



# Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council

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Electoral Services Manager  
Telford & Wrekin Council  
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4<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Dear Melvin

## **PARISH COUNCIL WARDING ARRANGEMENTS – REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

The Parish Council wishes to request that a review be carried out of the warding arrangements in respect of the existing Hadley and Leegomery ward of the Parish.

The ward is considerably larger than others within Telford and Wrekin, having 7471 electors and covering a large and diverse geographical area. This single ward returns twelve councillors to the Parish Council. The Council has looked at the ward structures of eleven parish councils within the urban area of Telford and Wrekin, and across those parishes there is an average of approximately 2700 electors per ward, and twenty one of those wards have less than the average number.

The size of the ward and the resulting large number of councillors presents difficulties when residents wish to contact their local councillor as they often do not know which one of the twelve to approach. As a result over time some councillors will receive many more enquiries from local people than others, and smaller wards with fewer councillors would enable residents to be much clearer about who their own local representatives are. Similarly the Council believes that smaller wards with correspondingly fewer members would make individual councillors more accountable to their electorate.

The final point which the Council considers to be important is the cost of bye elections. In the last twelve months three casual vacancies have arisen in the Hadley and Leegomery Ward, and had elections been called in each case the cost to the local tax payer would have been around £22000.00. Again, smaller wards would help by reducing the cost of future bye elections in any one ward.

The council believes that the Apley Castle ward of the Parish is of the correct size and that no alterations are necessary, but asks that a review of the Hadley and Leegomery ward be undertaken with a view to dividing it in to three smaller wards. It is understood that Telford &

Wrekin Council, as the principal authority, must first consider whether a review should take place before any detailed proposals are put forward, but the Parish Council suggests that as a starting point the existing three separate polling districts of Hadley North, Hadley South and Leegomery could be considered.

Yours sincerely



Colin Potts  
Clerk of the Council

c.c. Cllr. Andrew Eade, Leader, Telford & Wrekin Council