

Shropshire

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Dear Mr Jackson,

I am a resident and landowner in Stockton, Sutton Maddock, Ryton, Beckbury & Worfield Parishes. I am aware of local opinion as I am involved in voluntary work in Bridgnorth, Stockton PCC, Stockton Parish Council & the local Conservative party association.

I note that a correction to the original proposed changes has been issued which moves Stockton Parish into Shifnal Rural.

My points are:

1. Stockton has close association with Sutton Maddock, adjacent & on the A442, with shared Village Hall. It makes sense to keep these in the same ward. However, there are also links to the four other rural parishes of Beckbury, Ryton, Kemberton & Badger. These six parishes have a united Church benefice & so do cooperate & work together at local level. I believe that these six should be kept within the same ward (ie Badger kept with Beckbury etc in Shifnal Rural or Worfield).
2. Ludlow Parliamentary constituency includes these six parishes as well as Worfield Parish. But it does not include any of the Shifnal parishes (in Wrekin Parliamentary constituency). I am surprised that the Parliamentary boundary is not considered as the Unitary Councillor will need to work with the local MP & it is less easy to work with two MPs
3. The new 'Shifnal Rural' area will have 12 Parish/ Town council contacts for the Unitary Councillor. Apart from the six parishes mentioned above, there aren't any significant links between the parishes. The advantage of the previous linkage of Worfield & the six was that Worfield &

Rudge have one unified parish council. Maybe if Hobbins etc was added to Bridgnorth (see below) & Claverley added to Worfield & the six it would make a suitable ward?

4. If 'Shifnal Rural' is to be retained then a possible suitable name could be 'Worfe Valley' as the settlements are in the catchment of this iconic local river & it gives some separation from the urban.

5. The Bridgnorth proposal includes rural areas for Bridgnorth Castle & Bridgnorth West & Tasley, but excludes settlements & the main industrial areas from Bridgnorth East, including the Hobbins, Russel Close, Stanmore Business Park, Stourbridge road Industrial estate & a newly developed retail/ merchant area by the A458 with TG Builders, Screwfix, Shell. These areas have a far closer link to Bridgnorth than they do to the rural parish of Worfield & Claverley or Bridgnorth Rural (Alveley, Quatt etc). The two industrial areas are home to two of the biggest private sector employers in Shropshire (Bridgnorth Aluminium & Grainger & Worrall). It does not seem to make sense to have these areas represented in rural wards. They include key stakeholders in the future of Bridgnorth and in a rural ward would be less likely to enable 'effective and convenient local government' or 'reflect local identity'. The residential area of the Hobbins & Russel close have no shops, pubs, church or community centre. The nearest are in Bridgnorth. Likewise they do not have a polling station & voting in Bridgnorth is likely to be more convenient than voting in Worfield (St James Hall is far more accessible to Hobbins than Worfield VH & historically Hobbins voters have had a low turnout). They are more likely to get access to services (eg issues of adoption of common areas & poor sewage system in Hobbins) if attached to the town of Bridgnorth with more resources.

Therefore I suggest that Bridgnorth East is expanded to the outer boundary of the Hobbins, Stanmore Business Park & Stourbridge Road industrial estate. Eardington could be added to Bridgnorth Rural to compensate & if necessary the part of Bridgnorth East on the west side of the R Severn added to BN West or BN Castle.

Attached Documents:

None attached