

Shropshire Council

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

I write in relation to St Martins division. I am a resident in St Martins, as well as a St Martins Parish Councillor. St Martins Division population is predicted to be 4,050 in 2028, which puts it beyond the ideal population figure of 3,595. This is +13% of the ideal figure, putting it above the acceptable range of + or - 10%. I understand there needs to be a review of where the St Martins boundary sits for the division. The current division is made up of the whole of St Martins Parish, along with two wards from Ellesmere Rural Parish Council - Dudleston Ward and Dudleston Heath Ward. Predicted 2028 population figures as followed: NNA St Martins Parish Council 1299 NNB St Martins Parish Council 1433 NNC Ellesmere Rural Council Dudleston Ward 666 NND Ellesmere Rural Council Dudleston Heath Ward 653 Due to the strong community links of wards NNA and NNB to St Martins, such as St Martins School where the majority of residents in St Martins send their children, St Martins Village Hall, the Miner's Institute, as well as the former mining houses along Moors Bank, it is imperative these two areas remain within the St Martins division. I strongly oppose any proposal that suggests the removal of any part of St Martins Parish Council, from the St Martins Division boundary, as any segregation fails to recognise the needs of the St Martins community. The two areas of Dudleston (NNC) and Dudleston Heath (NND), are both within the larger Ellesmere Rural Parish Council, and have strong links towards Ellesmere and The Meres. Criftins CE Primary school in Dudleston Heath, provides for children living within this area, and falls within the catchment area for The Lakeland's secondary school in Ellesmere, creating a strong community link between the two areas. If there is a need to reduce the numbers of electors within St Martins division, it makes sense to return the most easterly ward to sit with its neighbouring Ellesmere Rural Council wards of Tetchill, and Welsh Frankton in The Meres Division. The combination of St Martins Parish with Dudleston Ward, would make a total population of 3398. This would be -5% of the ideal figure and within the ideal range. I can see from the figures The Meres division is also over the ideal figure. My suggestion would be to balance this by transferring Harmer Hill, Myddle and Broughton Parish to Tern Division. A possible solution to address Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston Rhyn 2 seat division, needing to be split into 2 separate divisions, is to keep the whole of Gobowen together and to link with the area of Park Hall from the Whittington Division. Linking Gobowen and Park Hall together makes geographical and community sense as the RJA Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen sits on the current boundary between the two areas, as well as good ties with TNS football club in Park Hall and the community in Gobowen. Cllr Natalie Rowley

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded