

Shropshire Council

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Comment text:

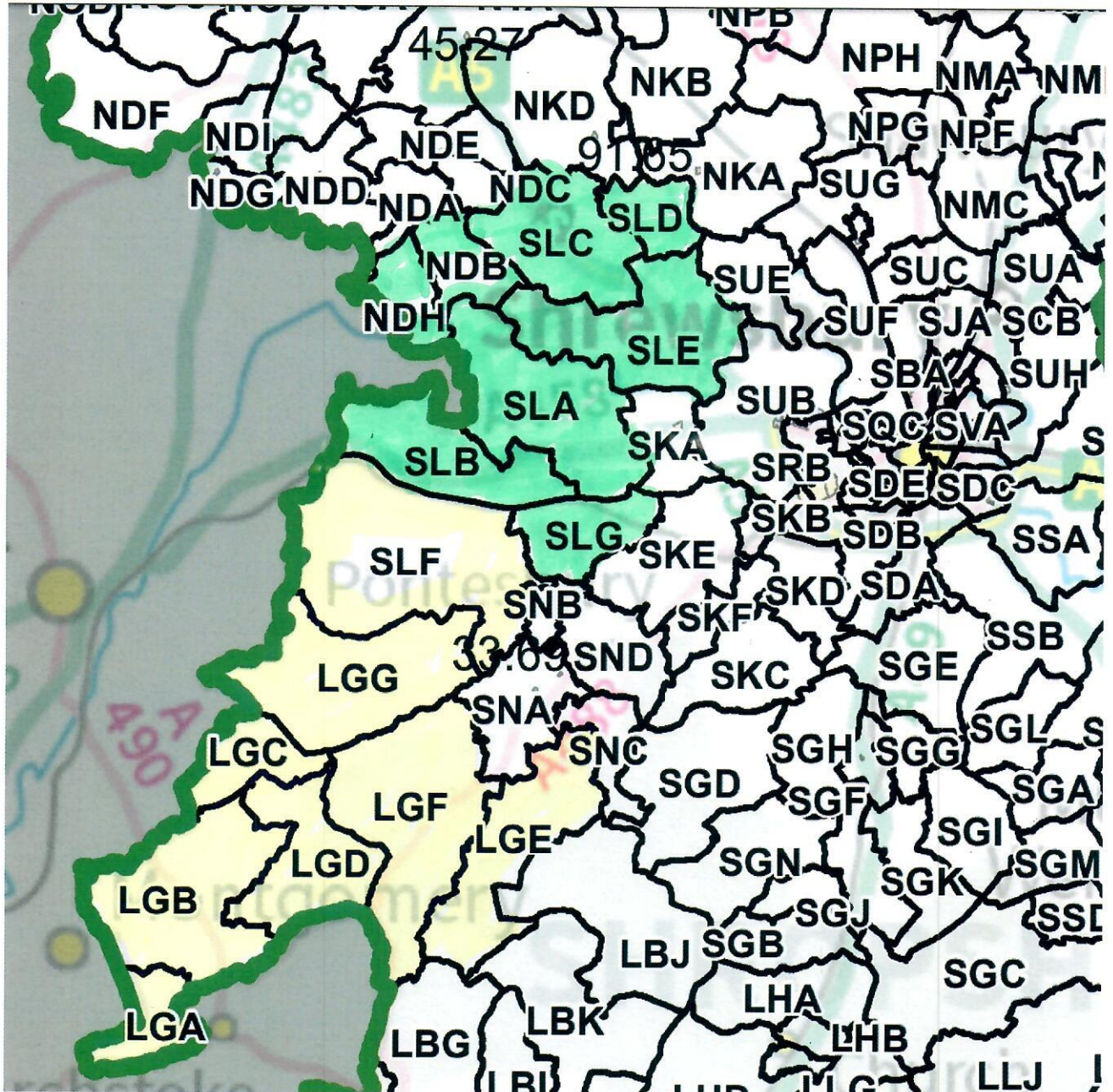
I support 75 councillors as this maintains geographically manageable rural Divisions. Sparsely populated Shropshire could with 74 Councillors have even more sparsely populated rural ones. This will mean the rural Divisions may need to be on the lower side of 3,600 electors to around -10%. This is especially important in providing accessibility to residents and them to their elected representatives. The population since 2008 has risen significantly and will support 75. I therefore support the Shropshire Council submission. Communities of interest are vitally important in rural areas and they need to be viewed in their very specific geographies. Deep valleys and poor road networks mean the A and B roads leading to Shrewsbury are all important especially in the south west of the County. This geography in the Shropshire Hills divides communities. The geographic pattern and the heights of the hills in the Shropshire Hills AONB are significant to their communities. See attached document noting some of those in the Chirbury Bishops Castle area. Corndon is a hill in Powys but it divides areas of Shropshire such as Chirbury & Worthen from Bishop's Castle Divisions. It has a significant height of 1683ft. Other geographic features such as rivers - the Severn - are also significant dividers of communities where road bridges are not present. The attached document proposes to add one whole polling district to Chirbury and Worthen Division. There are already communities straddling these borders and Westbury has significant links to Worthen. See attached.

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1675030301_Chirbury+%26W+proposal.pdf\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1675030301_Chirbury+%26W+proposal.pdf)

Map of polling districts

Chirbury and Worthen Division (C&W) new boundaries. Compact geography and easy access. See also communities of interest.



New Chirbury and Worthen Division in yellow LGA → LGG + SLF

Loton in green — SLA → SLG + NDH + NDB (without SLF).

Chirbury & Worthen Division is 47 sq. miles with some imposing geography and is deeply divided by 2 valleys and a hanging valley. Stapeley Common, Bromlow Callow and the Stiperstones are the hills dividing it. These make travel more difficult cross Division and all journeys are far longer than the crow flies are on single track

roads and are difficult and often impossible in winter. It also has snow when other areas do not.

Main routes all travel towards Shrewsbury and the hills along the valleys are significant. The Stiperstones are the second highest in Shropshire at 1,759 ft and it is a long range. Bromlow Callow is 1260 ft.

Part of the Division can only be accessed through Wales.

It is sparsely populated – 0.22 people per hectare. The biggest settlement only has some 150 houses – Worthen. Chirbury has 90 but will have another 35 built in the near future.

Much of the housing is spread across hillsides or is in dispersed settlements.

Most of the Division is surrounded by Wales and is therefore difficult to add more population to unless to the north along the B4386

Proposal for the Review

The existing polling districts for Chirbury and Worthen are LGA TO LGG. Population is projected to be 2520 by 2027

Add SLF polling district from Loton – 742 – **and new C&W Division then within - 10% at 3,262**

The existing Loton Division has a projected population of 3,527 minus SLF polling District of 742 it reduces to a population of 2,885

If then NDH (161) and NDB (120) from Llanymenych (Llanymynech then 3495 from 3775) – **Loton then 3,166. This is within striking distance of the -10%.**

Add another 50 to 100 from edges of SUE, SUB, NDA or NDC **Longdon and Llanymynech are still left well over the minimum 3,200. Longdon (3527) then 3427. That is around 100 from one of these only.**

Communities of interest for Chirbury and Worthen and proposed polling District of SLF

- These areas are very similar to the existing Loton Division and share flooding issues. The geography is also similar. SLF – Westbury and hinterland - adds similar communities of interest. Rural hamlets and small villages butting up to Long Mountain to the west.
- Westbury area now use Worthen shop for day to day shopping, milk, papers and newspapers. There is no other shop on the B4386 until you reach Shrewsbury town itself.
- Worthen is the closest Post Office and is used widely from the surrounding areas.
- Westbury area children attend Long Mountain Primary school and nursery in Worthen along with a huge area south of Brockton, Worthen and up to Hope along the B4499 to Minsterley and beyond. Other children in the existing Loton Division area mostly attend Ford school.

- These Long Mountain children then go on to Mary Webb secondary school in Pontesbury.
- Westbury (SLF) and much of the population along the B4386 (Montgomery to Shrewsbury road) and those close to the A458 (Welshpool to Shrewsbury road) look towards Welshpool for supermarkets – this includes Chirbury with Brompton Parish, Brockton, Worthen and Westbury. They all look to Shrewsbury for bigger shops.
- All this area has a backdrop of Long Mountain on a continuous valley between that and Bromlow Callow etc. That valley opens up on to a far flatter area after Westbury
- The main bus route serving the area is the 558 starting at Montgomery and ending in Shrewsbury travelling the B4386
- The Doctors surgery and pharmacy in Worthen is used widely by the whole area from Westbury to Worthen and Chirbury. Other surgeries are used too.
- Worthen and Westbury share a Vicar.
- Welsh border impacts much of the existing Chirbury and Worthen Division and continues along the proposed addition of Westbury (SLF)