



Submission to Draft Proposals to the Shropshire Divisional Boundary Review 2023

Worfield & Rudge Parish Council
July 2023

General

Worfield and Rudge is a Civil Parish in Shropshire, England and borders the nearby town of Bridgnorth and is one of England's largest geographical rural parishes.

The parish is home to some 2,200 residents (estimated in 2021) and covers a number of small hamlets, namely Ackleton, Burcote, Catstree, Chesterton, Hilton, The Hobbins, Swancote, Stanmore, Rudge, Rudge Heath, Roughton, Rindleford, Worfield and Wyken to name a few.

The parish council is made up of 15 Councillors who are elected to three wards: The Hobbins (3), North Ward (10) and Rudge Ward (2) . There is currently a fair representation of Councillors who live and work across most areas of this parish, thus are able to be very local voices for the electorate.

Parish councillors at Worfield & Rudge Parish Council are supported by a Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council is making its representations to the Boundary Commission for the review of the Shropshire Boundary Review 2023 on behalf of all of our electorate.

Consultation with electorate

The Parish Council conducted some informal discussions on the topic of the boundary review with our Divisional County Councillor for Worfield and with neighbouring parishes in Stockton and Badger Parish Councils respectively.

We have consulted with several of our residents, and we submit with this letter 338 petition signatures from our parishioners supporting our position that the boundary of Worfield & Rudge Parish Council should not change following the Boundary Review of the Shropshire Divisions. This represents approximately 24.94% of our overall electorate and represents almost 70% of homes in The Hobbins.

Bridgnorth Town Council have not approached the residents in The Hobbins, therefore their support for encroachment into Stanmore is currently based on supposition.

Our current boundary makeup is a diverse community which very much feels one, and our common interests in topics such as preserving the natural rural resources around us is often a view shared by residents from Kingslow to Stanmore.

Impact on the community

During our consultations with residents, one particular subject that was constantly raised was the potential level of precept that residents would have to pay if moved into a larger neighbouring town with a significant precept rate, whereas Worfield & Rudge Parish represents one of the lowest precepts per household in the whole of the ceremonial Shropshire area and residents felt that if they were made to pay a higher local taxation that they would not envisage any direct benefit to current or future services.

Identity

The areas of Claverley and Worfield divisions benefit from having similar interests and identities, namely being viewed as rural communities with many areas of these divisions actually being part of the West Midlands Green Belt. An identity that we feel should be preserved.

The Parish of Worfield & Rudge already has a good working relationship with the Parish of Claverley and it is felt beneficial if one division was created to foster closer relationships through a one-person contactable Divisional Councillor.

Conclusion

We support the Boundary Commissions proposals to create a new Claverley and Worfield division and maintain all the Parishes boundaries as they are listed below to form the boundary of this new division;

- Badger
- Claverley
- Worfield & Rudge