

Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council

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11th December 2015

Dear Sir or Madam

Proposal to Increase the Permanent Capacity of Hadley Learning Community Primary Phase from 420 to 630 Places

The Parish Council has studied the full proposal for the expansion of Hadley Learning Community's Primary Phase and notes that the objective of the proposed expansion is:

"to meet demand for school places in the North Telford area both current time and in the future. This increase in demand is the result of both recently completed and further new housing developments within the area, which will see the Hadley area increase by over 800 dwellings. This amount of housing is expected to yield in excess of 220 new pupils across the primary age-range.

"It is intended that the proposals will maintain the excellent standards within the Hadley area by providing additional facilities for the pupils attending Hadley Learning Community as well as allowing pupils residing in the area to attend their local school, negating the need to travel to alternative locations for their education."

Upon enquiry the following residential developments were identified in connection with the proposal:

TWC Ref. No.	Site	Developer	Size	School
TWC/2013/0997	Lawton Farm Way, Leegomery	Lioncourt Homes	27	Apley Wood
TWC/2014/0769	Hadley Park West, Hadley	Miller Homes	68	Apley Wood
TWC/2014/0796	Hadley Park West, Hadley	Redrow Homes	60	Apley Wood
TWC/2011/0541	Peregrine Way, Apley	HCA	100	Apley Wood
TWC/2010/0200	Sommerfeld Road, Trench Lock	Redrow Homes	234	HLC/Teagues Bridge
TWC/2013/0720	Sommerfeld Road, Telford	Bovis Homes	125	HLC/Teagues Bridge
TWC/2013/1003	Hadley Park West, Leegomery	Redrow Homes	145	Apley Wood
TWC/2014/0221	Sommerfeld Road, Hadley	Lioncourt Homes	60	HLC/Teagues Bridge
TWC/2011/0949	Gladstone House, Hadley Local Centre	Wrekin Housing Trust	29	HLC
TWC/2013/0567	Stadium Way, Hadley	Private	23	HLC
TWC/2014/0765	Castle Lane, Hadley	Private	11	HLC

The Parish Council notes that of a total of 882 new homes identified above, 63 are within HLC's current Primary attendance area and 419 are located on developments on Sommerfeld Road, Trench which is currently an attendance area shared between HLC and Teagues Bridge Primary in Trench.

The Parish Council further notes that this the remaining 400 additional homes fall within Apley Wood Primary School's attendance area and that the list does not include the 495 homes at the Maxell site,

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Chairman: Councillor John Smart

which also falls within Apley Wood's attendance area, although other sites with outline permission (e.g. Peregrine Way, Apley and Stadium Way, Hadley) are included.

In an email dated 20 November 2015 Telford and Wrekin Council stated that there are no plans to make any amendments to the attendance areas for Hadley Learning Community or adjacent schools at present.

Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council has considered the above proposal and wishes to make the following comments:

1. In its objection to the proposed development of the Maxell site the Parish Council made reference to the fact that local schools, and in particular Apley Wood Primary School, are already at capacity and cannot meet existing demand for primary school places.

The Parish Council strongly supports Telford and Wrekin Council's objective in expanding HLC's Primary Phase thereby *"allowing pupils residing in the area to attend their local school, negating the need to travel to alternative locations for their education"*.

In support of this objective, the Parish Council demands that the Borough now give serious consideration to the pressing current need for an additional Primary school in the Apley area to meet the demand from 895 additional homes being built within the Apley Wood Primary School attendance area.

2. The full proposal identifies 400 new homes being built within the Apley Wood attendance area; however, the Parish Council is informed that there are no plans to change local primary attendance areas.

The Parish Council is concerned that if children from within the Apley Wood attendance area secure places at HLC their siblings may not be able to secure places at HLC due to them being classed as 'out of area'. This will result in families having primary-age children attending two or more schools, making walking or other forms of sustainable transport impractical, increasing car-use, and worsening congestion on roads around HLC and other schools.

The Parish Council believes that wherever possible siblings should attend the same primary school and that the school should be within walking distance of their home. The Parish Council therefore requests that the Borough reviews its Primary admissions policies to avoid siblings being sent to different primary schools as a result of the lack of available places at the School within whose attendance area they reside.

3. With reference to the comments made above, the Parish Council wishes to draw Telford and Wrekin Council's attention to the **National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 38** of which states:

"Where practical, particularly within large-scale developments, key facilities such as primary schools and local shops should be located within walking distance of most properties."

While the Parish Council supports the expansion of Hadley Learning Community's Primary Phase to meet growing demand from residential developments in Hadley, it is concerned that growing demand within the Apley and Leegomery areas cannot be adequately met by expansion of HLC because of its distance from the residential developments in these areas.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Brumwell

Jonathan Brumwell
Clerk to the Council