

[REDACTED] Ercall Magna Ward

For the attention of the Boundary Review Committee

As with the previous Community Governance Review (CGR) which began in 2023, and ended abruptly with a recommendation for 'no change' I would respectfully request that certain proposals in this consultation should not be considered at this time:

- Meger of Ercall Magna with Waters Upton
- Creation of the Weald Moors Parish bringing together Kynnersley, Eyton on the Weald Moors and Preston on the Weald Moors
- Merger of Chetwynd with Edgmond
- Retention of Horton in Hadley & Leegomery Parish

I make this request as it is not in accordance with the 2007 Act which places upon principal authorities when undertaking a CGR, that they have a duty to have regard to secure that any recommendation, for the area under review, reflects the identities and interests of the local communities in that area.

It is my argument that the proposals are not reflective of the communities named above as they do not reflect either their identities or their interests due to a lack of understanding or knowledge of the areas and their communities, or even their local governance arrangements at this time (as is a requirement of the Act and Boundary Commission advice).

Working through the proposals, the principal authority (especially those responsible for the recommendations) have either misunderstood or misinterpreted what a CGR is expected to deliver for the communities affected which includes to protect their identities, interests and history.

In each of the recommendations for the parishes listed, the principal authority has attempted justification with little understanding or recognition of the main component of the White Paper, Act and Guidance in that parish councils and parish meetings, being the grass roots of local democracy and closest to the people:

- A Shared Vision
- A Sense of Belonging
- A Focus on what new or existing communities have in common, especially recognising the value of diversity
- Strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds
- Trust that local institutions act fairly

The CGR proposals do not appear to meet the requirements of the regulations and are either based on assumptions and without knowledge of our rural communities.

The responses from each of the rural communities, articulate this far more effectively that I can and must be read by the Committee Members before any decision is made or recommendation ratified.

Decisions must be made on size, representations, community identify, community cohesion and how they have functioned over decades and not predicated on numbers alone.

Merging or abolishing parish councils and meetings will not underpin those bullet points above which are simplified in three words

Cohesion

Identity

Interest

[REDACTED]
Ercall Magna Ward