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From: stuart.parr@telford.town
Sent: 28 April 2022 22:42
To: reviews
Subject: Telford & Wrekin - Hadley & Leegomery
Attachments: Submission to LGBCE on proposed changes in the Wrekin.pdf

Categories: Submissions, [REDACTED]

Hi,

The website said my submission was both successful and unsuccessful so I have attached it to this email.

Your submission has been successful

Thank you for your submission. We are grateful for you taking the time to send your views.
The Commission will consider every piece of evidence it receives before finalising the recommendations.

Your comment:

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Cllr Stuart Parr MBcs
Hadley Castle Ward, Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council

Submission to LGBCF on proposed changes in the Wrekin

Cllr Stuart Parr MBCS

Hadley Castle ward, Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council
Deputy Chair (Political), Wellington Branch of Wrekin Conservatives

Plans to build on the Blockleys quarry in future years will create a new settlement on the periphery of Hadley in Trench Lock ward as far as Wombridge Way. The road, railway and Wombridge mean Hadley and Oakengates will never reach each other.

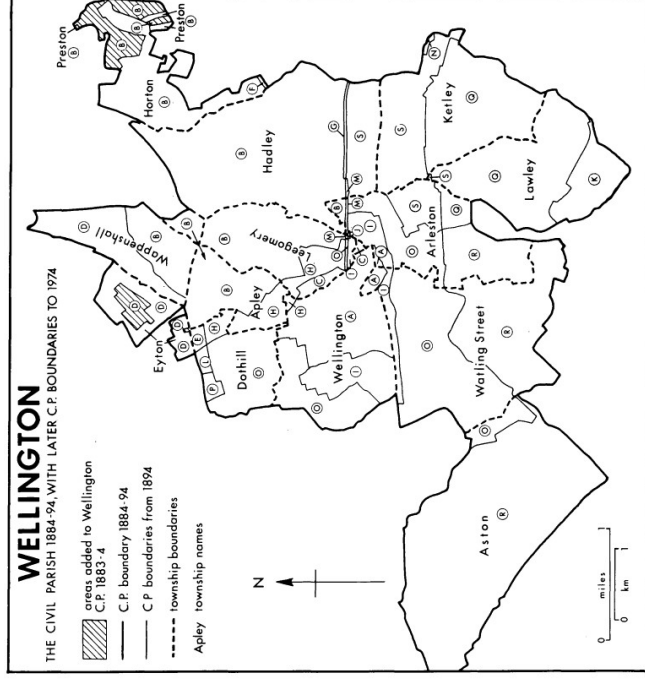
Hadley's Historical Links to Wellington

Hadley has been closely linked to Wellington throughout living memory and beyond.

HADLEY, a village and a chapelry in Wellington parish, salop. The village stands near the Shrewsbury canal and the Shropshire Union railway, 1¼ mile ENE of Wellington; is inhabited chiefly by colliers; and has a station on the railway and a post office under Wellington, salop.

- Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales, 1870-72

Hadley was part of Wellington civil parish and Wellington Rural District Council (WRDC) until 1974. Many buildings in Hadley bear the name of WRDC and the local landmark Haybridge Hall was gifted to WRDC. Evidence of Hadley's long association with Wellington is visible throughout the parish.



Political Motivation

The Labour Party held the Telford constituency since it was created in 1997 until 2015 when it was won by Lucy Allan for the Conservatives.

If the 2019 election gains which saw huge Conservative swings throughout the country prove to be an anomaly related to Brexit, the Telford constituency will once again be a marginal seat.

The proposal by the Labour-controlled council to exchange Priorslee with Hadley (or Hadley & Leegomery), in my opinion, is a politically motivated numbers game.

The inclusion of predominantly Conservative-voting Priorslee in the Wrekin is unlikely to have any bearing on the result of the next election in that constituency as it is a safe Conservative seat but it would probably give enough of a swing to Labour for Telford to change hands.

Adding the historically Labour-voting Hadley and potentially Leegomery wards to Telford would probably give the Labour candidate a double figure percentage majority.

In my opinion, the council's proposals are politically motivated and do not reflect the interests of the community.

Local Identity

The local Labour Party contends that Priorslee has closer community links to Shifnal and the Wrekin than it does to St Georges and Telford. They also contend that Hadley has closer community links to Oakengates and Telford than it does to Wellington and the Wrekin. Neither of these claims are correct.

I will leave others to evidence the absence of a community link between Priorslee and Shifnal and concentrate on Hadley and Oakengates.

There follows some statements from Hadley and Leegomery residents. The two Leegomery residents are in the current Hadley Castle ward which largely predates the large housing estate by the same name and has closer community ties to Hadley.

Cllr Part Smart (lifelong resident of Hadley)

We always felt like Wellington's junior partner. There were 2 councils, Wellington Urban District Council and Wellington Rural District Council. You will find WRDC on many buildings in Hadley.

Graham Murphy, who owned Haybridge Hall, donated the Hall to WRDC for the benefit of Hadley people. The council houses were theirs. Never, ever, to do with Oakengates.

The Wellington GPs held clinics in Hadley where the green space is now to the west of Holy Trinity Church near the Bush roundabout where there was the pharmacy. My family were patients at Oakengates Medical Practice but most were, and still are, patients at Wellington. People went to Wellington to shop at the market.

Buses were very regular from Newport or Donnington to Wellington every 10 minutes on market days, Thursday and Saturday. Our secondary schools were in Wellington, both grammar schools and the secondary modern. If we wanted to go to Oakengates we caught a bus to the Bucks Head, then another to Oakengates. Does that sound like a natural link to Oakengates, without even a bus service?

The biggest wheel manufacturer in Europe situated in Hadley, were known as Sankeys of Wellington - not Oakengates.

I love Oakengates but we certainly don't have the same link with Oakengates as we have with Wellington. End of!

Heather (always lived in Leegomery or Wellington)

When I was a child we used to go to Hadley market on a Wednesday and Wellington on a Tuesday and Thursday. I went to school in Wellington.

Both my nans lived in Hadley and always went to Wellington for their shopping. They always went to Wellington on the bus, they never went to Oakengates.

One of my nans still lives in Hadley and she still gets the bus to Wellington to do her shopping at the age of 97!

I'm completely unfamiliar with Oakengates, I wouldn't know what's there. I don't think I've ever been into the town centre in Oakengates. I wouldn't have a clue.

Christine (lived in Leegomery her whole life)

I can probably count on one hand the amount of times I've been to Oakengates ... always used Wellington mainly.

Trench Lock

Trench Lock is a small settlement in Hadley & Leegomery parish. It is clearly separated from Trench by the A442 dual carriageway but where Trench Lock starts and Hadley ends is unclear and fairly arbitrary.

The Trench Lock parish ward doesn't include all of the settlement of Trench Lock but does include the Blockleys quarry that is earmarked for housing in future. It is this development that the local Labour Party have suggested would create a future link between Hadley and Oaken gates but it wouldn't be Hadley, it would be Trench Lock.

Trench Lock is inseparable and in the main, indistinguishable, from Hadley. I have had conversations with people who believe they live in Hadley but actually live in Trench Lock, such is the unclear boundary between the two. The entirety of Trench Lock should be in the same parish and constituency as Hadley.

Apley Castle & Leegomery ward

I am broadly supportive of the creation of the Apley Castle & Leegomery borough ward but feel that it is too large for a single parish ward.

Although the creation of the new ward would cut Leegomery in half the division is quite neatly along demographic lines between two communities that are less likely to mix with each other than the eastern half of Leegomery and Apley.

The proposed parish ward of Apley Castle & Leegomery would have almost half of the councillors on the parish council which I feel would make it too easy for those ward councillors to dominate the parish council's business.

I would suggest creating two parish wards in the Apley Castle & Leegomery borough ward, perhaps Apley Castle ward and Leegomery East with a corresponding Leegomery West in Hadley & Trench Lock borough ward.

Wrekin Constituency

The Wrekin constituency should retain its name. The proposed change to Newport & Wellington excludes large parts of the constituency which have no association with either towns.

The Wrekin can be seen from almost all parts of the constituency, including Albrighton, Shifnal and Cosford which are not in the Borough of Telford & Wrekin and from Hodnet and Cheswardine which are proposed to be added to the constituency.

The Wrekin is the one thing that is common and recognisable to the current and new constituencies.