

Wrockwardine Parish Council
Community Governance Review Submission
11th July 2025

Wrockwardine Parish Council does not support the current draft proposals of the Community Governance Review.

The Parish Council met on the 9th July 2025 and determined to make the following comments regarding the proposals.

1. The consultation as a whole has been very poor and appears to be based entirely on the views of a very small minority. The Parish Council cannot understand why, given that there were only 13 responses from Wellington Town Council's residents from a possible 17,231 electors, that a person or persons within their response suggested moving Admaston & Bratton to Wellington and that this change has now been proposed. However, with only 3,886 electors, Wrockwardine Parish Council's residents managed 11 responses none of which suggested moving Admaston & Bratton to Wellington, but in your own words "articulated a similar position to the Parish Council's submission with support for the existing boundary to remain unchanged and that Admaston and Bratton should remain as part of a Parish Council for Wrockwardine". The Parish Council does not consider it is right that the view of a very small number of Wellington residents should take precedent and dictate what happens over the views of its own Wrockwardine Parishioners.
2. The sweeping statements made in the rationale for the change are, in the Parish Council's view, incorrect. You state that the "residents of Admaston and Bratton are an extension of the urban community of Wellington [...] and look to Wellington for the provision of services including schools, medical and dental services and shopping". The Parish Council would argue that within the Parish boundary there is currently a newly built doctor's surgery; convenience stores; post office and two local primary schools. Just over the boundary in Shawburch there is a pharmacy; local shops; a further post office counter; veterinary surgery; dentist; public houses and other ancillary provisions. Indeed, a few steps further and there are even more facilities built around the Shawburch roundabout, including a nursery provision. Rather than "looking to Wellington" the local residents look to what is on their doorstep and if need be, go farther afield to Telford Centre or Shrewsbury. The Parish Council suggests that the local residents couldn't actually be any more disconnected from Wellington and with the continuing growth around Bratton and the surrounding Parish's this will only widen (see your own Local Plan for those details).

3. The Parish Council believes that if Wellington Town Council does take in Admaston and Bratton then it will grow significantly with perhaps over 30,000 residents (rather than the 20,000 electorate) and would still be growing. This would, following investigation, make Wellington Town Council the 45th largest Town Council in England and be substantially bigger than the Wellington Urban Council that was. Such a large increase even with an increase in councillor numbers would mean that local representation would be extremely poor.
4. Residents in Admaston and Bratton would see a marked increase in their council tax and given that none of them actually wanted to be moved (see point 1) the Parish Council suggests that the Borough might want to advise residents of this fact and give them a real opportunity to comment on the real facts of these proposals.
5. The proposal for Wrockwardine Parish Council to merge into a new “rural” Parish Council means that Parish would cover a huge geographical area and, with only 11 seats for councillors, again local representation would be severely weakened and the actual distance councillors and staff would have to travel to serve the Parish would be significant and untenable. The proposal to merge would also result in a loss of precept funding and therefore a loss of services to be provided to its residents.
6. The cost of paying redundancy for long-standing clerk’s would mean that precepts would need to rise to cover the anticipated costs should these proposals go ahead.
7. If an alternative to the current arrangement is sought, the Parish Council suggests that Admaston and Bratton join with Shawburch to create a Parish that makes more sense than the ones currently proposed.

However, it is the Parish Council’s view that Wrockwardine Parish Council remains as it is for this review.