

Shropshire

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Comment text:

Related subject: Burnell Ward

The current review found that Burnell ward is projected to remain within the 10% tolerance for voter numbers (approximately 8% over). There is therefore no need to adjust the ward. However, to address an issue with Bayston Hill, Column and Sutton which are predicted to be 15% over the target voters for its 2 councillor ward the LGBC propose to:

Take All Stretton/Smethcott/Woolstaton PC and Pulverbatch PC from Burnell and add them to Bishops Castle.

Take Cardington PC from Burnell and add it to Corvedale.

Add the remaining voters from Burnell and also Cound Parish to the 2 Bayston Hill Parishes thereby creating a new 2 member ward of Burnell and Bayston Hill.

This proposal seems to be unreasonable as:

Burnell and Bayston Hill are very different areas with Burnell consisting of small, fairly isolated rural parishes and Bayston Hill now almost a suburb of Shrewsbury.

The new ward will comprise some 60% Bayston Hill residents giving concerns that this may well lead to the specific needs of the remainder of the current Burnell ward and Cound being overlooked. This situation could very likely be worsened as the numbers give a very real possibility that the two councillors could both be from Bayston Hill.

It would seem that communities would be much better served, with similar parishes combined, by the following option;

Bayston Hill could be joined with Otley and Reabrook, which would create a 2 member "outer town" ward that is within the tolerance.

To address the wider numbers issue Corvedale could take Cardington,

Bishops Castle could take All Stretton/Smethcott/Woolstaston and

Burnell could take Cound from Severn Valley to help control Severn Valley numbers. All the above combinations would be within the tolerance.

Finally, The review does not seem to have considered the current parliamentary constituency review which, in its latest and final proposals, has Bayston Hill in a new Shrewsbury constituency with Burnell in South Shropshire. This would put a parliamentary boundary across the middle of a Burnell and Bayston Hill Burnell ward, adding to confusion regarding representation.

I would urge the LGBC to reconsider this part of their proposal.

Attached Documents:

None attached