

RESPONSE TO L.G.B.C.E. PROPOSALS for TELFORD & THE WREKIN

Changes to the Oakengates and Ketley Bank Wards

Oakengates and Ketley Bank have a long history of togetherness and could and should be in our view be one unit and we are a strong community. As residents of Oakengates and Ketley Bank for many years we are somewhat appalled at the proposal to plonk us in with Ketley, which is more aligned to Wellington and Hadley, and break up this long standing ward. Oakengates and Ketley bank need strong representation the proposed reduction to 1 councillor would for Oakengates inevitably weaken the development of Oakengates and its High Streets development which has been moving at a pace.

The placing Ketley bank with Ketley makes no sense and there is no link between the 2 wards except the names and could destroy the strong community that exists here.

Ketley Bank residents such as ourselves use the Doctors in Oakengates catch the bus from Oakengates and over the years the schools and Nursery in Oakengates. They attend the Wakes Social events the Oakengates long standing Carnival and more recent Fun Days in Oakengates both in the main streets and in Hartshill Park.

The Secondary School catchment areas for Ketley Bank, Saint George's and Wrockwardine Wood all lead children and families to Telford Priory School (previously Wrockwardine Wood School in Oakengates), now relocated adjoining Oakengates Leisure Centre. Half of Ketley Bank falls under the catchment of Wombridge Primary School in Oakengates. However, children from Ketley and Hadley usually attend Hadley Learning Centre and, therefore, have little in common with the children from Ketley Bank.

All services for Ketley Bank are focussed on Oakengates. The two doctors' surgeries that cover Ketley Bank are both in Oakengates Town Centre. Its bus services run to Oakengates Town Centre. Its Town Council is Oakengates Town Council, which runs childrens' and elderly persons' activities for all of Oakengates Town, including Ketley Bank, Wrockwardine Wood and Trench Lock. The wards of Oakengates (including Ketley Bank) and Ketley were briefly merged in a previous boundary review but quickly separated as this was very unpopular.

Splitting Oakengates into five different wards with only one councillor remaining to cover the centre of Oakengates, is neither practical or convenient.

