It is my belief that Burnell district should remain as it currently is because as a community we have much in common with the other villages in Burnell both in geographical makeup, settlement pattern, village features and local issues. Many residents of Church Pulverbatch have long standing family links to these other villages and local organisations such as The Young Farmers Club are based there. Traditionally, we have always been part of this group of rural villages as far back as 1066 when we all belonged to The Condover Hundred.

The proposal is that we join with Bishops Castle which is much further away from us than the other villages in Burnell. It is a small town, therefore has a different make up and different issues to a small village such as ours. It is 13 miles from us along a difficult road, especially in winter. Few Pulverbatch residents go to Bishops Castle for anything and no children from our village are educated there. Nor is there a bus service from Pulverbatch to Bishops Castle. Local residents prefer to use services in Shrewsbury instead. We have little in common with Bishops Castle at all.

It is also proposed to split Bayston Hill into two and have two councillors and to join the other villages in the Burnell district to it. Having worked in that village for 24 years and knowing many of the families there, I know what a tightknit community it is and how much a part of Shrewsbury town it is. Shrewsbury is where the residents look to for all their services. Bayston Hill is much more like a small town with a very distinctive character. It is so unlike the villages in Burnell in both local issues, geographical and social make up. It would also cause the district to then fall into two parliamentary constituencies under new proposals to put Burnell into South Shropshire rather than Shrewsbury. The vast majority of children in Bayston Hill are secondary educated in Shrewsbury, the children of Burnell are mainly educated in South Shropshire. The church diocese are also different. Bayston Hill is in Lichfield Diocese and Burnell is in Hereford Diocese. If it has to change, would it not be more sensible to make Bayston Hill a town constituency and add Otley and Reabrook to it?

If Burnell has to be split up, it would make much more sense for Church Pulverbatch to join with our neighbouring village of Longden where our local shop and primary school are. We are already affiliated to Longden through the same benefice of churches and the main road and bus service also connects us. Pulverbatch residents have to pass through Longden to get to the majority of amenities. We have a similar makeup to each other and lots in common.