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The Shropshire Unitary Authority Review  
Boundary Commission for England  
Trevelyan House  
Great Peter Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 2HW

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008

For the attention of Mr Tim Kershaw, Review Manager

Dear Mr Kershaw,

#### **Unitary Authority Electoral Review of Shropshire**

Bridgnorth District Council has recently held two well attended member workshops to consider options for ward boundaries for the Unitary Authority. Unfortunately those workshops failed to achieve any consensus view on a preferred option and the decision on this matter was ultimately taken on the Chairman's casting vote at a small committee of eight members. Consequently this cannot reasonably be taken to represent the view of the Council as a whole.

I would therefore like to convey my personal preference for the proposal contained on the enclosed schedule which, I understand, is supported by Shropshire County Council, and, in so doing, to express my particular opposition to the suggestion that Albrighton and its immediate surroundings should be contained within a ward that includes Worfield North and Rudge. My reasons for this are as follows:-

1. This would involve splitting the existing parish of Worfield and therefore be contrary to the principle that parishes should form the building blocks for the new wards.
2. There is absolutely no common community identity between Worfield and Rudge and the Albrighton area. Indeed, in order to travel from one to the other. It is necessary to pass through part of Staffordshire. Incidentally, an earlier suggestion that Donington, Boscobel and Tong should be linked with Sheriffhales and Shifnal Rural wards was rightly rejected on the grounds that it lacked any common community identity.
3. While I acknowledge that wards will be based on electoral numbers rather than population, I believe that some account should be taken of the existence within the Albrighton/Donington area of Royal Air Force Cosford. Personnel and their families from Cosford use local services and play a significant part in local community activities. Indeed, until recently, the Community Relations Officer was



an elected member of Donington Parish Council. You should also be aware that one of the reasons why a relatively small proportion of the population of the base is included in the electoral role is that a large number of these consist of trainees who tend to be there for short periods. This situation is likely to change within the next five years when the Royal Air Force will be replaced by two permanent Army brigades comprising some 2,600 personnel and their families and, while it is clearly impossible to predict how many of these will be electors, it is reasonable to assume that the number of electors at Cosford will increase considerably.

For the above reasons and because the area in question has a strong community identity, I would submit that the proposal contained on the enclosed schedule that there should be a two-member ward comprising the parishes of Albrighton, Donington, Boscobel, Boningale and Tong.

Yours sincerely

David Beechey  
Ward Councilor for Donington and Albrighton North