

Horton

Email responses –4

As a Parish we have commented on the Boundary Review, however my views on the Properties that sit alongside the Horton/Ercall Magna boundary including the Queens Public House have not been considered and are not counted in the Horton Ward as part of the Electorate. Those properties and indeed any properties on that side of the Wheat Leasows road would be best served as being included in the Horton Ward and sensibly making them and the one Public House as central to the Horton Community looked after by the incumbent Parish Councillor. I respectfully request that this small element is also included in your deliberations.

The proposal, as outlined in the BRC committee proposals May 2025, for Horton to remain part of Hadley and Leegomery Parish is I firmly believe wholly inappropriate. I do understand that the option for Horton to become part of a new Weald Moors Parish Council is a non-starter at this time. Notwithstanding it has merits, it did not have wider community support. Hence we need to press the BRC for an alternative. Please consider: Horton has nothing in common with HLPC – socio-economically and other factors. It's nonsensical. Besides, Horton pays its Parish Precept for next to no benefit from HLPC. Horton matters very rarely if at all are discussed or raised in HLPC meetings. If they were, it would be questionable that most of the councillors would not be able to pass fair judgement let alone be interested on given their focus on the other wards. Our own HLPC councillor engagement with Horton residents has, since being elected has been negligible. Hence we are very poorly served by being part of HLPC. We may as well not have our own ward councillor. Evidentially Horton, has suffered extensively by the expansion of Hortonwood in recent years and many opportunities for HLPC to actively engage, pre-planning consultation and the like with Horton residents have been lost. Horton has only been able to react too little too late to effect the best outcomes for our community.

Notwithstanding the fact that many residents have moved into Horton, knowing the Hortonwood position does not excuse a Parish Council for going the extra mile to ensure that its electorate (not the companies/investors/construction agents etc) are integral to the process. Therefore in addition to being removed from HLPC 'governance' Horton should not have Hortonwood within its 'ward'. On the question of HLPC engagement with Horton residents during the CGR process, it has been very disappointing that other than 2 or 3 very brief, incomplete, even inaccurate emails, our own Cllr has not to my knowledge approached residents directly to court their views, let alone and more importantly convene a meeting where all the options for Horton could be presented and discussed. Whether our Cllr has everyone's emails I know not – given the new arrivals to the village and hence it would not be unreasonable for some door knocking or note put through letter boxes to have taken place. All this is very disappointing and falls way short of electorate expectations. Surely. Imperative also as part of this CGR is for all properties that are geographically in Horton but which are currently in Preston upon the Weald Moors should see boundary re-alignment to make them part of Horton's governance. This move would bring the Queens public house and the 4 -5 new properties to the south of the Queens and others into Horton. This would simplify the opportunity for those affected residents to engage with all Horton matters over time and not have the present unnecessary, but awkward anomaly. Horton's future should I believe be as a Parish Meeting, and excluding Hortonwood from being within its governance. This would present our small, unique community to manage its own affairs, to pursue opportunities, projects and other initiatives that the community believes to be important for its future. With new builds occupied and minor boundary changes as above, there will be not far short of 200 electors in Horton within the next year or two. New people bring fresh energy and new ideas, couple then with residents who have been in the village for a decade or more and such vibrancy can be harnessed much more successfully than the present governance being tied to HLPC.. which when all is said and done is a not good fit, arguably a burdensome millstone for Horton to work with. Horton does not need to be part of a

'remote' Parish Council that has many other different and challenging priorities. Horton is already part of the Ercall Magna ward for TWC representation and hence having the anomaly of being part of HLPC is another unnecessary encumbrance. Horton as a Parish Meeting would be an exciting new start for our community, bringing a fresh and clear identity. Thank you for your attention. PS please refer to Horton's submission to the 2024 CGR – in some detail this argued the case for Horton to become a Parish Meeting, with an outline support by the community in excess of 70% as I recall.

For the attention of the Boundary Review Committee HORTON When the principal authority originally began a Community Governance Review (CGR) in 2003, I am told that the Horton community made a request to be considered as a Parish Meeting. That request was included in the proposals at that time. Moving forward to this review, that request has been removed. Having investigated and spoken with Horton residents, there were 27 responses to the first consultation (completed in February of this year), all of which indicated their wish to have self-governance. However, it appears that there were two responses from Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council and a Councillor and they have been treated more favourably in respect of their comments, when they should have been representing their local residents. As their [REDACTED], I have heard that the Horton community argue that they are rural, and without question, they are. Horton has grown quite considerably in recent years, and the type of property constructed is of large executive homes, which are not in common with the more urban aspect of the wider Hadley & Leegomery Parish. The services and facilities in Hadley and Leegomery are not easily accessible to the Horton residents, they are more likely to use Muxton or Donnington as access is more direct. They have no public transport. The residents feel that they have nothing that anyone can argue as a common identity and their interests are not shared and their vision is not respected. I am told that no-one from Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council has visited Horton and spoken to residents to gain their views. They steadfastly believe that they can manage and deliver more effectively by self-governance, as Preston & Eyton have done in the past. I support that ambition. However, it does appear that rural communities, especially those that are at present as Parish Meetings are under-valued in the CGR and that approach is not how the Act and Guidance for the review should be considered. These, and the White Paper, all provide substantial advice on what is important – that is the communities viewpoints, their interests and their identities. I respectfully ask the Boundary Review Committee to respect the wishes of Horton residents and to give this community the opportunity to form a Parish Meeting and begin a process of delivering the community ambitions.

Horton Telford and Wrekin Council 2025 Community Governance Review HORTON PARISH MEETING BID 14th July 2025 Horton Telford and Wrekin Council 2025 Community Governance Review Dear Sirs, HORTON PARISH MEETING BID 14th July 2025 My submission to the consultation process is as follows: Horton should no longer be part of Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council. Why do we want this? 1. Rationale: HLPC has failed on multiple occasions to engage timely and appropriately with Horton residents on Hortonwood planning matters. Moreover, H&L has little in common with Horton in terms of setting, socio-economics, issues and concerns. Horton's Future for Generations to Come 2. Despite several challenging reservations, Horton's representation needs would be best served by becoming a Parish Meeting of Horton on its own after the failed concept to merge all four villages. Horton is unique, its superbly multi-culturally integrated community, its digital village capable community and its wide skills base make it well placed to look after Horton best as Horton knows & understands Horton best and we are the best position to drive forward an already successful digital village & showcase of multi-cultural integration which should be a show case for TELFORD UK wide. Local Structure, Representation & Governance 3. With this new arrangement, it is imperative that each community continues to maintain its own clear proud identity. In addition to village signage and the like, each village should be free and encouraged to consult with its own residents to form ideas, identify projects and bring those to the council and

or develop their own actions and activities within its own remit as appropriate. Horton village should have a new Parish Councillor & its own separate budget. In Horton's case that is best served as a Parish Meeting for Horton by Horton to grow Horton. This not happening is holding up massive grants. Physical & Social Inclusion 4. Integral to this process is the need to bring all properties that are geographically in or very near Horton, but currently are in Preston, into Horton for representation purposes. This would ensure that all residents' communications can be unambiguous and inclusive. As things stand this anomaly concerns the Queens Pub and around 9 or 10 properties on the west side of the road leading out of Horton to the Leegomery roundabout. In this regard, Wheat Leasows properties currently in Horton ward should I believe remain. To my knowledge we have engaged with WL residents and asked for their views and to submit accordingly. As an aside, I would support Hoo Zoo, currently part of Horton Ward, remaining as such. Green Spaces, Water Well Being, Mindfulness Community Boundary Alterations 5. Resolving the above Preston/Horton anomalies should also entail moving the ward boundary to be positioned further westwards and provide a green buffer area to be within Horton ward... Ergo the 'green space' then resulting to be used and as and when available for Horton to pursue the development of its 'own' nature and conservation space - notably when the large housing developments north of A442 and west of Horton takes place. Protecting our rural setting development encroachment is imperative. After all, having had the impact of Hortonwood developments on Horton over the past 20 years or more – trees and hedges removed, noise, lighting and disturbance factors, having some new green space to 'work with' in the long term would be some sort of appropriate and much needed recompense. SEE INDICATIVE MAP BELOW APPENDIX 1 This will facilitate establishing Horton wildlife haven, area's to relax & mindfulness away from Hortonwood disruption and an area of gathering ideally to site a Horton Village Hall from national grants. No Need for Industrial Zone Inclusion in our Rural Parish 6. There is NO justification for any part of Hortonwood and any other new proposed industrial commercial areas to fall within the boundaries of a rural Parish Council. Therefore, the current position of half of Hortonwood being part of Horton Ward should therefore be changed accordingly. Horton (supported by the new PC) will continue to engage with Hortonwood businesses, TWC and other agencies on planning and environmental matters as and when. With a new PC we will also be able to work more closely with our own TWC Ward Councillors on such matters. This has been far from fit for purpose with Horton being part of HLPC. Identity Independent Culture- Positive Quality Growth & Rural Communities 7. With the above boundary changes and new builds known and likely, Horton village is likely to grow to 190 - 200 electors by the May 2027 local elections. Demographics are likely to bring more young families into the village and as other residents retire and age there will be greater needs for a PC to be ready to support pastorally – making for a caring community spirit. Perhaps a campaign for buses, a new community centre plus village hall. making the best use of 'our' healthy green space land referred to above and such like. It is likely that the new Parish Council will be tasked to secure grants etc – focussing on enhancing our rural communities that surely must not be swallowed into being an annex to a large urban housing estate, lose that all important rural community identity and 'independence' I very much hope you will consider this submission favourably and look forward to the outcome in due course. There is a spirit to make great things if you grant this to Horton. Horton is motivated to achieve great things within its driven enthusiastic Community all we need is your full agreement & grant us what we politely request above as a complete package as our foundations for now next years & the next two generations. We will be offering our resources energy and capabilities for other villages on a case by case basis and Community agreement as Horton Parish Meeting. This is on the basis of no re opening of Horton Lane at all. Thank you. The Will of the People. Detailed below is a signed petition requesting TWC grant Horton its residents urge Horton's Community Parish Meeting status to allow us to be more free to grow develop & enhance our beloved Community that we all are passionate about and given such an opportunity will develop grow & enhance our identity as a lead from the front digital village of go get culture and we passionately need to

be freed from Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council & our current Parish [REDACTED]. In the petition asking for our freedom to grow via a self managed community of very capable individuals motivated to its success we also as well as 110 signatures requesting this urgently please for our community to fully establish its identity spirit and desire for better things we also point out that none of the 110 individuals signed have not been canvassed in any way on CGR as can be seen by the NO NO entries by [REDACTED] or Hadley & Leegomery parish council. Please grant our gift of Parish Meeting and watch our community free of restrictions blossom grow develop further be more dynamic cost efficient and enhance Horton for Horton, for its Community and for its old its families and for its growing children. Be it wonderful times, pandemic, civil emergency or just having successful fun community.

Survey Responses - 2

I believe that in the interest of community cohesion/identity and effective delivery of services, that maintaining the current boundaries of the Parish - including Horton, but also incorporating the entirety of Trench Lock using the natural boundaries available of the A442 and railway line would be the best outcome for the residents of Hadley & Leegomery. I agree that there should be an extra Councillor for the Trench Lock as this would ensure the best levels of representation for residents.

I recognise the importance of effective local governance. Any changes to the current Town and Parish Council boundaries should, first and foremost, be designed to strengthen local representation, improve accountability, and maintain the unique identities and historical ties of the communities within the borough of Telford & Wrekin. For any proposed changes to the current arrangements, the Council should explain clearly how those changes would address each of those points. Telford & Wrekin Council should engage further with residents, community groups, and other local stakeholders before any final decisions are made. My comments on the Council's draft proposals have been informed by conversations and correspondence with Town and Parish Councillors, Borough Councillors, and other interested parties. The Community Governance Review is more extensive than it needs to be at this time. With the latest version of the draft Local Plan still to be published, a more targeted review to accommodate significant new developments in Muxton and Priorslee would be sufficient, while a more comprehensive review could be conducted following the publication of the final version of the Local Plan. Waters Upton and Ercall Magna – I support maintaining the current boundary and governance arrangements. Both communities have a distinct identity and are geographically separated by a significant distance. Muxton – I support the proposal for a separate Parish Council. The boundary of the new Parish Council should be the same as the Borough Council ward boundary. The new developments on Donnington Wood Way and at the top the Redhill should be included in the Muxton Parish boundary to include the new residents in the existing community. The extra care facility on Donnington Wood Way was approved with community facilities for Muxton included in the planning application. Donnington Wood Way, Redhill and the A5 are the obvious and logical boundaries of the new Muxton Parish as opposed to the arbitrary proposed boundary which divides the existing community. Priorslee – I support the proposal for a separate Parish Council. Donnington, Wrockwardine Wood, Trench – I do not support the current proposals. Donnington and St. Georges are older, well-established communities. Residents of Donnington will associate more with Wrockwardine Wood and Trench, whereas residents of St. Georges will identify more with Oakengates. The proposals as currently drafted would split Wrockwardine Wood in two, with Summer Crescent, Cockshut Piece and The Nabb being moved into St Georges. A more logical proposal would be to merge Donnington (excluding Redhill) with Wrockwardine Wood & Trench; alongside the creation of a single Oakengates and St Georges Town Council which would better reflect community identities. Eyton, Preston, Kynnersley and Hadley & Leegomery - Wealdmoor Parish Council should include Kynnersley and Preston. Horton should have its own Parish Meeting as it is a predominantly rural community which is clearly distinct from Hadley and Leegomery. Eyton should retain a Parish Meeting due to its distinct and isolated rural location. Apley Castle should not be included within the Hadley and Leegomery Parish, as it is a distinct community with little connection to Hadley & Leegomery. Wellington Town Council - Admaston, Bratton & Shawburch should have their own Parish Council, separate from Wellington, as they constitute a distinct urban area with shared local services. Wrockwardine and Little Wenlock – these villages are geographically separated by The Wrekin and are long established distinct communities. They should each have their own Parish Council. I know that Little Wenlock Parish Councillors have serious concerns about the proposals to merge the Parish Council with other areas, as they feel that would create a loss of identity and influence for their community. I am told that, in response to a recent survey carried out by the Parish Council, a majority of Little Wenlock residents supported keeping a separate Parish Council for Little Wenlock. Rodington – this village should retain its own Parish Council. I would welcome further opportunities to contribute as the Community Governance Review progresses.