

Rossendale Borough Council

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Comment text:

Whereas I agree with the review of Rossendale Borough Council and balancing the number of councillors across the whole of Rossendale I think splitting the current Whitworth Ward would be a massive mistake and damage the community that is Whitworth, combining Shawforth and Irwell Ward would mean two very Independent areas with very different people being grouped together as a numerical exercise. You would also have councillors trying to look after two starkly different and also geographically separate areas which I feel would not give the affected residents the level of support and service from their elected Councillor's. You would also find that Shawforth Residents will always look towards Whitworth Councillors for support guidance and help because that is what living in Whitworth is all about, I started working in Whitworth in 1989 and felt very welcome in this quite Pennine community. About 10 years later I moved to Whitworth and since then have never looked back. My sons were born in Whitworth, baptised in Whitworth, Went to Primary and Secondary Schools in Whitworth and now both of them work for businesses located in Whitworth, and I am sure one day they will move out of their mums house and settle down in this village as have my older stepchildren. I have been fortunate to have represented Whitworth as an elected member of Whitworth Town Council for nearly 16 years and it's been one of the best ways I can serve my local community, I even spent a year as the Mayor of Whitworth which is one of my biggest achievements. The one thing I have learned in the 30 years that I have lived and worked within Whitworth is that it has a huge sense of community, and it is ingrained into all parts of daily life in Whitworth. I was once told by an estate agent that people don't often move away from Whitworth they tend to move around the village. Part of Whitworth's community spirit is the huge amount of community groups that exist within the village which over the last few years has grown in numbers, We have a huge amount of youth football teams from 5 years to adult teams, there is an amazing swimming club which has existing for over 30 years, and people travel from outside of Whitworth to be part of the club, we have Samba Sance a nationally recognised dance studio which not only trains dancers of all ages from Whitworth but also from outside of the Town, We also have one of the last Rush Cart Celebrations in the UK, most of these celebrations died out after the First World War and the Whitworth Rush cart featuring dancers and dances unique to both Whitworth and Shawforth takes place every September and really unites all the people of Whitworth and also attracts visitors from out of the area, as well as this event the local Tourism and Leisure Committee which is part of Whitworth Town Council hosts other community based events throughout the year, Whitworth is a community defined by the character of the people and its own unique history but also it is defined by the geography of the area. Hills to the North, East and West of Whitworth isolates the town from Bacup and the rest of Rossendale and more hills and the unique shape of Healy Dell Nature Reserve again isolates Whitworth from Rochdale and Greater Manchester. Dividing this wonderful and unique community for any reason would be a massive mistake and spoil an amazing place full of amazing people

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded