

## Shropshire Council

### Personal Details:

**Name:** Christopher Lemon  
**E-mail:** chris.lemon@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk  
**Postcode:** [REDACTED]  
**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

This submission chiefly concerns the Shropshire Unitary Authority division of Radbrook, for which I am the elected Town Councillor. Whilst the current review is of Unitary Authority divisions, the seventeen Shrewsbury Town Council divisions all follow exactly the same boundaries, and it is the stated intention of the Town Council that this should continue to be the case. Shrewsbury Town Council voted to make it's own submission at their Full Council meeting of 23rd January 2023, this submission is made up of my own observations and opinions and is made on my behalf only. Radbrook is by some distance the biggest Division within Shropshire Council by population, being some 34% over the average of 3,600 electors and it appears inevitable that it's boundaries will be trimmed as a result of this review. The Boundary Commission and Shropshire Council between them have already put severe restrictions on how that change will manifest itself, through restricted Shropshire Council to the current 74 Councillors and by stating that all Divisions should be single member only, restrictions that will have a negative effect on how Radbrook Division will be 'trimmed' in particular. Indeed, those stipulations bring into question how open the consultation is at all. The Division itself is named after the watercourse of that name, a 'main river' as defined by the Environment Agency for administrative purposes, which passed through the centre of the Division from it's boundaries with Bowbrook Division at the upstream end and Porthill Division at the downstream end. The watercourse is actually called the Bowbrook before it passes under Mytton Oak Road at the Bowbrook boundary and becomes the Radbrook on the south side of that road. The population of the Division know and value the Radbrook well, with past, current and future planning applications in particular stimulating increasing interest in the Radbrook and it's future health. In that way, people who live in the Division increasingly identify with the Radbrook and the area they live in which shares it's name, especially those who's houses back onto or are located near to the watercourse itself. People value living near to running water and appreciate being associated with a named watercourse. The main 'centre' of Radbrook is Radbrook Green, the houses along and on streets radiating from Bank Farm Road between Longden Road and Radbrook Road, which becomes Hanwood Road at it's junction with Bank Farm Road and Red Deer Road. Currently, Grange Road, Grangefields Road and the houses on the west side of Longden Road between the Priory School and Roman Road are all in Meole Division, though that population strongly identifies as Radbrook. As evidence, at the start of the Covid Pandemic a small group of community activists including myself and Julia Evans who subsequently became Councillors for Radbrook set up the Radbrook Mutual Aid Group to aid vulnerable members of the population with food deliveries, medicine runs to local pharmacies and other activities. It quickly became apparent to us that people living on Grange Road and Grangefields 'self-identified' as living in Radbrook from the large number offering help to the group, and also from people living on those roads who requested help. Therefore, I would state that ALL roads between Longden Road and Radbrook/Hanwood Road strongly feel they live in Radbrook. This would also include the people living on the new Radbrook College development, where building work has just started on the fourth and final phase of that build. The clue is in the name. It also includes people living on Ridgebourne Road, most especially because most of their houses back onto the Radbrook itself, and the rest of the natural triangle there, turning left at the top of Radbrook Road along Roman Road (including Russell Ridge and Russell Field) then left again at the roundabout junction following Radbrook Road south west to and beyond the other end of Ridgebourne. The area on the other side of Radbrook Road comprising of Alan Gutridge Way, Ryelands and the other roads to the south of the Radbrook also certainly identify as Radbrook. The Oakfield Estate (Crowmeole Drive, Oakfield Drive, Rad Valley Road and that end of Crowmeole Lane) on the other hand identify as Copthorne, as do the house along and to the north of Falcons Way and Churchill Road. Lastly, the new developments between Hanwood Road and Mytton Oak Road, built within the last ten years, do not as yet have a strong sense of identification with a particular Division. However, the course of and influence of the Radbrook again is starting to make itself

apparent here, and those houses along and radiating from Squinter Pip Way and Red Deer Road certainly do not identify as Copthorne. The northern part of that development has been named Bowbrook Meadows by the developer, which is unfortunate because as already stated the watercourse is called the Radbrook where it runs close to those houses - evidence for this is found on Ordnance Survey maps stretching way back, although the non-more inaccurate Google Maps insists the course is the Bowbrook all the way to where it flows into the River Severn, an error of no small magnitude. Finally, there are a small number of houses with Radbrook Division on Hanwood Road and along Nobold Lane as far as it's junction with Mousecroft Lane near Mousecroft Pool, then along Mousecroft Lane itself to it's junction with Longden Road near the Nuffield hospital. Again, these all strongly identify as being in Radbrook. If it were not for the straitjacket of preconditions seemingly imposed on this review as outlined above, expanding Radbrook to a two member Division and including the roads in the north west corner of the Division which are currently in Meole Division whilst also retaining all roads currently in the Division would seem to be the way to go. One looks at Bayston Hill Division and wonders how the review will cope with the '1 member' stipulation there whilst staying within 10% of the average electorate target. It probably can't be done there, and therefore Radbrook should benefit from the idea of becoming a 2 member ward. With much of the land between Radbrook and Bowbrook Divisions and the A5 about to be allocated for mostly housing use in the forthcoming local plan, the electorate in those two Division in particular can only expand - indeed, Radbrook is already destined to gain another 100 or so electors when Phase 4 of the Radbrook College development is finished, which will probably be before the next local elections in 2025. The alternative is that parts of the Division will find themselves artificially placed within Divisions such as Porthill and Copthorne to which they feel no connection simply for administrative reasons, which seems to go against the main stated aims of the Commission.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded