

FAO: Telford and Wrekin Boundary Committee
Re: Merger of Ercall Magna and Waters Upton PCs
10 July 2025

I wish to express in the strongest possible terms my objections to the proposal to merge Ercall Magna and Waters Upton Parish Councils for which I can find no credible justification.

This proposal appears, in fact, to go against the recommendations of Ercall Magna Parish Council and the wishes of residents who shared their views during a previous review in 2023. The rationale within the latest Community Governance Review is no more than generic and makes no reference to the specifics of the 2 parishes involved.

Said rationale refers to "community identity". I question whether the authors of this proposal have any knowledge of our communities and the rural nature of the area which means "one size doesn't fit all". I cannot see how the proposed merger with fewer councillors could remain viable across what is a large and disparate rural area with dispersed communities. No one has explained this to me.

Your 4 line rationale suggests the proposed merger is to create a viable parish council "capable of providing services to its residents" and "to support effective community governance".

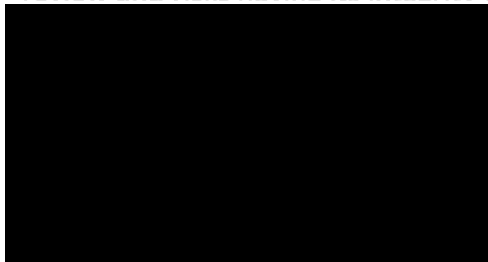
This implies that our parish council is not currently viable. I can assure you that Ercall Magna Parish Council is absolutely viable in its current form and provides an excellent service to its residents and has done so whilst setting this year's precept with no increase thus demonstrating admirable financial efficiency.

Effective community governance already exists here. Our parish councillors work extremely hard to support their residents and to get things done under what can, at times, be very frustrating circumstances. They do it because they consider it to be important and not for financial reward. Please note that none of our parish councillors claimed their allowance or expenses throughout the previous financial year.

This proposal would reduce the number of councillors in High Ercall by half whilst the workload and responsibilities would remain the same. Community involvement in local democracy should be encouraged but I fail to see how such a proposal would do anything other than further discourage participation. Sadly we already feel somewhat unrepresented by a Conservative MP who doesn't run surgeries and now our most local level of democracy feels under threat.

Telford and Wrekin Council has, in my opinion, failed to adequately consult its residents on this matter. I have received NO direct communication from yourselves. You have relied on the very parish council that you wish to cut to do the consultation for you.

The Telford and Wrekin Boundary Committee have stated they will base their final decision on the views of the residents in their respective parishes. I therefore propose that if you truly believe in local democracy you should instigate a parish referendum in order to be certain that ALL residents are properly consulted and allowed to have their voices properly heard. Otherwise it is clear that the Community Governance Committee will have failed to abide by its own principles behind the review and risks having its integrity called into question.



FAO: Community Governance Review

Re: Merger of Ercall Magna and Waters Upton Parish Councils

10 July 2025

I am writing to raise my concerns and objections to the proposed merger of the above councils as contained in the Community Governance Review.

It seems in my opinion to be a poorly thought out proposal and that in the view of Telford and Wrekin suggests that Ercall Magna Parish Council is not currently viable and that this proposal would allow for the PC to be something that they are currently not.

Preposterous. We as a parish currently have a viable PC that IS providing services to its residents whilst maintaining a community identity. I do wonder if the members of the CGR and T&W actually have any background knowledge of the Parish and the fact that in 2023 it was suggested that no change was required. One size doesn't fit all be it rural or urban. SO IF IT ISN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT.

WHO did you consult when you decided to review it once again, don't say the residents because I and many others knew nothing about this until we received information from our local Parish Council, (yes the very one you suggest isn't viable) and NOT TELFORD & WREKIN.... SHAME ON YOU.

I am extremely disappointed that a Labour run council seems not to believe in local democracy from the bottom up. It begs the question as to what the true motives are behind this. Politics? Wanting an easy life from those pesky parishes that dare to keep banging on your door requesting assistance with important parish matters?

Telford and Wrekin Boundary Committee confirmed that they want to base their final decision on the views of the residents in their respective parishes.

If that truly is the case and democracy matters then have a referendum in the areas concerned.

Hopefully common sense prevails, we shall see...

