

The Boundary Commission have considered Shropshire's proposals for the Wem and Whixall Division (for Shropshire Unitary elections). The proposal was to split the Division into two single councillor Divisions, each having half of Wem and half of the rural areas. That has been rejected as you can read in the following,

The Boundary Commission's proposal is as follows

Wem Rural & Whixall and Wem Town

50 The existing arrangements are a two-councillor division covering the parishes of Wem Urban, Wem Rural and Whixall. We do not consider that the proposals we received for these parishes would satisfactorily reflect our statutory criteria. The Council proposed dividing Wem Rural parish into three segments, with a boundary running along the B5476 and the town divided on an East-West axis broadly following the boundary of the existing parish wards. The Council accepted that this division of the town was 'not ideal'. The resident's proposal was for a North-South split of both the town and Wem Rural parish, based on polling district boundaries which do not reflect community identities or provide for clear and identifiable boundaries.

51 Although the existing two-councillor division is forecast to retain excellent electoral equality, the majority of this electorate is concentrated within Wem Urban parish. A single-member division containing only this parish would have 41% more electors than average – well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality. A split of Wem Urban parish is therefore required if we are to propose single-councillor divisions in this area.

52 We considered both retaining the existing two-member division, or identifying our own roughly equal split of the town of Wem. However, we have identified an alternative, namely creating a division based solely on the majority of Wem Town, including all of the High Street, and another rural-based division which contains all of Wem Rural and Whixall parishes and includes the portion of Wem Urban parish east of the railway line and south of the River Roden.

53 We are aware that this Wem Rural & Whixall rural division does not have complete access between the southern and northern sections without going through the town of Wem, but we consider this the best available proposal given the evidence received and the constraints of geography. We remain open to the possibility of retaining a two-member division in this area, or to an alternative split of the town of Wem if an alternative which reflects community identity and the other statutory criteria is offered during consultation.

Map and more information can be found here
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/shropshire>