



Joint statement from Albrighton Parish Council and Donington with Boscobel Parish Council

A New Era of Local Governance

The unification of Albrighton Parish Council and Donington with Boscobel Parish Council, to form one new parish council to be known as Albrighton and Donington Parish Council.

Our parish councils are the smallest units of local government in England and have been the backbone of community decision-making for centuries. These two bodies are responsible for representing their local communities, delivering essential services, and making decisions on local issues. As the communities grow and evolve, there is a need to evolve the parish councils by joining forces to better serve their residents.

Why are the parish councils joining forces to make a new council?

Ward boundary changes (Ward = an administrative division of the parish that is represented by councillors.)

The Boundary Commission of England has imposed changes to wards that will directly impact both council's current boundaries. These changes would remove a large number of Donington and Boscobel residents from their Parish and place them under Albrighton Parish Council jurisdiction. Both councils thought this would be an unsustainable change, which would have a detrimental effect on the whole area. Consequently, it was decided that both parish councils would take this opportunity to join together and form one united parish council.

The benefits of amalgamating the two parishes

- 1. Greater Efficiency and Effectiveness:** By combining resources, our two parish councils can streamline administrative processes, reduce duplication of efforts, and enhance service delivery. This will lead to cost savings and more efficient use of your money.
- 2. Enhanced Representation:** Larger, combined councils have a stronger voice in Shropshire Council. This increased influence can help us secure greater funding and support for local projects that might have been overlooked if we were acting alone.
- 3. Broader Skill Sets:** The new parish council can benefit from a wider range of skills and expertise among its members. This diversity can lead to more innovative and effective solutions to community issues.
- 4. Improved Services:** By pooling resources the parish council can offer a broader range of services and improve existing ones. This can include better maintenance of public spaces, enhanced recreational facilities, and more robust support for local events and initiatives.
- 5. Cost Savings:** Shared administrative functions can lead to significant cost reductions, freeing up funds for community projects and services.
- 6. Stronger Community Engagement:** Larger councils can foster a greater sense of community by bringing together diverse groups and encouraging more active participation in local governance.

7.Increased Resilience: A larger council can better withstand external pressures such as funding cuts or changes in legislation, ensuring continued service delivery to residents.

Challenges to Overcome:

While there are many advantages to the joining of the two parish councils, the process is not without its challenges.

Cultural Differences: The two parishes are very different and have distinct priorities, and ways of working. Reconciling these differences will require careful negotiation and compromise.

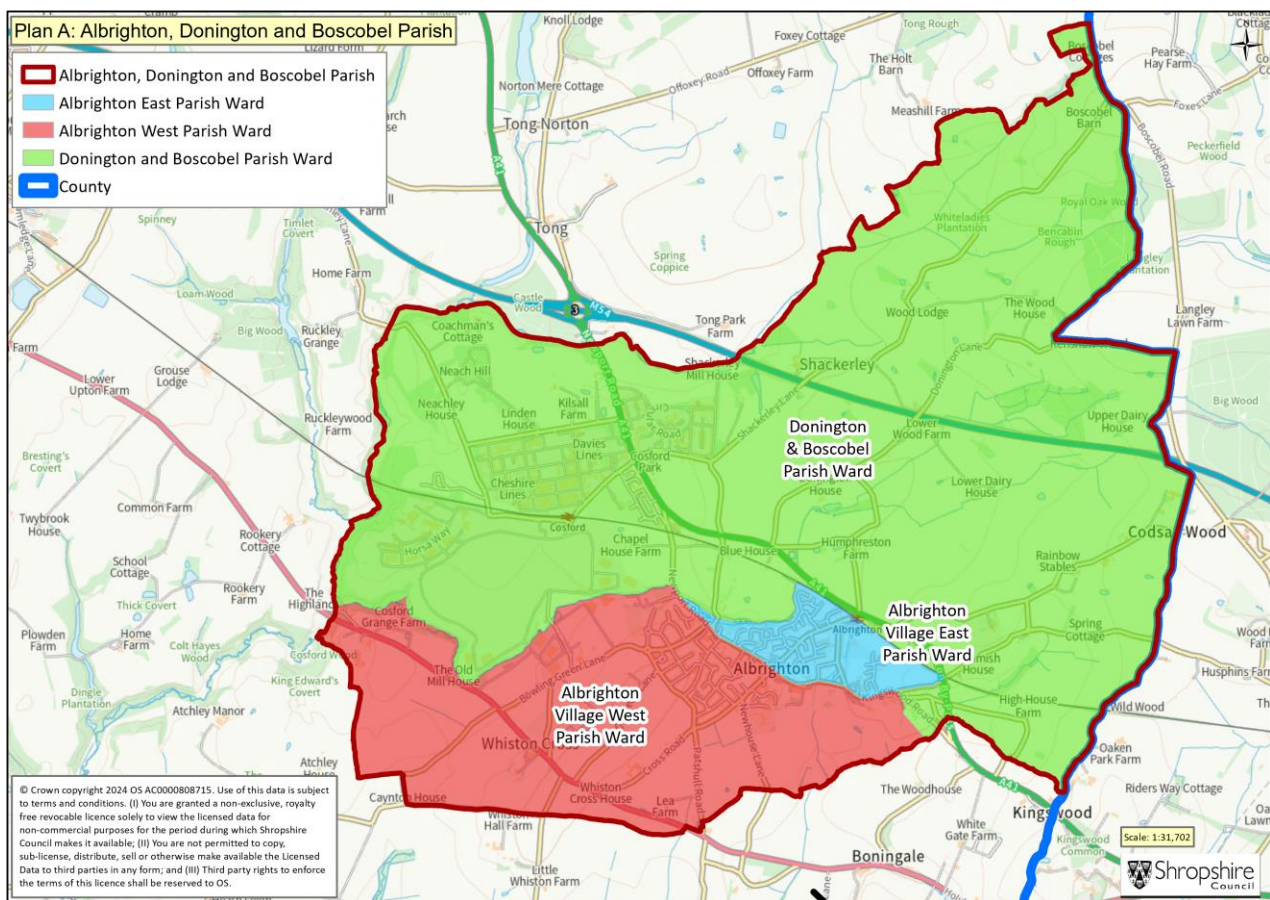
Loss of Local Identity: Residents may fear that their unique community identity could be lost in a larger, amalgamated council. We will endeavour to celebrate and preserve local heritage and traditions.

Operational Complexity: A new larger council will be more complex and require new systems and structures. Effective leadership and management are essential to ensure smooth transitions.

Conclusion

The joining of Albrighton Parish Council and Donington with Boscobel Parish Council represents a significant shift in local governance. By working together, the councils can enhance their efficiency, improve services, and better represent their communities. While there are challenges to overcome, the benefits of this are clear we will continue to evolve, promising a brighter future for all the residents.

Map of the new parish of Albrighton and Donington



When is it happening?

On the 1st May 2025 there will be elections for the new Albrighton and Donington Parish Council and it is hoped that residents of the parish will come forward to volunteer their time and enthusiasm to be part of this new era of local governance. Becoming a parish councillor is more than just a role; it's a commitment to making your community a better place. It's an opportunity to work collaboratively with others, gain valuable experience, and leave a lasting legacy. Whether you're passionate about the environment, youth services, or community cohesion, your contribution can make a real difference.

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