Review Officer (Shropshire),

Local Government Boundary Commission for England,

P O Box 133,

BLYTH,

NE24 9FE 01 July 2023

Dear Sir,

**Proposal to move Church Pulverbatch Parish from Burnell Ward to Bishops Castle Ward**

I wish to object, in the strongest possible terms, to your proposal to move Church Pulverbatch Parish from Burnell Ward to Bishops Castle Ward, for the following reasons:

* Church Pulverbatch Parish is much closer to Shrewsbury, which is only 8 miles away, than it is to Bishops Castle, which is over 13 miles away. There is therefore a much closer affiliation with Shrewsbury, from where most local services are accessed. The only exceptions being the local primary school, which is less than 3 miles away in Longden; and the local secondary school and medical centre, which are 4 miles away in Pontesbury. In fact, Bishops Castle provides nothing whatever of use to residents of Church Pulverbatch Parish.
* There is a bus service from Shrewsbury, via Longden, which terminates at Castle Pulverbatch, with no onward service to Bishops Castle. So there is no public transport link between Church Pulverbatch Parish and Bishops Castle.
* The B road from Shrewsbury, via Castle Pulverbatch, to Bishops Castle is narrow, twisting and dangerous, being used by many heavy farming tractors and trailers, very large cattle lorries and milk tankers, and is also a recommended cycle route, but only 8 miles of it has to be traversed to reach Shrewsbury, compared with over 13 miles to reach Bishops Castle.
* The Shropshire Hills form a natural break between Church Pulverbatch Parish and Bishops Castle and the steep climb up Cothercott Hill from Castle Pulverbatch is a very formidable barrier indeed, especially in winter, when covered in snow and sheet ice. Which means that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for any councillor to represent constituents over such a disconnected area satisfactorily.
* It would be much better for Church Pulverbatch Parish to remain within Burnell Ward together with Cardington, thus forming a natural rural area within the basin bounded by the Longmynd and Wenlock Edge to the south; rather than becoming a hybrid urban/rural Ward, by losing Church Pulverbatch and Cardington and having the urban area of Bayston Hill added instead. Which again, would present severe problems for its proposed two councillors to represent the conflicting interests of their varied constituents satisfactorily.

Yours faithfully.