

Shropshire Council

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Comment text:

The existing Loton Division has the right number of electors and changes to try and find the extra 1000 needed to fill the Chirbury and Worthen division reducing the numbers in Loton dramatically to below those required makes little sense. There are a number of factors to consider. - The Loton division consist of and accurately represents the rural communities to the west of Shrewsbury up to the Welsh Boarder. These boarder communities very much look towards Shrewsbury in terms of employment, health, post 16 education, leisure activities and wider amenities to name but a few. The further up the B4386 you travel past Worthen these communities look less to Shrewsbury and more into Wales and most importantly Bishops Castle especially for education, shopping etc. I cannot see the logic in removing the community of Westbury from a division the accurately reflects its character and is very similar to those around it and placing it alongside communities which differ in a number of ways being much further removed from the extended Shrewsbury community. - Looking at the geography of a proposed division which removes Westbury which is likely to be promoted by the current councillor for the chirbury and Worthen Division leaves small communities isolated and cut off namely by the railway line. These areas to the south of the proposed division see themselves very much as part of the wider Westbury community, particularly when it comes to events, religious worship and local democracy with the Westbury Parish Council including these areas. - The Yockleton polling district which is proposed to be left within the Loton division will stand alone removed from its natural neighbour and lack presence within the wider Loton Division. - It is extremely important to have an equitable balance between communities either side of the River Severn. It has been extremely helpful for the communities either side of the river to be represented by the same councillor and to feel united as one especially when dealing with the flooding issues and in particularly around formation of the River Severn partnership and the emerging solutions to flooding for Shrewsbury and other communities downstream which will have a significant impact on the communities along the river in Loton as they will have to be part of the solution to the problems in the more unban areas. This latest proposal creates an significant imbalance in the division which could result in problems down the line. - The large geographical parish of Alberbury with Cardeston but with a small poipulation will be significantly cut off from the bulk of the Loton Division by the poor road network and river in the area. the communities to the west of this parish at halfway house and areas of the long mountain all look to Westbury as their natural community centre rather than Alberbuy. - I have been in support of all the other previous suggestions in order to achieve 74 councillors it makes sense to disband the Chirbury and Worthen Division with its communities that naturally affiliate with Shrewsbury coming into the Loton Division and those communities which naturally affiliate with Bishops castle going into the exiting Bishops Castle division . Bringing in of Worthen to the Loton division in fact makes a lot of sense , it is a community along the B4386 the main arterial route in the area. It would bring together the primary school catchment area for Long Mountain. The church in Worthen shares a Vicar with the churches of Westbury and Yockleton along the B4386 and it would bring these together. As previously mentioned the communities in this area including Worthen to some extent look very much towards Shrewsbury, this is easily demonstrated between 745am and 845a, and 445pm and 545pm when you see the streams of traffic leaving the area in the morning heading towards Shrewsbury and returning after work in the evening. The further West that you travel along the B4386 the more communities look less to Shrewsbury and more towards Bishops Castle, hence I felt this earlier suggestion of bringing Worthen into the Loton Division and the rest into the Bishops Castle Division makes some sense. In conclusion I strongly (very strongly) object to this latest proposal that have at the last minute been included by Shropshire council . It appears that in order to solve a problem of a division being in the region of 1000 electors short (Chirbury and Worthen) it will create bigger issues, disrupt communities and create isolation in rural areas unnecessarily. My understanding is that the Boundary Commission are looking for 74 councillors in Shropshire and that is precisely

what they have been consulting on with the public since before Christmas. The wider impacts of trying to retain the Chribury and Worthen Division are far reaching in and around Shrewsbury having a knock on impact as far as the Brown Clee Division some significant distance way. The logical solution is to split the smallest division of Chirbury and Worthen and retain the well establishes community links. I know concerns have been raised around the geographical size of the divisions on the west of the county, the one thing I would say is they are already big and function perfectly well an increase in size from my perspective is not a problem in the slightest.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded