

# Shropshire

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mrs Rebecca Turner

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:** Ford PC (Representative of parish/town council)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Shropshire

Ford Parish Council has considered its comments on the review of Shropshire Council Divisional Boundaries. We also commented on the previous consultation and are concerned that our comments were not included in the log of parish council comments.

Ford Parish Council is of the view that Ford Parish should remain in Longden Division, as at present. Our reasons for this are as follows:

### COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Ford shares more community links with its current Division, Longden than its proposed Division, Loton:

1. Trinity CE School, Ford is part of a school development group with Hanwood and Longden schools, both of which are in the Longden Division
2. Communities on the A458 look to Ford for their services.
3. Part of the area between Ford and the Montgomery Road is currently in Longden Division but partly not within Ford Parish. We have carried out a snapshot survey and those residents predominantly see themselves as having a stronger a link to Ford than other areas. We have not surveyed the Ford Heath area which currently is in Loton. The current proposals would place Ford Parish in Loton Division but leave a number of residents who feel a stronger connection to Ford in Longden Division. This means it would be harder for the Parish Council to later join these areas to ford Parish as part of a CGR, as they are split across 2 divisions. We therefore believe it makes more sense for Ford Parish to remain in Longden Division as we could then join outlying areas of Ford, currently outside the parish to the parish area at a later stage.

4. Ford and its Church of England School, as do others in the Longden Division, all lie within the Hereford Diocese. Bickton, its school and adjacent parishes lie within the Lichfield Diocese. The main A5 is also a big barrier to the sharing of community interests between the main part of Bickton and the proposed Longden Division. It therefore makes more sense for Ford to be in Longden Division and Bickton Parish in Loton.

## ELECTORAL NUMBERS

We are aware of the need to balance electoral numbers. We know that Bickton parish (906 electors changing to 905) would prefer to be in Loton Division but is proposed to be in Longden Division. Ford Parish has 684 electors growing to 785. We propose that Ford should stay in Longden Division and Bickton move to Loton Division. Whilst this is a difference of circa 100 electors it is still within guidelines of electoral numbers per councillor and the Electoral Commission guidelines recognise that electoral numbers may vary slightly across Divisions.

## Attached Documents:

*None attached*