

Telford & Wrekin Council, Community Governance Review, 2025.

Submission in response to the third phase of the consultation

This Submission is provided by:



My submission relates to the proposals for the area specified as **Horsehay, Lightmoor, Little Dawley and Aqueduct**. This area mostly corresponds to the existing Dawley Hamlets Parish Council with the addition of part of Lightmoor that has previously been part of The Gorge Parish Council.

1. My first comment would be to say that I am very pleased that the initial proposal to abolish Dawley Hamlets Parish Council (DHPC) has been abandoned. The revised proposal maintaining the integrity of DHPC with the sensible addition of the area of Lightmoor that was formerly with The Gorge PC is a positive move and is a clear reflection of the views of local residents. It recognises the sense of identity in these areas and will help to maintain social cohesion.

2. I believe the committee has rightly recognised that this is an appropriate time to review the name of the Parish Council and I would like to respond to the request for suggestions for an alternative name for DHPC.

I do not believe 'Dawley Hamlets Parish Council' is still a suitable name. I agree with the reported comment from Cllr. Richard Overton that 'It's not in Dawley and they aren't Hamlets'. The definition of a hamlet is:

'a small, rural settlement, typically consisting of just a cluster of houses, that is smaller than a village. The key defining characteristic is that it usually lacks a church or other central public services like shops or a post office.'

Clearly, the four main areas identified in the revised Parish are not hamlets.

There is also a problem with the inclusion of the name of Dawley. The Boundary Commission touched on this in their final report for the Borough wards when they said: '...using the name 'Dawley' in three neighbouring wards would have the potential to cause confusion' This is still the case with DHPC. A Google search for Dawley Hamlets Parish Council results in a page that includes the main link for Great Dawley Town Council. See here:



I would like to suggest the name '**South Telford Villages Parish Council**' as a new name for the parish.

- * It avoids any complications with using any of the names of the areas and risk upsetting residents in areas that don't get included in the title.

- * Most of the areas see themselves as villages, Lightmoor Village, Horsehay Village, Doseley Village, Spring Village, etc.

- * Residents use the word village to describe where they live.

- * Residents do not see themselves as being part of Dawley. I believe that also applies to the people who live in Little Dawley!

- * Geographically it's accurate and although Woodside and parts of Ironbridge Gorge are further South, they are less likely I think to see themselves as villages and have names that are descriptive, accurate and easily understood.

- * It doesn't have the name Dawley included and 'STVPC' is a tag that flows quite smoothly.

I have written to the Chair of DHPC and provided my suggestion however, in his reply to me he did not show any enthusiasm for the alternative name and has subsequently posted on the local Facebook page:

'There is, however, still a proposal to change the name of Dawley Hamlets Parish Council. Please respond to this proposal by Sunday 19th October, giving your support for keeping the name Dawley Hamlets Parish Council. It is a trusted Brand there is no need to change it.'

This response does seem surprising to me.

Many thanks,

