

11th July 2025

Chairman Boundary Review Committee

To whom it may concern

Kynnersley Parish Council was surprised to see in the recommendations that TWC was proposing to form a Weald Moors Parish Council by joining our Parish with Preston and Eyton on the Weald Moors.

The Parish Council remained clear in its view, as representatives of the Kynnersley Parish community, that it would prefer to stay as it is. Kynnersley is unique and the recent creation of the Conservation Area supports this as it assists in protecting the heritage of the Village.

You will be aware of the number of Listed Buildings and the Significant Features within the Parish.

The community is close, it has a Village Hall and a small Village Barrow (shop), serving the community with local produce. It also has a church. However, it does not have a school, public transport or a good road network.

Eyton on the Weald Moors is also a unique community, with a church and village hall and just one route in and out from the A442. The community has a strong identity and community cohesion – there is regular attendance at Parish Meetings and events by people across the Parish but not from outside of the Parish.

The distance between our two villages is significant (5 miles) and we have absolutely nothing in common. There is no pedestrian or transport link between the two and our respective residents do not share any sense of collective community identity.

There is no support or reason for the coming together of Kynnersley Parish with Eyton on the Weald Moors.

Whilst Kynnersley Parish Council believes that the majority of Kynnersley residents would prefer it to stay as it is, there are some who believe that a coming-together with Preston on the Weald Moors may have some benefits.

We do share the same road system and local issues and the children all have an opportunity to attend Preston Primary School. We also appreciate that the new housing in Preston village has increased the numbers of residents which may be better represented by a Parish Council than a Parish Meeting. However, Preston on the Weald Moors Parish Meeting is effective and efficient and has represented the community well and may wish to continue to do so.

If the Boundary Review Committee is minded to confirm the creation of a new Parish, then bringing Kynnersley & Preston (only) together may be supported by the community.

We found the recommendation to be misleading. We understand that the Boundary Review Committee members made it clear that they would want to make their decision based on the residents' opinions. The survey on the website did not include our Parish in the list – we understand that this list was of the recommended parishes, but a lot of residents were put off responding for two reasons:

- 1. Some believe that as The Weald Moors Parish was listed, that a decision had already been made (pre-determined)
- 2. Some did not respond because their Parish was not listed.

When printed copies of the survey / questionnaire were made available, they were not suitable for a hard copy version as the wording in places was relating to the online version.

Kynnersley Parish Council wanted its residents to know that although the recommendation was for the Weald Moors Parish Council (including Eyton), the Boundary Review Committee had confirmed that the 'status quo' was still an option and that they would also receive alternative suggestions through this consultation period. Therefore, a drop-in session took place in Kynnersley Village Hall on Monday 23rd June from 7pm until 9pm. It was well attended by local residents and some from Horton and Eyton on the Weald Moors. We had A3 size maps on display showing the current and proposed boundary and we offered copies of the recommendations, document, survey and ensured that people had the direct email address (b) to let you know their views. We were able to confirm that the BRC had confirmed at a meeting that they would make their decision based on the residents' views – so we sincerely hope you will have received a significant number of responses.

In order for the Parish Council to respond to this consultation, we offered the residents who attended the drop in session an opportunity to give their postcode and confirm whether they were in support of the recommendation or if they opposed it. Over 50 people attended and from those who completed a slip, 32 opposed the merger of Kynnersley, Preston and Eyton to form a new Parish known as The Weald Moors Parish Council and 4 were in support. There was some opposition to the coming together of Kynnersley with Preston (only).

We will be including the completed forms, for your information, as many of the comments are very interesting in support of their views.

With regards to the number of Councillors per Ward, it is vitally important that Kynnersley and Preston have the same number of elected Members. To bring together two communities and not for them to have the same number of Councillors is not democratic – it will be seen as giving one an advantage which is not a good way to start to build a new Parish with Civility and Respect. The area that this merged Parish of Kynnersley & Preston (which should retain both names) is vast and will need a significant number of Councillors to represent the entire community and the extensive area. It is believed that at least 8 Members will be needed, and maybe even 10. There should be equal numbers from each, regardless of the electorate numbers.

It is disappointing that no one from Telford & Wrekin Council visited areas and parishes to discuss the proposals and to get to hear from the communities direct at any stage of the process. The recommendation was not proposed by local residents and the Boundary Commission, when setting up the process, confirmed that the communities must be at the heart of the decision.

We sincerely hope and EXPECT that the members of the Boundary Review Committee take into account the residents' opinions and views, from Kynnersley, Eyton on the Weald Moors and Preston on the Weald Moors when making their decision as per their mandate and in accordance with the legal guidance.

Chairman Kynnersley Parish Council