

Re Boundary Commission Consultation

- Transferring Shawforth Ward to Bacup.

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on the recent proposal to place Shawforth in Whitworth with Towell Vale ward in Bacup. This may appear a neat solution numerically, but presents serious complications due to geography, finance and committee attitudes.

Redrawing divisions within a committee to reflect changing voter numbers is fair enough but taking one section of the community in the Spoddon Valley and transferring to a community over the natural geographical divide into the Towell Valley is unlikely to produce a cohesive borough vote.

Some voters in a Bacup ward will be paying a rate precept in order to still enjoy the 'extras' that we decide are worthwhile. Such things as cleaner streets and the willingness of residents and business to work together alongside our own Town Council. Will this not produce a dogs breakfast of contribution and control?

Whitworth has a great committee spirit despite being strung out along the valley. We look to our own schools, our health centre, our library, our clubs and organisations. Similarly people in Bacup show no interest in conditions in Whitworth. We look to our Town Council to support and organize impressively attended events, the Skyline walk around our valley, Remembrance day and concerts with our Band, Family fun days, individual Kmas trees, the Santa express and our Rush Card ceremony with its attendant

processional dances - one of which is the 'Shawforth dance'

There is no point being represented by someone from a different town or asking a section of Whitworth residents to vote for a Borough Councillor for Bacup. Having fought to stay out of Gt. Mandale and fought to retain our Town Council we wish to remain a unit. It will be bad for the democratic system for I fear Shawforth people will ignore the vote!

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.