

Shropshire

Personal Details:

Name: Michael Ward

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Organisation Name: Boningale Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Re: New electoral arrangements for Shropshire Council - Draft Recommendations (as received May 2023)
27th June 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing on behalf of Boningale Parish Council to express the serious concerns that Councillors hold with regard to the draft proposals. Councillors are unanimous in the view that enactment of the proposals as outlined will actually lead to a worsening of our ability to represent the interests of the members of our parish as compared to the present situation.

To be more specific:

We note that the objectives of the review which are stated (page 1) as being:

1. Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
2. Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
3. Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

It is demonstrated later in the report that the first objective (the ideal variance figure) – obtained by moving Boningale into the ambit of Shifnal Rural – has been achieved.

However, we do not believe that the second objective is met in any manner – to the extent that the change is actually detrimental, that is by ignoring the fact that our parish has both its geographical identity and its societal links (employment, shopping, medical, transport, social, religious, etc.) very much closely associated with Albrighton and not with Shifnal.

Such failure on this second objective, in our opinion, causes concomitant failure in meeting the third.

As a parish council we are obviously not opposed to change but hope that, after your consideration of our comments, that a modified proposal can be produced whereby the councillor representing our interests at county level will be an individual who has, as part of their remit, working similarly with Albrighton Parish Council and thereby ensuring that objectives 2 and 3 can be continued to be met in the future.

We look forward to receiving your suggestions as to how this can be achieved in due course.

Thank you for your attention
Yours faithfully

Michael Ward
Clerk to Boningale Parish Council

Attached Documents:

- Boundary Commission.docx