

Telford and Wrekin Borough Council

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Comment text:

The proposed ward of Sutton Hill covers an urban estate that throughout its history has faced numerous issues. Currently these issues have become heightened meaning that the people and families living on the estate are facing multiple issues, such as food poverty, fuel poverty, poor housing, numerous health inequalities and deprivation. The estate of Sutton Hill has always been well served by its ward councillors who as a collective have successfully raised the issues that the community faces. This collective voice has been powerful and helped to ensure that the needs of one of the poorest communities within Telford and the UK are always considered. This is especially the case when considering the development and funding of the community. The proposed changes to drop from three ward councillors down to one is a backward step and politically could do untold damage to Sutton Hill in the following ways: • It would weaken the voice of the citizens of Sutton Hill • It will allow wards with multiple councillors to have a stronger voice and potentially allow the issues that Sutton Hill faces daily to get pushed away • It will financially have a huge impact as all three councillors in the past have ensured that Sutton Hill gets its fair share when funds are distributed. This collective will be watered down and potentially lessen the impact that any input from the funds available to the councillors has. As well as the financial implications of losing two councillors the impact of the proposed changes could be more far reaching. Our poorer communities currently face barriers to employment, education and access to essential services that provide aid and support that can help to lift themselves out of poverty. As well as these issues Sutton Hill does not have a shopping centre so people rely on the shops in Madeley for their weekly shopping as well as access to a range of shops. Input by the local councillors within Madeley currently ensures that the social and economic needs of the community are taken into account especially in relation to access to affordable shops. The proposed changes will put this at risk and potentially disadvantage an already disadvantaged community. To support the community of Sutton Hill to make changes they will need additional support at a political level to ensure that the issues that need to be dealt with are raised at the highest level within the borough. With a single councillor ward this will be difficult and potentially weaken the communities voice across Telford by allowing those communities that have a stronger voice get louder, therefore not allowing the voice of Sutton Hill to be heard.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded