

Telford and Wrekin Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name: Rev Debbie Loughran

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Organisation Name: Vicar Oakengates & Ketley Bank

Comment text:

I am the local vicar for Oakengates & Ketley Bank and have supported residents across this closely knit community for many years. I am very concerned that you are even considering splitting this ward and moving Ketley Bank into Ketley. I am also the Rural Dean of Telford and know first hand how the community of Oakengates, Ketley Bank, Beverley, Wombridge and Trench Lock inter link and also look to Oakengates and it's community Centre to provide the services families need.

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1652041204_Rev+Debbie+Loughran.pdf)

Re: Boundary Review

The following reasons are why I am against the LGBC proposals for Oakengates:

- Ketley Bank is very closely tied with Oakengates, both historically and in the present day. Ketley Bank residents use the services and high street in Oakengates and thus require an electoral say in this area and Ketley Bank should not be separated from Oakengates under any circumstances.
- The linking of Ketley Bank with the community of Ketley is inappropriate and they do not share community identity, did not have sufficient transport links between these areas, and shared very different demographics.
- Oakengates, as one of the principal market towns in Telford, deserves and requires greater representation than one Councillor to ensure investment continues into the town. There are also many issues which are raised as a location for a market, many businesses, a theatre and a significant leisure offer, which are not present in other one member wards. Residents will receive reduced capacity from their electoral representative as this individual will need to apply themselves to the issues raised above.
- The communities of Beveley, Wrockwardine Wood, and Trench Lock are also closely tied to Oakengates and to separate them under the new LGBC proposals would be unfair as these residents see Oakengates as their local community to which they belong, and use the services provided within the town significantly.
- Residents from Ketley Bank would struggle to access services within Ketley as the bus links are poor (with residents having to travel through Oakengates before going to Ketley). In order to walk to Ketley, residents would also have to cross a busy main road (Mossey Green Way), further demonstrating how these communities are not linked.

The following reasons are why we should keep the areas together and continue with the retention of the current ward boundaries for Oakengates and Ketley Bank:

- The community centre, which is home to the local Children's Centre, is significantly used by families from across Ketley Bank, Oakengates, Trench Lock and Beveley. The provision for elderly residents is also taken up equitably by residents from the above areas. This is the same for the school holiday activities. This demonstrates the close community ties which exist within the current boundary.
- Local businesses within the town, support the current boundaries to be retained as the customer base came from across the current ward boundary. The businesses also raised that they felt it was important that Oakengates was not downgraded to just one

councillor as they felt this would harm their businesses comparative to other local market towns.

- The current ward boundaries were well supported with bus links and also has a significant green network which also helps with the connectedness of the area.
- Families from across the current ward boundaries generally attend the same nursery, primary and secondary schools. Oakengates Nursery serves residents in Ketley Bank and Wrockwardine Wood. The current ward boundaries have Telford Priory School as their local catchment school.

I really hope that you take these issues into consideration and do not separate our very close community. I feel that this would be detrimental to both local residents and our market town.

Yours sincerely

