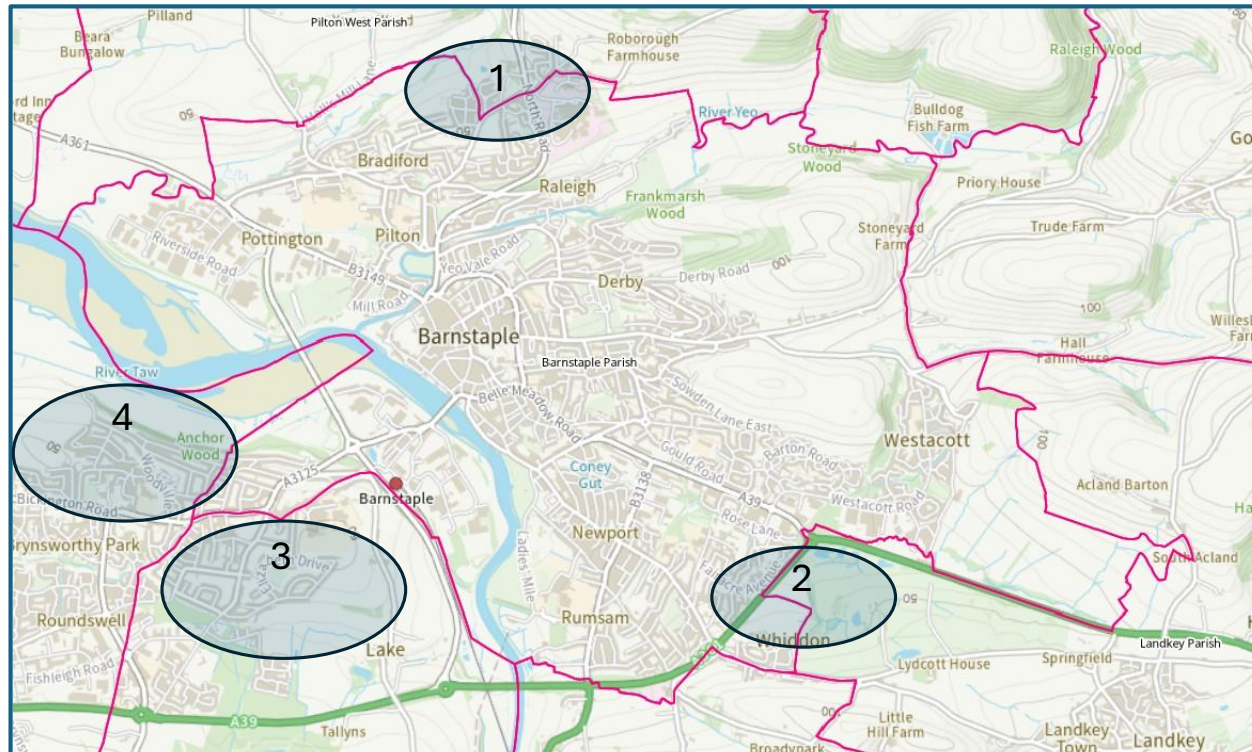
**Tarka Child Contact
Centre**



**BARNSTAPLE
MALE VOICE CHOIR**

Barnstaple In Bloom

Identified areas for potential boundary changes:

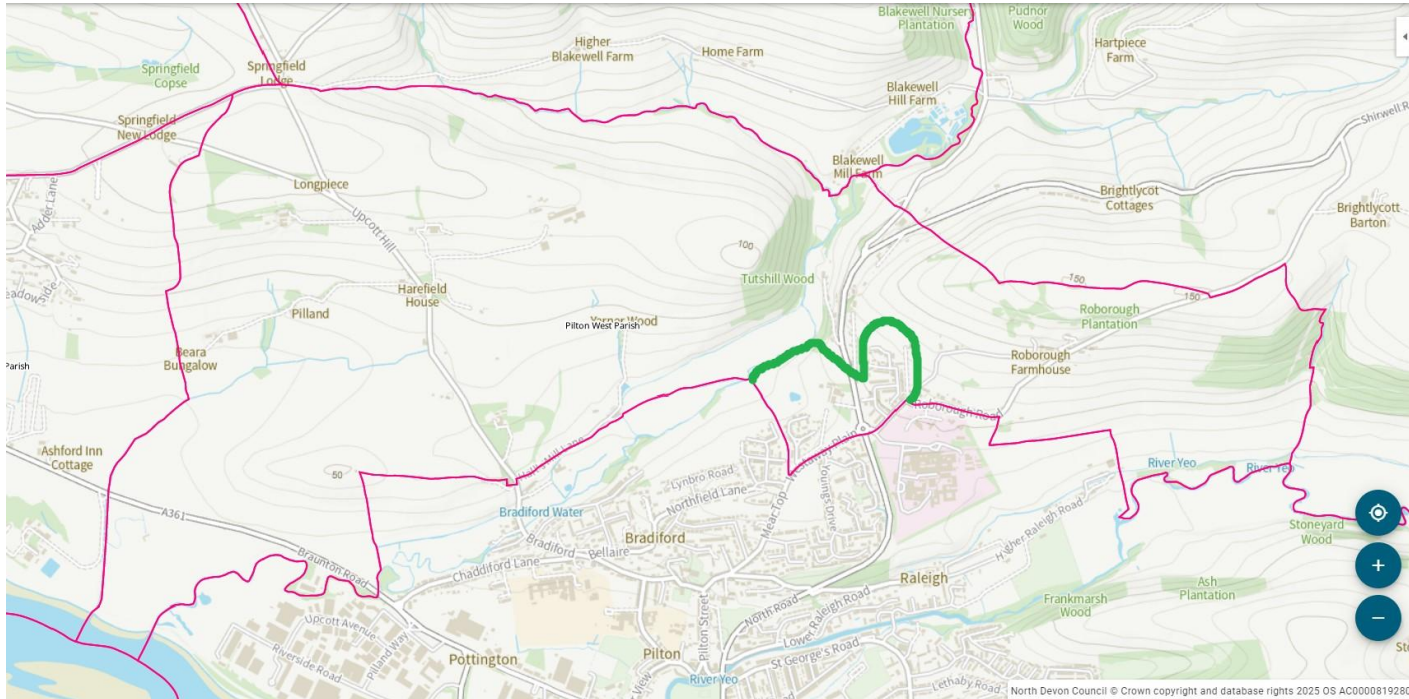


1. Pilton West Parish Council
2. Landkey Parish Council
3. Tawstock Urban Wards
4. Fremington Parish Council



BARN1

Pilton West Parish Council (Option 1)

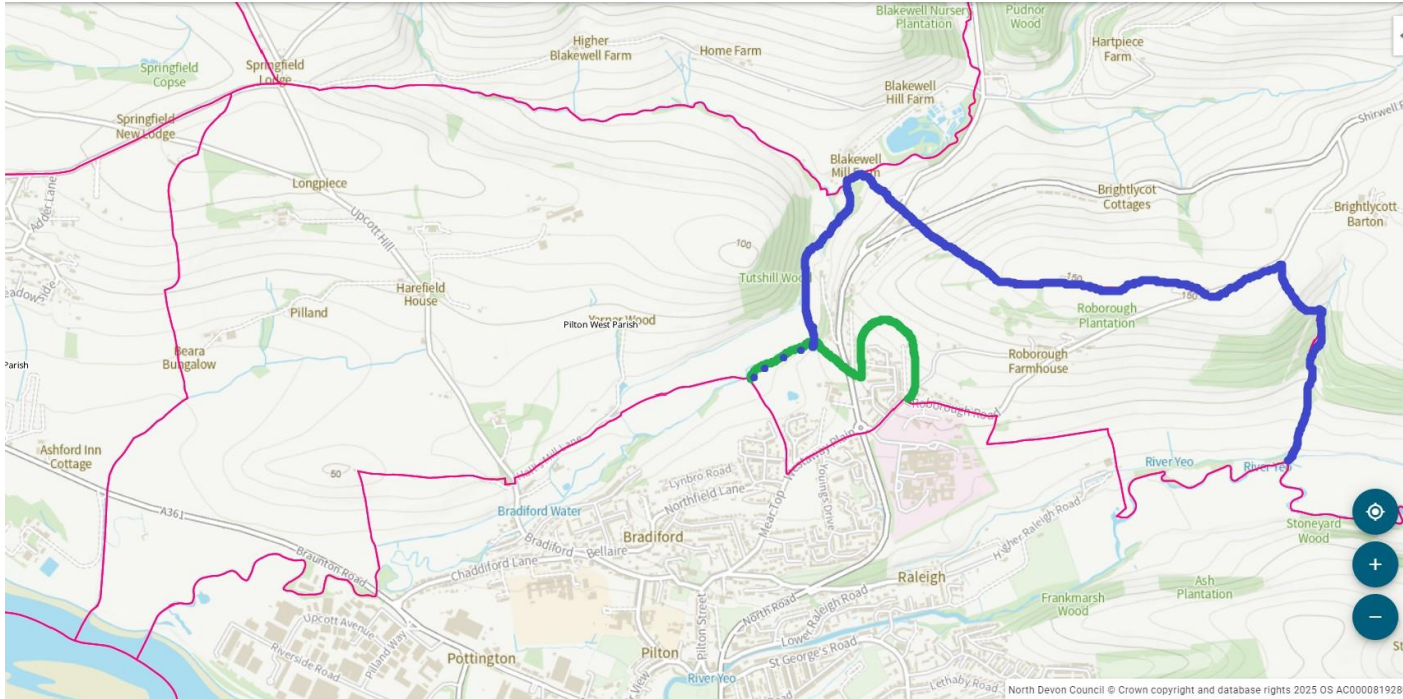


1. Shearford Close & Trayne Heights



BARN2

Pilton West Parish Council (Option 2)



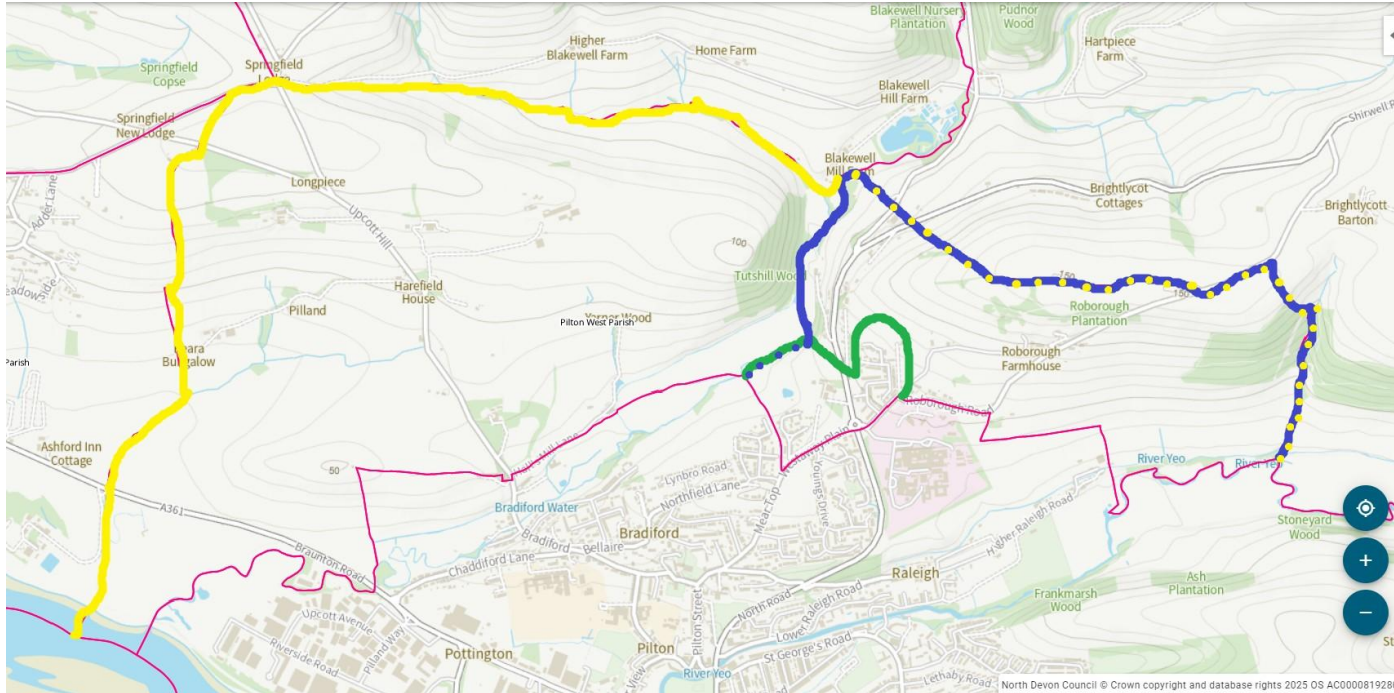
1. Shearford Close & Trayne Heights
2. Land east of Bradford Water



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BARN3

Pilton West Parish Council (Option 3)



1. Absorb whole of Pilton West Parish



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BARN4

Landkey Parish Council

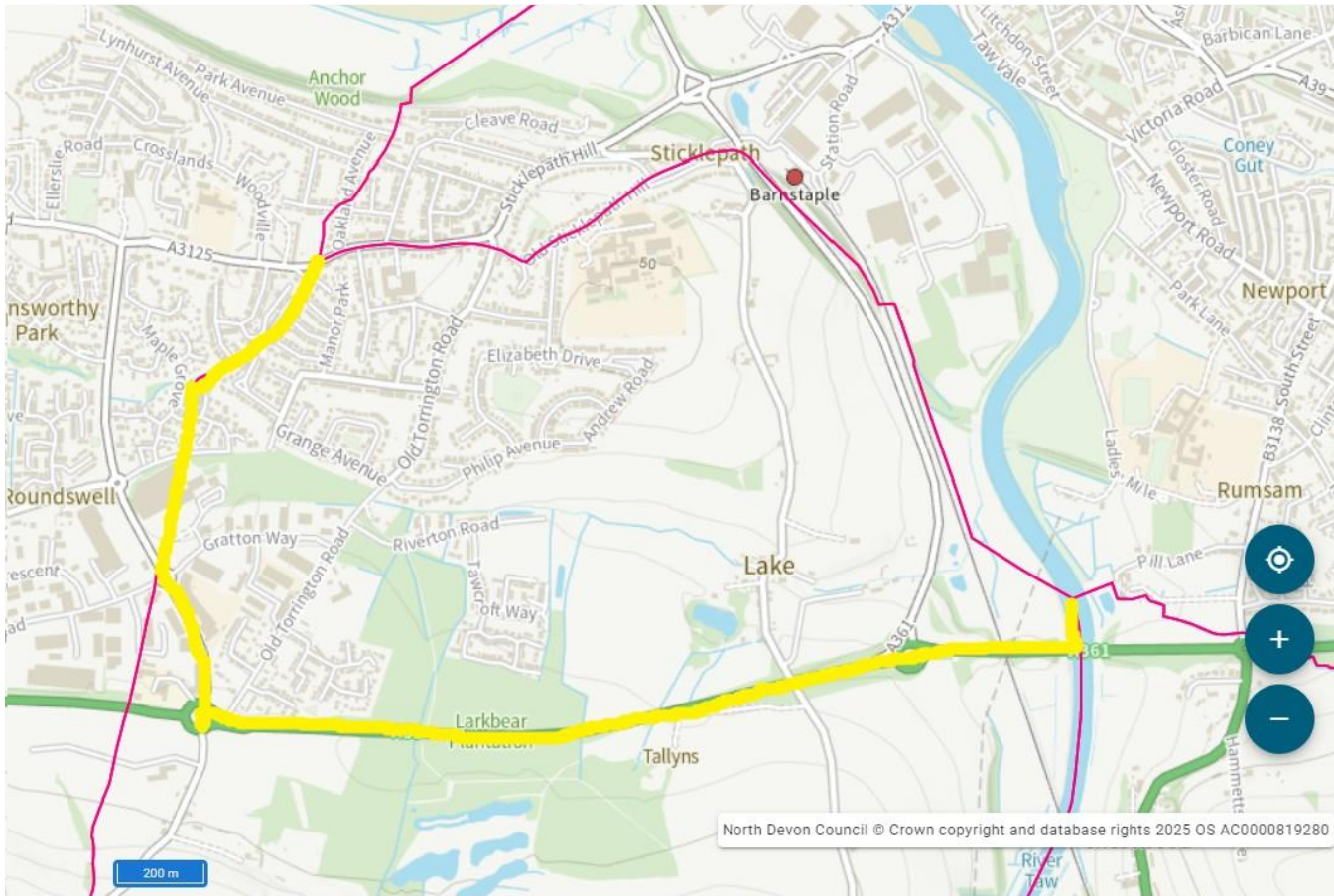


- East of A361
- To coincide with the north section boundary of the Mount Sandford development.
- (Insert image illustrates plan from Planning Application 54923)



BARN5

Tawstock Parish Council Urban Wards



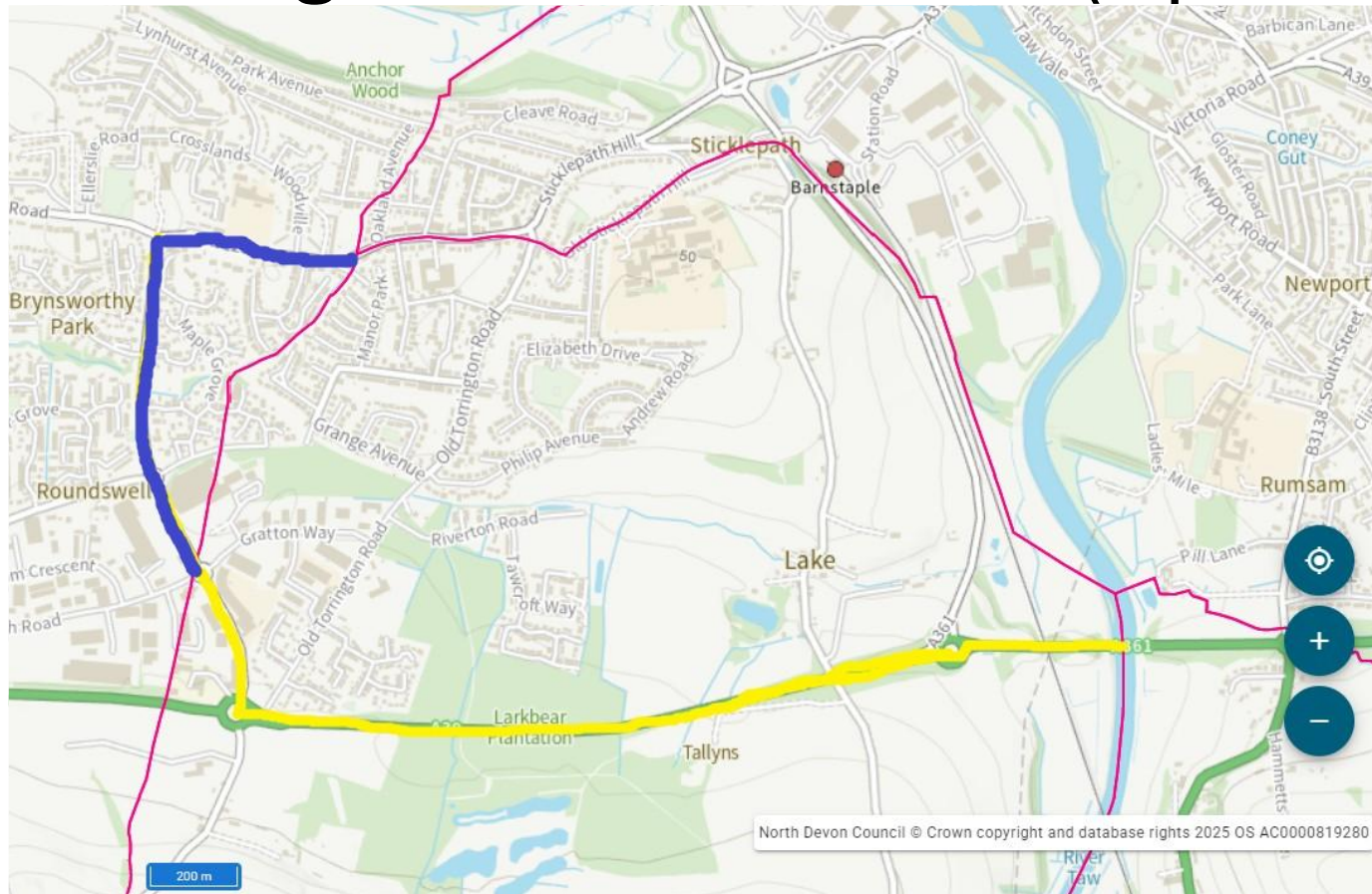
- From the A39 to the A3125 up to the junction near Oakland Avenue.



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BARN6

Fremington Parish Council (Option 1)



- Move parish boundary to follow A3125 from A39 roundabout to Cedars Roundabout.

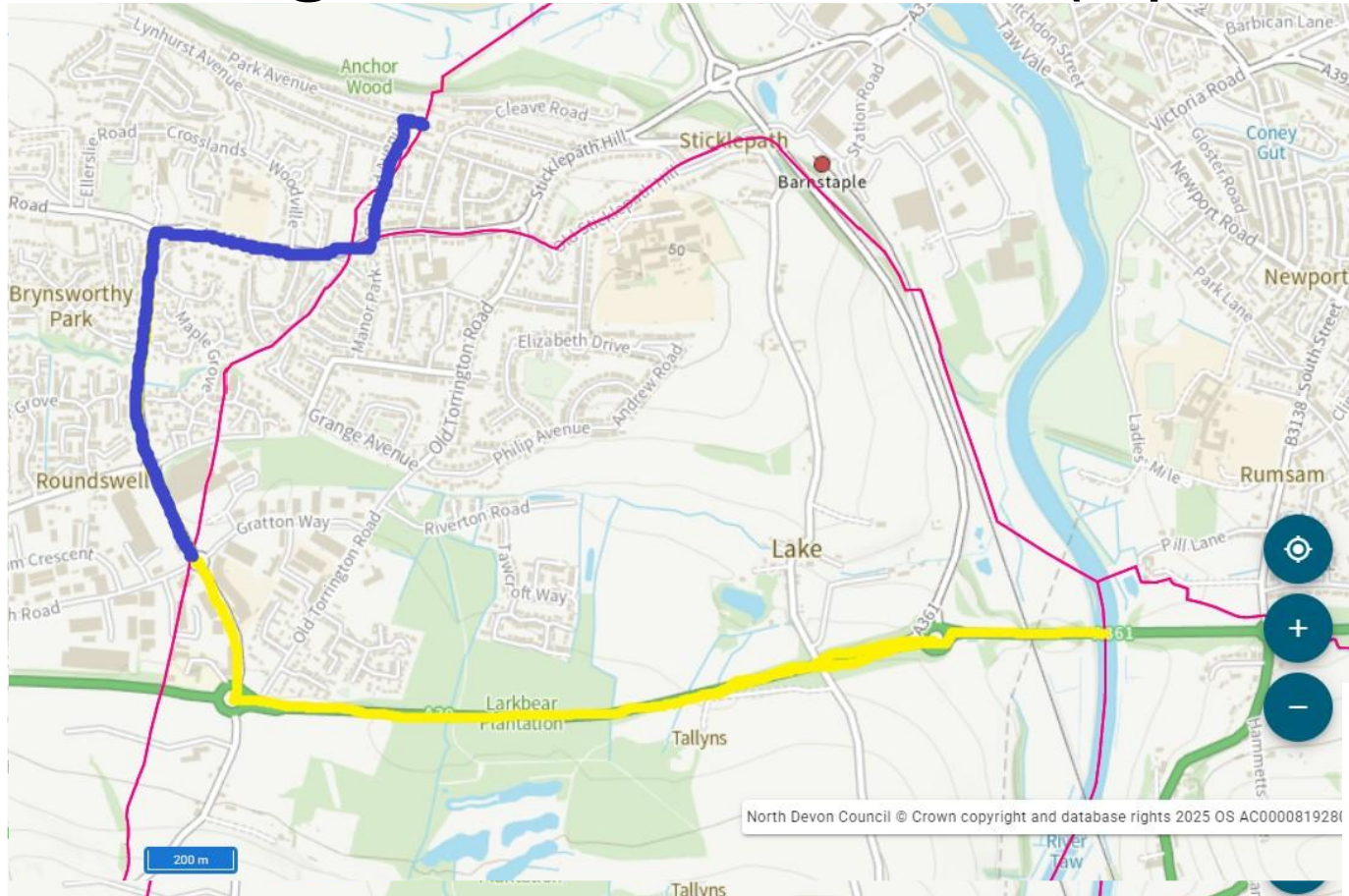


**BARNSTAPLE
TOWN COUNCIL**

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BARN7

Fremington Parish Council (Option 2)

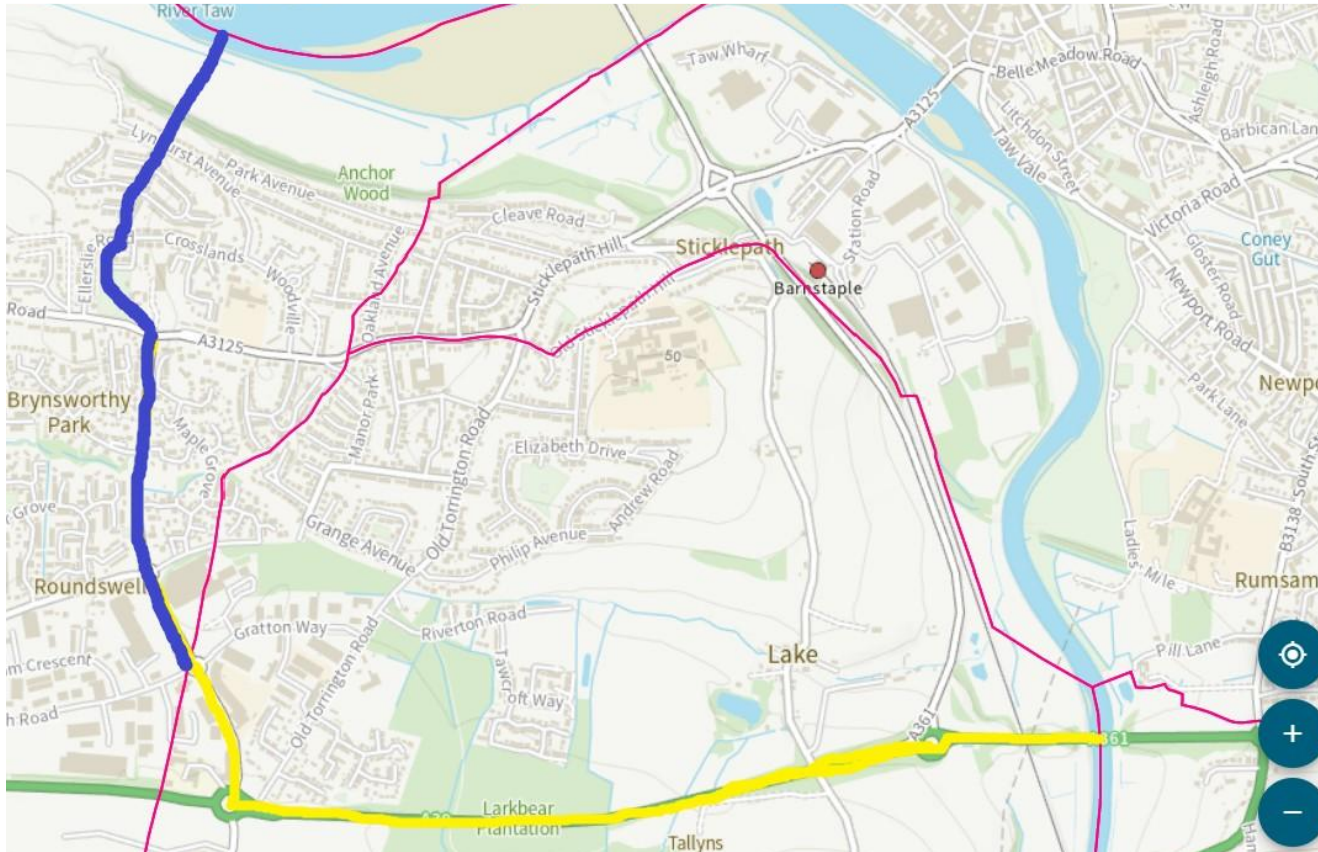


- Move parish boundary to follow A3125 from A39 roundabout to Cedars Roundabout.
- Tidy parish boundaries along Oakland Avenue



BARN8

Fremington Parish Council (Option 3)



- Move parish boundary to follow A3125 from A39 roundabout to Cedars Roundabout.
- Parish boundaries, north of A3125, move west to follow Oakland Park South



**BARNSTAPLE
TOWN COUNCIL**

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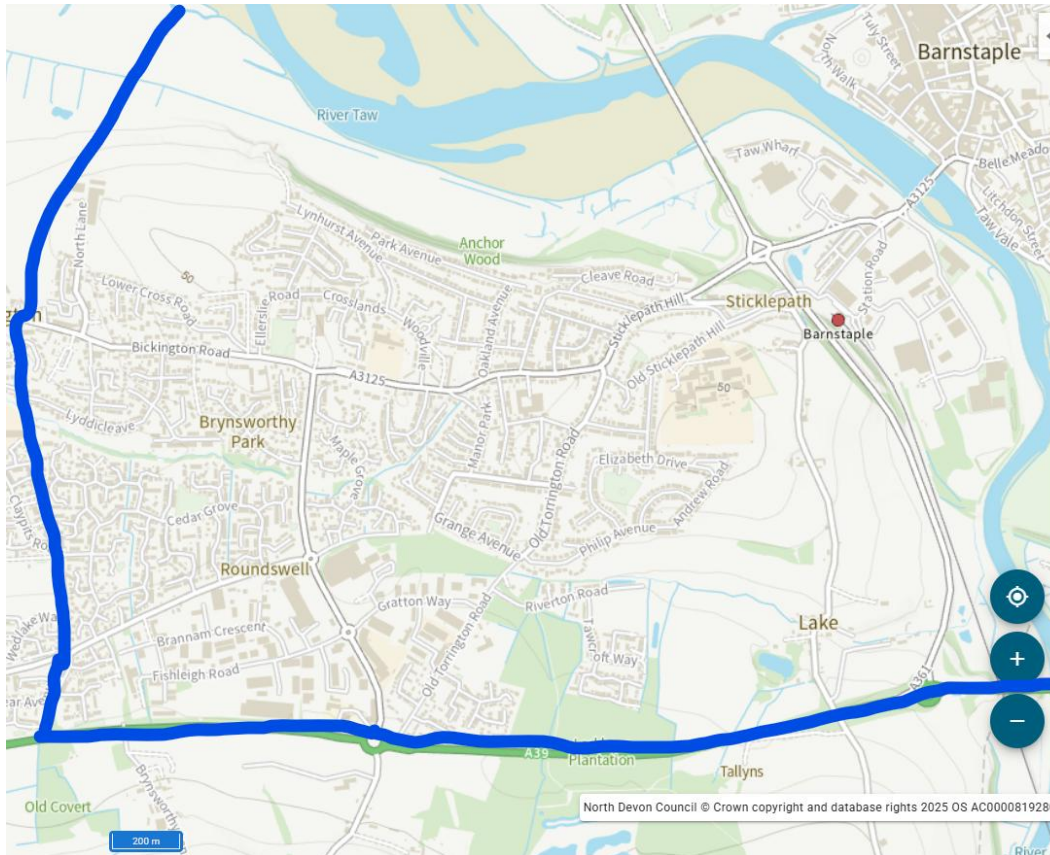
Fremington Parish Council (Option 4)



- Move parish boundary to follow A3125 from A39 roundabout to Cedars Roundabout.
- Parish boundaries, north of A3125, move west to follow Lower Cross Road and west of Anchorwood View.



Fremington Parish Council (Option 5)



- A motion was proposed by Cllr M Pullen, 2nd by Cllr C Horrell to include a fifth option to move the boundary to Tews Lane, to run from the A39 to the River Taw this would bring some of the Bickington Ward into Barnstaple.



Governance Arrangements (1)

- Should the number of councillors on an existing council be changed?
 - The Town Council currently has 24 Councillors across 7 Wards
 - The number of councillors relative to the resident population is significantly higher than towns of a similar population.
 - If an increase in population is the outcome of this review it may not be necessary to increase the number of councillors.

Town	Population	No of Cllrs
Barnstaple	~24,400	24
Beverley	~19,000	14
Bicester	~31,000	15
Burgess Hill	~32,000	24
Droitwich Spa	~24,500	18
Chippenham	~35,000	24
Dunstable	~41,000	18
Falmouth	~23,000	16
Haverhill	~27,000	16



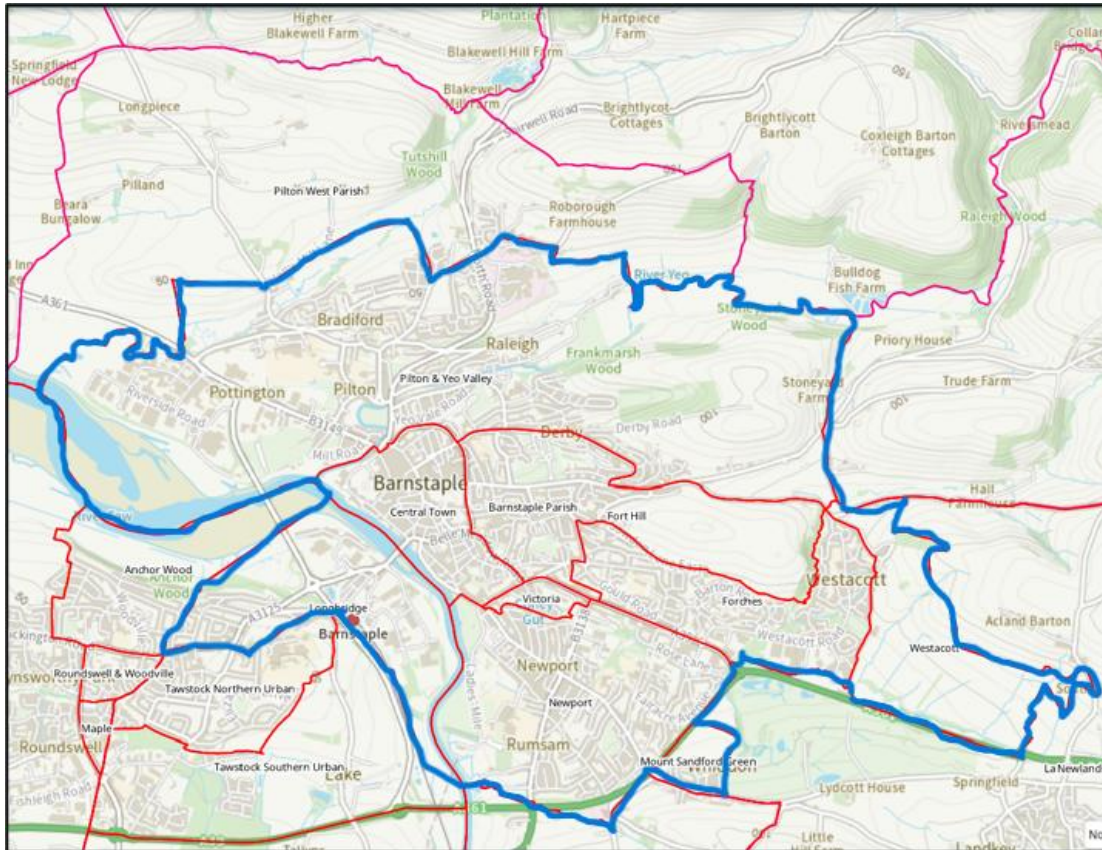
Governance Arrangements (2)

- Do you consider the parish should be divided into parish wards?
 - The Parish is already divided into 7 Wards.
 - A proposed change of Ward boundaries would be necessary as part of this review.
 - Ward representation is uneven across the parish.
 - The boundaries within the parish do not best represent some of the communities
 - The boundary of Pilton & Yeo Valley and Fort Hill cuts through the Gorwell estate.

Ward	No of Cllrs	Electorate	Ratio per Cllr
Central Town	2	2003	1001.50
Forches	4	3226	806.50
Fort Hill	4	2395	598.75
Long Bridge	1	927	927.00
Newport	5	3753	750.60
Pilton Yeo Valley	7	5755	822.14
Victoria	1	252	252.00
Total	24	18,311	



Governance Arrangements (3) (Current)

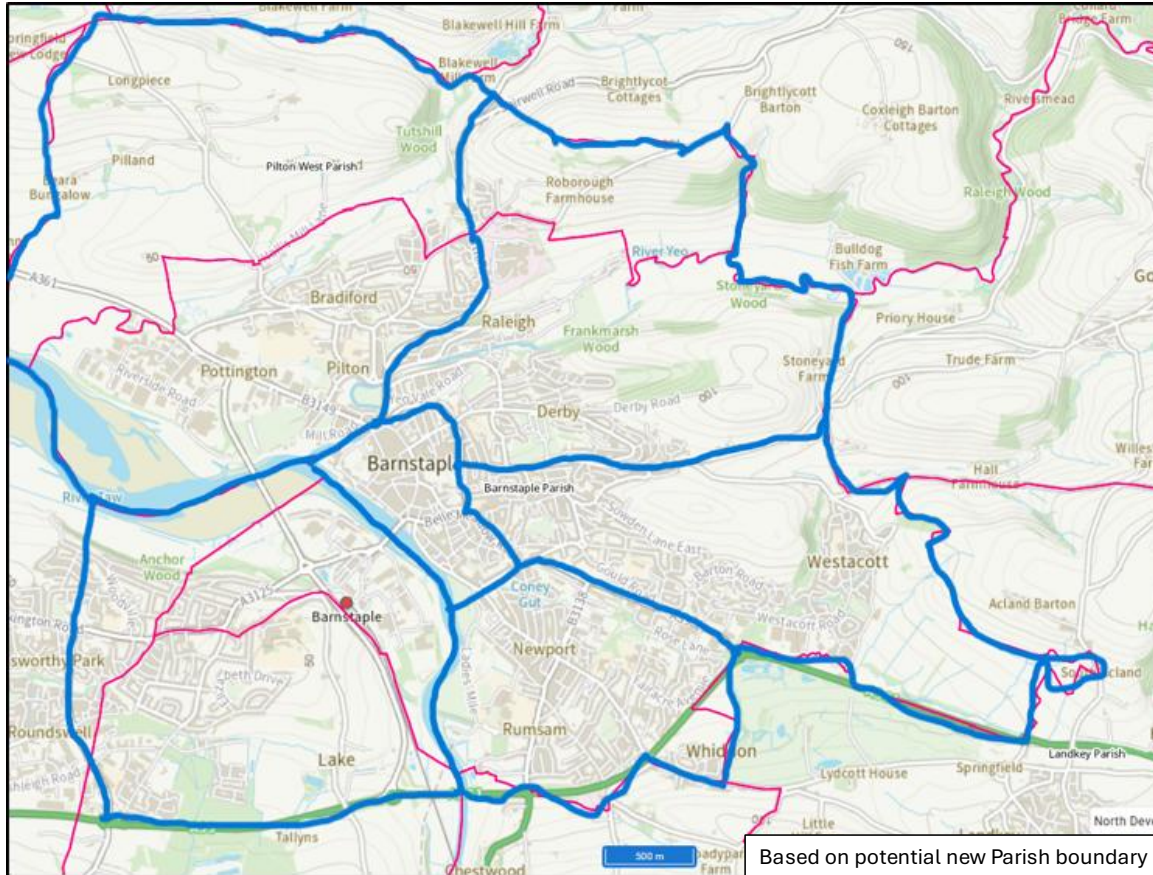


CONCERNS

- Map shows potentially greater number of Wards, as new housing developments come forward
- Neighbouring parishes also have smaller wards
- Smaller Wards appear to struggle to attract potential councillors



Governance Arrangements (4) (Proposed)



PRINCIPLES

- No single Councillor Wards
- 1,000 to 1,500 electorate per Councillor
- Ward Boundaries follow logical community lines
- Maximum of 6 Wards

