

I have represent the Brown Clee Electoral Division (BCED) since the county of Shropshire became a unitary council in 2009. I have lived and worked on the slopes of Brown Clee Hill since 1981 (42 years) and as such I know all the parishes and residents in my Electoral Division very well. The following comments, whilst inevitably informed by my personal knowledge and experience, are to be considered just as relevant for whoever represents Brown Clee in the future.

The first comment that I wish to make concerns the physical geography and topography of BCED. Brown Clee Hill rises to 540 metres above seal level and as such is the highest hill in Shropshire. It is a very prominent feature of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

With the exception of Morville Parish Council and its collection of smaller parishes which lie principally in the Corve Dale, the rest of the parishes are situated on the slopes of Brown Clee Hill running down to the River Severn. The geography of the BCED has a huge impact on the social communities whose residents either live on the slopes of the hill or can see it visibly from their homes. It is therefore considered by residents to be "their hill" and many walk, ride or cycle on it.

Secondly, three of the four of the parishes (Easthope, Stanton Long and Shipton) that have been selected to become part of the "new" BCED have very little if at all in common with BCED either socially or geophysically and would sit much more comfortably with Much Wenlock. Whilst the departure of Aston Botterell, Middleton Scriven and Billingsley will create a large hole in the existing area of BCED. The fourth parish which has been selected to form part of the new BCED- Astley Abbotts- has no geographical or social link with BCED. It is situated on the north, i.e. far side of the main A458 Trunk Road and must be considered as being an outlier to the market town of Bridgnorth and its adjoining area of Tasley Parish.

Thirdly- and no commentary on the merits or otherwise of land ownership and tenure is intended- the three parishes of Aston Botterell, Burwarton and Cleobury North are grouped together to form the "ABC" Parish Council (AKA Burwarton Parish Council). The three parishes have very identical characteristics - they form part of the local agricultural estate and most of the residents are employees, pensioners or tenants of that estate. Indeed the three parishes were constituted in the 1980s and from the start were joined up. Consequently the history of these three parishes are intertwined and a very detailed book has been written about it. One Village Hall serves all three parishes (and the parish of Neenton) and all three parochial councils are part of the United Benefice of Brown Clee with the same Rector (along with Ditton Priors Neenton Chetton and Wheathill & Loughton). The one public house (in Burwarton) and the one Village Store (in Cleobury North) serves all three parishes.

Fifthly, turning to the village of Ditton Priors which is the adjacent parish there is a public house, church, village shop, butchers, garage, village hall, tea room and doctor's surgery (the Brown Clee Medical Practice) and is regarded as the epicentre for the BCED.

Sixthly, to move Billingsley away from BCED into Highley, (with which it has little in common) will leave the two parishes of Deuxhill and Glazely alone as Middleton Scriven is being moved.

I recently attended a meeting of Eardington Parish Council at which the Vice Chair of Chelmarsh Parish Council was present and both parishes declared unanimously that they wished to remain within BCED and they stressed that neither parish looked towards either Highley or Bridgnorth.

My opposition to the changes recommended by the Boundary Commission are because they will cause a big upheaval with no perceivable benefit.

I finish my submission by saying that I would not have been able to write it without making it obvious that I am Shropshire' Councillor for BCDE.

Thank you. Councillor Robert Tindall