

BERRY POMEROY PARISH COUNCIL

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**URGENT PUBLIC MEETING: TUESDAY 11th AUGUST 2026 at Berry Pomeroy
Village Hall 7.15pm**

**A last opportunity to voice your preference of joining Torbay Unitary or the
Bridgetown Ward of Berry Pomeroy joining the new Devon Coast & Country
Unitary**

**If you are unable to make this meeting, please email your preference prior to
the meeting.**

Dear Resident,

I wanted to write to you personally about the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation and, in particular, what it could mean for residents living in the Bridgetown Ward of Berry Pomeroy.

Many of you may be aware the Government is creating new unitary councils across Devon. As part of that process, new boundaries will need to be drawn between the proposed Devon unitary authority and the proposed Torbay and South Devon unitary authority.

I think it is important to explain how we have reached this point, because there has understandably been some confusion.

The boundary currently being considered was **not** proposed by either Torbay Council or South Hams District Council. The Government asked for proposals to be based around existing parish council boundaries, and the plan submitted by Plymouth and Exeter followed that approach.

The difficulty is that the boundary of Berry Pomeroy Parish does not follow the same line as the existing Totnes town boundary. As a result, there is a triangular area around Bridgetown, where a number of homes, within the two boundaries do not align.

The Government is now moving towards finalising these new boundaries, and there is a small window of opportunity to influence this small section of the boundary before it is ratified. That means there is a limited opportunity for local people to have their views heard before the Government reaches its final decision.

Since this issue came to light, I have received representations from South Hams District Council explaining why they believe this part of Bridgetown should become part of the town of Totnes and falling into the new Devon Coast & Country Unitary,

but will still be managed by the Parish of Berry Pomeroy. Looking at the map, I can understand why that view has been put forward.

However, I have also heard from people who feel just as strongly that the area should remain within Berry Pomeroy Parish and therefore, become part of the proposed Torbay and South Devon unitary authority.

That is precisely why we don't believe this is something that should be decided without listening to the people who actually live here.

I am therefore extremely grateful to Berry Pomeroy Parish Council for finding time in what I know is an already busy schedule to hold a parish meeting to discuss this issue. It gives us the opportunity to hear directly from residents before the Parish Council considers the representation it wishes to make to Government.

I would genuinely encourage you to come along if you can. Whether you think the Bridgetown Ward should become part of Devon Coast & Country or remain within the Berry Pomeroy Parish transitioning into Torbay, I want to hear your views. The people who live here are the people whose opinions matter most.

I should also stress that this is **not** a decision that Berry Pomeroy Parish Council can make. Nor is it a decision for South Hams District Council, Torbay Council or even the future unitary authorities. The final decision rests with the Government.

Because of the timetable, this meeting is likely to be the best opportunity for your views to be heard before that decision is taken.

I hope you will be able to join us. I look forward to listening to your thoughts and hearing what you believe is the right future for your community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I hope to see you at the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor David Thomas
Leader, Torbay Council

Berry Pomeroy Parish Council