



## **Phase 2 Consultation Telford and Wrekin Community Governance Review 2025**

**These are purely my representations based on the information provided** 



Now that the details of what is proposed have been released for Phase 2 of the CGR 2025, I would like to make the following comments:

**If it is not broken, don't fix it.** I am totally against any split of Muxton from Donnington. I fear that these proposed changes are political and not for the benefit of the communities. It appears odd that those areas that are not Labour voting areas are being reduced in size (e.g. Muxton and Priorslee) whilst Labour voting areas are being doubled in size. Convince me that this is not purely a political decision just to enhance Labour Council seats. I won't hold my breath. However, with the changes proposed after Phase 1, I have the following comments to make:

### **Muxton Parish Council**

The Muxton Conservative Councillors have been campaigning for an independent Muxton Council for years, but I am unsure as to whether or not the residents of Muxton want it or realise the consequences of this. Since Lilleshall went independent in 2015 its precept has increased by 125%. In my opinion, small Parish Council's do not have the same finances available to provide the same services as a large Parish/Town Council unless there is a significant increase to the local taxpayers. I fear that Muxton will become a small, insignificant Council unable to provide the same level of services that it currently enjoys as part of Donnington and Muxton Parish Council. They will have a part time Clerk working from home for a couple of days a week. It will only require 6 Council meetings per year. For the residents, this will make a huge difference to the representation, accessibility to Councillors and staff that they currently enjoy as part of Donnington and Muxton Parish Council.

### **St George's and Donnington Parish Council (and Trench)**

To start with, the name should be changed as it is a bit of a mouthful and tongue twister. Donnington, St George's and Trench Parish Council rolls off the tongue much easier. Many I have spoken to think this is much better.

When the consultation first came out, the document highlighted that the use of "hard boundaries" should be considered. How then, is Trench becoming part of Oakengates? The proposed boundary goes through someone's garden fence when there is a perfectly obvious hard boundary in the A442/A518. The part of Trench that is proposed to go into Oakengates should remain as part of Donnington and St George's Parish Council as the residents have more in common with those from Donnington and St George's. Children from Trench are more likely to go to school in Donnington or St George's and the closest access to medical and dentists are in Donnington, as is the library. Residents in Trench have a dual carriageway

between them and Oakengates. I fear that once again, Councillors from Trench who are also on Oakengates Town Council are influencing decisions to suit their own agenda.

Oakengates Town Council is a large council with the highest precept in Telford. It is primarily focused on funding operations and services in the centre of Oakengates. Donnington and St Georges have smaller precepts and with Trench and Wrockwardine joining them it would offer more opportunity to reduce the burden of council tax (precept) to local residents and this money would better support the local economy and services available to people across the whole of this parish.

I would also consider including the following Councillor numbers:

Donnington: 5  
St Georges: 5  
Trench: 3  
Wrockwardine: 3  
Red Hill: 1

The Parish Office should be based in Donnington as this is the only District Centre in the proposed Council and has a large footfall. The offices are owned by the Parish Council, and this would reduce the cost of paying rent for an office at The Gower, St George's. By keeping the room at The Gower, the staff would have to be split, as someone would need to man the room at The Gower and staff are required to manage Turreff Hall and the library. What happens when staff are away from work? Two staff will be required at each location so an additional "Administration and Buildings Officer" would be required to help manage Turreff Hall and the library adding more costs to the taxpayer. Splitting staff at separate locations is nonsensical, ridiculous, unmanageable and can be demoralising.

Turreff Hall and Donnington Library has enough rooms to accommodate the offices required.

**Now is the chance to remove the word parish from its local councils.** This is an archaic term, and people are always confusing this with something to do with churches. Even if Parish Councils remain unchanged, titles can be changed via the CGR for example to Donnington, St George's and Trench Community Council, Muxton Community Council etc. This better reflects that they are there for the community and nothing to do with churches. By doing this Telford & Wrekin could demonstrate its innovativeness by being the first to do this and lead the way for the rest of England following the success in Wales.

