

## Summary of Consultation Responses

Response From	Date Received	Response
Wem Town Council	13/02/08	<p>...Town Councillors are very concerned to ensure that the town of Wem is given adequate representation upon the proposed Unitary Authority for Shropshire.</p> <p>As you [the Boundary Committee] 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 County 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.</p> <p>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 considerable 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Woore Parish Council	12/03/08	<p>The Parish Council at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008 unanimously resolved:</p> <p>That this Council supports the view of Market Drayton Town Council in its resolution of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008 that there should be no mix of urban and rural parishes within individual new County electoral divisions and that Woore should be grouped by the Boundary Committee only with other rural parishes.</p>

Response From	Date Received	Response
Oswestry Borough Council	14/03/08	The Leading Members of the Borough Council did not feel it appropriate to comment on North Shropshire District Council's proposals. They were of the understanding that the two Councils would work together on a joint submission and were surprised by the approach taken by the District Council.
Market Drayton Town Council	31/03/08	<p>The Town Council at a Full Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008 unanimously resolved:</p> <p>That three unitary wards are set up in Market Drayton and co-terminus with the Town Council Ward Boundaries with no mix of urban and rural parishes and;</p> <p>That the three Unitary Wards set up in Market Drayton incorporate boundary changes to ensure that all three existing wards have an equal electorate.</p>
Market Drayton Senior Citizens' Forum	01/04/08	Market Drayton Senior Citizens' Forum is in agreement with NSDC's view that the new unitary Authority should consist of around 75 members. That there are 2 councillors for Area 09 (Market Drayton South and North) and that Market Drayton East ward should go into Area 20 with Woore.
Ellesmere Town Council	08/04/08	<p>Members of Ellesmere Town Council met on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2008 about proposals for new boundaries.</p> <p>Members feel that 75 is about the right number of Councillors for the new council. Regarding the ward boundaries members feel that Ellesmere Urban should be a single area with one Councillor. However, members are deeply concerned about the Ellesmere Rural Area and the possibility that it is going to be divided up with Dudleston and Dudleston Heath joining St Martins and Weston Rhyn. The Government White Paper promotes stronger communities but this proposal will decimate an existing strong community. Ellesmere Urban works very closely with Ellesmere Rural Parish Council in providing joint community services. This must not be lost. St Martins and Weston Rhyn are traditional coal-mining areas where as Dudleston and Dudleston Heath and traditional farming areas.</p> <p>Ellesmere Town Centre is the focus for Dudleston Heath and Dudleston. On the other side of the town, Welshampton and Lyneal, Cockshutt, Loppington, Petton, Myddle &amp; Broughton, Myddle and Harmer Hill and Broughton is such a large area. Again, Welshampton, Lyneal and Cockshutt look to Ellesmere as their natural Market Town.</p> <p>Ellesmere Town Council intends to have a special meeting to discuss the matter further.</p>

Response From	Date Received	Response
Ellesmere Rural Parish Council	15/04/08	<p>Members of Ellesmere Rural Parish Council at their Parish Council Meeting yesterday evening, Monday 14th April 2008, discussed North Shropshire District Council's proposal for Boundary Review Option, Parishes and Parish Wards and unanimously agreed that they are totally inappropriate for historic, geographic, demographic, social and environmental reasons. They had very grave concerns as to these proposals, which were felt, would be undoubtedly harmful to the local community.</p> <p>The hinterland of Ellesmere consists of the existing Parishes of Ellesmere Rural Parish, Welshampton and Lyneal Parish, Cockshutt cum Petton Parish and Hordley Parish. The historical market town of Ellesmere has always provided the local demographic and social services for these parishes and is naturally accessed by the local geographical highway network that converge on the town. Only recently grants have been made to village halls in these Parishes under the umbrella of the Ellesmere's Market Town Initiative. This clearly identifies that Ellesmere Town and its surrounding rural area work closely together. Ellesmere Rural Parish dates back to the 19th century and is a well-established historical area. The demographical needs of both Ellesmere Rural and Ellesmere Urban are the same and both share facilities such as Doctors, Schools, Shops, Meals on Wheels and Elderly Care Services.</p> <p>In the new proposals Dudleston and Dudleston Heath would be amalgamated with St. Martins and Weston Rhyn. These are two very different communities with very different needs and expectations. St. Martins has its own historical coal mining community and has been historically served geographically for its demographic and social requirements by Oswestry. This situation contrasts with that of the Ellesmere's hinterland, which has an historical agricultural based community whose requirements have always been provided by the town of Ellesmere. The parishes of Loppington, Hamer Hill, Myddle and Broughton should not become part of Area 04 as they have no association with Ellesmere and look towards Wem Town as their natural service provider and are geographically much closer.</p> <p>The Ellesmere Rural Parish Council unanimously agreed that it would be appropriate for North Shropshire District Council to recommend to the Boundary Committee that the new authority have one Unitary Councillor to represent the existing Ellesmere Rural Parish with 1778 electors, Welshampton and Lyneal Parish 675 electors, Cockshutt cum Petton Parish with 568 electors and Hordley Parish with 224 electors. This totals 3245 electors per Unitary Councillor. This elected Councillor would then be representing electors with similar demographic and social backgrounds.</p>

		<p>The Ellesmere Town Council and the Ellesmere Rural Parish Council have always enjoyed an excellent cooperative working relationship due to the reciprocal services between to two. One Unitary Councillor would therefore be appropriate to represent the Ellesmere Rural Parish Council's proposed area because all the parishes included would have common demographic, geographic, social and environmental interests in common.</p>
<p>Press Parish Council</p>	<p>16/04/08</p>	<p>The Parish Council beleives most strongly that Prees should be linked with Whitchurch Rural with the focus based on Whitchurch, rather than with Ightfield, Adderley and Moreton Say with the focus based upon Market Drayton, as recommended in the Map (Map 1 North Shropshire District Boundary Review Option).</p> <p>We have just conducted a pilot local area committee (which we understand is to be extended for a further 12mths) based upon Whitchurch, Prees and surrounding Parishes. This has been most successful and has demonstrated an effective affinity between Whitchurch, Whitchurch Rural and Prees Parishes/Areas. It is one of only five pilots taking place throughout Shropshire, two of which are within North Shropshire, the other being centred upon Market Drayton. Surely the success of this pilot and its particular grouping has demonstrated why Prees should continue to be linked with Whitchurch Rural.</p> <p>With regard to the number of Councillors, Prees Parish Council would recommend that a Councillor should represent no more than 3,000 electorate and on this basis 75 would appear to be insufficient.</p>