

Telford and Wrekin Borough Council**Personal Details:**

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Organisation Name: Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council

Comment text:

Dear Sirs I am the current leader of the Telford & Wrekin Council Conservative Group and a former Leader of the Council elected continuously since 1983. I would like to draw to the Commissions attention the issue of altering College and Arleston Wards (Historically two single member wards) into a single two member ward. I note from the Commission's Draft proposals of November 2021 that no evidence, other than from the Council, had been received and so the Commission are minded to adopt the Authorities proposals for merger into a two member Ward (see attached document - Page 21 of the Commissions proposals). In fact a submission was made by Cllr. Dugmore to retain College and Arleston as two single member wards (see attached document). To my knowledge College and Arleston have both been single member wards since their inception in 1974 and are two distinct and separate areas divided by the historic Watling Street. Arleston is mainly housing built by the old Wellington Urban District Council during the 1950s whilst College includes original Council Housing built much earlier with the addition of modern Housing and much older parts of Wellington itself, including the town centre. I strongly believe the communities to be distinctly different, in addition to which, I can see no justification for not retaining them as single member wards. I can see no compelling case whatsoever for altering them and would ask the commission to reconsider their draft proposals. Thank you very much Cllr. Andrew Eade

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1651069136 Part+of+Cllr.+Dugmores+Submission+%26+P.21+of+LGBC+Draft+Nov+2021.pdf\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1651069136%20Part+of+Cllr.+Dugmores+Submission+%26+P.21+of+LGBC+Draft+Nov+2021.pdf)

Telford and Wrekin Ward Boundary Review

Conservative Group Submission

Admaston and Bratton

Admaston and Bratton are two adjacent communities with close ties to each other. There are shared community facilities and a primary school. Currently at 2320 (-6%) a modest increase in electors to accommodate developments in adjacent wards would result in a ward +4.6%.

Continue the ward boundary along the B5063 to the junction with Shawbirch Road and then the boundary continues east along Shawbirch Road until it reaches the existing boundary.

Apley Castle:

A residential area currently 2536 (+3%). Propose to adjust the ward boundary so that the proposed development at Shawbirch roundabout which currently is within the Apley ward will be within the Shawbirch ward as the residents will identify with Shawbirch and use the Shawbirch community facilities including GP surgery. They will be separated from the rest of Apley by the Apley pool and woodland.

Continue the eastern boundary where it crosses the A442 and down the eastern edge of Apley Pool, along Pump Wood, the eastern side of Apley Home Farm and continue to Whitchurch Drive along The Silkin Way. The western boundary to continue down Leegate Avenue from Leegomery roundabout to the junction with Pool Farm Avenue then continue as the existing boundary. This will give a clear defined boundary between Apley and Leegomery.

This will give a ward with approx. 2764 electors by 2027 +1.5%

Arleston Ward: Current electorate 2371 (-4%) 2027 2859 (+4.9%)

We propose no changes as the ward has existing natural boundaries, has a local centre and Arleston Community Centre. It is and always has been a community within Wellington. The proposed increase in electors can easily be accommodated.

Church Aston and Lilleshall: Current electorate 2477 (+1%) 2027 2693 (-1%)

Propose that the polling district WNV is moved from Newport South & East in to Church Aston & Lilleshall. This polling district is actually in Church Aston, therefore it appears to be an anomaly. The residents identify with Church Aston, have a Church Aston postal address and use the community facilities.

College: Current electorate 2409 (-2%) 2027 2721 (-0.1%)

Propose that the western boundary follows the A5223 to the Apley roundabout then follows eastwards along Apley Avenue to the junction with Whitchurch Road then continues south along Whitchurch Road to connect with the existing boundary at the junction with Crescent Road. This extension was once part of the college fields from which the ward derives its name. The extension follows a more logical ward boundary and makes the ward electorate the median size.

Donnington: Current electorate 4711 (-4%) 2027 5704 (+4.7%)

Propose that the Donnington Wood part of polling district WMM moves from Muxton Ward into Donnington Ward. Donnington Wood Way (A4640) will form a continuous western boundary to its junction with the A518 (Clock Tower roundabout). This polling district identifies far more with Donnington which has a large array of facilities compared to the more residential Muxton. The Muxton facilities are a significant distance away on the opposite side of Donnington Wood Way which is a major road artery with no residences. Donnington and Muxton while they share a Parish Council are two distinct communities.

78 We considered retaining the existing boundary between Admaston & Bratton and Shawburch wards, following the boundary of Wrockwardine and Wellington parishes. This would leave both wards in question with -11% variances, slightly outside what we consider to be good electoral equality.

79 We therefore propose to combine the Council's proposed Dothill ward with the remainder of Shawburch, to offer a two-councillor ward with acceptable electoral equality, and strong boundaries. We would be particularly interested in further evidence from residents of this area with regard to whether these communities have common interests and amenities.

Arleston & College, Ercall and Haygate & Park

80 We received no evidence in this area other than that from the Council. We have adopted the Council's proposals for Arleston & College and Ercall wards.

81 We note that electors on Barn Farm Drive do not have convenient access by car to the remainder of Ercall ward; but note that this mirrors existing arrangements, and that the inclusion of these electors is necessary in order to ensure that Ercall has acceptable electoral equality. We would welcome any alternative proposals in this area that might offer a better balance of our statutory criteria.

82 We proposed to expand the Council's proposed Haygate & Park ward, in order to ensure that electors along Lewis Crescent and neighbouring streets are together in a ward with the neighbouring residential areas. We consider that the parish boundary in this area, which the Council proposed to follow, is not likely to be reflective of community identities with a number of these electors being in the primarily rural Wrockwardine parish.