

## Telford and Wrekin Borough Council

### Personal Details:

**Name:** Helen Barker  
**E-mail:** helen@newportshropshire-tc.gov.uk  
**Postcode:** [REDACTED]  
**Organisation Name:** Newport Town Council

### Comment text:

Please find attached the final submission from Newport Town Council ( map of proposed area submitted seperately).

### Uploaded Documents:

**[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download\\_document?file=draft%2F1627469905\\_Final+Submission.doc\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1627469905_Final+Submission.doc)**

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### Comment text:

Please find attached a submission from Newport Town Council regarding the current misalignment of Ward and Town Boundaries together with a map outlining the proposed area.

### Uploaded Documents:

**[https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download\\_document?file=draft%2F1627469237\\_Map+of+proposed+boundary+extension.pdf](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1627469237_Map+of+proposed+boundary+extension.pdf)**





# NEWPORT (Shropshire) TOWN COUNCIL

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28<sup>th</sup> July 2021

For the attention of the Boundary Commissioners

## **CONSULTATION ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN TELFORD AND WREKIN**

The Town Council believes that the current Ward boundaries for Newport are entirely appropriate as the changes made by the Boundary Commission in January 2014 recognised that the A518 forms a natural Southern boundary to the Town. However, the local Town and Parish boundaries continue to be misaligned to the Ward boundary, despite numerous requests from the Town Council for them to be reviewed since 2014, leaving a growing number of Newport residents not only being excluded from services or concessionary fees provided for residents, but also separate from the community they themselves strongly believe they are a part of. It also seems to contradict the stated aim in the Telford and Wrekin Local Plan to “consolidate and strengthen Newports’ role as a market town” by artificially excluding many residents who believe they live and work in the Town from being officially considered as residents.

One of the main strengths of the Town of Newport is the strong feeling of community, something that has only been increased by the local support networks established during the recent pandemic. Yet hundreds of people who currently, or in the near future will, live within a short walking distance of the High Street, far closer than many residents of the Newport North and West Ward, cannot be considered, for purely local electoral administrative reasons as being residents of the Town.

Since March 2014 requests from the Town Council to Telford and Wrekin Council to review the boundary and align it with the Ward boundary have either been delayed or refused as follows:

- March 2014 “limited resources within the electoral team mean the request cannot be considered until after the May 2015 elections.”
- 2015 to 2017 “as any changes will not come into effect until 2019 no review will be considered until 2017.”
- Nov 2017 TWC Electoral services state the rules have changed and a petition is now required from residents before the request can be reviewed. A petition was subsequently provided
- 2018 - 2019 a further request considered by Borough’s boundary committee and refused by a majority vote

Whilst the misalignment of Town and Ward boundary currently affects fewer than 100 dwellings the area is the site of both current and proposed major housing development. This will result in many hundreds of residents being excluded from services and concessionary fees enjoyed by their near neighbours.

Newport is a thriving market town with a strong community spirit, a vibrant High Street and a growing number of employment and leisure opportunities. Indeed, Telford and Wrekin Council themselves are currently part financing a major employment development to

attract hundreds of jobs to the area. The planned large housing development in this part of Station Road is also being actively marketed to prospective buyers as being in Newport Town and the land is considered by Telford and Wrekin Councils own Local Plan to be within the urban boundary. However, the hundreds of new residents will not actually be residents of Newport and will therefore not enjoy a number of services and concessionary rates that their near neighbours are able to take advantage of. For example, they will pay significantly more as non- Newport residents to get married at the Guildhall or indeed to be buried in the local cemetery. They will also not be able to rent an allotment as priority is given to Newport residents. This is not only difficult to justify but makes no sense given the recognition from the Boundary Commission in January 2014 that the A518 forms the natural Town boundary.

The Town Council therefore formally requests that the Town Council boundary be formally considered alongside the Ward Boundary review and that the historical misalignment be rightfully corrected.

Yours faithfully

Sheila Atkinson  
Town Clerk