

Wem Town Council

Wem - Birthplace of the Modern Sweet Pea

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Mrs. J. M. Drummond, B.A. Dip HE(LP)

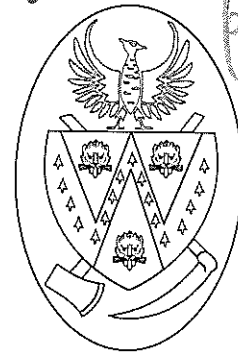
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The Shropshire Unitary Authority Electoral Review
Boundary Committee for England
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London
SW1P 2HW

13 February 2008

Dear Sirs

Re Boundary Review for Unitary Authority for Shropshire

Whilst it is appreciated the formal consultation period for the above mentioned review has not yet commenced the Town Council has asked me to forward its views to you as the Town Councillors are very concerned to ensure the town of Wem is given adequate representation upon the proposed Unitary Authority for Shropshire.

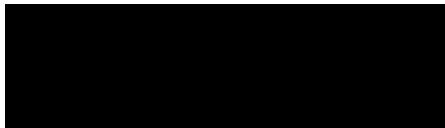
As you will be aware Shropshire is a very large rural county and the issue of adequate representation is very important for local rural communities. It is understood that your Committee has certain population guidelines for wards and an optimum number of Councillors (which I understand is less than the 90+ originally proposed for the county). Whilst it may be possible to adhere to such guidelines in urban areas they could present severe difficulties in the rural areas. Wem has a population of around 5,500 and at present has four District Councillors and one County Councillor. One Councillor representing the town at a Unitary Authority would not be able to cope with the workload that has previously been handled by five Councillors. It would also not be a sensible proposal to link the town with the rural areas, as the issues affecting the town are very different from those affecting the rural areas and small villages.

There is also the issue in Wem that the town was warded a few years ago, both at District and Town Council level. This has caused consideration confusion as the town is a small compact market town with no obvious division and townspeople know their Councillors and expect any of them to deal with their issues regardless of the warding arrangement.

Therefore, on behalf of the Town Council I would request that two Councillors be proposed to represent the town of Wem, there be 90+ Unitary Councillors to ensure adequate representation on the new authority and finally the artificial warding of Wem be removed, both at Unitary and Town Council level.

I trust these comments will be of assistance to you,

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Town Clerk.

Town Clerk

Copies to Shropshire County Council and North Shropshire District Council.