

Telford and Wrekin Borough Council

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Organisation Name: Oakengates Town Council

Comment text:

Please find attached the response from Oakengates Town Council. We are objecting to the proposed changes to the Oakengates & Ketley Bank ward and I have filed this objection as Mayor Of Oakengates.

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1651525978_signed+OTC+letter.pdf\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1651525978_signed+OTC+letter.pdf)

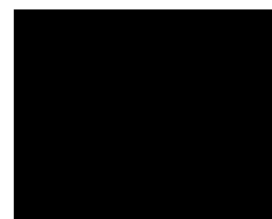
Date: 30th April 2022

Our Ref: SAWR/OKB



**Oakengates
Town Council**
THE HEART OF TELFORD

Town Council Mayor
Cllr. Stephen Reynolds



Telephone: 

Re: Boundary Review

Oakengates Town Council unanimously voted at the Full Council meeting, held on 5th April, to make representation to the Local Government Boundary Commission against the current proposals which have been put forward by the LGBC.

Oakengates Town Council made cross-party support for the retention of the current ward boundaries, with Oakengates and Ketley Bank retaining three members.

The following reasons were put forward by councillors against the LGBC proposals for Oakengates:

- Ketley Bank is very closely tied with Oakengates, both historically and in the present day. Ketley Bank residents use the services and high street in Oakengates and thus require an electoral say in this area. All councillors agreed that Ketley Bank should not be separated from Oakengates under any circumstances.
- Councillors also felt the linking of Ketley Bank with the community of Ketley was inappropriate as they did not share community identity, did not have sufficient transport links between these areas, and shared very different demographics.
- Oakengates, as one of the principal market towns in Telford, deserves and requires greater representation than one member to ensure investment continues into the town. There are also many issues which are raised as a location for a market, many businesses, a theatre and a significant leisure offer, which are not present in other one member wards. Therefore, residents will receive reduced capacity from their electoral representative as this individual will need to apply themselves to the issues raised above.
- The communities of Beveley, Wrockwardine Wood, and Trench Lock are also closely tied to Oakengates and to separate them under the new LGBC proposals would be unfair as these residents see Oakengates as their local community to which they belong, and use the services provided within the town significantly.

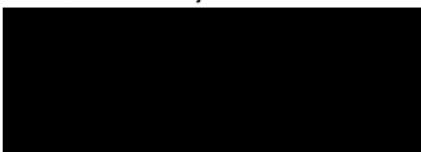
- Residents from Ketley Bank would struggle to access services within Ketley as the bus links are poor (with residents having to travel through Oakengates before going to Ketley). In order to walk to Ketley, residents would also have to cross a busy main road (Mossey Green Way), further demonstrating how these communities are not linked.

The following reasons were put forward by councillors for the continuation and retention of the current ward boundaries for Oakengates and Ketley Bank:

- Our community centre, which is home to the local Children's Centre, is significantly used by families from across Ketley Bank, Oakengates, Trench Lock and Beveley. Our offer for elderly residents was also taken up equitably by residents from the above areas. This is the same for our school holiday activities. This demonstrates the close community ties which exist within the current boundary.
- From speaking to local businesses within the town, the feedback significantly supported the current boundaries to be retained as the customer base came from across the current ward boundary. The businesses also raised that they felt it was important that Oakengates was not downgraded to just one councillor as they felt this would harm their businesses comparative to other local market towns.
- The current ward boundaries were well supported with bus links and also has a significant green network which also helps with the connectedness of the area.
- Families from across the current ward boundaries generally attend the same nursery, primary and secondary schools. Oakengates Nursery serves residents in Ketley Bank and Wrockwardine Wood. The current ward boundaries have Telford Priory School as their local catchment school.

Oakengates Town Council sincerely hope that you take the issues raised into consideration and do not separate our very close community. Oakengates Town Council feel that this would be detrimental to both local residents and our market town.

Yours sincerely



Cllr S J Reynolds

The Mayor

Oakengates Town Council