

[REDACTED]

For the attention of the Boundary Review Committee

HORTON

When the principal authority originally began a Community Governance Review (CGR) in 2003, I am told that the Horton community made a request to be considered as a Parish Meeting. That request was included in the proposals at that time.

Moving forward to this review, that request has been removed. Having investigated and spoken with Horton residents, there were 27 responses to the first consultation (completed in February of this year), all of which indicated their wish to have self-governance. However, it appears that there were two responses from Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council and a Councillor and they have been treated more favourably in respect of their comments, when they should have been representing their local residents.

[REDACTED] I have heard that the Horton community argue that they are rural, and without question, they are.

Horton has grown quite considerably in recent years, and the type of property constructed is of large executive homes, which are not in common with the more urban aspect of the wider Hadley & Leegomery Parish.

The services and facilities in Hadley and Leegomery are not easily accessible to the Horton residents, they are more likely to use Muxton or Donnington as access is more direct. They have no public transport.

The residents feel that they have nothing that anyone can argue as a common identity and their interests are not shared and their vision is not respected. I am told that no-one from Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council has visited Horton and spoken to residents to gain their views.

They steadfastly believe that they can manage and deliver more effectively by self-governance, as Preston & Eyton have done in the past. I support that ambition.

However, it does appear that rural communities, especially those that are at present as Parish Meetings are under-valued in the CGR and that approach is not how the Act and Guidance for the review should be considered.

These, and the White Paper, all provide substantial advice on what is important – that is the communities viewpoints, their interests and their identities.

I respectfully ask the Boundary Review Committee to respect the wishes of Horton residents and to give this community the opportunity to form a Parish Meeting and begin a process of delivering the community ambitions.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Ercall Magna Ward (including Horton)