

Shropshire Council

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Comment text:

Proposal by Rushbury Parish Council re incorporating Cardington parish in the Corvedale division, submitted on behalf of PC by Dr Colin Stevenson, Chairman.

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1674057262_LGBC+Consultation.pdf)

LGBC Consultation Shropshire

Proposal by Rushbury Parish Council (submitted by Dr Colin Stevenson, Chairman)

That the parish of Cardington be transferred from Burnell division to Corvedale division.

Electoral Equality

The Corvedale division is geographically large covering a number of relatively small parishes reflecting the rural sparsity of south Shropshire. For this reason it could be argued that the size of the division should remain unchanged. However should the Commission conclude that in the interests of electoral equality the division should be expanded then we would propose that the parish of Cardington be moved from the Burnell division into Corvedale division. This would transfer an electorate of 358 and an expected electorate of 367. The effect would be to reduce the electoral inequality between the divisions, Burnell would reduce from 3646 to 3288 while Corvedale would increase from 3048 to 3406 hence reducing the difference between electoral populations from 598 to 118.

Interests and Identity

Rushbury Parish Council proposes this change because of the close ties and similarities between the parishes of Cardington and Rushbury. Both are sparse rural parishes covering large areas having many small isolated settlements. Two of the main roads into Cardington parish are from the B4371 which joins Church Stretton and Much Wenlock as it passes through Rushbury parish. The main economic activities in both parishes are agriculture and tourism, the latter benefiting from the many footpaths within the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Additionally the four parishes of Cardington, Eaton under Heywood, Hope Bowdler and Rushbury form an informal community within south Shropshire to the east of Church Stretton which share common characteristics and have formal and informal social ties.

The existing boundaries of Cardington parish would extend the boundaries of the Corvedale division which would remain easily identifiable.

There are close social ties between the parishes. Examples of joint organisations are

- Rushbury and Cardington W. I.
- Rushbury and Cardington Young Farmers
- Apedale Amblers, a local walking group with leaders from both parishes and walks undertaken in both parishes
- The Apedale Parishes of the Church of England includes Cardington and Rushbury as well as Eaton under Heywood and Hope Bowdler which are all served by one Rector.
- The Honeyptot monthly parish magazine serves the above four parishes.

There are complementary activities organised by the village halls in the two parishes for example Flicks in the Sticks at Cardington and indoor bowling and table tennis at Rushbury. There are complementary local facilities used by both parishes such as the primary school at Rushbury and, currently the only open public house in either, the Royal Oak at Cardington.

Effective and Convenient Local Government

The proposal is unlikely to have much effect in this regard. While it would make Corvedale division geographically larger this is balanced by the reduced electoral inequality.