

**THE PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
PROPOSALS TO PLACE OTTERTON IN WITH OTTERY ST MARY
RATHER THAN BUDLEIGH SALTERTON.**

Ottertton Parish Council has considered the proposals to reorganise the electoral divisions in Devon and questions what benefit these will have for the rural communities in our area. At present we are represented by a County Councillor, who has responsibility for five adjacent villages. The new proposal places us in a group of villages along the Otter Valley together with the urban area of Ottery St Mary.

The Council feels that there is little logic in this change because the village has few common interests with Ottery St Mary and the northern part of the valley. Whoever drew these boundaries clearly had little knowledge of the social divisions of the area. The village is closely linked with the adjacent villages of Colaton Raleigh and East Budleigh, but each of these is dependent on the facilities of our nearest town, Budleigh Salterton.

Most of our commercial contacts are with the towns of Budleigh Salterton, Exmouth and Sidmouth, and these are linked to the village by a regular bus service. There is no public transport to Ottery St Mary. Most residents rely upon the medical facilities of the Budleigh Salterton Practise together with the related Social Security departments. Furthermore, plans are well advanced to make Budleigh Salterton Hospital a *Health and Wellbeing Hub*. Our police cover comes from Budleigh Salterton and Exmouth. Ottertton C of E Primary School is in a Federation with Drake's another C of E primary in East Budleigh. Both schools are closely linked with St Peter's C of E Primary in Budleigh Salterton. The vast majority of our pupils transfer to Exmouth Community College for secondary education. Our Church of St Michael and All Saints is part of the Raleigh Mission Community of parish churches and our nearest local Library is in Budleigh Salterton. The Girl Guides Association to which our girls are linked is in Budleigh Salterton. There are no similar links to Ottery St Mary.

The Council believes that the current division clearly reflects the interests and identities of our links with other communities.

For these reasons the Council consider the proposals to be a retrograde step.

Tony Bennett.
Chairman.