

# Shropshire

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mr Oliver Richardson  
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**Organisation Name:** Wem Civic Society (Representative of a local organisation)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Wem

Wem Civic Society opposes the proposal to change from the current two-member division covering Wem Urban, Wem Rural, and Whixall to a two single-councillor divisions with one covering most of Wem Urban and the other Wem Rural, Whixall, and part of Wem Urban using the railway line as a boundary.

It is appreciated that the present preference is for single-councillor divisions but this should not be at the expense of the effective working of local democracy and the preferences of electors.

The need for boundaries that “reflect community identities and provide for clear and identifiable boundaries”, is mentioned. However creating a division by tagging on part of SE of Wem, which is urban to the rural area contradicts both these conditions.

Wem Town is a relatively small and compact ‘market town’ community (served by Wem Town Council). People living in the proposed detached SE section of Wem are part of the town, and look to the town not the rural hinterland. The services and infrastructure that they use would lie in a different division making effective representation somewhat moot. There have been issues in the past in this SE section of Wem, where rural councillors were involved and were clearly unable to appreciate the concerns of local residents. Road traffic and the operation of the level crossing being two major issues. The level crossing is crucial to the movement of people into and out of central Wem. It is particularly important that the overview of the crossing is not split between divisions. Network Rail has raised the possibility of closing this crossing in the past and this was seen off by a united front of residents and councillors.

The view of the society’s members is that there is no reason to move from the present two-member division and that the existing situation should be retained. As one of our members put it, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!”

## Attached Documents:

*None attached*