

# Shropshire

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mrs Natalie Rowley  
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**Organisation Name:** N/A (Parish or town councillor)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** St Martins

I am writing in relation to the proposed changes put forward for the St Martins division, as a resident and parish councillor in St Martins. The proposals for St Martins includes joining Weston Rhyn, as well as more villages of Ellesmere Rural, to St Martins, changing it from a one seat division to a two seat division.

This is a proposal I strongly support.

The villages of Weston Rhyn and St Martins have been connected by the mining community since the second half of the 19th century, when many of the two villages men, worked at the Brynkinalt colliery in nearby Chirk. By 1900 this colliery was no longer as productive and the owners decided to sink a further shaft at Ifton Heath Colliery, St Martins. Many of the miners transferred there in 1913.

As a result of the transfer a new branch railway line was required to be built to transfer the coal from Ifton Heath to Weston Rhyn railway station, furthering the connection between the two villages.

At its peak 1300 miners worked at Ifton Heath before it closed in 1968.

However, the Ifton Heath Colliery Band continued to play for a further 52 years. Many of the musicians came from St Martins and Weston Rhyn. The government also provided incentives for Cadbury's to open a chocolate manufacturing plant at nearby Chirk in 1968, and Kronospan to open a manufacturing plant in 1970. Many from St Martins and Weston Rhyn continue to work at these businesses.

St Martins and Weston Rhyn were only split electorally following the 2008 review and should now be re-united. The A5 is a false dividing line, the economic and social history combines the two.

Due to the inclusion of new villages to the division, I would suggest a name change of 'St Martins, Weston Rhyn and Ellesmere Rural' to ensure

the villages are recognised and feel represented.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*