

Telford and Wrekin Borough Council

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Comment text:

Telford Conservative Association – official response to the first draft of the boundary proposals

Executive Summary Telford Conservative Association's comments cover the wards which are represented at Parliamentary level by the Telford Constituency. In these wards, we are generally satisfied that these draft proposals give both good electoral equality and community representation. In the north, we are pleased to see that Oakengates will have its own ward, representing the fact it is a self-contained ward. Centrally and towards the south, we are pleased to see a reduction in 3-member wards in areas where self-contained communities are identifiable and will benefit from more focussed representations. We are proposing some minor adjustments to some of the boundaries, to enhance what the commission has already proposed with community feedback and considerations.

Ironbridge Gorge We are satisfied that the commission's proposals meet the electoral equality and community cohesion expected. Residents we have spoken to are satisfied with this ward arrangements and we propose that the commission include this ward as it stands in the final recommendation.

Woodside We are generally satisfied that this ward meets the electoral equality and community cohesion expected. Paragraph 42 of the commission's first draft report asked for further evidence from those living in Nightingale Walk and surrounding areas as to whether they consider their community identity to be in Woodside or elsewhere. Residents have come forward to us and told us that they have submitted their own responses to the commission to express that they do not see their area in the Woodside ward. It is our recommendation, on that basis of residents who have communicated with us, that the answer to paragraph 42 is that these roads are far better suited to the community of Lightmoor and should not be included with Woodside.

Madeley, Sutton Hill Again we are satisfied that this ward gives good electoral equality and community cohesion. We agree with the commission that there is a clear distinction between the identities of Madeley and Sutton Hill and on Sutton Hill's social status and demographics – being one of the highest areas of deprivation in Telford, and we recommend that the commission brings this ward forward to the final proposal.

Brookside, The Nedge Despite the difference in our proposals to the commission's, we are satisfied that areas that identify as Holmer Lake and Stirchley Village which are currently in the Brookside ward are identifiable to The Nedge. We would have preferred The Nedge to have been more closely represented by splitting the ward, however it is clear that this will not give good electoral equality and we recommend that the commission puts forward these wards to the final proposal.

Dawley & Aqueduct, Horsehay & Lightmoor The drafting of these wards proposes splitting the community of Horsehay and gives poor community cohesion. Cllr Jayne Greenaway, the current councillor for Horsehay & Lightmoor ward has submitted her recommendations (appendix 1), and our proposals echo her response. We are interested the outline of the communities of Horsehay, Doseley and Lightmoor, and that the boundaries drawn by Cllr Greenaway in appendix 1 should not be penetrated. We recommend that the name is changed to "Doseley & Lightmoor". The commission should consider a plausible alternative that means these uniquely identified wards exist in their ward as one, or that all of Horsehay as described by Cllr Greenaway is moved into the Dawley & Aqueduct ward proposed.

Lawley, Overdale & The Rock We are satisfied that the commission's proposals meet the electoral equality and community cohesion expected. We have taken the commission's findings into account regarding the centralised amenities across the ward, however the development of Lawley will be at such a pace that we expect at the next boundary change, there will likely be considerations to splitting the ward to create single or two-member wards with good electoral equality and community services. We retain that Telford Town Centre belongs to Overdale & The Rock. This would match the current parish boundaries, but also the added pressure on two councillors in Great Dawley & Dawley Bank which is a ward that more deprived and densely populated to log and take case work for the town centre would be of a disservice to those residents in Great Dawley, who have their own "Dawley Town Centre".

Priorslee, St Georges, Wrockwardine Wood & Trench We are satisfied that the commission's proposals meet

the electoral equality and community cohesion expected. We support this recommendation being taken as the final proposal. Ketley, Oakengates The residents and business owners we spoke to are very satisfied that Oakengates will get its own ward, reflecting the self-contained community of the town. We agree that the Ketley ward proposed does provide good access along the B5061 Holyhead Road and that this two-member ward will serve the Ketley community well.

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1652043979_Appendix+1.pdf\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1652043979_Appendix+1.pdf)

Submission by Councillor Jayne Greenaway member for Horsehay & Lightmoor ward.

I am making this submission in response to the LGBCE draft proposals <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/shropshire/telford-and-wrekin>

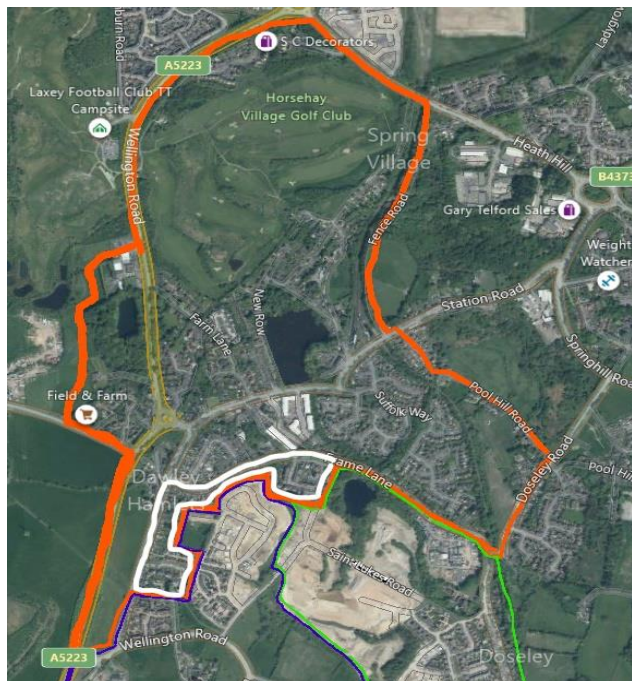
I am currently a resident of Lawley in the ward of Horsehay & Lightmoor but have strong local connections in the Horsehay area as a past resident and understand the differences between the new developments and existing communities having represented residents over a fourteen year period at differing levels of local democracy. I have listened to residents views on the proposals either by conversations, direct communication or social media and these I would like to share.

There are concerns about the current draft proposals relating to the community of Horsehay which is proposed would be split between Dawley & Aqueduct and Horsehay & Lightmoor. The Horsehay & Lightmoor draft proposal would only contain around 280 electors of Horsehay (shown in white) the boundary line to be drawn following Woodhouse Lane/ Frame Lane, dividing Horeshay community. The largest area of Horsehay would loose its own identity by being incorporated into an existing Dawley & Aqueduct Ward.

Horeshay is a tight knit and long established community with a golf club, Village hall, heritage railway and historic links to Abraham Darby family and the Industrial Revolution. As an individual community with its own identity it could sit alongside Lightmoor as it shares a boundary but has no links with the new Lightmoor Village which has a separated community association, a stewardship managed environmental maintenance service, provides no services for Horsehay and does not have a shared community identity. This could be strengthened by having clear and defined identities with their own strengths. We fully understand the difficulty balancing numbers for electoral representation but residents feel strongly that they should not see their area and their community divided and carved up to make up numbers for neighbouring wards, just to balance electoral number. Doseley is made up of small pockets of existing housing which was a predominantly industrial area which has seen a large number of new developments on brown field sites which are nearing completion. The Doseley area has long standing and close links to Horsehay.

I have included maps to show the three distinct communities that will be affected by the current draft proposals. Horsehay, Doseley and Lightmoor communities will be divided by the two proposed wards of Dawley & Aqueduct and Horsehay & Lightmoor.

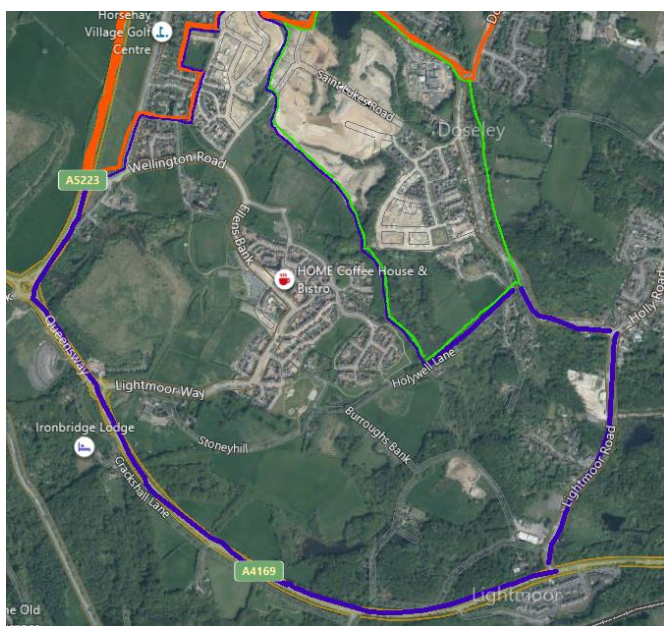
Horsehay (orange)



Doseley (green)



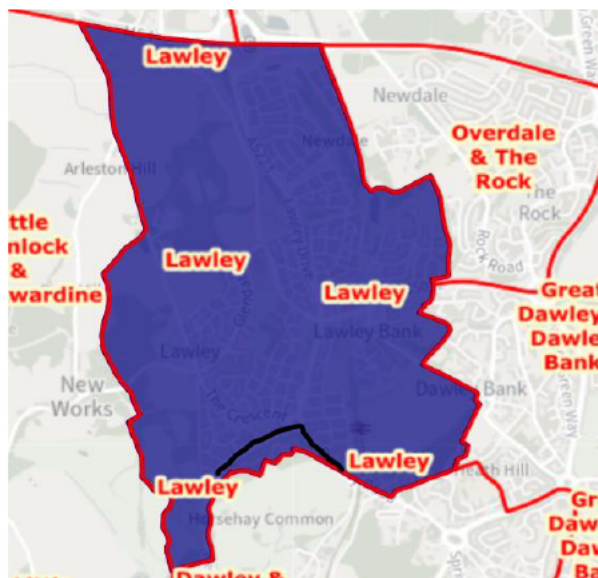
Lightmoor (blue.)



Dividing these communities will lead to confusion for the electorate and not clear electoral identity. As an example, if the current proposals were accepted someone living in Suffolk Way, Horsehay, postal address Horsehay would ask if they were part of Horsehay & Lightmoor Ward when in fact they would be represented by Councillors in Dawley & Aqueduct and in Dawley Hamlets Parish Council.

Residents in the proposed Horsehay & Lightmoor ward would only contain around 280 Horsehay residents which is not representative of the larger community of Horsehay. If they requested help from their Parish Council, they would be represented by Dawley Hamlets and The Gorge Parish Councils. These will be some of the difficulties faced by residents dependent upon which side of the road they live and stark differences in democracy at differing levels.

Lawley



I support the Lawley draft proposals apart from the Southern boundary (shown in black). There is a small number of electorate (78) at Lawley Gate, some have raised their concerns as the majority feel that they have more community identity with Horsehay being on the edge of Horsehay Golf Course. I would like to see the boundary drawn along the main roads to the North of Lawley Gate namely Wellington Road and Dawley Road being a hard boundary.

Lawley does not have any close connection to the community of Horsehay other than sharing a boundary.

I fully support the proposals for the new Lawley ward to bring together this large urban extension for better electoral identity and democratic accountability as the current situation which has been in place for seven years following the last review split the community into three warding areas which included other communities with no close links. This has led to confusion on many occasions, as to who their councillors are and why we have no identity as Lawley is such a large community. Residents

Name	Number of councillors	Current electorate	Forecast Electorate
Lawley	3	5002	8263

currently suffer with an under representation due to the large increase in housing numbers over the last seven years.

I believe the draft proposal for Lawley would build better community identity, cohesion and electoral equality for Lawley residents. There is a thriving community which is working on building its own distinct identity, a new local centre at the heart of Lawley with a supermarket, a range of shops all within walking distance. The proposals have reflected the growth and built-in projected numbers for extra capacity, it has identified that there will be an increase in electorate which will help with the longevity of the proposals, give better electoral representation and improve electoral equality.