

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TOWN CLERKS REPORT
BOUNDARY EXTENSION
MAY, 2021 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The Department of Infrastructure has responded to the Commission's formal boundary extension application, the response is appended hereto.

The Department has sought further response to a number of questions for which draft responses are discussed below:-

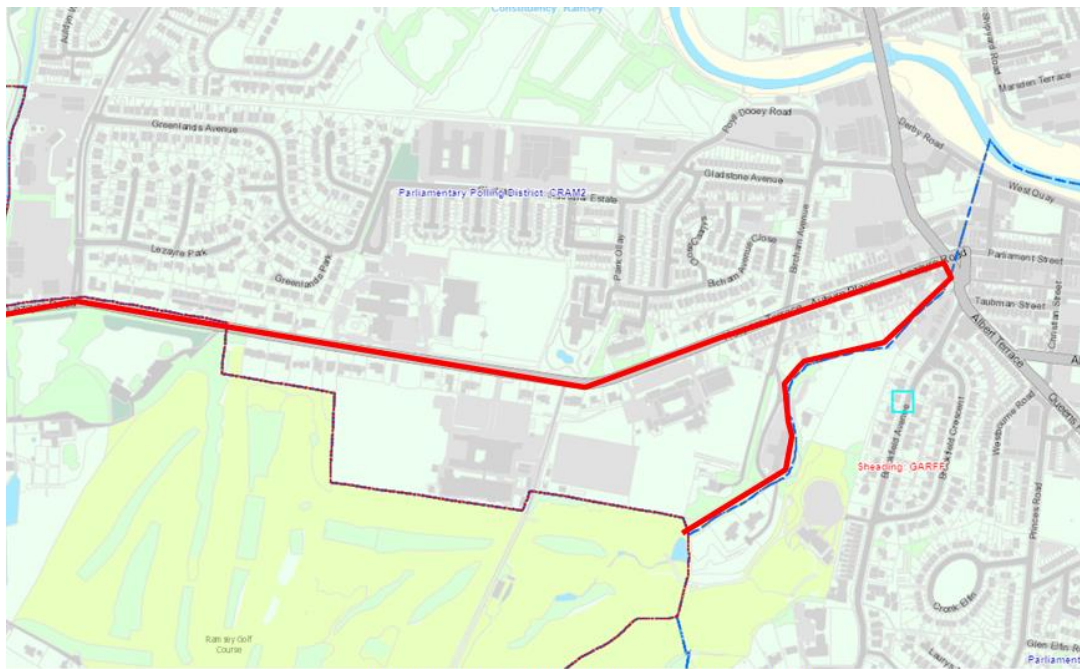
1) Future electoral ward boundaries. Is there a proposal to incorporate the residents in the affected areas into the current North and South Wards of the Town.

The Register of Electoral for the town's wards show that at 1st April 2021 there are 3,596 voters in North Ward and 2,650 voters in South Ward. The majority of lands sought to be incorporated within the proposed boundary extension are identified for future expansions/ development needs and therefore have few residents, with the exception of Glen Auldyn which contains approximately 100 properties and has 144 persons on the Register of Electors. It would seem reasonable therefore, in the event that a boundary extension was to include Glen Auldyn, to add voters in that area to the Register of Electors for Ramsey South Ward.

The Commission has also reviewed the existing boundary. Ward Boundaries generally follow geographic lines, the existing boundary is the ancient parish boundary between Lezayre and Maughold and follows the course of Leighany Stream. Alternative boundary lines of the Sulby Rover or the former railway line have been considered however the impact of such is merely to create a similar imbalance with a larger number of properties (and therefore voters) in South Ward than in North. (eg moving the boundary to the former railway line would move approximately 1000 votes from North to South Ward)

A minor adjustment in voter numbers might be achieved by following the line of the ancient parish boundary to Parliament Square but that at that point adjusting the ward boundary so that it follows the line of Lezayre Road with properties to the south of the road in South Ward with those to the north remaining in North Ward. This would result, based on the current Register of Electors, in 91 persons being move from North Ward to South Ward.

Ramsey Town Commissioners Town Clerks Report Boundary Extension May, 2021 – Public Continued



Proposed Revised Ward Boundary to Lezayre Road

The following table shows the impact on voter numbers which would result if Glen Auldyn were incorporated within Ramsey South Ward and if the Ward boundary were adjusted to follow Lezayre Road from Parliament Square.

	North Ward	South Ward
Existing voters (1/4/21)	3596	2650
Glen Auldyn (if approved)		114
Lezayre Road	-91	+91
Revised Voter Numbers	3505	2855

The matter of Ward Boundaries will inevitably have to be considered as future development occurs particularly as all the areas presented for development fall within the areas abutting to the current North Ramsey Ward. Any change would need to allow for the progress of future development or reflect actual development as it occurs. In the circumstances it is recommended that the Commission seek to change the Ward boundary so that it follows Lezayre Road from Parliament Square, and thereafter further considers the question of wards and membership once a new boundary has been agreed and in the light of progress of development.

**Ramsey Town Commissioners Town Clerks Report
Boundary Extension May, 2021 – Public Continued**

2) Will there be any changes to the number of local authority members in Ramsey to reflect the proposed boundary change?

The Commission has previously discussed the number of Members and remains of the view that the town should be served by 12 Members, six in each of two Wards. Any future review of wards would of necessity consider whether there should a single electoral areas or 2 or more wards, overall representation, and the number of members serving however many wards are settled upon.

3) With the assumption that the Commissioners are looking to take into consideration that those currently in Maughold and Lezayre will be paying significantly lower sums in their rates has consideration be given to how many years will be set out to equalise the rates for everyone and at what factor? This would be expected to be over at least 5 years.

The Commissioners recognise that there is a differential within the amount of local authority rate charges between Ramsey, Garff and Lezayre, and note that in previous boundary change processes the transition to the payment of a higher rate has been phased over 10 years. The Commissioners feel that this would be an appropriate timescale to enable gradual transition of properties brought into the town.

The Commissioners note also that areas of the proposed extended boundary are presently not development and would expect that any new development which takes place following the boundary extension, if approved, would be subject to the application of town rates on habitation without any transition.

The Department has also provided a draft timetable for the progress of this matter which is appended hereto for information.

Recommendation: for discussion

18th May, 2021.

**T. P. Whiteway,
Town Clerk & Chief Executive.**

**2021 TIMETABLE FOR PROPOSED EXTENSION OF RAMSEY TOWN
BOUNDARY AND PUBLIC INQUIRY**

Tasks	Proposed Dates
<p>Consult with LAs</p> <p>Before making an Order, the Department shall consult with every local authority (Lezayre and Garff Parish) whose district is affected by the proposed order.</p> <p>* This includes the Department going back to Ramsey Town Commissioners seeking clarification and further detail to assist with the understanding of the application and the drafting of the Order</p>	<p align="center">April- May 2021</p>
<p>Draft Order – Attorney General’s Chambers</p> <p>The Department shall arrange for a draft Order to be produced by the Attorney General’s Chambers – to be available as part of the public consultation and for discussion at the Inquiry.</p>	<p align="center">May - June 2021</p>
<p>Public Notice of Proposal</p> <p>Public notice to be placed in the local press by the Department, inviting views from members of the public.</p> <p>A copy of Ramsey’s application, the draft Order together with a plan showing the area in question, to be made available at the Department’s offices or at Ramsey Town Hall for inspection by the general public.</p> <p>(The Department will put a copy of the public notice on its website and will advise that the local authority’s application is viewable at Ramsey’s offices. A link to also be placed on Ramsey’s website).</p> <p>The Department will set a date for receipt of all submissions/views made by the public. They are to be collated and bundled to all LA’s affected by the proposal.</p>	<p align="center">June 2021 (for a period of 21 days)</p> <p align="center">(need to determine dates here as to when this will be in paper and the deadline for comments)</p>
<p>Provisional approach to a person to act as Inquiry Chair</p> <p>Consideration as to the process to appoint a suitable qualified person to act as Inquiry Chair. Provisional approach to the proposed person prior to approval being granted to hold an Inquiry.</p>	<p align="center">June 2021</p>
<p>Seek Tynwald Approval to Hold an Inquiry</p> <p>A motion must be taken to Tynwald seeking approval for an Inquiry to be carried out under the terms of the Inquiries (Evidence) Act 2003; and presuming this is granted an Inquiry Chairman can then be appointed by the Department. (To get</p>	<p align="center">JUNE 2021 (???) (deadline to take a motion to July Tynwald)</p>

<p>paperwork ready for this at the same time the proposal is out for advert above).</p> <p>The motion, 2 explanatory memo's, COMIN Paper for Tynwald Business, and brief speech to be prepared for the Minister's consideration by no later than ? June 2021.</p>	<p>?? June 2021 – the Tynwald paperwork must be with the Minister by this date, before being submitted on xxth June</p>
<p>Appoint Chairman & Book Venue for Inquiry</p> <p>(providing Tynwald approval obtained in July to hold an Inquiry)</p> <p>The Department shall appoint a Chairman of the Inquiry who must be independent and legally qualified – <u>determine their availability in late August /September.</u></p> <p>Provisionally book venue for Inquiry – determine availability of suitable venue. Consider back up re holding a virtual inquiry??</p>	<p>July -August 2021</p>
<p>Motion to be considered at July 2021 sitting of Tynwald</p>	<p>xx – xx JULY 2021</p>
<p>Public Notice in Local Press and Local Area</p> <p>Advert to be placed in newspapers giving date of Inquiry – August/September 2021 (TBC). Advert will also further invite comments from the public and ask them whether they would like to speak at the Public Inquiry.</p> <p>Advert in newspapers minimum of two weeks, in August – either the Courier ??????????? or the Examiner on ???????????</p> <p>Any submissions received from members of the public will need to be sent to the Chairman of the Inquiry for his/her consideration.</p> <p>----- -----</p> <p>Note: During previous inquiries, all those who made a submission were afforded the opportunity to comment on the other submissions received. <u>Need to check whether Chairman wishes to do this.</u></p>	<p>AUGUST 2021</p> <p>Deadline would be ??? August if advert put in the Courier, or ??? August if advert in IOM Examiner</p> <p>-----</p> <p>If affording opportunity to comment on other submissions, would need to allow 3 or 4 days to respond (this would take us to early September providing earlier deadline above is met)</p>
<p>Deadline Period Ends (for submission of views to the Dept)</p> <p>When acknowledging responses from members of the public, will need to ask them whether they wish to attend the Public Inquiry to give oral evidence in support of their submission (liaise with Chairman on this).</p>	<p>SEPT 2021</p>
<p>Confirm Date & Venue of Public Inquiry</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER 2021 (?)</p>

Public Inquiry – date to be determined and venue to be confirmed (following earlier provisional booking).	(although dependent on deadlines above and the Chairman’s availability)
<p>Date of Public Inquiry</p> <p>Public Inquiry takes place – details are recorded.</p>	
<p>Possible Date of Receipt of Chairman’s Report</p> <p>LGU to type up transcript from tape recordings of proceedings of the Inquiry, which is then sent to the Chairman, who then writes a report of the Inquiry findings.</p>	NOVEMBER 2021
<p>Pink Paper to be drafted requesting DOI approval to go to Tynwald</p> <p>Following receipt of Chairman’s report, will need to obtain Department approval to get an Order included on the Tynwald Agenda</p>	DECEMBER 2021
<p>Draft Tynwald & CoMIN Docs (for January 2022 Tynwald)</p> <p>The following documents need to be drafted <u>in advance</u> of the ???????? as this is the deadline date by which all papers need to be handed to the Minister for his consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order • CoMIN paper • Explanatory Memorandum (for Tynwald Members) • Notion of Motion <p>A speech also needs to be drafted for the Minister.</p>	DECEMBER 2021 (?) / JANUARY 2022
<p>Minister to read & sign Tynwald & CoMIN Documents</p> <p>Minister needs to sign the above documents by <u>?????????</u> at the very latest to enable the necessary copies to be printed in readiness for taking over to the Cabinet Office by no later than <u>1 pm on ????????????????</u></p>	DECEMBER 2021 (?)
<p>Deadline Date for Submission of Documents</p> <p>Once signed by the Minister, the following copies need to be sent to the Cabinet Office:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order – 5 printed hardcopies (and email in PDF) • CoMIN paper – Email in PDF format (signed version) & Word version • Explanatory Memo (for Tynwald Members) – 5 printed hardcopies (and email in PDF) 	<p>EARLY DECEMBER (?) 2021</p> <p>For January 2022 Tynwald (?)</p>