

Rossendale Borough Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Whitworth in Bloom

Comment text:

There has been a recommendation to separate the area of Shawforth from the current Facit and Shawforth ward to which I strongly object. Shawforth owes its identity to activities within the whole of Whitworth and not to Bacup, to which it is proposed to be amalgamated. I am writing to you in my capacity as a member of various community groups which take place in Whitworth (including Shawforth) and help promote the strong community spirit Whitworth currently enjoys. Firstly, Whitworth Community Choir rehearses at Shawforth Chapel and pays for the hire of the Hall. If the choir chooses to relocate to a different venue, the Chapel will lose its revenue from us. This is the only place of worship in Shawforth and, like many churches, is struggling to survive financially. Our current councillors attend the concerts we perform there as do local residents. The choir and its activities are an integral part of the cultural activities of Whitworth, linking all the areas. We would hate to feel that Shawforth was no longer part of that community spirit. Secondly, Whitworth library is much used by residents of Shawforth as well as the children from the primary school there, St John's and St Michael's. Schools have always been encouraged to visit the library. If Shawforth moves to Bacup and Irwell, would the children have to travel twice as far to get to Bacup for a visit? I cannot see that happening and the knock on effect of that is negative. Thirdly, as an active member of Whitworth in Bloom, the inclusion of Shawforth in our volunteer group has been of great importance to us and of aesthetic value to the residents. In 2018, work began on beautifying the stones (a heritage symbol marking the start of the valley and its association with quarries) at the start of the newly laid cycle track. It is at this point that there is a Welcome to Whitworth sign! Since then, this area has been maintained by the volunteers who plant throughout the year and have even created a community orchard at that site. The area is the northern entry to the town and, to create symmetry with the southern approach, has. 'Tommy' soldier statue as a tribute to the fallen. The Whitworth in Bloom group get a large tranche of their finances from Whitworth Town Council and this money has been distributed throughout many areas of the town. Time and money has been invested in this area and, should Shawforth join Bacup and Irwell ward, it will no longer be a part of Whitworth in Bloom and so not maintained by us. It would be unfortunate to see such a community spirited venture be lost. Please see the photo below, showing the sign at Shawforth, the very definite boundary marker welcoming people to Whitworth from the northern end of town.

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1669643410_DCA02B10-01F6-4E10-A7E2-C43D26911D00.jpeg\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1669643410_DCA02B10-01F6-4E10-A7E2-C43D26911D00.jpeg)

