

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

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**Organisation Name:** Ercall Magna Parish Council

**Comment text:**

Ercall Magna Parish Council respectfully asks that you reconsider your proposals to remove Roden and Poynton from Ercall Magna Ward. The reasons for our request are detailed in the attached letter. If you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Uploaded Documents:**

**Download ([https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download\\_document?file=draft%2F1647712070\\_Response+to+Boundary+Commission+Consultation%2C+March+2022.doc](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1647712070_Response+to+Boundary+Commission+Consultation%2C+March+2022.doc))**

# Ercall Magna Parish Council



Clerk to the Parish Council

Please ask for Katrina Baker

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19<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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## RESPONSE TO BOUNDARY COMMISSION- TELFORD & WREKIN WARD BOUNDARIES CONSULTATION

Thank you for extending the date for the consultation on this important review for Telford & Wrekin and in particular for the rural areas of the Borough.

The rural areas, mainly to the North, form the largest area of the Borough. However, due mainly to their location as being the furthest away from Telford Town Centre, our communities often find that their needs remain unmet.

As a way of coping and dealing with this situation, which has been the same for many years, the communities rely heavily on their Ward Member and local Parish Councils. The Parish Councillors are fully aware of the local issues and needs of their residents and they take this into consideration when forming their strategies and setting their budgets.

You will be aware that Edgmond and Ercall Magna were separate Wards until the last review, when they came together and were renamed the Edgmond & Ercall Magna Ward. The joining of the two Wards had one main advantage and that was two Members could cover the large geographical area easier and cover for each other during periods of holiday or sickness. Other than that, there has been no significant gain for a two Member Ward and therefore the return to two single member Wards does not cause Ercall Magna Parish Council or local residents concern. We understand that one reason for the proposed changes is that the Boundary Commission seeks to balance the numbers, which we understand – but at what cost?

Parish Councillors and the Residents in Ercall Magna Parish were pleased to read that the Commission intended to take into consideration local views and circumstances and that you wish to create boundaries which reflect communities, cultural and family links and consequently confirm identities.

You can imagine, therefore, how disappointed the Parish Council, and Roden and Poynton residents in particular, were when they realized that you are proposing to move them from Ercall Magna to Little Wenlock & Wrockwardine. Parish Councillors from Roden have spoken at length with residents in Roden and nearby Poynton and it is clear that your proposal appears to be contrary to your commitment to 'reflect communities and confirm identities'.

Ercall Magna Parish Council and the Borough of Telford & Wrekin have signed up to a Parish Charter.  
A commitment by all to work together in partnership for the benefit of the wider community.

Roden and Poynton residents have close links and identify on a daily basis with High Ercall. This relates to the school, church, shop and village hall. There are many friendship links, children attending and travelling to school together etc. It appears that they have no connection with Little Wenlock or Wrockwardine. Little Wenlock is a considerable distance from Roden and it would be reasonable to think that the needs of the communities might differ accordingly. The requirements and issues of one community may not be relevant to those of the other. Residents have confirmed that they vote in High Ercall Village Hall and use leisure facilities in High Ercall – they do not travel to Little Wenlock for such services or facilities. The road link to Little Wenlock and Wrockwardine is narrow, with blind bends and would cause concern to many residents if expected to travel it for Parish and other public meetings, for example.

For your information, Ercall Magna Parish Council is nearing the completion of a Neighbourhood Plan. This has been in the making for a number of years, as there is a requirement to consult with the community at each stage of its preparation. The information gathered throughout the process confirms the community links for Roden and Poynton with High Ercall. Any change of Ward, or in the future, Parish Boundary will mean the Plan is immediately out of date and years of work and significant expense will be made void. Additionally, Ercall Magna Parish Council, together with the current Ward Member, are closely engaged in a number of significant local projects, based on the current boundary and which represent the needs of the residents of both Roden and Poynton. The residents are concerned that a significant change of boundary, such as that which is proposed, will mean that the hard work and planning for their needs will be lost, as it is unlikely that a new Ward will have the same commitment and understanding of their needs.

We respectfully ask that you reconsider your proposals and confirm that the whole of Ercall Magna Parish, including Roden and Poynton, will remain in the new Ercall Magna Ward, where the needs of the residents will be adequately and appropriately represented and they will continue to be able to identify with High Ercall, which is a short distance away along the B5062 highway.

If you need any further evidence or information, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Council.

Kind regards

Katrina Baker MBE  
Clerk  
Ercall Magna Parish Council