

Telford and Wrekin Borough Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I would like to take this opportunity to make a submission on the proposed local government boundaries for the Telford & Wrekin area. I am a borough councillor who represents the St Georges ward and I'm also Chair of Boundary Review Committee. The Committee will obviously make a representation on behalf of the Council but I wanted to make a contribution personally given that I have spent over 35 years as a public representative in the area. I was the Member of Parliament for Telford between 2001 and 2015. I have also, over the years, been a Wrekin District councillor, a Telford & Wrekin Borough councillor and a member of three parish councils (Oakengates Town Council, St Georges & Priorslee Parish and Wrockwardine Wood & Trench Parish). There is much to be welcomed in your report but I strongly believe that there are some key areas where simple changes can significantly improve your proposals and sustain already well established community linkages. Firstly, your proposal to separate Ketley Bank and Oakengates comprehensively fails to recognise clear community links built up since well before even Telford New Town was conceived in the 1960's. I understand that you will have taken the view that Ketley and Ketley Bank are linked due to their respective names but that simply isn't the case. People in Ketley Bank look to Oakengates as their local centre for shopping, entertainment, public transport connectivity, GP services and religious worship. I know that residents will want representation which gives them a say in what happens to their local centre and that is best achieved by ensuring that they have councillors who have an interest in serving both them and Oakengates. Residents in Ketley Bank would not look to Ketley for any major services, indeed their community is separated from Ketley by the Red Lake area. I would genuinely recommend that you revise your proposals in some way to take these matters into account. Secondly, your proposal to separate Sutton Hill from Madeley fails to take account of community connectivity. Sutton Hill residents look to Madeley for shopping (Tesco, ALDI and LIDL alongside local retailers), GP services, entertainment and public transport connectivity. Existing ward arrangements mean that councillors serve both Sutton Hill and Madeley and this gives residents in Sutton Hill a strong voice in decisions affecting their local centre. This connection should be retained. Sutton Hill was one of the first of the New Town estates built in Telford and has significant challenges in terms of its design and the quality of the housing stock. It is one of the most deprived wards in the West Midlands and its interests are best served with three councillors with an interest in speaking out for that community. Thirdly, I know that you will have found the warding arrangements around Horsehay & Lightmoor and Lawley a real challenge given the levels of housing growth in those areas. However, your proposal to place the area around Horsehay Pool, Horsehay Common and the Telford Steam Railway into Dawley & Aqueduct appears illogical. I would suggest that this area should be incorporated into either a Horsehay & Lightmoor ward or a Lawley ward – or both by splitting existing polling districts. It certainly doesn't fit into the Dawley & Aqueduct ward. Fourthly, in the Brookside area you have placed Lake End Drive and associated streets into the Nedge ward. I would suggest they sit directly on the Brookside perimeter and would be better placed into your newly proposed Brookside ward. The open space to the north of Homer Lake Primary would seem to offer a logical boundary. Finally, it would be good to retain the name Malinslee in relation to your proposed Great Dawley & Dawley Bank ward. Malinslee is an important estate in the history of the New Town and it would be good to retain the name in one of the council ward titles. I would suggest Malinslee and Dawley Bank. I hope these comments are helpful, they're certainly intended to be so.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded