

To: [REDACTED] Chair of the T&WC Community Governance Review Committee

Address: Community Governance Review, Electoral Services, Telford & Wrekin Council,  
Darby House, Lawn Central, Telford, TF3 4JA

Subject: Proposed abolition of Dawley Hamlets Parish Council and incorporation of  
Horsehay into the Gorge Parish Council

I have been a resident of Horsehay for 38 years, and before that in Jackfield for 6 years.

I am very concerned about the proposed changes to Dawley Hamlets Parish Council.

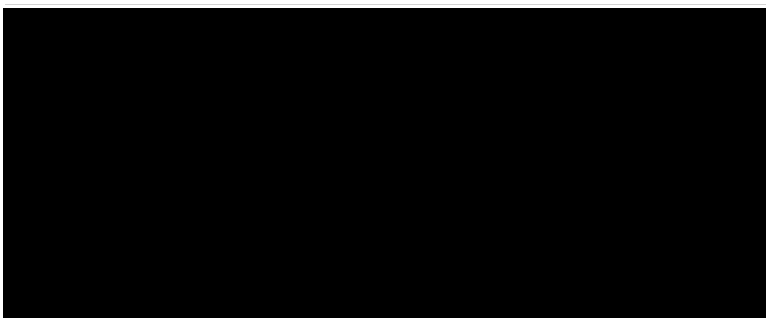
Whilst trying to express my concerns on the T&WC council website, I found that there was no option to reference Dawley Hamlets on the list of parishes. This is either an error or possibly an indication that the decision to abolish the Dawley Hamlets Parish Council has already been made.

During my time at Horsehay I have been very impressed with the Dawley Hamlets Parish Council. The councillors have been helpful with problems and have provided much financial support to local services and facilities. This is done on the basis of local knowledge of a well-defined community.

The proposal to remove Horsehay from the adjoining areas of Dawley and lump it with the Gorge, with which it has no physical connection, separated by 2 miles of mainly fields and woodland, makes no practical sense whatsoever. The priorities of the Gorge, which is primarily a tourist attraction are different from those of the mainly residential area of Horsehay, which has very few facilities.

I am also concerned that apart from the electronic form on the T&WC website, which does not include Dawley Hamlets, there has been little information or consultation about these changes. If we have a vote on who should represent us on the parish council, surely we should have a vote on the very existence of the parish council.

I am very aware that there have been significant changes in the population and housing in the borough, but Dawley Hamlets remains a recognisable community and as such should remain as it is.



25 JUN 2025

13<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Councillor Luter,

I have lived in Horsehay for 38 years and I am deeply concerned that Dawley Hamlets may lose its Parish Council.

Despite the growth of 2 new estates, Horsehay has retained its village atmosphere. We may have lost the shop and Post Office and 2 of the 4 pubs but many of the original residents still live here and remember working at AB Cranes, the reason this community began.

The Parish councillors sort out problems and provide 2 free parties for the over 65's each year, one in the summer and one at Christmas. They organise the Christmas tree and the book library and support the Annual Horticultural Show. They supply Easter eggs for the local Dawley school. This would probably all finish if we became part of the Gorge Parish Council.

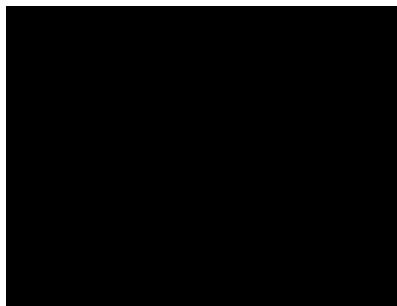
We have little in common with the Gorge which has become a tourist destination with car parking issues. It is also quite separate geographically with no houses between Jiggers bank and the Coke Hearth. Indeed it would make more sense to link Lightmoor and Doseley with Dawley Hamlets and keep the Gorge separate as this will increase in size anyway when the Coalbrookdale "AGA" site is developed. Ironbridge has many issues including Jackfield subsidence, flooding in the gorge, traffic problems when the Power Station development is up and running and I feel that Horsehay will not be represented fairly if it leaves Dawley Hamlets. It will be overshadowed by interests in the Gorge.

As far as I know, Gorge residents have not been told about these plans. They have had no meeting and it will affect them too. I feel that there should be a vote on this, open to all concerned. The general feeling is that it is a bad idea. Aquaduct will face a large increase in their precept from £29 to over £300 pa by being linked to Dawley Town Council. If this change in representation is repeated throughout Telford it will lose the identity of many of the original villages.

I am very concerned that this decision has already been made. Firstly Dawley Hamlets is not even listed as an area for comment and secondly several people who were formerly listed as living in Horsehay have now been classified as residents of Dawley.

Dawley Hamlets Parish Council serves as a crucial link between residents and the wider borough authority, helping to keep the unique character of our communities. Local councillors know the feelings of its residents. Gorge councillors would not. I hope that you will take notice of residents views and that this has not been decided already.

Keep Dawley Hamlets Parish Council. It works. It is relatively cheap and is wanted!



25 JUN 2025

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Review Committee  
Address: Community Governance Review, Electoral Services, Telford &  
Wrekin Council, Darby House, Lawn Central, Telford TF3 4JA

I am a resident of Dawley Hamlets Parish and I am deeply concerned regarding your proposal to abolish Dawley Hamlets Parish Council. This move would not only strip our community of its local representation but would also create a significant democratic deficit, undermining the ability of us as residents to have a direct and meaningful say in the governance of our area.

For many years, Dawley Hamlets Parish Council has played a vital role in advocating for our community's interests, maintaining our local identity, and ensuring that decisions reflect the needs and priorities of those of us who live here. The abolition of our Parish Council would erode this local voice, forcing residents into a larger governing structure where our concerns risk being overshadowed by broader borough-wide interests.

Local governance is not merely administrative; it is fundamental to the fabric of our community. Dawley Hamlets Parish Council serves as a crucial link between residents and the wider borough authority, helping to preserve the unique character of our towns and villages while addressing local issues efficiently. Removing Dawley Hamlets Parish Council would diminish this grassroots democracy, weakening the connection between governance and the people it serves.

Furthermore, this proposal raises serious concerns about our democratic representation. Without a dedicated Parish Council, decisions that directly impact Dawley Hamlets would be made by a larger authority that may lack the local knowledge and understanding required to make informed choices for our specific community. This risks leaving us as residents feeling unheard, disengaged, and disconnected from the governance process.

I urge those responsible for this review to carefully reconsider the impact of their proposal. The removal of our Parish Council would not only result in a loss of local identity but would also set a concerning precedent for the future of community-led governance across Telford. Local democracy should be strengthened, not dismantled.

The residents of Dawley Hamlets deserve a voice. Our Parish Council is an essential part of that voice, and its abolition would be a significant loss to our community. I strongly oppose this proposal and call for a solution that safeguards our local representation, protects our identity, and upholds the principles of democratic engagement.

**DO NOT ABOLISH OUR PARISH COUNCIL!**

Name: ..... [REDACTED]

Address: ... [REDACTED]

Additional Comments: .....  
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**I wish my comments to be taken into serious consideration as part of this review before any final decision is taken.**

29 JUL 2025