

## Waters Upton and Ercall Magna

### Email Responses – 34

We object to the the proposal to combine Waters Upton and Ercall Magna Parish Councils. The two Parishes above have always been communities with separate identities and although their boundaries are adjacent, the main settlements are separated by several miles of narrow roads and with numerous farms between them. There is no public transport connecting them so the use of cars is the only option for majority of residents. Each of the Parishes covers a large rural area and it is not possible to envisage residents becoming involved in each others local events. Because of the above, combining the two Parishes would not be in accord with certain conditions set out in the Community Governance review i.e. Page 3 "To put in place strong clearly defined boundaries tied to firm ground features""it can also consider the most appropriate community identity" Page 4 "The review is to take into account the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion" "The council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be reflective of the identities of the community in that area and be effective and convenient"

I am writing with regards to the proposal to merge Waters Upton and Ercall Magna parish councils. In the proposal it's stated aim is to make both councils viable. Both councils are already viable with healthy reserves. Both councils have an expanding population and so it is not sensible to reduce the number of councillors and simultaneously increase the number of constituents per councillor. Lastly I believe Parish Councils form a vital connection between local people and politics. If people believe there is no connection you get a frustrated population with no means of easily venting their frustration. I trust sense will prevail and this ridiculous plan will be re thought.

am writing with regard to the proposed Ercall Magna Parish Council merger with Waters Upton. I am severely opposed to this proposal. These are my main reasons behind my opposition: 1. Local Parish Councils form a vital, healthy & positive link between the local community & politics. The local community needs to be able to have a link & if this isn't there, you will end up with a frustrated local community. 2. The Council state that they want to make both Councils viable. Both Councils are already viable with healthy reserves. 3. If you are increasing the size of the Parish surely you will need more Councillors not less. Each current Parish has different needs & needs to keep their community identity individually.

Having read the Community Governance Review (and having tried to complete the online survey without success so not sure whether that avenue of response is working for others), I would like to make the following observations via the other option to respond (email): - As a resident of High Ercall, I cannot quite see how the proposed changes to merge with Waters Upton will work efficiently? You say (quote) This proposal would allow the (new) parish council to remain viable and capable of providing services to its residents whilst maintaining community identity. How can this benefit the communities involved when so much is spread across a large rural area? ? Representing 200 people in a built up area -v- 200 people spread across a rural landscape is a different ball game altogether? You are proposing to expand the area and portfolio but reduce the number of volunteers. Is it not working as it is? What is not working currently? Volunteers (reiterate Volunteers who give their time and effort free of charge) already work hard to serve the community at grass roots level. T&W proposals place extra burden on those volunteers. The proposed changes of area/representation surely cannot deliver the most effective governance and surely cannot be in the best interests of the community that live in the two parishes? Hopefully, Telford & Wrekin will listen to their communities.

As a long standing resident of waters Upton parish I wish my strong objection to the proposed merging of our parish council with that of Ercall Magna. Our local councillors are both residents of our community and extremely active and effective at hearing views, championing the needs of locals and feelings and are one of the truly visible elements of our council tax payment. As such, I consider Waters Upton parish council as good value for my council tax and if savings are needed within T&WC then this proposed merger is not one I and I know many of my fellow residents would support in any way. If you wish further comments then please feel free to contact me.

You have sought our views on the proposal to merge Parish Councils into larger area Councils. I am strongly opposed. This would be extremely damaging to the community spirit, local engagement and support engendered by a truly local parish council. Parish councils are only effective if people engage which they do with neighbours, fellow villagers and people they know. Where they can see the direct impact of their efforts on their community. Widening the net may appear to save costs, but would seriously undermine that local community spirit. Waters Upton Parish Council is an outstanding example of what a well run and well supported Parish Council can be. It arranges many events which are well supported and is a real benefit to the local community. Extending its area would weaken its effectiveness. Thank you for considering these points.

I have previously expressed my thoughts that as a resident in Roden I am NOT in agreement with your proposed merger with Waters Upton. We are completely different villages with different needs and not even close by villages! The needs of our village with only 1 councillor will not be heard and Telford and Wrekin council are not putting Roden or Waters Upton 1st or hearing our views.

I am writing to oppose the merger of Waters Upton and Ercall Magna Parish Councils. I feel that decisions should be taken by Councillors who are fully conversant with issues within the very local community. There could easily be disagreements over house building between Parishes and I would rather be represented by locals. I don't believe that there is any financial reason for any amalgamation as Waters Upton is financially stable and in the past has been very successful in raising funds independently to fund various community projects. I suspect there are more pressing considerations for other Councils in Telford due to enormous growth over the last few years.

Proposed merger of Waters Upton Parish Council with that of Ercall Magna. I understand that it is a National Govt requirement to carry out the review which TWC is presently carrying out. I also understand that there is not a requirement to make any changes as a result of such review and that the outcome will be decided having taken account of public responses. I trust this is the true case however the cynic in me tells me that like many other supposed consultations this is a done deal and matters have already been decided and that this is merely a tick box exercise to satisfy any future audit or Freedom of Information request. I hope that is not the case. These are my views for opposing such a merger; -

1. Parish Councils were established to provide the lowest form of Government at a local level and provide the grass roots of local democracy and yet this proposed merger seeks to expand a local level to a much larger one. The proposed merger will cover an area in excess of 20 square miles. (from Roden and Poynton to Shray Hill and Meeson and from Sandyford and Great Bolas all the way to Sleaford) This means that meetings will be arranged in different venues across the new area so that those of us who care about local democracy and attend meetings in our local Village Hall in Waters Upton either have to travel thus increasing personal costs and adding avoidable journeys and fuel pollution to the environment or miss out attendance altogether. I have attended virtually every meeting for many years. I doubt that I will have the inclination to travel in periods of dark evenings and poor weather. Democracy is like Justice it needs to be done and needs to be seen to be done. This proposed merger overturns that basic principle.
2. The proposal is for 5

Councillors for Waters Upton, 7 for Ercall Magna and 1 for Poynnyon /Rowton. This means that issues local and directly relevant to Waters Upton can be outvoted and fail eg 5 votes for and 8 against. Will Councillors with out direct knowledge of Waters Upton understand or even care about issues in Waters Upton Parish. TWC and its staff will know from past experience that Waters Upton Parish Council is an active and progressive Council and does not shirk from challenging and setting out views and proposals which are contra to those of TWC but best serves the needs and views of the people of the Parish. This dynamic approach will be diluted if the proposal goes ahead. Honest debate and challenges are a healthy sign of democracy at work.3.Over the years the people of this Parish have raised funds for the Village Green ,and children's play areas it is possible that such assets could be appropriated for other uses if decided upon by an enlarged Council. It is unlikely that this will happen but is theoretically possible and that would be grossly unfair on residents of W U Parish. Waters Upton Parish has numerous assets brought about by good Parish leadership , governance and knowing and understanding the needs of the Parish. There is no will or wish to give others the opportunity to diminish all that has been achieved.4.Where are savings to be made by this proposal ? Certainly there will be a reduced number of Parish Councils but at a cost to real local democracy 5.At a time when people are feeling the cost of living rising by the week will this proposal reduce council tax or the precept by such mergers . Unlikely but it will be no doubt masked in the usual political smoke and mirrors. 6.What impact will this proposal have upon Parish and Neighbourhood Plans ? Residents are fiercely proud of the plan for Waters Upton as no doubt are the residents of Ercall Magna. These two parishes are geographically similar but probably have different issues which impact. This proposal will means that both parishes as presently constituted lose their respective identity .7.For these reasons ( and many more from other residents ) I oppose the proposed changes to Waters Upton Parish as outlined in the consultation exercise and I respectfully request that full consideration is given to this response

As a resident of Ercall Magna parish I wish to input into the parish boundary review that I feel it will have no positive impact at all for local residents to increase the size of the boundary and to reduce the number of councillors.The current parish council is extremely well managed, has excellent audit and financial processes and represents views of residents effectively. The councillors have brilliant local connections and know about the matters that are important.I therefore object to boundary changes being proposed.

This email is a response to the consultation paper in respect of the merging of Parish Councils within TWC area .Sometimes it can feel that a consultation is merely a tick box exercise with decisions already having been made. I hope that the latter is not so in this important local matter.I disagree with the proposal for the following reasons:-A)The proposal to merge Waters Upton Parish with that of Ercall Magna would not be a merger but a take over. It is proposed that there be 13 Councillors for the new Parish and with less Councillors (5) than its neighbours(8) it is possible that important issues relevant to Waters Upton could fail in any vote. That then becomes unfair to the residents of Waters Upton Parish.B).Both Parishes would lose their respective identity. C)The new area to be covered is far too big ( in excess of 20 square miles) and diverse in nature with each sub area having unique matters of interest which may not be relevant or of interest of some Councillors. It is unlikely that all Councillors will have sufficient local knowledge to properly determine all matters leading to perverse decision making.D) Why fix something which is not broken ? The present arrangements seem to meet the needs of respective residents. Waters Upton Parish Council is a diligent and active one whose members are easily contactable . Some or all will still be there but can possibly be outvoted on matters raised on behalf of residents.E)Meetings will probably rotate venues meaning that residents who usually attend their local meeting will either forego attendance or have to travel. The former

will dilute debate and diminish local democracy and the latter will incur additional cost and add unnecessary journeys and pollution to the environment.F) Where are savings to be made to the public purse? Certainly there will be less Councillors overall but most do not claim expenses in any event .G)It is likely that the Parish Precept will be affected . In recent years the Precept in Waters Upton has not increased. I have no idea about Ercall Magna but expect that the increased number of Councillors may vote to increase the precept whereas a stand alone Waters Upton Paris Council probably would notH)It must not be assumed that few responses to this consultation mean residents accept the proposal . Some may not care others may not be aware and others may not have access to technology.I) In the past Waters Upton Parish Council have fund raised for various projects including the Village Green and play areas. If this merger goes ahead the people of Waters Upton may not have a say in how these facilities are used in the future so it will be unfair as we have helped to raise the money for these.

I would like to oppose the proposed merger of Ercall Magna Parish with Waters Upton Parish. Reasons being the reduction of Councillors who are volunteers, They will be responsible for an increase in size of responsibility , which does not make sense. This will affect recruitment for the future, due to the amount of responsibility required.What about the individual Parish assets, which has built up over the years.Conservation area.The size of this area will be too big to to administrate fairly for all areas.There is the control of Administration. and bank balances. How will these be affected.I have lived in Waters Upton Parish for [REDACTED] and do not want changes as I can not see what you are trying to achieve? What are the reasons for the changes.What have you in the brief for the future ?.

I am writing to you to lodge my objections to the Community Governance Reviews decision to amalgamate Waters Upton Parish Council with Ercall Magna Parish Council.Having reviewed all the information available regarding the suggested amalgamation , in all honesty I cannot understand why you are proposing the above, it really doesn't make any sense & damages a feeling of local community spirit! unless of course there is a political motivation ?\* The area involved would be much too big, do you appreciate how much work the Parish Councillors put in at the moment for smaller areas & if we want them to continue giving us the excellent service that they do Waters Upton Parish & Ercall Magna Parish would need to remain separate Parishes.\* You would be taking away the ability of residents to attend a monthly Parish meeting at Waters Upton Village Hall, as it would be likely that half the meetings would be held at Ercall Magna. At the moment many residents are able to walk from their homes to Waters Upton Village Hall to attend meetings, if they were shared with Ercall Magna, they would not be able to attend as many of the residents are elderly & do not drive & there is no bus route, so you would be taking away their right to carry on attending monthly meetings. Many of them like to attend as it gives them a feeling of inclusion & they become decision makers & have a sense of belonging.\* There would be a loss of identity for Waters Upton residents as the proposed structure of the council indicates that Waters Upton would have one less councillor, so they will always be in the minority, & to a certain extent lose their decision-making authority. Ercall Magna councillors will always to able to dictate decision making; that doesn't seem very democratic or fair to me!\* The area covered by this 'Super Power' will be far too large; Poynton/ Roden to Shray Hill on the B5062 & the Ugly Duckling on the A442. The whole point of a Parish Council is to have local people making decisions on behalf of local residents, i.e. having local knowledge in a relatively small manageable area. Many would say that Poynton/ Roden are more aligned to Shrewsbury anyway.\* What happens to all the assets that Waters Upton Parish Council have accrued? many achieved by hard work & donations to the Parish from the local community, one example being the village green next to Waters Upton Village Hall, a community asset & also money earmarked for the repairs & maintenance at the Stackyard Housing site, & of course Waters Upton shop; who would get control of all of this

if this amalgamation went ahead? \* When you have allocated Parish Councillors have you considered how a Parish may grow due to future development, of which there has been much in Waters Upton & with lots more possibly in the pipeline. This really does seem to be more of a POLITICAL DECISION than one that will benefit the Council Tax payers of Waters Upton Parish; We like what we have, it works extremely well thanks to the amazing effort of our Ward Member, Parish Clerk & Councillors, who achieve such a lot; if it's not broken it doesn't need fixing!

I am [REDACTED] for Ercall Magna, I cannot quite see how the proposed changes to merge with Waters Upton will work efficiently? Parish Councils are about serving the local people at a local level, over such a vast area this is untenable. You say (quote) This proposal would allow the (new) parish council to remain viable and capable of providing services to its residents whilst maintaining community identity. How can this benefit the communities involved when so much is spread across a large rural area? ? A Parish of 20 sq miles is not viable it makes it impossible to Councillors to know their area and the residents to know their Councillors. Ercall Magna Parish is already the largest rural Parish in the County and you want to increase its size and halve the Councillors?? Representing 200 people in a built up area -v- 200 people spread across a rural landscape is a different ball game altogether? You are proposing to expand the area and portfolio but reduce the number of volunteers. Is it not working as it is? Ercall Magna and Waters Upton are both very efficient councils and well run. What is not working currently? Volunteers (reiterate Volunteers who give their time and effort free of charge) already work hard to serve the community at grass roots level. T&W proposals place extra burden on those volunteers. High Ercall will lose 7 Councillors, Roden 1 and Waters Upton ( i believe) 1 - in cutting Ercall Magna by 7 Councillors that leaves an impossible task to serve that area alone, 1 Cllr for Roden is a big ask - i have no knowledge of Waters Upton !! The proposed changes of area/representation surely cannot deliver the most effective governance and surely cannot be in the best interests of the community that live in the two parishes? Hopefully, Telford & Wrekin will listen to their communities - we are getting feedback that the parishes are not happy hopefully they will respond to your review

Waters Upton Parish Council: I wish to lodge my objection to any merger for the following reasons-1 the current system works well with considerable local participation which I fear would disappear if we were merged 2 the parish is continuing to grow so any merger would make it unwieldy 3 there is NO discernible benefit to a merger 4 the ethos of a LOCAL parish council would disappear 5 it is convenient to attend meetings or contact a councillor who is known within the parish 6 how could we vote for people we do not know & who we have no connection with in a larger group & would have no accountability to our current parish 7 each parish has its individual needs which would be lost in a merged council who wouldn't have time to consider each of the previous parishes needs. Please heed the objections to this proposed merger IT IS NOT WANTED OR NEEDED

I am writing to express my concerns & objections regarding the above suggestion by Telford & Wrekin Council in their efforts to change the existing Parish Council structures & boundaries, this is not what the majority of the community want, why would you think this was a good idea? I am very upset that after [REDACTED] of living in the community/ Parish, I & other residents who give of our time to support our Parish Council & local community, carrying out tasks such as litter picking, path clearing, drainage, repairing sign posts; jobs which are not really our responsibility, but we do them to support our Parish Council & local community, the support is there for our existing Parish Council, but I do not believe that it would continue if we became part of a much larger Parish i.e Ercall Magna Existing assets that Waters Upton Parish Council & the community have worked so hard to accrue for the benefit of the local residents, may be handed over to someone with no local connection why? Parish assets in each Parish should remain under the control of the people who

worked so hard to achieve them.If this goes ahead it will destroy the existing community spirit of each individual Parish. Residents would not be happy if money/assets that they had raised or donated was handed over to another Parish, or even Telford & Wrekin Council.I & many other residents would not be able to give our support to a Parish that is not central to where we live.The new suggested parish boundary would be much too big & would not be manageable by the number of Parish councillors that you are suggesting, so the parishioners would be getting a much poorer service, which would not be acceptable.It would make a mockery of the Local Government Act of 1894 giving control to local people who were aware of what was needed to support each local area, which is something Telford & Wrekin Council seen unable to grasp.What guarantees are there that this reorganisation , if it takes place will it be the last? or in a few years time would they want to expand again, perhaps to include Tibberton & Cherrington, is all of this part of a bigger plan? why are they having another review so close to the 2023 review? perhaps they just didn't like the previous answer!I am sorry that this is happening as if we haven't got enough stress in our lives.I strongly object to the proposals.

At a time when parishes are growing more is needed fro local councillors. To remove the number thereby reducing the service to residents, is illegal and goes against the wishes of the residents. I feel that our parosh is often overlooked in terms of services provided by T&W particularly in terms of regards to highways. That this chnage would be a step backwards with less opportunity for residents to share thier concerns and be heard. The status quo should remain.

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Its proposed that Telford & Wrekin Council are proposing to merge Waters Upton Parish with Ercall Magna Parish. I strongly object to this merger , and below are a few of my thoughts and feelings. For me . this merger will make the proposed new parish too BIG.I understand that there is to be a reduction in the number of councillors , and this will diminish their effectiveness when acting for those living in the areas.In turn , this could lead to a loss of local identity of the existing parish because it will be too big , and the cohesion within the local community could be lost.Having councillors from outside of our local area will also show in time that they have no understanding of local issues and concerns , something that only local knowledge an provide.This will be further shown by there being less councillors from my local parish , and decisions being made that do not reflect local feeling and requirements and concerns.Furthermore , the local councillors are known personally to the community ,and are readily contactable and accountable .This is something I fear will be lost with councillors from outside of our parish.Therefore . the merger will risk us losing events and facilities as organised by our local parish councillors , and a merger will do nothing but dilute what we as residents receive from our own elected parish council. This is borne out by the fact that Ercall Magna is the largest parish council in the area , and I fear that the interests of Waters Upton residents , and any representation at the main council will be lost.As so often is the case with a take over or merger , the larger entity always prevails at the expense of the smaller.As such , I believe that the existing parish council should administer its own assets and financial matters within its own area.

I attended the 'drop in' meeting at Waters Upton Village Hall on 2nd July, where I talked to a helpful [REDACTED] by the name of [REDACTED], who was the Representative.My observations:1. Unfortunately, the 'decision makers' were not present at this meeting; the reason given was that they may not be exposed to a fair representation by the various Parishes. This was a

very strange response since the representative may not portray the feelings and facts of residents in their report. 2. There was only one representative present from the actual Governance Team which shows very poor leadership by the TWC decision makers. 3. The representative was fully occupied and did not make any notes. When queried about this I was advised by the representative (██████) that ██████ had a very good memory! 4. The Representative did appear to have a full understanding of the purpose of the 1894 Act, ie: 'aimed to reinvigorate local communities by giving them a more direct voice in their governance, particularly in rural areas'. 5. The Representative was unable to give a satisfactory answer when questioned about how the revised number of Parish Councillors: 6 High Ercall Roden 1 Waters Upton 5 And how it can be deemed as democratic. 6. The Representative was asked if the 3-mile Rule was still valid? Answered that it was now converted to Kilometres! This could mean that if the crazy plan took place, there could be Parish Councillors representing the residents of Waters Upton who did not have any knowledge whatsoever of the Waters Upton Parish and they would be voting on issues like Celebration Events at Waters Upton Parish Hall, Fund Raising, Planning, Flooding or specific issues like Fly Tipping or Crudgington Churchyard, etc. 7. Presumably, should this ridiculous plan take place, the meetings would be alternated between Parish Village Halls? It is evident that the team have not considered that villagers would no longer be able to walk to the meetings so would either be unable to attend or have to travel by vehicle, thus increasing their carbon footprint. 8. The question was asked as to who would pay for the Redundancy costs for the Parish Clerks? I was advised that this would be the employer, ie: the Parish! How can this be democratic when it was a policy decided by the TWC and therefore they should be liable for all the costs? If this does take place, then the persons concerned should be investigated for 'dereliction of duty' in public office. 9. I also asked the question regarding the existing Parish Assets and, in particular, 'Cash in the Bank'? It was explained that this would be allocated to the 'New Parish'. I understand that this will come under the umbrella of 'Dissolution of representation' and, if this should be allowed to happen, and not allocated to the original Parish Boundary, the persons concerned should also be investigated for the 'dereliction of duty' in public office. 10. It is normal practice for residents, say of Waters Upton Parish, to raise money for a particular project within the Parish. If this unbalanced merger does take place, there will be no incentive whatsoever to fund raise by the residents of the original Parish as they will lose their identity. I quoted the following statement from the 'Community Governance Reviews (CGR) Information Pack': 'This proposal would allow for the Parish Council to remain a viable council capable of providing services to its residents whilst maintaining community identity. By adopting the proposed warding arrangements, this will support effective community governance and provide good representation across the community.' It is obvious to anyone taking into account points 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 that this farcical statement / proposal is total fiction. 11. It is my understanding that most Parish Councillors are unpaid and part time. Should this short-sighted review take place, in my opinion, if only a good representation across the community is to be provided, it will be necessary to have many full time councillors who, of course, will require remuneration. 12. I asked the question as to which Parish Councils had asked to be merged with another Parish, for which there was no answer. 13. It is a fact that a Council (TWC) may choose not to conduct a review if a request is deemed unreasonable or would be disruptive to the community. It is obvious that the changes proposed would be disruptive to all the Communities within the various Parishes. Therefore, one has to ask why TWC is hell bent on this ludicrous crusade. Our understanding is that no factual reasons have been given. 14. Now we come to the cost benefit analysis: The representative was unable to give a credible answer, especially to points 9 & 11. 15. My only thoughts are: 'Why does TWC have the Parish Councils in their sights? a) With the large amount of building in the Telford area, the various Parishes will receive a dramatic increase in their precept amount. With my cynical head on, I am wondering if the whole purpose of the

Governance Review is to take costs away from TWC and transfer these to the weakened Parish Councils, or is it a Political reason?16. Regarding awareness of the Governance Review, I do not use social media or read the Shropshire Star but I do use the 'My Telford' website. However, there is NO MENTION of the Community Governance Review on the home page. This Community Governance Review is yet another waste of money by a Council and, in my opinion TWC should concentrate on its own shortcomings and conduct a full inquiry into the running / productivity of all departments, in particular the 'Working from Home' policy. From my experience, the Highways department are the worst by far to deal with. It is hoped that the decision makers realise that the proposed restructuring of the Parish boundaries would be a total folly.

I write with reference to the proposed merger of Waters Upton and Ercall Magna parish council by way of the Community Governance Review and would like to strongly oppose this proposal. It has always been a view that the Parish Council was at the heart of its neighbourhood, working at a grass roots level to help make and shape decisions that matter locally. With the proposed merger, the parish will lose its identity and the ability to shape decisions that impact on the parish. The only thing shared between the parishes is the bordering A442 that runs through both, this and the rural location. After this, the similarities end. Waters Upton has always had such a strong connection with the community, engaging all in the local events that they work so hard to deliver each year; this along with the Parish Shop, the green spaces and play parks enjoyed by so many will be in danger of being lost should the merger happen. The area that the new council would have to cover would be vast and the loss of Parish Councillors representing our Parish diminished. On this basis, the Parish would not have fair and even representation when democratic decisions, effecting the parish need to be made. Waters Upton has worked extremely hard to be in the position that it is in and to be able to offer such a great number of benefits to all of the parish - the expectation that this would continue should the councils merge would be impossible. A Parish Council needs representation at the most local level and the proposed changes will simply not allow this to happen. As there will be no financial impact to the council, I fail to see any benefits to the proposal. It is my understanding that this decision will be based on public opinion and I sincerely hope that this holds true.

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed merger of Waters Upton Parish Council with High Ercall and Roden Council. I am clear in my statement that this merger must not go ahead. The objections falls into a number of parts; each one should be considered as an individual objection. Please do not conflate them into one. 1. The Council is legally required to review the position at set intervals. This does not require the council to take any other action than satisfying itself that all is working well. There is no requirement for a minimum number of changes to be made. There is no evidence or suggestion of anything wrong with the administration or decision making of Waters Upton Parish Council. As such, there is no requirement to make any changes or alterations. It appears the council are making change for its own sake, or to meet an, as yet unclear, agenda. 2. There is no evidence of benefit for the proposed new arrangement. The Council does not fund the work of the parish councils, so there is not a financial benefit. Parish council meetings are quorate and effectively run, so there is no administrative improvement. I have yet to identify one individual in the parish who believes this proposal has merit. Given the council cannot identify benefits nor local support; the rationale for change is at best uncertain, and at worst foolhardy. 3. In the new proposal; Waters Upton Parish Council moves from an independent, autonomous decision making body in the interests of its local population, to a minority stakeholder in a larger organisation; the majority of members of that new organisation have no knowledge or allegiance to the people of Waters Upton. Waters Upton has a minority vote on all matters. The new proposal undermine the very principles of local parish councils in that they speak for local people from a base of knowledge and as a stakeholder in the



outcome.4.The only common ground between Waters Upton, High Ercall and Roden is rurality (according to an officer from T&W). However, we share that with many other parish councils both within and outside of T&W. Its hardly a basis to begin consensus.The ToR of the review (2.3) require the outcome to be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and is effective and convenient.It is not possible to identify any other common ground for merger.5.The proposal risks diluting the quality of decision making. The principle of parish councils is 'as close to the grass roots as possible'. In the new proposal; we risk spending valuable decision making time on issues outside our local interest. Rather than engage people in local matters, it is likely to turn them away. Again, a far cry from 'Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and is effective and convenient'.Locally, we have put some considerable effort, as a community into the local play area, shop, local village hall and many more things. This is not about protectionism; but this proposal risks losing that goodwill as our local identity becomes subsumed into a larger, less identifiable geography.At the last meeting, I understand that boundary review committee stated that the decision would be made reflecting on public opinion. I believe that the overwhelming view is against this proposal

have looked at the community governance review for 2025 & the proposed merger of Waters Upton Parish & Ercall Magna.I've lived in Waters Upton for over [REDACTED] & our councillors do a fantastic job looking after our community. The proposed merger of Waters Upton Parish with Ercall Magna Parish would reduce the councillors in Waters Upton and our area would become too large. Our local councillors are just that, local! We know them, they understand our community & do the best for us. If we have any issues we go direct to them. Parish meetings are held in the village hall. Over the years the local councillors have provided many assets for our community including play area, Village Green which is used for various events and Parish Centre. Our children are grown up now but we use the play area with our grandchildren. The Community Centre is well used.I can't see any benefit to the merger of these Parishes and feel that our local community would suffer if the merger takes place.I therefore reject this proposed merger.

As a resident of Ercall Magna Parish, I am writing to formally object to the proposal to merge Ercall Magna Parish Council with Waters Upton Parish Council. This proposal does not reflect the views of our community and offers no meaningful benefit. The reasons for my objection are outlined below:1. Strength and Stability.Ercall Magna Parish Council represents more than 1,400 electors—approximately 1% of the borough's population—and spans the largest geographic area of any parish council in Telford & Wrekin. It is a capable, independently functioning body with a strong governance record. Supported by an experienced Clerk and 13 elected councillors—many of whom are long-standing residents—it operates with transparency, local knowledge, and proven responsiveness to community needs. There is no demonstrable reason to restructure a system that already works effectively.2. Distinct Identity and Local Priorities. Ercall Magna and Waters Upton are separate communities with differing demographics, geographic features, and priorities. A merger would erode their unique identities and compromise the ability to address local concerns. Combining budgets and administrative structures could lead to misaligned funding and reduced responsiveness.3. Weakened Democratic Representation.Reducing the number of councillors from 13 to just 7 across a larger area threatens both democratic engagement and the effectiveness of local representation. Residents may be discouraged from standing for election or engaging with the council, especially as remaining councillors would carry heavier workloads. Ercall Magna parish councillors are unpaid volunteers who give their time freely. How could reducing their number possibly improve effectiveness? This proposal risks overburdening them and deterring future participation—weakening a system that is already fair and inclusive.4. Impact on Access and Service.Many residents and councillors currently attend meetings and events on foot. Expanding the council's geographic area would increase reliance on transport and introduce barriers for those

without access—particularly older residents and individuals with limited mobility. This change risks excluding not only active members of the community but also those who might otherwise consider standing for election. Additionally, Ercall Magna Parish Council delivers responsive, locally informed support that may not be replicable within a larger, merged authority. The proposed expansion threatens the quality, inclusivity, and immediacy of service delivery.<sup>5</sup> Unnecessary Financial Burdens. A merger would generate new costs: replacing signage, transferring assets, updating legal documents, and adapting administrative systems. These expenses are unjustified, particularly given that Ercall Magna already functions efficiently and independently.<sup>6</sup> Incomplete Consultation and Oversight. Phase one of this consultation received only seven comments about Ercall Magna Parish Council—none advocating this merger. Waters Upton residents likewise submitted no such proposal. The consultation failed to offer a “retain current structure” option, limiting the public’s ability to express support for the status quo. Additionally, the published documentation contains multiple grammatical, spelling, and numerical inaccuracies, for example, a miscalculation of councillor ratios in High Ercall Ward: 1,225 electors divided by six seats equates to 204 electors per councillor, not 211 as stated. These oversights suggest the process lacks both precision and meaningful public engagement.<sup>7</sup> Flawed Rationale and Priorities. Telford & Wrekin Council claims the merger “would allow for the Parish Council to remain a viable council capable of providing services to its residents whilst maintaining community identity.” Yet reducing councillor numbers and expanding geographic coverage directly undermines these objectives. In reality, the proposal seems designed to streamline borough-level administration rather than strengthen local representation. Residents should not be expected to trade democratic engagement and community responsiveness for bureaucratic convenience. Conclusion. Ercall Magna Parish Council is effective, inclusive, and respected. The proposed merger lacks public support and risks undermining representation, accessibility, and service standards. I strongly urge Telford & Wrekin Council to reconsider and withdraw this proposal and maintain the independence of Ercall Magna Parish Council. Thank you for considering my objection.

To: The Community Governance Review Committee. I am a resident of Ercall Magna Parish and am writing to object to the proposed merger with Waters Upton Parish Council. Ercall Magna is the borough’s largest parish in area, serving over 1,400 electors. It runs efficiently under the guidance of experienced councillors who were elected by mandate and is fully capable of continuing to thrive independently. These two parishes have distinct communities and priorities. Merging them would dilute local identity and reduce responsiveness. Cutting our councillor numbers by almost half risks weakening representation and placing an unfair burden on hardworking volunteers. Why would residents want fewer unpaid councillors representing their interests? The merger would also limit accessibility—especially for residents without transport—and introduce unnecessary costs for signage, legal work, and administrative changes. Your proposal seems driven more by Borough Council convenience than by the needs of our community. For these reasons, I strongly believe Ercall Magna Parish Council should remain independent.

Given that nobody I know within Ercall Magna Parish supports the idea of merging with Waters Upton Parish, I was very surprised when the proposal appeared in this consultation round. Having obtained (via a FOI request) the consultation responses related to these 2 parishes from the previous round, it appears that the idea came from someone outside the parish who suggested mergers across the whole borough. Judging by the lack of detail related to any requirement or benefit, it is hard to find anything to commend the idea. When compared with other proposals within the borough, several of which are well articulated, this suggestion comes across as something of an afterthought, included to satisfy someone’s aspiration to make changes across the whole borough, regardless of (a

lack of) need. Ercall Magna and Waters Upton Parishes each have their own separate community infrastructure, including: shops & post offices; churches; village halls/community buildings; sports/play areas; and, primary schools. Communities within each parish have their own individual identities and needs that are well served by their respective parish councils. Merging the 2 parishes and creating a new parish council with fewer councillors makes no sense and would be less convenient and less effective for residents. In particular, the reduction in parish councillor numbers of nearly 40% would reduce the level of representation across the new area and would disadvantage all residents. Many older residents, some of whom live in the smaller hamlets and isolated properties, have limited transport options and are not digitally enabled (for whatever reason). This cohort would be especially disadvantaged by a merger. The suggested warding arrangement is very unbalanced and would not mitigate the representational impairment caused. In fact, it might contribute to it by creating the impression that some parts of the [new] parish are more important or carry more weight than others. The Roden Ward would feel this most acutely. Just because something can be done doesn't mean that it should be done. I strongly object to the proposed merger and ask that the current parish arrangements for Ercall Magna and Waters Upton are retained.

FAO the Boundary Review Committee. I am writing to object to the proposal to merge Ercall Magna and Waters Upton Parishes into a new entity with a new parish council. As a resident of [REDACTED], I have friends in both these parishes and none of them think this is a good idea. The current arrangements work very well in Ercall Magna to my certain knowledge and also in Waters Upton according to my contacts there. This merger would do nothing to improve the delivery of services to residents. More likely, it would result in greater competition for limited resources from a larger population across a bigger area. The hugely reduced number of parish councillors would need to work harder to get to know and understand the needs of their electorate and to undertake all the duties required of them. Not only would this be a negative factor in terms of representation of the people in the community, but it could also dissuade residents from volunteering to join the parish council in the future. I cannot see any benefits in this proposal, only disadvantages. The proposed arrangements would be worse in terms of convenience, effective governance and local representation. Parish councils are the most local level of government and it vital that they are nurtured and allowed to thrive. This proposed merger would have the opposite effect

1. Ercall Magna Parish Council (EMPC) strongly opposes the proposal to merge Ercall Magna and Waters Upton parishes and create a new parish council (PC) which is larger in size but has fewer councillors to replace the existing two councils. This proposal would undermine the current effective community governance and service provision provided by the two existing PCs and would weaken representation across our communities.2. Following the proposal by Telford & Wrekin Council (T&WC) in May 2025, EMPC has consulted widely within the parish, including: drop-in sessions in High Ercall and Ellerdine village halls; encouraging residents to attend the T&WC drop-in session in Waters Upton; and, numerous individual conversations between electors and councillors. This response reflects the judgement not only of the Parish Council, but also the unanimous opinion of the 100 residents who have shared their views with EMPC.3. EMPC questions the provenance of this merger proposal, which was not advocated by any responses to the previous consultation round. We note that two responses suggested mergers across the whole borough, but these did not include merging Ercall Magna and Waters Upton parishes. One suggested merging Waters Upton with Rodington and the High Ercall area (which is but one element of Ercall Magna parish) while the other offered a merger of Waters Upton and Rodington but with no mention of Ercall Magna parish. Members accept the validity of suggestions from outside a

respondent's own parish, where someone may have a good knowledge of other areas of the borough. However, it is highly unlikely that any one person (who may live, work, shop and socialise in different areas) would have a detailed understanding of all parishes and their individual communities. Given that the only comment to include any reference to Ercall Magna did not even name the parish correctly, it is probable that the author is from elsewhere and is not familiar with our parish and the communities therein.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

**4. Unlike other proposals in the CGR, which feature background information and reasons for change, this proposal contains neither. Instead, it makes generalised assertions that a new parish council would remain viable, be capable of providing services to residents and that the proposal would maintain community identity - but with no indication of how. The proposal also asserts that effective governance and community representation would be supported by new (asymmetric) warding arrangements. There is no mention of any deficiencies or ineffectiveness within the current arrangements. As numerous residents have asked: what is broken and what benefits or improvements would this proposal bring to us? The answer in both cases is: none.**

**5. Viability.** The use of the expression 'remain viable' in the proposal accepts that the current Parish Councils are viable. EMPC has a full complement of councillors; and, while a few vacancies were filled by co-option (most recently following the death in-service of a valued colleague), we maintain over two thirds of elected members. Together with a highly experienced and qualified clerk, this allows EMPC to retain the General Power of Competence. Our governance and financial management is sound, as evidenced by the internal audit reports in successive AGARs. As well as delivering a range of projects (including installation of LED street lights, provision of mobile and fixed SIDs and funding road safety enhancements within Highways Authority programmes) to improve the lives of residents, while maintaining appropriate financial reserves, EMPC has reduced the precept payable by residents for the last 5 years consecutively. EMPC works: we know our communities, we understand their needs and we have a positive track record of delivering results. Why risk unnecessary change?

**6. Community Identity and Interests.** Just because Ercall Magna and Waters Upton are both rural parishes does not mean that they share a common sense of identity. Ercall Magna parish is centred on the village of High Ercall which has a Conservation Area in order to protect, amongst other aspects, its Civil War history and archaeology and distinctive architecture. Residents across the parish use and identify with facilities in High Ercall, including the village store and post office, village hall, parish church and primary school. These facilities are replicated within Waters Upton parish, where residents feel a similar sense of community identity that is distinct and separate from that of Ercall Magna. This is further evidenced by the strong support for the separate Neighbourhood Plans within each of the parishes. In addition to tangible facilities, community identity is linked to history and many residents feel strongly that Ercall Magna Parish Council, having served the community well since 1894, should endure as their most local level of government. This is not merely an emotional response; but, reflects the fact that the interests and requirements of people in Shray Hill and Great Bolas are often different from those living in Roden or Poynton, for example.

**7. Convenience.** EMPC holds its regular meetings in High Ercall Village Hall, a central location that is conveniently accessible from anywhere in the parish. The proposed merger would create a much larger area; we calculate that it would take around 30 minutes to drive between extremities. Consequently, no matter where a new parish council chose to hold their meetings, some residents would be faced with extended travel in order to participate. This may deter some from doing so, especially in winter or bad weather, effectively disenfranchising some residents from their parish council.

**8. Effective Representation.** EMPC acknowledges that the CGR provides an opportunity to reduce imbalances between the numbers of parish councillors and the electors they represent, across the whole of the borough. However, in doing so, it is important to recognise the significant difference between urban and rural

areas in terms of population density and distribution. The proposal seeks to reduce the number of councillors within the current Ercall Magna Parish area by almost half. A reduction of this magnitude would reduce councillors' ability to engage with residents and to effectively represent their interests. Additionally, the overall volume of work required to be undertaken by the parish council is not related to the number of its members. A reduction of this scale would significantly increase workload on individual council members and may deter people from standing for election to the parish council in future; thereby having the unintended consequence of damaging democratic representation. Turning to specifics; we note that the proposed warding arrangement, consisting of 3 wards with 6, 1 & 5 seats respectively, does not comply with the LGBCE's 2010 guidance on CGRs. The LGBCE believes<sup>1</sup> 'it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards.' The differences in representation between wards, as proposed, would create the risk that some residents, and/or councillors, could be perceived as having more influence over the council than others.<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 166. Having considered electors' views in formulating this response, EMPC has also consulted Waters Upton PC, who are equally opposed to the proposed merger. In order to respect the wishes of communities across both parishes, we strongly recommend that there are no changes to the external boundaries or identities of either parish or parish council at this time.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, this review offers the chance to address warding imbalance within Ercall Magna Parish, created following the previous Boundary Review, and to contribute to the borough-wide rebalancing of the number of councillors to electors. Accordingly, EMPC recommends reducing the number of its parish councillors from 13 to 10, across 3 wards. This would strengthen governance by recognising the distinct areas in the north, centre and south of the parish and allocating councillors proportionately based on population distribution as well as geography and community identity.<sup>11</sup> Consequently, we recommend the adoption of a revised EMPC structure (based on current polling districts) as follows:

Ward Name	Polling District	Seats
Ellerdine	WER3	High
High Ercall	WEW5	3
Roden	WWW2	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>

This represents a 23% reduction in parish councillors from the current figure; which would be manageable and should still allow effective representation. The allocation of seats to wards conforms to elector distribution; where about half of electors live in or around High Ercall, with about a third in the Ellerdine & Rowton areas and the remainder in Roden & Poynton. Importantly, no individual ward would represent a majority of seats or electors, thus conforming to the LGBCE guidance.<sup>12</sup> Accepting this revised structure would allow Ercall Magna Parish Council to continue to build on its 136 years of continuous service to the communities it represents while also adapting to current and future needs; we commend these recommendations to the T&WC Boundary Review Committee.

**PROPOSED MERGER OF WATERS UPTON PARISH WITH ERCALL MAGNA PARISH**  
On behalf of Waters Upton Parish Council, representing the residents in the villages of Waters Upton, Crudgington, Great Bolas, Cold Hatton and Meeson and hamlets of Shray Hill, Longswood, Sleaford and Sandyford, we wish to raise strong objections to the recommendation included in the latest consultation document. Although the two Parishes share a boundary along the A442, there are no other services or facilities that they share. Children from High Ercall, Rowton and Ellerdine travel to High Ercall as the nominated primary school and those from Crudgington, Waters Upton, Cold Hatton, Great Bolas etc. use the nearby Crudgington School. Each Parish has its own Village Hall and Shop, also churches. There is no coming together of the two areas when considering services and facilities. Each Parish has a Neighbourhood Plan. The engagement with the communities throughout the production of the document and the consultation at each specific stage, including the final referendum, proves strong local community cohesion. Waters Upton Parish Council, covering the villages and hamlets named above, have worked together

since its formation in 1988 to improve facilities for the residents, without increased precept requests. Two of the most significant assets of the Parish are the Parish Centre and the Village Green. The residents fund-raised to be in a position to purchase land as part of a Section 106 agreement with the landowner and developer. The money was not raised through the precept, but by individual families and friends. The community working together for such a project shows strong community cohesion. Similarly significant fund-raising has taken place to provide toilet and kitchen facilities for Great Bolas Church. The new development at Crudgington Fields has brought new families to the Parish in support of the school and the residents have already joined in with community events held in church and on the Village Green and the children attend Crudgington School. When looking at the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and other related guidance on Community Governance Reviews, it is clear that the review must reflect local community identity and be effective and convenient. The sheer size of the proposed new Parish would be contrary to that requirement. The distance from Poynton to Meeson or from Sleaford to Sandyford is immense – it would be unreasonable to expect members of the 'new' Parish to represent such a large dispersed area as volunteers with limited hours. The recommendation also suggests a reduction in the number of Parish Councillors. Whilst we can accept that there is a suggested number of residents per Councillor, in rural areas the distance must be taken into consideration. In an urban area, you could find one or two streets with the suggested number of residents, in our rural area you would have to travel a significant distance to find the same number. A reduction in Councillors would not be beneficial for the representation of the people. Similarly, when looking at the proposed number of Councillors within the suggested Wards of the new Parish, for Waters Upton to have only 5 representatives but High Ercall to have 7, plus an 8th in Roden would be vastly unfair when it comes to democratic decision-making. This reduction in the number of Councillors would also result in a reduction of the effectiveness of the ability for them to engage with and represent residents. The Parish Councillors have engaged with local residents throughout the process. The Village Hall was packed at the last PC meeting, when this appeared on the agenda. There is no evidence of support from within the Parish for this merger. We were grateful that the Committee had agreed an extra drop-in consultation event for the rural areas of the Borough, which took place at Waters Upton. You will, no doubt, be aware of the strength of feeling from residents in the rural areas, but in particular from Waters Upton Parish, as they can see no benefits from the merger and have only mentioned to the Parish Council their concerns and reasons to oppose the recommendation. We have not canvassed, but we have encouraged as many residents as possible to respond to the consultation. This has been difficult for some, as many do not use computers or the internet. We did distribute some paper copies on request, but without the detail available on the [telford.gov.uk](http://telford.gov.uk) website, many found filling in the form to be difficult. We have suggested that they write their thoughts direct to the Review team. It was pleasing to know that the Boundary Review Committee had confirmed, at one of its meetings, that their decision would be based on local residents' opinions. We have been contacted by Ercall Magna Parish Council and it appears that both our authorities are strongly opposed to the recommendation. We would respectfully request that the decision of the Committee is the status quo. At this time, there are no advantages to the local communities of such a merger. There are, however, many concerns and disadvantages. As recommended, a further review in 10 – 15 years may have a different outcome and we would welcome the opportunity to be involved in further consultation at that time.

I live in [REDACTED], and object to the proposed merger of our parish council, Ercall Magna with the parish council of waters Upton. Our area would only have one councillor on this new council - meaning our voice on a council covering a significantly enlarged area would be very weak and feel to me like you were box ticking. I know this proposal is meant to keep the council viable, but I can see no detail on how you propose to make sure this happens

across such a large area with disparate rural communities. Each area has very different issues and I fear our voice will simply be lost. The parish council is meant to represent the most local end of government but expanding the parish like this will weaken our voice, make attending parish council meetings difficult, and will do the exact opposite of the purpose of ultra local government which is to properly represent the views of the people in that area.

I am writing to add to my voice to those who object to the proposed idea from TWC to merge our Ercall Magna Parish Council with that of a neighbouring borough. Having reviewed the information provided, I see no benefit to this proposal for those of us in the area and I am concerned that a larger area will be off putting to prospective parish council representatives. Personally, I would be pleased to get involved with this in my local area at Ercall Magna, but would not consider it if the areas involved were so much larger. As I wouldn't feel I have the local knowledge required to do the role justice. Moreover, the proposed borough TWC wish to merge us with have been very vocal in their view that they do not wish to work with our Ercall Magna borough, which would not make for a very harmonious working environment moving forwards. Please consider honouring what is the best course of action for your residents, by keeping us represented by councillors who are local to our parish. Additionally, by not going ahead with a merger, TWC would be saving money, which can only be a good thing in this economic climate. Our area is awaiting urgent repairs to the safety barrier on the main road, for example, which seems a much higher priority than this paperwork exercise.

I write concerning your proposal to bring together Waters Upton with Ercall Magna Parish councils and want to express our very strong objections to the proposal. Our Parish Council in Waters Upton is the beating heart of our community. Its members are our friends and neighbours who live here and know our area and its issues. They are accessible to us to express our views on local issues and are essential to community cohesion. Over the years the council has managed our village well. We have a community shop and local centre, a village green, a well used village hall, a park for the children (designed with input from our children) and a beautifully kept village. If there is a problem they listen and try to resolve any issues. They consult local residents regularly to ascertain their views and always act in the best interests of those who live here. They are accessible on a day to day basis. I believe the merging with Ercall Magna would lose this local involvement. There is very little interaction between the villages and any future council would not necessarily act in our interests. Decisions would need to be made about the allocation of scarce resources which may cause rancour and division. We don't want this. If it ain't broke don't fix it.

I am writing to formally object to the proposed merger of Waters Upton and Ercall Magna Parish Councils, as outlined in the May 2025 Community Governance Review. Waters Upton Parish Council is a well-run and highly effective local authority that serves its residents with responsiveness, care, and a deep understanding of the community. The proposed merger would create a significantly larger council — covering a wide rural area with over 2,400 electors — and risks losing the strong sense of identity, connection, and democratic voice that we currently enjoy. At a recent public meeting, a number of important local concerns were raised. Chief among them was the loss of community identity, which is at the heart of what a parish council should protect. The proposed merger would also reduce the number of councillors representing Waters Upton, creating an unfair balance of votes in future decisions and leaving our residents with less influence over matters that directly affect them. There is also deep uncertainty about the future of our valued local assets, including the Parish Centre, village green, and play areas — all of which are currently well managed and maintained by the existing parish council. Events that are much loved and well supported, such as the Christmas Float, may no longer be prioritised or supported in the same way under a new, broader council structure. While I understand

the suggestion that larger councils may bring administrative or financial efficiencies, in practice such changes at parish level often bring disruption, not savings — especially during transition. A new council may set different priorities, reduce services, or centralise decision-making in ways that don't reflect the wishes of Waters Upton residents. Our current parish council is efficient, responsive, and deeply rooted in its community. It represents the true ethos of local governance: giving people a voice, managing local assets wisely, and protecting what makes our area special. I strongly urge you to reject the proposed merger and preserve the independence of Waters Upton Parish Council.

I massively object to the proposed merger with Waters Upton PC. Such a change will massively reduce local democracy, the reduction in the amount of representatives will result in most of the electorate not knowing their representatives, and as we have seen in the past certain regional pressure groups trying to dominate the council and their particular project / concern to the detriment of others. Today most of the villagers know some, if not all, of the local councillors and have the opportunity to question them and or make suggestions, which hopefully help to improve the well being of the area. As a long standing [REDACTED] I have long been concerned about the lack of interest and investment shown by Telford and Wrekin Council in this area, which I suspect is the largest free standing village in the T & W's area [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

#### Survey Responses - 45

I feel the total parishes offer no services to residents just a job for their friends and should be merged as shown in hand draft recommendations Bigger parishes with wider representation will offer better services for its residents, my parish hasn't even signed the armed forces covenant what a waste of time they are



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 & Shawbirch** 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.

Its proposed that Telford & Wrekin Council are proposing to merge Waters Upton Parish with Ercall Magna Parish. As Ercall Magna is the largest parish council in the area , then I fear that the interests of Waters Upton residents , and any representation at the main council will be lost. As so often is the case with a take over or merger , the larger entity always prevails at the expense of the smaller.

The merger of Waters Upton and Ercall Magna is a terrible idea. These are distinct communities separated by almost 4 miles with completely different challenges and priorities. Waters Upton parish is run efficiently and locally. I oppose the merger.

I beleive that the proposal to almagamate ErcallMagna and WatersUpton will create to large an area for one paridh council. The views of the eletorate in each parish will be diluted.

The proposes to merge Parish councils would result in reducing the number of parish councillors significantly which would result in less effective representation for residents and would be a great mistake.

The proposal serves to confuse the demand between rural community and business commercial needs. Its proposal will see monies diverted to the urban telford area where costs and demand will be drawn in to the centre of the T&W Offices. It has already been seen that rural needs, planning, environment issues are pushed back and ignored. Increasing the size, population and diverse needs whilst also reducing the voting numbers and spreading the costs will see an unfair distribution of funds and see the current community and residents paying. More and getting less. Expecting residents in these rural areas to travel to wider spread venues for meetings will again see reduced accessibility, unfair disadvantages to those with accessibility, disability and specific needs to engage and have their views heard. There is absolutely no statistically evidenced benefit from this merger and is simply done to bring rural into the closer urban area too reduce challenges and create more generic decision making. Greater benefit would be gained by reviewing the wasted internal staffing, departments, teams and the immense variety of tech being used which is draining £millions without any evidence it improves servers and seems to have no leadership control or understandings. ASK TOM is such an area in question. Done solely to beef up individuals portfolios and not community benefit. [REDACTED] the Waters Upton Parish and already suffer being left exposed and forgotten for the louder voices of the centre of the village. The merger will see the village of waters upton left second best.

I believe that Telford & Wrekin Council's proposal to merge Ercall Magna and Waters Upton Parish Councils, reducing the number of parish councillors by 37%, would result in a less effective representation for residents and would be a mistake. The proposal is clearly nothing more than a cost cutting exercise for Telford & Wrekin Council. The current system works absolutely fine for the residents of Ercall Magna.

I do not want my parish council to be merged with any other parish please. My reasoning is simple; each and every time in the entire history of mankind's attempts to streamline anything, without exception, we have made the world less personal. The only reason to merge would be if the current arrangement was unsustainable, but as I gather from the minutes of well organised regular meetings, the parish council appears to be perfectly well run and solvent, so why fix what ain't broke?

I have a strong objection to the merger of our parish councils. Each parish have specific requirements and our particular councillor is very aware of our parish needs. This would not be the case if you were to merge the councils. It would also mean that we would not receive the level of service which we currently do and would lead to a less effective level of representation.

Dear Sir / Madam, I would like to raise the following concerns regarding the proposed merger of Ercall Magna with Waters Upton Parish Council areas. These two areas cover a large and relatively sparsely populated area dotted with many small settlements. These settlements are quite disparate in terms of both their setting and the perspectives of the residents. One set of issues affecting somewhere such as Poynton or High Ercall will inevitably be quite different to those affecting places such as Ellerdine ( ) and on to somewhere like Gt. Bolas. The geographical affinity and sense of place for people living across this area is quite different: for example residents of Waters Upton and the surrounds lean more towards Newport and those in places such as High Ercall lean more towards Shrewsbury. There is a quite different community feel across the area. It appears that T&W Council seek a sort of 'double whammy' whereby the parish area is increased substantially in size but the actual number of parish councillors is to be reduced by nearly 40%. This does not make sense at all. Local Parish Councillors must by definition be local to the area they cover. This is fundamental in understanding issues on a local scale and supporting residents with local concerns. The overall size of the proposed new parish, the reduction in number of councillors versus more residents in one area, the differing needs of each current parish, keeping community identity, the extended distances and travel times between places within the parish the importance of local parish councillors actually being local and knowing their area and being able to keep communities informed. All of which mean I must conclude that the proposed merger is a bad idea which must not go ahead.

I do not agree with the proposed merger of Waters Upton & Ercall Magna Parish Council for the following reasons: 1. **\*\*Loss of Local Identity\*\*** Each parish has a distinct community identity and history. A merger risks diluting the representation and voice of Waters Upton Parish residents in local decision-making. 2. **\*\*Reduced Democratic Representation\*\*** A larger council will reduce the number of councillors representing each area, making it harder for local issues to be addressed effectively and equitably. 3. **\*\*Community Engagement and Services\*\*** Parish-level decisions are best made close to the communities they serve. A merger could lead to less responsive services and decreased local engagement. 4. **\*\*Lack of Clear Benefit\*\*** No compelling evidence has been provided that the merger will result in significant cost savings or service improvements. On the contrary, it may increase administrative complexity. I urge you to consider the views of residents carefully and maintain the current parish structure to protect effective local governance and community integrity.

Wish for Ercall Magna to remain as it is and not be merged with other parishes as proposed! The proposal will give our parish less voices for the benefits of our local residents.

I am against the proposal to merge Ercall Maga Parish Council with Waters Upton. The suggested measure will mean an overall decrease in the capacity of Ercall Magna Parish Council which will lead to a reduction in the overall support for residents. At a time when rural areas are already significantly impacted by access to transport and services, it is crucial that Ercall Maga Parish Council retain the existing level of representation, the proposed reduction in number of Parish Councils is nonsensical. The implementation of the Community Governance Review will mean there is an even greater need to ensure the voices of local residents within the Ercall Maga Parish. It is imperative that we retain our existing level of Parish Councillors and support the recommendations made on our behalf by the Ercall Maga Parish Council. Whilst streamlining Parish Councils as part of the T&WC Community Governance Review may be seen as more efficient, it should not come at the cost of decreasing Ercall Maga Parish Council resident voices through our local representation via our elected Parish Councillors.

the proposal to join these 2 parishes is MADNESS has anyone actually looked at the size of these idea. To think Roden has anything in common with Waters Upton is unreal. There is no common ground to work with The idea of this consultation is to be lead by the community and I would imagine NO ONE will think this is a good idea. Ercall Magna is large enough as it is so making it bigger would only make the parish council irrelevant to local people going against what parish and thus local electorate would become. This is called Community Governance Review yet it seems T&W Council have forgotten that basic so everything through this review is not what it was set out to be. I am AGAINST ERCALL MAGNA AND WATERS UPTON BEING MERGED as it will not work and would not serve the local community which is what a Parish Council should do. However I do see reducing Ercall Magna Parish Councillors by 2 would make sense, leaving Roden warded with 2 Parish Councillors(as Roden is in Wrockwardine Ward) and giving the rest of Ercall Magna 9 which is enough to cover the area

As a resident of High Ercall, I cannot quite see how the proposed changes to merge with Waters Upton will work efficiently? You are proposing to expand the area and portfolio but reduce the number of volunteers? How can this benefit the communities involved? Is it not working as it is? Why the proposed changes? Volunteers (reiterate Volunteers here who give their time and effort free of charge) already work hard to serve the community at grass roots level. The proposed changes of area/representation surely cannot deliver the most effective governance and surely cannot be in the best interests of the residents that live, work and pay their taxes to Telford & Wrekin?

As a Resident I would like to formally object to the proposed merger of Ercall Magna and Waters Upton Parish Councils. If this arrangement is put in place it is clear that everyone within all the Wards will not benefit, mainly due to the reduction of Councillors representing our the best interests and those of all the Residents living in the respective Wards.

As a resident of Waters Upton please record the fact that I am totally against the merger of Waters Upton Parish and Ercall Magna Parish.

I do not agree with this merga, this will take away and dilute what we need in our own community here in [REDACTED]

We are opposed to the new proposals on the basis that as a small parish council we feel that ours has successfully met the needs of our community . Merging with a larger parish will make our voices less heard and give control and decision making to persons who may not understand our needs . “If it’s not broken don’t fix it “ is a good adage .

I'm concerned the proposed merger will increase the parish to the point where it no longer feels like a local parish making decisions for local residents.

I would like to vote no for it keep it as it is it’s working well why change it

As a [REDACTED] Waters Upton residents know the members of the council. I’m quite sure when needed every resident would Not have a problem contacting them. Our council work hard to make opportunities for villagers to meet together at the same time raising money for a charity. Having looked on Ercall Magna council website I see they have 13 councillors. How will their council and ours merge how many councillors will each village be allocated? We have a great Chairman as I’m sure Ercall Magna does. Basically what I am saying is why fix something that isn’t broken.

I oppose the planned merger of the parishes as this will diminish the number of councillors serving the community and subsequently their ability to protect the needs of the villages and their residents.

As a resident for 15 years in Ercall Magna Parish I do not support the proposed merging of the parish councils for Waters Upton and Ercall Magna. In rural areas local knowledge and being part of the community is invaluable and allows the councillors to best represent us. I have concerns over whether the merger would mean a reduction in council members and funding; and the negative impact this would have on the administration of the parish and the ability to protect its assets both financial and environmental. I hope Telford and Wrekin Council will put the needs of the local rural communities before any cost saving excercise; and will fully consider whether the short term financial gain will actually be beneficial long term.

One. Waters Upton and Ercall Magna are completely different: Waters Upton looks towards Wellington and Newport; Ercall Magna looks towards Shrewsbury. Two. The number of counsellors representing us will be unfair: Waters Upton will have five counsellors, under the new proposals, but Ercall Magna will have six. Three. At present we can go to our [REDACTED] at 5 pm, and ask the Clerk to the Parish Council there for help with a problem. This will all come to an end under the new proposals, and problems will remain to fester. Four. The new parish council area will be too big for us to retain our sense of belonging.

I fully agree to merge the two parish councils. the parishes are far to small and waters upton in particular does absolutely nothing, apart from meet and discuss nonsense. a larger parish would mean that there is a larger pot to do more substantial projects and also would save significant monies as only one Clerk would be required, compared to two for that area now (both the same person btw, [REDACTED], also clerk of Edgmond PC, Kynnersley PC and Hollinswood PC). There is a lot of money wasted by having these parishes seperate (accounts, banking fees, subscriptions, etc) that could be put to much better use. it would also open both areas up to some fresh eyes, [REDACTED] I fully support the merging and I feel it does not go far enough, it could be joined to Edgmond or kynnersley also

My believe is our local services within High Ercall will be impacted and I would like the merger to NOT go ahead.

I do not feel that this will benefit our parishes. Having less councillors to represent our views and a larger Parish Council to cover is not a viable proposition. Councillors volunteer their own time to help our communities and this will create more work for them with fewer people to deal with council business. It is very unfair to take up more of their precious free time and I feel that we will have fewer people volunteering to do this service. It will also impact on the community as a whole as residents will have to wait longer for answers to their queries and concerns.

I do not agree with the merger of Waters Upton and Ercall Magna parishes on the basis of: What benefit would I see as a taxpayer when there will be less councillors representing Waters Upton. What cohesion is there between these two parishes, we live in [REDACTED] so we are already part of a bigger parish, if this goes ahead we will be part of an even bigger parish and our identity will be lost. We can regularly attend meetings that are close to home now and we know our councillors and they run a very tight ship that deals with issues that impact our local community. How will people who live in Roden for example know whats best for residents in the outlying areas such as [REDACTED] or Great Bolas. Parishes were created to deal with local issues and they should be kept that way.

I think that merging the two parish councils (Waters Upton and High Ercall) would cause the loss of identity for Waters Upton Parish Council and a loss of community assets. These would be swallowed up by High Ercall Parish Council and our village would not have a voice. High Ercall is 3 miles away and the two villages have very little connection. As a community we would lose our voice on planning issues etc, councillors in the next village would have no interest in planning in our village and I think would pass plans that normally would not have been passed. Other considerations are the footpaths/rights of way, road issues (road safety), the local school. Our councillors are hard working and do not take any expenses. They take care of the villages in our parish.

We oppose the recommendation to amalgamate the two parishes. The idea of increasing the population and reducing the amount of councillors to represent the local people is not acceptable to us.

I personally do not think the merge will be beneficial to either parishes. The area will be 20 square miles, how can less councillors adequately represent such a large area especially with the proposal to reduce parish councillor's? How will the councillors from Ercall Magna know what is best for the residents of Waters Upton when they do not live in the area? Likewise how will the councillors from Waters Upton know what is best for Ercall Magna? I do not think this is a good proposal.

I personally do not think the merge will be beneficially to either parishes. The area will be 20 square miles. How can less councillors adequately represent such a large area? Especially when a proposal to reduce councillors is being considered? How will councillors from Ercall Magna know what is best for the residents of Waters Upton when they do not live in the area? Likewise how will councillors in Waters Upton know what is best for the residents of Ercall Magna? I do not think this is a beneficial proposal.

I live in High Ercall and I am passionate about the conservation area in which I live. If the parishes are merged then it is likely that there will not be enough parish councillors who are aware of the importance of this area and this could be to the detriment of the area. The area is also too large and councillors would not therefore be able to work effectively with the residents as they would not have the knowledge required for the area covered.

I do not agree with proposed changes due to the lack of information shared with residents within the parish. It has taken 4 years to get a bit of road resurfaced so dread to think how long it will take if we become a larger council



Currently parish council meetings are held locally and are easily available for residents, both pensioners and disabled to attend. Ercall magna parish councillors are more familiar with what we need whereas councillors from outside our area, i feel would be less likely to have the same considerations. The councillors are volunteers, with only a few claiming expenses. Therefore, i cannot see any reason for amalgamating with waters upton.

1. Waters Upton Parish Council have, for many years, provided its residents with an excellent service tailored to their needs. Our Council have facilitated a Parish Center, Village Green, Childrens Play Areas and many Parish Events all of which were paid for by residents. I, therefore, do not think residents would agree to the proposals as noted in the CGR 2025 para 10 Consequential Matters, 10.2 where a new council may require the transfer and management or custody of our assets. 2. There does not appear to be any statement of Financial or Operational benefits in merging our Parish councils. 3. The present Waters Upton PC work well so unless it can be proved that change is necessary why waste time and effort making change for changes sake. 4. What criteria will be used to decide whether a merger is successful and will a failure have a reversal plan. 5. i am very much against this proposed merger of Waters Upton and High Ercall Parish Councils.

I do not agree with the proposal to merge Waters Upton parish council with Ercall Magna. The local councillors of Waters Upton live in the village and understand our community best. The area of the new parish council is too large with fewer councillors which would make it less appealing for local members of the community to stand as a Parish Councillor. Our current parish council is very well run with the local needs of Waters Upton being understood and met. There is no cohesion between the two parish councils, I do not see how this will benefit me as a taxpayer, at the moment I am paying for service just in the Waters Upton area I do not see any benefit of paying for services across the whole of the ercall magna area.

The review has made no case for the merger other than saying that the merger would allow the Parish Council to remain viable. No evidence has been presented to support the view of the review. I completely reject the unsubstantiated conclusion of this review. It is my firm belief that the current Waters Upton Parish Council is the best, and most cost effective mechanism for supporting, reflecting, and representing the needs of the parish as it currently exists. Some of the many benefits of the status quo for Waters Upton (and probably equally true for Ercall Magna): Truly "local" councillors representing local interests - i.e. local councillors provide local accountability - we know who are local councillors are they live and walk amongst us - this would not be the case with a merged council covering a much greater geographical area. We would lose the "local" aspect which is a key pillar of the reasons for having a Parish Council. The number of representatives for each area would be reduced, this would greatly reduce the opportunity to truly represent the diversity within the area. There are many highly valued and treasured things that our current Parish Council arrange and support for the benefit of the local community - these would likely not (quite understandably) be seen as "valuable" by a council covering a much wider geographical area and would be a significant loss to the community. As a resident of the Parish of Waters Upton for over [REDACTED], and based on my own lived experience of the work of the Parish Council - I am strongly opposed to the proposed merger. I had expected to have to counter an argument in favour of the merger, but the review didn't make one, so all I can do is highlight some of the benefits of the status quo. I trust that the outcome will accurately reflect the views of the people living in the parishes.. Thank you.

It's wrong to reduce the number of councillors for High Ercall which is the biggest settlement in the area. I suppose it's a cost cutting exercise, but there will be extra costs involved in setting up the new parish council area and administering it. Our representation should at least be kept the same if any changes to boundaries are made

I feel very strongly that any changes to the boundary of our village should be reconsidered. With the distance between ourselves and the other parishes it's vital that our needs are represented by people who know our issues. We are pretty much unconnected with high Ercall with no footpaths etc. It may seem small but a parish council should just be that, the parish. We need more local control if anything as some of the problems we face such as speeding along the A442 as drivers pass through near our shop and community room is seen by local councillors daily, this is a major problem and safety issue for parents and children walking to the school and people pulling out of the village.

I strongly object to the proposed changes. I believe that it would have a negative impact on services and time provided by councillors. Diluting the time they would have available to tackle important issues.

I am against the merger of these two parish councils.

I'm really worried about what is being proposed, it feels we're at risk of losing our identity as a parish. Waters Upton has always been a close knit community that works together, we have raised money for our own village greens play areas and a number of other good causes in the parish. We have done it through hard work, and donations, and proper community spirit that's something special and is not something you can just recreate in a bigger, less connected parish. This new, bigger parish set-up just feels too large. We will end up with fewer councillors trying to cover a much wider area, and that will affect how well things community problems are solved. Our current councillors live here, they know the area, problems, and the people. Residents know who they are and how to reach them. There is not natural connection between us and the villages in Ercall Magna we don't share the same issues and priorities.