

## The Gorge

### Email Responses – 1

The Gorge Parish Council response to the proposals from the Boundary Review Committee. The Gorge Parish Council notes the recent proposal from the Boundary Review Committee regarding the inclusion of Horsehay, Doseley and Nightingale Walk Ward of the current Dawley Hamlets Parish Council within our parish boundary. We wish to clarify that this proposed change was not something our Council had requested or sought during the consultation process. While we appreciate the efforts to review and improve parish boundaries for the benefit of local governance, we feel it is important to highlight that Horsehay and Doseley have not historically fallen within our administrative remit nor is its inclusion aligned with the priorities expressed by our parishioners or those of Horsehay. We have not received representations from our residents supporting the inclusion of Horsehay, and as such, we have reservations regarding the rationale for this adjustment. We respectfully request that further consideration be given to community identity, historical ties, and the expressed wishes of both the current residents of our parish and those of Horsehay itself. We would welcome an opportunity for open dialogue with all stakeholders before any final decision is made on this matter. The Council also objects to the proposed reduction of councillors serving Coalport and Jackfield to one councillor. Historically the two councillors have been one from Coalport and one from Jackfield as, despite the ward being one ward, it is two distinct communities with only one footbridge connecting them. In summary, while we recognise the importance of effective boundary management, we do not support the inclusion of Horsehay in our parish boundary at this time, as it was not a change sought by this Council. The Parish Council also continues to hold the view that Wrekin View and Hilltop area would be better served as part of the Gorge Parish Council area.

### Survey Responses - 18

I am against the proposals that get rid of my parish council, although i do feel that Little Dawley should be in Great Dawley, but Aqueduct, Doseley, Lightmoor and Horsehay should have its own Parish Council, but not called Dawley Hamlets as it has nothing to do with Dawley, Depsite [REDACTED] loud shouting. It would be good to have an Aqueduct Ward, Doseley Ward, Horsehay Ward and Lightmoor Ward and reduce the gorge back to the main road, and as mentioned loose little dawley to Great Dawley.

As a Doseley Park Resident Dawley Hamlets Parish Council being abolished means our village could be overshadowed resulting in paying more each month for the precept that does not even relate to us! Doseley could join Ironbridge Gorge.... which is incorrect. Doseley is part of Horsehay/ Dawley Hamlets and not the Gorge! We would only get invites to events in the wrong parish, not my local area.

i feel the abolishment of Dawley Hamlets is unacceptable, i feel some parts of the parish should go to great Dawley like little Dawley, but Lightmoor, Doseley and Horsehay should have their own parish council. as the gorge is too far away.

I have heard a lot around Dawley Hamlet PC. I do not live in a hamlet and i am not in Dawley, it needs changing the chair doesn't get it, his one man campaign is just sentimental, lets have a proper parish council that works for us residents. i think Aqueduct should be in a Parish Council not in Dawley but i think Little Dawley should be in Dawley, we should be with Doseley which has nothing to do with the Gorge so should be here with us.

I am opposed to the abolition of Dawley Hamlets Parish Council. It is a well-run council with a very low precept. The character of Dawley Hamlets is not replicated in either The Gorge or Great Dawley Town Council. It is not a small parish , having over 3000 dwellings at 2023 figures so would not benefit from being amalgamated. I very much doubt if the representation we now have will be improved by amalgamation because our neighbours who are in The Gorge, neither know which parish they are in, what that parish could do for them or who their parish councillors are. There is a large undeveloped area between Dawley Hamlets and The Gorge which is currently classified as The Gorge but would sensibly be included within Dawley Hamlets, with the boundary running along Queensway/ Ironbridge Bypass. Great Dawley has a much larger pool of social housing than Dawley Hamlets and their Town Council is geared towards that. I cannot see the Town Council being interested in the mainly private ownership housing in Dawley Hamlets. One would have reason to consider there is a deal of gerrymandering going on here where an extra 3000 houses in Great Dawley TC would produce an increase in precept of towards £1,000,000 with no benefit to the residents of Dawley Hamlets. I would suggest that, should Dawley Hamlets PC be abolished, the increase in precept be paid by Telford & Wrekin Council for the next 10 years.

I strongly oppose the abolition of Dawley Hamlets Parish Council • We will lose local Services Delivered by DHPC specific to our residents and demographic • Value for Money: Merging into either would mean significantly higher Council Tax with no clear service improvements. Many residents, especially older ones, are already managing tight budgets. A sudden increase in council tax to subsidise other areas is unfair and unjustified. • Loss of Local Identity: Dawley Hamlets is distinct from both The Gorge and Great Dawley. No shared tourism identity with The Gorge. Different demographics and housing than Great Dawley. Risk of our community being subsumed and underrepresented. • Representation Matters: o DHPC currently has nine councillors, four of whom focus solely on Dawley Hamlets. These councillors know the community, care deeply, and take action. Councillors from other areas may lack this knowledge or commitment. • It also feels there has been a lack of transparency: No clear explanation for why this change is being proposed. No public justification of benefits or drawbacks. No outreach or detail from other councils involved in the takeover. Only DHPC has actively informed residents. Our Parish Council is brilliant, they are easy to approach, they are proactive and look after their residents. They deliver a fantastic service, losing them would mean the residents of DHPC will be left in the shadows.

The proposed, and current for that matter, boundaries for the Gorge Parish Council and Madeley Town Council do not include the areas which residents feel most connected to and give them a sense of place. Blists Hill comes under Madeley Town Council but most residents associate it with Ironbridge. Beech Road is split between the Gorge Parish Council and Madeley Town Council, with the allotments immediately behind Beech Road covered by the Gorge Parish Council. Yet the Gorge Parish Council is being extended into areas which are not connected in identity to the Ironbridge area, which Madeley historically is. Madeley will in time make up over 9% of the electorate with only Wellington being higher, it would therefore seem more logical to increase the size of the Gorge Parish Council area by merging the areas of Madeley Town Council which border and identify with the Gorge.

I am against the proposed abolition of Dawley Hamlets Parish Council, which is not even given as an option on this survey. This appears to regard this proposal as a foregone conclusion. The Railway has benefitted from donations for various projects and is a central feature of the Hamlets running down its spine. As such we benefit and are in contact with many residents of the parishes and would not wish to see these relationships disturbed. The parishes are all of a fairly rural nature and have little in common with Great Dawley or its interests.

Jackfield and Coalport Parish council covers a large area on both sides of the river with many residents. It is wrong to believe one parish Councillor can be effective in listening and being available to all. 2 Parish Councillors should be the minimum required.

Please note I am commenting on Dawley Hamlets Parish Council. I was not made aware about the proposals to abolish Dawley Hamlets from Telford & Wrekin direct, but by chance spotted something on Facebook just a few days ago about a meeting to discuss the matter at Horsehay Village Hall on 2/06/25. I popped along to this well attended meeting and took part in the various discussions. I'm very unclear what the reasons for proposing to abolish Dawley Hamlets are, but it was thought that this is simply some committee simply drawing lines on the map for whatever reason, with no information on the pros and cons of this proposal, other than the precept costs increasing. I have lived here for over 20 years and have always appreciated the work that the current people involved with running the parish council have done, with other ongoing improvements taking place or will soon take place. I would ask that until you can provide a sound reason to abolish Dawley Hamlets, that things are left as the currently are. Best regards, [REDACTED]

There is no logic in trying to shoehorn Lightmoor and Horsehay in with Ironbridge and Coalport and Jackfield, other than to make up numbers and absorb areas that are left over from other suggested boundary changes. The Gorge PC has struggled for at least 6 years to fill the Lightmoor seats that it currently has. One of the current ward representatives actually lives in Broseley and the third seat remains unfilled. The people of Lightmoor rarely if ever make representation to the PC as they, unsurprisingly do not see themselves as being a part of the Gorge. The Council's overheads, i.e. Clerk's pay, office accommodation and running costs are high for the services that are actually delivered. Although potentially politically unpalatable, the obvious answer is to join with Madeley Town Council. The two councils share the World Heritage Site and walkways and common spaces that adjoin each other. In the past works have been undertaken on footpath repairs and maintenance organised using Madeley's additional staff power, with the two council's sharing the cost. Whilst there may be some concern about the Gorge needing to retain its own identity, this is not insurmountable. Given the current proposals to include Horsehay, the Gorge would surely need to rename itself anyway.

Moving Horsehay to the Gorge, will be detrimental to the Horsehay community residents. This is a small community which works well and links with the Dawley Parish. If moved, Horsehay will be subsumed, and forgotten about

We have lived in Doseley for nine years, been a part of Dawley Hamlets for all of this time. My husband and I got married at Dawley church. My children attend the local Dawley secondary school, our nearest amenities are in Dawley town. We are against the draft parish council arrangements. We are not part of The Gorge Ironbridge it is not our community. It will leave us feeling isolated from local amenities.

I am writing to formally object to the proposal to transfer Horsehay and Doseley from Dawley Hamlets Parish Council to The Gorge Parish Council as part of the current boundary review. Horsehay and Doseley form an integral part of the Dawley Hamlets Parish, with strong community cohesion, shared local identity, and well-established links to the Parish Council. The current arrangement supports a closely-knit, walkable community—an area that is accessible on foot for families, elderly residents, and those without private transport. The convenience and accessibility of local services, events, and governance under Dawley Hamlets Parish Council are essential to the day-to-day lives of local residents. The proposed move to The Gorge Parish Council would sever these vital links. The Gorge is not only geographically more distant, but it is also separated from Horsehay and Doseley by the A4169—creating a physical and psychological barrier that would erode the close community connections currently enjoyed. This relocation would undermine effective local representation and dilute the voice of Horsehay and Doseley residents in matters directly affecting them. In addition, there is serious concern regarding the financial implications of this change. The potential increase in parish precept charges, without a corresponding benefit in local services, would place unnecessary financial strain on households—particularly during a time when many are already facing economic hardship. Residents should not be expected to contribute to services from a Parish Council that is neither local nor accessible to them. I strongly urge you to reconsider this proposal and retain Horsehay and Doseley within Dawley Hamlets Parish Council, where the interests of our community are best understood and represented.

I comment on the Abolishion of DAWLEY HAMLETS Parish Council Which isnt listed above, although it is your intention to amalgamate it into the Gorge. I STRONGLY OBJECT to this proposal as a resident of Horsehay, who believes that our Parish Council does a fabulous job for this area at an extremely good cost, whilst providing many services that the locals use and enjoy. Dawley Hamlets plays a vital role in advocating our communities best intrests for the local people and ensures any decisions made reflect the needs and priorities of the people that live here.The abolition of our Parish Council would mean this local voice would be ignored if we were swallowed into a council with broader borough interests., and too boot youd expect residents to pay higher annual fee's whilst being ignored. Horsehay has been through many changes in recent years and many not for the better and in the process has eroded our village community and taken many of our facilites away. Please keep your hands off our Parish Council and let them continue to do the splendid job that theyve done for many years.

Formal Objection to the Inclusion of Lightmoor and Horsehay into the Gorge Parish Council  
Submitted by: [REDACTED] Grounds for Objection: 1) Lack of Overall Community Identity (Terms of Reference, Point 8.3): The A4169 road, Loam Hole Brook, and the historical Great Western Railway line form clear geographical and historical boundaries that separate the existing Gorge communities (Ironbridge, Coalport, and Jackfield) from Lightmoor and Horsehay. These natural and man-made divisions signify distinct community identities. The Gorge has a unique historical, cultural, and environmental character tied to the River Severn and its industrial heritage, which is not shared with Horsehay and Lightmoor. 2) Undermining Democratic Viability (Terms of Reference, Point 8.3): The inclusion of Horsehay would mean it represents 38.66% of the electorate, while Ironbridge, Coalport, and Jackfield (the core Gorge communities) together make up only 42%. This creates an imbalance where for every 1 resident in the actual Gorge, there is nearly 1 resident from outside it, diluting local representation. 60% of councillors would reside above the railway line, road, and brook, meaning the majority of decision-makers would not live within the historic Gorge, undermining true democratic representation for the affected communities. 3) Horsehay Does Not Constitute "Urban Overspill" (Terms of Reference, Point 8.11): Horsehay has been an established industrial and residential area since the 1750s, not a recent urban expansion. The term "urban overspill" implies new development pressures, whereas Horsehay is a long-standing settlement with its own identity, separate from the Gorge. Conclusion: The proposed boundary changes fail to meet the required criteria of community identity and democratic viability. The inclusion of Lightmoor and Horsehay would distort representation and weaken the governance of the historic Gorge parishes. I urge the reviewing authority to reject this expansion and maintain the integrity of the Gorge Parish Council's boundaries. Signed, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

I disagree with horsehay being split between two parish councils. This will impact neighbourhood cohesion, sense of belonging and community spirit. It has the potential to impact community activities and shared facilities. Access to services will be inconsistent across our local community and our influence fragmented. In addition the precept is higher and I'm concerned that with the heritage areas included in the proposed parish, horsehay would receive less focus. Horsehay should remain in tact as a community in the proposed gorge parish.

I disagree with Horsehay being divided and fragmented into different Parishes. This will impact our community both practically and in its feel. The proposed boundary divides our community - a community that has been built over many years. The inconsistent access to services, facilities and activities is concerning and will negatively affect our community cohesion. Our voice and influence will also be impacted if the area is divided between different parishes. This is particularly concerning as a dedicated conservation and nature reserve area. The full Horsehay area should remain in tact and be included in the proposed Gorge Parish. This would help to preserve our community identity, cohesion in representation and keep local services more consistent.