

I have lived in Whitworth since 1970 when I was six years old. Whitworth is a unique area in Rossendale.

In 1974 the town voted to be in Lancashire, rather than under the influence of the big town of Rochdale in Greater Manchester. One reason was pride in 'Lancashire' - the traditional county.

Paradoxically Whitworth looks towards Rochdale rather than Bacup for shopping, services and most things. (The local accent in Whitworth is similar to Rochdale and towns in the area to the south of here. The accent in Bacup and Rossendale northwards is quite different.) Whitworth is a street village between the two with no road off and has developed its own way.

Facit and Shawforth belong to Whitworth with their own concerns. It's better to have ONE big Rossendale ward representing the whole of Whitworth with 3 councillors rather than 6 and not lumping it with Bacup town centre surrounds which have different priorities.

Whitworth is its own micro-community and in my opinion would not be served best being diluted with potentially 'disabling' mergers.

