

Telford and Wrekin Borough Council

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Comment text:

As the serving Mayor for Wellington and Chair of Arleston Community Centre, I strongly welcome the proposed amalgamation of Arleston & College into a single ward serviced by two borough councillors. Arleston Community Centre provides a space for residents from both individual wards to regularly congregate. Many of the diverse community groups that use the Arleston Community Centre attract residents from across Arleston and College. There is a successful Arleston Residents group in place well established and the proposed boundary change would provide an excellent opportunity to extend the focus to legitimately include College residents both in title and engagement, providing many opportunities to bring residents closer together. With Shortwood Primary (Arleston) and Telford College (College) based across the two wards, there is a natural blending of communities as families from both Wards access facilities. Ercall Wood, a secondary school in a neighbouring and easily accessible ward for Arleston & College residents, completes a well-followed educational pathway from infant education to being work-ready. AFC Telford, our cherished, local professional football club, also has a big role to play in a combined Ward and it would further legitimise the good work already in place as it sits neatly on the current boundary and has the potential to provide an almost central focal point. The Club along with list, of multi-agency partners, including the Local Authority, Local Community Groups and the FA have implemented a significant community action programme. The programme offers fitness, well-being and holiday clubs to families and children across Arleston & College and further afield. Initiatives by community groups, hosted by Arleston Community Centre also seek to bring communities together, working to engage with and help tackle the pockets of deprivation across both wards. In summary, the community work already in place across Arleston & College already spans the existing boundaries and legitimises the desire to create a single community. Creating a single Ward it would help to further the good work that has already begun. A more balanced, equal, combined ward of Arleston & College, with two elected Councillors, will also provide opportunities to improve and a stronger voice for residents that can champion the needs and ambitions for the area into the future.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded