

## Rodington Parish Council Response to the Community Governance Review 2025

Rodington Parish Council strenuously objects to the proposal to combine Little Wenlock, Wrockwardine and Rodington. The supposed rationale for this proposal is community identity, but the proposal would erode the identity of each parish. There is no shared community identity between the three parishes proposed for merger. The current arrangements allow the Parish Council to focus on local issues and drive forward a number of initiatives in a cohesive community. The Parish Council has achieved several awards for its work in the local area, which demonstrates how well the Council serves its local residents. Combining Rodington Parish with a community 9 miles away will obviously dilute the focus on the priorities in the parish, the connection with our residents and the effective delivery of local services. This proposal goes against the prevailing direction of thought which advocates decentralizing decision making because local decision making is more nimble and more able to respond to local needs.

Rodington Parish Council and its residents urge Telford and Wrekin to reconsider this proposal for the reasons detailed above. If Rodington Parish Council must be amalgamated with another, the Parishes of Ercall Magna or Waters Upton should be considered as viable alternatives as opposed to Wrockwardine and Little Wenlock. Practical considerations must also be considered, and the Parish Council has not had clarification on the following issues:

- The role of [REDACTED] and associated practical issues i.e. travelling to meetings across the county
- The impact of increased hours for [REDACTED] and possible job losses for [REDACTED]
- The environmental cost of increased travel through the county
- The lack of knowledge of Councillors regarding areas in different parts of the county which impacts on their ability to fairly represent its electorate.

The management of playing fields and a cemetery contributes to the strenuous objection of Rodington Parish Council to this proposal.

Rodington Parish Council invests heavily in the cemetery at Rodington, and this is a priority for residents of Rodington and Longdon. The cemetery requires ongoing maintenance which the Parish Council pays for. The [REDACTED] is the [REDACTED] for the Parish and significant hours are devoted to the cemetery. This would not be possible if [REDACTED] is working for all three Parish Councils.

Rodington Parish Council also hosts an annual Christmas Fair which is attended by residents, the Mayor of Telford, and local schools. This is an important event for the Parish requiring sizeable financial outlay and a considerable proportion of [REDACTED] hours. This event would no longer be able to take place if the three Parish Councils amalgamated, as it would require a disproportionate distribution of funds.

It is hard to see how, with fewer local councillors, the commitment to all of these projects could be maintained. With funds shared with other villages, there will be less commitment to the priorities of Rodington and Longdon-on-Tern.

Rodington also has a Climate and Nature Strategy Group which is heavily supported by the Parish Council. This has contributed significantly to the development of Rodington Parish Council's approach to biodiversity and sustainability. These are gains that could easily be lost by merging with other parishes at this time due to budgetary pressures.