

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Final Proposals

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Introduction

1. Monmouthshire County Council has a duty under Section 55(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 to keep under review the boundaries and electoral arrangements of the communities within Monmouthshire. To ensure compliance with the legislation, Monmouthshire County Council agreed at its Council meeting on 22nd July 2012 to commence a review of communities and electoral arrangements in Monmouthshire and appointed nine councillors to a politically balanced working group tasked with responsibility for formulating the draft and final proposals for the communities.
 - 1.1. A Terms of Reference was formulated by the working group and the relevant consultation period conducted to formulate the proposals contained within it. The Terms of Reference was approved by Full Council on 22nd November 2012. Public notice of the intention to commence a review of communities was given on the 1st December 2012 alongside publication of the Terms of Reference for the review.
 - 1.2. A 12 week consultation commenced inviting initial representations from stakeholders to submit their views to the working group which will be considered during the formulation of the draft proposals. In addition to this, the working group invited stakeholders to attend five public seminars throughout Monmouthshire to ensure a clear understanding of the procedures to be followed and any queries regarding the review could be answered.
 - 1.3. Following the close of the initial consultation, the working group have reviewed the communities of Monmouthshire and, in line with the Terms of Reference for this review, formulated the draft proposals published in this document.
 - 1.4. Following the publication of the draft proposals, the working group commenced a 12 week consultation period inviting representations relating to the draft proposals. Additionally, the working group held a number of seminars inviting each community/town council to an open session where members of that council could openly present their comments to the working group as well as allow the working group to gain a detailed understanding of that community.
 - 1.5. Shortly following the publication of the draft proposals, the Williams Commission report was published by the Welsh Government into the future of Local Government and proposed local authority mergers and consultation into reforming communities throughout Wales. If the Williams Commission proposals were to be taken forward by Welsh Government then there would be a significant period of instability with new community proposals taking effect in 2017 plus further changes at the next set of elections in 2021. Additionally, much of the Williams Commission proposals would depend on the result of the Welsh Assembly elections in May 2016 and whether a majority Government was in place to take the proposals forward. If the Council was to take forward the proposals for the community review following the result of the Assembly elections it would not leave enough time for legislation to be passed before the elections in May 2017 for the proposals to take effect, nor would it allow sufficient time for the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales to make the required amendments to the County Council boundaries as a result of those amendments.

- 1.6. The working group therefore took the decision in May 2015 to postpone the community review until after the local elections in May 2017 to save any confusion around which boundaries were to be used at that election, allow candidates and political parties to plan for those elections effectively and prevent any potential confusion for the electorate.
- 1.7. Following the election, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales has requested that final proposals for the community review in Monmouthshire are submitted to them no later than June 2018 in order for them to consult on the final proposals and pass the relevant legislation in time for them to conduct their review of the electoral arrangements at County Council level.
- 1.8. Upon commencement of the review, it was the intention of the Council to re-run the consultation on the draft proposals and allow councillors that were elected in May 2017 opportunity to input in to the process at that stage. However, as the process for conducting community reviews is set in legislation, any deviance from the prescribed process may null and void the previous work already conducted and may not allow time for the consequential processes to be completed in time for the next local elections. Therefore the working group will utilise the feedback it received during its consultation period into the draft proposals as the basis for formulating the final proposals for the review. The Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales will conduct their own consultation into the final proposals and communities, councillors and stakeholders can respond directly to the Commission with their comments on the final proposals. The Commission will consider those representations when deciding on the final proposals to put forward to the Welsh Government for approval.
- 1.9. In formulating the final proposals, a working group of County Councillors was reconvened with the political balance of the Council disregarded in agreement with party leaders and a representative from each political group, including the independent group, appointed with responsibility for drafting the final proposals.
- 1.10. The working group reviewed the draft proposals taking into consideration representations received at the draft consultation stage, as well as minutes of the working group that formulated the draft proposals and minutes of the open seminars with communities in drafting the final proposals.
- 1.11. The final proposals for the community review must be agreed by Full Council prior to its submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales and were presented to Council in May 2018 following an all members seminar to enable Councillors to understand the proposals fully before its approval.
- 1.12. Upon completion of its consultation into the final proposals, the Commission will then forward the final proposals, with any amendments they wish to make, to the Welsh Government who will review the proposals and if satisfied will make an Order for the changes to take effect. The changes will take effect at the next ordinary local elections.

Summary of Proposals

2. Under the existing arrangements there are currently 33 Community Councils with 119 Community Wards represented by 356 community councillors. The proposed arrangements contained within these draft proposals would see a change to 30 Community Councils, 120 community wards and 296 community councillors representing those communities.

Representations Received Prior to Final Proposals

3. Representations were submitted by County Councillors, Community Councillors, Community Councils and residents of Monmouthshire in response to the initial proposals consultation and draft proposals.
 - 3.1. The working group would like to thank all those who took the opportunity to submit representations to us and help inform the decision making process.
 - 3.2. During the consultation period, a number of responses and concerns were raised by communities in relation to single member wards. In considering the number of councillors for each community and community ward, the Terms of Reference for the review sets out the intended position and rationale behind the councillor:elector ratio. All community and town councils and County Councillors were consulted on the pre-requisites included in the Terms of Reference and were agreed by Full Council prior to any areas being reviewed by the working group. The working group have considered all the representations received for each community and put forward electoral arrangement proposals that it believes ensures a better parity in representation across the authority area than is provided for by the current arrangements. Additionally, the proposals are in line with the agreed Terms of Reference for the review and allows a mechanism for future reviews to be conducted based on developments within the communities and how future representation could be considered.

Responding to the Final Proposals

4. The County Council will not conduct any consultation into its final proposals. Whilst we have undertaken consultation at every other stage of the process, once Full Council have approved the final proposals, they will be passed to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales who will conduct their own consultation process on the final proposals.
 - 4.1 Details of the timescales on the Commissions consultation are not yet available as they will need to review the proposals in detail before undertaking the consultation process. Further information will be sent to all communities once it is available.

Community of Abergavenny

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Abergavenny consist of five wards, Cantref, Grofield, Castle, Lansdown and Priory. The community has a total electorate of 7990 and is represented by 15 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Cantref	1695	3
Grofield	1413	3
Castle	1607	3
Lansdown	1721	3
Priory	1554	3

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The most prominent natural boundary surrounding the community of Abergavenny is the River Usk at the south of the community. The River Usk provides a boundary between Abergavenny and Llanfoist with access only available via The Heads of the Valleys road and the Usk Bridge adjoining Llanfoist and Abergavenny.
 - 2.1. To the West of Abergavenny, the A465 main road provides a natural boundary between the urban area of Abergavenny and the rural areas of Llanover and Llantilio Pertholey.

Electorate Forecast

3. Within the current boundary of the community of Abergavenny there are no development plans which will increase the electorate within the area.

Representations Received

4. A number of representations were submitted by various stakeholders which effect the current arrangements within Abergavenny. Abergavenny Town Council made representations that the current arrangements within Monmouthshire are not fit for purpose and are open to radical redesign. Abergavenny Town Council proposed that the area of Abergavenny should expand to include the areas of Llanwenarth Citra, Croesonen, Mardy and Llanfoist. The reasons for merging a number of communities in to a larger one is summarised as follows:
 - Communities will need to ensure that they have the will and the administrative resources to supply services that without the community council would not be otherwise carried out locally
 - Whilst some communities may keep its activities and costs low to behave appropriately, if the council is not doing anything for its community then it can be argued that its not fit for purpose.
 - Financial resources will also ensure that communities are fit for purpose and communities that do not have a significant number of properties will be unable to raise the necessary precept to deliver services and have access to economies of scale that large communities have.

- That it should be considered to reflect the public's perception of the community that they are represented by. The council provide examples that electors assume that they are represented by the larger town council when they are represented by a different community.
- They also state that they believe that their proposals will assist the community in preparing for the powers contained in the Local Government Wales Measure and any potential future devolution of services by the County Council.

- 4.1. Llanfoist Community Council submitted a response to the proposals put forward by Abergavenny Town Council objecting to the proposal of including wards within its area in that of Abergavenny. In particular Llanfoist objected to the inclusion of Llanwenarth Citra due to the historical links that the area has with another Llanfoist Community Council ward, Llanwenarth Ultra, and that the Llanwenarth Citra ward is predominantly rural compared to the other wards of Abergavenny. Llanfoist also stated that it had developed a relationship with the Brecon Beacons National Park through its planning applications which it believes Abergavenny Town Council doesn't. In terms of the Llanfoist ward, Llanfoist council make representation that the ward prides itself on being an active, attractive village which is not part of Abergavenny Town Council.
- 4.2. Llantilio Pertholey Community Council also submitted representations in relation to the wards of Abergavenny which adjoin their council area. These include the removal of Heol Hamelin and adjoining streets to the Priory ward of Abergavenny Town Council. Other representations included a redesign of the arrangements within Llantilio Pertholey Community Council. The Council also submitted further representations in response to Abergavenny Town Councils recommendations of including a number of its wards in Abergavenny Town Council area and strongly objected to that proposal along with a number of negative effects that those changes may have.

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The working group considered and discussed all the representations it received for the areas of Llanfoist, Abergavenny and Llantilio Pertholey. The proposal submitted by Abergavenny Town Council proposed radical changes to the existing community arrangements and whilst the group understood the points put forward by Abergavenny Town Council it believed that the proposals submitted were contrary to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972, particularly in relation to the proposal for the Llanfoist ward, to ensure that boundaries are easily identifiable.

With the River Usk and the A465 surrounding Abergavenny to the south and east of the community, the working group believe that these provide natural, easily identifiable boundaries between Abergavenny and its surrounding communities. Therefore, the working group did not agree with the representation submitted by Abergavenny Town Council to merge the community of Abergavenny with that of Llanfoist.

However, the community of Llanwenarth Citra of Llanfoist Community Council is situated on the opposite side of the river Usk to the other wards of Llanfoist Community Council. Whilst there is

bridge access to Llanwenarth Citra crossing the river, this is situated in the Gilwern ward of Llanely and requires residents to cross the local authority boundary into Powys before returning to Monmouthshire. All other access to the Llanwenarth Citra ward requires electors to pass through the community of Abergavenny before returning to the community of Llanfoist. This means there is no physical or geographical link between Llanwenarth Citra and the rest of the community of Llanfoist. For these reasons and that of the river being the natural boundary, the working group propose that the Llanwenarth Citra ward of Llanfoist be moved into the community of Abergavenny.

The working group however note from the submission of Llanfoist Community Council that the Llanwenarth Citra ward is unique and is of a rural nature compared to the other wards of the community of Abergavenny. Whilst the number of electors within the Llanwenarth Citra ward is slightly less than 150 electors per councillor ratio and significantly less than the proposal for the rest of the Abergavenny wards, given the unique nature of the ward the working group propose to retain Llanwenarth Citra as its own ward, with its own representation of one councillor, within the community of Abergavenny.

- 5.1. The working group also considered representations received by Abergavenny Town Council and Llantilio Pertholey Community Council in relation to the proposal by Abergavenny to merge some of the Llantilio Pertholey wards into its area. The working group conclude that whilst there is very little geographic separation between the communities of Abergavenny and Llantilio Pertholey, in particular the wards of Croesonen East and West, there are differences between the two communities that require the need to maintain a separation between the two areas, particularly in relation to Sgyrrid East and West and Pantygelli where there is little link with these wards with the community of Abergavenny. In their representation, Llantilio Pertholey Community Council provided the working group with a comprehensive submission of the work that the council in its current format provides to its residents. The working group do not believe that a large community consisting of Llantilio Pertholey and Abergavenny would be able to continue to provide the services unique to the individual areas as they currently do in isolation. It is therefore proposed that the current boundary between the communities of Abergavenny and Llantilio Pertholey remain with small alterations to the existing boundary to ensure there is a clear definition between the two communities and that the proposals are in line with the Terms of Reference for the review.

The group accepted a number of points in the Abergavenny submission, particularly in relation to the economies of scale and advantages that a large community can deliver to its community. However, the representation submitted by Llantilio Pertholey Community Council highlighted a number of key services that the community council deliver unique to the area of Llantilio Pertholey, that may not necessarily be delivered by a community covering a large geographic area.

Internal Boundaries

- 5.2. The working group considered the current arrangements within the community of Abergavenny and identified anomalies that could be amended to ensure clear lines of responsibility and accountability whilst ensuring boundaries are easily identifiable. These include a number of instances where boundaries follow a main road, predominately Brecon Road, Park Crescent and

Llwynu Lane. The area of housing including Heol Hamelin and Clos Bury Capel being divided by a boundary through the housing and the town centre area being covered by three separate wards.

Cantref

- 5.3. The current Cantref ward remains largely unchanged. However, a small number of amendments have been made to its boundaries to ensure they are easily identifiable. The current boundary between Cantref and Grofield follows the A40 Brecon Road to Brecon Road Car Sales garage where it leaves the A40 at the fork in the road.

The working group believe that the natural boundary should follow the A40 up to the boundary of Llanwenarth Citra, with all properties south of the A40 included in the Llanwenarth Citra ward following the changes as stated above. Additionally, as mentioned above, the boundary between Cantref and Grofield will follow the rear of the properties of Brecon Road to ensure that the whole street is contained within a single ward.

Grofield

- 5.4. In considering the existing arrangements for the Grofield ward, the working group consider that the town centre area should be wholly contained within a single ward to ensure clear administrative processes and local responsibility. Currently the town centre area is divided in to three community wards, Grofield, Castle and Priory which ensure that the current ward boundaries are not easily identifiable and do not lead to clear lines of accountability for the area.

It is therefore proposed that the whole town centre area is contained within the Grofield ward with the new boundary running along Park Road at the southern edge of Bailey Park where it will join the proposed Pen-Y-Fal boundary at Lower Monk Street.

The working group also identified the boundary between Cantref and Grofield that follows Brecon Road which splits the properties along this street between the two wards which is contrary to the criteria of the Terms of Reference for this review. The working group therefore propose that all properties of Brecon Road are included in the Grofield ward.

The working group also consider that Nevill Hall Hospital is a key feature of the ward that acts as a natural boundary between the wards of Grofield and Llanwenarth Citra. The group propose, taking into consideration the alteration to the boundary already made in respect of Brecon Road, that the western boundary of the Grofield ward should follow the edge of Nevill Hall Hospital and adjoin the external community boundary in the River Usk.

Castle

- 5.5. It was brought to the group's attention in the representations received of the anomaly with the boundary between the community of Abergavenny and Llantilio Pertholey in the Heol Hamelin area that intersects the estate. The group believe that this group of properties would be better suited to the Priory ward as it is accessed via Grosvenor Road and Hereford Road. It is therefore

proposed that the northern boundary of the Castle ward will be amended to follow the rear of the properties at Maple Avenue.

The eastern boundary of Pen-Y-Fal will follow the external boundary of the community of Abergavenny along the A465 road. This will result in the property Green Acres Farm no longer situated within the community of Abergavenny and moving to the community of Llanover.

The group considered the arrangements for the Castle ward and consider the River Gavenny which runs north/south at the western edge of the ward should be the natural boundary between this ward and the adjoining Priory & Grofield wards. The group believe that this easily identifiable natural feature, will improve the current arrangements that follow the rear of properties on Ostringen and Holywell Close. The exception to this is to retain the properties on Lower Monk Street east of the river, that are currently in the Priory ward, within the Priory ward rather than include these in the Castle ward. This is in line with the Terms of Reference for the review that where possible, whole streets will be contained within a single ward.

Under this proposal the boundary of the ward will follow the River Gavenny south to the River Usk thereby no longer including the Castle within the Castle ward. It is therefore proposed that the Castle ward be renamed to Pen-Y-Fal ward as it contains the original site within its ward. The working group however welcome suitable alternative names for this ward.

Lansdown

- 5.6. The working group propose a number of small amendments to the boundary of the Lansdown ward to ensure that boundaries are clear and easily identifiable.

The first being an amendment to the southern boundary of the ward which currently follows Park Crescent, splitting the properties of this street between the Lansdown and Priory wards. The group propose that the whole of Park Crescent is included in the Priory ward with the new boundary following the rear of properties of this road.

Similarly, Llwynu Lane is divided between the Lansdown Ward of the Abergavenny community and Croesonen West of the Llantilio Pertholey community. All properties of Llwynu Lane and streets accessible off it including Vale View are to be included in the Lansdown ward.

Priory

- 5.7. As stated above, the town centre shopping area of the Abergavenny community is currently divided between three wards, Grofield, Castle and Priory. To ensure boundaries are easily identifiable and clear areas of responsibility exist, the Council consider that the town centre should be contained within a single ward. The group believe that Park Road adjacent to Bailey Park is perceived as a natural boundary which ensures all of the town centre is contained in a single ward. Therefore any area of the town centre south of Park Road currently situated in the Priory ward will be included in the Grofield ward.

As stated in 5.7 above, the group also propose an amendment to the boundary between Lansdown and Priory moving the boundary from Park Crescent to the rear of the properties along that road.

Also, as stated in 5.6 above, it is proposed that the whole of the Heol Hamelin and Clos Bury Capel housing area is included in a single ward rather than split between Castle and Croesonen East. With access to the area via Grosvenor Road and Hereford Road of Priory ward the group consider that this area would be best represented by the Priory ward.

The existing name of 'Priory' ward emanates from the remnants of the Priory of St Benedict being situated within the ward. Under the new proposal, the Priory is no longer situated within the ward and therefore a new name is required. The Council propose the name of 'Park' for the new ward with Bailey Park being a focal point of the ward. The Council welcome views and alternative name suggestions for the new ward.

Llanwenarth Citra

5.8. The Llanwenarth Citra ward will remain largely unchanged other than amendments to its boundary between Cantref and Grofield as stated in 5.1 and 5.2 above.

The Llanwenarth Citra ward will have an electorate of 139 and be represented by one councillor. Whilst the Council acknowledge that the electorate is significantly below the average of the rest of the community of Abergavenny, the Council believe that the unique nature and positioning of the ward as well as the different characteristics of the area compared to the rest of Abergavenny community require the ward to have its own representation with the community.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The working group propose no name change to the existing community of Abergavenny. As stated above a number of changes are proposed to ward names due to alterations in the boundaries. The six new wards will be Cantref, Grofield, Pen-Y-Fal, Lansdown, Park and Llanwenarth Citra. The group welcome proposals for suitable alternative names for these wards.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Abergavenny community to fall within the Urban category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 500 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Cantref	1578	3
Grofield	1861	4
Pen Y Fal	1532	3
Lansdown	1747	3
Park	1528	3
Llanwenarth Citra	139	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Abergavenny.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

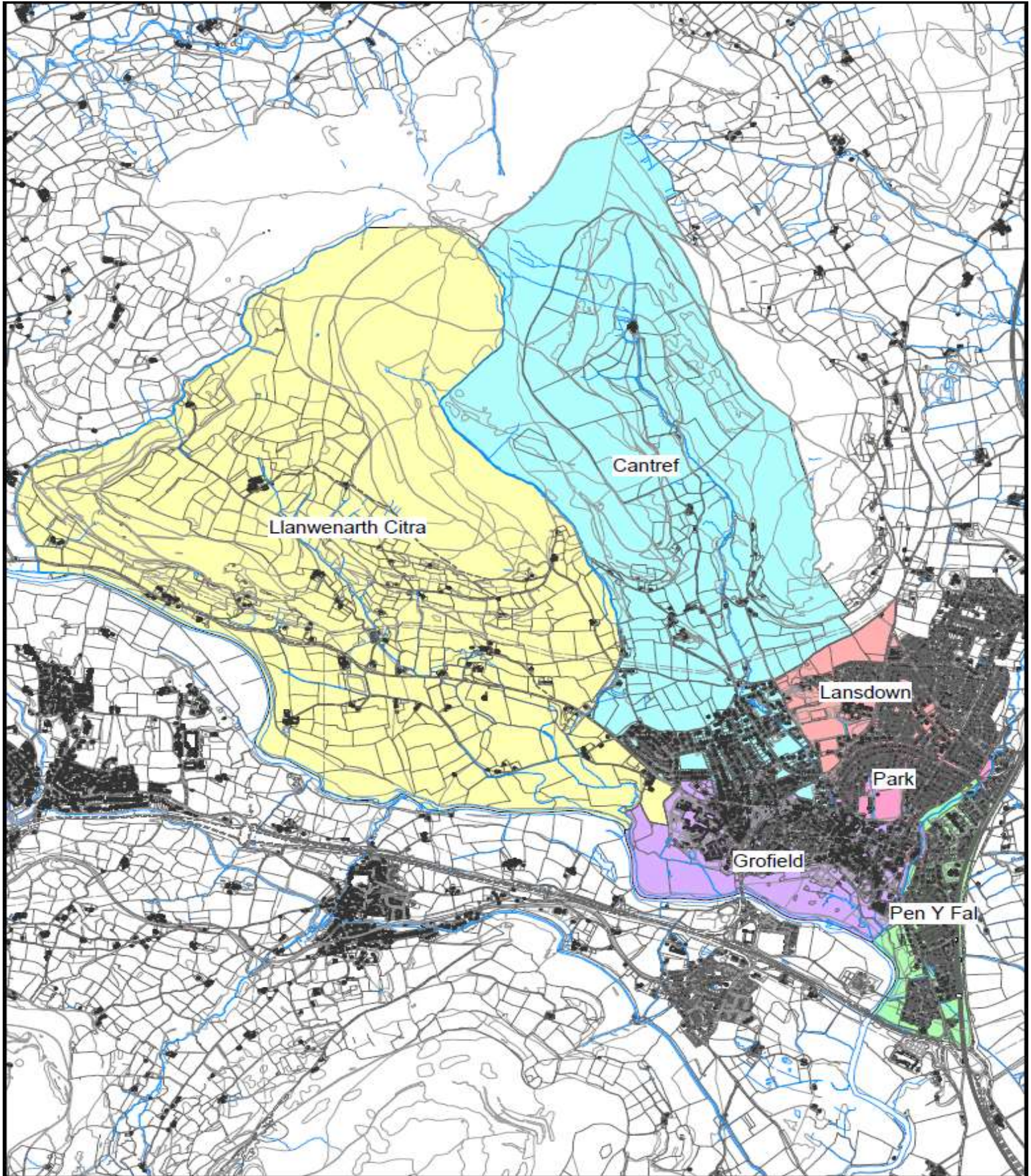
9. Abergavenny Town Council made no further representations in relation to the draft proposals and were happy with the proposals put forward by the working group.

9.1. The County Councillor for Grofield at the time welcomed the addition of Llanwenarth Citra ward into Abergavenny and felt that the increase in councillors from 15 to 17 would be manageable.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.

Proposed Boundary Map of Abergavenny



Details Draft community ward proposal			Rev No.	© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2013 Arolwg Ordnans 100023415 © Crown copyright and database rights 2013 Ordnance Survey 100023415
Drawn by Healy.RM	Scale 1:34766	Date 26/11/2013		
File Pathname / Project / Drawing No.				Monmouthshire County Council County Hall Rhadyr Usk, NP15 1GA www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/maps



Community of Caerwent

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Caerwent consist of five wards, Caerwent, Dinham, St Brides Netherwent, Crick and Llanvair Discoed. The community has a total electorate of 1510 and is represented by 10 community councillors. A breakdown of the electorate and number of councillors per ward is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Caerwent	599	4
Dinham	262	1
Crick	166	1
Llanvair Discoed	252	2
St Brides Netherwent	231	2

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. As Caerwent borders the local authority boundary the western boundary of the community cannot be altered as part of this review. The group considered the M48, A48 and the army camp to provide natural boundaries for the Caerwent community.

Electorate Forecast

3. The electorate in the Dinham ward is proposed to increase from 262 electors to 526 electors based on the property:elector ratio of 1:2.

Representations Received

4. Representation was received from Caerwent Community Council requesting an additional councillor for the Dinham ward due to the additional development within the ward.

Recommendations

External Boundaries

5. Due to the proposed change of the northern boundary of Magor with Undy to follow the M4 motorway, all the properties contained in the Salisbury ward north of the motorway will be incorporated into the St Brides Netherwent ward of Caerwent. This will include all properties on St Brides Road and Bowdens Lane.
 - 5.1. The working group also considered the arrangements to the East of the community up to the Parkwall roundabout. Whilst the group understood that the current boundary between Caerwent, Mathern and Portskewett utilised the easily identifiable boundary of the M48, they

felt that splitting the properties east of Caerwent along the A48 between Mathern and Portskewett did not lead to effective and convenient local government as it appeared that those properties were more closely associated with the Crick area of Caerwent than the communities that they are currently situated. The working group therefore propose to extend the eastern boundary of Caerwent up to, and including the properties on Parkwall Roundabout incorporating all properties adjacent to the A48 into the Caerwent area. The boundary will then follow the A48 up to the flyover of the M48 and return west along the M48. From there the boundary will follow the drain northwards just south of Lavender Well Farm, where it will join and follow the edge of St Pierre Wood. All properties within this area including Runston Farm, Broadwell and Green Meadow Farm will be included in the Crick ward of Caerwent.

Internal Boundaries

Caerwent

- 5.2. The working group considered the boundary of the Caerwent ward and propose a change to the boundary in the Caerwent Road area. The current boundary follows Caerwent Road to the boundary of Caldicot and divides properties along this road between the Caerwent ward and St Brides Netherwent ward which does not lead to effective and convenient local government. It is proposed that the new boundary continues down Dewstow Road and follows the edge of the quarry to join with the external boundary.

Dinham

- 5.3. The working group considered the boundary of the Dinham ward and felt that the army camp would be better associated with the Dinham ward rather than the Crick ward which it currently lies within. The working group believe that given the large residential developments within the Dinham ward and the close proximity of the two areas, that any proposals for the army camp would have a greater effect on those properties than it would the properties in the Crick ward and that the those electors should have adequate representation for those proposals. It is therefore proposed that the north eastern boundary of Dinham ward will follow the perimeter of the army camp where it will join the external Caerwent community boundary in the north of the area. The boundary for the Caerwent ward which follows the A48 will be removed and the eastern boundary that follows the railway line will be extended to join the proposed ward boundary. This will result in the property New House Farm being moved from the Crick ward to the Caerwent ward.

The working group also propose a change in name for the Dinham ward to Merton Green as this covers the majority of the populated area of the ward as it is commonly known.

Crick

- 5.4. As noted above see paragraphs 5.1 and 5.3 for proposed changes to Crick ward.

Llanvair Discoed

5.5. The group considered the current boundary for the Llanvair Discoed ward and consider that the properties 'Trewen' and Five Lanes Cottages are more closely associated with the other wards of Caerwent due to their close proximity to the A48 than they are to their current ward of Llanvair Discoed. Whilst the group understood that the A48 acted as a natural boundary between Llanvair Discoed and other wards, the group considered that the main channels of communication for these properties are across the A48 and to the other wards of Caerwent. The working group therefore propose that the southern boundary for the Llanvair Discoed ward is amended to follow the road behind Five Lanes Cottages up to the junction south of Blackpool Hall. The boundary will then head South and follow a field boundary East to join the brook which will continue south to join the existing ward boundary on the A40. This would result in the properties at Trewen and Five Lanes Cottages being included in the St Brides Netherwent ward.

St Brides Netherwent

5.6. As noted see Paragraph 5, 5.2 and 5.5 for proposed changes to St Brides Netherwent ward.

Proposed community and community ward names

6. The working group propose a change in name for the Dinham ward to Merton Green as stated in 5.3 above. The group welcome representations as to suitable alternative names for the community and community wards.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Caerwent community to fall within the mixed category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 250 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Caerwent	617	3
Merton Green	534	2
Crick	192	1
Llanvair Discoed	211	1
St Brides Netherwent	279	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Caerwent.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

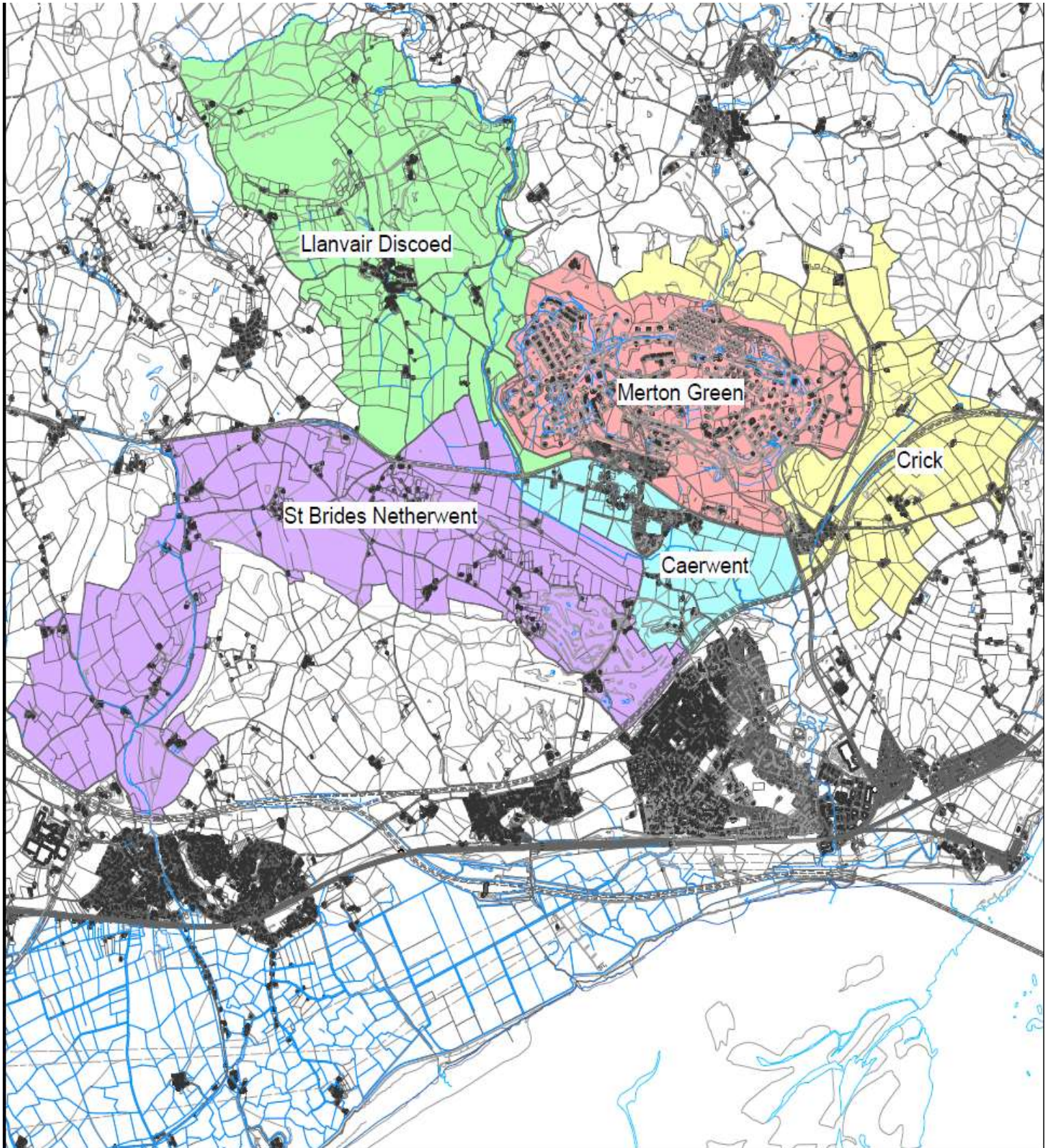
9. No representatives from the Caerwent Community attended the open seminar to give feedback on the proposals to the working group. Subsequent representation was received from Caerwent Community Council requesting that the ward name for Merton Green be retained as Dinham as that was the original hamlet that was situated within the ward.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations received, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals for the reasons contained in the draft proposals. The working group however are content that the proposals to rename the proposed Merton Green ward as Dinham is in line with the Terms of Reference for the review and propose that change as the final proposal.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Caerwent	617	3
Dinham	534	2
Crick	192	1
Llanvair Discoed	211	1
St Brides Netherwent	279	1

Proposed Boundary of Caerwent



Details Draft community ward proposal			Rev No.	© Hawfrant y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2013 Arolwg Ordnans 100023415 © Crown copyright and database rights 2013 Ordnance Survey 100023415
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Community of Caldicot

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Caldicot consist of five wards, Caldicot Castle, Dewstow, Green Lane, Severn and West End. The community has a total electorate of 7704 and is represented by 17 town councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Caldicot Castle	1676	3
Dewstow	1517	4
Green Lane	1539	4
Severn	1385	3
West End	1587	3

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. To the west of Caldicot, a railway line and connecting bridge between the communities of Caldicot and Portskewett appear to be a natural boundary between the two areas.
 - 2.1. To the north of Caldicot the M48 acts as a natural boundary between the community of Caldicot and communities to the north of the road.
 - 2.2. The neutral space between the communities of Rogiet and Caldicot appear to provide a natural boundary between the two communities.
 - 2.3. Within the community of Caldicot there are two main roads that insect the community, Sandy Lane and Newport Road.

Electorate Forecast

3. The electorate within the Caldicot Castle ward is set to increase by 330 electors from 1676 to 2006 due to development at Church Road.

Representations Received

4. Caldicot Town Council submitted representation that the area of Castle Lea be moved from the Green Lane ward to the Severn ward.
 - 4.1. Pauline Watts, County Councillor for the Caldicot Castle ward, submitted representation wishing to retain the title of Caldicot Castle for her ward and identified an anomaly with the boundary between Caldicot Castle and Green Lane wards in relation to the properties in Castle Lea.

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. When considering the current boundaries of the community of Caldicot, the group consider there to be a few anomalies with the current boundary. Firstly, the group consider that splitting the Severnside industrial estate between the communities of Caldicot and Portskewett does not lead to effective and convenient Local Government and does not provide easily identifiable boundaries within the area. The group therefore propose that the boundary between Caldicot and Portskewett follows the railway line which provides a natural, easily identifiable boundary between the two communities.

The group acknowledge that as a result of this amendment the community boundary will differ from that of the UK Parliamentary and Welsh Assembly Constituency boundaries and may lead to confusion amongst electors as to the area that they are situated. The Council does not have authority to alter the boundaries for Welsh Assembly and UK Parliamentary Constituencies as this responsibility lies with the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales. However, there is currently no legislation in place that allows for either of the Assembly or Parliamentary Constituency boundaries to be amended. The Council will meet with the Boundary Commission prior to the publication of the final proposals for this review to discuss the options available to ensure boundaries at all levels of Government are clear and easily identifiable for the electorate.

- 5.1. Similarly, the boundary between the communities of Caldicot and Rogiet are unclear. Under the current arrangements, a number of rear gardens to properties on Kirlach Close are in the community of Rogiet whilst the property itself is in the community of Caldicot. Also, the divide between the communities of Caldicot and Rogiet follow the boundary of some, but not all properties on Longcroft Road. The Council therefore propose to amend the existing boundary between the communities of Caldicot and Rogiet to follow the rear gardens of the properties on Kirlach Close and Longfellow Road.
- 5.2. The Council consider the M48 to the north of Caldicot to be a natural boundary between the community of Caldicot and the communities to the north of that road.

Internal Boundaries

Caldicot Castle

- 5.3. The additional development within the Caldicot Castle ward will increase the electorate within the ward to 2006 electors. The lowest electorate in the community of Caldicot is the Severn ward which is 1385. This would mean a difference of 621 electors between the most and least populated wards within the community. If there were to remain five wards within the community of Caldicot then the average electorate per ward would be 1607 electors. The Council therefore consider that the current arrangements for the Caldicot Castle ward require amendment to ensure the electorate is evenly distributed between the wards within the community.

When considering the current boundary of Caldicot Castle, all properties within the ward are accessed either off Church Road or Sandy Lane. The Council considered the relationship between the properties accessed from Sandy Lane and the properties accessed from Church Road and whilst there are footpaths that link the properties via a playground, there is no road access between the properties. It was also considered that the properties accessed from Sandy Lane have a closer relationship with the other properties accessed from Sandy Lane, which are in different community wards, than it does with rest of the Caldicot Castle ward. Examples include Willow Close, Ash Close and Cas Troggy.

The working group therefore propose that the boundary for the Caldicot Castle ward be amended to follow the footpath and edge of the play area between the properties accessible from Sandy Lane (Castle Gardens, Budden Crescent etc) and those accessible from Church Road (Elan Way). The Caldicot Castle ward will retain Castle Park School within its boundary. The boundary will cross Church Road and follow the boundaries of Castle Inn and the rear of all properties associated with Castle Lea (Jolyons Court, Castle Lea & Castle Lodge Crescent). The boundary will then follow the Caldicot By-pass and join the existing ward boundary with Red House and Red House Lodge being removed from the Caldicot Castle ward and included in the new Severn ward.

Dewstow & Green Lane

5.4. The working group considered the arrangements for the Dewstow and Green Lane ward and considered that the current boundaries for both wards are not easily identifiable. Examples of this include the boundary between Green Lane and Dewstow around the former Green Lane School which splits streets and causes confusion for electors as to which ward they reside in and the inclusion of Castle Lea in the Green Lane ward when it appears to have a close affiliation with the properties of Castle Lodge Crescent, Propsect Close and the remaining properties on Chepstow Road.

The working group considered the area of these two wards, taking account of the amendments made to the boundary of the Caldicot Castle ward, and concluded that footpath between Newport Road and Cae Mawr Grove/Longcroft Road would act as a more suitable natural boundary.

To that end it is proposed that the boundary for the Dewstow ward is extended to follow the footpath between Newport Road and Longcroft Road, to follow behind the playing fields and Caldicot AFC. All properties north of the footpath, including amongst others, properties on Green Lane, Cae Mawr Road and Longcroft Road will be included in the Dewstow ward.

The above amendments to the Dewstow ward would significantly increase the electorate of the ward well above the average electorate for the community of Caldicot. In accordance with the criteria included in the Terms of Reference, the group considered that Sandy Lane and Chepstow Road, and where possible properties adjoining those roads, should each be wholly contained within a single ward where practicable to ensure that properties with common links and similar channels of communication are represented within the same ward.

Given the amendments to the Dewstow and Caldicot Castle wards as stated above, and the criteria included in the Terms of Reference for the review, the group propose a new ward, Caldicot Cross, which incorporates all properties of Sandy Lane and Chepstow Road, and all properties directly accessible from these roads. The area will run from the northern boundary of the community of Caldicot to the southern boundary of Chepstow Road that adjoins the B4245.

The working group consider Sandy Lane and Chepstow Road to be the main channels of communication between the north and southern area of the community of Caldicot, which therefore provides a common link to all properties accessible from these two roads. The group also consider that these proposals improve upon the current arrangements, particularly in the Green Lane ward, by ensuring properties with a common link are contained within a single ward. An example of this includes the Castle Lea area of the Green Lane ward which doesn't appear to the working group to have any link with the remainder of the ward.

The group propose that the new ward is named Caldicot Cross but welcome suggestions for suitable alternative names for the ward.

Severn

- 5.5. The group considered the current arrangements for the Severn ward, in addition to the proposed amendments to the external boundaries for the community of Caldicot incorporating all of the Severnside Industrial Estate.

Given the above amendments to the Green Lane community ward, the working group propose that the area south of the new Dewstow ward and to the east of Newport Road/B4245 be incorporated into the Severn ward. This ensures that the area between the natural boundaries of Sandy Lane and Chepstow Road and Newport Road and the B4245 are contained within a single ward.

However, the Severn ward currently covers an area both sides of the B4245 Caldicot By-Pass which the working group have identified as being a natural boundary within the area. Additionally, with the proposed amendments to the external boundary, under the current arrangements the community ward would be responsible for the town centre area as well as the whole of the Severnside Industrial Estate. This proposal would result in a relatively high electorate in comparison to other wards within the community as well as the additional workload that comes with having an industrial area contained within a ward.

The group therefore propose to create a new community ward known as Caldicot Town. It is proposed that the new ward incorporates the area south of the new Dewstow ward between Sandy Lane and Newport road, with the B4245 acting as the southern boundary between this area and the remainder of the Severn ward. Whilst the group acknowledge that this proposal results in a relatively low electorate for the ward, the new boundaries propose an area within natural, easily identifiable boundaries that will have an additional workload on top of the electorate due to the town centre area. In addition the group considered a similar arrangement

in the community of Monmouth where a “town” ward, with a relatively low electorate, has existed successfully since the previous review of communities.

An amendment to the existing ward boundary will see Alianore Road and Stafford Road, and any properties included on Cobb Crescent, that are currently included in the West End ward will be moved into the Caldicot Town ward.

The remainder of the Severn ward, including the whole of the Severnside Industrial Estate will incorporate everything to the south and east of the B4245, other than for Red House and Red House Lodge. Additional amendments to the existing boundary will incorporate Kestrel Close into the Severn ward from the West End ward.

West End

5.6. The West End ward will remain in its current format with a number of small amendments to its existing boundary as follows:

- Amendments to western boundary with Kestrel Close included in new Severn ward and Alianore Road, Stafford Road and all properties of Cobb Crescent included in new Town ward.
- Amendments to eastern boundary to follow rear of properties on Longfellow Road and Kirllach Close as stated in 5.1
- Amendment to boundary following Newport Road to incorporate all properties of that road within the West End ward.
- Amendment to northern boundary of the West End ward to include within the ward all properties accessible off Dewstow Road including Kirllach Close, Fairfield Close, Dewstow Close & Dewstow Gardens as all properties accessible from Newport Road and meet western boundary of community of Caldicot.

Proposed community and community ward names

6. The group propose no change to the community name of Caldicot. As stated above, it is proposed to divide the community into six wards, Caldicot Castle, Caldicot Cross, Dewstow, Caldicot Town, Severn and West End.

The working group welcome representations being made for suitable alternative names of the community or community wards.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Caldicot community to fall within the urban category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 500 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Caldicot Castle	1566	3
Dewstow	1545	3
Caldicot Cross	1639	3
Caldicot Town	1082	2
Severn	742	1
West End	1460	3

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Caldicot.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

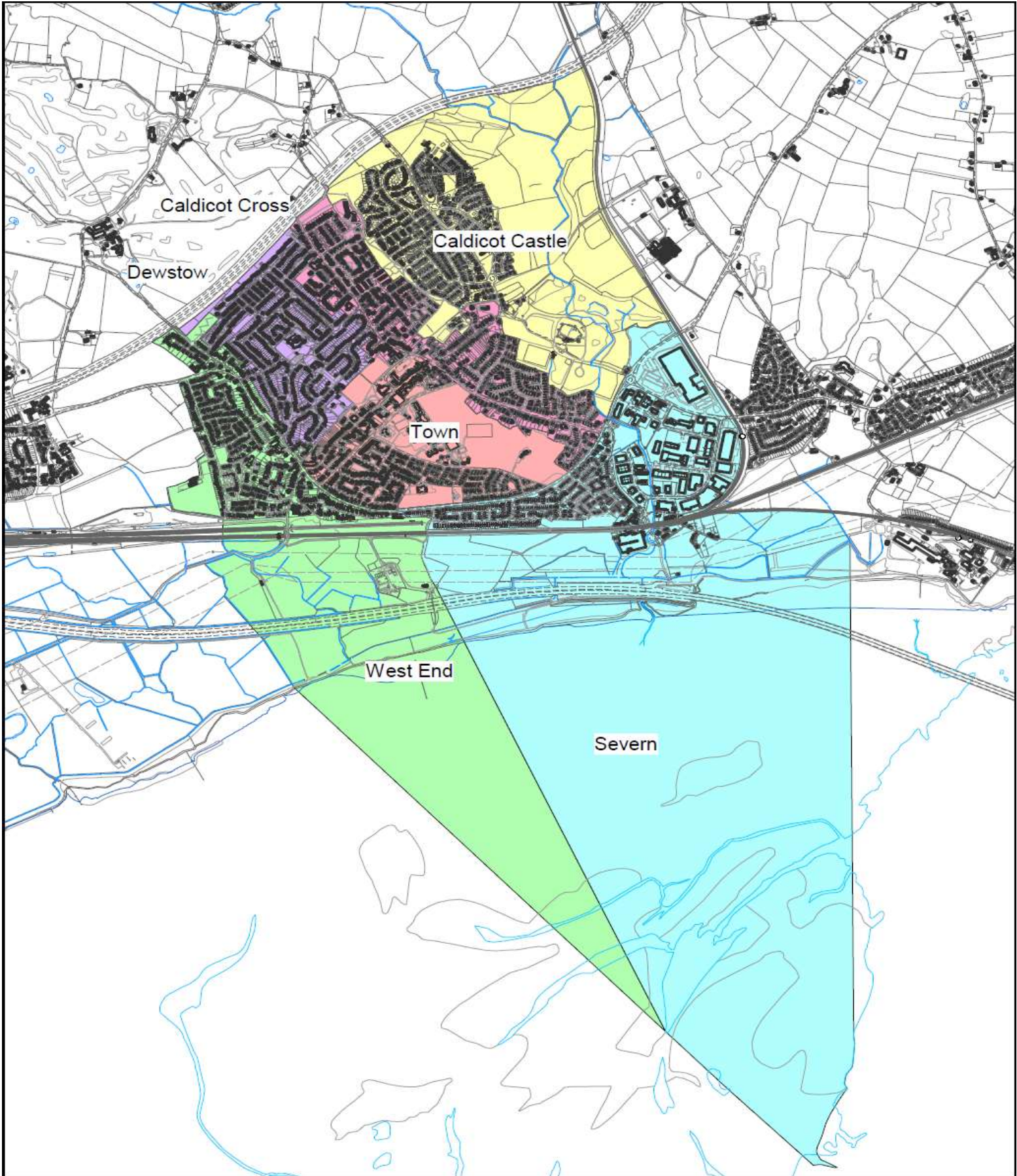
9. Representations were received from Caldicot Town Council at the open seminar which supported the proposals overall for the community of Caldicot. Their only request was that the ward Caldicot Town be changed to The Village.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals for the reasons contained in the draft proposals. The working group are also content that the proposal to rename the Caldicot Town ward as the village is in line with the Terms of Reference for the review and put forward that name as the final proposals for the ward. The final proposals for the wards within the Caldicot community will be as below:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Caldicot Castle	1566	3
Dewstow	1545	3
Caldicot Cross	1639	3
The Village	1082	2
Severn	742	1
West End	1460	3

Proposed Boundary Map of Caldicot



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Community of Chepstow

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Chepstow consist of five wards, Thornwell, Larkfield, St Christophers, St Mary's and St Kingsmark. The community has a total electorate of 9430 and is represented by 15 town councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Larkfield	1581	3
St Christophers	1892	3
St Kingsmark	2336	3
St Mary's	1522	3
Thornwell	2099	3

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider a number of roads within Chepstow that act as natural boundaries between wards. These include; Thornwell Road, Bulwark Road, Wye Valley Link Road and Newport Road.

To the east of the community of Chepstow is the River Wye which is the local authority boundary that cannot be amended as part of this review.

The working group also discussed the representations it had received in relation to New Farm Industrial Estate and Chepstow Racecourse.

Electorate Forecast

3. The electorate of the current St Mary's ward will increase from 1522 to 1860 due to new developments at the Fairfield Mabey site.

Representations Received

4. Chepstow Town Council submitted representation requesting the following amendments:
 - All of New Farm Industrial Estate to be included in the Chepstow Council area due to clarity and ease of administration. Additionally, the factory outside their area will be occupied by Fairfield Mabey who has strong historic and economic links with the Chepstow area.
 - Chepstow Racecourse be included in the council area. It is assumed that the racecourse falls within the boundary of the community of Chepstow and it is the Chepstow area that is greatly impacted upon by racecourse activities.

- Incorporate all the business and residential properties on High Beech Lane into the Larkfield ward.

4.1. A number of representations were received from vice-chair of Mathern Council and councillor for Mounton ward Carolyn Ovenden regarding the arrangements for the community of Mathern. In relation to the community of Chepstow it is recommended that properties at the upper end of Mounton Lane should be incorporated into the Mounton ward and that properties of High Beech Lane be incorporated into the Pwllmeyric ward.

Mathern council submitted additional representation in response to Chepstow Town Councils submission requesting that all of New Farm Industrial estate be incorporated into Chepstow. Mathern state that noise and light pollution from the estate greatly affect the properties in Mathern and the council ensured that a bund was erected to protect its residents from the estate. Mathern council request that the current boundary remains in its current format.

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The working group consider the boundary to the west of Chepstow that currently follows the Wye Valley Link Road to be a suitable boundary to divide the community of Chepstow to that of its neighbours. The group however considered the positioning of the properties of High Beech lane adjacent to the Wye Valley Link Road. The current boundary between the communities of Chepstow and Mathern follows High Beech Lane splitting the properties north of the road to the community of Chepstow and the south to Mathern. The working group believe that given the properties of High Beech Lanes' close links with Chepstow and direct access to the Wye Valley Link Road that these would be best suited to the community of Chepstow. The group therefore propose the new boundary should incorporate all of the properties of High Beech Lane in to the community of Chepstow.
 - 5.1. The group considered the amendment to the south western boundary put forward by Chepstow Town Council to incorporate all of the New Farm Industrial Estate into the community of Chepstow. The group believe that incorporating all of the industrial estate into one community would provide clear, easily identifiable boundaries which in turn would improve administration processes for the area. The group however accept Mathern Community Councils comments regarding the site and propose that the new boundary follows the bund erected by the council which would prohibit further expansion of the industrial estate without consultation with Mathern Community Council.
 - 5.2. The working group considered the representation received from Chepstow Town Council in relation to Chepstow Racecourse. Chepstow town council believe that Chepstow Racecourse should be incorporated into the community of Chepstow as it is commonly assumed that the racecourse falls within the community of Chepstow and the town council receive a number of enquiries regarding the racecourse. Additionally, the town council believe that the activities of the racecourse impact the greatest on the residents of Chepstow with visitor access by car, coach

and train all necessitating travel through the community of Chepstow. The working group agree with the representation of Chepstow Town Council and propose that the racecourse, and as a consequence the Piercefield Park area, are incorporated into the community of Chepstow. It is proposed that the boundary of Chepstow is extended to follow the edge of Bishops Barnet Wood, Cockshoot Wood and Fryth Wood and incorporate all properties within this area including Woodalde, Frythwood and Goldenhill. The boundary will then follow the edge of the overflow car park for the racecourse and north along the A466 and follow the edge of Piercefield Park where it will join the external community boundary of the River Wye.

Internal Boundaries

Larkfield, Maple Avenue, St Christophers and Thornwell

- 5.3. The group reviewed the current community arrangements for these three wards and queried why the wards run east to west across the community when all road access and natural lines of communication run north to south. The group also identified a number of roads where the boundary splits a street which is contrary to the Terms of Reference for this review.

The group considered the community of Chepstow and the area covering these three wards and highlighted that the area south of Newport Road, Hardwick Hill and Mount Pleasant as being a natural divide between the area north and south of the community given its direct links with the town centre and the Wye Valley Link Road.

The group considered the existing arrangements of the Thornwell Ward and identified an anomaly in the boundary in the Warren Slade area. The current boundary of the community intersects the new area of housing splitting properties with common links, and in the same street, between two wards. Similarly, with the boundary currently following Burnt Barn Road, a number of properties with common links and channels of communication are split between wards, particularly in the Holly Close & Western Avenue area. To that end, and taking account of the terms of reference criteria of not splitting streets between wards, the group propose a new boundary for the Thornwell ward which follows the Wye Valley Link Road incorporating the area east and south of this road within the Thornwell ward. The boundary will also follow Conwy Drive and Beaufort Park Way utilising the main southern entrance into Chepstow as the boundary before following Thornwell Road northwards to the rear of properties on Middle Way. The boundary will then follow the rear of properties on Middle Way eastwards to the external community boundary. The working group consider this boundary more suitable than the existing arrangements as it ensures that properties with similar links, channels of communication and shared interests are incorporated into a single ward as well as resolving the issue of properties being split between separate wards. The area of Middle Way and Raglan Way have been incorporated into the Thornwell due to the access to these roads off Warren Slade which has direct footpaths to Heather Close directly linking the areas with each other.

The group considered the remainder of the area and created a new Bulwark ward which incorporates the housing to the west of Thornwell Road up to the rear of properties on Chartist Way and Channel View not including Bulwark Community Centre. The boundary will follow the

rear of Channel View up to Mathern way where it will follow the rear of properties on Queens Road and the edge of Pembroke Junior School as well as the properties on Alpha Road utilising the industrial estate as the boundary for the ward. The group consider this new ward resolves the issue of streets being split between wards whilst ensuring boundaries are clear and follow easily identifiable boundaries. The new ward also has regard to the various stages of housing development within the Burnt Barn Road area which incorporates much of the original housing development.

The working group propose a new ward of Maple Avenue that will incorporate the area of housing to the west of the original burnt barn development up to Mathern Road. The layout of the houses within this area mean all channels of communication are centred around Maple Avenue with access to other areas of the community only available via Mathern Road and Rowan Drive providing little link between this area and the rest of the community to enable it to be combined to another ward. Whilst the working group acknowledge that the electorate of this ward will be relatively low compared to the other wards in the community, the number of electors is sufficient to require its own representation within the community and ensures that natural boundaries are utilised in setting the community wards.

The final ward, Larkfield, incorporates the area north of, and including, Pembroke Junior School and Bulwark Business Park up to the rear of properties of Hardwick Hill and Newport Road. The ward also includes properties accessible off Mathern Road including Beech Grove, High Beech Lane and Fair View. The northern boundary of the Larkfield ward will follow the rear of properties on Newport Road and Chepstow Town AFC playing fields before following the rear of the properties on Gwentlands close. The western boundary will be similar to the existing ward boundary in following the area that divides Garden City and Bulwark Road.

St Mary's

- 5.4. The group considered the existing arrangements for the St Mary's ward and concluded that much of the ward is suitable and fit for purpose other than bringing the boundaries of the ward in line with the terms of reference and in particular the issue of splitting streets between wards. To that end the boundary has been amended near Mount Pleasant and Welsh Street to ensure the boundaries are in line with the terms of reference and to better divide the town centre area between the housing of Welsh Street. The working group proposed a new name for this ward of Chepstow Castle given its prominence within the ward.

St Kingsmark

- 5.5. The working group considered the St Kingsmark ward and felt that due to the high electorate within the ward, and amendments to the external northern boundary of the community, that the existing St Kingsmark ward could be divided.

One of the wards, to be known as Mount Pleasant, will incorporate the area north of the proposed Larkfield ward including Newport Road, Hardwick Hill and Mount Pleasant as well as St

Lawrence Road and Mounon Road with the northern boundary following the rear of properties on Hale Wood and Castle Wood.

The second ward to be named Crossway Green incorporates the area of housing north of the town centre area along Welsh Street and north of St Lawrence Road from the proposed boundary of the Mount Pleasant ward. The Crossway Green ward will also incorporate the proposed changes to the external community boundary near the racecourse roundabout and Chepstow Racecourse.

Proposed community and community ward names

6. The working group propose no change of name to the community of Chepstow but propose a number of changes to the ward names due to amendments in the boundaries. The six wards of Chepstow will be Thornwell, Bulwark, Larkfield, Mount Pleasant, Chepstow Castle and Crossway Green. The working group welcome representations as to more suitable alternative names for the wards of the community.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Chepstow community to fall within the urban category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 500 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Larkfield	1095	2
Bulwark	1902	4
Mount Pleasant	1571	3
Chepstow Castle	1644	3
Crossway Green	1541	3
Thornwell	1436	3
Maple Avenue	609	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (draft proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Chepstow.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

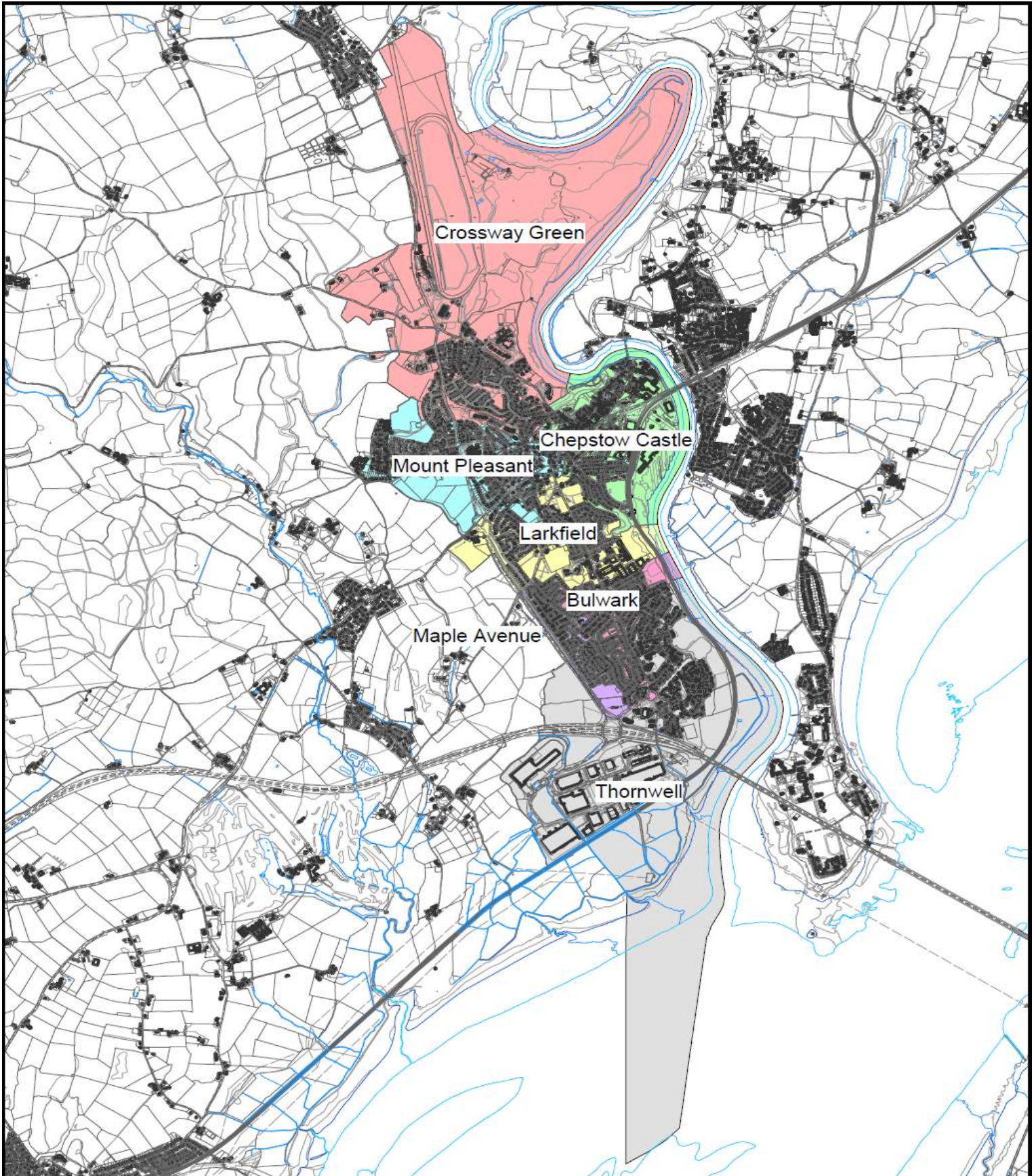
9. No represetatives attended the open seminar from Chepstow Town Council to give representation to the working group. Written representation was received which broadly supported the proposals however the Council requested that St Kingsmark be retained for the proposed ward of Crossway Green.


Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations received, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals for the reasons contained in the draft proposals with the exception of changing the ward name from Crossway Green to St Kingsmark as per the request from Chepstow Town Council.
- 10.1 Additionally, the working group identified that Bulwark Community Centre is not situated within the proposed Bulwark ward and believe it should be, as well as including all the properties on Cromwell Road in a single ward. Therefore the boundary between Bulwark and Maple Avenue wards will be amended slightly to include these properties within the Bulwark ward.

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Proposed Boundary Map of Chepstow



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Community of Crucorney

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Crucorney consist of five wards, Bwlch Trewyn & Old Castle, Forest & Ffwddog, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Lower Cwmyoy and Upper Cwmyoy. The community has a total electorate of 1048 and is represented by 11 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Bwlch Trewyn & Old Castle	51	1
Forest & Ffwddog	119	2
Llanvihangel Crucorney	731	6
Lower Cwmyoy	86	1
Upper Cwmyoy	61	1

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. Many of the boundaries surrounding the community of Crucorney are external local authority boundaries that are not being considered as part of this review. The boundary to the south of the community is led by the Sugar Loaf mountain which provides a natural boundary between the communities of Crucorney and Abergavenny/Llantilio Pertholey.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are currently no developments proposed within the community of Crucorney that would significantly alter the current electorate.

Representations Received

4. No representations were received regarding the community of Crucorney.

Recommendations

External Boundaries

5. As mentioned above, many of the external boundaries of the Crucorney community are the local authority boundary which cannot be amended as part of this review.
 - 5.1. The boundary to the East of the community of Crucorney is the divide between the communities of Crucorney and Grosmont and follows Great Park Road. The current boundary however splits properties on the same road between the two communities which is contrary to the Terms of Reference for this review. The working group therefore propose that the boundary is moved to the West of the properties along this road to incorporate all of Great Park Road into the community of Grosmont.

Internal Boundaries

Bwlch Trewyn & Old Castle / Forest & Ffwddog

5.2. The working group considered the current arrangements for these ward and propose no change.

Upper & Lower Cwmyoy

5.3. The working group considered the arrangements for these two community wards and whilst they do not propose a change to the external boundaries of the wards, they were unclear as to the need for separate representation between Lower and Upper Cwmyoy. Whilst it would appear to be a large geographic area should the wards be merged, the working group believe that as all areas are accessible from the road that connects Brynarw to Llanthony which joins the two wards, then it should be manageable to be represented as a single ward of the community. The working group therefore propose to merge Upper and Lower Cwmyoy wards to create a Cwmyoy ward.

Llanvihangel Crucorney

5.4. As mentioned in paragraph 5.1, the working group propose to alter the eastern boundary of the Llanvihangel Crucorney ward to move away from following Great Park Road, to ensure that all those properties are contained within a single community.

Within the Llanvihangel Crucorney ward, the working group consider that a new ward could be created covering the Pandy and Werngifford area. The new ward would follow the boundary from the railway at the north of the ward and follow the River Monnow south where it joins the brook that follows the edge of the Werngifford estate which it can follow eastwards to join the new external community boundary.

The working group consider that the Werngifford area is an easily identifiable boundary that you reach when travelling along the A465 and acts as a natural boundary between Llanvihangel Crucorney to the south of the area and that of Wengifford and Pandy to the north.

It is therefore proposed that two wards are created in place of the existing Llanvihangel Crucorney ward, one known as Llanvihangel Crucorney and the other known as Pandy.

Proposed community and community ward names

6. The working group propose no changes to the community name Crucorney. As detailed above, it is proposed that the Upper and Lower Cwmyoy wards are merged to form the Cwmyoy ward. Additionally a new ward of Pandy is created covering the area detailed in 5.4 above.

The working group welcome representations being made for suitable alternative names of the community or community wards.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Crucorney community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Bwlch Trewyn & Old Castle	51	1
Forest & Ffwddog	119	1
Llanvihangel Crucorney	363	2
Pandy	362	2
Cwmyoy	147	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Crucorney.

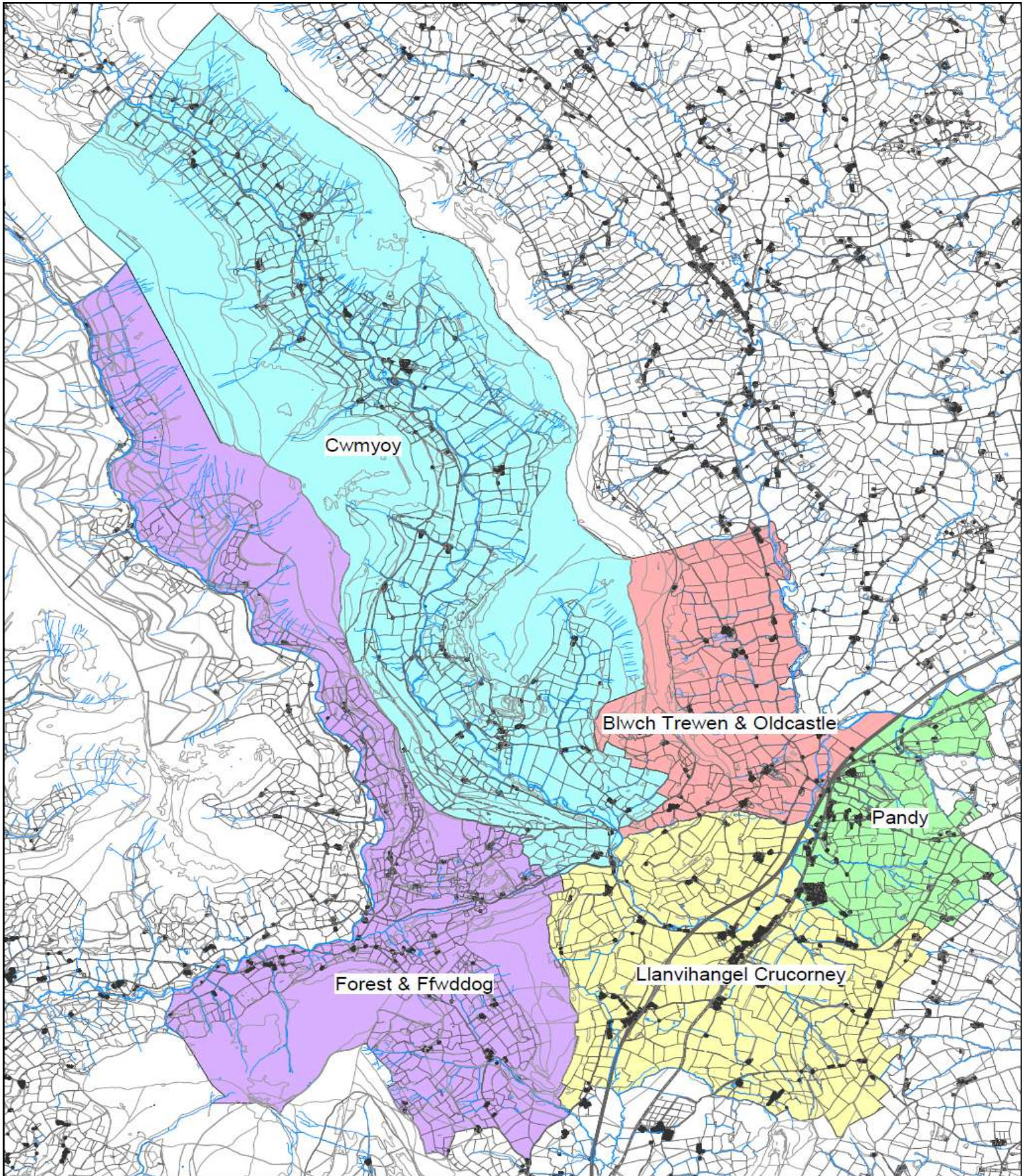
Final Proposals


Representations Recieved

9. Representatives of Crucorney Community Council attended the open seminar and provided the following comments in response to the draft proposals
- Question the reduction in councillors from 11 to 7
 - Opposed the merging of lower and upper cwmyoy wards due to size of ward
 - Concerns raised regarding devolution of services
 - Potential increase in building within Pandy and BBNP
- 9.1 Representation was received from the County Councillor for Crucorney wishing that the status quo remained as there had been little change to the area since the last review and that links in rural communities can be difficult to understand. Additionally, the councillor did not want to see a reduction in the number of councillors for the community.
- 9.2 Representation was also received from a standing crucial community councillor who questioned the reduction in the number of councillors for the community.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment.
- 10.1 Whilst the working group understand the concerns of the Community Council and those who submitted representations regarding geographic size of wards and the reduction in councillor numbers, the group are content that the proposals are line with the terms of reference for the review and the proposals would ensure equal representation in similar wards throughout the local authority area.



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Community of Devauden

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Devauden consist of four wards, Devauden, Itton, Kilgrwng and Llanvihangel Wolvesnewton. The community has a total electorate of 852 and is represented by 8 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Devauden	409	3
Itton	196	2
Kilgrwng	104	2
Llanvihangel Wolvesnewton	143	1

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider a key feature of the Devauden community to be the B4293 which runs north to south through the community connecting a number of villages.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no developments planned within the community of Devauden that would significantly alter the existing electorate.

Representations Received

4. No representations were received regarding the community arrangements for Devauden.

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The working group considered the existing arrangements for Devauden and propose little change to the external community boundary. There are two instances however where the community boundary has been amended.
 - 5.1. The first amendment is to the south eastern boundary of the community near Coppice Mawr. The current boundary of the community runs to the west of Coppice Mawr with a small number of properties along the B4293 situated in the St Arvans community which appear to have a closer link with the community of Devauden along this road. It is proposed that the boundary of Devauden is extended to the western edge of Fryth Wood before returning westwards to the existing community boundary north of Howick, incorporating all properties along the B4293 up to Fryth Wood in the community of Devauden. The boundary of the Shirenewton community has been amended to incorporate all of Coppice Mawr into the community of Shirenewton therefore the Devauden boundary will run to the east of Coppice Mawr rather than to the west of it.

5.2. The second amendment is to the north eastern boundary between the community of Devauden and the Penterry ward of the Tintern community. It is proposed that the Penterry ward of Tintern is merged with the St Arvans community and in making this amendment, the working group considered that the properties of The Cot would be better situated within the Devauden community rather than St Arvans. It is proposed that the new boundary will follow the western edge of Fair oak Pond and follow the Anghidi Fechan and Anghidi Fawr to the existing boundary incorporating much of the Ravensnest Wood and 'The Cot' into the community of Devauden.

Internal Boundary

Itton & Kilgrwng

5.3. Other than amendments proposed to the external community boundary above for the Itton ward, the working group propose no change in the boundaries for these wards.

Llanvihangel Wolvesnewton & Devauden

5.4. The current Llanvihangel Wolvesnewton ward covers the village of Wolvesnewton as well as the area of Star Hill. Access between these two areas require electors to travel through the Devauden ward before reaching the other part of the Llanvihangel Wolvesnewton ward. The working group do not believe that there is a significant link between the two areas to retain the existing ward boundary. It is therefore proposed that the Wolvesnewton village forms part of the Devauden ward with the northern boundary of the Devauden ward amended to follow Pill Brook to the west of Tredeon and south of Lanpill to the existing ward boundary. The remaining area of Llanvihangel Wolvesnewton will be renamed Llanvihangel Tor-Y-Mynydd and be a new ward of the Devauden community.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The working group propose no change to much of the community and community ward names of Devauden with a new ward of Llanvihangel Tor-Y-Mynydd being created due to the changes at 5.4 above. The working group welcome receipt of representations as to more suitable community and community ward names.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Devauden community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Devauden	445	3
Itton	221	2
Kilgrwng	104	1

Llanvihangel Tor-Y-Mynydd	107	1
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Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Devauden.

Final Proposals

Representations Received

9. Representation was received from a community councillor for Devauden and resident of Dyers House, Itton. Before the previous community review, the community boundary between Devauden and Shirenewton followed Mouton Brook with a number of properties north of the brook situated in the Devauden community. Residents in the area are more closely associated with Itton and the properties address contains Itton rather than Shirenewton so wishes to move back into Devauden with the boundary following the brook as it was previously.

- 9.1 Representation was received in relation to the property The Tout which currently is situated in the Itton ward in Devauden but its access is through Piccadilly Lane and the rest of the Penterry ward and recommended that this property should be moved into the Penterry Ward.

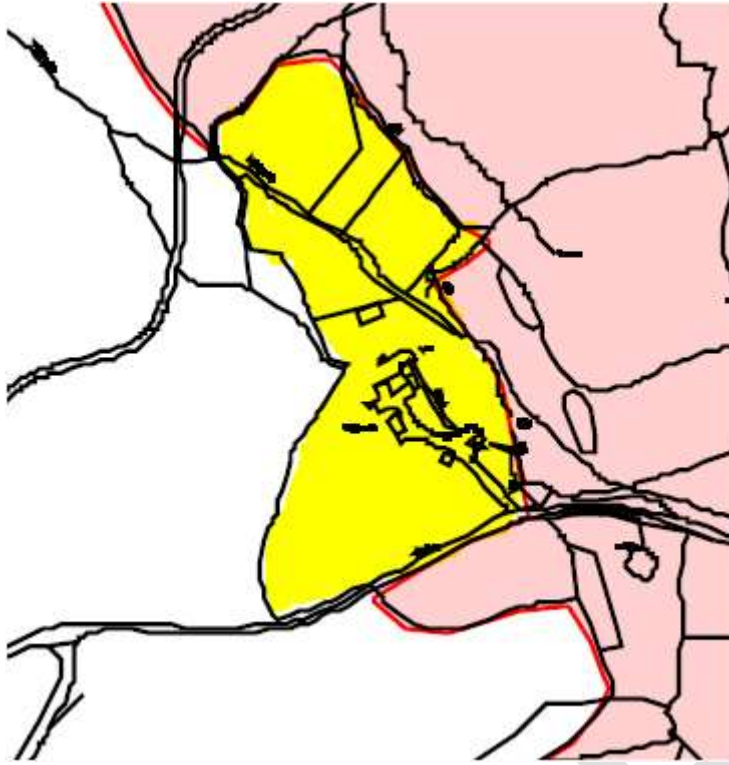
Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations received, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals with the amendment included in the representation it received in relation to the boundary between Shirenewton and Devauden at Mouton Brook.

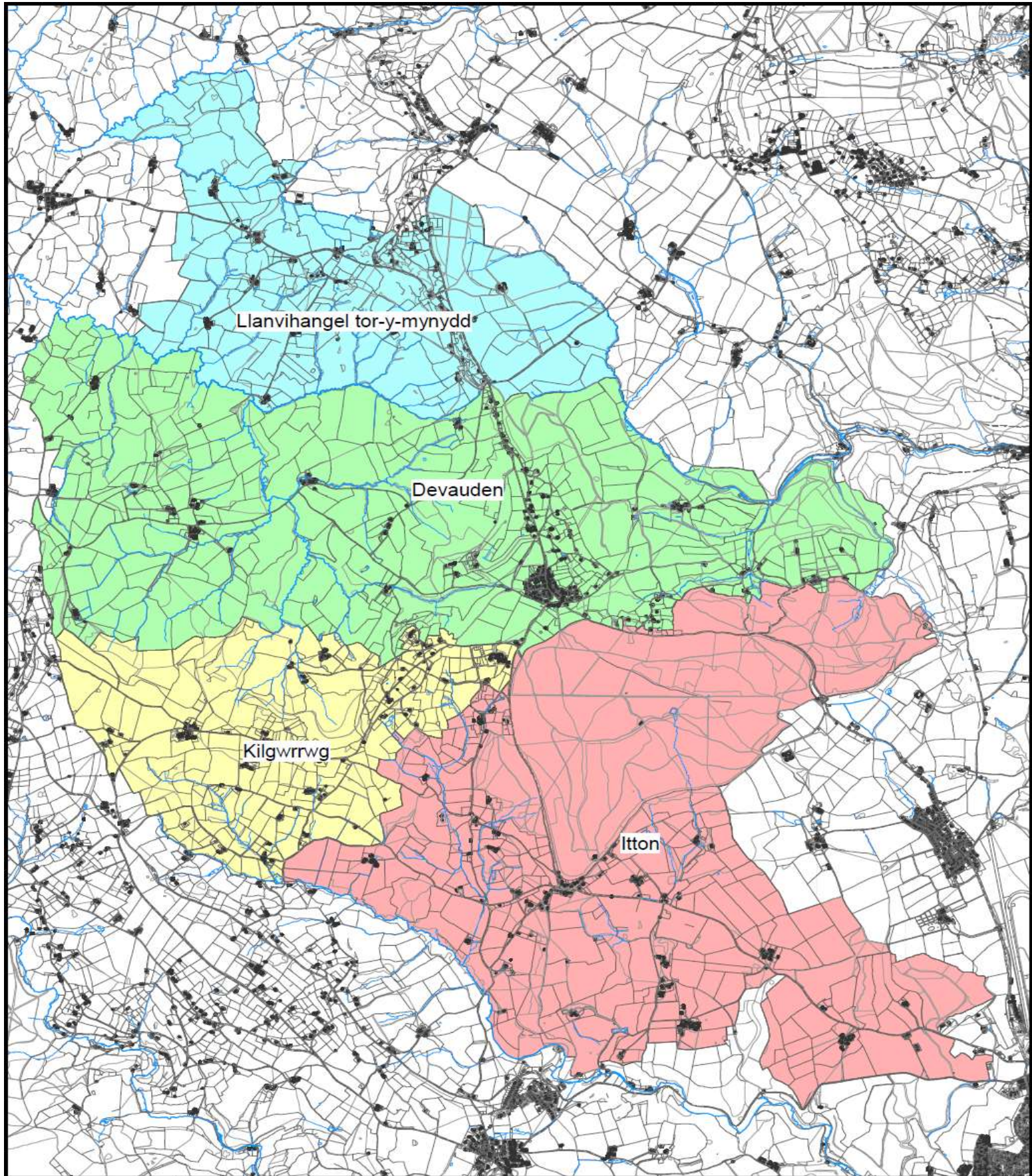
- 10.1 The new boundary will follow Mouton Brook just north of Whitemill and rejoin the existing ward boundary to the east of Pandy Mill House incorporating the properties Whitemill, Dyers House, The Old Saw Mill, Brook Cottage, Laundry Cottage, Millbrook Stable, Mill House and Pandy Mill House in to the Itton ward of Devauden Community. The amendment is an increase in 19 electors for the Itton ward with the electoral arrangements as below:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Devauden	445	3
Itton	240	2
Kilgrwwg	104	1
Llanvihangel Tor-Y-Mynydd	107	1

- 10.2 The working group received and accept the representation received regarding The Tout and propose to amend the boundary for the St Arvans community to include that property within its boundary. The boundary will be amended as per the below map with the yellow area to be included in the community of St Arvans.



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Community of Goetre Fawr

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Goetre Fawr consist of two wards, Goetre and Mamhilad. The community has a total electorate of 1889 and is represented by 12 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Goetre	1309	9
Mamhilad	580	3

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The southern and eastern boundaries are local authority boundaries that cannot be considered as part of this review.
 - 2.1. The A4042 and railway are two prominent features that run north to south the community of Goetre Fawr.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are currently no developments proposed within the community of Goetre Fawr that would significantly alter the current electorate.

Representations Received

4. No representations were received regarding the community of Goetre.

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The working group considered the existing boundary of the community of Goetre and questioned the location of Little Mill within the community of Goetre. The Little Mill village is currently situated in the Mamhilad ward of Goetre Fawr Community however it has very little links with the remainder of the ward due to the intersection of the A4042. The group believe that given the link Little Mill has with the wards of Llanbadoc along the A472, that the village should be incorporated into the community of Llanbadoc as its own ward with the eastern boundary being the railway adjacent to the A4042.
 - 5.1. As part of the review into the community of Llanover the working group considered that the Llanover ward should not form part of the existing community of Llanover due to its strong links with the village of Goetre along the A4042. To that end the working group propose that the ward

of Llanover is incorporated into the community of Goetre with the existing boundary forming the ward boundary.

- 5.2. The group also propose to amend the boundary that currently divides Goetre and Llanfair Kilegeddin near Nant-Y-Derry. The current boundary follows a stream adjacent to Chain Bridge Road however this places a number of properties, Lower Pen-Twyn Farm & Lower House Farm which have clear links to Nant-Y-Derry, into the Llanfair Kilegeddin ward. It is therefore proposed that the boundary in this area is amended to follow field boundaries around these properties incorporating these properties in to the Nant-Y-Derry ward of Goetre Fawr.
- 5.3. Within the representation submitted by Llanbadoc Community Council, they reference Penpedairheol Farm as being better suited to the Llanbadoc community rather than its current community of Goetre as every other property situated on its road falls within the Llanbadoc community. The working group see no reason to object to this proposal and provided no objection is received will include the amendment in the final proposals.

Internal Boundary

Mamhilad

- 5.4. As mentioned in paragraph 5 above it is proposed that the Mamhilad ward is amended so that the village of Little Mill is no longer included in the ward. The working group noted that the current boundary between Goetre and Mamhilad runs east to west along the community when all communication links along the A4042, the railway line and Goetre Wharf area run north to south. To that end the group propose a new ward of Goetre Wharf to replace the Mamhilad ward which incorporates properties to the west of the A4042 into a single ward that runs north to south through the community to the boundary for the Llanover ward.

Nant-Y-Derry

- 5.5. The working group also propose a new Nant-Y-Derry ward which incorporates the area to east of the A4042 that is northern and easterly of the village of Goetre and the railway. The group are conscious that the majority of the population of the community of Goetre is centralised within the village however there are a number of small hamlets within the community that require separate representation to that of the Goetre village itself.

Goetre

- 5.6. The group also propose to retain a ward for the village of Goetre that is focused around the village itself rather than including the areas mentioned in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 above.

Proposed community and Community ward names

6. The working group propose to amend the existing community name of Goetre Fawr to Goetre Wharf. As stated above the group propose four wards within the community named Goetre,

Goetre Wharf, Nant-Y-Derry and Llanover. The working group welcome representations being made for suitable alternative names of the community or community wards.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Goetre community to fall within the mixed category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 250 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Goetre	994	4
Goetre Wharf	331	2
Nant-Y-Derry	147	1
Llanover	241	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Goetre Wharf.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

9. Representation was received from Goetre Community Council regarding the following points
- The community council believe that Goetre and Little Mill interact in many ways through schools, sports clubs, nursery care and pensioner clubs.
 - Concerns at reduction in number of councillors
 - Unaware of connections to Llanbadoc or Llanover other than roads connecting the villages.
 - Recommended name changes due to having a ward of the same name as the Council
 - Further increase of 65 dwellings at Folly View Close development
 - Concerns regarding relationship with Church of Wales

- 9.1. The County Councillor for Goetre attended the public seminar and supported the representations put forward by the Community Council.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals for the reasons contained in the draft proposals subject to some small amendments.

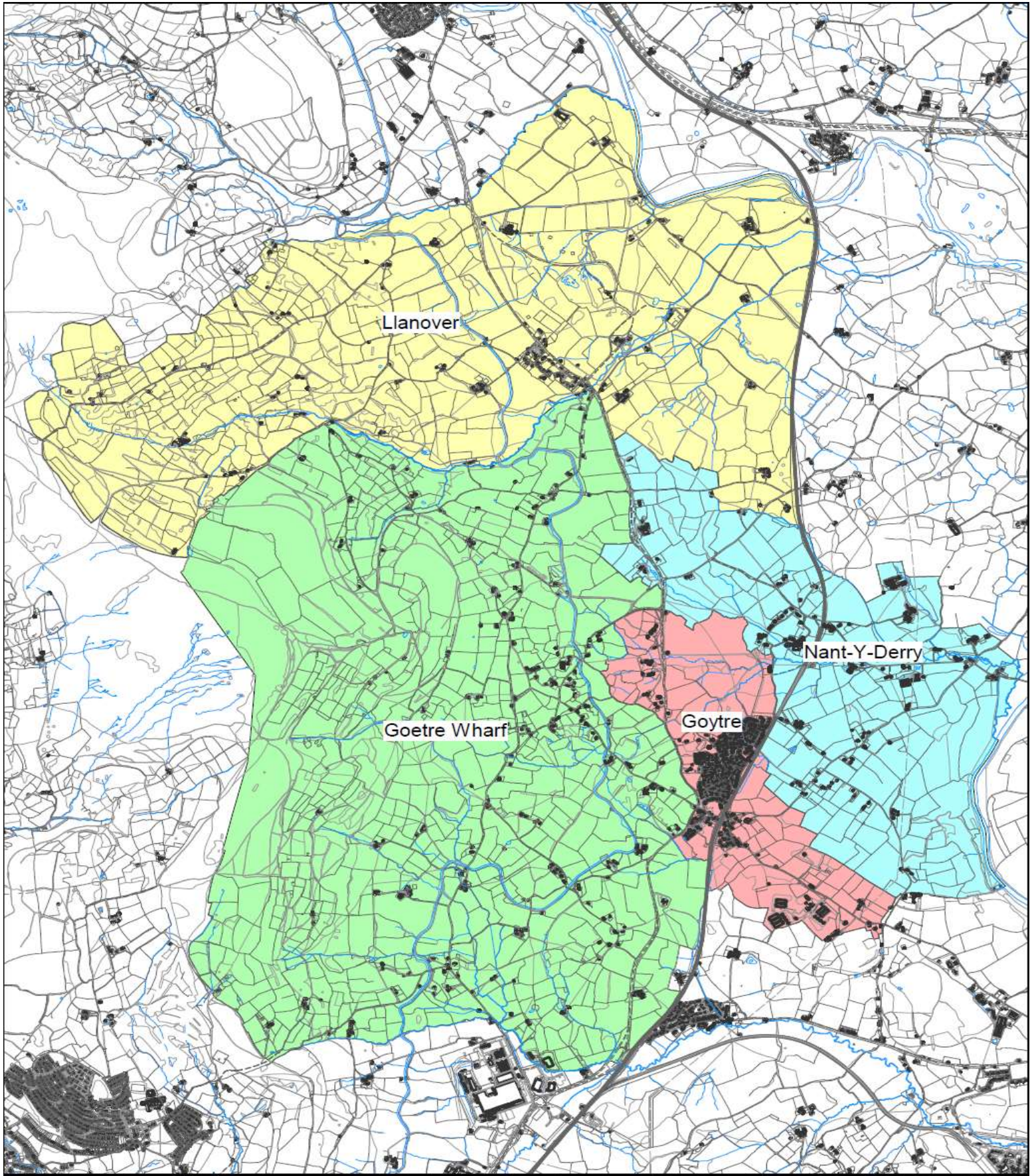
- 10.1 The working group concur with the Community Council in that the duplicate naming of communities and community wards could be confusing. It is therefore proposed to retain the name of the community as 'Goetre Fawr' rather than 'Goetre Wharf'. Additionally, the internal

ward shall be named 'Goytre' rather than 'Goetre' as included in the representation received from the Community Council.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Goytre	994	4
Goetre Wharf	331	2
Nant-Y-Derry	147	1
Llanover	241	1

10.2 A further small amendment is proposed to the boundary of the Goytre ward between Goetre and Llanbadoc communities at Penpedairheol Farm. Currently, access to the farm is from Rumble Street which is situated in the Llanbadoc Community but the farm itself is within the Goetre Community. It is therefore proposed that the current boundary is amended to continue running north to the east of Rumble Street along the boundary of the farm and along the rear boundary of Royal Oak Cottage before following the road back to the current boundary position.

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Community of Grosmont

Current Community Format

11. The current community arrangements in Grosmont consist of four wards, Grosmont, Llangattock Lingoed, Llangua and Llanvetherine. The community has a total electorate of 673 and is represented by nine community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Grosmont	420	5
Llangattock Lingoed	89	1
Llangua	43	1
Llanvetherine	121	2

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

12. Boundaries to the north and east of the community of Grosmont are local authority boundaries that will not be considered as part of this review. The working group consider natural and easily identifiable boundaries with the Grosmont Community area as the A465 as well as Grosmont Castle.

Electorate Forecast

13. There are no proposed developments within the Grosmont area that would affect the current electorate within the area.

Representations Received

14. No representations were received regarding the community of Grosmont.

Recommendations

External Boundary

15. As already noted in the proposals for Crucorney, the working group propose to alter the existing boundary between Crucorney and Grosmont as the current boundary follows Great Park Road and splits properties along it between two communities. The boundary will be moved further to the west to incorporate all the properties on Great Park Road in the community of Grosmont.

- 1.1. The working group also considered the positioning of the Llanvetherine ward in relation to the rest of the community of Grosmont and its surrounding communities. The working group considered that the Llanvetherine ward had more common links and channels of communication with the Llantilio Crossenny community than with the community of Grosmont. The working

group considered the ward in relation to both communities and when considered with the proposals for the community of Llantilio Crossenny, the working group believe that the Llanvetherine ward is best situated in the community of Llantilio Crossenny (proposed new community of Skenfrith) given its close ties with the B4521 and channels of communication east to west along the road rather than north to south.

Internal Boundaries

Grosmont and Llangua

- 1.2. The working group considered the arrangements for the Grosmont and Llangua wards and concluded that the Llangua ward has sufficient road and communication links with the rest of the Grosmont ward to enable the small area of Llangua to be incorporated in the Grosmont ward.

The current Llangua ward has an electorate of 43 which significantly below the target ratio of 150 electors per community councillor as set in the Terms of Reference for the review. Given this lower ratio and the common links the Llangua ward has with the remainder of the Grosmont ward the working group propose to merge the ward Llangua with the Grosmont ward.

The working group propose the name of Grosmont for the ward but welcome suggestions as to suitable alternatives.

Llangattock Lingoed

- 1.3. The working group considered the current warding arrangements for the Llangattock Lingoed ward. The group believe that the Llangattock Lingoed area is a unique and isolated village which requires its own representation within a community, however, the group were unclear as to which community the Llangattock Lingoed ward should be situated.

The group considered the access arrangements to Llangattock Lingoed from the Grosmont ward in which it is currently situated and concluded that the only access arrangements to the village are through the adjoining communities of Crucorney or Llantilio Crossenny. However, the working group are unaware of any issues that the current arrangements cause and given the historical links between Llangattock Lingoed and Grosmont the group propose to retain the Llangattock Lingoed ward within the community of Grosmont.

The western boundary of Llangattock Lingoed will be altered as the boundary currently follows Great Park Road and divides properties on that road between two communities. The working group propose moving the boundary to the west incorporating all properties along this road into the Grosmont community.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

16. The working group propose no amendment to the community and community ward names of Grosmont but welcome representations as to more suitable names.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

17. The working group consider the Grosmont community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Whilst the working group understand that the community of Grosmont is less than the ideal 1,000 electors for a community as per the Terms of Reference for this review, the group consider the sparsely populated natural geography and channels of communication within the area lend itself to requiring its own community. Additionally, any further amalgamation of the community with its neighbours would result in the community be geographically large and difficult to represent effectively.

As per the Terms of Reference, it was agreed that a community must be represented by a minimum of seven councillors in order to conduct their business effectively. To that end, the Grosmont community will be represented by seven councillors rather than four as per the above ratio.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Grosmont	463	5
Llangattock Lingoed	89	2

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Grosmont.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

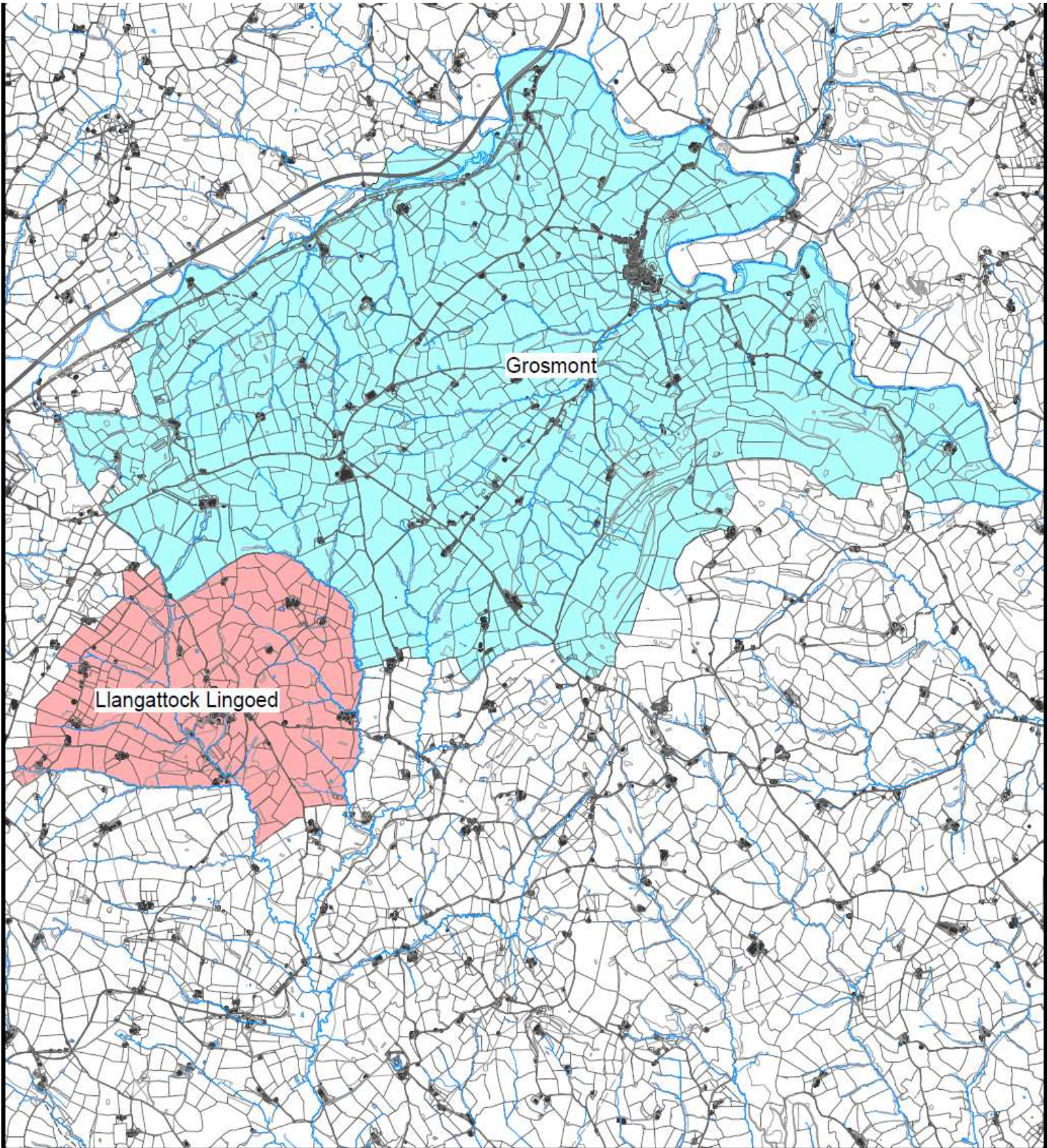
9. Representations were received from the County Councillor for Crucorney who represents the community of Grosmont and summarised;
- The community is cohesive achieved through its long traditions with Llanvetherine and Llangattock Lingoed Churches.
 - Little development within the area to justify change
 - Llangattock Lingoed and Llanvetherine farms and properties are neighbouring with Llangattock Lingoed residents passing through Llanvetherine to go to Abergavenny. Llanvetherine residents go to Hunters Moon pub in Llangattock Lingoed.
 - Proved difficult to get a councillor for Llangattock Lingoed let alone two.
 - Llangua deserves representation from within, not tagged on to Grosmont.
 - Little interaction between Llanvetherine and Skenfrith.


9.1 Representations were also received from Grosmont Community Council similar to the representation from the County Councillor for the area.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations received, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment for the reasons contained in the draft proposals above.

10.1 The working group reviewed the representations received in line with the proposals and for the reasons contained in the proposals for the communities of Llangattock Vibon Avel and Llantilio Crossenny believe that the draft proposals provide the best outcome for the community arrangements. The working group understand the historical links between Llangattock Lingoed and Llanvetherine from the representations it has received, however there is no representations providing any link between Llanvetherine and the Grosmont community and given the B4521 runs directly through Llanvetherine linking it with Abergavenny and Skenfrith, it is for this reason the group are satisfied with the proposal.



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Community of Gwehelog Fawr

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Gwehelog consist of three wards, Gwehelog, Trostre and Kemeys Commander. The community has a total electorate of 384 and is represented by seven community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Gwehelog & Llancayo	265	4
Kemeys Commander	34	1
Trostre	85	2

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider key features within the community of Gwehelog Fawr to be the River Usk, the B4598 and Usk Road.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no developments within the Gwehelog Fawr community that would significantly alter the current electorate.

Representations Received

4. Gwehelog Fawr Community Council submitted a representation that can be summarised as follows:
 - The council doesn't understand the purpose of the review as any reduction in councillors does not result in any cost saving benefit and will result in less representation for the electorate in the community
 - The council gave an illustration of Llanbadoc community being merged with Gwehelog to meet the requirement of 1,000 electors per community but state that this instance would be in direct opposition to the Government philosophy to enable localism and public participation.
 - The council wish to oppose any reduction in the current level of representation.

Recommendations

5. Upon reviewing the community of Gwehelog Fawr the working group queried the link between the east and west side of the community given that the main channel of communication through the community is via the B4598 and Usk Road which require electors from within this community to travel through the adjoining Usk community before reaching either side. Whilst there is a narrow single track lane that adjoins Gwehelog and Llancayo, the group doesn't consider this a

strong link between each side of the community. Additionally, due to the River Usk and the A449 surrounding the community of Gwehelog there is little scope to alter the community in anyway.

- 5.1. Having regard to the above, the working group propose that the community of Gwehelog is disbanded with the area split into two wards following the Usk Road and B4598 which incorporate the west and east side of the existing community.
- 5.2. The eastern ward, which will be named the Gwehelog ward, will incorporate much of the area of the existing ward up to the edge of Llancayo wood and will form part of the Raglan community. The group consider that the Gwehelog area has stronger links and channels of communication with the community of Raglan via Usk Road than it does with the remainder of the existing community of Gwehelog.
- 5.3. The western ward, which will be named Kemeys Commander and Llancayo, will run north to south through the existing Gwehelog Fawr community incorporating the area of, and including, Llancayo and Trostre wood. This ward will be included in the Llanarth community given the links between Trostre and Kemeys Commander with Bettws Newydd.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

6. For the proposed electoral arrangements for these wards please see the respective communities the wards are now situated within.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

7. Representations were received from Gwehelog Community Council providing the below notes:
 - The council believe the main channel of communication within the community is the R61 Llancayo Road running east to west through the community
 - Kemeys Commander has stronger links with Trostre and Gwehelog than with Bettws Newydd of Llanarth
 - Proposals to the boundary between Raglan and Gwehelog as well as proposing to incorporate Clytha ward of Llanarth into Gwehelog Community
 - A number of social and cultural links within the area
 - Difference between the community of Raglan and Gwehelog
8. Representation was also received from the Member of Parliament raising concerns of Gwehelog community being disbanded.
9. Representation from Llanarth Community Council supported the movement of Kemeys Commander and Llancayo into its community and provide a number of links as to how the areas are connected.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations received, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.

10.1 Whilst the working group understand the concerns of the community in that the Gwehelog ward has different characteristics to Raglan, the group believe that those characteristics are only different to the Raglan ward of the Raglan community, which has rural areas within its current boundary that are similar to the Gwehelog ward.

10.2 Additionally, to give the rural wards a stronger voice on the council, it is proposed that the Llandenny and Gwehelog wards of the council have two councillors rather than the proposed single member representation.

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Community of Llangybi Fawr & Llanhennock

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llangybi Fawr consist of three wards, Llangybi, Coed-Y-Paen and Llandegfedd. The community has a total electorate of 740 and is represented by nine community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Coed-Y-Paen	116	2
Llandegfedd	153	2
Llangybi	471	5

The current community arrangements in Llanhennock consist of three wards, Llangattock Nigh Caerleon, Llanhennock and Tredunnock. The community has a total electorate of 413 and is represented by eight community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llangattock Nigh Caerleon	96	2
Llanhennock	162	3
Tredunnock	155	3

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The western boundary of both communities and southern boundary of Llanhennock is the external boundary of the local authority which is not being considered as part of this review. The eastern boundary of both communities follows the River Usk.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no developments planned within the communities of Llangybi Fawr and Llanhennock that would significantly alter the existing electorate.

Representations Received

4. Llangybi Fawr submitted a representation stating that the current arrangements are accepted, manageable and well understood by the three communities. The council wish for consideration to be given to the geographical spread of the wards within its communities and the distance needed to travel for meetings and site visits. The Council wish to retain the existing arrangements in boundaries and elected members and feel that any reduction in representation would impact on the council's effectiveness to carry out its duties.
 - 4.1. No representation was received from Llanhennock community council.

Recommendations

External Boundaries

5. The working group reviewed the current arrangements for the Llangybi Fawr community and felt that both Llanhennock and Llangybi Fawr communities should be merged to create a larger Llangybi Fawr community and therefore both communities have been reviewed together.

When considering the communities, the working group identified that the main road access between many of the wards of both communities centre on an area near the Cwrt Bleddyn Hotel with easy access north to Llangybi, east to Tredunnoch, south to Llanhennock and west to Llandegveth creating a central point which covers both communities lending itself to the decision to merge the two communities.

Whilst the working group accept the representation from Llangybi Fawr Community Council in that geographically the community area is already quite large for members to conduct their business, the proposed community would not be the largest community in Monmouthshire. Having a central focal point as mentioned above with good road access to other areas of the community would enable councillors to carry out their role as councillor relatively easily compared to other communities with similar geography.

Internal Boundaries

6. The working group propose no change to the internal wards of both communities. As mentioned above, the working group accept that the villages of the communities are geographically separate from each other but well linked via the roads crossing through the community. Therefore the working group are keen to ensure that whilst the community itself may be increase geographically, that there is still local representation for the individual villages of the community.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

7. The working group propose that the merged community is to be called Llangybi Fawr. The working group propose no change to the ward names of the community and therefore there will be six wards within the new Llangybi Fawr community of Coed-Y-Paen, Llandegfedd, Llangybi, Llangattock Nigh Caerleon, Llanhennock and Tredunnoch.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

8. The working group consider the Llangybi Fawr community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Coed-Y-Paen	116	1
Llandegfedd	153	1
Llangybi	471	3
Llangattock Nigh Caerleon	96	1
Llanhennock	162	1
Tredunnoch	155	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

9. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Llangybi Fawr.

Final Proposals

Representations Received

10. Representation was received from Llantrisant Community Council opposing the amalgamation with Llangybi Community Council on the following basis:

- Acknowledges a lower level of representation than in other areas within its community but believes the current arrangements and experience of members represent the community effectively
- Consider an amalgamation would have a detrimental effect on the representation that its residents experience under the current arrangements

10.1 Andrew Wilkinson also submitted representation stating that the wider remit and future of Community Councils should be clear and understood as well as concerns around the reduction in councillor numbers.

10.2 Patrick Harkness submitted representation questioning the rationale and logic for the merging of communities as well as query the future proposals and responsibilities for community councils.

11. Llangybi Community Council also submitted representations objecting to the proposal for amalgamation on the following points:

- Questioned timing of the review given uncertain future of community responsibility and devolved services
- Feel that the level of representation within the community is unfair and does not suit the area
- Note a proposal for ten additional dwellings in the Llangybi ward
- Provide example of 7 meetings outside the council that members attend to represent the community and programmes of work undertaken by the community.

11.1 Representation was also received from the Coed Y Paen Residents Association requesting that two members are retained for the ward and that a male/female gender balance of

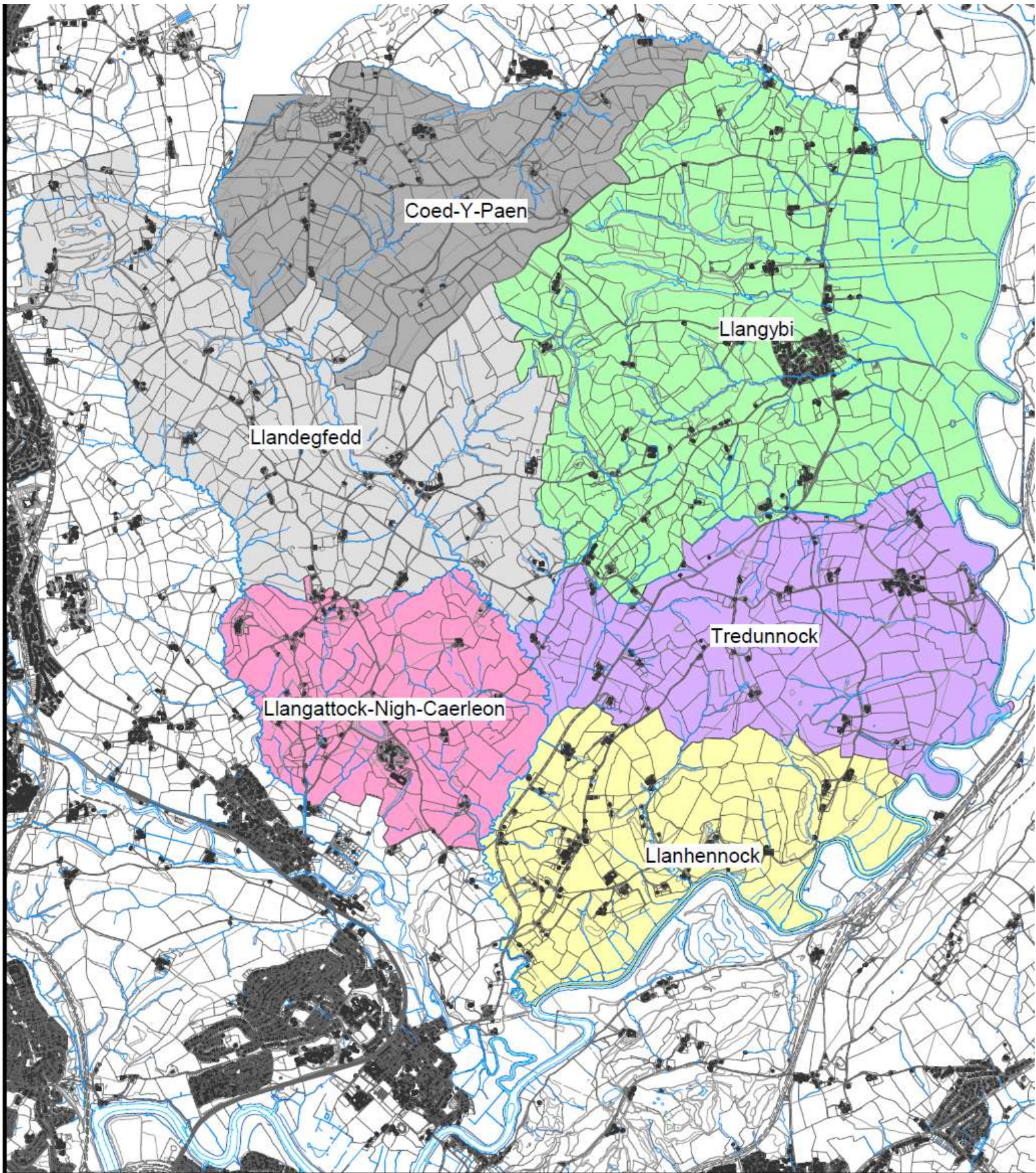
representation it offers residents options when raising issues. Also raises concerns about lack of representation due to holidays and merging with Llanhennock.

Final Proposal

12. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations received, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment for the reasons contained in the draft proposals. The proposals for the community in terms of representation are in line with the Terms of Reference which all communities were consulted upon, and would ensure parity amongst all communities as well as provide a basis for reviewing future representation should further developments be proposed in the community.

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Proposed Boundary Map of Llangybi Fawr



Details

Draft community ward proposal

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Community of Llanarth

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llanarth consist of four wards, Bryngwyn, Clytha, Llanarth and Llanvapley. The community has a total electorate of 684 and is represented by 10 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Bryngwyn	209	3
Clytha	220	3
Llanarth	145	2
Llanvapley	110	2

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider prominent features within the Llanarth Community include the A40 and B4233 roads.

Electorate Forecast

3. There is no additional development within the community of Llanarth that would alter the current arrangements.

Representations Received

4. Llanarth community council submitted a representation in respect of their area requesting no changes are made to the existing arrangements and made the following points:
 - Llanarth fawr is a very large and rural area with a number of small villages dotted amongst its farming landscape
 - The special topography and geography of the area requires commitment from its council and councillors which is capably fulfilled by both parties and have been key stakeholders in a number of the issues in the area including the cattle market, a solar panel farm in Llanvapley and a number of affordable housing within the area.
 - If the area the council had to cover was to increase then the representation would not be as effective as it currently is due to the nature of the area.
 - Councillors pride themselves on being active members of the community and work tirelessly to represent the area. Examples include investing in community projects and holding community consultations.
 - Vacancies that occur on the community council are quickly filled by enthusiastic local residents.
 - All of the above points ensure that whilst Llanarth is an isolated area, it ensures its resident have a voice at local government level.

Recommendations

External Boundaries

5. The working group considered the existing arrangements for the Llanarth area and concluded that little change is necessary for the community. They did however query the positioning of the Llanvapley ward within the community of Llanarth.

As with the proposals for the Llantilio Crossenny and Llangattock Vibon Avel communities, the main channels of communication through those communities are the B4521 and B4233, of which the village of Llanvapley is situated. The group identified there is road access from the village of Llanvapley to the village of Llandewi Rhydderch however this is situated in the current Llanover community and not the community of Llanarth. Therefore, in order for residents of Llanvapley to access the remaining wards of Llanarth they need to travel via an adjoining community before arriving within the community of Llanarth and question why this ward forms part of the community of Llanarth.

The group therefore propose that the ward of Llanvapley is included in the community of Llanover (proposed as the Little Sgyrrid community). The B4233 runs through the Llandewi Rhydderch ward linking the Llanover community with Llanvapley as well as being linked directly via a road from Llanvapley. As stated above, residents currently need to travel via the Llanover community or Llantilio Crossenny community to access the Llanarth community and as such the group consider there to be a stronger link to the community of Llanover than to the current Llanarth community and ensures consistency with the proposals for this community and that of Llantilio Crossenny.

- 5.1. The group also recommend amending the eastern boundary of the Llanarth community where it adjoins Llandewi Rhydderch and Llangattock Nigh Usk. The current boundary roughly follows a road around Coed Morgan farm however a number of properties that appear to have similar links are separated to different communities by the current boundary. It is therefore proposed that the boundary is amended to bring all these properties together in to the Llandewi Rhydderch ward which they appear most closely associated with. To that end it is proposed that the boundary between these wards is amended to follow the path eastwards of The Cochyn where it will follow the edge of Little Coed Y Gelli wood and Coed Y Geilli Dingle. At the bottom of the wood the boundary will return west along the field boundaries to join up with the existing community boundary south of Lower Coed Morgan. These proposals ensure that Coed Morgan Cottage, Coed Morgan Farm and Lower Coed Morgan, as well as properties surrounding these, are all contained within a single community.

It is also proposed that the boundary between Llanarth and Llangattock Nigh Usk is amended to include Pwll-Yr-Hywad within the Llanarth ward rather than the Llangattock Nigh Usk ward.

- 5.2. Another area requiring amendment is the external boundary between the Bryngwyn ward and Penrhos ward of the current Llantiio Crossenny community. The current boundary divides the two communities by following a stream however, the stream divides a couple of similar

properties within the area namely, Millbrook, Millbrook Farm and Millbrook Cottage. A new boundary incorporating all these properties within a single ward is proposed with the boundary leaving the eastern boundary south of Clawdd Wood and following a track to the north of Pen-ylan wood. The boundary will then cross the road and join the stream west of Millbrook Cottage.

- 5.3. It is also proposed to amend the external boundary in the Rhiw-Las area between Raglan, Bryngwyn and Clytha wards. Currently the boundary follows a stream and road splitting properties in the same area into three separate wards. Additionally, the property Rhiw-Las Mill is in the Bryngwyn ward of Llanarth whilst all other properties associated with Rhiw-Las are in the Raglan ward. The group propose amending the boundary in this area to follow field boundaries to join up with the existing external boundary following the stream so that the properties Rhiw-Las Mill and all outbuildings associated with Merry Stream Barn are contained within a single ward of the community of Raglan.
- 5.4. Due to the Gwehelog Fawr community being disbanded, the proposed ward of Kemeys Commander and Llancayo, which will run north to south through the existing Gwehelog Fawr community incorporating the area of, and including, Llancayo and Trostre wood, will be incorporated into the Llanarth Fawr Community.

Internal Boundaries

- 5.5. The working group considered the arrangements between the Llanarth and Clytha wards and propose an amendment to the boundary between the two areas. The current boundary follows the Clawdd Brook from the edge of the community boundary near the A40 and intersects the ward east to west. The working group consider that a new boundary that follows the road south of the A40 between Bryngwyn and Llanvihangel Gobion may be a more suitable boundary for the community that ensures properties with close connections and common links either side of the A40 are contained within a single ward. Additionally, the road between Bryngwyn and Llanvihangel Gobion provides a natural intersection in the community between the north and south areas, as well as being the main channel of communication to join the remainder of the community with the Bryngwyn village.
- 5.6. The group propose no other changes to the internal boundaries of the wards other than those changes to the external boundary stated in 5.1 and 5.3 above.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Boundaries

6. The group propose to continue with the same community and community ward names as currently exist however we welcome recommendations for any suitable alternatives.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Llanarth community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above

changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Whilst the working group understand that the community of Llanarth is less than the ideal 1,000 electors for a community as per the Terms of Reference for this review, the group consider the sparsely populated natural geography and channels of communication within the area lend itself to requiring its own community.

As per the Terms of Reference, it was agreed that a community must be represented by a minimum of seven councillors in order to conduct their business effectively. To that end, the Llanarth community will be represented by seven councillors rather than four as per the above ratio.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Bryngwyn	206	2
Clytha	123	1
Llanarth	232	3
Kemeys Commander & Llanccayo	161	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Llanarth.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

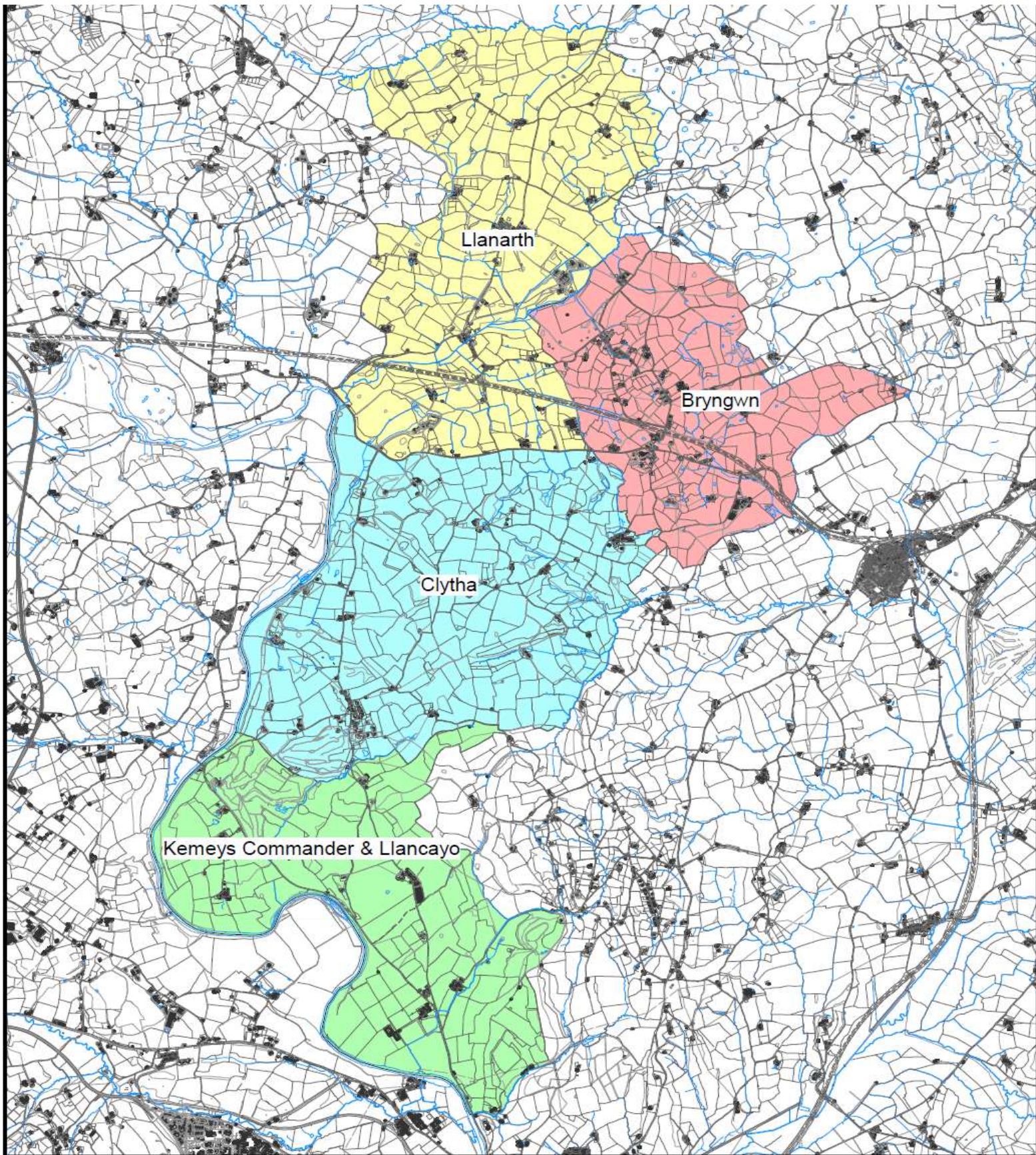
9. Representations were received from Llanarth Community Council and noted the following points:
 - Objected to the proposal to lose Llanvapley ward from within its community and consider Llanvapley to be more associated to Llantilio Crossenny or Llanarth than with the remaining Llanover community
 - Support moving Kemeys Commander and Llanccayo into the Llanarth community
 - Object to the movement of Rhiw-Las outside its remit due to many planning and highways issues associated with the area
 - Proposed own scheme for representation.
 - Attendees at the public seminars for the draft proposals noted that currently Clytha Arms and Clytha House are not situated in the Clytha ward.


Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.
 - 10.1 The working group however noted the comments received at the public constultation session in relation to the boundary for Clytha with Clytha House and Clytha House not being situated in

the ward. To that end, the working group propose that the boundary for Clytha is moved from its existing boundary of following Clytha Road to following the A40 intersecting the ward. The proposals would result in a minimal electoral increase in the Clytha ward but does not warrant amending the representation proposed in the draft proposals.

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Community of Llanbadoc

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llanbadoc consist of three wards, Glascoed, Llanbadoc and Monkwood. The community has a total electorate of 671 and is represented by 10 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Glascoed	221	3
Llanbadoc	205	4
Monkwood	245	3

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The western boundary of the community of Llanbadoc is the local authority boundary and is not being considered as part of this review. The community is surrounded to the north and east by the River Usk and the A472 provides a key channel of communication running east to west through the community.

Electorate Forecast

3. There is no additional development within the community of Llanbadoc that would alter the current arrangements.

Representations Received

4. Llanbadoc Community Council submitted a detailed representation regarding the arrangements within the community. In summary they state:
 - All three wards of the community are densely populated with no central focus point which makes consultation and keeping in touch difficult.
 - The community council gave examples of unique features within the community
 - The council gave examples of two areas where the boundaries can be amended for improvement
 - The council provided an argument for retaining the existing arrangements namely that the lack of focal point in each community make effective representation more challenging and time consuming. The special features of the community lead to a complex and more demanding workload and the current ten councillors is required to meet those demands. The current council works effectively and proactively and are streamlining processes which require the current number of councillors to make those changes work. There are minimal cost implications regarding the number of councillors who give their time freely and rarely claim expenses.

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The working group considered the community arrangements for the Llanbadoc community and given the natural feature of the River Usk surrounding much of the community to the east and north as well as the local authority boundary to much of the west of the community, the working group propose little change to the external community boundary. However, when reviewing the community of Goetre Fawr, the working group considered that the village of Little Mill should be included in the community of Llanbadoc and not Goetre Fawr. The Little Mill village is currently situated in the Mamhilad ward of Goetre Fawr Community however it has very little links with the remainder of the ward due to the intersection of the A4042. The group believe that given the link Little Mill has with the wards of Llanbadoc along the A472, that the village should be incorporated into the community of Llanbadoc as its own ward with the western boundary being the railway adjacent to the A4042 except for Ty Draw Farm which will be incorporated into the Little Mill ward due to the access via Ty Draw Lane.
- 5.1. Within the representation submitted by Llanbadoc Community Council, they reference Penpedairheol Farm as being better suited to the Llanbadoc community rather than its current community of Goetre as every other property situated on its road falls within the Llanbadoc community. The working group see no reason to object to this proposal and provided no objection to it is received will include the amendment in the final proposals.

Internal Boundaries

Glascoed, Monkswood and Llanbadoc

- 5.2. The working group propose no change to the current boundaries of these three wards other than the potential change to be included in the final proposals at 5.1 above.
- 5.3. In their representation, Llanbadoc Community Council wish to amend the boundary of Glascoed so that Honeywell Cottage and Oak Ridge are included in the Llanbadoc ward and not Glascoed. These properties are currently situated within the Llanbadoc ward boundary but incorrectly allocated on the electoral register. The electoral roll will be amended to reflect this change upon its publication on the 10th March 2014.

Little Mill

- 5.4. The Little Mill ward will be the area to the west of the railway line adjacent to the A4042, except for Ty Draw farm, to the existing external community boundary of Goetre Fawr.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The working group propose no change to the community and community ward names of Llanbadoc other than the creation of the new Little Mill ward within the community. The working group welcome receipt of representation as to more suitable alternative names for the community.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Llanbadoc community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Glascoed	221	1
Llanbadoc	205	1
Monkswood	245	2
Little Mill	414	3

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Llanbadoc.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

9. Representations were received from Llanbadoc Community Council and noted the following points
- Pleased to note inclusion of Penpedairheol Farm moving into Llanbadoc from Goetre.
 - Suggest Honeywell Cottage and Oak Ridge be moved from Glascoed ward into Llanbadoc ward
 - Open minded to inclusion of Little Mill into Llanbadoc and can see the logic for the proposal
 - Concerns regarding the reduction in number of councillors and a detailed rationale of the need for additional councillors due to the workload of the council.
10. Representation was received from Goetre Fawr Community Council which noted the following points:
- The community council believe that Goetre and Little Mill interact in many ways through schools, sports clubs, nursery care and pensioner clubs.
 - Unaware of connections to Llanbadoc or Llanover other than roads connecting the villages.

Final Proposal

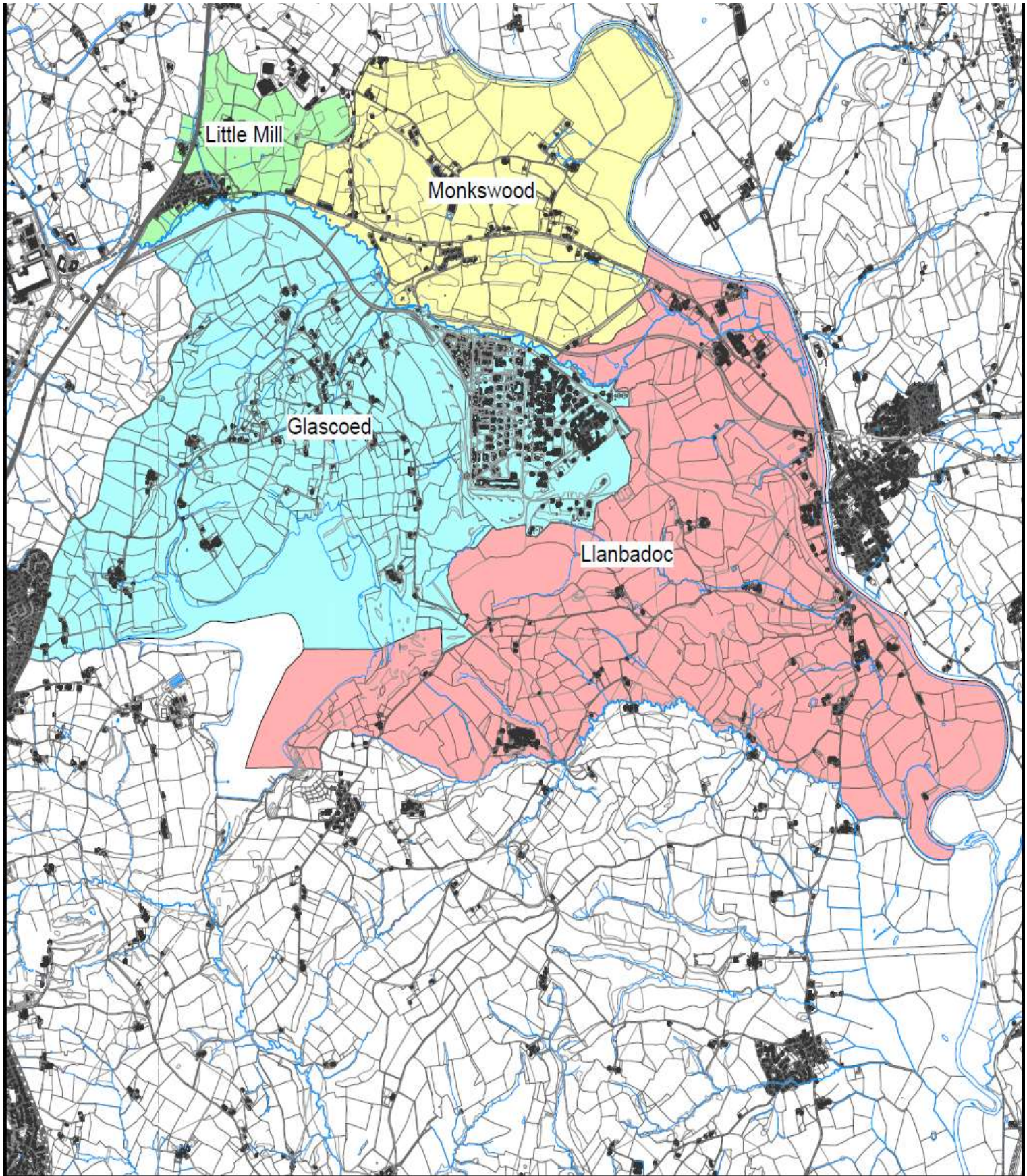
11. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations received, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.


11.1 The working group confirm that the proposal for Penpedairheol Farm to move into the Llanbadoc Community from the Goetre Fawr Community, included in the initial response from Llanbadoc Community Council received no objections and therefore the property will be included in the Monkswood ward of the community of Llanbadoc. The new boundary will continue to run north along the boundary of the property where it currently turns west to join back up with Rumble Street and follow the rear boundary of Royal Oak Cottage up to the road before joining up with the existing boundary.

11.2 Additionally, the working group considered the detailed response from Llanbadoc Community Council regarding the Council's workload and therefore propose an increase of one councillor in each of the single member wards. The new arrangements will therefore be as below:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Glascoed	221	2
Llanbadoc	205	2
Monkswood	245	2
Little Mill	414	3

Proposed Boundary Map of Llanbadoc



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Community of Llanelly

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llanelly consist of three wards, Clydach, Darrenfelin and Gilwern. The community has a total electorate of 3261 and is represented by 14 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Clydach	549	2
Darrenfelin	502	2
Gilwern	2210	10

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. Much of the external boundary of the community of Llanelly is the external local authority boundary which cannot be considered as part of this review. Natural boundaries within the community of Llanelly are the A465, River Clydach and River Usk.

Electorate Forecast

3. There is no additional development within the community of Llanelly that would significantly alter the current electorate.

Representations Received

4. No representations were received in relation to the current arrangements for the community of Llanelly.

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The group propose little change to the external boundary of the community of Llanelly. The working group considered the current arrangements suitable and fit for purpose with the area uniquely separated from the rest of Monmouthshire due to the River Usk and Gilwern Hill.
 - 5.1. The working group however identified an anomaly along the boundary between the community of Llanelly and Llanfoist around Ty Pwll Farm, Twyn Allwys Road, Govilon. Whilst the property has a Govilon address, the access to Ty Pwll Farm adjoins properties along Ty Gwyn Road and it appears this property shares a common link with these properties in Gilwern than it does with the rest of the community of Llanfoist. It is therefore proposed that the boundary in this area is re-aligned to include Ty Pwll Farm in the community of Llanfoist.

Internal Boundary

Darrenfelin

5.2. The working group propose no change to the boundary of Darrenfelin.

Clydach and Gilwern

5.3. The group propose a change to the eastern boundary that separates the communities of Gilwern and Clydach. The current boundary follows the road in two areas at Church Road and Lower Station Road and in doing so splits the properties along these roads into two separate wards which is contrary to the Terms of Reference for this review.

In order to follow natural boundaries and ensure effective and convenient local government is established from the proposals the working group propose to amend the boundary to follow the Nant Dyer stream rather than follow Lower Station Road. It will follow the stream northwards to the River Clydach and will continue to follow this northward until it reaches the A465. It will then double back on itself and follow a stream on the opposite side of the A465 and intersect Church Road east to west, rather than north to south, just above the property Ger-Y-Nant. The boundary will then follow the stream and the contour of the land between Main Road and Cwmro Road until it joins up with the external boundary of the community.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The working group propose no change to the name of the community of Llanelly and the wards contained within it.
- 6.1. It was requested however that a recommendation is made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales when reviewing the electoral arrangements to ensure that the Llanelly Hill Electoral Division which encompasses the community of Llanelly is renamed to just Llanelly in line with the community.

Proposed Community Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Llanelly community to fall within the mixed category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 250 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Clydach	452	2
Darrenfelin	502	2
Gilwern	2307	9

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Llanelly.

Final Proposals

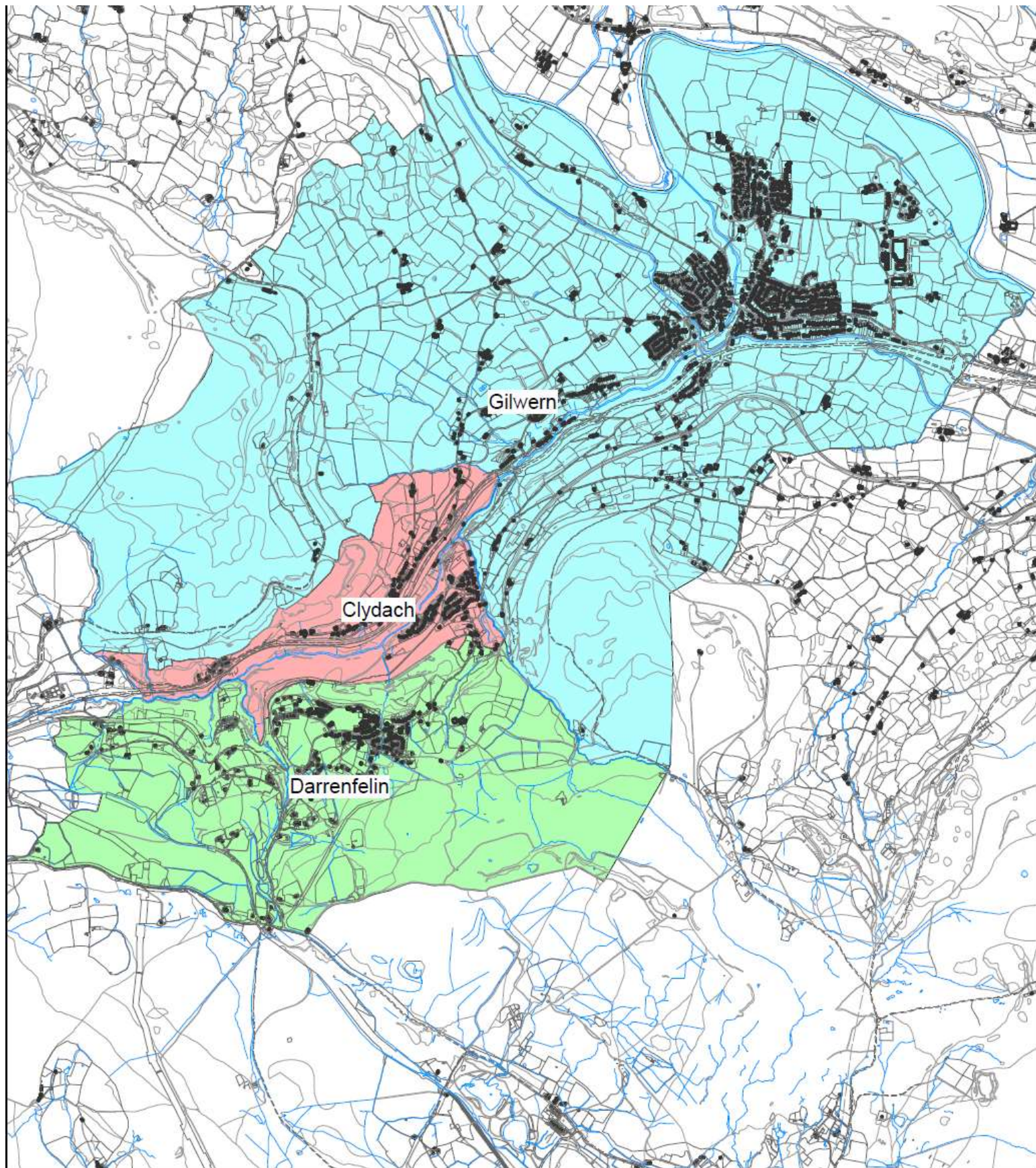
Representations Recieved

9. No representation was received in relation to the Llanelly Community.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.

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Community of Llanfoist Fawr

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llanfoist Fawr consist of four wards, Llanfoist, Llanellen, Llanwenarth Citra and Llanwenarth Ultra. The community has a total electorate of 2716 and is represented by 12 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llanellen	411	2
Llanfoist	1026	3
Llanwenarth Citra	139	1
Llanwenarth Ultra	1140	6

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider there to be a number of natural boundaries within the community of Llanfoist including the A465, A4042, A40 and the railway adjacent to the A40 as well as the Blorenge mountain.

Electorate Forecast

3. It is forecast that the electorate within the Llanfoist ward will increase by 542 to 1568 due to developments at various sites within the ward.

Representations Received

4. Representation was received from Llanfoist Community Council in relation to its community arrangements. On the whole, the community council wish for the current arrangements to remain in place with an increase to the number of councillors representing the Llanfoist ward from 3 to 6.
 - 4.1. Abergavenny Town Council submitted representation proposing that the Llanfoist ward and Llanwenarth Citra ward be merged in to the community of Abergavenny due to the need for communities to be fit for purpose and be large enough to take advantage of economies of scale.
 - 4.2. Llanfoist Community Council submitted a secondary representation in response to the proposal put forward by Abergavenny Town Council and, in summary, highlighted the following reasons as to why the areas should not be merged:
 - That Llanfoist is geographically separate from Abergavenny with the River Usk forming an obvious boundary

- That the proposed increase in population will ensure that the Llanfoist community remains a viable and extremely effective community with members who have developed a good relationship with the electorate
- It would be detrimental to the identity of Llanfoist to merge with Abergavenny as the needs of the Llanfoist as a rural community are very different to those of the town

4.3. The working group also attended a meeting of Llanfoist Community Council to better understand the concerns and nature of the community to assist them in the review process.

Recommendations

External Boundaries

5. The working group considered the current arrangements for the community of Llanfoist and considered the representations that had been received in relation to this review. As stated in the proposals for Abergavenny, the working group do not concur with the proposals from Abergavenny Town Council that the Llanfoist ward should be merged with its community. The group consider that the River Usk and A465 act as two distinct natural boundaries that separate the community areas of Llanfoist and Abergavenny.

5.1. Taking in to consideration the use of the River Usk as a natural boundary between the two communities, the Llanwenarth Citra ward currently of the Llanfoist community is situated north of the river adjacent to the community of Abergavenny. Whilst there is a small bridge crossing the river, the bridge is situated in the Gilwern ward and requires electors to leave Monmouthshire, enter Powys and return to Monmouthshire to access the Llanwenarth Citra ward. The main channel of communication for residents in the Llanwenarth Citra ward is along the A40. In order for residents to reach the community of Llanfoist they need to travel through the community of Abergavenny.

For the above reasons the working group propose that the Llanwenarth Citra ward forms part of the community of Abergavenny. Whilst the representation from Llanfoist refer to an historic link between Llanwenarth Citra and the remainder of the community of Llanfoist, the working group consider that the current channels of communication via the A40 provide a strong link between this ward and the community of Abergavenny.

The working group accept the representation from Llanfoist community council that the Llanwenarth Citra ward is a rural ward and not an urban town area and therefore propose to retain the Llanwenarth Citra ward as a separate ward of the community with its own representation. The working group noted however, that whilst Llanwenarth Citra is a rural ward, it does share characteristics and links with the Cantref ward of the community of Abergavenny in relation to the Sugar Loaf and strengthens the link between Llanwenarth Citra and the community of Abergavenny.

5.2. The working group also considered the eastern boundary of the community of Llanfoist that follows the River Usk south from the A465. The group consider that the area along the A4042

south of the Hardwick roundabout to Llanellen should be included in the community of Llanfoist and not the community of Llanover, given its strong links and channel of communication along the A4042. As stated in the proposal for the community of Abergavenny, it is proposed that the external boundary of the community of Abergavenny is amended to follow the railway line. The group therefore propose that the eastern boundary of the community of Llanfoist is amended to continue following the railway south from the Hardwick roundabout and re-join the River Usk near the Glan Usk estate.

- 5.3. The group also considered the arrangements for the Llanwenarth Ultra ward of the Llanfoist community. With the Llanwenarth Ultra ward being the most populated ward within the community of Llanfoist and separated from the community of Llanfoist along the B4246, the group considered the potential for the Llanwenarth Ultra ward to have its own community. The Terms of Reference for this review identified a minimum of 1,000 electors within a community and the current Llanwenarth Ultra ward currently has an electorate of 1,140. Whilst the group acknowledge the link between the wards of Llanfoist and Llanwenarth Ultra along the B4246, both villages are situated either side of the Blorengge mountain with enough of a 'no mans land' situated between the communities to justify a separation. Additionally, access to the village of Govilon has been eased by the development of the A465 with a secondary access to the village available from this road as well as through Llanfoist via the B4246.

Taking the above in to consideration the working group propose that the Llanwenarth Ultra ward be removed from the community of Llanfoist to create its own community. The community should be classed as a 'mixed' community given the urban area around the village of Govilon but rural areas around the Blorengge. However under a mixed ratio banding there would not be the sufficient seven councillors required to create the community when implementing the ratio to the electors within the community. The group therefore propose that the minimum seven councillors will represent the new community giving a ratio of 1:163. Whilst this is close to the rural banding, the group believe that the unique geographic location of the ward, as well as the significant number of electors residing in the community, justify the deviation from the Terms of Reference in creating its own community. The group propose a new name for the community of Govilon but welcome recommendations for suitable alternative names for the community.

Internal Boundaries

Llanellen

- 5.4. The working group considered the current boundaries for the Llanellen ward and believe that the existing arrangements are fit for purpose apart from the amendments to the eastern boundary as stated in 5.2 above.

Llanfoist

- 5.5. The working group considered the current arrangements for the Llanfoist ward in conjunction with the representations received for the ward and concur that the ward should not be merged with the community of Abergavenny as stated in 5. above. The western boundary between

Llanfoist and Llanwenarth Ultra has been amended to follow the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal and provide a clear boundary, following natural features, between the two areas.

Llanwenarth Citra

- 5.6. The group propose that the Llanwenarth Citra ward forms part of the community of Abergavenny. See section 5 of the Abergavenny Community for further information.

Llanwenarth Ultra

- 5.7. The working group considered the existing arrangements for the Llanwenarth Ultra ward and consider that the ward should be separate from the community of Llanfoist to form its own community (see paragraph 5.3 above for further information).

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The group propose no amendment to the community name of Llanfoist and the wards Llanfoist, Llanellen and Llanwenarth Citra.

It is proposed to amend the name of the new community for the Llanwenarth Ultra ward to Govilon however the working group welcome recommendations to more suitable alternatives.

Proposed community electoral arrangements

7. The working group consider both Llanfoist and Govilon communities to fall within the mixed category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 250 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

As per the Terms of Reference, it was agreed that a community must be represented by a minimum of seven councillors in order to conduct their business effectively. To that end, the Govilon community will be represented by seven councillors rather than five as per the above ratio.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llanellen	418	2
Llanfoist	1568	6
Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Govilon	1140	7

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Llanfoist and Govilon

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

9. Representation was received from Llanfoist Community Council detailed the following:
- Provided an overview of the current arrangements and responsibilities the community undertake for each ward, included ownership and maintenance of assests in Govilon that are currently the responsibility of Llanfoist Fawr Community Council
 - Object to the proposals to separate Govilon and Llanfoist into separate communities due to the costs associated with running separate councils and potential increase in precept to residents.
 - Proposed a new scheme of electoral arrangements for the community
 - Object to the proposal for Llanwenarth Citra to be included in the Abergavenny community

Final Proposal

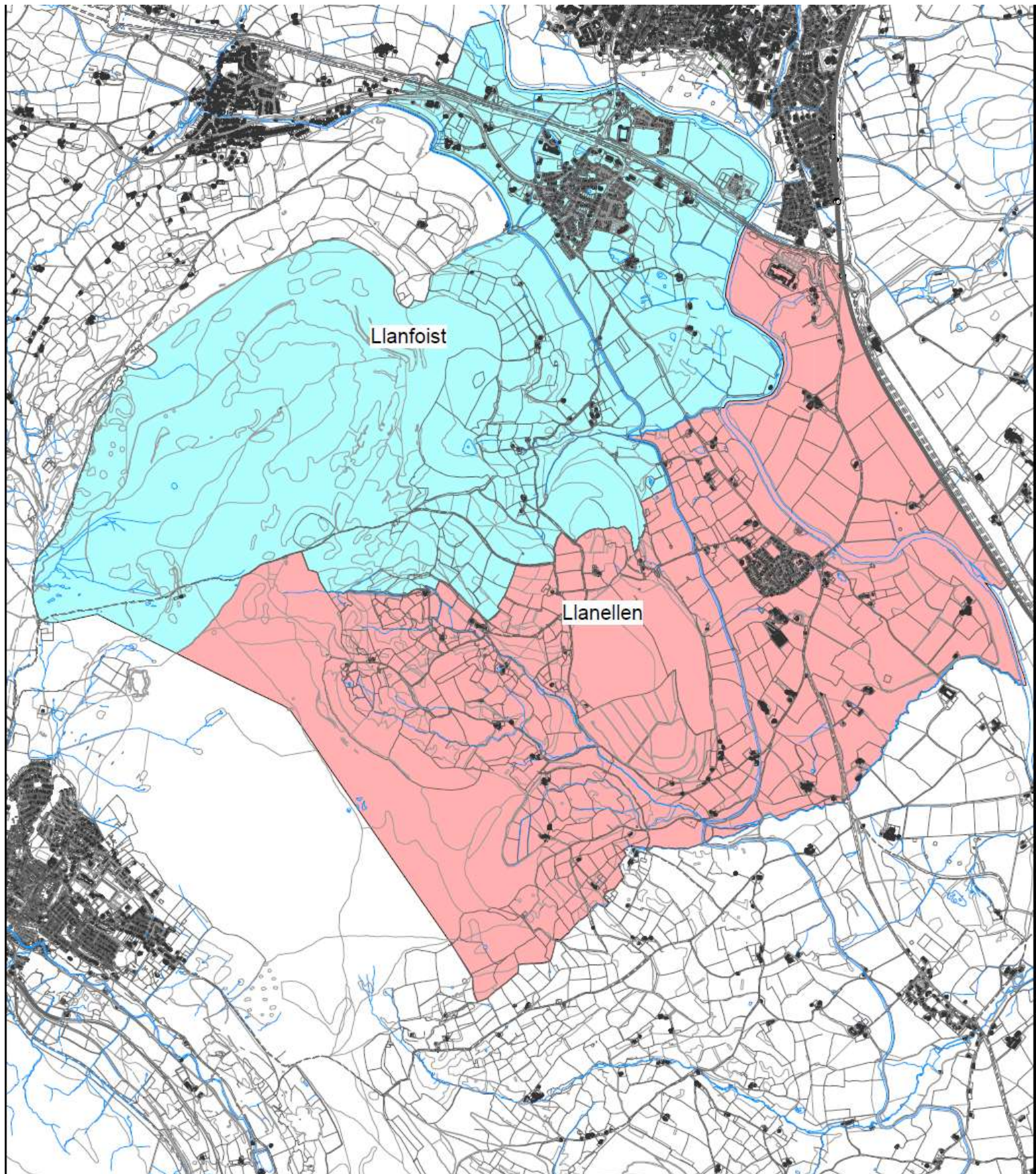
10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously agree to repeal the decision to separate Govilon and Llanfoist and propose to maintain the current arrangements of the wards forming part of the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council. The working group believed that the separation met the requirements of the Terms of Reference in establishing a new community and understood the logic behind the proposal but are content with the representation received in opposing the proposal from the community council to retain the current arrangements.

10.1 All other details in the draft proposals including the proposal to remove Llanwenarth Citra and any amendements to boundaries are approved as the final proposals for the Llanfoist community.

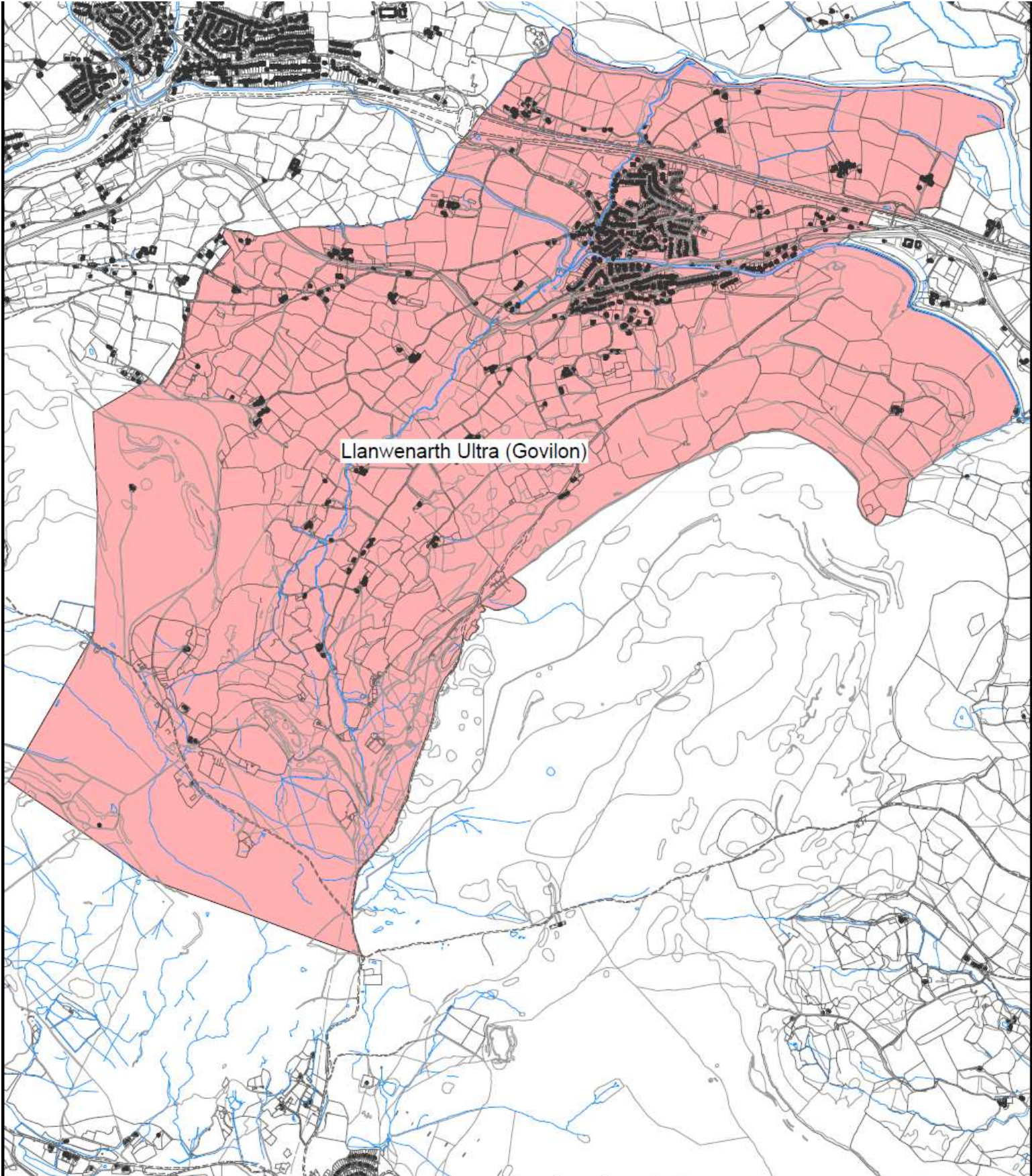
10.2 Given that Govilon will be retained in the community of Llanfoist, the new electoral arrangements are proposed as below in line with the Terms of Reference for the review:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llanellen	418	2
Llanfoist	1568	6
Govilon	1140	5

Proposed Boundary Map of Llanfoist



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Llanwenarth Ultra (Govilon)



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Community of Llangattock Vibon Avel – See Llantilio Crossenny

DRAFT

Community of Llangwm – See Llantrisant Fawr

DRAFT

Community of Llanhennock - See Llangybi Fawr

DRAFT

Community of Llanover

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llanover consist of four wards, Llanddewi Rhydderch, Llanfair Cilgydyn, Llangattock-Nigh-Usk and Llanover. The community has a total electorate of 1128 and is represented by twelve community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llanddewi Rhydderch	321	3
Llanfair Cilgydyn	179	2
Llangattock-Nigh-Usk	387	4
Llanover	241	3

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider prominent boundaries within the Llanover community as being the A40, A4042 and B4233 roads as well as the River Usk and Railway adjacent to the A40.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no significant developments proposed within the community of Llanover that would significantly alter the current level of electorate.

Representations Received

4. Representation was received from Llanover community stating their objection to the review as a 'waste of time and money' and that 'any changes made would be for change's sake'. They stated the 'present situation works well' and advised the working group to 'leave well alone'.

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The working group considered the existing arrangements for the community of Llanover and queried the link between some of the wards of the community. The group couldn't establish a link between the Llanover ward and, in particular, the wards of Llangattock-Nigh-Usk and Llanddewi Rhydderch given that they are divided by the A40. Additionally, the A4042 is a prominent channel of communication that links the Llanover ward to the community of Llanfoist to the north and Goetre to the South.

The working group therefore propose that the community ward of Llanover should be incorporated into the community of Goetre Fawr (Proposed as Goetre Wharf). The group

consider the A4042 provides a stronger channel of communication between Llanover and Goetre than Llanover currently has with the remaining wards of the Llanover Community.

- 5.1. The group also propose to amend the boundary that currently divides Goetre and Llanfair Kilgeddin near Nant-Y-Derry. The current boundary follows a stream adjacent to Chain Bridge Road however this places a number of properties, Lower Pen-Twyn Farm & Lower House Farm which have clear links to Nant-Y-Derry, into the Llanfair Kilgeddin ward. It is therefore proposed that the boundary in this area is amended to follow field boundaries around these properties incorporating them in to the Nant-Y-Derry ward of Goetre Fawr.
- 5.2. The group considered the eastern boundary of the community of Llanfoist that follows the River Usk south from the A465. The group consider that the area along the A4042 south of the Hardwick roundabout to Llanellen should be included in the community of Llanfoist and not the community of Llanover, given its strong links and channel of communication along the A4042. As stated in the representation for the community of Abergavenny, it is proposed that the external boundary of the community of Abergavenny is amended to follow the railway line. The group therefore propose that the western boundary of the community of Llanover is amended to continue following the railway south from the Hardwick roundabout and re-join the River Usk near the Glan Usk estate.
- 5.3. The group also recommend amending the eastern boundary of the Llanover community where it adjoins Llanarth. The current boundary roughly follows a road around Coed Morgan farm however a number of properties that appear to have similar links are separated to different communities by the current boundary. It is therefore proposed that the boundary is amended to bring all these properties together in to the Llandewi Rhydderch ward which they appear most closely associated with. To that end it is proposed that the boundary between these wards is amended to follow the path eastwards of The Cochyn where it will follow the edge of Little Coed Y Gelli wood and Coed Y Geilli Dingle. At the bottom of the wood the boundary will return west along the field boundaries to join up with the existing community boundary south of Lower Coed Morgan. These proposals ensure that Coed Morgan Cottage, Coed Morgan Farm and Lower Coed Morgan, as well as properties surrounding these, are all contained within a single community.
- 5.4. Similarly in the same area it is proposed that the boundary between the community of Llanover and Llanarth is amended to include Pwll-Yr-Hywad within the community of Llanarth rather than the Llangattock Nigh Usk ward.
- 5.5. The group also considered the arrangements for the Llanvapley ward of the community of Llanarth. As with the proposals for the Llantilio Crossenny and Llangattock Vibon Avel communities, the main channels of communication through those communities are the B4521 and B4233, of which the village of Llanvapley is situated. The group identified there is road access from the village of Llanvapley to the village of Llandewi Rhydderch however this is situated in the current Llanover community and not the community of Llanarth. Therefore, in order for residents of Llanvapley to access the remaining wards of Llanarth they need to travel via an adjoining community before arriving within the community of Llanarth and question why this ward forms part of the community of Llanarth.

The group therefore propose that the ward of Llanvapley is included in the community of Llanover (proposed as the Little Sgyrrid community). The B4233 runs through the Llandewi Rhydderch ward linking the Llanover community with Llanvapley as well as being linked directly via a road from Llanvapley. As stated above, residents currently need to travel via the Llanover community or Llantilio Crossenny community to access the Llanarth community and as such the group consider this to be a stronger link to the community of Llanover than to the current Llanarth community and ensures consistency with the proposals for this community and that of Llantilio Crossenny.

Internal Boundaries

5.6. No changes are proposed to the internal ward boundaries other than amendments as stated above.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

- Due to the Llanover ward no longer being included within the Llanover Community an alternative name is required. The group propose a community name of Little Sgyrrid however welcome suggestions as to suitable alternatives for the new community. No changes are proposed to the community ward names.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

- The working group consider the Little Sgyrrid community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Whilst the working group understand that the community of Little Sgyrrid is slightly less than the ideal 1,000 electors for a community as per the Terms of Reference for this review, the group consider the sparsely populated natural geography and channels of communication within the area lend itself to requiring its own community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llanddewi Rhydderch	331	2
Llanfair Cilgydyn	176	1
Llangattock-Nigh-Usk	380	3
Llanvapley	110	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

- All members of the working group approved the proposals for the Little Sgyrrid Community except for one member who rejected the proposal based on the following points.

“I cannot see any logical reason to remove Llanover out of the current Llanover Community Council ward. It has plenty of road connections to Llanfair Kilgeddin, Llandewi Rhydderch and the Bryn - the four other villages in this community council area. There is also the issue of removing Llanover estate out of the community council and county council boundary. The estate covers land across the ward and is connected to Coldbrook and Llanarth estate. You would then split the estate across at least two county council wards and three community council wards - at present the three estates all reside in Llanover CC ward.”

Final Proposals

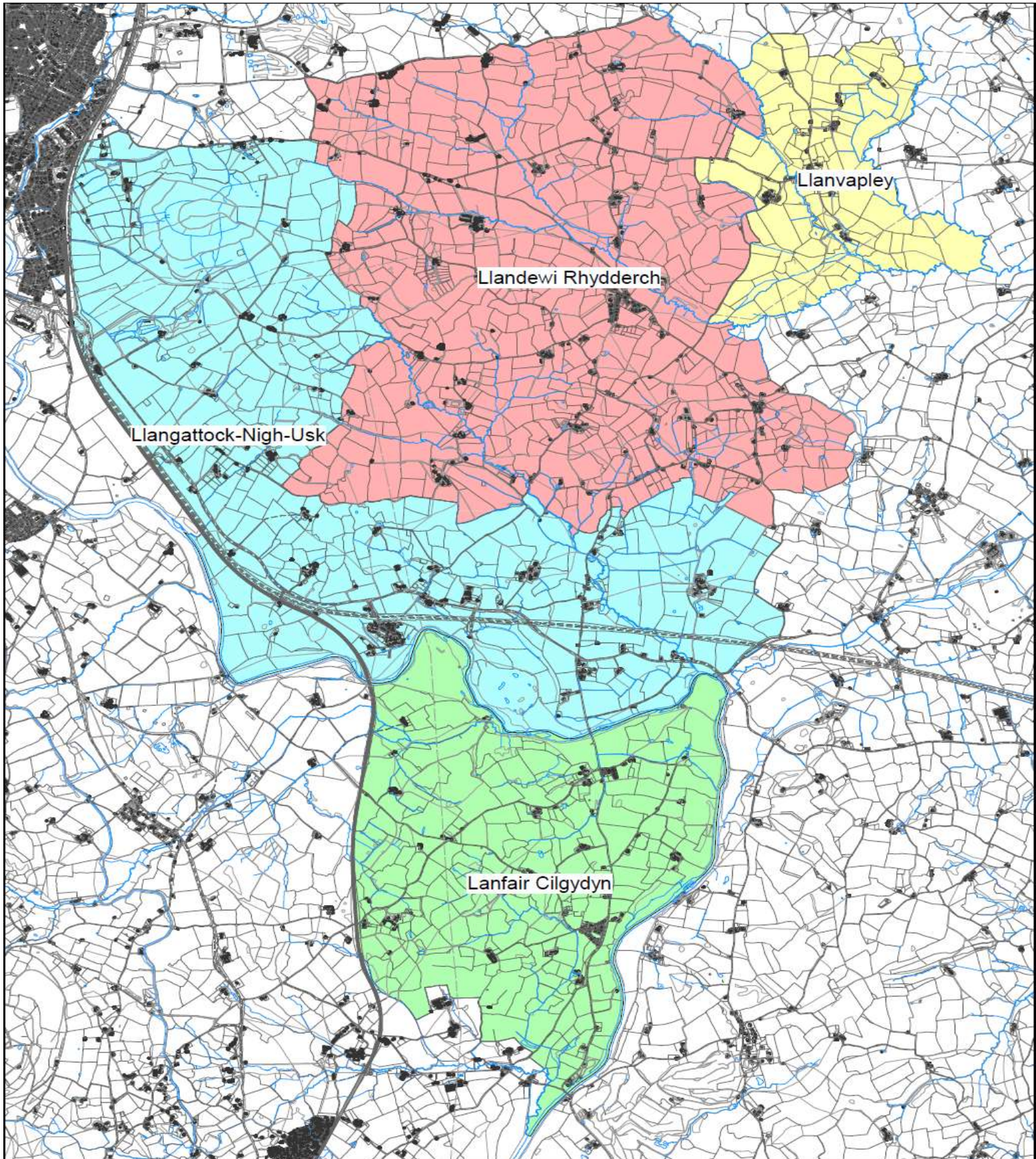
Representations Recieved

9. Representations were received from Llanover Community Council supporting the proposals for its community. In line with point 6 above, the community council propose a name of Goion Fawr for the new community.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals for the reasons contained in the draft proposals. The working group are happy with the name proposed by Llanover Community Council of Gobion Fawr and propose this as the name for the community.

Proposed Boundary Map of Gobion Fawr



Details

Draft community ward proposal

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Community of Llantilio Crossenny & Llangattock Vibon Avel

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llantilio Crossenny consist of three wards, Llantilio Crossenny, Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern and Penrhos. The community has a total electorate of 580 and is represented by 9 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llantilio Crossenny	362	6
Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern	71	1
Penrhos	147	2

- 1.1. The current community arrangements in Llangattock Vibon Avel consist of three wards, Llangattock Vibon Avel, Skenfrith and St Maughans. The community has a total electorate of 850 and is represented by ten community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llangattock Vibon Avel	296	3
Skenfrith	314	4
St Maughans	240	3

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. Natural boundaries within both these communities include the B4233, B4521 and B4347 as well as castles at Skenfrith and Whitecastle.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no proposed developments within the Llantilio Crossenny or Llangattock Vibon Avel communities that will significantly alter the current electorate.

Representations Received

4. Llantilio Crossenny submitted representation requesting the status quo is maintained as there are no issues or problems to report from within the community. The council consider the traditional boundaries and historic situation in the area work well and that any changes would be unlikely to bring any real benefit to the community.
- 4.1. Llangattock-Vibon-Avel community council submitted a detailed representation for the community area that it covers. To summarise, the main points are as follows:

- Llangattock-Vibon-Avel community is the second most deprived area in Wales with a resident of Cross Ash requiring a round trip of 18 miles for a loaf of bread
- All community councillor information is available in the six local notice boards within the community
- Community Council has to be extremely careful with funds raised through precept as only 400 residences within community
- The Biggest expense for the community is maintaining properties and tourist attractions within the community
- Justification as to the requirement of ten councillors within the community

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The group considered the community of Llantilio Crossenny and identified two key natural boundaries in the B4521 and the B4233 that run east to west through the community. As such the working group considered that whilst these are channels of communication, as well as natural boundaries, that the community of Llantilio Crossenny should be reviewed alongside the community of Llangattock Vibon Avel.
 - 5.1. The group considered the reasoning as to why these communities run north to south when the main channels of communication via the B4521 and B4233 roads run east to west with a neutral area between these two roads providing a natural divide between the two areas.

Additionally, with the communities running east to west, it gives the opportunity to re-name the communities based on the 'three castles' within the area that formed a strategic defence in the 12th Century, namely Skenfrith, Grosmont and Whitecastle, and gives opportunity to highlight these key historic features within the communities.
 - 5.2. To that end the working group propose to amend the boundaries of both the communities of Llantilio Crossenny and Llangattock Vibon Avel. The two communities will be called Skenfrith and Whitecastle.
 - 5.3. It is proposed that a new boundary between the two communities will run east to west from the north of Whitecastle to the eastern boundary of Skenfrith above the village of Newcastle. The community of Skenfrith would incorporate the area to the north of the boundary along the B4521 using the existing northern ward boundary of Skenfrith and Llantilio Crossenny. It is also proposed that the ward of Llanvetherine of the community of Grosmont is included in the community of Whitecastle due to its close association with the B4521.
 - 5.4. The community of Whitecastle will incorporate the remaining areas to the south of the proposed boundary including the villages of Rockfield, Newcastle, Llangattock Vibon Avel, Penrhos and Llantilio Crossenny.

- 5.5. It is also proposed to amend the boundary dividing the Penrhos ward and Bryngwyn ward of the community of Llanarth. The current boundary divides the two communities by following a stream however, the stream divides a couple of similar properties within the area namely, Millbrook, Millbrook Farm and Millbrook Cottage. A new boundary incorporating all these properties within a single ward is proposed with the boundary leaving the eastern boundary south of Clawdd Wood and following a track to the north of Pen-y-lan wood. The boundary will then cross the road and join the stream west of Millbrook Cottage.
- 5.6. A small amendment to the external boundary has also been made at the boundary between Llanvihangel Ystern Llewern ward and the Mitchel Troy community. The working group consider that the property Cefn Garw Farm is more closely associated with the Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern than the Tregare ward of Mitchel Troy given that all access to the property is north of the farm with no access south to Tregare. Therefore the group propose to amend the boundary so it continues along the Nant Wachan stream south of Cefn Garw Farm and join with the existing boundary north of Tregare Mill.

Internal Boundaries – Skenfrith Community

6. The community of Skenfrith will comprise of three wards, Skenfrith, Cross Ash and Llanvetherine. The Llanvetherine ward will remain unchanged but form part of the Skenfrith community rather than Grosmont.

The new Cross Ash ward will incorporate the area north of Whitecastle that was previously the Llantilio Crossenny ward and run east to the new boundary of the Skenfrith ward which runs north to south through the community to the east of Cherry Tree Farm and Nant-Yr-Ych Farm.

The Skenfrith ward incorporates the rest of the community to the east of the above boundary.

Internal Boundaries – Whitecastle Community

- 6.1. The community of Whitecastle will compose of six wards, Whitecastle, Newcastle, Llangattock Vibon Avel, Llanvihangel Ystern Llewern, Penrhos and Rockfield and St Maughans.

The new Whitecastle ward will comprise of the majority of the previous Llantilio Crossenny ward that is south of Whitecastle.

The Newcastle ward is a newly created ward covering the village of Newcastle and area around Hilston Park south of the B4521 but north of the village of Llangattock Vibon Avel.

The Llangattock Vibon Avel ward remains as a ward within the Whitecastle community which covers the Llangattock Vibon Avel village and area of housing that sits between the B4521 and the B4233. The southern area of the ward near the B4233 will be incorporated into the Rockfield and St Maughans ward given the channels of communication along this road between this area and the rest of the Rockfield ward.

The Llanvihangel Ystern Llewern ward is unchanged other than amendments made to the external boundary between Whitecastle and Mitchel Troy as stated in 5.6 above.

The Penrhos ward will exist in its current format forming part of the Whitecastle community.

The Rockfield and St Maughans ward will remain largely unchanged other than incorporating the area of The Hendre along the B4233 within the Rockfield and St Maughans ward rather than the Llangattock Vibon Avel ward.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

- As stated above a number of changes have been made to the community and community ward names. The working group welcome recommendations as to more suitable names for the community and community wards.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

- The working group consider the Skenfrith and Whitecastle communities to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the communities will result in the following electoral arrangements for the communities.

Whilst the working group understand that the community of Skenfrith is less than the ideal 1,000 electors for a community as per the Terms of Reference for this review, the group consider the sparsely populated natural geography and channels of communication within the area lend itself to requiring its own community.

As per the Terms of Reference, it was agreed that a community must be represented by a minimum of seven councillors in order to conduct their business effectively. To that end, the Skenfrith community will be represented by seven councillors rather than four as per the above ratio.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Skenfrith	132	1
Cross Ash	267	5
Llanvetherine	121	1

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Whitecastle	256	2
Newcastle	151	1
Llangattock Vibon Avel	79	1
Llanvihangel Ystern Llewern	77	1
Penrhos	145	2
Rockfield and St Maughans	343	2

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

9. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the communities of Whitecastle and Skenfrith.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

10. Representation was received from Llantilio Crossenny Community Council and noted the following points
 - A desire for the current arrangements to remain in place
 - The proposed Skenfrith community has a smaller electorate than the current arrangements
 - Wish to retain links to churches rather than castle ruins
 - Accept minor alterations to external boundary
- 10.1 Representation was also submitted from Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council and its Councillors noting the following points:
 - A desire for the current arrangements to remain in place
 - Concerns at single member wards
 - Questioning the purpose and need for the review
 - Provides scenarios and actions taken by the community council as well as justification for retaining Councillor numbers
- 10.3 A counter proposals for some of the wards was also submitted by Councillor Desmond Pugh in relation to the Skenfrith, Rockfield, St Maughans and Llangattock Vibon Avel wards.

Final Proposal

11. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment to the boundaries for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.
 - 11.1 The working group would like to thank the Community Council and its councillors for submitting representations regarding the proposals however, with little alternative proposals submitted other than those by Councillor Pugh and little justification as to how the proposed new communities could not carry on the work of the existing communities, the working group consider the draft proposals fit for purpose and in line with the Terms of Reference for the review.
 - 11.2 The working group reviewed the proposals submitted by Councillor Pugh for the wards stated in the representation received but consider the proposals of using roads as boundaries with properties eitherside split between communities and/or community wards contrary to the Terms of Reference. The representation also states the final proposals split four farms in half (Wernlwydd, The Farm , The Lade, Barn Farm) and the working group invite the community

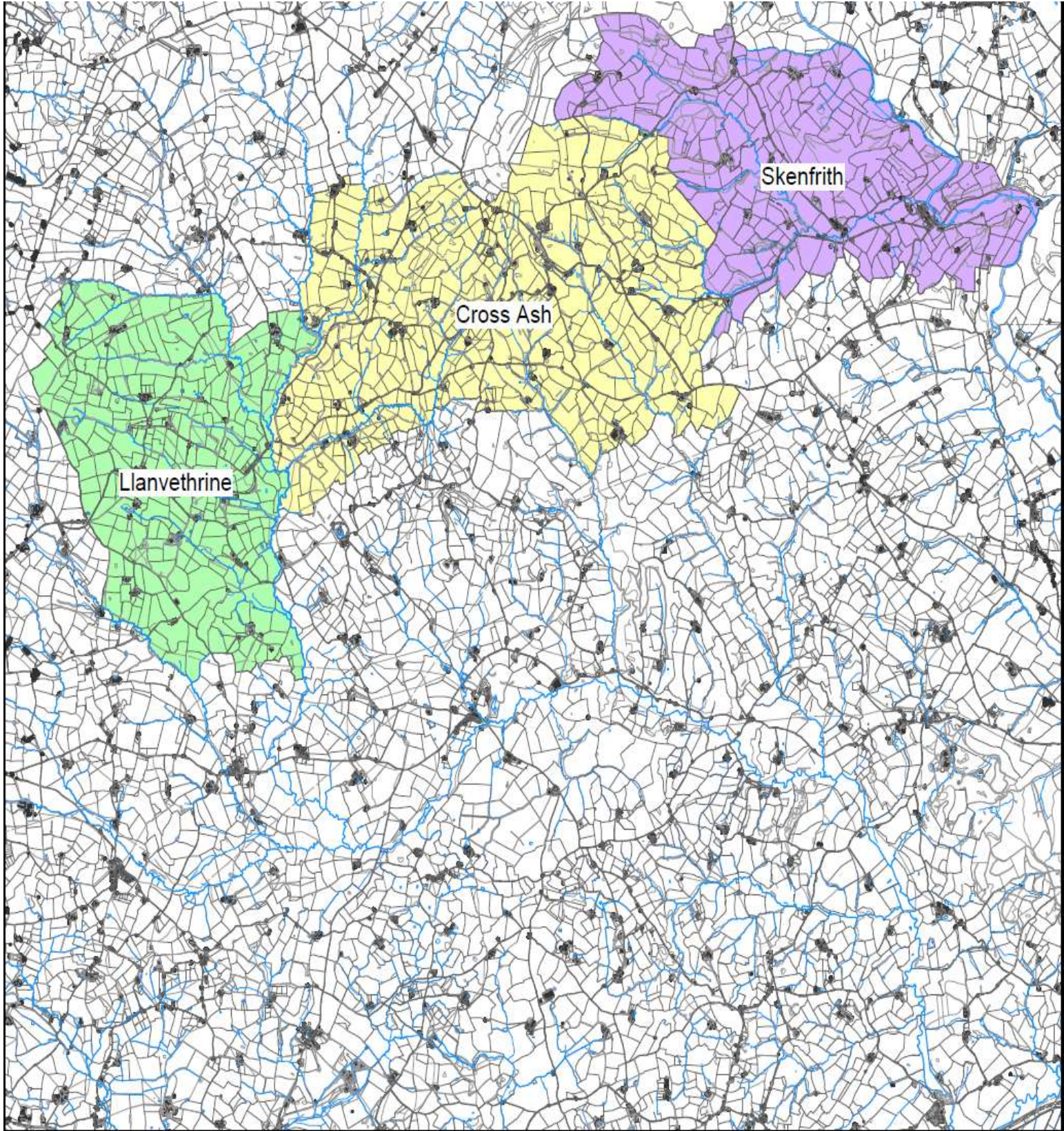
council to submit proposals to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales that may include land associated with these properties so that they are contained in single wards.


- 11.3 In considering the concerns raised regarding councillor numbers and the balance of representation, the working group propose to amend the number of councillors on each community council as follows:

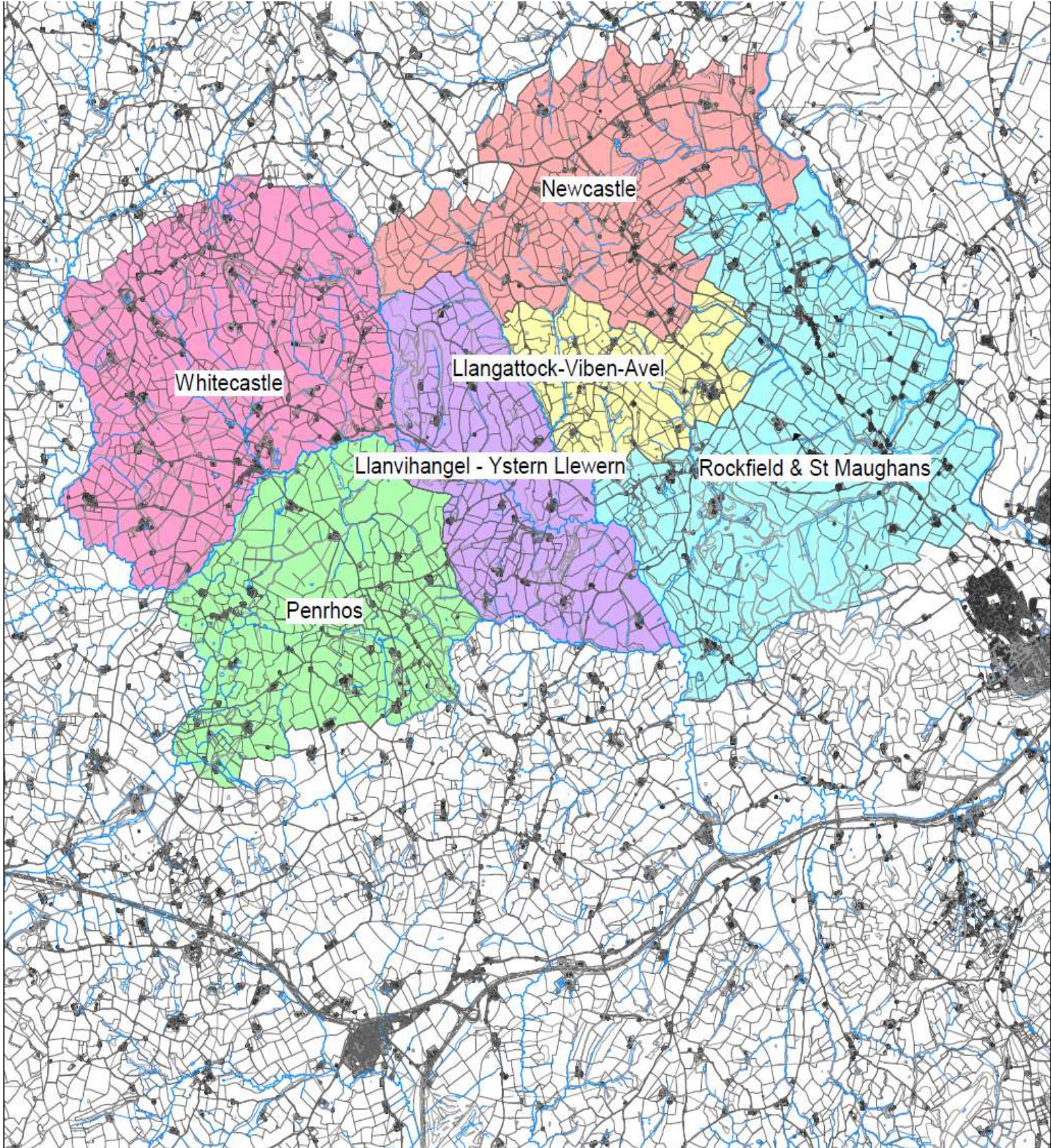
Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Skenfrith	132	2
Cross Ash	267	3
Llanvetherine	121	2


Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Whitecastle	256	2
Newcastle	151	2
Llangattock Vibon Avel	79	1
Llanvihangel Ystern Llewern	77	1
Penrhos	145	2
Rockfield and St Maughans	343	2

The working group consider that the new proposals for representation give a better balance throughout the community, particularly in the Skenfrith community and address some of the concerns regarding single member wards that was submitted in the representation.



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Community of Llantilio Pertholey

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llantilio Pertholey consist of six wards, Croesonen East, Croesonen West, Mardy, Pantygelli, Sgyrrid East and Sgyrrid West. The community has a total electorate of 3098 and is represented by thirteen community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Croesonen East	556	2
Croesonen West	1131	5
Mardy	874	3
Pantygelli	85	1
Sgyrrid East	180	1
Sgyrrid West	272	1

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider key features in the community of Llantilio Pertholey to be Hereford Road, the A465 as well as the River Gavenny.

Electorate Forecast

3. There is additional development proposed within the Croesonen East ward that will increase the electorate of the ward to 600.
- 3.1. There is also a proposal contained within the LDP for 300 additional properties within the Mardy ward. This could increase the electorate of the Mardy ward to 1474.

Representations Received

4. Detailed representation was received from Abergavenny Town Council in relation to the arrangements for their own community as well as that of Llantilio Pertholey. In summary, their representation proposed amalgamating Mardy and Croesonen East & West into a community with Abergavenny and part of Llanfoist. The full representation is available in the appendices.
- 4.1. Llantilio Pertholey submitted an initial representation recommending amendments to anomalies to the boundaries within their area as well as including the proposal to amalgamate Croesonen East and West and Sgyrrid East and West into their own wards of Croesonen and Sgyrrid.

Llantilio Pertholey submitted a detailed secondary representation objecting to the proposal put forward by Abergavenny Town Council. In summary they object for the following reasons:

- Object to Abergavenny Town Council suggestion that the current community arrangements are not fit for purpose to deal with future changes
- Provided examples of where communities are currently working together and capable of dealing with any future changes
- The current arrangements allow for local knowledge, relationships and community cohesion that benefit residents
- Detailed negative effects and potential loss of services based on the proposals put forward by Abergavenny Town Council.

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The working group considered representations received by Abergavenny Town Council and Llantilio Pertholey Community Council in relation to the proposal by Abergavenny to merge some of the Llantilio Pertholey wards into its area. The working group conclude that whilst there is very little geographic separation between the communities of Abergavenny and Llantilio Pertholey, in particular the wards of Croesonen East and West, there are differences between the two communities that require the need to maintain a separation between the two areas, particularly in relation to Sgyrrid East and West and Pantygelli where there is little link with these wards with the community of Abergavenny. In their representation, Llantilio Pertholey Community Council provided the working group with a comprehensive submission of the work that the council in its current format provides to its residents. The working group do not believe that a large community consisting of Llantilio Pertholey and Abergavenny would be able to continue to provide the services unique to the individual areas as they currently do in isolation. It is therefore proposed that the current boundary between the communities of Abergavenny and Llantilio Pertholey remain with small alterations to the existing boundary to ensure there is a clear definition between the two communities.
 - 5.1. One of the alterations is to amend the boundary between Abergavenny and Llantilio Pertholey in the Heol Hamelin area. The current boundary intersects the housing estate dividing housing between two community councils. It is proposed that the houses contained in the area, Heol Hamelin and Clos Bury Capel, are included in the Priory ward of Abergavenny as access to the properties is via Grosvenor Road which is in the Priory ward.
 - 5.2. Another amendment is to the boundary between Llantilio Pertholey and Abergavenny that follows Llwynu Lane. Currently a large number of properties along this road are split between the two communities which causes confusion for electors and administration purposes. It is proposed that all properties of Llwynu Lane, including Vale View and Lavendar Gardens are included in the Lansdown ward of Abergavenny.

Internal Boundaries

Croesonen East and West

- 5.3. As stated in the Llantilio Pertholey representation, the working group propose that the Croesonen East and Croesonen West wards are merged to form a single community ward with the external boundary made up of the changes in 5.1 and 5.2 above.

The eastern boundary of the Croesonen ward is slightly amended to follow the centre of the A465 which is a continuation of the amendment to the boundary in the community of Abergavenny.

The northern boundary of the ward also has a few alterations due to anomalies with the current boundary. The current boundary intersects 'The Newlands' estate splitting houses in this area between Croesonen and Mardy. It is therefore proposed that this boundary follows the road above 'The Newlands' estate but below Mardy Park Lodge. It also proposed that all properties associated with St Davids Road, including St Davids Close, Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni and the recreational hall and grounds are included in the Croesonen ward. Therefore the boundary will follow Hereford Road north until Gwent Road where it follows Gwent Road and follows the properties behind Gwent Place and join the existing boundary at Dan-Y-Deri.

Mardy

- 5.4. The boundary for Mardy remains largely unchanged with the only amendment coming on the eastern boundary of the ward. It is proposed that the boundary is moved from following Hereford Road to follow the Gavenny River which will ensure that all properties along Hereford Road are contained within a single ward.

Sgyrrid East and West

- 5.5. The working group agreed with the representation from Llantilio Pertholey Community Council that these two wards should be merged. Therefore a new ward named Sgyrrid will be created using the existing boundary for the two wards but taking account of the amendments made in 5.4 above.

Pantygelli

- 5.6. The working group propose no change to the Pantygelli ward.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The working group propose no change to the community and community ward names other than those wards that are merged above.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Llantilio Pertholey community to fall within the mixed category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 250 electors per councillor. The above

changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Croesonen	1614	6
Mardy	1379	6
Pantygelli	85	1
Sgyrrid	328	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Llantilio Pertholey.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

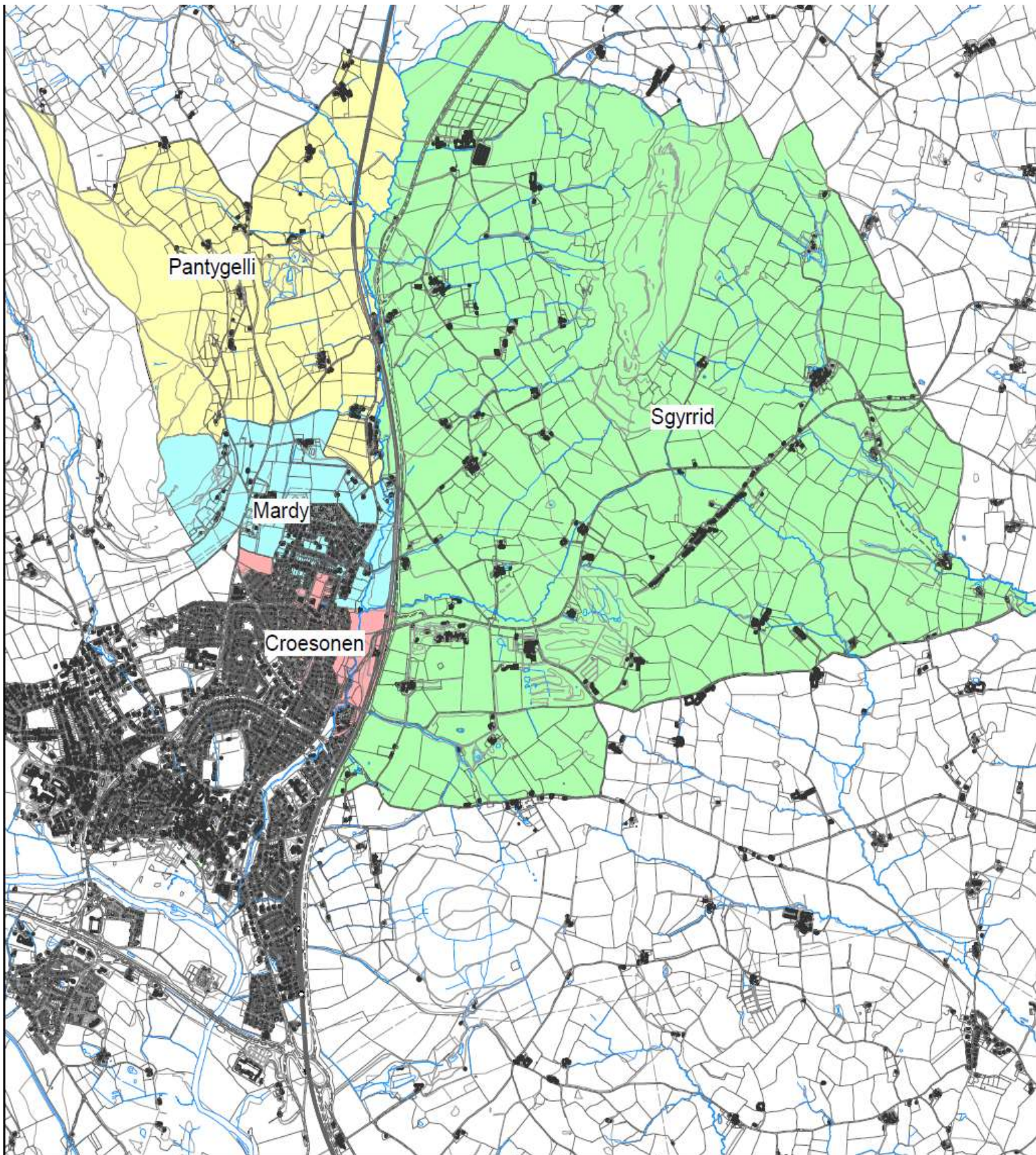
9. No written representations were received in relation to the Llantilio Pertholey community however members of the council were present at the public consultation seminar and noted the following points:
 - Welcome the opportunity to review the existing arrangements and pleased that points included in the initial representation have been considered.
 - Concerned at the proposals of the new boundary between Abergavenny and Croesonen communities at the boundary near Llwynu Lane. Consider boundary difficult to identify given it follows property boundaries and think all properties within Llwynu Lane should be situated within the Croesonen ward.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.
 - 10.1 Whilst the working group understand the concerns raised by Llantilio Pertholey Community Council in relation to the boundary between Croesonen and Abergavenny, having considered all options in the area and given the close proximity between the two communities and the difficulty to find a natural divide, the working group consider the arrangements contained in the draft proposals as the most suitable proposals for the area.
 - 10.2 It was also noted that an anomaly was included in the draft proposals, for the electoral arrangements for the Sgyrrid ward. The draft proposals put forward one councillor for the ward whereas it should be represented by two councillors as per the Terms of Reference for the review and the working group propose this amendment. Therefore the electoral arrangements will be as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Croesonen	1614	6
Mardy	1379	6
Pantygelli	85	1
Sgyrrid	328	2

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Details

Draft community ward proposal

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Community of Llantrisant and Llangwm

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llantrisant consist of two wards, Llantrisant and Gwernesney. The community has a total electorate of 329 and is represented by seven community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llantrisant	213	4
Gwernesney	116	3

The current community arrangements in Llangwm consist of two wards, Llangwm and Llansoy. The community has a total electorate of 355 and is represented by seven community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llangwm	224	5
Llansoy	131	2

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. Prominent features within the Llantrisant community include the A449 and the River Usk and the B4235 that runs north to south through the Llangwm community ward.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no developments planned within both the Llangwm and Llantrisant community that would significantly alter the existing electorate within the community.

Representations Received

4. Llantrisant Fawr Community Council submitted representation regarding their community stating:
 - Whilst the council accept that there is a wide variation between levels of representation in Monmouthshire, strict levels of representation are less important than the recognition of geographical factors and natural boundaries of communities based on settlement.
 - Any enlargement of the existing community would result in a loss of community focus
 - Trying to create a community with a minimum of 1,000 electors would create a community of a large number of scattered villages with different priorities and interests.
 - The prime function of a community is to represent the views, interests and act on behalf of a well-defined community based on patterns of human settlement and not predefined councillor to elector ratio.

- The council believe that the current arrangements have proved effective in that it represents a small cluster of settlements with a shared sense of location and local identity. To that end they propose no change to the existing arrangements.

4.1. No representations were received regarding the community arrangements in Llangwm.

Recommendations

External Boundaries

5. The working group reviewed the community arrangements for Llantrisant and Llangwm communities alongside the representation received from Llantrisant Community Council and concluded, after reviewing a number of options for the communities, that the most suitable proposal would be to merge the two communities together and be renamed Llantrisant Fawr.
- 5.1. Upon reviewing the community arrangements for Llantrisant, the working group believed there to be a stronger link between the Gwernesney ward of Llantrisant and the Llangwm ward of Llangwm than there is between the Llantrisant and Gwernesney wards of the Llantrisant community under the current arrangements. The working group believe the B4235 provides a natural channel of communication between Gwernesney and Llangwm, that doesn't appear to the working group to exist between Gwernesney and Llantrisant. However, the working group gave due consideration to the representation submitted by Llantrisant Community Council to retain the current arrangements and consider merging the two communities together a more suitable option than separating the existing Llantrisant community.
- 5.2. To further support this proposal, the working group identified a number of small single track roads that link the Llantrisant ward and the Llangwm ward. Whilst these roads do not provide main channels of communication between the two areas, the group consider these links prominent enough to merge the two communities together alongside the link between Gwernesney and Llangwm as stated above.

Internal Boundaries

- 5.3. The working group propose no change to the ward boundaries of any of the wards within the proposed community of Llantrisant Fawr.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The working group propose a new community of Llantrisant Fawr to cover the four wards. No changes are proposed to the individual ward names. The working group welcome representations as to more suitable community and community ward names for this area.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Llantrisant Fawr community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Whilst the working group understand that the community of Llantrisant is less than the ideal 1,000 electors for a community as per the terms of reference for this review, the group consider the sparsely populated natural geography and channels of communication within the area lend itself to requiring its own community.

As per the Terms of Reference, it was agreed that a community must be represented by a minimum of seven councillors in order to conduct their business effectively. To that end, the Llantrisant community will be represented by eight councillors rather than five as per the above ratio. An additional councillor has been to the community to ensure that the Llangwm and Llantrisant wards with similar electorates and geography have a similar level of representation within the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llantrisant	213	3
Gwernesney	116	1
Llangwm	224	3
Llansoy	131	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Llantrisant Fawr.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

9. Representation was received from Llantrisant Fawr Community Council noting the following points:
 - Concerns regarding reduced representation across the communities.
 - A larger council will result in a loss of focus and will not save any money
 - Concerned at Gwernesney being a single member ward
 - Recommendation to wait until the Williams Report proposals become clear

10. Llangwm Community Council submitted representation objecting to the proposals and noted the following points:
 - Support the representation made by Llantrisant Fawr Community Council
 - Believe the current arrangements are effective and that there is little in common between the Llangwm and Llantrisant communities.
 - Oppose single member wards
 - Concerns at reduced representation that is currently in place

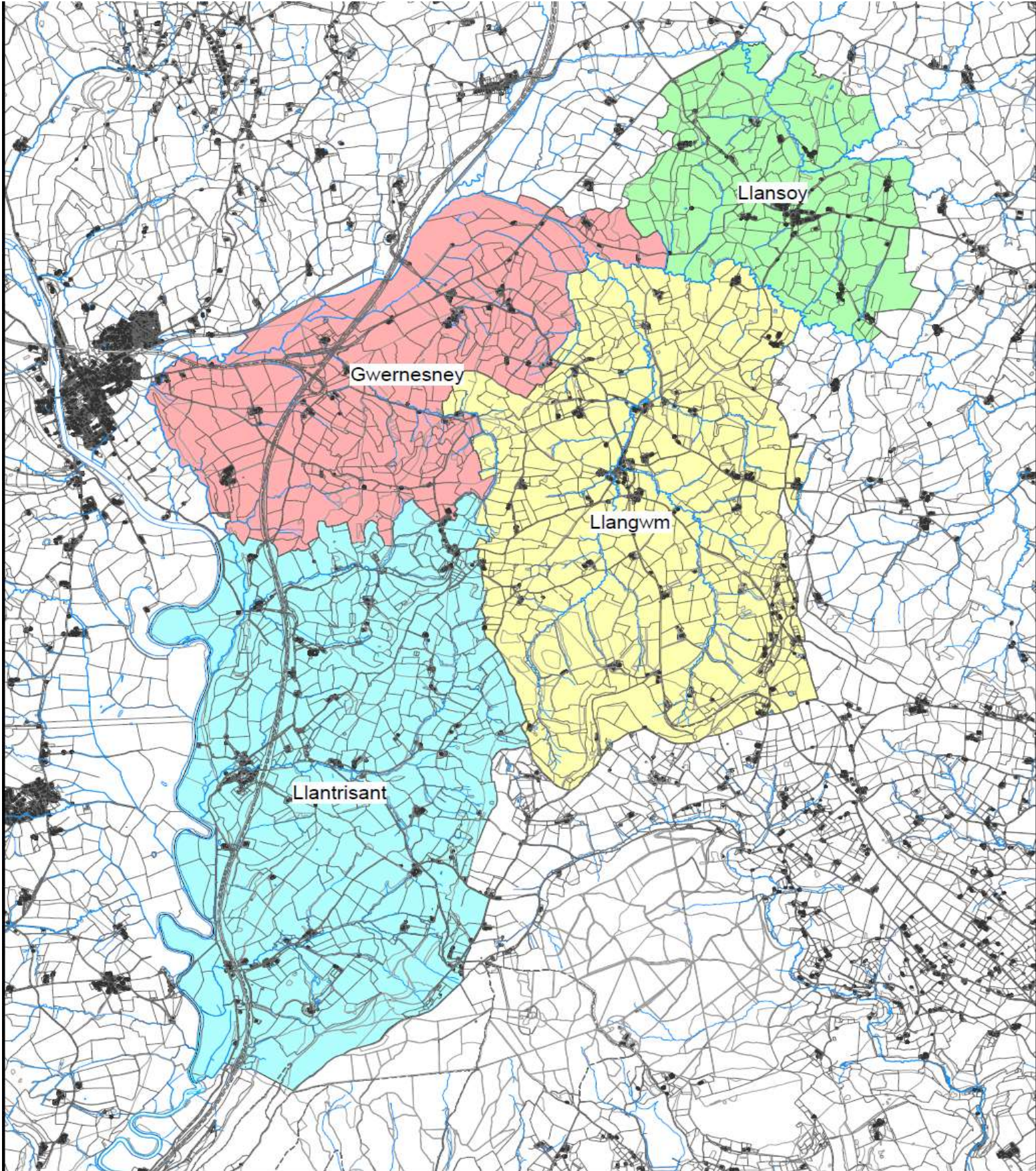
10.1 Representation was also submitted from Julian Mitchell objecting to the proposals stating Llansoy has no affinity with Llantrisant and belief that there should be no single member wards on a council.

10.2 Representation was submitted from Sylvia Fowles supporting the proposed changes stating that no elections have been held to the Llansoy and Llanwm council for many years with most members co-opted and feels that her interests have not been represented but does feel that the community councillors intend to serve the community.

Final Proposal

11. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations received, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment for the reasons included in the draft proposals.

11.1 It remains the view of the working group that Gwernesney has closer links to the Llangwm community, given its access to the villages of Llangwm and Llansoy, than it has with the Llantrisant ward. However, the group are unaware of any reason to split Gwernesney from Llantrisant, and given the links between the two communities as stated in the draft proposals, believe that these two communities should be joined.



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Community of Magor with Undy

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Magor with Undy consist of four wards, Denny, Mill, Salisbury and The Elms. The community has a total electorate of 4676 and is represented by thirteen community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Denny	143	1
Mill	1331	4
Salisbury	734	2
The Elms	2468	6

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The western and southern boundaries of the community of Magor with Undy are the local authority boundary which cannot be considered as part of this review.
 - 2.1. The group identified a number of natural boundaries within the Magor with Undy community including the M4 motorway and Vinegar Hill.

Electorate Forecast

3. A number of developments are set to be built in the Salisbury ward on the land at Magor West. An additional 90 properties are to be built increasing the electorate within the Salisbury ward to 914. An additional 10 properties are to be built at the Tythe House, Church Road area in The Elms ward increasing the electorate to 2488.
 - 3.1. The Local Development Plan also includes proposals for an additional 200 properties to be built on Rockfield Farm, Undy in The Elms ward. This could potentially increase the electorate for The Elms ward to 2868.
 - 3.2. The total electorate for the community of Magor with Undy could increase from 4676 to 5276.

Representations Received

4. No representations were received regarding the community of Magor with Undy.

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The group considered the external community boundaries for Magor with Undy and considered that the M4 motorway is a natural boundary within the area that should not be ignored in setting the boundaries for the area. Whilst the group accept that there are a number of areas north of the M4 that need to be included in the community of Magor with Undy, including Magor Services & the area around Knollbury, the group considered that as a whole the M4 should be the northern boundary of the community of Magor with Undy. Areas north of the M4, other than those highlighted above, should be included in the communities of Caerwent and Rogiet.

Internal Boundaries

- 5.1. The group considered the existing warding arrangements and discussed the four areas that are currently wards within the community of Magor with Undy. The group were unable to identify any connection or affinity with the ward names and boundaries of the existing wards to the area of Magor with Undy. For example the group couldn't understand the naming of 'The Elms' ward which covers the Undy area of the community.

The group also considered the electorate levels in each ward of the community were disproportionate given the fairly urban nature of the community of Magor with Undy and how they compared to similar areas in Monmouthshire.

To that end, the group considered the community of Magor with Undy as a blank canvass and identified boundaries within the community that could more naturally divide the community into the following wards.

Magor West

- 5.2. The group identified a brook from the M4 motorway which intersects the Magor village, bypasses Mill Reen and the Church of Wales Primary School, and continues to the southern boundary of the Magor with Undy Community. The group consider this to be a natural, easily identifiable boundary within the community that naturally divides an area of the community for separate representation.

Magor East

- 5.3. The proposed boundary for Magor east will run from the eastern boundary of the Magor West ward to the rear of all properties contained on Vinegar Hill. The boundary will run north to south through the community until it reaches the railway line which it will follow eastwards to the external community boundary. This ensures that all properties south of the railway which share a common link are contained within a single ward.

Undy

- 5.4. The proposed Undy ward will incorporate the area north of the railway and east of Vinegar Hill to the external community boundary.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

- The group propose no change to the community name of Magor with Undy. However, due to the growth of the community since the previous review and its electorate reaching a similar level to other town councils within Monmouthshire, it is proposed that Magor with Undy becomes a town council rather than a community council.

The group considered the names for the wards within the Magor with Undy community and were unsure as to the origin of the existing ward names and how they link to the areas of the existing community. Therefore the group proposed clear ward names of Magor West, Magor East and Undy as identified above as the proposed ward names. The group welcome suitable alternative names for the community and community ward names for consideration.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

- The working group consider the Magor with Undy community to fall within the urban category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 500 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Magor West	1706	3
Magor East	1802	4
Undy	1670	3

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

- All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Magor with Undy.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

- Representations were received from Magor and Undy Community Council and noted the following points:
 - An increase in electorate at Rockfield Farm and Vinegar Hill development sites
 - Challenge the use of M4 as the northern boundary of the community and question the exceptions of Magor services and Knollbury being included in the community on this basis.
 - Provide historical reasons as to the names of the existing community wards and request the ward names remain
 - Reluctantly accept change to Town Council status and the urban elector/councillor ratio but question the effect of devolved services and extra workloads on reduced councillor numbers
 - Request the external boundary remains the same with the exception of Nanny Goat Cottage included in Magor with Undy rather than Caerwent.
 - Proposed counter electoral arrangements and warding arrangements.

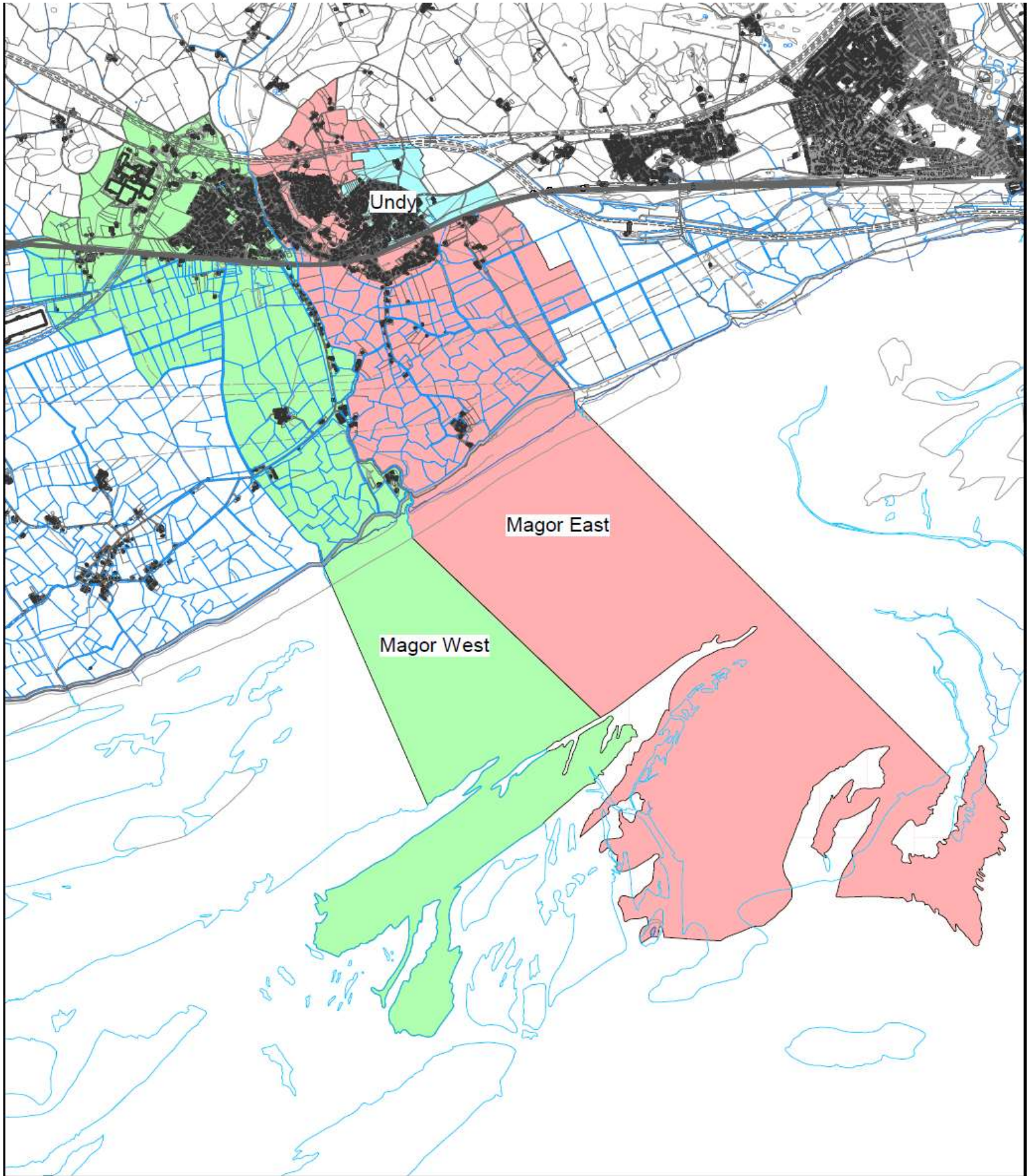
Final Proposal


10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations received, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.

10.1 The working group considered the representation it received from Magor with Undy Community Council requesting to retain arrangements similar to those that are currently in place. However, given the developments within the area, as well as its future expansion, have significantly reduced the separation between Magor and Undy as separate villages. Whilst the working group have tried to retain the historic link to the Mill by using the Mill stream as the boundary between the two wards, proposing arrangements based on historical links would lead to illogical and unbalanced electoral arrangements for the community.

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Proposed Boundary Map of Magor with Undy



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Community of Mathern

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Mathern consist of three wards, Mathern, Mounton and Pwllmeyric. The community has a total electorate of 874 and is represented by nine community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Mathern	471	5
Mounton	77	1
Pwllmeyric	326	3

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The community of Mathern is intersected east to west by the M48 and A48. The community also includes St Pierre wood and Great Barnets Wood to the north with the River Severn south of the community.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are currently no developments planned within the community of Mathern that would significantly alter the current electorate.

Representations Received

4. Community Councillor for the Mounton Ward Carolyn Ovenden submitted representations regarding the Mounton ward stating that the Mounton area has its own unique history but is closely linked to the other wards of the community. She also stated that the properties at the end of Mounton Road should be included in the Mounton Ward with Wellhead Lodge removed into St Arvans ward.
 - 4.1. Councillor Ovenden also submitted a response on behalf of the council in her capacity as vice chair. Councillor Ovenden stated that:
 - The three wards within Mathern are each distinctive but historically linked and there is a thriving community life involving all three villages
 - All three villages are either rural or semi-rural and are geographically separate from similar areas nearby.
 - The community is part of the Wye Valley AONB and conservation area reflecting the individual character of the area
 - The community is well balanced with all wards working together frequently towards a common goal providing the publication of local walks materials and safer conditions on the A48 as examples.

- The community and its residents are to devise a community led plan in collaboration with Adventa
 - Recommendations for amendments to the internal boundaries included Hayesgate and Broadwell Farm from Mathern to Mounton, Mounton House from Mounton to Pwllmeyric, High Beech Lane into Pwllmeyric.
- 4.2. Councillor Ovenden submitted a secondary response following the publication of the initial representations to object to the proposal put forward by Chepstow Town Council to incorporate the remainder of New House Farm Industrial estate into the community of Chepstow.
- 4.3. County Councillor Graham Down submitted a representation regarding the community arrangements for Mathern broadly agreeing with the representation submitted by Mathern Community Council.

Recommendations

External Boundaries

5. The working group considered the current boundary of New Farm Industrial Estate alongside the representations submitted for the area and concluded that incorporating all of the industrial estate into one community would provide clear, easily identifiable boundaries which in turn would improve administration processes for the area. The group however accept Mathern Community Councils comments regarding the industrial estate and propose that the new boundary follows the bund erected by the council which would prohibit further expansion of the industrial estate without consultation with Mathern Community Council.
- 5.1. The working group also considered the current boundary between the communities of Chepstow and Mathern near High Beech Lane which splits the properties north of the road to the community of Chepstow and the south to Mathern. The working group believe that given the properties of High Beech Lanes' close links with Chepstow and direct access to the Wye Valley Link Road that these would be best suited to the community of Chepstow. The group therefore propose the new boundary should incorporate all of the properties of High Beech Lane in to the community of Chepstow.
- 5.2. The working group also considered the arrangements to the west of the community up to the Parkwall roundabout. Whilst the group understood the that the current boundary between Caerwent, Mathern and Portskewett utilised the easily identifiable boundary of the M48, they felt that splitting the properties east of Caerwent along the A48 between Mathern and Portskewett did not lead to effective and convenient local government and it appeared that those properties were more closely associated with the Crick area of Caerwent than the communities that they are currently situated. The working group therefore propose to extend the eastern boundary of Caerwent up to, and including the properties on Parkwall Roundabout incorporating all properties adjacent to the A48 into the Caerwent area. The boundary will then follow the A48 up to the flyover of the M48 and return west along the M48. From there the boundary will follow the drain northwards just south of Lavender Well Farm, where it will join and follow the edge of

St Pierre Wood. All properties within this area including Runston Farm, Broadwell and Green Meadow Farm will be included in the Crick ward of Caerwent.

Internal Boundaries

Mathern

5.3. Amendments to the Mathern ward include the changes as stated in 5. 5.1 and 5.2 above.

Pwllmeyric & Mounton

5.4. The working group considered the proposal from Mathern Community Council to incorporate Mounton House into the Pwllmeyric ward rather than the Mounton ward. The group agree with the proposal being forward and therefore propose that the boundary between the two wards is amended to follow the northern edge of Bigs Wood from St Lawrence Lane and follow the boundary of Mounton House. The boundary will return south following the stream to the rear of 'The Dene'.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The working group propose no change to the community and community ward names for Mathern but welcome representations as to more suitable names for the area.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Mathern community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Whilst the amendments to the internal boundaries result in a very low electorate for the Mounton ward, given the representations received from the local community councillor, the working group believe that the ward should retain its own representation in the community.

Whilst the working group understand that the community of Mathern is slightly less than the ideal 1,000 electors for a community as per the terms of reference for this review, the group consider the natural geography and channels of communication within the area lend itself to requiring its own community.

As per the Terms of Reference, it was agreed that a community must be represented by a minimum of seven councillors in order to conduct their business effectively. To that end, the Usk community will be represented by seven councillors rather than four as per the above ratio.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Mathern	456	3
Mounton	27	1
Pwllmeyric	376	3

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Mathern.

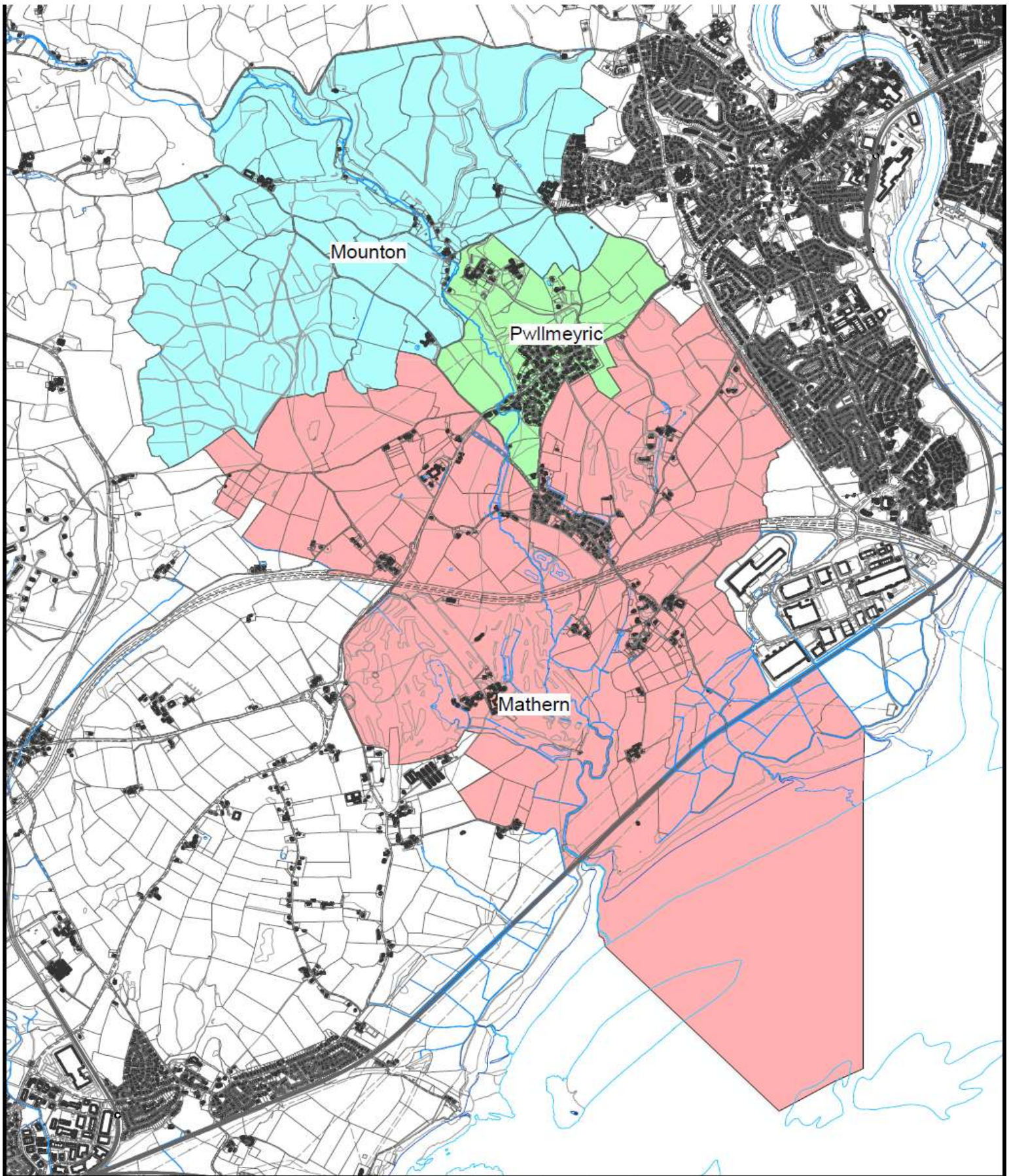
Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

9. Representations were received from Mathern Community Council and noted the following points:
- A belief that the entire New House Farm Industrial Estate should lie within Mathern Community Council due to the direct impact on the village in terms of noise and light pollution
 - Prefer not to lose properties near High Beech Lane to Chepstow with the boundary following the link road and A48 preferable.
 - Provided examples of properties that could also be included in Mathern or changed between wards
 - Concerns at reduction in number of councillors
10. Representation was also received from the then County Councillor for Mathern detailing the following points:
- Suggests the boundary between Chepstow and Mathern should follow the A466 with properties of High Beech Lane falling into Mathern and the M48 acting as the boundary at the south.
 - Proposal for eastern boundary to follow Mounton Road
 - Noted a property on the Usk Road that falls within Mathern but has no affiliation to Mathern.

Final Proposal

11. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.
- 11.1 Whilst the working group understand the concerns of the community council regarding the industrial estate, they believe it should fall within the community of Chepstow given that is where the access currently sits and has direct impact on the town as well as the residents of Mathern. To that end, the proposed boundary between the two communities runs along the bund on the edge of the industrial estate meaning any further growth of the industrial estate would be into the Mathern and community fall within the remit of Mathern Council.



Details

Draft community ward proposal

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Community of Mitchel Troy

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Mitchel Troy consist of five wards, Cwmcарvan, Dingestow, Mitchel Troy, Tregare and Wonastow. The community has a total electorate of 993 and is represented by 10 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Cwmcарvan	162	2
Dingestow	234	2
Mitchel Troy	341	3
Tregare	179	2
Wonastow	77	1

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group considered natural boundaries within the community of Mitchel Troy to be the A40, the River Trothy and the B4293.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no developments planned within the community of Mitchel Troy that would significantly alter the current electorate.

Representations Received

4. Mitchel Troy community council submitted a representation stating that the council had no desire to increase, decrease or alter the boundaries within the community. They also state that whilst the councillor/elector ratio is relatively low, it was felt that the concept of over representation was irrelevant since community councillors are volunteers and therefore costless. Additionally the councillors represent a large area that is sparsely populated.

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The working group considered the existing arrangements for the community of Mitchel Troy alongside the representations submitted for the community and on the whole propose that the current arrangements are suitable and fit for purpose. However, in reviewing the community of Raglan the working group identified that the Pen-Y-Clawdd ward of the Raglan community would be better suited to the community of Mitchel Troy than its current community. All channels of communication through the Pen-Y-Clawdd ward run north to south with no clear link between

the Pen-Y-Clawdd ward and the rest of the Raglan wards. Additionally, access to the north of the Pen-Y-Clawdd ward runs into the Cwmcarvan ward of Mitchel Troy and provides easily accessible channels of communication between this area and the rest of the Mitchel Troy community. To that end it is proposed that the Pen-Y-Clawdd and Llangovan ward of Raglan is included in the Mitchel Troy community.

- 5.1. In addition to the above, there are a number of small amendments that the working group proposed to improve the community arrangements. Firstly, the working group felt that the boundary between Raglan and Tregare could be simplified by using the junction for the A449 and Mitchel Troy as the edge of the boundary between the two communities. This would result in the properties of Cuckoo's Row and The Warrage being included in the Tregare ward of Mitchel Troy rather than the community of Raglan. The boundary will therefore continue south along the A449 from the edge of the boundary for the Cwmcarvan ward to the junction for Raglan where it will head northwards to join the existing community boundary.
- 5.2. It is also proposed to amend the northern boundary between the Monmouth and Mitchel Troy communities near Troy House. Whilst the group accept that the current boundary between the two communities which follows the River Trothy is a natural, easily identifiable boundary, it does not provide convenient local government for Troy House given its close association with the Monmouth Community by falling within the Mitchel Troy Community. It is therefore proposed that the boundary is amended to leave the River Trothy near the edge of Troy Park Wood and re-join the river near the garden centre to include Troy House in the community of Monmouth.
- 5.3. The final amendment to the community boundary is at the north of the Tregare ward at Cefn Garw Farm. The working group consider that this property is more closely associated with the Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern than the Tregare ward of Mitchel Troy given that all access to the property is north of the farm with no access south to Tregare. Therefore the group propose to amend the boundary so it continues along the Nant Wachan stream south of Cefn Garw Farm and join with the existing boundary north of Tregare Mill.

Internal Boundaries

- 5.4. The working group propose no change to the internal boundaries of the community of Mitchel Troy other than those affected by amendments to the external boundaries as stated above.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The working group propose no change to the community and community ward names in the Mitchel Troy community but welcome representations as to more suitable names for the community.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Mitchel Troy community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Cwmcарvan	162	1
Dingestow	234	1
Mitchel Troy	336	2
Tregare	223	2
Wonastow	77	1
Pen-Y-Clawdd & Llangovan	99	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Mitchel Troy.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

9. Representation was received from the then County Councillor for Mitchel Troy noting an anomaly that Dingestow with 234 electors have one councillor but Tregare with 223 have two councillors.
- 9.1 Representation was also received from Raglan Community Council detailing representations they had received objecting to the proposal to remove Cuckoos Row and The Warrage from within the Raglan Community.

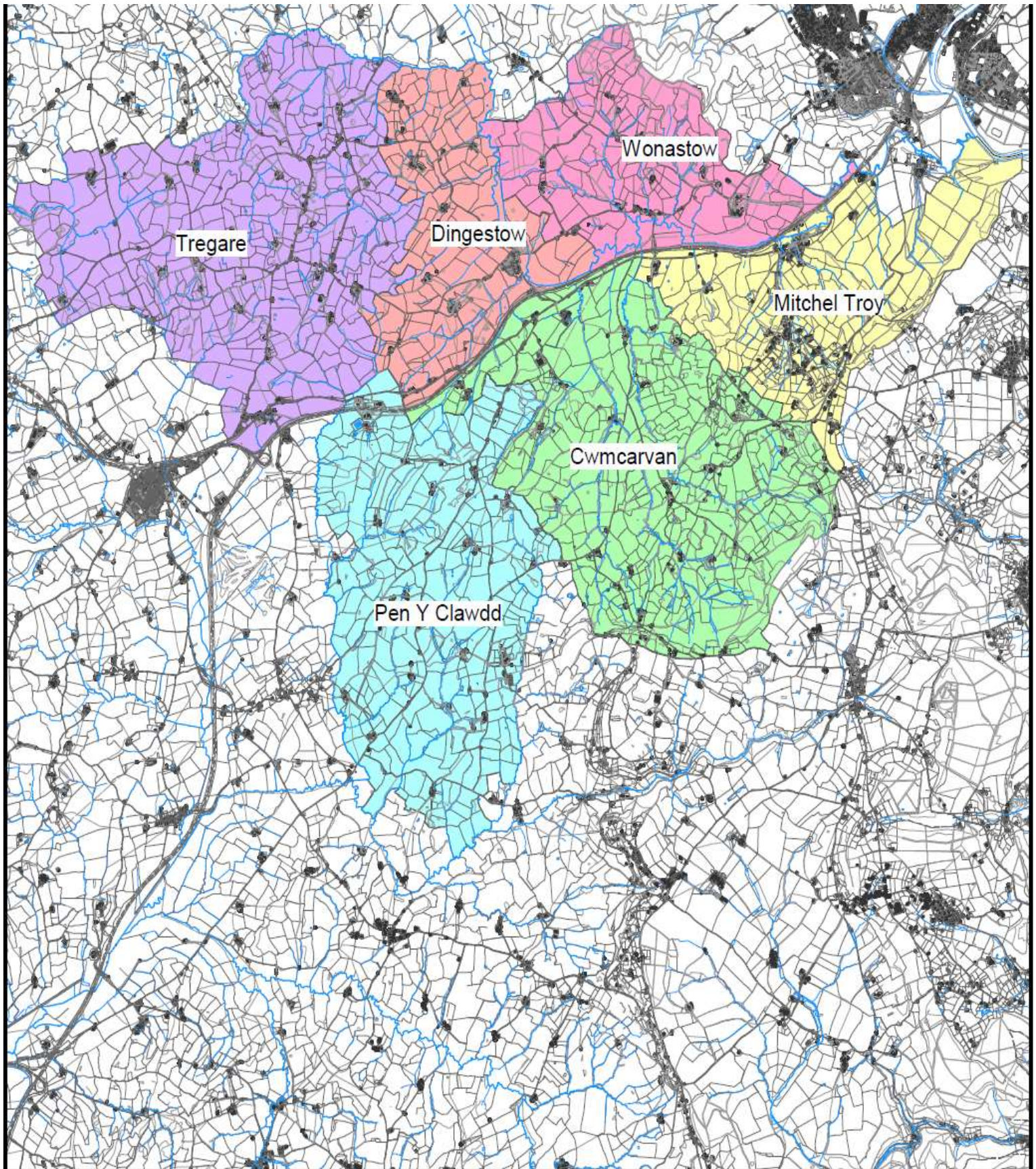
Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.
- 10.1 Whilst the working group understood the concerns from Raglan Community Council regarding Cuckoo's Row and The Warrage, it was felt that the natural and easily identifiable boundary of the junction of the A40 was a suitable split between the Raglan and Mitchel Troy communities particularly as there are links with the rest of the Tregare ward, Penyclawdd and Llangovan ward and the rest of Mitchel Troy.
- 10.2 The working group note the anomaly contained in the representation from the then County Councillor for Mitchel Troy and therefore propose the following electoral arrangements for Mitchely Troy:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Cwmcарvan	162	1
Dingestow	234	2

Mitchel Troy	336	2
Tregare	223	2
Wonastow	77	1
Pen-Y-Clawdd & Llangovan	99	1

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Community of Monmouth

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Monmouth consist of five wards, Dixton with Osbaston, Town, Drybridge, Overmonnow and Wyesham. The community has a total electorate of 7994 and is represented by 16 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Dixton with Osbaston	1902	4
Town	588	1
Drybridge	2051	3
Overmonnow	1774	4
Wyesham	1679	4

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group considered natural boundaries within the community of Monmouth to be the River Wye and River Monnow, the A40 and the A466.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are a number of proposals within the community of Monmouth that will increase in the electorate of the existing community. An additional 39 properties are to be built in the Dixton with Osbaston ward, 12 properties within the Town ward, 52 properties in the Wyesham ward and 84 properties in the Drybridge ward.
- 3.1. The community of Monmouth also contains proposals within the Councils LDP that would significantly alter the electorate within the community. An additional 35 properties are proposed within the Wyesham ward and 370 properties are proposed within the Drybridge ward.

Representations Received

4. Monmouth Town Council submitted a representation proposing that the boundary of Dixton with Osbaston is amended to follow the River Monnow rather than Osbaston Road as well as recommending another community councillor for the Drybridge ward. They also recommended reviewing the County Council ward of Drybridge and Town as Overmonnow and Town may be a more suitable combination.

Recommendations

External Boundaries

5. The working group identified two areas for amendment in relation to the external boundary of the community of Monmouth. The first amendment is in the Rockfield Studios area at the north of the community adjoining the Rockfield and St Maughans ward of the Llangattock Vibon Avel Community. The group queried why the boundary extended so north of the urban area of Drybridge and identified Ancre Hill Lane as being an easily identifiable feature that separates Monmouth from Llangattock Vibon Avel. The amendment would also ensure that Rockfield Studios is located within the Rockfield and St Maughans ward which its name is closer associated with. It is proposed that the new boundary will run north of Croft Y Bwla and Ancre Hill Lane and join up with the River Monnow and follow the existing boundary for Dixon with Osbaston.
- 5.1. The second amendment is to the southern boundary between the Monmouth and Mitchel Troy communities near Troy House. Whilst the group accept that the current boundary between the two communities which follows the River Trothy is a natural, easily identifiable boundary, it does not provide convenient local government for Troy House given its close association with the Monmouth Community by falling within the Mitchel Troy Community. It is therefore proposed that the boundary is amended to leave the River Trothy near the edge of Troy Park Wood and rejoin the river near the garden centre to include Troy House in the community of Monmouth.

Internal Boundaries

- 5.2. A number of changes have been made to the internal boundaries of the community of Monmouth. When reviewing the community, it was clear that the current distribution of electors between the wards is unbalanced and will only worsen due to the proposed housing developments within the community. When reviewing the community, it was identified that the following proposals could be put forward which are in line with the Terms of Reference for this review whilst addressing the variance in electorate.

Dixon with Osbaston

- 5.3. Two areas were identified for amendment within the Dixon with Osbaston ward, the area of Forge Lane and the area of the southern boundary that divides Dixon with Osbaston and Town ward near the A40.

In the Forge Lane area, the current boundary between Dixon with Osbaston follows the roads Monk Street, The Parade and Osbaston Road. The current boundary intersects properties on either side of these roads between two different wards, and currently County Council wards, and includes all properties associated with Forge Road, as well as Osbaston school, in the Town ward of the community even though these are separated from the rest of the Town ward by the River Monnow. In addition, one of the criteria set out in the Terms of Reference for this review is to amend any instances of boundaries intersecting roads as it causes confusion for the electorate and does not provide for easy and convenient local government. It is therefore proposed that the boundary in this area is amended to follow the River Monnow with the boundary leaving Osbaston Road at the bridge adjoining Osbaston Road and the Pavilion where it will then follow

the River Monnow northwards. This will ensure that the area north of the Monnow River, i.e on the Osbaston side of the river, is included in the Dixton with Osbaston ward.

- 5.4. A similar scenario occurs at the southern end of Dixton with Osbaston where the boundary separating this ward with Town intersects a number of streets including Bridge Street, St James Street and Whitecross Street. The group propose that a more suitable boundary for this area which will be in line with the Terms of Reference for this review, would be to extend the Town ward up to the Dixton Roundabout with the new boundary following the rear of the properties on Dixton Road and The Parade with the new boundary adjoining the existing Dixton with Osbaston boundary at the intersection of The Parade and Osbaston Road.

Town

- 5.5. As mentioned in 5.2 above, there is a large imbalance in electorate between the wards of the community of Monmouth with the Town ward significantly lower than the other wards, mostly in part due to a smaller number of residential properties in the ward within the Town Centre area. Whilst the working group understand that less electors doesn't result in less workload within a town centre area, they do feel that there is scope to increase the electorate within the Town ward whilst complying with the Terms of Reference and ensuring that the boundaries lead to effective and convenient local government.

As mentioned in 5.4 above, it already proposed to extend the town ward within the Dixton area to incorporate the area around St James Square and Dixton Road in to the Town ward.

The current Town ward extends above the Monnow River incorporating the area around the Territorial Army Site and Pavillion as well as previously mentioned, Forge Lane. The group believe that the River acts as a natural boundary between this area and the town centre and as such should not be included in the same ward. It is therefore proposed that the new boundary of the Town ward follows the Monnow River with the area north of the river incorporated into the Drybridge ward.

It is also proposed to extend the southern boundary of the Town ward to incorporate the area south of the Monnow River to the rear of the properties at Clawdd Du. Whilst this proposal crosses the River which has been used as a boundary in other areas of the community, this area includes the old and new Monnow Bridge which provide strong links between the two areas. The Town ward will also include the area around Bridges Community Centre and Drybridge Park as well as the houses north of Wonastow Road up to the industrial estate.

Drybridge

- 5.6. The northern boundary of the Drybridge ward, which is also the external community boundary has been amended as stated in 5. above. Also see 5.5 above regarding amendments to the Town ward which effect the Drybridge ward.

The current Drybridge ward has an electorate of 2051 and has proposed developments within the ward that will increase the electorate to 2219. In addition to this, proposed in the LDP between the Drybridge and the Overmonnow ward at Wonsatow Road is additional development of 350 properties which could increase the electorate in the ward to approximately 2919. In comparison to the electorate of other wards in the community the potential difference in electorate is too great and needs to be addressed. Additionally, in the Terms of Reference for the review, it states that where possible the group will prepare proposals that will include whole development sites within a single ward to ensure that the proposed boundaries are future proof and do not lead to confusion amongst the electorate should these developments go ahead. Currently the boundary for the proposed site is split between Overmonnow and Drybridge wards so requires amendment. To that end the southern boundary of the Drybridge ward near the Singleton Court Business Park has been amended to incorporate the proposed site of the Wonastow Road development contained in the LDP in to the Overmonnow ward.

Overmonnow

5.7. See sections 5.1, 5.5 and 5.6 above regarding amendments to the Overmonnow ward.

Wyesham

5.8. The working group reviewed the existing arrangements for the Wyesham ward and recommend that the boundaries remain unchanged.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

8. The working group propose no changes to the community and community ward names in Monmouth but welcome recommendations as to suitable alternatives.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

9. The working group consider the Monmouth community to fall within the urban category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 500 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Dixton with Osbaston	1762	4
Town	1676	3
Drybridge	1889	4
Overmonnow	1802	4
Wyesham	1853	4

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Monmouth.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

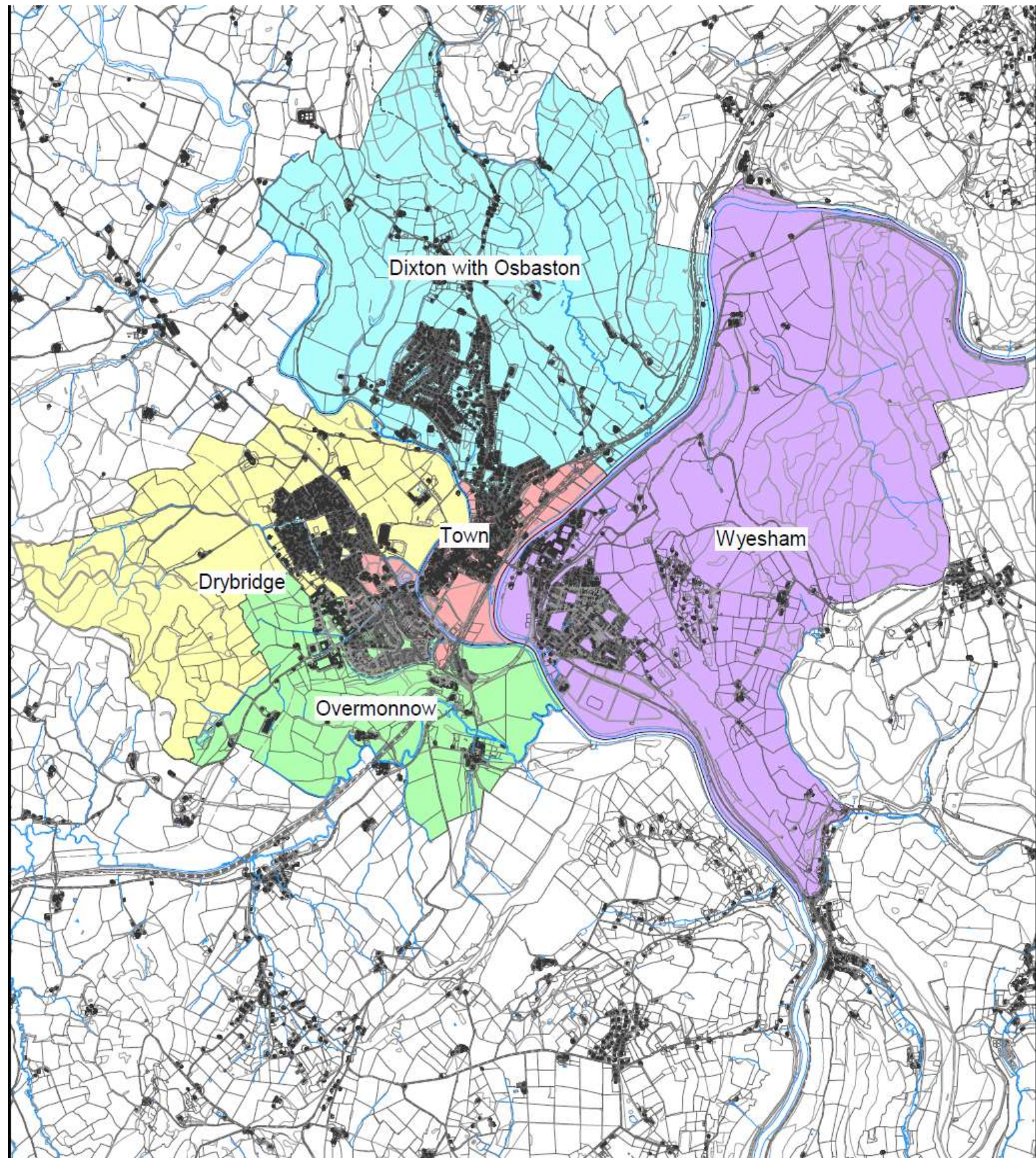
9. Representations were received from Cllr G Bright for the Overmonnow ward objecting to any changes to the boundaries of the Overmonnow ward other than any new developments to be included in the Overmonnow ward or the new developments becoming a ward of their own.
 - 9.1 Representation was received from then County Councillor Susan White objecting to the proposals stating that Overmonnow was an acient settlement and town in its own right and will lose the heart of the community through the church, chuch hall and local businesses. The Councillor proposed that the Wonastow Road development is included in Drybridge ward with an additional councillor for that ward.
 - 9.2 Councillor Jeana Hall submitted representation in relation to the Dixton with Osbaston ward suggesting the proposed boundary would better sit to the left side of Dixton Road, The Parade and Monk Street.
 - 9.3 A resident of Overmonnow submitted representation to the group objecting to the changes for Overmonnow due to historic and ancient links within the ward.
 - 9.4 Another resident submitted representation objecting to the proposals for Overmonnow due to historic and ancient links within the ward.
 - 9.5 Councillor S Chivers also submitted representation objecting to the proposals for the Overmonnow ward due to historic links of the the Overmonnow ward.
 - 9.6 Representation was submitted by Gary Witcombe on behalf of the Welsh Independent Party suggesting a cut in County Councillors for the area and throughout Monmouthshire.
 - 9.7 Representation was received from Councillor Graham Pritchard relating to the councillor:elector ratio who felt that a ratio of 1:600 would be more practical for the community and that representation should be based on population rather than electorate.
 - 9.8 Monmouth Town Council submitted a copy of the minutes in relation to the discussion on the issue at a Town Council meeting. From the minutes it appears to broadly support the proposals for Monmouth with the main issue being the number of councillors on the Council that shouldn't be increased to 19 but could not agree a more suitable scheme.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.

10.1 The only amendment the working group propose to the draft proposals is that Dixton with Obsaston ward should be renamed to just Osbaston given that much of the Dixton area is no longer in the ward and split between the two wards.

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Community of Portskewett

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Portskewett consist of three wards, Leechpool, Portskewett Village & Sudbrook. The community has a total electorate of 1765 and is represented by ten community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Leechpool	168	1
Portskewett Village	1308	7
Sudbrook	289	2

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group considered key features within the Portskewett Community to be the Railway, Severnside industrial estate as well as the B4245 and the A48.

Electorate Forecast

3. There is currently a proposed development within the Portskewett Village ward that will increase the electorate within the Portskewett Village ward from 1308 to 1392. Additionally, within the Local Development Plan there is a proposal for an additional 250 properties on Crick Road within the Portskewett Village ward. This could potentially increase the electorate within the community of Portskewett to 2349.

Representations Received

4. No representations were received in relation to the community arrangements for the community of Portskewett.

Recommendations

External Boundaries

5. The northern boundary of the Portskewett area, which adjoins Caerwent and Mathern, has been amended to incorporate properties accessible off the A48 and the Parkwall Roundabout into the Caerwent area. The new boundary will follow the western edge of Ballan Wood and follow field boundaries between the A48 and B4245 up to the Parkwall Roundabout.
- 5.1. It is also proposed that the western boundary between Portskewett and Caldicot is amended to continue following the railway rather than intersecting the Severnside industrial estate in Caldicot. The group consider the railway line to act as a natural and easily identifiable boundary between the two communities and as such will create clear areas of responsibility between the

two communities, particularly in relation to the administrative responsibility of the Severnside Industrial Estate.

The group are aware that in altering this community boundary, it would also be ideal to amend the Parliamentary and Welsh Assembly Constituency boundary so that all boundaries are aligned. There is however, no mechanism in legislation that enables an amendment to the Parliamentary and Welsh Assembly boundaries and this responsibility lies with the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales and not the local authority. If the working group consider this proposal should be included in the final proposals for the area, then the group will arrange to meet with representatives of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales to discuss the mechanisms for ensuring all boundaries remain clear and easily identifiable.

Internal Boundaries

Leechpool & Portskewett Village

- 5.2. The group considered the arrangements in the Treetops estate area which is currently intersected by the boundary of Portskewett Village and Leechpool. The group consider that all the properties for Treetops should be included in a single ward and included Portskewett Village ward. In addition to the Treetops estate, the Local Development Plan contains proposals for a number of properties to be built in the field adjoining the north of Treetops, accessible from Crick Road. With both these issues in mind, the working group propose to amend the boundary between Portskewett Village and Leechpool wards to follow the B4245 at the edge of Caldicot up to the junction of Crick Road where it follow Crick Road south until it joins the existing boundary adjacent to the Arch Bishop Rowan Williams Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School.

It has been identified that the Treetops housing is currently solely within the Portskewett Village ward according to the electoral register. The register will need to be amended upon its publication in March 2014 in accordance with the boundary therefore splitting the Treetops area between the two wards.

Sudbrook

- 5.3. The working group proposed no change to the current arrangements for the Sudbrook ward.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The group propose no changes to the community and community ward names of Portskewett.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Portskewett community to fall within the mixed category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 250 electors per councillor. The above changes

to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Leechpool	163	1
Portskewett Village	1892	7
Sudbrook	289	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Portskewett.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

9. Representations were received from Portskewett Community Council noting the following points:

- Support the Severn Bridge Industrial Estate moving into the community of Caldicot
- Concerned that Leechpool boundary is a staggered boundary rather than a neat block
- Sudbrook requires two councillors due to additional development in the ward.

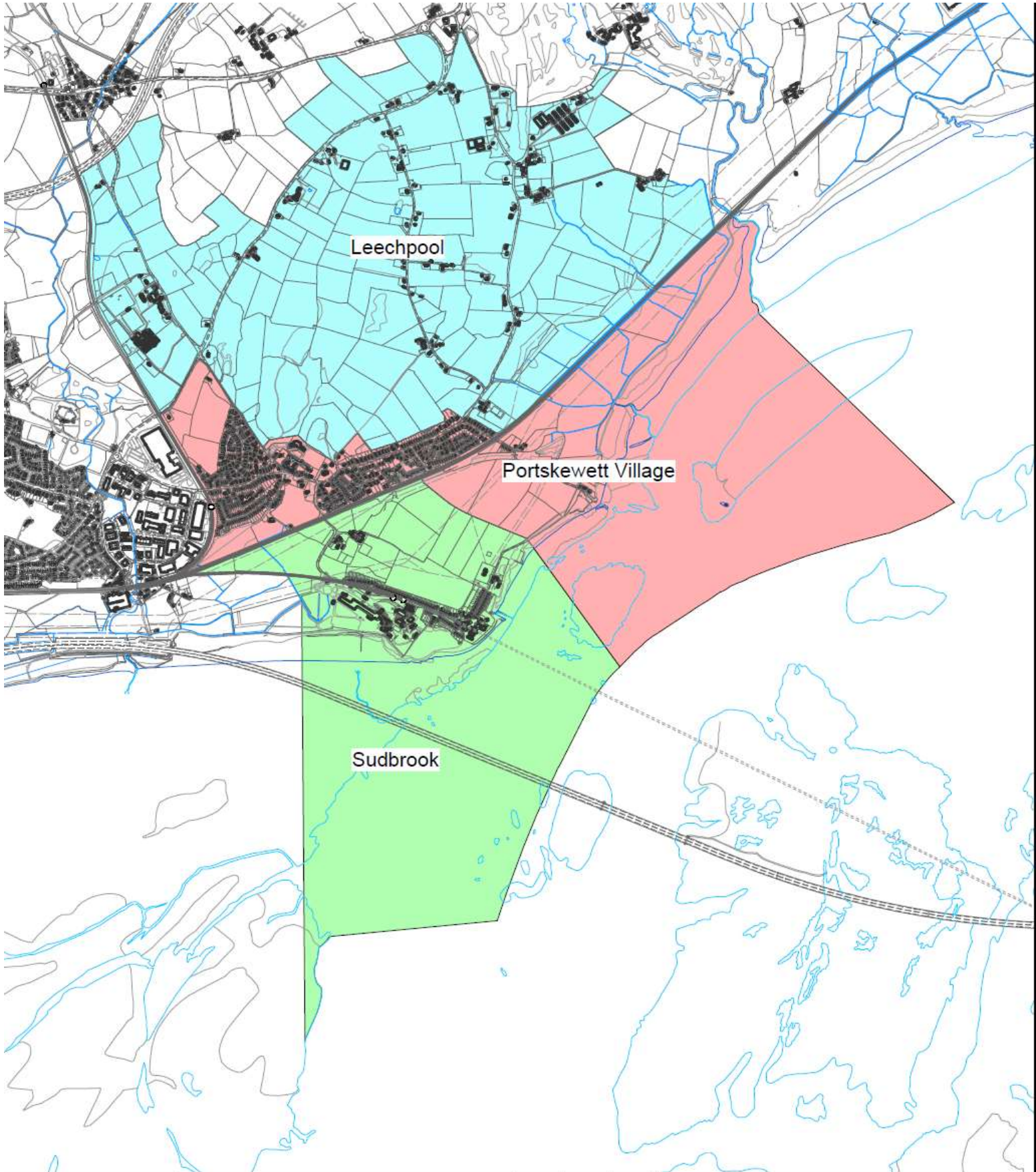
9.1 Representation was also received from the County Councillor for Portskewett supporting the points made by the community council.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.

10.1 As per the representations received, it is proposed that the only amendment to the draft proposals is an additional councillor included for the Sudbrook ward with representation on the Council as per the below :

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Leechpool	163	1
Portskewett Village	1892	7
Sudbrook	289	2



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Community of Raglan

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Raglan consist of three wards, Llandenny, Penyclawdd & Llangovan and Raglan. The community has a total electorate of 1585 and is represented by eleven community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llandenny	366	2
Penyclawdd & Llangovan	99	1
Raglan	1120	8

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider prominent features within the community of Raglan are the A449 dual carriageway as well as Raglan Castle.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no developments proposed within the community of Raglan that would significantly alter the current electorate.

Representations Received

4. No representations were received for the community of Raglan.

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The group reviewed the current arrangements for the community of Raglan and queried the reason for the Pen-Y-Clawdd ward to be included in the Raglan community. All channels of communication through the Pen-Y-Clawdd ward run north to south with no clear link between the Pen-Y-Clawdd ward and the rest of the Raglan wards. To that end it is proposed that the Pen-Y-Clawdd ward is removed from the community of Raglan and incorporated into the community of Mitchel Troy which it is linked with via the Cwmcavan ward to the north.
 - 5.1. Additionally the working group felt that the boundary between Raglan and Tregare could be simplified by using the junction for the A449 and Mitchel Troy as the edge of the boundary between the two communities. This would result in the properties of Cuckoo's Row and the Warrage being include in the Tregare ward of Mitchel Troy rather than the community of Raglan.

- 5.2. A small amendment has been made to the boundary between Raglan and Llanarth near Rhiw-Las. Currently the boundary follows a stream and road splitting properties in the same area into three separate wards. Additionally, the property Rhiw-Las Mill is in the Bryngwyn ward of Llanarth whilst all other properties associated with Rhiw-Las are in the Raglan ward. The group propose amending the boundary in this area to follow field boundaries to join up with the existing external boundary following the stream so that the properties Rhiw-Las Mill and all outbuildings associated with Merry Stream Barn are contained within a single ward of the community of Raglan.
- 5.3. When reviewing the community of Gwehelog, the working group proposed that this community be disbanded with electors in the Gwehelog ward be included in the community of Raglan with its own Gwehelog ward.

Internal Boundaries

- 5.4. When reviewing the internal boundaries of the community of Raglan the working group considered that four wards could remain within the community, namely Raglan, Llandenny, Gwehelog and Kingcoed.

Raglan

- 5.5. The existing Raglan ward will remain largely unchanged except for amendments to the external boundary as stated in 5.1 and 5.2 above.

Llandenny and Kingcoed

- 5.6. The boundary for the Llandenny ward will remain largely unchanged with the eastern boundary changed to follow the A449. The area to the east of the A449 that was contained within the Llandenny ward will now form a new ward of Kingcoed within the community.

Gwehelog

- 5.7. The Gwehelog ward will remain largely unchanged but will remove the Llancayo area from the ward with Trostre and Llancayo Wood acting as the western boundary of the ward.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. No change is proposed to the existing community name of Raglan and the community wards of Raglan and Llandenny. Gwehelog, which was previously known as Gwehelog and Llancayo is proposed to be called Gwehelog as the Llancayo area is no longer included in the ward. Kingcoed has been proposed as the new name for the community east of the A449. The working group welcome recommendations as to more suitable names for the area.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Raglan community to fall within the mixed category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 250 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llandenny	220	1
Kingcoed	146	1
Raglan	1070	4
Gwehelog	223	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Raglan.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

9. Representations were received from Raglan Community Council and noted the following points:
- Provided a detailed analysis of the work the council and its councillors cover
 - Concerns at reducing the number of councillors
 - Concern at the loss of Cuckoos Row and the Warrage to Mitchel Troy
 - Consider Gwehelog residents would receive an increase in precept to cover issues in Raglan when they may be more associated with Usk

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.

10.1 Whilst the working group understood the concerns from Raglan Community Council regarding Cuckoo's Row and The Warrage, it was felt that the natural and easily identifiable boundary of the junction of the A40 was a suitable split between the Raglan and Mitchel Troy Communities (particularly as there are links with the rest of the Tregare ward, Penyclawdd and Llangovan ward and the rest of Mitchel Troy).

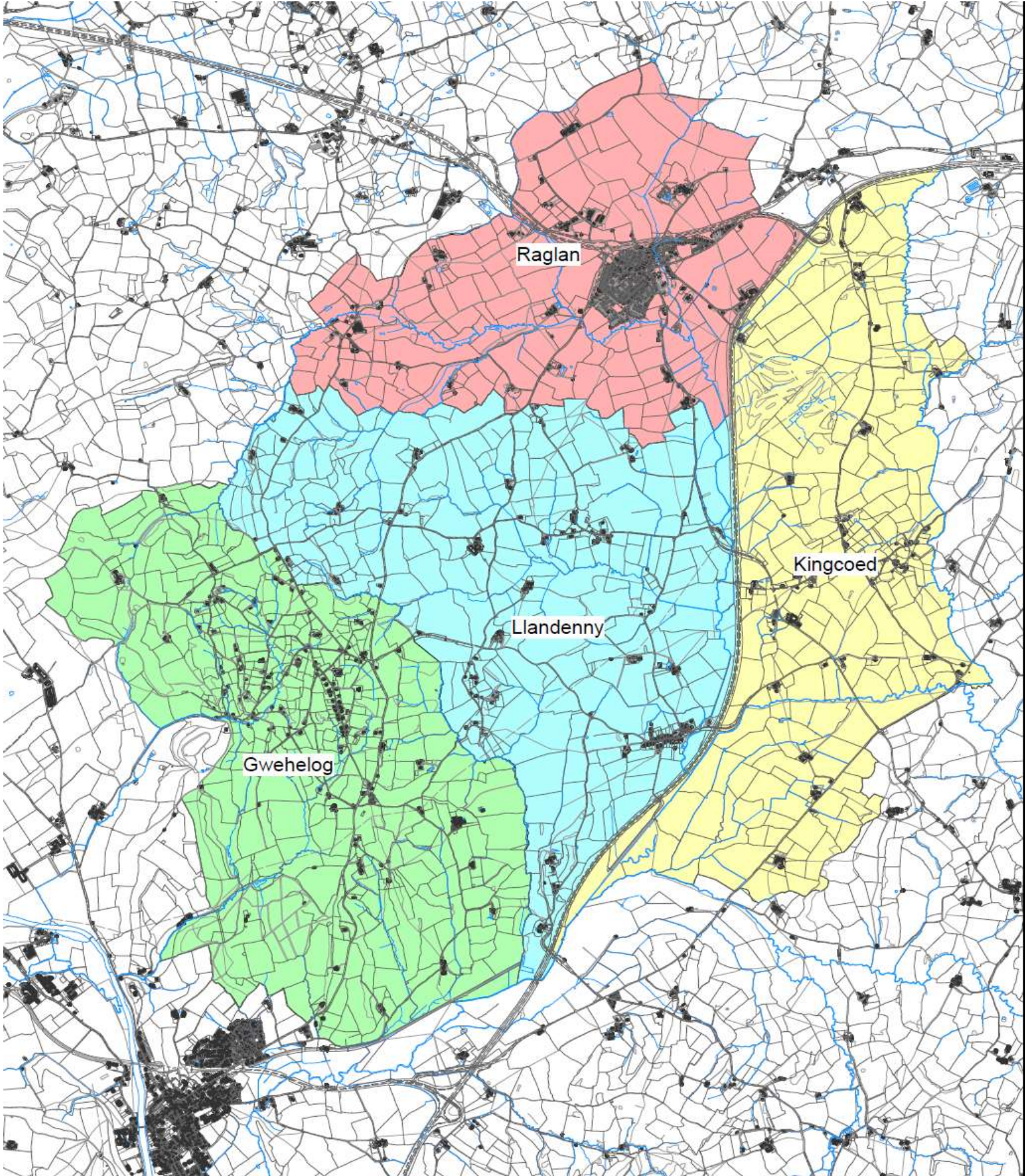
10.3 Whilst the working group understand the concerns of the community in that the Gwehelog ward has different characteristics to Raglan, the group believe that those characteristics are only different to the Raglan ward of the Raglan community, which has rural areas within its current boundary that are similar to that of Gwehelog ward.

10.4 Additionally, to give the rural wards a stronger voice on the council, it is proposed that the Llandenny and Gwehelog wards of the council have two councillors rather than the proposed

single member representation and address the concerns of the Community Council in reducing its membership.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llandenny	220	2
Kingcoed	146	1
Raglan	1070	4
Gwehelog	223	2

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Details

Draft community ward proposal

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Community of Rogiet

Current Community Format

1. The community of Rogiet is currently unwarded. The community has a total electorate of 1349 and is represented by 11 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Rogiet	1349	11

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider key features within the community of Rogiet to be the M4 and M48, the railway and severn tunnel junction station and the woodland to the north of the community.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no developments proposed for the community of Rogiet that would significantly alter the current electorate.

Representations Received

4. No representations were received in relation to the community of Rogiet.

Recommendations

5. The group considered the community arrangements for the community of Rogiet and concluded that there are a small number of amendments to improve the community arrangements within the area.
 - 5.1. The eastern boundary of the community that adjoins the community of Caldicot can be amended to follow the rear gardens of the properties along Longcroft Road and Kirlach Close. Currently the boundary is not easily identifiable as a number of properties on Kirlach Close have the boundary running through the rear gardens. Additionally, the boundary follows the rear of some, but not all properties on Longcroft Road and the proposed boundary will improve administration and ensure that the boundary is easily identifiable.
 - 5.2. The northern boundary of the community of Rogiet currently follows a path through Slade Wood and Thicket Wood. The group propose that the boundary should follow the northern edge of the wood to incorporate all of the woodland area within a single community.

- 5.3. Given the above proposal at 5.2 to incorporate all of the woodland area into the community of Rogiet, as well as the changes proposed for the community of Magor with Undy in using the M4 as the northern boundary of the community, the community of Rogiet will include the area north of Knollbudry and to the east of Upper Grange which are accessible and linked to Rogiet via Bencroft Lane.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The group proposed no change to the existing community name of Rogiet but welcome any suggestions as to a suitable alternative.

Proposed electoral arrangements

7. The working group consider the Rogiet community to fall within the mixed category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 250 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

As per the Terms of Reference, it was agreed that a community must be represented by a minimum of seven councillors in order to conduct their business effectively. To that end, the Rogiet community will be represented by seven councillors rather than six as per the above ratio.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Rogiet	1370	7

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Rogiet.

Final Proposals

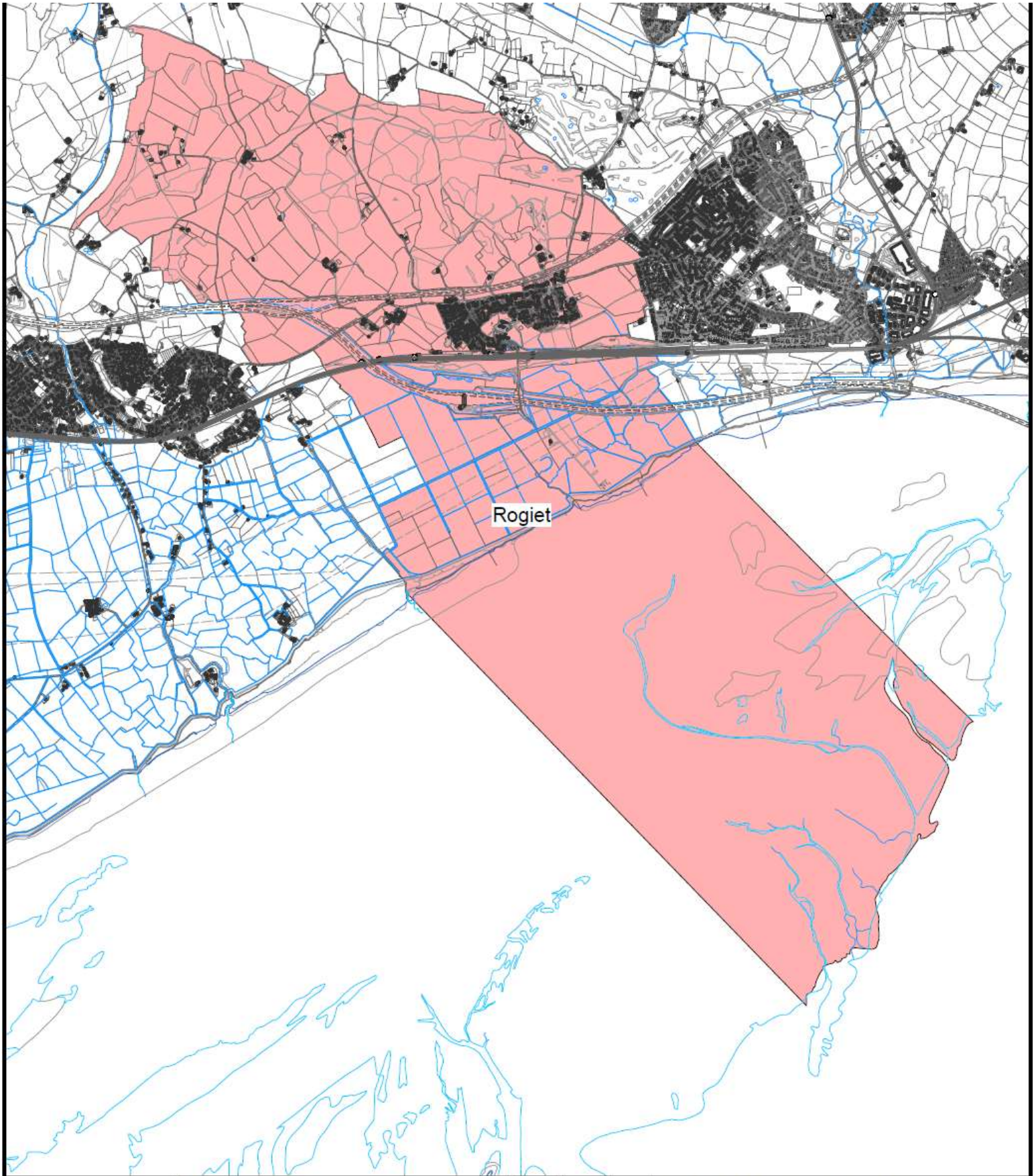
Representations Recieved


9. No representations were received in relation to the community of Rogiet.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.

Proposed Boundary Map of Rogiet



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Community of Shirenewton

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Shirenewton consist of four wards, Earlswood, Mynyddbach, Shirenewton and Newchurch. The community has a total electorate of 915 and is represented by 10 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Earlswood	143	2
Mynyddbach	217	2
Newchurch	91	1
Shirenewton	464	5

Natural Boundaries

2. The working group consider the B4235 to be a key channel of communication through the Shirenewton community.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no developments planned within the community of Shirenewton that would significantly alter the current electorate within the community.

Representations Received

4. Shirenewton Community Council submitted a representation stating that the community is a distinct area with an identifiable community. They state there are several positive links between the community wards including the community having responsibility for the poor land field and area of forestry in Earlswood, responsibility for Earlswood Village Hall and recreation land in Shirenewton as well as offering financial support to churches, chapels and organisations within the community.

Shirenewton Community Council recommend reducing the number of wards within the community to two those being Earlswood and Newchurch West ward and Shirenewton and Mynyddbach ward. The community suggest a divide between the two wards at Cock-A-Roosting and are keen to ensure that all village names are kept within the new ward titles. They also suggest a member ratio of 5 for Shirenewton & Mynyddbach ward and 3 for Earlswood & Newchurch West ward based on the criteria contained in the terms of reference.

- 4.1. County Councillor Graham Down submitted a representation regarding the community arrangements for Shirenewton supporting the representation put forward by Shirenewton

Community Council. County Councillor Down also referenced a number of dwellings to the west of Crick Road that are better suited to Shirenewton than their current community of Caerwent.

Recommendations

External Boundaries

5. The working group considered the external boundary for the community of Shirenewton and on the whole felt that the current community boundary is suitable and fit for purpose. The only amendment to the external boundary that the working group propose is to the boundary between Shirenewton and St Arvans communities near Coppice Mawr. Under the current arrangements, Wellhead Lodge situated within Coppice Mawr falls within the community of St Arvans even though geographically it is situated closer to the Devauden, Shirenewton and Chepstow communities. Given the direct link between this area and the Mynyddbach area via the B4235, the working group propose to extend the community of Shirenewton to incorporate the area of Coppice Mawr with the new boundary following the edge of the woodland.

Internal Boundaries

- 5.1. The working group reviewed the internal boundaries of the community of Shirenewton and accepted the proposals put forward by the community and County Councillor for the internal ward arrangements. Therefore it is proposed that the community is merged into two wards, Shirenewton & Mynyddbach and Wentwood with the boundary intersecting the community east to west, south of Lower Argoed Farm via Cock-A-Roost and northwards adjacent to the B4235.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The working group propose no change to the community name of Shirenewton. As stated above the working group consider the names proposed by Shirenewton community council are suitable and therefore propose the names of Shirenewton & Mynyddbach and Wentwood.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Shirenewton community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Whilst the working group understand that the community of Shirenewton is slightly less than the ideal 1,000 electors for a community as per the terms of reference for this review, the group consider the natural geography and channels of communication within the area lend itself to requiring its own community.

As per the Terms of Reference, it was agreed that a community must be represented by a minimum of seven councillors in order to conduct their business effectively. To that end, the Shirenewton community will be represented by seven councillors rather than six as per the above ratio with an additional councillor representing the more populated ward of Shirenewton & Mynyddbach.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	629	5
Wentwood	289	2

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Shirenewton.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

9. Representations was received from Shirenewton Community Council and noted the following points:

- That the ward names retain the current ward names of Shirenewton & Mynyddbach and Earlswood & Newchurch rather than Wentwood
- That Earlswood & Newchurch is increased to three councillors from two
- Noted a number of properties to be situated in the Shirenewton ward.

9.1 Representation was also received from the County Councillor for Shirenewton supporting the representation from the Community Council but also noted:

- A few properties on the western side of Crick Road should be situated in Shirenewton rather than Caerwent.
- That the boundary between Earlswood and Shirenewton drawn between Cock A Roostin with everything north of the line in Earlswood.

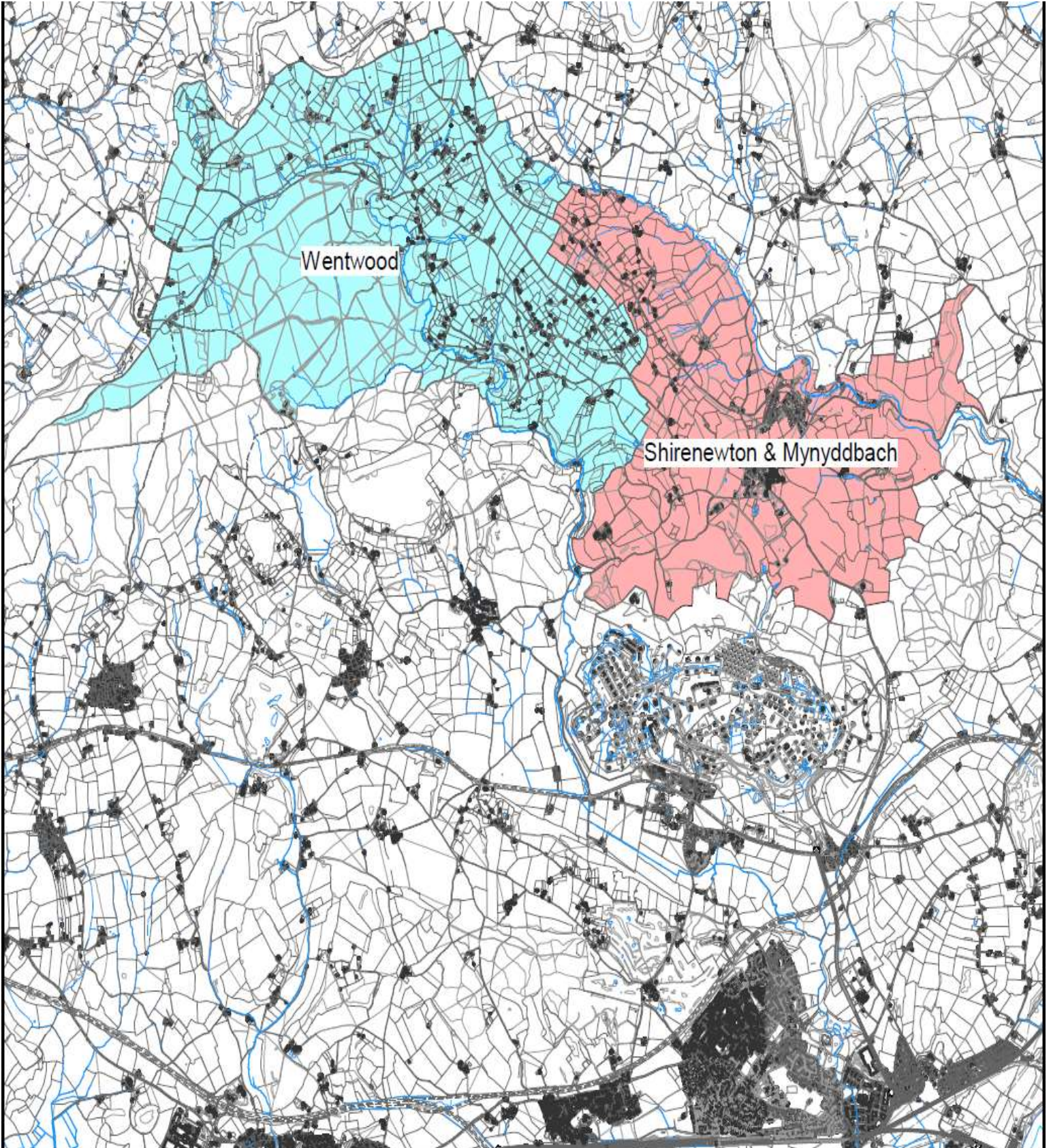
Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals with amendment to the boundary between Devauden and Shirenewton near Mounton Brook, as well as keeping the name of Earlswood and Newchurch for the Wentwood ward.

10.1 The working group received representation from a resident in the area proposing that the boundary should follow Mounton Brook with a number of properties that used to be situated in the Devauden community moved back into it. The new boundary will follow Mouton Brook just north of Whitemill and rejoin the existing ward boundary to the east of Pandy Mill House incorporating the properties Whitemill, Dyers House, The Old Saw Mill, Brook Cottage, Laundry Cottage, Millbrook Stable, Mill House and Pandy Mill House in to the Itton ward of Devauden Community. The proposed amendments to the electoral arrangements are detailed below:


Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	610	5
Earlswood & Newchurch	289	2

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Wentwood

Shirenewton & Mynyddbach

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Community of St Arvans

Current Community Format

1. The current community of St Arvans is unwarded. The community has a total electorate of 626 and is represented by eight community councillors. The community can be summarised as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
St Arvans	626	8

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider the key features within the St Arvans community to be the River Wye and local authority boundary to the east of the community as well as the A466 which runs north to south through the community.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no developments planned for the St Arvans community that would significantly alter the current electorate.

Representations Received

4. Representation was received from Chepstow Town Council in relation to Chepstow Racecourse. The council believe that the racecourse should fall within their remit and not that of St Arvans reasoning that it is naturally assumed that the racecourse falls within their area and receive a number of enquiries regarding the racecourse as well as highlighting that many of the visitors to the racecourse have to travel through the Chepstow community to attend the racecourse.

Recommendations

5. The working group considered the representations received for the St Arvans community and reviewed the current community arrangements for the area. The group agree with the proposal put forward by Chepstow Town Council to incorporate Chepstow Racecourse in to the community of Chepstow. The group consider that the racecourse naturally should be situated within the community of Chepstow as it is commonly perceived to be linked to the community of Chepstow and accept the reasoning put forward by Chepstow Town Council that the racecourse should be included in their area. The group propose that the new boundary of Chepstow will extend to cover the whole of the racecourse and include the Piercefield park area within the community of Chepstow. The boundary will follow the A466 south and follow the edge of the overflow car park for the racecourse, it will then follow Fryth Wood and Cockshoot Wood incorporating all properties east of the woods into the Chepstow community.

5.1. The group also considered the Penterry area of the adjoining community of Tintern. The group considered that many of the properties in the Penterry ward should be included in either the St Arvans or Devauden community. It is therefore proposed that the Penterry ward no longer exists and the properties to the east of Fedw Wood and Ravensnest Wood including Penterry Farm and Banton are included in the community of St Arvans. The group consider that the main channels of communication for these properties is south into the village of St Arvans and is more closely associated with the St Arvans community than that of Tintern which it is currently situated.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The working group propose no change to the community name of St Arvans.

Proposed electoral arrangements

7. The working group consider the St Arvans community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor.

The group accept that the community of St Arvans is less than the minimum of 1,000 electors as required in the Terms of Reference to establish a community however the group believe that the St Arvans area should be retained as its own community given the isolated geographic location of the community. As per the Terms of Reference, it was agreed that a community must be represented by a minimum of seven councillors in order to conduct their business effectively. To that end, the St Arvans community will be represented by seven councillors rather than four as per the above ratio.

The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
St Arvans	596	7

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of St Arvans.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

9. Representations were received from St Arvans Community Council and noted the following points:
- Piercefield House historically linked with St Arvans and the church and the racecourse allow residents of St Arvans use part of its land for recreational purposes
 - Relationship built up with the racecourse and community council to deal with issues arising at events on the racecourse and maintenance of boundary impinging on highways

- Do not wish to lose the area of land at the south of the community and believe that the Tintern community should decide if Penterry were to move into St Arvans
- Wish to retain 8 councillors as per the current arrangements

9.1 A significant number of representations was received from residents and councillors of St Arvans Community Council supporting the representations from St Arvans Community Council.

9.2 A member of the working group also conducted a site visit with the Community Council to ensure the concerns of the community council were understood fully.

9.3 Representation was also received from residents supporting the proposals but also recommended further changes of incorporating St Arvans as a ward of Chepstow Town Council and dissolving the community council altogether. A number of views were also provided countering the representation submitted by St Arvans Community Council.

9.4 Representation was received in relation to the property The Tout which currently is situated in the Itton ward in Devauden but its access is through Piccadilly Lane and the rest of the Penterry ward and recommended that this property should be moved into the Penterry Ward.

Final Proposal

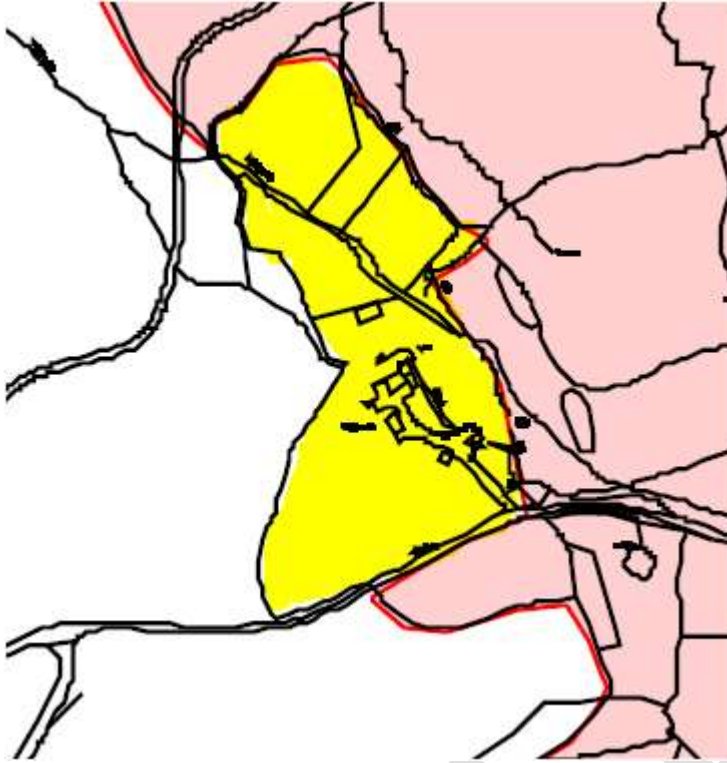
10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations received, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.

10.1 Whilst the working group understand the history of the area from the representations received, it remains the view that the racecourse should fall within the community of Chepstow. With the Severn Bridge tolls being removed and the potential for more events and visitors from further afield to visit the area, the group consider that any stakeholders to the area would assume that the racecourse falls within the community of Chepstow rather than St Arvans and that they will be best placed to administer responsibility going forward.

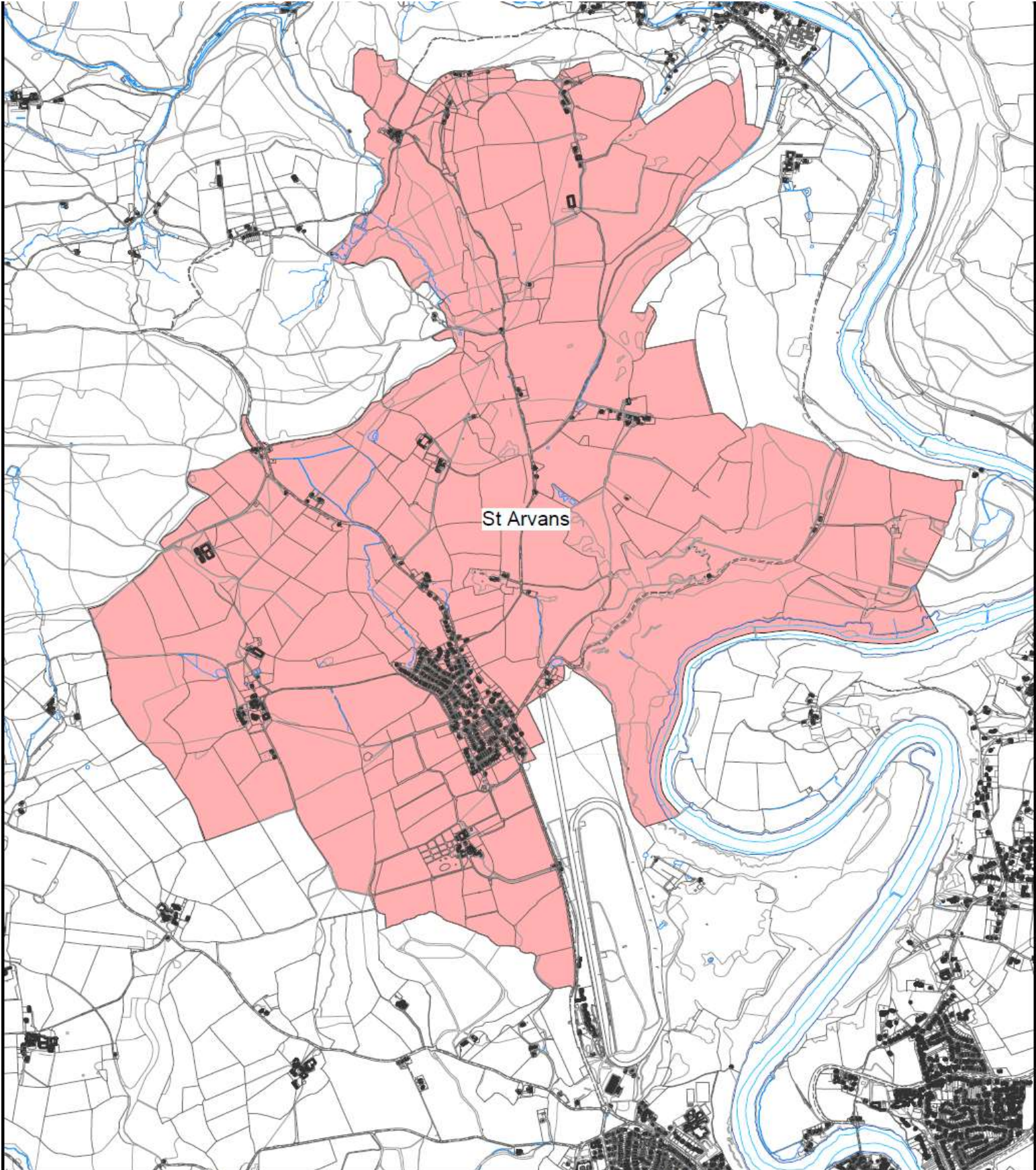
10.5 Additionally, with the proposed boundary following the A466 alongside the racecourse, there will still remain a shared responsibility for the racecourse with both communities of Chepstow and St Arvans to allow already established relationships to continue and concerns regarding events and maintenance to be addressed by both communities.

10.6 The working group do not consider that St Arvans should form part of the community of Chepstow as it believes the characteristics of the two communities are significantly different given the urban nature of Chepstow compared to the rural nature of the St Arvans village.

10.7 The working group do accept the representation regarding The Tout and propose to amend the boundary for the St Arvans community to include that property within its boundary. The boundary will be amended as per the below map with the yellow area to be included in the community of St Arvans.



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St Arvans



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Community of Tintern

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Tintern consist of four wards, Chapel Hill, Penterry, Tintern Parva & Trellech Grange. The community has a total electorate of 687 and is represented by 8 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Chapel Hill	200	3
Penterry	55	1
Tintern Parva	360	3
Trellech Grange	72	1

Natural Boundaries

2. The boundaries to the east of the community of Tintern are the local authority boundaries which cannot be considered as part of this review.
 - 2.1. A main feature of the community of Tintern is the A466 road linking Chepstow and Monmouth which runs north to south through the area.

Electorate Forecast

3. There is no proposed development for the area which would significantly alter the current electorate.

Representations Received

4. Representation was received from County Councillor Ann Webb who strongly opposed moving the Trellech Grange ward of the community of Tintern in to the community of Trellech United.
 - 4.1. Representations were received from Trellech United Community Council and a Trellech United Community Councillor in relation to the Trellech Grange ward.

Recommendations

External boundaries

5. The working group considered the arrangements for the community of Tintern and concluded that the Llandogo ward of Trellech United would be better suited in the Tintern community. The group consider the main access along the A466 which links Tintern and Llandogo to be the main channel of communication for its residents rather than the single track lanes that link Llandogo

with the rest of Trellech United. The group therefore propose that the existing Llandogo ward be moved into the community of Tintern.

- 5.1. The group received various representations regarding the Trellech Grange ward in the community of Tintern. The group received a number of evidence based reasons as to why the Trellech Grange ward should be included in Trellech United community and with little evidence to suggest otherwise propose this change. However, the group do not believe that the Trellech Grange ward should be merged with the Llanishen ward of the Trellech United community. The two areas are split by the B4293 and, as stated in the representation received, as the residents of Catbrook regularly use the Fountain Inn, it may be better to merge those two wards rather than Trellech Grange and Llanishen. The working group however consider that all three areas, Catbrook, Llanishen and Trellech Grange, should retain their own wards and propose that the three wards form part of the community of Trellech United.
- 5.2. The group propose changes to the external boundary of Tintern in the Penterry ward as detailed in 5.3 below.
- 5.3. The working group also consider that that the Llandogo ward of the Trellech United community would be better placed within the Tintern community rather than its current Trellech United Community. The group considered the Llandogo ward of the Trellech United Community had more common links and channels of communication with the community of Tintern via the A466 than it did with the rest of the Trellech United Community. The group consider that this is the main link which joins up with the community of Tintern, rather than the single track lanes that link Llandogo with the rest of the community of Trellech United. The group therefore propose that the Llandogo ward of Trellech United is moved into the community of Tintern.

Internal boundaries

Penterry

- 5.4. The group also considered the arrangements of the rest of the wards in the community of Tintern in conjunction with the adjoining community of St Arvans, in particular the Penterry ward. The group consider that a number of properties within the Penterry ward should be in different wards to which they are currently situated. Examples of this include Penterry Farm and Banton whose main channels of communication are to the south and towards the village of St Arvans. Additionally, the properties known as 'The Cot' and 'Fairoak' are on the border with the community of Devauden and those properties would be more closely associated with that village than with the community of Tintern. The group therefore propose that the Penterry ward no longer exists with the new boundary following the eastern edge of Ravensnest Wood where it follows the brook south until it reaches the existing boundary of the Devauden community. The area to the west of the proposed boundary will be included in the community of Devauden and the area to the east will be incorporated into the existing community of St Arvans.

Chapel Hill & Tintern Parva

- 5.5. The group considered the current arrangements for these two wards and propose that the wards are merged to form a single ward known as Tintern. The current boundary between the two wards follows Forge Road and intersects a number of properties on this road between Chapel Hill and Tintern Parva wards which is contrary to the terms of reference for this review.

The working group considered the potential for retaining separate wards but given that the main channels of communication for both Chapel Hill and Tintern Parva return to the A466 and with no clear separation between the two areas, the group consider the best option to merge the two wards together.

Llandogo

- 5.6. The working group propose no change to the boundary of the Llandogo ward other than merging the ward with the Tintern community rather than Trellech United as stated in 5.3 above.

Proposed Community and Community ward names

6. The working group considered the area that the current Tintern community covers and believe that the name 'Wye Valley' may be better suited to defining the area that the community covers. The working group wish to receive representation on its proposal to change the name from Tintern to Wye Valley.

- 6.1. No changes are proposed to the existing ward names.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Wye Valley community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Tintern	560	4
Llandogo	441	3

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Wye Valley.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

9. Representation was received from Tintern Community Council noting that the current arrangements work well but were happy with the transfer of Penterry to St Arvans and Llandogo

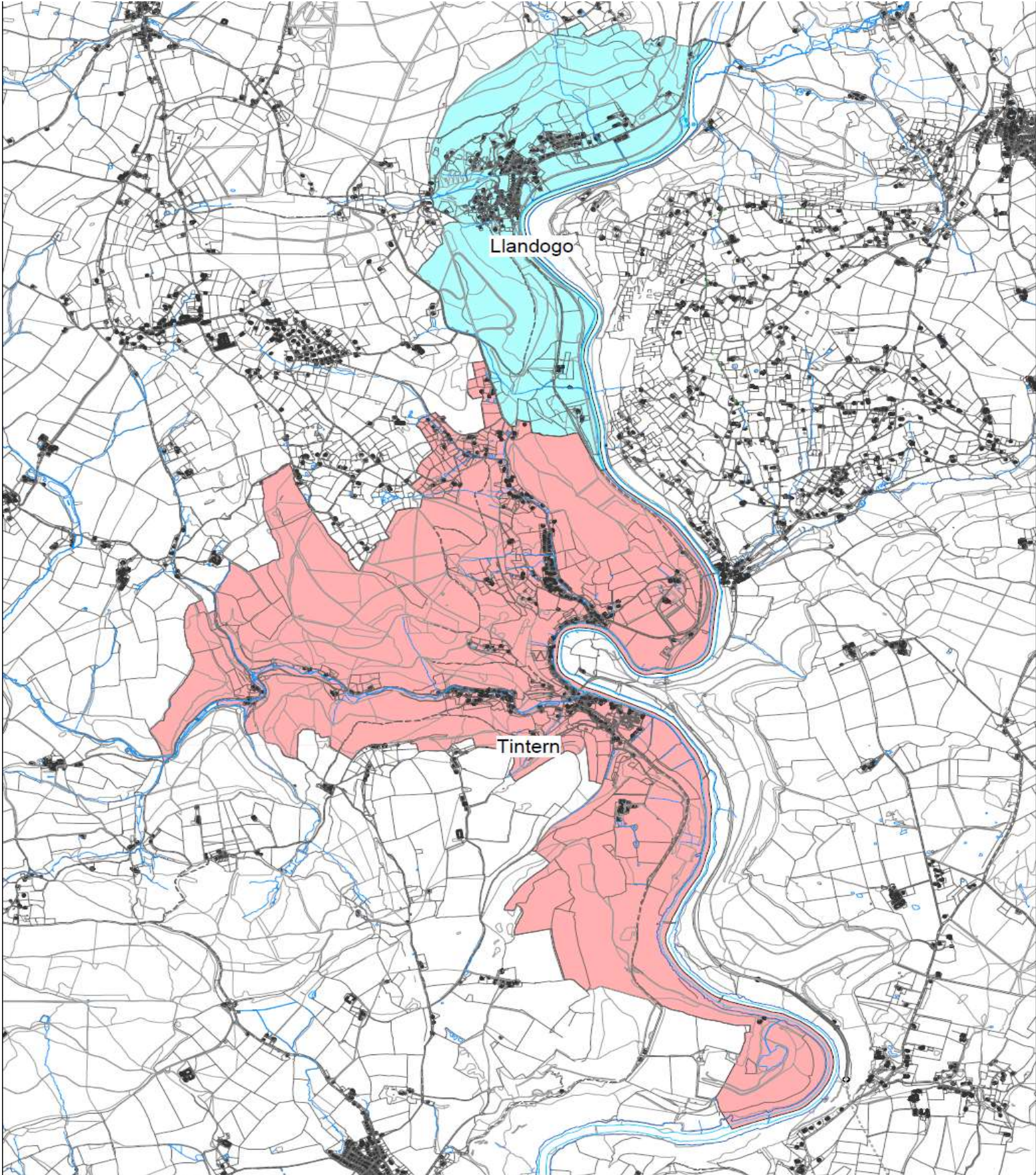
to be included in its area. It also noted that it did not want to lose Trellech Grange to the community of Trellech given its historic links to Tintern Abbey.

9.1 Representation was also received from residents objecting to the proposal to move Trellech Grange ward to the Community of Trellech based on its historic links to Tintern Abbey.

Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations received, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.

10.1 Whilst the working group understand the historic link between Trellech Grange and Tintern Abbey from the representations it has received, the group consider the arrangements contained in the draft proposals to be fit for purpose. Given the creation of a Wye Valley Community Council to cover the lower level area along the A466 near the River Wye and support from the Community Council to incorporate the Llandogo area into the community for this reason, Trellech Grange sits at a higher level and would be best situated within the community of Trellech.



Llandogo

Tintern



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Community of Trellech United

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Trellech United consist of seven wards, Catbrook, Llandogo, Llanishen, The Narth, Penallt, Trellech Town and Whitebrook. The community has a total electorate of 2199 and is represented by 13 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Catbrook	319	2
Llandogo	441	2
Llanishen	274	2
The Narth	342	2
Penallt	414	2
Trellech Town	327	2
Whitebrook	82	1

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The boundaries to the east of the community of Trellech United are the local authority boundary which cannot be considered as part of this review.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no developments proposed within the Trellech United community that would significantly alter the electorate.

Representations Received

4. A number of representations were received regarding the community arrangements in Trellech United
 - 4.1. A number of representations were received, including representations submitted by residents within the area, to propose that the Far Hill area is moved to form part of Trellech Town ward rather than the Llanishen ward. Many of the residents use the facilities within Trellech Town rather than Llanishen and use Trellech Town for their main channels of communication rather than Llanishen.
 - 4.2. Trellech Community Council submitted representations proposing the above amendment for the Far Hill area. In addition, the council proposed that the Trellech Grange ward of Tintern Community Council be moved under responsibility for Trellech United and merged with the Llanishen ward. The Council state that there are established links between Llanishen and Trellech Grange, the school catchment area for Trellech Grange is Trellech Primary School within Trellech

United and that the Fountain Inn is the 'local' for residents within the Catbrook ward of Trellech United.

- 4.3. George Weston, Community Councillor for the Llanishen ward of Trellech United Community Council submitted a detailed proposal for new community arrangements within the Trellech United community. In summary his proposals were:
- Proposing to merge the Trellech Grange ward of Tintern Community Council with the Llanishen ward of Trellech United Community Council and provides a number of evidence based reasons as to links between the two areas.
 - A detailed proposal supporting the views of local residents in moving the Far Hill area in to the Trellech Town ward from Llanishen.
 - A secondary representation was submitted in response to the representations submitted by a County Councillor.
- 4.4. County Councillor Ann Webb submitted representations strongly opposing the representations received regarding moving Trellech Grange ward of the Tintern Community in to the community of Trellech United.

Recommendations

External Boundaries

5. The group considered all representations received during the initial consultation period and are minded to accept the proposal to include the Trellech Grange ward of the community of Tintern in to the community of Trellech United. The group received a number of evidence based reasons as to why the Trellech Grange ward should be included in Trellech United community and with little evidence to suggest otherwise propose this change. However, the group do not believe that the Trellech Grange ward should be merged with the Llanishen ward. The two areas are split by the B4293 and, as stated in the representation received, as the residents of Catbrook regularly use the Fountain Inn then it may be better to merge those two wards rather than Trellech Grange and Llanishen. The working group however consider that all three areas, Catbrook, Llanishen and Trellech Grange, should retain their own wards and propose that the three wards form part of the community of Trellech United.
- 5.1. Having considered representations regarding the arrangements for the Trellech Grange ward, the group also considered the arrangements for the other wards of Tintern Community in relation to the rest of the Trellech United community. In particular the group considered the Llandogo ward of the Trellech United Community had more common links and channels of communication with the community of Tintern via the A466 than it did with the rest of the Trellech United Community. The group consider that this is the main link which joins up with the community of Tintern, rather than the single track lanes that link Llandogo with the rest of the community of Trellech United. The group therefore propose that the Llandogo ward of Trellech United is moved into the community of Tintern.

Internal Boundaries

- 5.2. The working group considered the internal community arrangements for Trellech United and highlighted a number of properties that potentially fall within the wrong ward given its close proximity to the internal ward boundary. The properties are:

Address	Current Ward	Potential Ward
Traligael Cottage, Whitebrook, Monmouth	Penallt	Whitebrook
Grist Mill, The Narth, Monmouth	The Narth	Whitebrook
Spring Cottage, Maypole Road	The Narth	Whitebrook
Petersbroke, Moor Lane	Whitebrook	The Narth
Falls Cottage, Llandogo Road	Llandogo	Trellech Town
Fir Barn, Cleddon, Trellech	Trellech Town	Catbrook
Nine wells Cottage, Cleddon, Trellech	Trellech Town	Catbrook

The working group request feedback from local representatives as to the most suitable ward for the above properties with the changes taking effect at the final proposals.

Catbrook, The Narth, Penallt & Whitebrook

- 5.3. The working group considered the current arrangements for these wards and considered the arrangements fit for purpose and meet the criteria set in the Terms of Reference for the review.

Trellech Town & Llanishen

- 5.4. The group considered the representations received regarding the Far Hill area in Llanishen and agree with the proposals received that the area has common links with the Trellech Town ward rather than the Llanishen ward. The group propose to split the Llanishen ward along Penarth Brook with the area to the north of the brook merging with the Trellech Town ward. Everything to the south of the brook within the existing ward boundary will remain as the Llanishen ward.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The working group propose no change to the community and community ward names of Trellech United but welcome representations as to more suitable names for the area.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the community of Trellech United to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Catbrook	319	2
Llanishen	212	1
The Narth	342	2

Penallt	414	3
Trellech Town	389	3
Whitebrook	82	1
Trellech Grange	72	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Trellech United.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

9. Representation was received from Trellech United Community Council in relation to the proposals for the community of Trellech and note the following points:

- Objecting to the proposal to remove Llandogo from Trellech to Tintern and provided reasons for its links to the rest of Trellech/Monmouth
- Accepted there are some links between Llandogo and Tintern

9.1 Representation was also submitted from the community councillors for the Llandogo ward opposing the move of Llandogo from Trellech to Tintern for similar reasons submitted by the Community Council.

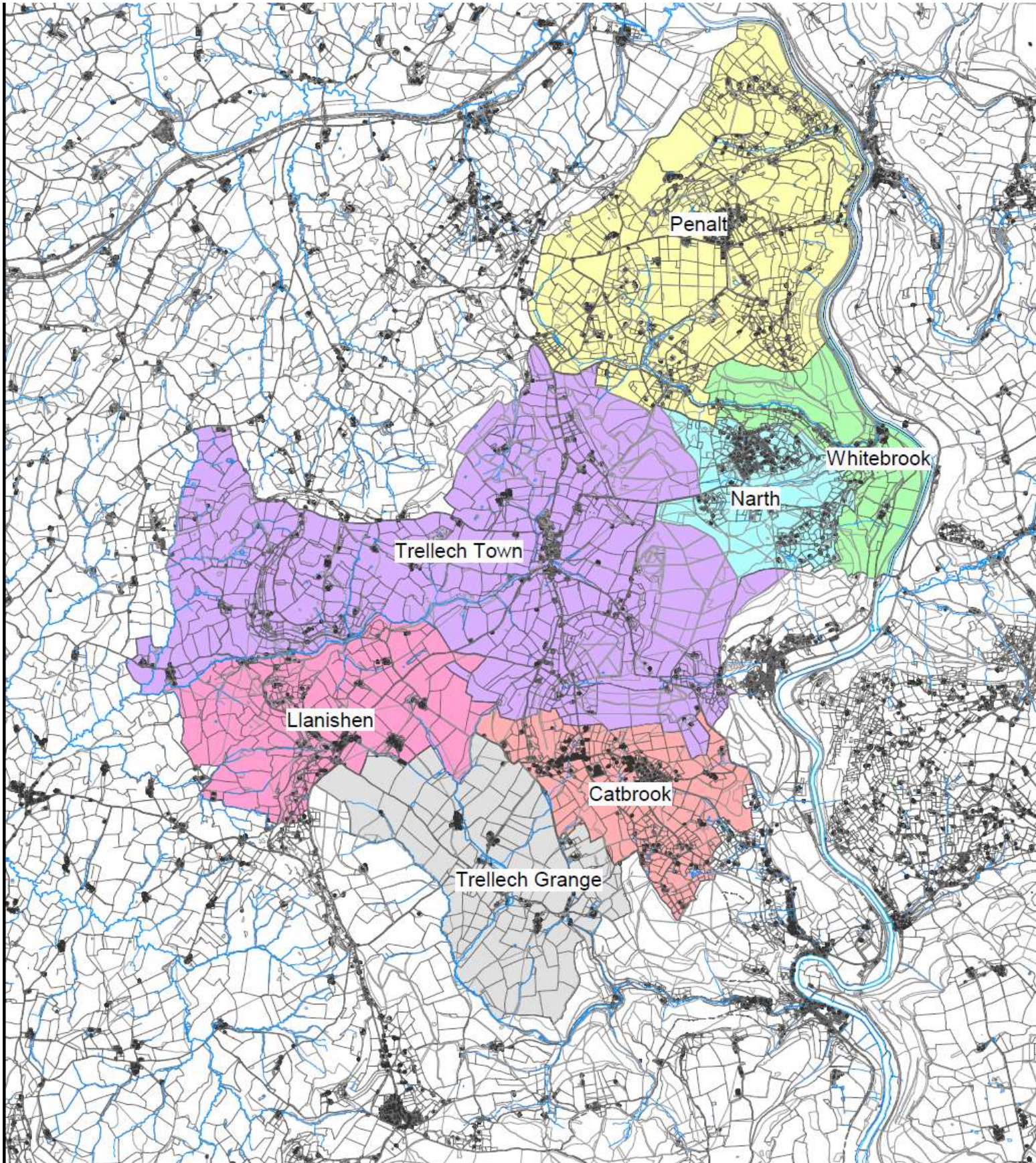
9.2 Submissions were also made from residents objecting to the proposal regarding Llandogo.


Final Proposal

10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment for the reasons contained in the draft proposals.

10.1 Whilst the members understand the points raised in the representations it has received, the group feel that given Llandogo's central link between Monmouth and Chepstow and the creation of a Wye Valley Community including Llandogo with Tintern will give the lower level villages close to the River Wye a stronger voice for issues relevant to them. Additionally, as in the proposals for Tintern in moving Trellech Grange out of Tintern into Trellech, as per the representation from a Trellech Councillor, the separation will create communities with more common links on the lower and higher levels.

Proposed Boundary Map of Trellech United



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Community of Usk

Current Community Format

1. The community of Usk is currently unwarded. The community has a total electorate of 1957 and is represented by 12 community councillors. The community can be summarised as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Usk	1957	12

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider key features within the community of Usk to be the River Usk to the west of the community as well as Bridge Street, The Parade, Monmouth Road, the A472 and the Olway Brook.

Electorate Forecast

3. Within the community of Usk there is an additional 115 properties proposed to be built which could increase the electorate by 230 electors.

Representations Received

4. No representations were received regarding the community arrangements in Usk.

Recommendations

5. The working group considered the current arrangements for the community of Usk and propose no change to the existing boundary of the community. The community has a natural boundary in the River Usk to the west of the community with the existing community following the Olway Brook to the east.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The working group propose no change in name to the community of Usk.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the community of Usk to fall within the urban category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 500 electors per councillor. The above changes

to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

As per the Terms of Reference, it was agreed that a community must be represented by a minimum of seven councillors in order to conduct their business effectively. To that end, the Usk community will be represented by seven councillors rather than four as per the above ratio.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Usk	2187	7

Working Group Individual Member Comments (Draft Proposals)

- 8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Usk.

Final Proposals

Representations Recieved

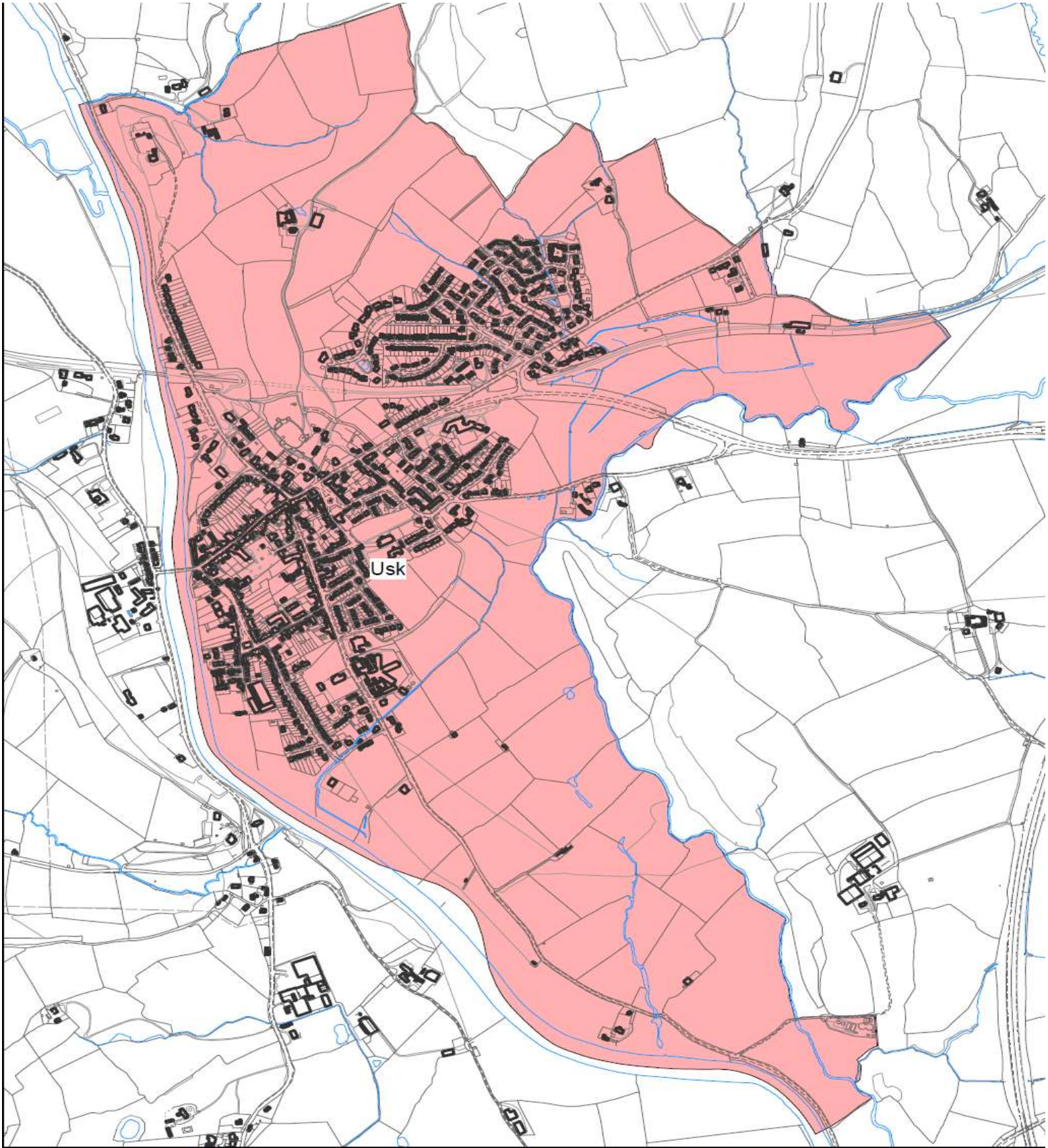
- 9. Representations were received from Usk Town Council in relation to the draft proposals for Usk and raised concerns at the reduction in councillors from 12 to 7 and wish to retain 12 councillors.


9.1 Usk Civic Society submitted representations supporting the representation received from Usk Town Council

Final Proposal

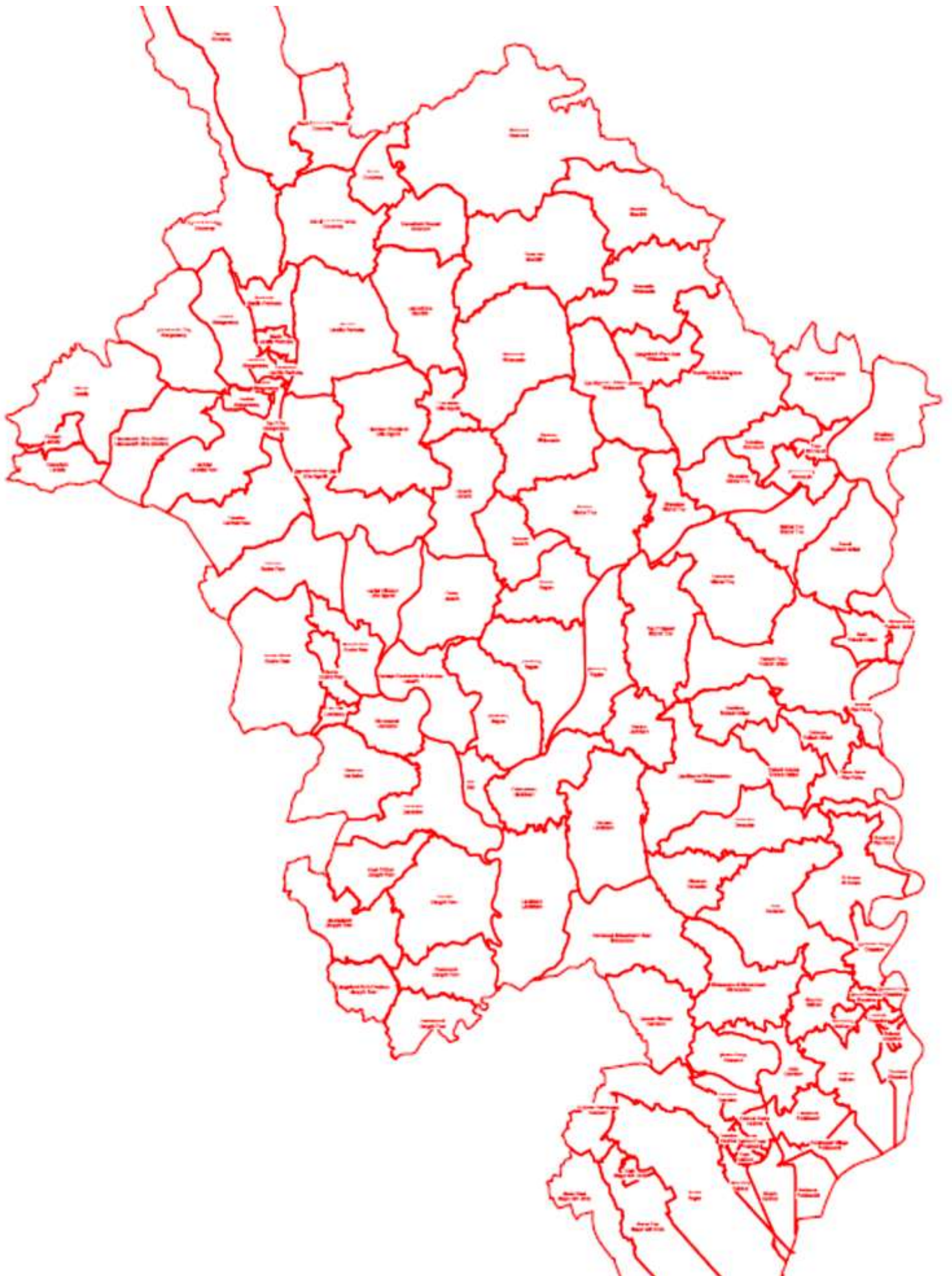
- 10. Upon review of the draft proposals and relevant representations recieved, the working group unanimously approve the draft proposals without amendment for the reasons contained in the draft proposals. The working group are satisfied that the Terms of Reference provides a suitable elector:councillor ratio and have already made exception to those rules in allocating seven members to Usk Town Council when the electorate warrants 4 Councillors.

Proposed Boundary Map of Usk



	Details			Rev		© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2013 Arolwg Ordnans 100023415 © Crown copyright and database rights 2013 Ordnance Survey 100023415	
	Draft community ward proposal			No.			Monmouthshire County Council County Hall Rhadyr Usk. NP15 1GA www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/maps
	Drawn by	Scale	Date				
Healy.RM	1:34766	26/11/2013					
File Pathname / Project / Drawing No.							

Appendix A - Proposed community arrangements



Appendix B - Current community arrangements



Appendix C – Table of Existing Community Arrangements

Community Council	Council electorate	number of councillors	Ward	Electors	Number of Councillors
Abergavenny Town Council	7990	15	Cantref	1695	3
Abergavenny Town Council			Grofield	1413	3
Abergavenny Town Council			Castle	1607	3
Abergavenny Town Council			Lansdown	1721	3
Abergavenny Town Council			Priory	1554	3
Caerwent Community Council	1510	10	Caerwent	599	4
Caerwent Community Council			Dinham	262	1
Caerwent Community Council			Crick	166	1
Caerwent Community Council			Llanvair Discoed	252	2
Caerwent Community Council			St Brides Netherwent	231	2
Caldicot Town Council	7704	17	Caldicot Castle	1676	3
Caldicot Town Council			Dewstow	1517	4
Caldicot Town Council			Green Lane	1539	4
Caldicot Town Council			Severn	1385	3
Caldicot Town Council			West End	1587	3
Chepstow Town Council	9430	15	Larkfield	1581	3
Chepstow Town Council			St Christophers	1892	3
Chepstow Town Council			St Kingsmark	2336	3
Chepstow Town Council			St Mary's	1522	3
Chepstow Town Council			Thornwell	2099	3
Crucorney Community Council	1048	11	Bwlch Trewyn & Old Castle	51	1
Crucorney Community Council			Forest & Fwddog	119	2
Crucorney Community Council			Llanvihangel Crucorney	731	6
Crucorney Community Council			Lower Cwmyoy	86	1
Crucorney Community Council			Upper Cwmyoy	61	1
Devauden Community Council	852	8	Devauden	409	3
Devauden Community Council			Itton	196	2
Devauden Community Council			Kilgrwng	104	2
Devauden Community Council			Llanvihangel Wolvesnewton	143	1
Goetre Community Council	1889	12	Goetre	1309	9
Goetre Community Council			Mamhilad	580	3
Grosmont Community Council	673	9	Grosmont	420	5
Grosmont Community Council			Llangattock Lingoed	89	1
Grosmont Community Council			Llangua	43	1
Grosmont Community Council			Llanvetherine	121	2
Gwehelog Fawr Community Council	384	7	Gwehelog / Llancayo	265	4
Gwehelog Fawr Community Council			Kemeys Commander	34	1
Gwehelog Fawr Community Council			Trostre	85	2
Llanarth Community Council	684	10	Bryngwyn	209	3

Llanarth Community Council			Clytha	220	3
Llanarth Community Council			Llanarth	145	2
Llanarth Community Council			Llanvapley	110	2
Llanbadoc Community Council	671	10	Glascoed	221	3
Llanbadoc Community Council			Llanbadoc	205	4
Llanbadoc Community Council			Monkswood	245	3
Llanelly Hill Community Council	3261	14	Clydach	549	2
Llanelly Hill Community Council			Darrenfelin	502	2
Llanelly Hill Community Council			Gilwern	2210	10
Llanfoist Community Council	2716	12	Llanellen	411	2
Llanfoist Community Council			Llanfoist	1026	3
Llanfoist Community Council			Llanwenarth Citra	139	1
Llanfoist Community Council			Llanwenarth Ultra	1140	6
Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council	850	10	Llangattock-Vibon-Avel	296	3
Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council			Skenfrith	314	4
Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council			St Maughans	240	3
Llangwm Community Council	355	7	Llangwm	224	5
Llangwm Community Council			Llansoy	131	2
Llangybi Fawr Community Council	740	9	Coed-Y-Paen	116	2
Llangybi Fawr Community Council			Llandegfedd	153	2
Llangybi Fawr Community Council			Llangybi	471	5
Llanhennock Community Council	413	8	Llangattock-Nigh-Caerleon	96	2
Llanhennock Community Council			Llanhennock	162	3
Llanhennock Community Council			Tredunnock	155	3
Llanover Community Council	1128	12	Llanddewi Rhydderch	321	3
Llanover Community Council			Llanfair Cilgydyn	179	2
Llanover Community Council			Llangattock-Nigh-Usk	387	4
Llanover Community Council			Llanover	241	3
Llantilio Crossenny Community Council	580	9	Llantilio Crossenny	362	6
Llantilio Crossenny Community Council			Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern	71	1
Llantilio Crossenny Community Council			Penrhos	147	2
Llantilio Pertholey Community Council	3098	13	Croesonen East	556	2
Llantilio Pertholey Community Council			Croesonen West	1131	5
Llantilio Pertholey Community Council			Mardy	874	3
Llantilio Pertholey Community Council			Pantygelli	85	1
Llantilio Pertholey Community Council			Sgyrrid East	180	1
Llantilio Pertholey Community Council			Sgyrrid West	272	1
Llantrisant Community Council	329	7	Gwernesney	116	3
Llantrisant Community Council			Llantrisant	213	4

Magor with Undy Community Council	4676	13	Denny	143	1
Magor with Undy Community Council			Mill	1331	4
Magor with Undy Community Council			Salisbury	734	2
Magor with Undy Community Council			The Elms	2468	6
Mathern Community Council	874	9	Mathern	471	5
Mathern Community Council			Mounton	77	1
Mathern Community Council			Pwllmeyric	326	3
Mitchel Troy Community Council	993	10	Cwmcarvan	162	2
Mitchel Troy Community Council			Dingestow	234	2
Mitchel Troy Community Council			Mtichel Troy	341	3
Mitchel Troy Community Council			Tregare	179	2
Mitchel Troy Community Council			Wonastow	77	1
Monmouth Town Council	7994	16	Osbaston	1902	4
Monmouth Town Council			Town	588	1
Monmouth Town Council			Drybridge	2051	3
Monmouth Town Council			Overmonnow	1774	4
Monmouth Town Council			Wyesham	1679	4
Portskewett Community Council	1765	10	Leechpool	168	1
Portskewett Community Council			Portskewett Village	1308	7
Portskewett Community Council			Sudbrook	289	2
Raglan Community Council	1585	11	Llandenny	366	2
Raglan Community Council			Pen-Y-Clawdd	99	1
Raglan Community Council			Raglan	1120	8
Roget Community Council	1349	11	Rogiet	1349	11
Shirenewton Community Council	915	10	Earlswood	143	2
Shirenewton Community Council			Mynyddbach	217	2
Shirenewton Community Council			Newchurch	91	1
Shirenewton Community Council			Shirenewton	464	5
St Arvans Community Council	626	8	St Arvans	626	8
Tintern Community Council	687	8	Chapel Hill	200	3
Tintern Community Council			Penterry	55	1
Tintern Community Council			Tintern Parva	360	3
Tintern Community Council			Trellech Grange	72	1
Trellech United Community Council	2199	13	Catbrook	319	2
Trellech United Community Council			Llandogo	441	2
Trellech United Community Council			Llanishen	274	2
Trellech United Community Council			Narth	342	2
Trellech United Community Council			Penallt	414	2
Trellech United Community Council			Trellech Town	327	2
Trellech United Community Council			Whitebrook	82	1
Usk Town Council	1957	12	Usk	1957	12

Appendix D – Table of proposed community arrangements

Community	Community Electorate	Ward Name	Current Electorate	Forecast Additional Electorate	Total Forecast Electorate	Councillor / Elector Ratio	Number of Councillors	Community Councillors
Abergavenny	8385	Cantref	1578		1578	500	3	17
Abergavenny		Grofield	1861		1861	500	4	
Abergavenny		Lansdown	1747		1747	500	3	
Abergavenny		Llanwenarth Citra	139		139	500	1	
Abergavenny		Park	1528		1528	500	3	
Abergavenny		Pen Y Fal	1532		1532	500	3	
Caerwent	1833	Caerwent	617		617	250	3	8
Caerwent		Crick	192		192	250	1	
Caerwent		Llanvair Discoed	211		211	250	1	
Caerwent		Dinham	270	264	534	250	2	
Caerwent		St Brides Netherwent	279		279	250	1	
Caldicot	8034	Caldicot Castle	1236	330	1566	500	3	15
Caldicot		Caldicot Cross	1639		1639	500	3	
Caldicot		The Village	1082		1082	500	2	
Caldicot		Dewstow	1545		1545	500	3	
Caldicot		Severn	742		742	500	1	
Caldicot		West End	1460		1460	500	3	
Chepstow	9798	Bulwark	1902		1902	500	4	19
Chepstow		Chepstow Castle	1306	338	1644	500	3	
Chepstow		St Kingsmark	1541		1541	500	3	
Chepstow		Larkfield	1095		1095	500	2	
Chepstow		Mount Pleasant	1571		1571	500	3	
Chepstow		Maple Avenue	609		609	500	1	
Chepstow		Thornwell	1436		1436	500	3	
Crucorney	1042	Blwch Trewen & Oldcastle	51		51	150	1	7
Crucorney		Cwmyoy	147		147	150	1	

Crucorney		Forest & Fwddog	119		119	150	1	
Crucorney		Llanvihangel Crucorney	363		363	150	2	
Crucorney		Pandy	362		362	150	2	
Devauden	877	Devauden	445		445	150	3	7
Devauden		Itton	240		240	150	2	
Devauden		Kilgwrrwg	104		104	150	1	
Devauden		Llanvihangel Tor-Y-Mynydd	107		107	150	1	
Goetre Fawr	1713	Goetre Wharf	331		331	250	2	8
Goetre Fawr		Goytre	994		994	250	4	
Goetre Fawr		Llanover	241		241	250	1	
Goetre Fawr		Nant-Y-Derry	147		147	250	1	
Grosmont	552	Grosmont	463		463	150	5	7
Grosmont		Llangattock Lingoed	89		89	150	2	
Gobion Fawr	997	Llandewi Rhydderch	331		331	150	2	7
Gobion Fawr		Llangattock-Nigh-Usk	380		380	150	3	
Gobion Fawr		Llanvapley	110		110	150	1	
Gobion Fawr		Lanfair Cilgydyn	176		176	150	1	
Llanarth	722	Bryngwn	206		206	150	2	7
Llanarth		Clytha	123		123	150	1	
Llanarth		Kemeys Commander & Llancayo	161		161	150	1	
Llanarth		Llanarth	232		232	150	3	
Llanbadoc	1085	Glascoed	221		221	150	2	7
Llanbadoc		Little Mill	414		414	150	3	
Llanbadoc		Llanbadoc	205		205	150	2	
Llanbadoc		Monkswood	245		245	150	2	
Llanelly	3261	Clydach	452		452	250	2	13
Llanelly		Darrenfelin	502		502	250	2	
Llanelly		Gilwern	2307		2307	250	9	
Llanfoist	3126	Llanellen	418		418	250	2	13
Llanfoist		Llanfoist	1026	542	1568	250	6	
Llanfoist		Llanwenarth Ultra (Govilon)	1140		1140	250	5	
Llangybi	1153	Coed-Y-Paen	116		116	150	1	8

Llangybi		Llandegfedd	153		153	150	1	
Llangybi		Llangattock-Nigh-Caerleon	96		96	150	1	
Llangybi		Llangybi	471		471	150	3	
Llangybi		Llanhennock	162		162	150	1	
Llangybi		Tredunnock	155		155	150	1	
Llantilio Pertholey	3406	Croesonen	1614		1614	250	6	15
Llantilio Pertholey		Mardy	779	600	1379	250	6	
Llantilio Pertholey		Pantygelli	85		85	250	1	
Llantilio Pertholey		Sgyrrid	328		328	250	2	
Llantrisant	684	Gwernesney	116		116	150	1	8
Llantrisant		Llangwm	224		224	150	3	
Llantrisant		Llansoy	131		131	150	1	
Llantrisant		Llantrisant	213		213	150	3	
Magor	5178	Magor East	1802		1802	500	4	10
Magor		Magor West	1526	180	1706	500	3	
Magor		Undy	1270	400	1670	500	3	
Mathern	859	Mathern	456		456	150	3	7
Mathern		Mounton	27		27	150	1	
Mathern		Pwllmeyric	376		376	150	3	
Mitchel Troy	1131	Cwmcarvan	162		162	150	1	9
Mitchel Troy		Dingestow	234		234	150	2	
Mitchel Troy		Mitchel Troy	336		336	150	2	
Mitchel Troy		Tregare	223		223	150	2	
Mitchel Troy		Wonastow	77		77	150	1	
Mitchel Troy		Pen Y Clawdd	99		99	150	1	
Monmouth	9168	Osbaston	1684	78	1762	500	4	19
Monmouth		Drybridge	1721	168	1889	500	4	
Monmouth		Overmonnow	1062	740	1802	500	4	
Monmouth		Town	1676		1676	500	3	
Monmouth		Wyesham	1679	174	1853	500	4	
Portskewett	2344	Leechpool	163		163	250	1	10
Portskewett		Portskewett Village	1308	584	1892	250	7	

Portskewett		Sudbrook	289		289	250	2	
Raglan	1659	Gwehelog	223		223	250	2	9
Raglan		Kingcoed	146		146	250	1	
Raglan		Llandenny	220		220	250	2	
Raglan		Raglan	1070		1070	250	4	
Rogiet		1370	Rogiet	1370		1370	250	
Shirenewton	918	Earlswood & Newchurch West	289		289	150	2	7
Shirenewton		Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	610		610	150	5	
Skenfrith	520	Llanvethrine	121		121	150	2	7
Skenfrith		Cross Ash	267		267	150	3	
Skenfrith		Skenfrith	132		132	150	2	
St Arvans	596	St Arvans	596		596	150	7	7
Trellech	1830	Catbrook	319		319	150	2	13
Trellech		Llanishen	212		212	150	1	
Trellech		Narth	342		342	150	2	
Trellech		Penalt	414		414	150	3	
Trellech		Trellech Grange	72		72	150	1	
Trellech		Trellech Town	389		389	150	3	
Trellech		Whitebrook	82		82	150	1	
Usk	2187	Usk	1957	230	2187	500	7	7
Whitecastle	1051	Llangattock-Viben-Avel	79		79	150	1	10
Whitecastle		Llanvihangel - Ystern Llewern	77		77	150	1	
Whitecastle		Newcastle	151		151	150	2	
Whitecastle		Penrhos	145		145	150	2	
Whitecastle		Rockfield & St Maughans	343		343	150	2	
Whitecastle		Whitecastle	256		256	150	2	
Wye Valley	1001	Llandogo	441		441	150	3	7
Wye Valley		Tintern	560		560	150	4	

Appendix E – Initial representations recieved



**monmouthshire
sir fynwy**

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

Representations received during initial proposals consultation

March 2013

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DRAFT

Community of Abergavenny

Abergavenny Town Council

Peter Johns – Abergavenny Town Council Clerk

1. Abergavenny Town Council has considered the terms of reference of the review and feels that there is a case for a fairly radical look at the way in which communities are organised in Monmouthshire. Currently there are 33(?) Communities which vary widely in population and size, and although this is to be expected to some extent in an area with extensive rural hinterland surrounding the towns, the current tendency is to look at moving services down the structural chain and the big question is whether the local councils are fit for that purpose.
2. Fitness for purpose can infer that the council has the will and the administrative resources to take on services which may not otherwise be carried out in the locality, thereby disadvantaging the local population. There is a point of view that by keeping its activity low and its costs down a Community Council is behaving appropriately, but if it is not doing anything useful for its community, it is questionable if that argument holds water.
3. Financial resources will also play a part in this. If the council does not have a significant number of properties it will not be able to precept sufficient finance to benefit from the economics of scale that larger councils can have. The logical conclusion to this is that either several small councils will need to collaborate very closely to achieve the desired outcome, or there should be some movement to merge some of the smallest councils with their neighbours. History suggests that collaboration between smaller councils is not a natural thing, so that unforced collaboration is not very likely.
4. Community of interest also plays a part in any deliberations. In some areas the local people can be confused with the different levels of local government and will assume that the larger councils representing the towns also cover their areas. In those cases it is not unreasonable to consider changes that reflect the public's expectations.
5. Taking the above points into account and applying them to Abergavenny, we believe that there are opportunities to alter community ward boundaries as follows:
 - a) Include LF3 Llanwenarth Citra into the AB2 Grofield ward of Abergavenny. The river presently separates it from its parent community. This will bring the electorate in the Grofield Ward nearer the required average.
 - b) Consider adding Llanfoist LF2 to Abergavenny as an additional ward. The development on that side of the river looks to Abergavenny as its local centre, and it is suited to inclusion as development of urban character. The projected electorate in that ward would be close to the average required of an urban ward when current developments are occupied.
 - c) For similar reasons, the LP1 Croesonen East and LP2 West Wards of Llantilio Pertholey CC area could also be considered to be part of Abergavenny, and a 3 member ward could be added to the Town to accommodate it. It would be

logical to include the LP3 Mardy ward as well, but it might be necessary to relocate elements of it into the adjoining wards of AB3 Castle, AB5 Priory and AB4 Lansdown rather than as a separate unit, leaving some of the more rural parts to be relocated into adjoining communities.

- d) If these suggestions were to be agreed, it would add 2 wards with 6 members in total to the current 5 wards and 15 members of the Town Council.
 - e) The effects that these changes have on the two communities of Llantilio Pertholey and Llanfoist Fawr could be mitigated by looking outwards to other adjoining communities such as Crucorney and Llanover respectively.
6. Given the probability that the tendency for the County Council to divest itself of services will continue, and the additional powers, including the power of Well-being being promoted in the Local Government Wales Measure will add to the work commitments of local councils, these alterations would help the Town Council to deliver in its locality in a uniform way for local people.
7. The Review Group are respectfully asked to consider these logical representations as part of their review.

Representations received which also refer to this community:

- [Llanfoist Fawr Community Council](#)
- [Llantilio Pertholey Community Council](#)

Community of Caerwent

Caerwent Community Council

Just to confirm that we have on a few occasions requested that two Community Councillors (rather than one) be responsible for our **Dinham** ward due to the fact that 132 additional houses are currently being built in that ward.

DRAFT

Community of Caldicot

Caldicot Town Council

Gail McIntyre – Caldicot Town Council Clerk

Town Council at its meeting on 27th February 2013 requested that Castle Lea be included in the Severn Ward in view of the redevelopment off Church Road and the distance voters have to travel in order to vote at elections.

Caldicot Castle Ward

County Councillor Pauline Watts

The title “Caldicot Castle” is now historic and should remain. Polling booth – Castle Park Primary School is very suitable, as residents who decline the offer of a postal vote, do not have to cross the busy Sandy Lane. The four Castle Lea entries should be included in Green Lane.

Community of Chepstow

Chepstow Town Council

Sandra Bushell – Chepstow Town Council Clerk

Chepstow Town Council wishes to submit the following representations in respect of the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements:-

1. Thornwell Ward

Recommendation:

Extend the boundary of Thornwell Ward to include all of the Newhouse Farm Industrial Estate.

Reason(s):

1.1. For clarity and ease of administration, currently the majority of the estate lies within Chepstow Town Council's Thornwell Ward and a small area lies within the Mathern Ward. There are no residential dwellings in this area and thus electoral numbers would be unaffected, however, by placing all of the Newhouse Farm Estate in the Thornwell Ward, reporting lines and service enquiries to elected members would be clearer.

1.2. Fairfield Mabey (now Mabey Bridge) has strong historic and economic links with Chepstow, as one of the town's oldest and largest employers. The Mabey Bridge factory will shortly relocate from Lower Chepstow to its new factory at Newhouse Farm in the minority of the estate which currently falls within Mathern.

2. Larkfield Ward

Recommendation:

Extend the boundary of the Larkfield Ward to include the commercial and residential properties at the top of the A48 and to the west of the Wye Valley Link Road, removing them from St Kingsmark Ward.

Reason(s):

2.1. For clarity and ease of administration. These properties currently border the Larkfield Ward and lie close to residential dwellings in that ward but some considerable distance from dwellings in their current St Kingsmark Ward location. The small number of residential dwellings would have minimal impact on electoral ward numbers.

3. St Kingsmark Ward

Recommendation:

Extend the boundary of St Kingsmark Ward to include Chepstow Racecourse, removing it from St Arvans.

Reason(s):

3.1. For clarity, users of Chepstow Racecourse naturally assume that it lies within Chepstow and thus Chepstow Town Council is very frequently the first point of contact for queries, complaints and service enquires with regard to the Racecourse.

3.2. The activities of the Racecourse have greatest impact on businesses in Chepstow and on the lives of residents in Chepstow, as visitors access the Racecourse by train, coach or car necessitating travel either through the town centre and/or residential streets of Chepstow.

Save as above and in the light of our earlier representations we do not believe that any further amendments to either number of Councillors or amendments to Ward boundaries is appropriate.

Representations received which also refer to this community:

- [Mathern Community Council](#)

DRAFT

Community of Crucorney

No representations received for Community

Representations received which also refer to this community:

- [Abergavenny Town Council](#)

DRAFT

Community of Devauden

No representations received for Community

DRAFT

Community of Goetre Fawr

No representations received for Community

DRAFT

Community of Grosmont

No representations received for Community

DRAFT

Community of Gwehelog Fawr

Llanbadoc Community Council

Alun Window – Llanbadoc Community Council Clerk

Please find below the observations from Gwehelog Fawr Community Council as agreed earlier.

This is a review of Town and Community Council councilors, not County Councilors, and therefore we don't really understand its purpose because reducing the number of community councilors will not have any cost saving benefit, but will potentially reduce the representation of the community through its elected representatives. The committee feel that having more than one representative from each ward assists the Community Council business when members are ill or not able to attend.

Looking at Gwehelog Fawr CC and Llanbadoc CC the number of electors in each ward currently is:

Gwehelog Fawr CC

- Trostrey.....85 electors
- Kemeys Commander.....34 electors
- Gwehelog.....265 electors

Total Electors Gwehelog Fawr CC 384

Llanbadoc CC

- Monkswood.....245 electors
- Glascoed.....221 electors
- Llanbadoc.....205 electors

Total Electors Llanbadoc CC 671

The proposed ratio of electors per councilor in rural areas is 150, but also no community will be represented by less than 7 councilors, so on the face of it both Gwehelog and Llanbadoc can have a maximum of 7 councilors.

The ominous note however is where it states that *"The bandings will be applied to a community (council area) once the boundaries of that community have been created"*. With this in mind, since Gwehelog and Llanbadoc are both in the same County Councilor constituency, it could be that they will be merged to form one community council of $384 + 671 = 1055$ electors. Under those circumstances the new community council would only be represented by $1055 / 150 = 7$ councilors.

If this illustration is correct, then the exercise seems to be in direct opposition to the current government philosophy which is to enable localism and to encourage public participation. We would wish to oppose any moves to reduce the current levels of representation in both Gwehelog and Llanbadoc Community Councils.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to participate in this.

Community of Llangybi



Chairman Cllr. John R. Love: 01633 450347
County Councillor Peter Clarke: 01633 644644
Clerk Jem Quemper 07853 223963 email: jemquemper@aol.co.uk

7 Juno Villas
Flavius Close
Caerleon
Newport
NP18 3BT

John Pearson,
MCC Electoral Services Department,
County Hall,
The Rhadyr,
Usk,
Mon, NP15 1GA

18th April 2013

Dear Mr Pearson,

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements in Monmouthshire

First, on behalf of Llangybi Fawr Community Council I wish to apologise for the very late response to the consultation on the above proposals, but trust that it is not too late for my Council's comments to be noted. Two of our councillors did attend the presentation held in Llangybi at the very end of January, but our Chairman was then away throughout February and the first half of March so that it was not until this month's Council meeting that we were able to agree our response.

As a Community Council with three Wards and with one County Councillor's representation we feel that the current arrangements are manageable, and well accepted and understood by our three communities. We note the use of the criteria for three categories viz. Rural, Urban, and Mixed, and the suggested electoral numbers and county councillors. The direct application of these criteria might affect our current position, but councillors would wish for consideration also to be given to the geographical spread of our Wards and the distances required for travel for such needs as meetings and site visits. At present the situation works well for all concerned and my Council would wish such arrangements to continue – and we note that any changes proposed in the Local Development Plan in respect of housing are likely only to affect one of our three Wards and only to a very small degree at most. We would also hope that the present distribution of councillor members, viz. Llangybi 5, Llandegfedd 2, and CoedyPaen 2, would be retained – any reduction in that total

Llangybi



Chairman Cllr. John R. Love: 01633 450347
County Councillor Peter Clarke: 01633 644644
Clerk Jem Quemper 07853 223963 email: jemquemper@aol.co.uk

representation would in my Council's view impact on the effectiveness of Llangybi Fawr C C in carrying out its range of duties and obligations.

Thank you for allowing us to comment and again our apologies for the delay.

Yours sincerely

Jem Quemper, Clerk

DRAFT

Community of Llanarth

Llanarth Community Council

Melanie Mercer – Llanarth Community Council Clerk

Please note the following representations from the Llanarth Fawr Community Council:-

The Llanarth Fawr Community Council area is undoubtedly a very rural area with very small hamlets / villages dotted amongst the rural farming landscape.

The very special geography and topography of this area requires committed and very local representation and this job is very capably filled by both the Community Councillors /the Llanarth Fawr Community Council. The size of the area is very large but is just capable of being closely represented by the current Community Council. The Llanarth Fawr Community Council has recently covered large issues - i.e. the new cattle market site and currently the proposed solar park at Llanvapley as well as being very proud of it's achievement of helping to provide 6 new affordable homes for local residents.

These kind of issues as well as planning, highways, crime and community issues would not be effectively represented by a Council / Councillors who had to cover a wider area.

The Llanarth Fawr Community Council / Councillors pride themselves as being very active voluntary members of the local community and work tirelessly to ensure that the area has the maximum effective representation at a very minimal cost. Any surplus from the very small precept is diligently ploughed back into local community projects and is greatly appreciated by the whole community. All local village halls / groups are supported and many consultations take place at a very local level that ensures that the communities do not feel isolated. When a vacancy becomes available on the council it is quickly filled by enthusiastic local people who genuinely care about their communities and landscape.

This kind of very special, local, support / representation not only maintains the tradition and heritage of the area but gives electors the feeling that although isolated they do have a voice that matters in local government.

Llanarth Fawr Community Council requests that there is no change to the Councillor / Elector ratio and that Llanarth Fawr Community Council is maintained and not "diluted" or "merged" in any way.

Community of Llanbadoc

Llanbadoc Community Council

Response to the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

Description of Community Area

We represent a large rural area which comprises the three ward communities of Llanbadoc, Glascoed and Monkswood. There are no densely populated areas and none of the three wards has the central focus of shops, pubs or village halls which adds to the challenge of effective consultation and keeping in touch. The area contains many farms.

Special features

- There are four large employers within our boundaries: BAE Systems at Glascoed; Coleg Gwent, Monmouthshire CC's new headquarters and Prescoed Open Prison in Llanbadoc. There is also the industrial estate at Woodside with several local companies. This means there is a regular and significant influx of visitors to the area with resulting implications for our road systems. We also have regular liaison with Prescoed Prison to keep the community informed of prisoner absconds and policy matters.
- We own several areas of common land in Glascoed - much of which is woodland. This presents issues of maintenance, access and the rights of commoners. In the last few years there has also been the problem of motor cycle scrambling in the woodland which is on-going. We are currently engaged in resolving a legal issue concerning the erection/removal of gates to protect the woodland and curtail the nuisance for local residents.
- We have developed a rolling programme of footpath maintenance following a sharp deterioration in their condition over a number of years.
- A large section of the Llandegfedd reservoir comes within our area. We have successfully worked with Welsh Water and MCC to develop plans for a trail around the reservoir. Once this is completed (together with a new visitors centre and watersports facility) this will increase the number of visitors to the area.
- In the last few years we have developed our website to improve communications with residents (www.llanbadoc.org) and we have a working group which meets periodically to ensure that this is kept relevant and current. We also hand deliver a newsletter annually.

Why have we not had contested elections?

Any vacancies have been easily filled by co-option and at election time applicants have come forward to fill vacancies or we have used co-option shortly after the date of the election. We ensure that vacancies are given publicity to avoid limiting the pool to 'who we know'.

Are there any anomalies which need to be looked at?

- We request that the properties of Honeywell Cottage and Oak Ridge be moved into Llanbadoc ward from Glascoed ward so that they are in the same ward as other properties in the lane (R102). The reason for their current designation is historical – they were built on land from an old farm, the farm house of which was situated in Glascoed.
- Penpedairheol Farm at the crossroads of Rumble Street and Cefn Mawr Lane is the only property in Rumble Street not included in the Monkswood ward, being attached to Goetre Fawr. We ask that it be moved into the Monkswood ward.

Our submissions on preferred criteria

Our current electorate numbers 671 and our councillor/elector ratio is 1/67. We therefore fall below the preferred criteria of 1000 electors and our ratio is at the low end of the scale for the county and at variance with the suggested ratio of 1/150 for rural areas. However in our view the current community area with the representation of ten councillors should remain in place for the following reasons:

- The size and rural nature of our community area – three sparsely populated wards with housing dispersed throughout the area. The lack of a ‘nucleus’ for each community makes effective representation more challenging and time consuming. If the community area were to be extended to raise the number of electors this would make effective representation very difficult indeed because the bordering communities (with the exception of Usk) are also sparsely populated.
- The special features set out above contribute to a more complex and demanding workload for the council and the current number of councillors is needed to meet these demands.
- The council works efficiently and proactively. We are in the process of streamlining our procedures for meetings and extending our use of working groups to increase our effectiveness – in particular there is a need for a group to manage projects affecting the common land and other environmental issues. To make this group system work properly we need to maintain the present representation
- There are minimal cost implications regarding the number of councillors. We give our time freely and rarely claim for any expenses.

Community of Llanelly

No representations received for Community

DRAFT

Community of Llanfoist Fawr

Llanfoist Fawr Community Council

Melanie Mercer – Llanfoist Fawr Community Council Clerk

Please note the following comments / representations from the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council:-

Llanfoist Fawr Community Council welcome a review of the number of Councillors per ward - due to exceptionally large amounts of housing being built in the Llanfoist Ward the ratio of Community Councillors per elector is currently not fully balanced between the wards.

The Council would ask that Llanellen retains 2 community councillors and feel this is the right number as the community is both very "rural" and "mixed" population - the ratio would be approx. 1 cllr for 200 electors.

Llanwenarth Ultra ward - again this is a large area with a "rural" and "mixed" population and therefore the council would request that the number of Councillors is maintained - the ratio would be approx. 1 cllr for 190 Electors.

Llanwenarth Citra Ward - this ward has had historical links with Llanwenarth Ultra / Llanfoist Fawr for many centuries and is a totally rural area. The Llanfoist Fawr Community Council have noted the submission by Abergavenny Town Council that this ward should be added to the Grofield Ward and feel that this is totally unacceptable. The Ward has no links with Abergavenny Town - it's residents would certainly feel affronted at the thought that they were going to be represented by a Town when they have so obviously chosen to live in a very beautiful rural location. The town is the town - not the countryside around the town - it is a totally rural community with not even a "mixed" area - i.e. no hamlets /village - it does not fit in any way into the classification of the Grofield Ward in Abergavenny. The planning applications for this ward are all through the Brecon Beacon National Park (as are a significant number of others for the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council Area) and it is believed that currently Abergavenny Town Council deal only with Monmouthshire County Council planning applications. (The two planning authorities do have very different views on planning matters and totally separate Local Development Plans, planning meetings, etc.). All the links forged with the Brecon Beacon National Park Authority for this community would be lost - and this goes beyond just planning to include tourism, forestry, environment and other matters. The ward has 1 very longstanding and valued Community Councillor (currently Vice-Chairman) and this represents a ratio of 1 cllr for 139 electors - very close to the ideal of 150 that is suggested for a rural ward. Please leave this ward in the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council with the current arrangement of 1 Councillor as this is how best to represent locally the small rural community.

Llanfoist Ward - this is the ward with all the development - some already completed, some "in progress" and some with planning approval. It currently has only 3 Community Councillors and this is short of the number required for what is a "mixed" community. The forecast for 2017 is 1,568 Electors that should be represented by 6 Community Councillors - this increase would give an excellent chance for new Community Councillors to be sought in the new housing areas. The Electors of Llanfoist Ward pride themselves on being in an active attractive village (not a part of Abergavenny Town as has been suggested by Abergavenny Town Council).

To sum up - the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council wish to remain as 4 wards but with a review of the number of Councillors in the Llanfoist Ward.

If members of the panel looking into this review require any further information Llanfoist Fawr Community Council would be only too happy to assist / liaise.

Additional Representation from Llanfoist Community Council

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find below the further comments of the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council regarding the review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements. I would be grateful if you can ensure that these comments are noted prior to any recommendations on this matter.

Llanfoist Fawr Community Council object strongly to the proposal put forward by Abergavenny Town Council to integrate the Llanfoist Ward into a larger Abergavenny Town ward. It must be noted that no consultation regarding this proposal has been even mentioned to members of Llanfoist Fawr Community Council - despite appropriate forums in existence for such matters - let alone discussed within the spirit of mutual co-operation.

Our objections are grounded in the following reasons:

Llanfoist is geographically separate to Abergavenny with the river forming an obvious boundary. It also feels itself to be a rural community despite Monmouthshire County Council's attempts to double the population with new housing developments at Gypsy Lane and the old Coopers filters site. It has a very distinctive and separate identity to Abergavenny which those who live in the ward have fought hard to maintain and develop over many years. The argument put forward by Abergavenny Town Council that those who live in the new development near the bridge consider themselves to have more affinity with Abergavenny than Llanfoist is not founded in reality.

The increase in population once all proposed housing is occupied ensures that the existing Llanfoist Fawr Community Council area remains a viable and extremely effective community council with members who have developed good working relationships over many years with the electorate, with each other and with the planning authorities at Monmouthshire

County Council and Brecon Beacon National Park. The ward has its own County Council representation which we would be loath to lose.

Llanfoist is the gateway to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and there has been considerable work within the village in collaboration with the Forgotten Landscapes Project and the World Heritage Site to promote the distinctiveness of Llanfoist and the important role the village played in the industrial development of the area and its continuing development as a tourist attraction. Whilst there is much to ally us with Abergavenny in this respect we feel it would be detrimental to the identity of Llanfoist to be incorporated into Abergavenny Town Council; our needs as a rural community are very different to those of the town.

Llanfoist Fawr Community Council recognises the need to work collaboratively and imaginatively with other community /town councils to achieve the best possible outcomes for the electorate and does not feel that the proposals for a larger Abergavenny ward are an appropriate way forward.

It is further noted that Llanfoist residents would have to suffer an increase in council tax due to the considerably higher precept of the Abergavenny Town Council V Llanfoist Fawr Community Council - indeed for 2013/14 Llanfoist Fawr Community Council have reduced the burden on householders by maintaining the same precept despite an increase in the number of dwellings.

Abergavenny Town Council use the argument that as Llanwenarth Citra Ward is on the town side of the river it should be included in the town council area - a matter previously disputed by Llanfoist Fawr Community Council. They then put forward a recommendation to have the whole of Llanfoist Ward - which is wholly the "wrong" side of the river - is this not a case of not knowing their own identity and just trying to make up ward numbers from any direction ?

Llanfoist Fawr Community Council would not be "Llanfoist" Fawr Community Council without the Llanfoist Ward - it would leave a ridiculous situation whereby the other wards are totally disjointed with a large geographical gap in the middle that could not be joined up by annexing other Community Council's Wards as suggested by Abergavenny Town Council and Llanfoist Fawr Community Council are sure that Llanover Community Council would not appreciate this suggestion being even considered without full and proper public consultation.

Llanfoist Fawr Community Council formally request that this matter is struck from consideration as it is not an appropriate suggestion and for all the above reasons.

Once again the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council would like to re-iterate their offer to discuss matters further with the review panel or if helpful to provide and further information required.

Yours Sincerely

Melanie Mercer

Clerk of the Council
Llanfoist Fawr Community Council

Representations received which also refer to this community:

- [Abergavenny Town Council](#)

DRAFT

Community of Llangattock Vibon Avel


Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council *Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel*

Roy G Nicholas

Clerk to the Council
Proper Officer of the Council

16 Rushey Meadow
MONMOUTH NP25 5BT



 (01600) 714181

Clerc y Cyngor
Swyddog Priodol y Cyngor

16 Dôl Frwynog
TREFYNWY NP25 5BT

22 January 2013

Mr John Pearson
Local Democracy Manager
The Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Dear Mr Pearson

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements for Monmouthshire

Just to recap on a few of the various statements which we have propounded in the past, it is apposite for me to bring them to the fore when the question of "how many community councillors" is under consideration.

A Our community is within the second most geographically deprived area in the whole of Wales for access to facilities and services. We do not have a single shop, garage, doctor's surgery or other facilities. The isolation is such that a person living at Cross Ash has a round trip of 18 miles for a loaf of bread.

B We have fewer than 400 residences. These are scattered within an area of about 14sq kilometres and include Skenfrith, Cross Ash, Rockfield, Llangattock, Newcastle and the Hendre.

The names, contacts including telephone numbers of our members are shown ward by ward on the six village notice-boards which are situated in the open in the most prominent place in the village and are always maintained in an as-new condition. In other words, our community councillors are easy (and happy!) to be contacted.

C Because our *Precept* has to be absorbed by fewer than 400 residences, we have to be exceptionally careful with our funds and have to absorb small jobs as 'in-house' tasks.

D Our really big expense is the care and maintenance of our properties which consist of the War Memorial at Skenfrith and the War Memorial at Llangattock. There is also the Churchyard at Llangattock which produces no income whatsoever. Our obligation at the Churchyard is much compounded by having to care for its stone wall perimeter and the fact so many of the monuments on its steep slope are laid horizontal and require to be exposed lest someone should slip. It is also the burial place of Charles Rolls (of Rolls Royce) which attracts huge numbers of visitors. This places a special H & S responsibility on us to comply with the 2009 regulations. Each time the grass is strimmed costs £150!

So, why do we require 10 Community Councillors?

LT1 = 3. The area stretches from the border with Wanastow as far as Newcastle and includes Llangattock and the Hendre in between. When the weather is reasonable, dealing with visitors (only a few weeks ago we had a coachload of 46 persons) to see the Charles Rolls memorial. Sponsored walks also include this location as a stopping place. These events can well absorb the attention of one Councillor.

With the recent introduction of discharging patients from hospital for care at their own homes, we are obliged to ensure that their carers can actually get to their patient. Only last week when we checked on a route in this ward, it became obvious that salt-bins would be required on the long and steep slope if they were to reach a 95-year old patient, twice daily, discharged from hospital with a broken leg. This was achieved.

LT 2. This covers Cross Ash, Norton, Skenfrith and the area between them and Newcastle. We require one who resides at Cross Ash and who is involved with the Village Hall and the Playing Field. It is only fairly recently that we found how essential it was to have 'Our Man' at Cross Ash when we spent months on fighting our case to retain the playing field from building. It took months of hard work which resulted in the Assembly's Inspector at the Public Hearing finding in our favour.

The next hamlet Norton requires a councillor for that area which includes residences stretching to the Grosmont border.

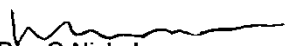
Skenfrith is a very busy place where CADW no longer employs anyone to enlighten visitors about the Castle. The War Memorial attracts attention because, in addition to listing the men who lost their lives, it also lists the men who went to the wars but were fortunate to return home!

Councillor 4 is responsible for the hilly area between Newcastle and the other areas listed above.

LT3 covers St Maughans, the Maypole, Rockfield and the area between Rockfield and the Hendre. Three councillors are kept busy to avoid residents having to contact MCC departments!!

So please, when reviewing or 10 community councillors, allow us to continue providing the service which our electorate has come to expect of us. This will be particularly important as MCC's much publicised **Bringing Health and Social Care Closer Together** gathers momentum. This is happening now and we wish to play our part.

Yours sincerely


Roy G Nicholas
Clerk to the Council
Proper Officer of the Council
Appointed Officer to the Burial Authority
Churchyard Safety Officer

Community of Llangwm

No representations received for Community

DRAFT

Community of Llanhennock

No representations received for Community

DRAFT

Community of Llanover

Llanover Community Council

Hugh Candler – Llanover Community Council Clerk

I acknowledge receipt of the amended Notice regarding the above Review.

I have noted that there is due to be a series of Regional Seminars which I and one or two other members of this Council are likely to attend.

However, I am instructed to inform you that this Council considers the Review a complete waste of time and money. The present situation is working perfectly well and people know in which community they are located. To change the arrangement will merely be change for change's sake. Any possible benefit, such as equalising the number of electors in each ward, will be far outweighed by the inconvenience and uncertainty which will be caused. My Council's advice is to leave well alone.

Representations received which also refer to this community:

- [Abergavenny Town Council](#)

Community of Llantilio Crossenny

Llantilio Crossenny Community Council

Katherine Jordan – Llantilio Crossenny Community Council Clerk

Thank you for the helpful presentation at Abergavenny Town Hall last night requesting feedback from community councils before the review panel considers matters in detail. Having discussed the review with our Chairman of Llantilio Crossenny Community Council I have been requested to reply to you on behalf of the council.

It is considered that the traditional boundaries and historic situation in our area works very well and that any changes would be unlikely to bring any real benefits. Our community council has responsibility for a large rural area, and we have no issues to report. If our area was smaller it would not be workable. So far as the boundaries are concerned there is a small "bubble" near The Hendre in the Parc Grace Dieu area, but other than that the boundaries are considered to be straightforward with no anomalies.

Our demands have not changed, as there has been very little development in our area, and little has changed in recent years.

It is the view of Llantilio Community Council that the status quo should be maintained for our area as there are no issues or problems to report. I hope this response is of assistance, and would be very grateful if you would acknowledge receipt for my records.

Community of Llantilio Pertholey

LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS -

The ratio of residents to one Community Councillor is appropriate throughout our community and will continue to be so even following these recommendations.

1 Remove Heol Hamelin, Clos Durand and Clos Bury Capel from Croesonen East and place within Abergavenny Town Council community probably Priory Ward.

2 Subsequently there is no need for a divisive split between Croesonen East and West. Add Croesonen Gardens, Croesonen Parc, Croesonen Road, Glan Gavenny, New Junction Cottages and Springwells Road to Croesonen West. In amalgamating both these Wards, create a new Croesonen Ward (no East and West).

This Ward of approximately 1695 residents will then be served by seven Community Councillors and a ratio of 242 to one.

3 Remove Llwynu Lane, St David's Road and St David's Close from Mardy Ward and add to Croesonen Ward so that both roads and all properties lie within one Ward ie Croesonen and not divided as at present.

4 Add Hereford Road, Mardy Park, Mardy, Nantgavenny Cottages, The Newlands and The Pines to Mardy Ward creating a clear boundary to include all roads and properties that quite obviously lie within Mardy village.

This Ward and the 931 residents will be served by four Community Councillors having been joined by the present Skirrid West Community Councillor and a ratio of 233 to one.

5 Amalgamate the unnecessary split of Skirrid East and West by combining Maindiff, Maindiff Court Hospital, Trebencyn, Tredillion, Triley, Brynygwenin, Llandewi Court, Llandewi Sgyrriid, Llandewi Skirrid, Llantilio Pertholey and Ross Road to create one Skirrid Ward.

This Ward and the 248 residents will be served by one Community Councillor. Skirrid should then become a mixed Ward and this gives the ratio of 248 to one.

6 Panygelli Ward to remain as at present.

Secondary representation submitted by Llantilio Pertholey Community Council

Following submission of views to the Monmouthshire County Council's consultation exercise on the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements, Llantilio Pertholey Community Council has felt compelled to respond to the observations submitted during the exercise by Abergavenny Town Council.

Members of Council object to the Abergavenny Town Council's inference that the existing Community arrangements in Monmouthshire are not fit for purpose to deal with 'the

current tendency to look at moving services down the structural chain'. Members must assume that the Town Council includes itself in that statement, as it is currently part of those arrangements. Indeed, the Town Council seems to demonstrate a degree of naivety if it believes that in devolving certain service downwards that there would not be an expectation amongst Community Councils that appropriate financial resources would be included in any such arrangements.

While Members accept that all Council's would need to introduce new methods for dealing with any major delegation of services, this could prove an opportunity for Council's to work more closely together to provide the necessary services in the best and most economical ways for the benefit of their residents. In a small way this is already happening in North Monmouthshire via the North Monmouthshire Liaison Committee, which comprises Crucorney, Llanfoist Fawr, Llanover, Llantilio Pertholey Community Councils and Abergavenny Town Council. For your general information, this was established following the initiative of Llantilio Pertholey Community Council

The current Community arrangements allow for local knowledge, relationships and community cohesion that benefit the residents. Big is not always better.

From the submissions of other Councils to the consultation exercise, it appears that the Town Council is somewhat out on a limb with its suggestion that 'there is a case for a fairly radical look at the way in which communities are organised in Monmouthshire.' All other responses submitted, including that of Llantilio Pertholey Community Council, have looked at Ward boundaries within their community, to ensure that they meet the terms of reference of the exercise, and provide the best representation for the electorate within those Councils.

In fact Llantilio Pertholey Community Council did, in its submission, suggest realigning the boundary between itself and Abergavenny Town Council for residents in Heol Hamelin, Clos Durand and Clos Bury Capel to become part of the Town Council's area as, due to their location to the town, they would feel more affinity with the town than with the Community of Llantilio Pertholey.

In response to Abergavenny Town Council's specific suggestions for their annexing of the Croesonen East, Croesonen West and Mardy Wards of Llantilio Pertholey Community Council, Members would like to make the following observations:

- Residents within those wards associate with the village of Mardy and not the town of Abergavenny.
- The Town Council has no experience of managing buildings or Playing Fields. Llantilio Pertholey Community Council owns and manages the Community Hall, Playing Field and Children's Play Area.
- The wellbeing of residents is well catered for in Llantilio Pertholey Community Council's area with the Community Hall and Playing Field used regularly for educational, sporting, fitness and rehabilitation activities.
- Llantilio Pertholey Community Council actively engages with its residents. Press releases are issued after Council meetings, the Croesonen County Councillor's

newsletter and parish magazine are used to advertise Council activities, and the long established website is used to promote Council business. The website is also a means for residents to contact Council with questions and views, and for 2013/2014 Council have set a goal to establish Surgeries for residents to meet with Councillors to raise and discuss issues.

- The Council has installed notice boards in each ward that convey information such as the contact details for Councillors, notice of Council meetings, Neighbourhood Watch and other community activities.
- Llantilio Pertholey Community Council was the first Council in the greater Abergavenny area to install Dog Waste Bins. The Council manages the emptying of those bins as well as litter bins which it has purchased and installed in its area.
- Council also run a Garden of the Year competition, provide Christmas lighting and is a major financial supporter of the local branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau, as the Bureau has shown that many of their visitors are resident in Llantilio Pertholey Community Council's area.
- Following the introduction by Monmouthshire County Council of the current refuse collection regime, Council hold stocks of the various coloured bags for local residents use, at the Community Hall, the Assembly Hall Llandewi Skirrid as well as the local store, this is managed by a Llantilio Pertholey Community Council.

If the 3 Wards were moved to Abergavenny Town Council it would leave Llantilio Pertholey Community Council with 3 single Member Rural Wards, Sgyrrid East, Sgyrrid West and Pantygelli. This would mean a Council of 3 Members and would not be viable as a separate Community. Those Wards would then need to be allocated to neighbouring Communities, (Crucorney/Grosmont) to which they would have no local connection.

The 2013/2014 Monmouthshire County Council Council Tax figures show the Community Council precept band D equivalent for Llantilio Pertholey Community Council as £21.14 compared to Abergavenny Town Council's £44.54. Would residents of the 3 wards that Abergavenny Town Council wish to take from Llantilio Pertholey receive the same commitment from the Town Council as they currently receive from the Community Council, especially if their Council Tax was likely to rise.

The Community Council is non-political, Members working for the benefit of its residents and not a political party, unlike the Town Council which is party political. The Council believes that this approach provides a more inclusive partnership between themselves and their residents.

The Community Council uses its precept to provide services for its residents, unlike the Town which uses a percentage of its precept for Mayoral and Ceremonial events, twinning arrangements and annually approved allowances, which does not directly benefit the Town residents.

Council hope that from these examples you can see that the residents of Llantilio Pertholey are well served by the current Community Council arrangements and request you dismiss the suggestions of Abergavenny Town Council presented in their submission. Indeed, any

major changes to the current boundary structure are likely to affect the community cohesion and pride that the Council has helped to build over many years.

Representations received which also refer to this community:

- [Abergavenny Town Council](#)

DRAFT

Community of Llantrisant

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

John Turner – Llantrisant Fawr Community Council Clerk

Members of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council have requested I write in response to your letter of 3/12/12 and to the recently published Terms of Reference for the above review.

The Terms of reference state that the main driver for the review is the wide variation in levels of representation from one community to another. Whilst this is clearly true from the data you have provided and notwithstanding your accepted variations between the 3 categories of communities mentioned, due consideration to geography must be given when considering levels of representation. We believe that strict adherence to set levels of representation are less important than recognition of geographical factors and the natural boundaries of communities based on settlement.

The 2 wards of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council are reported to have the most generous level of representation in the County and therefore perceived ripe for reorganisation/merger with one or more surrounding communities. Llantrisant Fawr Community Council covers a large area of about 25km² covering the adjacent communities of Llantrisant, Llanllowell, Llangeview and Gwernesney. Any enlargement of the community area to include other areas would result in a loss of local community focus. A new larger Council with at least 1000 electors would have to represent a much larger number of scattered communities which may not have all that much in common with each other and have different priorities and interests. The prime function of a local council is to represent the views, interests and act on behalf of well defined community based on patterns of human settlement and not a predetermined councillor to elector ratio.

For this reason we believe that the current arrangements as they pertain to Llantrisant Fawr Council have proved effective in that it represents a cluster of small settlements with shared sense of location and community identity. We have 329 residents which is clearly above the minimum number of electors required for a community council. We also have 7 councillors which also conforms with the published terms of reference. We are of the opinion that the generous level of about 1 councillor to about 50 electors is acceptable given the rural and scattered character of our area. We therefore propose no change to our community area boundaries or wards.

Community of Magor with Undy

No representations received for Community

DRAFT

Community of Mathern

Mounton Ward – Mathern Community Council

Councillor & Vice Chair Carolyn Ovenden – Mounton Ward

Following our discussions at last night's meeting at Bulwark Community Centre re. review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements, may I summarise and suggest the following re. the above Ward, which I represent:

- Though a small Ward, Mounton Village is a distinct, stand-alone, rural community with a unique local history which is nevertheless allied to that of its near (but more densely-populated) neighbours of Mathern and Pwllmeyric.
- The houses at the upper end of Mounton Lane should be incorporated into Mounton Ward on a line which roughly follows a continuation of St. Lawrence Lane. This would simplify matters relating to Highways and the maintenance of Mounton Road. Also give a more distinct boundary to Mathern CC area as a whole.
- The property known as Wellhead Lodge, on the Usk Road, be removed from Mounton Ward (possibly being placed in St Arvans - see map).

Mathern Community Council

Councillor & Vice Chair Carolyn Ovenden

Outline of existing Community Council

Mathern Community Council comprises 3 Wards with a current electoral total of 874 voters. These are represented by 9 Community Councillors in 3 Wards as follows:
Mathern – 118 voters per Councillor (5), Mounton – 77 voters per Councillor (1) and Pwllmeyric – 109 voters per Councillor (3).

JUSTIFICATION OF CURRENT FORMAT OF MATHERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

1. The three Wards are each distinctive but historically linked e.g. paper manufactured in Mounton village was shipped from Mathern before the railway was built, whilst the owners of Mounton House had a close relationship with Pwllmeyric residents in the last Century.
2. There is currently a thriving community life involving residents from all three villages within the Community Council area, e.g Mathern Village Hall events and combined efforts by residents of all three Wards in various floral display competitions.
3. The Wards are diverse and thriving with a wide range of housing-types. All age groups are well-represented throughout and the community is a well-balanced one.
4. The three villages are either rural or semi-rural and geographically separate from similar areas nearby.

5. The area encompassed by the Community Council includes part of the Wye Valley AONB (Mounton) and a Conservation Area (Mathern), reflecting the individual character of the area.
6. The Community Council itself is well-balanced and the three constituent Wards work well together, frequently towards common goals. These may be both pro-active (recent publication of Local Walks leaflets) and reactive (currently working towards safer road conditions on the A48). Such matters are local to the area and affect/involve the entire community.
7. Proposed new building under the Local Development Plan will increase voting population of Mathern Ward.
8. Mathern Community Council and (enthusiastic) local residents of all 3 Wards are to devise a Community Led Plan under the auspices of adventa. This project was due to start in January but was delayed till next week by poor weather conditions.

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO WARD BOUNDARIES WITHIN AN UNCHANGED MATHERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA

1. In view of potential new housing in Mathern village (LDP) and hence a larger electorate, all properties to the west of the A48 i.e. Hayesgate, Broadwell Farm areas to be moved from Mathern Ward to Mounton Ward.
2. Mounton House to be removed from Mounton Ward and placed in Pwllmeyric Ward, where it's main entrance is situated. Also the two houses above Mounton House (Brynderwin & Bigwood).
3. Mounton Ward: see previous communication re. Wellhead Lodge and "old" Bayfield.
4. The new buildings, including the Veterinary Practice, at High Beech roundabout should be wholly incorporated into Pwllmeyric Ward, rather than only the driveway leading to them.

These changes would retain the status quo whilst making voting numbers more in line with targets.

MATHERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

John Pearson
Local Democracy Manager
Monmouthshire County Council
Innovation House
Wales 1
Magor. NP26 3DG

18th March 2013

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS Terms of Reference

Dear John,

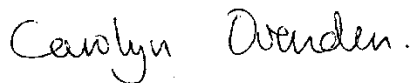
Following a lengthy discussion of the above at their March meeting, Mathern Community Councillors have asked me to write to express their grave concern about the proposal by Chepstow Town Council that the part of Newhouse Industrial Estate currently within to Mathern Community Council boundary should be transferred to Thornwell Ward.

Community Councillors wish to point out that the area concerned is very close to Mathern village. Noise and light pollution (as well as a certain amount of increased traffic) at the site have, in the past, infringed greatly on nearby houses in Mathern. Its Community Council has always worked hard to alleviate these problems, not least by ensuring that the bund partly surrounding the site was built in the first place. Such problems in no way infringe on Thornwell.

For these reasons, we feel most strongly that our Community boundary here should remain as it is at present. This will ensure that Mathern Community Council will be involved in any future Planning applications on the relevant part of the Newhouse site. It will thus have some influence as regards detrimental environmental effects that any new building, or change of use to existing buildings, may have on the rural ambience of a particularly historic part of Mathern.

The Community Council trusts, therefore, that the outcome of the review of electoral boundaries within Monmouthshire will contain no such change.

Yours sincerely,



Carolyn Ovenden (Vice-Chairman, Mathern Community Council)

cc: County Councillor Graham Down
Mrs. Sandra Bushell, Clerk to Chepstow Town Council.



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J Pearson Esq
Local Democracy Manager
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The Rhadyr
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NP15 1GA

15 May 2013

Address for correspondence:
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Mathern
Chepstow
Monmouthshire
NP16 6HN

Tel: 01291 621846

e-mail: grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Dear John

Re: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

With reference to the above Review, I have had the opportunity to look at the submissions made by Mathern Community Council and Shirenewton Community Council, amongst others.

Mathern

I broadly agree with the submissions which have been made by Mathern Community Council. It seems to me to make obvious sense to use the A466 between High Beech roundabout and Newhouse roundabout as the eastern boundary of the Community, and as a clear dividing line with Chepstow. This brings a small amount of agricultural land to the north west of Newhouse roundabout into the Community, as well as two properties, one of which is a commercial property, to the west of High Beech roundabout (which would fall in the Pwllmeyric Ward).

At the southern end, it would seem sensible to use the M48 eastwards towards the Wye Bridge as the boundary, which would bring the whole of the Newhouse Industrial Estate within the Mathern Community.

There is a case for extending the eastern edge of the Community northwards from High Beech roundabout towards Mounton Road (westwards), and thereafter using Mounton Road as the northern boundary, with the few properties to the south of the road coming into the Mathern Community. If this is agreed the affected properties could conveniently be associated with the Mounton Ward.

Mathern Community Council have also suggested bringing "old" Bayfield within the Mounton Ward. Again, I see the sense of this in representing the division between urban Chepstow and the more rural area.

There is a single property on the Usk Road which, perversely, falls within the Mathern Community. The dwelling is completely isolated from the remainder of the Community, and I would argue that it really ought to be part of Chepstow's St Kingsmark Ward.

Working with the citizens of Monmouthshire

This letter is from an individual Member and is not written on behalf of the Council
Dan'r llythyr yma oddi wrth Aelod unigol ac ni ystyrir yn rwyd ar ran y Cynwor.



Likewise, the register includes a single property on High Beech Lane, which can only be an error.

Shirenewton

Once more, I broadly concur with the submission made by Shirenewton Community Council. No changes are necessary to the boundaries of the Community as a whole, albeit that there are a few dwellings along the western side of the Crick Road north of Crick, which would appear to have greater affinity with Shirenewton than with Caerwent.

The principal change which is required to the Shirenewton community involves the division between Earlswood and Shirenewton Wards. Under the present arrangements a large part of Earlswood falls within the Shirenewton Ward which is plainly preposterous. The boundary ought to be drawn so that anything to the north of Cock A Roostin falls within the Earlswood Ward.

I hope you find these comments helpful.

Regards

Yours sincerely



Graham Down
County Councillor for Shirenewton & Mathern

Representations received which also refer to this community:

- [Chepstow Town Council](#)

Community of Mitchel Troy

Mitchel Troy Community Council

Ann Davison – Mitchel Troy Community Council Clerk

Mitchel Troy Community Council discussed this review at its meeting last night. The minute reads as follows:

"Councillors expressed a strong sense of identity, and had no wish to increase, decrease, or alter the boundaries of the wards within the council. While the "electors per councillor" figures are relatively low in the area, it was felt that the concept of "over representation" is irrelevant, since community councillors are voluntary and therefore costless. They also represent a large area that is sparsely populated."

DRAFT

Community of Monmouth

Monmouth Town Council

Sue James – Monmouth Town Council Clerk

Please see below responses from Monmouth Town Council

Cllr Hayward explained details to members again at a meeting last Monday, and he has been delegated authority by the Council to submit any further changes/suggestions made to him by MTC Councillors (and received in the Clerk's office by 1st March) to yourself/John Pearson by 15th March.

- Dixon with Osbaston ward boundary should be re-established to follow the River Monnow rather than Osbaston Road, from the old Slaughter Houses (Priory Street), and hence then include the Forge and Osbaston CIW School
- An additional Councillor should represent the Drybridge Town Council ward
- The County Council ward of combined Town and Drybridge Town Council wards should be re-examined, with a more natural combination being Town and Overmonnow Town Council wards

Community of Portskewett

No representations received for Community

DRAFT

Community of Raglan

No representations received for Community

DRAFT

Community of Rogiet

No representations received for Community

DRAFT

Community of Shirenewton

Shirenewton Community Council

Hilary Counsell – Shirenewton Community Council Clerk

Hi John, during discussion of the above, members gave consideration to the following:

- overall boundary of the Council,
- individual ward boundaries,
- links between wards,
- the warding structure.

In response to the consultation, members wish to make the following points -

- that the current four wards of Shirenewton, Mynyddbach, Earlswood and Newchurch West are a distinct area with an identifiable community.
- there are several positive links between the wards, such as the CC having responsibility for the poor land field and an area of forestry in Earlswood, Also for Earlswood Village Hall and the Recreation Hall and playing field in Shirenewton, as well as the green at Mynyddbach. The CC also offers financial support to all the churches and chapels and several organisations in the community.

Members feel that it might be beneficial to reduce the community to two wards - Shirenewton and Mynyddbach, and Earlswood and Newchurch West. Earlswood and Newchurch West historically regard themselves as a community. Councillors suggest the boundary of the two wards be at Cock a Roosting (bridleway BR86, on to the road at lower Argoed, to Cock a Roosting, then BR54, BR53, Footpath51, 45, 46 to the CC boundary. The electors could then be realigned for voting purposes, with the Earlswood/Newchurch West ward voting at Earlswood Hall and the Shirenewton/Mynyddbach ward voting at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. This would rationalise the current arrangements where several of the Earlswood electorate pass Earlswood Hall to vote in Shirenewton. Members did feel it important that all the village names are kept in the ward titles to retain their identities.

According to the Terms of Reference, as this Council has 915 electors, the number of Councillors representing the wards will be reduced, possibly to eight rather than the current ten. If this is the case, members would suggest five for the Shirenewton/Mynyddbach ward and three for the Earlswood/Newchurch West ward.

Perhaps you would kindly calculate how this would work out as a ratio of electorate to Councillors in each ward and advise us accordingly.



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I hope you find these comments helpful.

Regards

Yours sincerely



Graham Down
County Councillor for Shirenewton & Mathern

Community of St Arvans

St Arvans Community Council

Alan Bolton – Chair of St Arvans Community Council

May I thank you for the opportunity to make a representation to the forthcoming review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements 2012.

It is noted from the Terms of Reference that St Arvans falls into the "Mixed " category of Community Councils where the ideal Councillor/Elector ratio is c 250. Clearly with 625 Electors and 8 Councillors, the village is over -subscribed with Councillors and would mathematically be better suited to forming a Ward of a larger Community to meet the above criterion and the second criterion of a minimum of 7 Councillors per Community.

However, St Arvans is a very self-contained and succinct Community and does not naturally link geographically with any other local Community to be considered a Ward. Its Councillors are all St Arvan's residents who know the village and its residents and their needs well, and work conscientiously for the betterment of services and environmental issues within the Community.

The Community Council therefore recommends that the existing arrangements are maintained because;

- There are no costs involved.
- The numbers afford a good distribution of Councillors across the several sub-groups that manage the various responsibilities of the Council.
- All Councillors are in daily contact with other St Arvans residents and literally form part of the "Community".

Representations received which also refer to this community:

- [Chepstow Town Council](#)
- [Mathern Community Council](#)

Community of Tintern

St Arvans County Councillor Ann Webb

Just a note to say that I as the local member for Trellech Grange would strongly oppose this being included into the Trellech United Ward. There are historical reasons for this being within St Arvans Division. If you would like we could discuss this in more detail, but firstly I wanted to make sure you knew my feelings!!

Representations received which also refer to this community:

- [Trellech United Community Council](#)
- [Community Councillor George Weston, Llanishen Ward, Trellech United Community Council](#)

DRAFT

Community of Trellech United

Trellech United Community Council

Ann Davison – Trellech United Community Council Clerk

At its meeting on 18th February the Community Council discussed its current ward boundaries and representation.

1. The council felt that the level of representation is about right, and did not want to either increase or decrease the number of councillors.

2. They had two suggestions for changes to ward boundaries, although felt that this really depended on the views of electors living within the two areas.

(a) Trellech Grange (as its name suggests) "belongs" with Trellech rather than with Tintern, and the suggestion is to move the boundary of the Llanishen ward to run from Whitelye Common and below The Fountain Inn . The parishes of Llanishen and Trellech Grange have always been linked, the primary school catchment is to Trellech school, and The Fountain is the "local" for Catbrook within TUCC.

(b) Far Hill, which is currently within the Llanishen ward, lies more naturally within Trellech Town. There is no direct road link between Far Hill and Llanishen. When residents of Far Hill wish to vote at an election they need to drive straight past the polling station in Trellech, in order to reach Llanishen. For the same reason other community links and activities tend naturally towards Trellech rather than Llanishen.

Trellech United Community Council

George Weston – Community Councillor Llanishen Ward

Introduction:

The following considerations are personal to me and do not necessarily represent those held by TUCC, of which I am an elected member. However, they were presented as such to TUCC at their meeting on 18th February and received no objection from the members present.

I approached the exercise on the basis of "community of interest" or, if you will, "sense of place", rather than as an exercise in load-balancing. However, it can be seen that my recommendations, if adopted, would result in the Llanishen Ward of TUCC having the exact county average of 150 electors per community councillor.

1. Trellech Grange:

Trellech Grange is clearly historically linked to the Trellech area by its name but is currently – inexplicably – part of Tintern community. Trellech Grange is also one of the three linked historic parishes of Llanishen, Trellech Grange and Llanfihangel-tor-y-Mynydd; the local priest-in-charge is responsible for all three churches. Trellech

Grange's strong links with Llanishen are also reflected in the Trust Deed of the charity which owns and operates Llanishen village hall; the deed states that the "area of benefit" of the charity consists of those three historic parishes. (It should be noted at this stage that whilst Llanfihangel-tor-y-Mynydd is also linked in this way, its ties with Llanishen are perhaps not so strong, as that settlement tends to identify more closely with its proximity to Llansoy and Devauden Community. Moreover, as far as the Post Office is concerned, Llanfihangel-tor-y-Mynydd is part of Llansoy. I have therefore not considered any changes which would involve Llanfihangel-tor-y-Mynydd or Devauden Community.)

Returning to Trellech Grange, I also note that many addresses in that historic parish have NP16 6Q* postcodes and Llanishen postal addresses. Many residents of Trellech Grange therefore have a strong natural "community of interest" with Llanishen and consider themselves to be part of the Llanishen community. The boundary of Trellech Grange with Llanishen is also very close to the village centre of Llanishen. However, Trellech Grange is currently a Ward of Tintern Community, notwithstanding the fact that Tintern is anything up to 4 miles away and is directly accessible only via a narrow road through the Angidy valley (this road is currently closed owing to a landslip). Trellech Grange's "community of interest" with Tintern is therefore as not as strong as it is with Llanishen. There are 36 properties in Tintern Community's Trellech Grange Ward and 72 electors.

For the above reasons I therefore propose that consideration be given to transferring the Trellech Grange Ward of Tintern Community to TUCC and incorporating it into TUCC's Llanishen Ward.

2. Far Hill:

Far Hill is currently part of the Llanishen Ward of TUCC. However, it is relatively isolated from "Llanishen proper". The preferred access to and from Far Hill is via Trellech, where a good, direct minor road leading off the B4293 (R76/C45-7) links the two settlements. Access to Far Hill from Llanishen is possible but via a long, convoluted route of narrow lanes leading off the road that leads out into the countryside towards Llangovan. The residents of Far Hill therefore naturally have a much greater "community of interest" with Trellech than they do with Llanishen. There are 25 properties listed in the electoral register as being in in Far Hill with 55 electors. However, I note that 3 of those properties, Glyn Farm, Glyn Farm Barn and Lower Glyn Farm are incorrectly listed as being in Far Hill; they are actually in Llanishen. The natural boundary between Llanishen and Far Hill is the Penarth Brook, which I have shown as a red line on the accompanying map (Far Hill to the north, Llanishen to the south).

I therefore propose that consideration be given to transferring the properties to the north of the Penarth Brook which lie currently within the Llanishen Ward of TUCC to

the Trellech Town Ward of that Council. The properties transferred would be those served by the following highways: R76/C45-7, C46-1, C46-2, C46-3 and C46-4. The 3 properties to the south of the line which are mentioned above as being erroneously shown on the electoral register as being in Far Hill should remain in Llanishen Ward of TUCC.

Statistics:

(a) Current arrangements:

TUCC, Llanishen Ward: 141 properties, 274 electors

TUCC, Trellech Town Ward: 168 properties, 327 electors

TUCC, Far Hill settlement (part of Llanishen Ward): 25 properties, 55 electors

Tintern CC, Trellech Grange Ward: 36 properties, 72 electors

(b) After proposed changes:

TUCC Llanishen Ward: 155 properties, 300 electors

(net gain = 14 properties, 26 electors)

TUCC Trellech Town Ward: 193 properties, 382 electors

(net gain = 22 properties, 46 electors)

(c) Resultant community losses and gains

Tintern Community would lose 36 properties and 72 Electors

Trellech United Community would gain those 36 properties and 72 electors

Llanishen Ward, Trellech United Community Council

A resident of Far Hill

I would like to add my support to the proposal that Farhill be part of Trellech Town ward instead of Llanishen ward. This fits far better with the local geography, and most Farhill residents see Trellech as their local community focus rather than Llanishen

By road Trellech is much closer, and indeed it is usual to go through Trellech to get to Llanishen form Farhill

Llanishen Ward, Trellech United Community Council

A resident of Far Hill

I would like to add my support to the proposal that Far Hill be part of Trellech Town ward instead of Llanishen ward. I would suggest that Penarth Brook forms an appropriate boundary.

Most Far Hill residents see Trellech as their local community focus rather than Llanishen. By

road Trellech is much closer, and indeed it is usual to go through Trellech to get to Llanishen from Far Hill.

Llanishen Ward, Trellech United Community Council

A resident of Far Hill

With regard to the above we are writing to confirm that we support the proposal that Far Hill be included in the Trellech Town Parish and be removed from Llanishen Parish. We have lived at Ty Newydd, Farhill for the past 10 years.

Llanishen Ward, Trellech United Community Council

A resident of Far Hill

This is to state that as a resident of Far Hill I very much support moving the boundaries of Trellech Town to include Far Hill.

It makes far more sense for us to be represented by Trellech than Llanishen. We all drive to Trellech to get off the hill and on our way to Monmouth or Chepstow, we go to the doctor there, the pub and the church. We all feel part of Trellech, not Llanishen and would very much appreciate being represented by the Trellech councillors.

Llanishen Ward, Trellech United Community Council

A resident of Far Hill

We understand that it's being considered whether Far Hill remains in Llanishen Parish or becomes part of Trellech Town Parish. If so, we would prefer to be linked with Trellech since it's logical - this village is much closer to us and is our social hub.

Additional Representation Submitted by Community Councillor George Weston, Llanishen Ward

I have received and read the initial representations document with interest.

Of particular concern to me is the comment from County Councillor Ann Webb (MCC St. Arvans Division) with regard to my submissions regarding proposals affecting the Llanishen Ward of Trellech United Community Council (TUCC), which have been endorsed by TUCC.

County Councillor Webb's comment reads as follows:

"Just a note to say that I as the local member for Trellech Grange would strongly oppose this being included into the Trellech United Ward. There are historical reasons for this being within St Arvans Division. If you would like we could discuss this in more detail, but firstly I wanted to make sure you knew my feelings!!"

I would make two points in response to this statement:

1. County Councillor Webb is not "the local member for Trellech Grange". That post on Tintern Community Council is held by Mr Stephen Pocock. County Councillor Webb's County Ward of St. Arvans does include the Trellech Grange Ward of Tintern Community Council –

indeed, she resides in Trellech Grange. However, she is not a member of Tintern Community Council and has not indicated that her comments have been endorsed by that Community Council. I note further that Tintern Community Council have not submitted any representations themselves.

2. County Councillor Webb mentions that she would “*strongly oppose this being included into the Trellech United Ward. There are historical reasons for this being within the St. Arvans Division...*” However, she does not give these reasons in her submission or provide any statistics or cogent arguments to support her views. Additionally, her comments would seem to suggest that the reasons for her opposition could be discussed between her and you, presumably in private. I would submit that any such discussions might be outside the terms of reference of your consultation and might perhaps be anti-democratic. Moreover, the consultation does not concern itself with County Council Divisions/Wards but Community Councils and their own Wards. I note that no other County Councillor has submitted any comments and I therefore consider County Councillor Webb’s comments to be *ultra vires*.

I trust that you will take my comments on board prior to engaging in any discussions with County Councillor Webb.

Community of Usk

No representations received for Community

DRAFT

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS
PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION NOTES

Date: Tuesday 7th January 2014

Communities Reviewed: Abergavenny, Raglan and Shirenewton

Present:

Working Group Members: County Councillors: P.A.D. Hobson, R. G. Harris and G. Howard.

Officers: J. Pearson – Local Democracy Manager and A. Gullick – Local Democracy Officer.

Also in Attendance: County Councillors: G.L. Down, D.L. Edwards, M. Hickman, P. Jones and M. Powell.

Abergavenny Town Council: M. Harris.

Gwehelog Community Council: S. Carbury, S. Hoselitz and P. Frampton.

Raglan Community Council: D. Brown, R. Moorby, T.D. Phillips and H. Williams.

Shirenewton Community Council: I. Moore and K. Morton.

The Chairman of the Working Group for the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements welcomed members of the public, Town and Community Council representatives, Officers and Working Group Members to the session.

The session provided an opportunity for members of the public and Town and Community Council representatives to respond to the draft proposals that had been approved by Full Council on 21st November 2013.

A question was raised relating to why the review was taking place and the reasoning behind the reduction in the number of Town and Community Councillors. The Chairman of the Working Group explained that a Terms of Reference was formulated by the Working Group, which was circulated to Town and Community Councils for consultation and was subsequently approved by Full Council on 22nd November 2012. The Terms of Reference set out categories for communities being Urban, Rural or Mixed and a councillor:elector ratio was applied to each category.

The Chairman of the Working Group stated that if any Town or Community Councils felt that the number of Councillors proposed for their ward would be detrimental to its working, then they should provide detailed evidence of their case, which would assist the Working Group in making their final recommendations.

Working Group members welcomed representations on the draft proposals for the following communities:

Community of Abergavenny

Representatives from Abergavenny Town Council made no further representations regarding the proposals for Abergavenny and were happy with the draft proposals.

The County Councillor for Grofield welcomed the addition of the Llanwenarth Citra ward and felt that the number of Councillors, which had increased from 15 to 17, would be manageable.

Community of Raglan

Questions were raised as to whether the Local Development Plan (LDP) had been taken into consideration when the proposals were drafted. We noted that figures were included as they were at the start of the review and any significant developments had been included. If there had been any changes that the Working Group was unaware of that need to be apportioned then this can be looked at.

Further questions were raised with regard to the reduction in Councillors, which for Raglan were reduced from 11 to 7. Community Council representatives were concerned that the reduction could render meetings inquorate or leave an area without representation. In response to this point, the Local Democracy Manager explained that the Local Government Act in order for a Community Council to be quorate it must have no less than a third of members present but in no case can the quorum be lower than three. The Working Group having regard to research from the Aston Business School and their own experiences felt that a suitable minimum number of Councillors representing a community would be seven, which was two higher than the minimum number of Councillors required.

Representatives from Raglan expressed grave concerns that the Community Council would not be able to operate with only 7 Councillors due to the large and diverse area that was covered by Raglan Community Council. The question was asked as to how many Councillors would be acceptable for the Council to operate, if the current proposals for the community were to be approved. Representatives felt that 9 or 10 councillors would be more viable, due to the large area covered and the more work that would need to be undertaken, which was done so on a voluntary basis.

The Chairman of the Working Group welcomed information from the Community Council and stated that consideration for increasing the number of Councillors could be given if detailed evidence could be provided to support. The representation received from Llantilio Pertholey was given as a good example, as they provided a detailed representation at the start of the review, which guided the Working Group with local knowledge when drafting the proposals.

Representatives from Raglan agreed with the views expressed by Gwehelog Community Council, that the Gwehelog ward had more of an affinity with Usk and not Raglan.

Concerns were expressed that people would not want sit on Community Councils if there was an increase in workload, due to the reduction in councillors. The Chairman of the Working Group stated that the high levels of uncontested and co-opted elections were taken into consideration but a happy medium needed to be established. It was expressed that individuals wanted to contribute to their communities and not want to stand for election. In response to this point, the ward Member for Shirenewton felt that when Community Councillors were co-opted and did not stand for election, it was sometimes difficult for County Councillors to have complete confidence in knowing whether the views of the community were being represented. Representatives from Gwehelog refuted this point and felt they were closer to the public than Councillors at a County level.

Representatives questioned why Cockoo's Row had been taken out of Raglan and put into Mitchel Troy. The Local Democracy Manager explained that having regard to legislation, the Working Group used easily identifiable boundaries, which in this case the junction on the A40. Representatives were advised that local knowledge was key and their responses were vital to rectifying any mistakes that may have been made.

Community of Gwehelog

Representatives from Gwehelog Community Council attended the meeting in relation to the recommendation that the Community of Gwehelog be disbanded with electors in the Gwehelog ward being included in the community of Raglan, with its own Gwehelog ward.

The following concerns were raised by representatives from Gwehelog Community Council:

- Representatives stated that Gwehelog was a thriving Community Council that would cease to exist if the proposals were finalised.
- Gwehelog would lose its voice being incorporated into the Community of Raglan.
- There would be a loss of local expertise and knowledge.
- It was felt that there was little synergy between Gwehelog and Raglan.
- There was a greater connection between Gwehelog, Usk and Llanbadoc.
- Representatives felt that geographically, the proposals did not make sense and had written a comprehensive response to be submitted which was welcomed by the Chairman of the Working Group.
- Fears were voiced that the changes would result in little else other than higher precepts.

- It was suggested that Bettws Newydd had a greater connections to Gwehelog as they were similar rural areas and all the churches in the area had the same vicar.
- It was expressed that there were no connections to Llanarth.
- The question was asked as to how many Councillors would be acceptable for the Council to operate, if the current proposals for the community of Raglan were to be approved. Representatives felt that they could not currently answer and would put their answer into their written representation, but agreed that one would not be suitable.
- It was expressed that households were not the only criteria that could have been used to base the proposals, hectors and land could have been used.

Representatives from Gwehelog Community Council were invited to attend the public consultation session on the 23rd January when the community of Gwehelog was scheduled to be discussed, to put forward their presentation and supporting evidence.

Community of Shirenewton

The County Councillor for Shirenewton expressed that he was broadly happy with the draft proposals for the community of Shirenewton.

The following points were raised by the representatives from Shirenewton Community Council:

- The proposals currently state that the community would be represented by 7 councillors; however it was felt that 8 would be the preferred option.
- There were several properties on Crick Road that should be included in Shirenewton and not Caerwent; those mentioned were Dinwood Cottage, the Coalpits and properties north of the military base. In addition, a few properties at the Northern boundary of the ward of Wentwood including Goytre Farm should be included in the community of Shirenewton. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of Shirenewton Community Council were happy to compile a list of any anomalies where properties on the boundary may have been missed.
- Shirenewton Community Council had recommended reducing the number of wards within the community to two, which had been undertaken by the Working Group. However it was asked that the original names be retained and that the two wards be named Shirenewton & Mynyddbach and Newchurch West & Earlswood.

Meeting concluded at: 7:05pm.

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION NOTES

Date: Thursday 9th January 2014

Communities Reviewed: Caerwent, Tintern and Rogiet

Present:

Working Group Members: County Councillors: G.C. Burrows, R. G. Harris and P.A.D. Hobson.

Officers: J. Pearson – Local Democracy Manager and A. Gullick – Local Democracy Officer.

Also in Attendance: County Councillors: A.E. Webb and L. Guppy

The Chairman of the Working Group for the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements opened the meeting welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions.

The session provided an opportunity for members of the public and Town and Community Council representatives to respond to the draft proposals that had been approved by Full Council on 21st November 2013.

Working Group members welcomed representations on the draft proposals for the following communities:

Community of Caerwent

No representatives were present at the meeting.

Community of Rogiet

The County Councillor for Rogiet acknowledged the reduction in councillors for the community of Rogiet from 11 to 7 and felt content with the reduction, as the community council had rarely had a full quota of community councillors and often had vacancies and co options. We were informed that the Community Council had been forewarned that the proposals included the reduction in councillors.

The County Councillor for Rogiet welcomed the neatening of the boundaries which were felt to be clearer.

Community of Tintern

The following representation was provided to support the view that Trellech Grange should remain within the community of Tintern:

County Councillor A. Webb:

'Tintern Abbey established around 900 years ago, became a large community of Cistercian Monks who established themselves in the surrounding area. One such area is Trellech Grange (one of 14 such Granges). The Monks had a very ordered system of farming also having living accommodation in Great House, Trellech Grange and used what is now Trellech Grange Church as a House of Prayer; this is still used today for services every other Sunday. I appreciate the number of dwellings suggested to be transferred are not great but on taking soundings from some of the residents they would be disappointed at this change as you can see Trellech Grange, should be retained as part of Tintern Community Council. Looking at this from a geographical point of view it might appear to be a small scattered group but I feel it would be a shame to alter this Ward for the sake of a few dwellings and bearing in mind the very important historical attachment. What is the gain?'

The Chairman welcomed the representation and noted residents' feelings of the historical link between Trellech Grange and Tintern Abbey for consideration by the Working Group.

We noted that the Community Council would be submitting a written representation.

Meeting concluded at: 6:25pm.

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION NOTES

Date: Tuesday 14th January 2014

Communities Reviewed: Chepstow, Llantilio Pertholey and Usk.

Present:

Working Group Members: County Councillors: R. G. Harris and P.A.D. Hobson.

Officers: J. Pearson – Local Democracy Manager and A. Gullick – Local Democracy Officer.

Also in Attendance:

Llantilio Pertholey Community Council: A. Brown, M. Harris, P. Jones and N. Watkins.

Usk Town Council: R. Galletley and A. Leathwood.

The Chairman of the Working Group for the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements opened the meeting welcomed Town and Community Council representatives, Officers and Working Group Members to the session and provided introductions.

The session provided an opportunity for members of the public and Town and Community Council representatives to respond to the draft proposals that had been approved by Full Council on 21st November 2013.

The Chairman opened the session by explaining that the Council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to keep under review the boundaries and electoral arrangements of the communities within Monmouthshire.

A Terms of Reference was formulated and sent to all Town and Community Councils for consultation before being approved by Full Council on 22nd November 2012. Following this a 12 week consultation period commenced inviting initial representations from stakeholders to submit their views to the Working Group for consideration.

Working Group members welcomed representations on the draft proposals for the following communities:

Community of Llantilio Pertholey

The following representation was provided from Community Councillor P. Jones on behalf of Llantilio Pertholey Community Council:

'On behalf of Llantilio Pertholey Community Council can I say what a useful exercise this has been in prompting a review of some historical situations and we believe will result in an improvement of Monmouthshire County Council (MCC), Llantilio Pertholey Community Council (LPCC) and our electorate.

We are extremely pleased to note agreement thus far by the Working Group with regard to our proposed boundary changes and proposed amalgamation of Wards.

However, we feel most strongly that there remains one area of extreme concern. This is the proposed southern boundary of Croesonen West Ward. Point 5 in this most recent document states, "to ensure there is a clear definition between the two communities" i.e. Abergavenny's Lansdown Ward and Llantilio Pertholey's Croesonen West Ward.

Currently, this boundary runs from St Teilo's Road at the south east of Croesonen West Ward along Llwynu Road splitting properties situated either side of this road. As stated in this report this may "cause confusion for electors and administration purpose".

We totally agree with the aim to reposition boundaries within the County so that this anomalie is removed. However, the proposal that all properties of Llwynu Lane, including Vale View and Lavender Gardens are included in the Lansdown Ward of Abergavenny will cause a greater level of confusion to this electorate and the Councillors representing them who will require a qualification in map reading.

This proposed boundary change would mean that the Senior Citizens bungalows presently in Llwynu Road and St Teilo's Road would be split between Lansdown and Croesonen Wards while the boundary would then, as seen on the map of this area, follow an extremely 'ragged' line which loops behind Lavender Gardens, again looping right into part of Llwynu Lane, on the main part of Llwynu Lane until shooting off right to traverse a lane behind Vale View and re-join at the top of Llwynu Road opposite Seri View school. This is a direct contrast to the existing straight line boundary along Llwynu Road.

LPCC feel that this course of action is completely unnecessary since simply moving the existing boundary to the left so that ALL properties in Llwynu Lane would fall within Croesonen Ward would offer immediate clarification and remove any confusion. Croesonen Lane to the north of Lansdown Road would remain the northern town boundary abutting to the southern boundary of Croesonen West Ward.

Should the Working Group's recommendation go ahead, having spoken with some of the electorate within Llwynu Road, Vale View and Lavender Gardens, great concern has been expressed at the probable increase in Council Tax incurred by a totally unnecessary move from their rural community situation into Abergavenny's Lansdown Ward.

LPCC Members are concerned that as a result of the recommended to move to take all of Park Crescent into the same Ward, for understandable reasons, the proposed 'clawing' of properties from Croesonen West Ward is simply a numbers exercise.

LPCC therefore asks the Working Group to re-examine the southern boundary of Croesonen West Ward.'

A Member of the Working Group noted the issues with LLwynu Lane and stated that the this could be reassessed, keeping in mind the Terms of Reference and the potential 'knock on' effect any changes could make. The Chairman of the Working Group stated that the Terms of Reference state that where possible whole streets would be kept in one ward.

It was suggested by representatives from LPCC that the proposed boundary for Llwynu Lane be moved to the left and continue down the road as one straight line.

A further concern raised by a member of the Community Council was with regard to potential increases in Council Tax for those residents who may be moved out of the current ward.

The Chairman of the Working Group offered to make a site visit with representatives of the Community Council to assess the present situation and gain a visual understanding.

In closing, a representative noted that in point 5.3 of the report for the Community of Llantilio Pertholey the following was stated:

'The eastern boundary of the Croesonen ward is slightly amended to follow the centre of the A465...'

However, we were informed that the road in question is actually unclassified and not the A465. This point was noted by members of the Working Group.

Community of Usk

Representatives from Usk Town Council stated that to reduce the number of Councillors from 12 to 7 was foolish and would likely make the Town Council inquorate at meetings.

It was stated that the Town Council were looking to expand services to the community and the Town Council would not be able to do this with the reduction in Councillors. It was also expressed that Town and Community Councillors received no allowances and were not a cost to the Authority.

In addition the following points were raised by representatives from Usk Town Council:

- Sessions House is managed by the Town Council and requires a lot of money and organisation to run.
- Potential for other services from MCC being placed with the Town Council that they would not be able to do.
- It was expressed that it would have been useful for the work load of Usk town Council to have been taken into consideration during the review. However, it was noted that no representations were made by Usk Town Council at the initial stage of the review.
- We noted that Usk Town Council currently had 15-20 working committees reporting back from 60 voluntary organisations. A large number of which expected representation from the Town Council at their meetings.
- If the draft proposals were to be approved as they currently stand, non-elected members would be selected to act on the Town Council without the ability to vote.
- There would be a loss of expertise and intimate local knowledge if Councillors were reduced to 7.
- Tourism is the main industry outside of agriculture in Usk, the example was given of the Open Gardens weekend where 15,000 visitors come to Usk. This takes a lot of organisation and time which is all completed on a voluntary basis.
- It was suggested that the Community of Lanbadoc considered itself a part of Usk.
- Representatives expressed no concerns with regard to several properties to the right of the boundary in Gwernesney being incorporated into Usk.
- We noted that Usk Town Council needed to raise an additional £5000 to break even with their budget, which was only found by Councillors undertaking fund raising activities.

Community of Chepstow

No representatives were present at the meeting.

Meeting concluded at: 6:35pm.

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION NOTES

Date: Thursday 16th January 2014

Communities Reviewed: Crucorney, Mitchel Troy, Llantilio Crossenny & Llangattock Vibon Avel.

Present:

Working Group Members: County Councillors: R. G. Harris, P.A.D. Hobson and A.M. Wintle.

Officers: J. Pearson – Local Democracy Manager and A. Gullick – Local Democracy Officer.

Also in Attendance: County Councillors: R. Edwards, S.G.M. Howarth and D.W.H. Jones.

Crucorney Community Council: S. Cooper, R. Evans, K. Jordan and R. Morgan.

Llantilio Crossenny Community Council: C. Lewis, E. Phillips and A. Watkins,

Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council: R. Bowen, G. Edmunds, R. Nicholas and D. Pugh.

Members of the public from the Community of Raglan were also in attendance.

The Chairman of the Working Group for the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements opened the meeting welcomed members of the public, Town and Community Council representatives, Officers and Working Group Members to the session and provided introductions.

The session provided an opportunity for members of the public and Town and Community Council representatives to respond to the draft proposals that had been approved by Full Council on 21st November 2013.

The Chairman opened the session by explaining that the Council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to keep under review the boundaries and electoral arrangements of the communities within Monmouthshire.

A Terms of Reference was formulated and sent to all Town and Community Councils for consultation before being approved by Full Council on 22nd November 2012. Following this a 12 week consultation period commenced inviting initial representations from stakeholders to submit their views to the Working Group for consideration.

The Chairman also expressed that the Working Group were open to making site visits to gain a greater understanding of specific areas of concern.

Working Group members welcomed representations on the draft proposals for the following communities:

Community of Crucorney

Representatives from Crucorney Community Council made the following representations:

- Questioned were raised as to why the number of Councillors was being reduced from 10 to 7 when Councillors worked on a volunteer basis. Crucorney was also the biggest area in Monmouthshire with the lowest population.
- The merging of Upper and Lower Cwmyoy was not welcomed as there was a 14 mile stretch between the top and bottom of the two areas.
- Concerns were raised with regard to the devolution of services, increased workloads and diminishing volunteer workforces.
- There was potential for building in the area of Pandy and further developments from the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP).
- It was felt that special consideration should be given to rural communities.

The Chairman reiterated the fact that the ratio which was applied to the Community of Crucorney of 150 electors per councillor was done so, in line with the Terms of Reference. No representations were received from the community to guide the Working Group in their drafting of the proposals. However, it was expressed that there was still time for counter proposals to be submitted with the relevant evidence and local knowledge that the ratio applied would not suffice.

Representatives from Crucorney were asked to submit a written submission with evidence of why the draft proposals were unsuitable for the area and an explanation of what would be suitable, for consideration by the Working Group.

Community of Mitchel Troy

No representatives from the Community of Mitchel Troy were present at the meeting.

A resident of the community of Raglan questioned why The Warrage and Cuckoo's Row which had been included in Raglan had now been moved to be included in the Tregare ward of Mitchel Troy. It was noted that there had been 5 developments at The Warrage. It was felt that both The Warrage and Cuckoo's Row should remain in the community of Raglan.

The Chairman noted the points raised which had also been raised by representatives from Raglan at a previous public consultation session.

Communities of Llantilio Crossenny & Llangattock Vibon Avel

Representatives from both Llantilio Crossenny and Llangattock Vibon Avel were strongly opposed to the draft proposals for both communities, which saw complete changes to the internal and external boundaries of each community.

The Chairman began the discussion explaining that the Working Group began their investigations with blank maps and asked to draw where they believed current boundaries to be and where they thought they should be. Therefore, members of the Working Group had no preconceived views on the boundaries. Local knowledge of the areas was vital to assist the Working Group in their decision making, without it, members had to look to the Terms of Reference for guidance, using perceived direct lines of communication and natural boundaries as deciding factors.

During discussions, the following points were raised by representatives of both Communities:

- Representatives from both communities stated that their communities ran north to south and not east to west as suggested in the draft proposals.
- It was felt that there were no links between Llangattock Vibon Avel and Rockfield and St Maughans.
- A representative from Llantilio Crossenny Community Council stated that in 40 years of being a Councillor there had been no elections held for the Community Council.
- Concerns were raised with regard to the devolution of services. The Chairman explained that the question of devolution did not exist at the start of the review.
- Representatives from both communities strongly disagreed with the ratio of number of Councillors per ward and felt that no ward should have only one Councillor; two or three councillors were needed.
- It was stated that Councillors work on a voluntary basis and therefore there was no monetary savings to be made from the changes.
- Both communities rejected the draft proposals and stated that their initial representations were to make no changes.
- It was expressed that as rural communities there had been little or no change in the number of people in the areas in over 40 years.
- It was expressed that the extent of changes to the existing wards would mean there would be a loss of experience and knowledge from Councillors who may not stand for election in different wards.
- It was noted that Llantilio Crossenny was mostly an agricultural area.

- The clerk to Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council stated that unclassified roads were very important and should be taken into consideration. Rockfield was only 1 mile from Monmouth and children go to Cross Ash School and secondary school in Monmouth, it was important to keep them together.
- The first Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council meeting was 130 years ago.
- There were currently 6 notice boards in the community of Llangattock Vibon Avel and the Council work very effectively and harmoniously.

The Chairman of the Working Group recognised the strength of feeling in opposition to the draft proposals for both communities and given the wealth of local knowledge, representatives were urged to put in a counterproposal, detailing what the boundaries for wards should be, anticipated workloads and number of Councillors for each ward etc.

Meeting concluded at: 7:20pm

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION NOTES

Date: Monday 20th January 2014

Communities Reviewed: Goetre Fawr, Portskewett and Mathern

Present:

Working Group Members: County Councillors: R. G. Harris and P.A.D. Hobson.

Officers: J. Pearson – Local Democracy Manager and A. Gullick – Local Democracy Officer.

Also in Attendance: County Councillors: G.L. Down and B. Jones.

Goetre Fawr Community Council: I. Blacker, C. Deakins and S. Welford.

Portskewett Community Council: A. Griffiths, I. Standing and P. Watkins.

Mathern Community Council: J. Kelley and C. Overden.

The Chairman of the Working Group for the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements opened the meeting welcomed members of the public, Town and Community Council representatives, Officers and Working Group Members to the session and provided introductions.

The session provided an opportunity for members of the public and Town and Community Council representatives to respond to the draft proposals that had been approved by Full Council on 21st November 2013.

The Chairman opened the session by explaining that the Council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to keep under review the boundaries and electoral arrangements of the communities within Monmouthshire.

A Terms of Reference was formulated and sent to all Town and Community Councils for consultation before being approved by Full Council on 22nd November 2012. Following this a 12 week consultation period commenced inviting initial representations from stakeholders to submit their views to the Working Group for consideration.

Working Group members welcomed representations on the draft proposals for the following communities:

Community of Goetre Fawr

Representatives from Goetre Fawr Community Council raised the following points during discussion:

- Under the draft proposals, the village of Little Mill is to be incorporated into the community of Llanbadoc as its own ward; it was felt that Little Mill had more of an affinity to Goetre Fawr. Many of the children go to school in Goetre or secondary schools in Caerleon or King Henry in Abergavenny. Little Mill identified more with Pontypool and Cwmbran and to a limited extent Abergavenny. However, we noted that nearest doctors surgery was in Usk.
- We were informed that a planning notice had been placed on the affordable houses site by Melin Homes for 45 properties.
- A possible 15 affordable homes could be placed in Little Mill, pending the inspectorates report.
- Upon being asked, how many Councillors would be needed for the Community Council to run effectively, representatives were unsure, but would include this in their written response.
- Apart from the loss of Little Mill, representatives of Goetre Fawr Community Council were content with the draft proposals for the community of Goetre Fawr.

The comments made by representatives from Goetre Fawr Community Council were supported by County Councillor B. Jones.

Community of Portskewett

Representatives from Portskewett Community Council raised the following points:

- No issues were raised with regard to the ward of Portskewett Village.
- Questions were raised with regard to the land at the top of Leechpool and why it partly taken up to the A48. The Chairman stated that the Working Group followed farm land at the top of Leechpool.
- We were informed that planning approval had been granted for a 40 unit caravan site in Leechpool, however it was unclear whether these were permanent or semi-permanent residence.
- With regard to Sudbrook, we noted that approval had been given for 45 properties on the old Shipyard site and 190 dwellings on the old Paper Mill site. With regard to the old Paper Mill site it was explained that pending appeal to Welsh Government the number of properties could increase to 350.
- Due to the increase in properties in Sudbrook it was felt that the reduction in Councillors for 2 to 1 would not be suitable and at least 2 Councillors would be needed.

- We noted the possibility of additional properties at Treetops, Portskewett.

Community of Mathern

The following representations and observations were provided by County Councillor G. Down and present representatives of Mathern Community Council:

- Generally happy with the number of councillors for the Community of Mathern.
- Pleased that the property on Usk Road, 'Woodside' was no longer incorporated into Mathern as there were no links between the two.
- It was felt with regard to the eastern boundary that the A466 made a sensible division between Chepstow and Mathern and using the M48 towards the estuary to include Newhouse Farm Industrial Estate into Mathern.
- In relation to High Beech roundabout, the properties off the roundabout should be included in Mathern, those being High Beech Barns. We noted that the entrance to High Beech is off the A48.
- It was expressed that it was very important to retain the Bund within Mathern as the Community Council had fought for it and it was now the largest of its type in Europe.
- The current boundary between Mounton and St Kingsmark runs through a property and therefore it was agreed this needed to be altered. It was felt that Bayfield should be moved into Mathern following above Mounton Road and using the A466 as the boundary.
- In relation to the west of Mathern it was felt that Parkwall Farm and all properties off the A48 should be included in Mathern. Residents do not feel a part of Crick or Caerwent.
- The draft proposals have taken Runston Chapel remains out of Mathern, which should also be incorporated into Mathern. We noted that Mathern church, on occasion, have held services at the ruins.
- At the southern boundary of Pwllmeryic and Mathern, where the boundary makes a deep V shape, there is one property in the area of Newton Green that should be included in Mathern and not Pwllmeryic and the boundary should be drawn behind it.
- We were informed that there were also preferred sites in the LDP for Mathern; 1 site of 15 properties in the ward of Mathern and 1 site of 15 properties in Pwllmeryic.
- It was felt that the ward of Mathern would not be able to cope with a loss of 2 Councillors. The draft proposals state a reduction from 5 Councillors to 3, which would result in a loss of specialist expertise.

Meeting concluded at: 6:45pm.

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION NOTES

Date: Monday 20th January 2014

Communities Reviewed: Llantrisant Fawr & Llangwm, Grosmont and Caldicot.

Present:

Working Group Members: County Councillors: D.J. Evans, R. G. Harris and P.A.D. Hobson.

Officers: J. Pearson – Local Democracy Manager and A. Gullick – Local Democracy Officer.

Also in Attendance: County Councillors: P. R. Clarke, D.W.H. Jones and P.A. Watts.

Llantrisant Community Council: J. Turner.

Llangwm Community Council: C. Evans, P. Gough and B. Pugh.

Grosmont Community Council: T. Beavan.

The Chairman of the Working Group for the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements opened the meeting welcomed members of the public, Town and Community Council representatives, Officers and Working Group Members to the session and provided introductions.

The session provided an opportunity for members of the public and Town and Community Council representatives to respond to the draft proposals that had been approved by Full Council on 21st November 2013.

The Chairman opened the session by explaining that the Council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to keep under review the boundaries and electoral arrangements of the communities within Monmouthshire.

A Terms of Reference was formulated and sent to all Town and Community Councils for consultation before being approved by Full Council on 22nd November 2012. Following this a 12 week consultation period commenced inviting initial representations from stakeholders to submit their views to the Working Group for consideration.

Working Group members welcomed representations on the draft proposals for the following communities:

Community of Llantrisant

The Clerk to Llantrisant Community Council explained that the Community Council had submitted their response to the draft proposals to the Local Democracy Manager but wished to raise the following additional points:

- We noted that Llantrisant Community Council were opposed to the proposals to combine with Llangwm Community Council to form a new Council area.
- It was expressed that although the proposals had been undertaken in a logical fashion, the reduction in the number of Councillors for both communities would greatly reduce the level of representation for the rural communities. It was felt that the reduction would have an adverse effect on local democracy and would reduce the involvement of local residents who would like to get involved in community affairs through the Community Council.
- It was expressed that although Llantrisant had a relatively low electorate of around 300 residents, the community areas of Llantrisant and Llangwm was large. Therefore, a merge in the communities would result in a loss of local focus as interests of each community would be different.
- The reduction in Councillors provide no financial savings for the Council neither are they a cost to the Council.
- The draft proposals do not demonstrate or give any evidence as to how the work of local Councils and local democracy will be enhanced or improved by make the recommended changes.
- Criticism of single member wards was expressed. Under the draft proposals Gwernesney would reduce from 3 to 1 Councillors.
- In the past 24hours the Williams report has been published and although it gives no specific proposals it does explain that a review of Communities will be looked at. Therefore, it was felt that bigger changes could be afoot and perhaps the Council should suspend the current reorganisation to see what comes from the Williams report. In response to this point, the Chairman stated that the Williams report does point out that there should be fewer larger Councils to be initiated by the Boundary Commission. However, the Council have a statutory duty to conduct a review and now have a time line to conduct the review. The Council are in constant contact with the Boundary Commission and have not been told to stop and therefore must continue.

Community of Llangwm

Representatives from Llangwm Community Council raised the following points:

- Llangwm Community Council missed the first round of consultation but wished to support the views raised by Llantrisant Community Council.

- Llangwm was a small but much dispersed area and it was felt that the correct representation was currently in place.
- Representatives agreed with Llantrisant Community Council and felt that there would be a loss of local focus if merged with another Community area.
- There were concerns that people may not want to get involved with the Community Council or local issues when they would have to act on a larger scale.
- It was felt that the Llangwm Community Council was correctly sized to deliver services to the community.
- Under the draft proposals Llansoy would be represented by one Councillor. Concerns were raised whether one person could effectively represent a ward. Questions were raised as to what would happen if that person was ill or away, that ward would have no representation under the draft proposals.
- Concerns were also raised with regard to the fact that the community of Llantrisant and the community of Llangwm were in different County divisions which could cause further upheaval.

Members of the Working Group noted the difficulties of one Councillor wards, especially when the wards have been merged and the area which the Councillor must cover is much greater. Representatives were asked to include in their submissions the reasons why one Councillor wards would not suffice and how many they feel they would need to operate effectively.

Community of Grosmont

The following representations and observations were provided by County Councillor G. Down and present representatives of Mathern Community Council:

- It was noted that it was often difficult in rural communities for those outside of the community, to understand the complex issues within that rural area.
- There were many traditions and links within the wards and community itself.
- It was felt that although it was good to undertake a review, there was little need for change as there had been very little development.
- The current 4 wards of Grosmont worked cohesively with each other and were all part of the same church group.
- There was little in common between Llanvetherine and Skenfrith, which were approximately 10 miles apart.
- The B4521 has been used as the link for the Llanvetherine ward being situated in the community of Llantilio Crossenny, however it was expressed that people only travel the B4521 as a through road.
- Concerns were again raised with regard to single member wards.
- The preferred option would be no change to the existing arrangement.
- Consideration was given to including properties at The Bont into the community division.

The Chairman agreed with the difficult nature of rural wards and asked representatives from Grosmont what the connection between Llanvetherine and Grosmont was which was unclear to the Working Group when assessing the area. It was explained that it was difficult to see on the map, the links have been established through previous generations. We noted that it was about 5/6 miles stretch from Grosmont to Llanvetherine.

Community of Caldicot

We were informed by representatives present that the Town Council were happy with the overall proposals, which improved the community of Caldicot. The only opposition raised was to the naming of the ward 'Caldicot Town'. It was suggested that as the area was often referred to as the village, 'The Village' could be a possible option. The Chairman stated that any suggestions of name were welcome for consideration as local knowledge of the area may be able to assist.

Meeting concluded at: 7pm.

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION NOTES

Date: Thursday 23rd January 2014

Communities Reviewed: Gwehelog, Llanover and Llanbadoc

Present:

Working Group Members: County Councillors: R. G. Harris and P.A.D. Hobson.

Officers: J. Pearson – Local Democracy Manager and A. Gullick – Local Democracy Officer.

Also in Attendance: County Councillors: S. Jones and V. Smith.

Gwehelog Community Council: S. Carbury, P. Frampton and S. Hoselitz.

Llanover Community Council: H. Candler, R. Jones and A. Nevill.

Llanbadoc Community Council: O. Beaumont, M. Harkness, T. Storey, S. Waring and J. Wright.

Raglan Community Council: T. Phillips.

The Chairman of the Working Group for the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements opened the meeting welcomed members of the public, Town and Community Council representatives, Officers and Working Group Members to the session and provided introductions.

The session provided an opportunity for members of the public and Town and Community Council representatives to respond to the draft proposals that had been approved by Full Council on 21st November 2013.

The Chairman opened the session by explaining that the Council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to keep under review the boundaries and electoral arrangements of the communities within Monmouthshire.

A Terms of Reference was formulated and sent to all Town and Community Councils for consultation before being approved by Full Council on 22nd November 2012. Following this a 12 week consultation period commenced inviting initial representations from stakeholders to submit their views to the Working Group for consideration.

The Chairman acknowledged the recent publication of the Williams Report, which makes reference to the reorganisation of Town and Councils and that there should be fewer, larger Town and Community Councils to enable better representation of community interests.

Working Group members welcomed representations on the draft proposals for the following communities:

Community of Gwehelog

We noted that representatives from the Community of Gwehelog had attended a previous meeting on 7th January 2014 when discussions were held regarding the Community of Raglan. Following the meeting, a written response to the draft proposals has been received from Gwehelog Community Council.

Representatives from the community of Gwehelog made the following points:

- The draft proposals propose that the community of Gwehelog is disbanded and would be split between the communities of Raglan and Llanarth, which was strongly opposed by representatives from Gwehelog.
- It was felt that there was no natural affiliation between the communities of Gwehelog and Raglan.
- It was felt that the community of Llanarth was already a large rural ward and 7 councillors, as proposed, would not suffice.
- Concerned were voiced that the reduction of councillors from 4 to 1 for the ward of Gwehelog would result in the loss of its voice within the community of Raglan.
- There would also be an increase in precept for the residents of Gwehelog.
- It was expressed that the main channel of communication through the community was via the R61 Llancayo Road and not as suggested in the draft proposals via the B4598 and Usk Road.
- The issue of reduction in the number of councillors was raised. It was stated that the councillors were of no cost to the Council and there would be a loss of local knowledge and expertise if their numbers were to be reduced. It was expressed that the exercise of using the number of electors per ward to apply a ratio for the number of councillors did not work in rural areas. Many rural areas were low on electors but large in area and therefore the area could not be represented by fewer councillors.
- With regard to the reduction in councillors a question was asked of how devolution of services played into the draft proposals, as Town and Community Councils were likely to be asked to take on more work with a potential smaller workforce. The Chairman stated that when the review began

almost 18 months ago, devolution of services was not on the agenda for discussion; however this must now be taken into consideration.

- The County Councillor for Llanbadoc noted that reviews of this kind were good; she wished to congratulate Gwehelog Community Council on addressing the issues that were not known to the Working Group previously. The community although on a map looks scattered it was very tightly knit together and residents were very active with the Community Council.

The Chairman thanked representatives from Gwehelog for their comprehensive written response, which would be put forward to the Working Group as a whole for consideration. The Chairman noted that single member ward representation had been raised throughout the consultation period by various communities and would be re-evaluated by the Working Group.

It was explained that once all of the consultation sessions have been concluded, the representations from all communities will be taken back to the Working Group for discussion and where needed, re-evaluation of the draft proposals will be undertaken given the local knowledge and evidence provided during the consultation stage. Following this, the final proposals will be taken to Full Council for approval, once approved the proposals will be sent to the Boundary Commission, who will then report to the Welsh Assembly. Any representations to the final proposals should be made to the Boundary Commission and not the Council, following its acceptance of the final proposals at Full Council. Final proposals will be sent to all Town and Community Councils.

Community of Llanover

We noted that the draft proposals for the newly structured Little Sgyrrid Community were rejected by the County Councillor for Llanover, who sat on the Working Group.

Representatives from Llanover Community Council raised the following points:

- Representatives approved the addition of the Llanvapley ward in the community of Llanover (proposed as the Little Sgyrrid community).
- It was expressed that Llanover Community Council had little objection to the overall draft proposals as they stood.
- It was felt logical for the ward of Llanover to be moved into the community of Goetre Fawr. It was explained that Upper Llanover was already split into the community of Goetre Fawr and the proposed change would make Upper Llanover one piece again.
- Concerns were expressed regarding single member wards; this was felt to be unsatisfactory. We noted that currently the ward of Llanover was represented by 3 councillors, one of which represented Upper Llanover who advised on

issues of the National Park. It was therefore proposed that at least 2 representatives for the ward of Llanover was necessary, one being from Upper Llanover.

- We noted that the estates in the area were presently split between 2 community areas and the draft proposal outline a split between 3. There had been no representations received from the estates on this matter. The community council felt this was not a factor for them to take into consideration but for the estates to make any representations, if needed.
- It was felt that the proposed name of the community 'Little Sgyrrid', which was situated on the extreme edge of the community, was not really relevant. The Community Council asked that they be given the opportunity to propose a name for the community, which the Chairman of the Working Group welcomed.
- Concerns were expressed with regard to the 'mixed' category for elector/councillor ratio for the community of Goetre Fawr as it was felt that Llanover was rural in nature. We noted that within the report, consideration had been given to maintaining two separate community areas of Llanfoist and Abergavenny due to their distinctive nature and boundaries.
- Connections to Brecon Beacons National Park and the canal were important to maintain.
- We noted Llanover has a high number of tenants on the estate, which means the electorate of 241 can fluctuate.
- We noted that the 'wall of Llanover' was split by a stream.

The Chairman noted concerns of the representatives present, that if following the approval of the final proposals, the Boundary Commission undertakes remote consultation. It was hoped that the Boundary Commission would attend local consultation with the communities in question.

Given the discussion regarding Upper Llanover and Llanover, representatives were asked whether there was scope/potential to create two wards of Upper Llanover and Llanover. The Community Councillor from Upper Llanover felt that the current arrangement worked well and that there were links between all 4 of the villages and would not personally wish to restrict their interests in Upper Llanover. However, it was reiterated that there should be representation from Upper Llanover within the ward of Llanover.

The County Councillor for Llanover wished to support the views raised by representatives from Llanover Community Council and welcomed the decision that the Community Council could propose a name for the community. The County Councillor wished to echo the concerns regarding lack of representation and single member wards.

Community of Llanbadoc

Representatives from Llanbadoc Community Council raised the following points:

- The addition of the Little Mill ward was welcomed.
- It was felt that the response to the initial consultation from Llanbadoc Community Council had not been taken into consideration, as the response stated there were no densely populated areas but the draft proposals stated the opposite.
- It was felt that the volume of work undertaken by the Community Council had not been taken into consideration, which took a significant amount of time for councillors to undertake on a voluntary basis. We noted that :
 - There were 4 sub-groups, with 4 members that meeting in between the Community Council meetings.
 - There were 4 large employers being, BAE Systems, Coleg Gwent, Monmouthshire County Council Headquarters and Prescoed Open Prison. Each of these required representation from the Community Council at their individual liaison group meetings.
 - There were 4 areas of common land owned where there were issues of maintenance that was dealt with by a community councillor.
 - Issues with anti-social behaviour, noise and nuisances with bikes in the area which required councillor time.
 - A rolling programme of footpath maintenance (over 100miles) which required significant councillor time and a working group was set up.
 - Questionnaires were produced which had taken 2/3 councillors to undertake the work over a period of time.
 - The Community Council developed plans for a trail around the reservoir which took 2 councillors 18 months to undertake.
 - A working group met periodically to develop and improve a community website and newsletter. Newsletters are also hand delivered annually.
 - Each Councillor on average attended meetings 1 or 2 times a month between the Community Council meeting.
 - Representatives felt that they would not be able to cope with the current workload with a reduction of more than 1 councillor, subject to the ward of Little Mill maintaining its current 3 councillors.
- The County Councillor for Llanbadoc stated that following an exercise she had undertaken by visiting each Community and Town Council meeting that she was struck by their individual characters. Each Town and Community Council was aware of its local need and should be utilised. Furthermore, it was felt that the addition of the Little Mill ward was sensible as County Councillor for Llanbadoc she often received submissions relating to Little Mill.
- The Community Council requested that the name of the Community is not changed and remains as Llanbadoc.

The Chairman welcomed the additional information brought from Llanbadoc Community Council. The Chairman asked that this information be included in their written submission, detailing Councillor workload, number of sub groups that required Councillor representation and time spent on each issue. All evidence on workloads would enhance the counterproposal from the Community Council.

Meeting concluded at: 7:15pm.

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION NOTES

Date: Monday 27th January 2014

Communities Reviewed: Llanelly, Llanarth and Trellech United.

Present:

Working Group Members: County Councillors: R. G. Harris and P.A.D. Hobson.

Officers: J. Pearson – Local Democracy Manager and A. Gullick – Local Democracy Officer.

Also in Attendance: County Councillors: D. Blakebrough and S. Jones.

Llanelly Community Council: A. Edwards and B. Kemp.

Llanarth Community Council: B. Spencer, D.H. Jones, C. Oatly.

The Chairman of the Working Group for the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements opened the meeting welcomed members of the public, Town and Community Council representatives, Officers and Working Group Members to the session and provided introductions.

The session provided an opportunity for members of the public and Town and Community Council representatives to respond to the draft proposals that had been approved by Full Council on 21st November 2013.

The Chairman opened the session by explaining that the Council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to keep under review the boundaries and electoral arrangements of the communities within Monmouthshire.

A Terms of Reference was formulated and sent to all Town and Community Councils for consultation before being approved by Full Council on 22nd November 2012. Following this a 12 week consultation period commenced inviting initial representations from stakeholders to submit their views to the Working Group for consideration.

The Chairman noted that a previously a general theme that ran through the meetings was the elector/councillor ratio. The Chairman accepted that this was a blunt instrument that did not take into consideration the workloads for Councillors or local need. The elector/councillor ratio would need to be reassessed by the Working Group given the local knowledge and expertise expressed by community representatives.

Working Group members welcomed representations on the draft proposals for the following communities:

Community of Llanelly

Representatives from the community of Llanelly made the following points:

- We noted that the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) development plan describes an increase of dwellings in Gilwern. 33 properties had been built and occupied in Ty Mawr Lane. 92 new properties in the south of Gilwern have been included in the BBNP UDP. An approximate increase of 120 properties in Gilwern, which would maximise the electorate and expand outside of the boundaries.
- On the basis of the continued expansion of Gilwern a greater representation was needed rather than less.
- The Community Council had taken over operation of the village toilets and was in discussions on taking over the village library. The workload of councillors was expected to increase year on year. Therefore, there would be a detrimental effect of service delivery.

Community of Llanarth

Representatives from Llanarth Community Council raised the following points:

- Concerns were raised at the loss of the ward of Llanvapley. The Chairman stated that members of the Working Group struggled to see the connection between Clytha and Llanvapley. Representatives stated that there was a direct link between the two wards.
- It was expressed that Llanarth was a very large rural community and the 10 Councillors that currently served the community were all necessary. It was further expressed that at least 2 Councillors per ward were needed for effective and efficient operation.
- The loss of expertise and local knowledge was raised with regard to the reduction of Councillors.

- It was expressed that the alteration made to the boundary at the south of Llanarth would result in the Clytha Arms pub, Sir Richard Hanbury Tenison's estate and other properties in the vicinity would not remain in the Clytha ward.
- Concerns were expressed that the biggest ward in the Community of Llanarth was the Clytha ward which was to be reduced to 1 Councillor according to the proposals.
- It was explained that the 4 Churches in the Community would be split into different wards.
- We noted that current boundaries followed old streams and footpaths.

Community of Trellech United

The County Councillor for Trellech United raised the following points on behalf of Trellech United Community Council:

- Disappointment was expressed that critical comments from the initial representation made by Trellech United Community Council had not been included. The Local Democracy Manager pointed out there was no mention of Llandogo in the original response from Trellech United Community Council.
- The Community Council expressed discontentment that the Llandogo ward of Trellech United was moved into the community of Tintern. It was stated that there was a social and emotional connection between the ward of Llandogo and the community of Trellech United.
- It was expressed that there was an indication that the Community Council were happy with the inclusion of the ward of Trellech Grange into the community of Trellech United. Residents of Trellech Grange tended to go to Llanishen and Catbrook to use the village halls and therefore there were social links. We noted that there was opposition from Tintern Community Council to the loss of Trellech United due to its historical links to Tintern Abbey.
- We noted that there were cross-border links where joint liaison meetings are held with Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.
- The County Councillor stated that the main concern for the Community Council was the loss of Llandogo and that they were happy with the other amendments and was happy with 1 Councillor of smaller wards.
- We noted that there had been no response to date from One Voice Wales and that the Boundary Review was to be placed on the agenda for their meeting on the 6th February 2014.

Meeting concluded at: 7pm.

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION NOTES

Date: Tuesday 28th January 2014

Communities Reviewed: Llanfoist Fawr, St Arvans and Magor with Undy.

Present:

Working Group Members: County Councillors: D.J. Evans, R. G. Harris and P.A.D. Hobson.

Officers: J. Pearson – Local Democracy Manager and A. Gullick – Local Democracy Officer.

Also in Attendance: County Councillor: A.E. Webb

Llanfoist Fawr Community Council: D.D. Carpenter, M. Mercer and H. Stockham.

St Arvans Community Council: A. Bolton, J. Bolton, M.L. Davies, B.E. Howell, J.B. Howells and A.L. Vickers.

Public Attendance: C. Hatcher and M. Hatcher.

The Chairman of the Working Group for the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements opened the meeting welcomed members of the public, Town and Community Council representatives, Officers and Working Group Members to the session and provided introductions.

The session provided an opportunity for members of the public and Town and Community Council representatives to respond to the draft proposals that had been approved by Full Council on 21st November 2013.

The Chairman opened the session by explaining that the Council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to keep under review the boundaries and electoral arrangements of the communities within Monmouthshire.

A Terms of Reference was formulated and sent to all Town and Community Councils for consultation before being approved by Full Council on 22nd November 2012. Following this a 12 week consultation period commenced inviting initial representations from stakeholders to submit their views to the Working Group for consideration.

The Chairman noted that a previously a general theme that ran through the meetings was the elector/councillor ratio. The Chairman accepted that this was a blunt instrument that did not take into consideration the workloads for Councillors or local need. The elector/councillor ratio would need to be reassessed by the Working Group given the local knowledge and expertise expressed by community representatives.

Working Group members welcomed representations on the draft proposals for the following communities:

Community of Llanfoist Fawr

Representatives from Llanfoist Fawr Community Council made the following points:

- The Clerk to Llanfoist Fawr Community Council raised concerns with regard to the proposals for Llanwenarth Ultra. The King George V playing field, the village hall and sports pavilion all belonged to Llanwenarth Ultra.
- Llanfoist had taken on a large recreation area and the old school playing fields. We noted that the community of Llanfoist owned buildings in Govilon and therefore there would be legal expense if the split was to go ahead.
- Concerns were expressed that the creation of the community of Govilon and its split from the community of Llanfoist would increase the precept for residents in Govilon.
- In addition there would be higher administration costs across the two communities. A current grounds maintenance contract with MCC of £15,000 would have to be split between the areas. Insurances on buildings and public liability had been amalgamated will increase if the split went ahead.
- It was expressed that the draft proposals would diminish the community of Llanfoist's ability to take on more functions, as suggested with devolution of services.
- We noted the existing imbalance of Councillors for Llanfoist (3 Councillors for 1026 electors) and Govilon (1 Councillor for Llanwenarth Citra, 139 electors and 6 Councillors for Llanwenarth Ultra, 1140 electors) which needed to be addressed, as indicated in the draft proposals.
- We noted that there were housing developments in Llanfoist – 80 in planning and 50 properties on West Gate.
- In relation to Llanwenarth Citra, which was a small rural ward, was not overwhelmed within the current arrangements but would be if governed by Abergavenny Town Council. The ward was currently well represented by a Councillor who had lived in the area for 27 years. It was felt that the ward was too rural to be moved into an urban area.

Community of St Arvans

Representatives from St Arvans Community Council raised the following points:

- The Community Council wished to retain 8 Councillors for the Community, due to their workload and areas of responsibility. It was explained that there was no problem in maintaining this level and 2 recent resignations have been filled speedily by co-option.
- Shock was expressed at the extent of the changes proposed for the community.
- It was felt that that the residents of St Arvans are more affected by the Racecourse events than the residents of Chepstow. St Arvans Community Council has developed close working arrangements with Racecourse management. It was felt there was limited impact on Chepstow from the Racecourse, as they got the visiting trade. The road impact on the community of St Arvans was felt to be in excess of Chepstow.
- The Community Council work closely with the Racecourse management with regard to issues of the boundary wall, which borders the cycle track and brambles are dealt with.
- The working relationship between St Arvans Community Council and the Racecourse was good. The land at the side of the Village Hall was owned by the Racecourse; however there was a long standing agreement that that playing field be managed in agreement with St Arvans Community Council.
- We noted the historical links between the Piercefield Estate and St Arvans.
- We noted that Chepstow Town Council, in their representation had proposed that the Racecourse be incorporated within the community of Chepstow.
- It was expressed that Chepstow Football Club used the playing fields at St Arvans, however it was strongly argued that the use of the playing fields were open to other residents and not exclusively used or restricted to Chepstow.
- The Community Council agrees with the transfer of properties on the Itton Road beyond Fryth Wood to Itton.
- It was felt that The Cot should not be placed in Itton and has a clear connection to St Arvans.
- The Tout should be included in SACC.
- The northern boundary should be fixed to just include Fair oak Farm.
- A number of premises on Penterry Lane must use the roads and links of St Arvans.

Mr and Mrs Hatcher of Mistletoe Cottage explained that their property which was the old workers cottages of Piercefield House and that they own the wall along their boundary with Piercefield Park and one of the temple gates. It was expressed that if Piercefield House and all its land was to become part of Chepstow Town Council it made sense that their property did as well, as one half of the Temple Gates would be under Chepstow Town Council and the other (being theirs) in St Arvans. It was

proposed that the A466 becomes the boundary to include their property and the property next door, which is also outside of the village boundary.

Community of Magor with Undy

No representatives were present at the meeting.

Meeting concluded at: 7:20pm

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION NOTES

Date: Thursday 30th January 2014

Communities Reviewed: Devauden, Llangybi & Llanhennock and Monmouth

Present:

Working Group Members: County Councillors: D.J. Evans, R. G. Harris and P.A.D. Hobson.

Officers: J. Pearson – Local Democracy Manager and A. Gullick – Local Democracy Officer.

Also in Attendance: County Councillor P. Clarke and S. White.

Devauden Community Council: I. Cavill.

Llangybi Fawr Community Council: J. Love and G. Rogers.

Llanhennock Community Council: I. Williams.

Monmouth Town Council: S. Chivers (Representing Overmonnow ward).

The Chairman of the Working Group for the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements opened the meeting welcomed members of the public, Town and Community Council representatives, Officers and Working Group Members to the session and provided introductions.

The session provided an opportunity for members of the public and Town and Community Council representatives to respond to the draft proposals that had been approved by Full Council on 21st November 2013.

The Chairman opened the session by explaining that the Council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to keep under review the boundaries and electoral arrangements of the communities within Monmouthshire.

A Terms of Reference was formulated and sent to all Town and Community Councils for consultation before being approved by Full Council on 22nd November 2012. Following this a 12 week consultation period commenced inviting initial representations from stakeholders to submit their views to the Working Group for consideration.

The Chairman noted that a previously a general theme that ran through the meetings was the elector/councillor ratio. The Chairman accepted that this was a blunt instrument that did not take into consideration the workloads for Councillors or local need. The elector/councillor ratio would need to be reassessed by the Working Group given the local knowledge and expertise expressed by community representatives.

Working Group members welcomed representations on the draft proposals for the following communities:

Community of Devauden

We noted that the Community Council were happy with the overall proposals for the community of Devauden. However, it was asked if a 30 year wrong could be put right. The properties, Dyers House on Itton Court Road, The Old Saw Mill and White Mill had previously been moved into the community of Shirenewton, however their social and community networks are in Itton and therefore the properties should be placed back into the community of Devauden. The traditional boundary was Mounton Brook.

Communities of Llanybi and Llanhennock

Representatives from Llanybi Fawr Community Council raised the following points:

- The Chairman of Llanybi Fawr Community Council felt reassured that the Councillor ratios will be looked at again. Concerns were raised with regard to single member wards and that the draft proposals recommend 5 out of the 6 wards as having single member representation.
- We noted that the LDP proposed 10 new houses for Llanybi, planning application had been approved for 2 new barn conversions. It was suggested that the population of Llanybi would significantly increase over the coming years.
- It was expressed that there was little synergy between Llanybi and Llanhennock.
- Concerns were expressed over the size of the area covered by the 6 community wards, which would be too vast an area for one Community Council.
- Llanybi Community Council were responsible for playing fields and were currently extending grounds, sign posting, litter picking and the village hall. Contributions are made to grounds maintenance for the churches in the area. The Community Council had installed 3 defibrillators in the ward.
- It was felt important to note that Councillors represented a range of people, who may have sensitive issues, who need to be appropriately represented.

- It was requested that Llangybi be retained as a Community Council area.

The County Councillor for Llangybi stated that Llangybi Community Council was a committed Council, with responsibility for playing fields, allotments etc. With regard to Llanhennock, 5 farmers make up the largest area and have full awareness of what goes on in their area and therefore Llanhennock should stand alone. Llanhennock and Llangybi are fundamentally different areas that look in different directions.

The Chairman of Llanhennock Community Council provided members of the Working Group the response from Llanhennock Community Council to the draft proposals.

The Chairman of Llanhennock Community Council raised the following points:

- It was agreed that Llanhennock and Llangybi did not sit well together.
- The wards of the community of Llanhennock were very rural by nature.
- It was explained that Llanhennock had one of the lowest precepts, whereas the precept for Llangybi was higher.
- We noted that the expenditures for Llanhennock Community Council minimum due to its rural nature.
- Concerns were expressed due to the reduction in Councillors from 8 to 3. IT was explained that there was sometimes vast distances between houses in the area and 1 Councillor would not be able to cover the entire area and some more elderly residents, who rely on Community Councillors for information, may become disenfranchised.
- The Community Council had no problem filling vacancies when they arose. Currently, the Councillors covered a diverse spectrum of knowledge and experience that will be lost, which would have a detrimental effect on local matters.

The representation from both Llangybi Fawr Community Council and Llanhennock Community Council was to retain both communities and that the Councillor numbers for each ward was reassessed.

Community of Monmouth

The County Councillor for Overmonnow strongly objected to the draft proposals for the ward of Overmonnow. It was felt that the heart of Overmonnow was being taken away from the ward, losing its Church and Church Hall. It was explained that the Overmonnow ward was steeped in history and its roots go back to the ancient settlement of Overmonnow, being the village on the other side of the Monnow.

The ward of Overmonnow was described as a very diverse area with small businesses which would be lost if the draft proposals were to be agreed as they currently stand.

The County Councillor for Overmonnow expressed deep sadness that the members of the Working Group from Monmouth had not recognised the importance of the Overmonnow ward as the jewel in the crown of the community of Monmouth.

With regard to questions relating to the LDP figures, it was explained that the proposals for Wonastow Road must be taken into consideration.

The Community Councillor from Wyesham explained that he was happy with the proposals for Wyesham and the move of Rockfield Studios.

At this point, the Chairman of the Working Group wished to briefly adjourn the meeting, to discuss with members of the Working Group the way forward, as there were concerns that Community Councillors within Monmouth Town Council that were unaware of the review and the draft proposals. The Local Democracy Manager stated that the draft proposals had been made public and sent to the clerks of all Town and Community Councils to distribute to their Councillors.

The meeting was adjourned at 7pm and recommenced at 7:10pm.

Upon recommencement, the Chairman of the Working Group stated that the Working Group would re-examine the Community of Monmouth. In addition, the clerk to Monmouth Town Council would be contacted asking that each Town Councillor be informed of the review and asking for their individual and/or Town Council representations to the draft proposals as they currently stand.

The Chairman also stated that members of the Working Group were happy to make site visits, to better understand the area in greater detail.

It was noted by the Community Councillor from Wyesham that it had been proposed by another Councillor that a ratio of 850 electors per Councillor would suffice as displayed in England. Therefore, the community of Monmouth would be represented by 15 Councillors, 3 Councillors per ward. This would be a reduced of 1 Councillor to the current arrangements for the community of Monmouth.

It was felt that the community of Monmouth had enough Councillors to undertake their work efficiently and effectively and having more Councillors would make things more difficult.

Meeting concluded at: 7:15pm

Appendix G – Representations received in response to the Draft Proposals

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

The meeting of Chepstow Town Council on 26th February 2014 resolved to submit the following response to the consultation on the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

EXTERNAL BOUNDARY

Chepstow Town Council welcomes Monmouthshire County Council's recommendations in respect of the external boundaries of the Chepstow Town Council area and appreciates the consideration given to the Town Council's earlier representations in this respect.

INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

Larkfield, Maple Avenue, St Christopher's and Thornwell

Chepstow Town Council welcomes the proposed boundary changes in respect of Larkfield Ward and notes the recommendations in respect of Maple Avenue, St Christopher's and Thornwell Wards.

The Town Council also notes that the recently published "Williams Report" may impact on ward boundaries at a unitary authority level and asks that consideration be given to ensuring that both town council and unitary authority boundaries are consistent, wherever possible, in order to minimise confusion and simplify voting arrangements.

St Mary's

Chepstow Town Council welcomes the proposed name change for the current St Mary's Ward to Chepstow Castle Ward.

St Kingsmark

Chepstow Town Council requests that the name "St Kingsmark" be retained for the new ward for which the proposed name is Crossway Green and that the name "Mount Pleasant" is applied to the balance of the former St Kingsmark Ward.

Sandra Bushell

Community of Crucorney

Representations received in response to draft proposals

Crucorney Community Council

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

Draft proposals

Representation from Crucorney Community Council

This matter was considered by Crucorney Community Council at its monthly meeting on the 21 January 2014.

Crucorney Community Councillors wish to say:

1. In view of the recent report of the Williams Commission, is not the Review premature?
2. In area, Crucorney is the largest community in Monmouthshire. As well as the villages of Llanvihangel Crucorney and Pandy and the surrounding rural area, it includes two long valleys with scattered farms and settlements. From one end to the other, the Fforest and Ffwddog ward and the Cwmyoy wards measure approximately 10 miles each. (Please refer to enclosed map.)
3. In thinly populated areas such as these, distance and area should be the criteria for determining the number of councillors, not population. Population may be an appropriate criterion in densely populated areas where it is relatively easy for councillors to 'cover the ground' in their wards, and for voters to contact their councillors, but different factors apply in thinly-populated rural areas.
4. Many houses in this community are holiday homes, whose users live elsewhere, so their names do not appear on our Electoral Register. That does not lessen the need, however, for local services to those properties or their liability to Council Tax. To reduce the number of community councillors would contravene the principle of 'no taxation without representation.'
5. For planning purposes, this Community falls under two authorities, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and Monmouthshire County Council. This increases the workload of community councillors.
6. Similarly, those two authorities deal with public footpaths in this Community, Monmouthshire County Council having delegated its functions in this respect to the National Park Authority over footpaths in that part of the Community which lies in the national Park. This, again, increases councillors' workload.
7. Community Councillors are not paid for the many hours' work they do each month and do not recover any of the personal expenditure they incur in carrying out their business. Reducing the number of councillors, therefore, has no effect on reducing expenses.
8. If the number of councillors were reduced, those remaining would have to put in more time and effort in order to cover the same amount of work and that workload is likely to increase. (See 10 below.)
9. With regard to Electorate Forecasts (Section 3 of MCC's Community of Crucorney handouts) which states that there are 'no developments proposed within the community', Crucorney Community Council would

Community of Crucorney

Representations received in response to draft proposals

like to point out that there are 31 houses with planning permission granted by BBNP and under construction. Furthermore, the National Park LDP suggests 22 units in Llanvihangel Crucorney and the Monmouthshire LDP are proposing 15 houses in Pandy. These latter proposals will inevitably increase the electoral roll by at least 100 people if not more. Councillors are also aware of a large number of teenagers in the area who will be eligible to be on the next electoral roll.

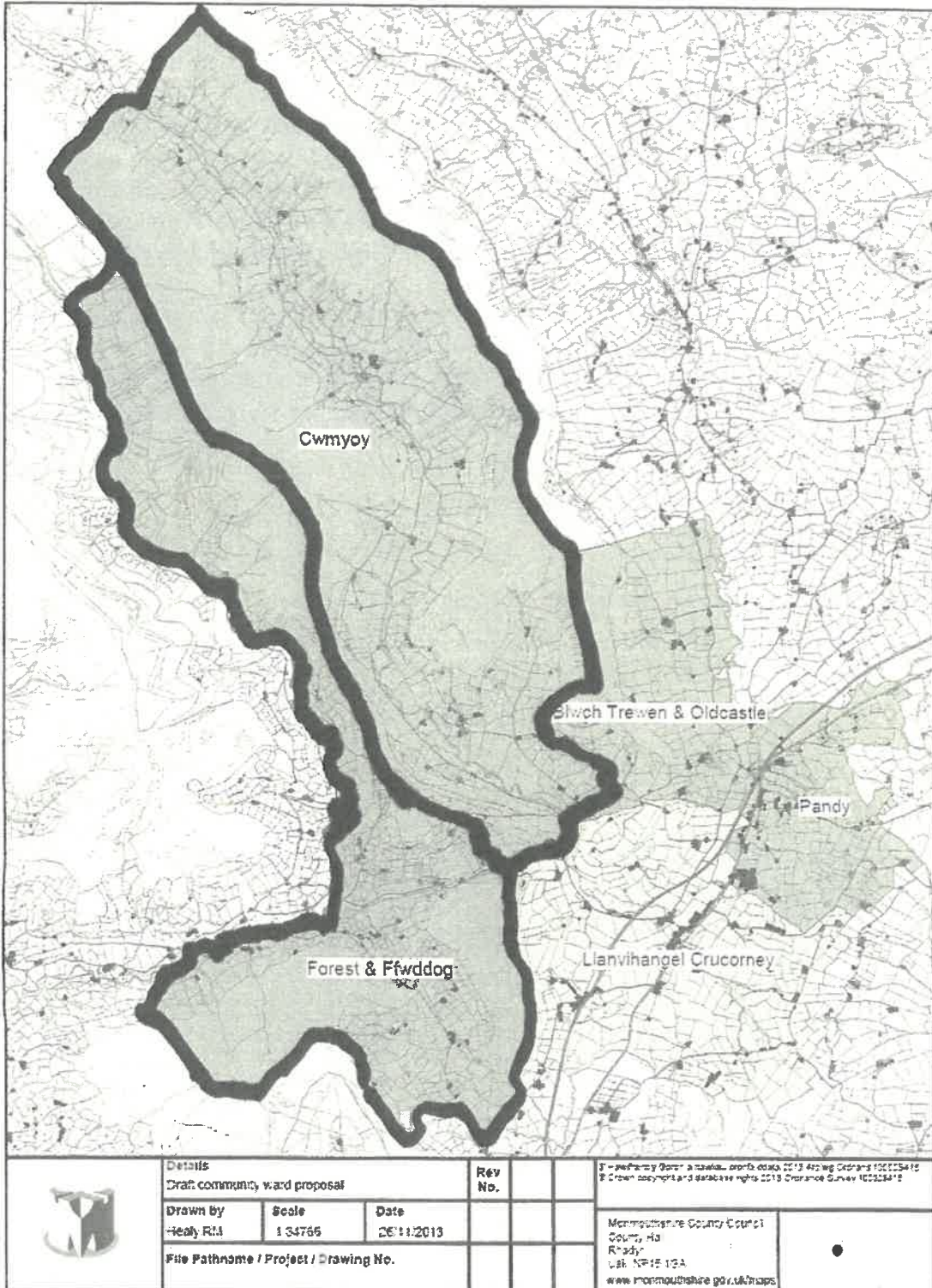
10. As we understand it, anticipated changes to the structure of local government will lead to an increase in the amount of work delegated to community councils. It is unreasonable to expect an increased workload to be undertaken by a reduced number of community councillors
11. To suggest a reduction from 11 to 7 councillors (the minimum) is unreasonable. The work put in by community councillors reflects the volunteer spirit and local democracy at grassroots level. Unlike some communities, there are no vacancies on Crucorney Community Council which shows a healthy community spirit. To reduce the number of councillors would be alien to those principles and damaging to the morale of existing and potential voluntary councillors.
12. The minimal boundary change proposed at Great Park Road effectively means that there is no real boundary change (see proposed changes to community boundaries, Para 7). Why, therefore, is a reduction proposed in the number of community councillors?
13. How is the 'ideal ratio' of 150 electors per councillor arrived at?
14. In a radio programme recently, Mr Jeff Jones, former leader of Bridgend County Borough Council and now a consultant in local authority practice, comments: 'We don't have local government in Wales. We have local administration'. Any reduction in the number of democratically-elected councillors at the grassroots level of community councils would be a further step in the process of centralisation and government by professional bureaucrats rather than representation of the people.

Crucorney Community Councillors: January 2014

Community of Crucorney

Representations received in response to draft proposals

Proposed Boundary Map of Crucorney



Community of Crucorney

Representations received in response to draft proposals

Messrs. P. Hobson and J. Pearson

As a member of Crucorney Community Council I wish to comment on these proposals in so far as they affect our Council. I am concerned not with the tinkering with boundaries but with its result when elector/councillor ratios are applied.

Currently we have 11 councillors; were the proposals to be implemented these would be reduced to 7. Thus Monmouthshire, which presently has at Crucorney 11 people willing to work free of charge for their community, would deem it sensible to make 4 of them redundant. This would appear to be a clear vote of no confidence in the usefulness of Community Councils, and has certainly prompted anger and incredulity here.

I understand that some councils find it difficult to recruit members; we have not had that difficulty here, but far from finding that our work is valued we now encounter plans to dismiss some of our number. This is the net result of the proposed re-structuring, which appears wrong-headed, destructive and totally unnecessary given that cost is not a consideration.

I should welcome your observations on this matter.

Yours,

Anthony L. Morgan

Re. Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

The Crucorney County Council Area

The area that I represent is a rural area where, like other areas, villages and parishes are complex interactions that need much understanding. This is not readily or immediately realised as a newly appointed vicar to a country parish once conceded. The area is set in its tradition and its ways. Any change needs to be accommodated and generally this takes time and deserves to be taken slowly.

It is good to carry out a periodic review. It should be remembered that the area is set against the county/country border so there is little scope for change in that direction. It is generally felt that there is little or no need for change in other directions as there has been very little change since the last review so no change is needed in Community Council ward boundaries.

Community Councillors are not readily available when being sought at election time. As they are "in post" why do away with them. They do not cost the county or community anything, they give their services freely and they have a wealth of knowledge and experience. Many are irreplaceable!

The Grosmont Ward

The ward works with a spirit of cohesion and the communities work together, the councillors work together based on a tradition that has built up over many years (the churches of Llanvetherine and Llangattock Lingoed were once in the same group). The traditions are established and community links that are so important exist and work well.

There is little development to justify change. The existing grouping is a more compact cohesive unit than that which is proposed. Llanvetherine and Llangattock Lingoed farms and properties are neighbouring so residents know each other and are used to working together. Llangattock Lingoed residents pass through Llanvetherine on their way to town (Abergavenny) and stop to post letters, call at the garage, go to the church, etc whilst Llanvetherine residents go to the Hunter's Moon Pub at Llangattock Lingoed.

All this poses the question -Why change?

It has proved difficult to get a councillor for Llangattock Lingoed let alone two!

Llangua deserves representation from within, not merely tagged onto Grosmont.

In terms of the proposal of moving Llanvetherine to a ward that includes Cross Ash and Skenfrith it must be stated that there is, understandably, little interaction or things in

common between Llanvetherine and Skenfrith. They are 8-10 miles apart, they are different areas and move in different directions. Llanvetherine residents tend to go to Abergavenny to shop etc as it is closer. Cross Ash and Skenfrith residents tend to go to Monmouth. The B4521 is the only link. Little notice is taken as it is a major road, a route purely to get to a destination.

The Crucorney Ward

The comments that I would make relating to the Crucorney Ward are that the proposal to unite Lower and Upper Cwmyoy should not take place as the area represented is vast and currently the respective councillors do an amazing job in representing their areas.

The proposal to adjust the Park Road boundary makes sense but a physical boundary still makes sense in the general usage.

I would finally make the point that Community Councillors do represent people so elector numbers are important. However they also represent an area with its features- roads, drains, churches, chapels, pubs, clubs and, in fact, any feature or organisation that exists in the ward. So a larger area deserves the representation of a larger number of councillors.

Community of Devauden

I write in response to the MCC Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements Draft Proposals.

Re: Dyer's House, Itton Grid Ref ST 488 945

The southern boundary of Itton parish has always been Mounton Brook (Tithe Map 1844).

In 1986 Gwent County Council drew a new boundary line without any local consultation. This cut Dyer's House out of Itton and put it in Shirenewton. A portion of Dyer's House garden remained in Itton.

In 2004 Maureen Hendon, an MCC officer, said that nothing could be done to restore the status quo ante until the next review.

In 2006 Owen Allford, Local Democracy Manager, MCC assured me that we would be returned to the Itton ward of Devauden Community in the next review. This assurance was repeated in 2007 and 2008.

In 2008 Murray Andrews, Ass. CEO, MCC apologized for the lack of progress and said that the matter would be sorted out as soon as possible.

We have lived in Dyer's House since 1981 and all our community links have always been with Itton. My wife is an Itton churchwarden and a member of the Itton Village Hall committee. I have lately become a community councillor for Itton ward within Devauden Community Council.

Dyer's House had always been an integral part of the Curre Estate, Itton. The Dyer after whom the house was named is buried in Itton churchyard.

Our postal address is Itton and the other houses in our postcode (NP16 6BP) are in Itton.

The present review and the goodwill evident at the consultation sessions prompts me to ask again that Dyer's House be restored to its pre-1986 position in Itton. I suggest that the Devauden CC boundary should revert to Mounton Brook.

Ivor Cavill
Dyer's House
Itton
Chepstow

GOETRE FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Response to Monmouthshire County Council's Notice of Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements Draft Proposals.

Meeting at County Hall, Usk on Monday 20th January 2014 attended by Community Council Councillors Colín Deakins, Syd Welford and Clerk Ian Blacker on behalf of the Community Council

Little Mill and Goytre Communities

We believe the proposals would divide the communities of Little Mill and Goytre. These communities interact in many ways due to the Schooling, sports clubs, Nursery care, and Pensioners clubs. It makes sense for the community council to represent the whole area rather than half.

Councillor Reduction in Numbers

In respect of para 7, the number of councillors is tied to the figure of 250 electors per councillor for a "mixed" community as defined in the Terms of Reference (ToR) on page 10. Our view is that the difficulty is there is no recognition that whilst there is a formula for calculating the minimum number for a council (which I'm sure we agree with) the ToR don't cover when a higher number may be appropriate.

The review seems to have therefore interpreted that the formula is prescriptive i.e. Councils can only have the number of councillors that the formula gives rather than considering what a more realistic figure might be.

Llanbadoc Links

Whilst we have no strong objection to links with Llanbadoc we are unaware of any strong connections between Little Mill and Llanbadoc other than the road that connects the communities.

Llanover Links

We have no strong objection to links to Llanover but we are unaware of any strong connection between Goytre and Llanover other than the road that they share giving access to Abergavenny, or Pontypool/Cwmbran in the other opposite direction.

Community Council Funds

How will the monies already received by our community council be split if we join Llanover and Little Mill Joins Llanbadoc? We have an amount of monies that should be spent on Little Mill & Goetre, should that be spent before any split happens?

Goytre/Goetre Spelling

The proposed new name of the Council appears to be Goetre Wharf. This is listed as one of the ward names as well which could be confusing?

The ward name Goetre should be replaced with Goytre, as represented by the village to avoid confusion with Goetre Wharf

Goytre School Connections

Little Mill provides pupils to Goytre School and has a connection going back some considerable time. Has consideration also been made by the School Project Team within Mon CC on the potential impact of transportation costs of pupils attending Goytre School should the changes go ahead.

LDP Housing Predictions for Goytre

At present MCC are looking to amend the LDP by increasing the Melin Housing site at Folly View Close to 65 dwellings. This would give a fairly large increase in the population and therefore electorate

Local Cemetery Issues

The inhabitants of Little Mill have the right on their demise, whatever their religion or none, to be interred in Mamhilad Churchyard. The nearest Mon CC Cemetery is at Llanfoist. We are concerned that Mon CC have not consulted the Church in Wales on the proposed boundary changes and have further concerns that there is the possibility, if the split takes place, Little Mill inhabitants may lose the right to be buried in their Parish Churchyard which, with all Cemeteries rapidly becoming full, may have big implications for bereaved families.

The Clerk

The clerk's role will become larger and who decides which clerks remain in employment.

Goetre Fawr Community Council is unanimous in their objection to the change and would like the current format to remain to be best serve the community.

Re. Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

The Crucorney County Council Area

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It is good to carry out a periodic review. It should be remembered that the area is set against the county/country border so there is little scope for change in that direction. It is generally felt that there is little or no need for change in other directions as there has been very little change since the last review so no change is needed in Community Council ward boundaries.

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There is little development to justify change. The existing grouping is a more compact cohesive unit than that which is proposed. Llanvetherine and Llangattock Lingoed farms and properties are neighbouring so residents know each other and are used to working together. Llangattock Lingoed residents pass through Llanvetherine on their way to town (Abergavenny) and stop to post letters, call at the garage, go to the church, etc whilst Llanvetherine residents go to the Hunter's Moon Pub at Llangattock Lingoed.

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GROSMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
TOWN BARN, GROSMONT, MONMOUTHSHIRE NO7 8EP
Telephone 01981 241198
Email thatwoman@hotmail.co.uk

21 February 2014

Clerk to the Council - Mrs Jane Fleming

FAO John Pearson

**Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements
Grosmont Ward**

The current boundaries work well and promote a spirit of cohesion with each settlement and their representatives working together based on tradition and experience that has built up over many years. Any change is unlikely to improve communication and service so what is the benefit or justification for change?

The existing grouping is a more compact cohesive unit than that which is proposed. Llanvetherine and Llangattock Lingoed farms and properties are neighbouring so residents know each other and are used to working together. Llangattock Lingoed residents pass through Llanvetherine on their way to Abergavenny, stop to post letters, call at the garage, go to the church etc whilst Llanvetherine residents socialise in the Hunter's Moon Pub at Llangattock Lingoed.

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Moving Llanvetherine to a ward that includes Cross Ash and Skenfrith makes little sense as there is little interaction and/or things in common between Llanvetherine and Skenfrith. They are more than 8 miles apart and their respective geography causes their residents to move in different directions - Llanvetherine residents tend to go to Abergavenny to shop etc as it is closer. Cross Ash and Skenfrith residents tend to go to Monmouth. The B4521 is the only link, a route to get to a destination.

Finally any changes will be costly to implement, will not lead to improved services and communication and will not save money so what is the justification for change? If it works why fix it?

Grosmont Fawr Community Council


Cllr Andrew Farr


Cllr Peter McVann


Cllr Ken Palmer


Cllr Margie Barker


Cllr Trevor Beavan


Cllr Vernon Jones


Cllr Tony Hounsome


Cllr Martin Davies


Jane Fleming Clerk

1. GROSMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
TOWN BARN, GROSMONT, MONMOUTHSHIRE NP7 8EP
Telephone 01981 241198
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21 February 2014 Clerk to the Council – Mrs Jane Fleming

FAO John Pearson

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements
Grosmont Ward

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Cllr Tony Hounsome
Cllr Martin Davies

Jane Fleming Clerk

Community of Gwehelog Fawr

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

COMMUNITY OF GWEHELOG FAWR

Response to the Draft Proposals

1. Communication Channels

- The working group should be aware that the main channel of communication through the community is via the R61 Llancayo Road. It is not the case that *'the main channel of communication through the community is via the B4598 and Usk Road'*.
- R61 Llancayo Road is the principal east / west link through the community and is the route which connects the Gwehelog and Trostre wards to the Llancayo and Kemeys Commander wards. This is the route which locals use and it is *incorrect* to state that *"electors from within the community are required to travel through the adjoining Usk community in order to reach either side"*.
- R61 Llancayo Road is a Class 3 road which has recently been resurfaced by the Council's Highways division in acknowledgment of its status as a strategic route. It is *not* a *"narrow single track lane"* as referred to in the Recommendations.
- We ask you to reconsider this statement and to acknowledge that Llancayo Road does provide a main channel of communication linking the wards within Gwehelog Fawr community

2. Community Links

- The current western boundary of Gwehelog Fawr is the River Usk. This natural boundary incorporates Kemeys Commander and Llancayo within the community. The proposal to move the boundary to the edge of Llancayo and Trostre Wood and to annex the Llancayo and Kemeys Commander wards from Gwehelog Fawr and include them in the Llanarth community does not appear to be a logical decision because:
 - i) The new boundary is ill defined and does not follow a natural boundary, e.g. a watercourse or road.
 - ii) The communication link between the wards of Gwehelog, Trostre, Llancayo and Kemeys Commander is well served via a Class 3 road whereas the road link between Kemeys Commander and Bettws Newydd in the Llanarth community is

Community of Gwehelog Fawr

via the Unclassified C31.2 Thornbury Road.

iii) Kemeys Commander and Llancayo and are both closer to Gwehelog and Trostre than they are to Llanarth and as a result have strong community and church links with each other which they do not have with Llanarth village.

- In consideration of the above we ask you to reconsider the recommendation to disband Gwehelog Fawr and to retain the Gwehelog, Kemeys Commander, Trostre and Llancayo wards within a Gwehelog Fawr community.

3. Gwehelog Fawr Boundaries

- Bettws Newydd, currently within Llanarth C.C. is severed from Llanarth village by route R64, the old Raglan – Abergavenny road whereas it is well connected and has direct road links from both west and east directions with Gwehelog Fawr community from Thornbury Road and Berthlwydd Road respectively. Gwehelog councillors consider that Bettws Newydd is closer to and has more affinity with Gwehelog Fawr C.C. than with Llanarth C.C. and would welcome the attachment of Bettws Newydd to Gwehelog Fawr C.C.
- The current boundary between Gwehelog Fawr C.C. and Raglan C.C runs along the centre of route C33.2 which has the effect of severing households within Gwehelog village from the community. Gwehelog councillors consider that the Gwehelog Fawr boundary should be adjusted in order to include these properties.
- In consideration of the above we ask you to consider extending the northern boundary of Gwehelog Fawr to include the Clytha Ward of Llanarth C.C. which incorporates Bettws Newydd. Also that the western boundary of Gwehelog Fawr is extended to include properties fronting routes C33.2 and C215.15.

4. Cultural Links

- The churches at Trostre and Kemeys Commander are both served by the rector of Bettws Newydd Church which provides a cultural link to the parish.
- Gwehelog Fawr C.C. makes annual donations to Bettws, Trostre and Kemeys Commander churches.
- Gwehelog Fawr C.C. has strong links with the Gwehelog Village Hall committee and shares a joint website which has recently been awarded a grant of £500 to further

Community of Gwehelog Fawr

develop the site. The development of the website is a clear example of the way in which the community council is developing a local identity with other bodies in the rural area, an identity which would be entirely lost were GFCC to be subsumed into 'greater Raglan'.

- Gwehelog Fawr C.C. has recently revised its Standing Orders to allow the public to actively participate in Community Council meetings in an effort to encourage the village to engage and feel part of the community. The review proposals will extinguish that concept.
- Gwehelog Fawr C.C. has also recently undertaken a project to widen community involvement, which could well serve as a model to be emulated by other community councils in Monmouthshire and Wales. A community council working party is currently due to report back to the main council on a number of unique initiatives.
- Gwehelog Fawr C.C. is a strong and active council which works tirelessly to support its community.
- In consideration of the above we ask you to reconsider the recommendation to disband Gwehelog Fawr and to retain the Gwehelog, Kemeys Commander, Trostre and Llancayo wards within a Gwehelog Fawr community.

5. Raglan

- The proposal to attach Gwehelog to Raglan is not a natural link because Gwehelog is a rural community whereas Raglan is predominantly a suburban community. Raglan C.C. undertakes responsibility for the provision of dog waste bins, allotments, park seating and war memorial maintenance and also makes hefty donations to the Raglan Music Festival and Raglan Twinning Association. As a result its current precept is £17,425 whereas Gwehelog Fawr C.C., which has no infrastructure to maintain, has a precept of £3,800.
- The consequence of Gwehelog being attached to Raglan would be that its precept would increase from £13.81/household to £16.27/household, i.e. an increase of 18%.
$$[\text{£}16.66 \times (1070 + 220 + 146) + (\text{£}13.81 \times 223)] / 1659 = \text{£}16.27$$

Gwehelog Fawr C.C. has no plans to increase its current precept and therefore it is unlikely that Gwehelog residents will benefit from the increase in its precept as a

Community of Gwehelog Fawr

result of a merger with Raglan.

- Furthermore, because under the proposed arrangement Raglan will have four councillors whereas Llandenny, Kingcoed and Gwehelog wards will only have one councillor each; in the event of a vote to allocate resources etc. the Raglan councillors will always be able to outvote the other three wards and therefore there is a concern that Raglan affairs will take precedence over the issues of the rural wards.
- In consideration of the above we ask you to reconsider the recommendation to disband Gwehelog Fawr and to retain the Gwehelog, Kemeys Commander, Trostre and Llancayo wards within a Gwehelog Fawr community.

Conclusion

1. Gwehelog Fawr councillors consider that whereas some minor adjustments to Community Council boundaries may be beneficial in order for example to ensure that villages are not severed by community boundaries, it does not think that the review provides any fundamental improvement on the existing arrangement.
2. The proposals will cause major disruption to many Councils and it is difficult to understand what benefits the review will provide. The fact that under the proposals the number of Community Councils will only reduce from 33 to 31 and the number of wards from 119 to 118 seems to demonstrate this. The only notable reduction as a result of the review is that the number of elected Community Councillors will reduce from 356 to 287.
3. Although MCC has a responsibility to review electoral arrangements, the draft proposals appear to be making changes for the sake of making changes. Nowhere does the draft document explain where any advantage would be gained by the change to current representational arrangements.
4. Gwehelog Fawr is a distinctive, ancient community of great historical importance and members of the community value that heritage. Members of the community are currently researching the area's local history – but could well feel disinclined to do so if the community becomes greater Raglan... and subsequent generations will have no "Gwehelog Fawr" as a starting point.
5. There is no apparent financial saving as a result of this review, because councillors offer their

Community of Gwehelog Fawr

services free, and the reduction in the number of councillors per ward seems to be a very retrograde step which:

(i) is in direct opposition to the Government philosophy to promote localism and public participation in local affairs.

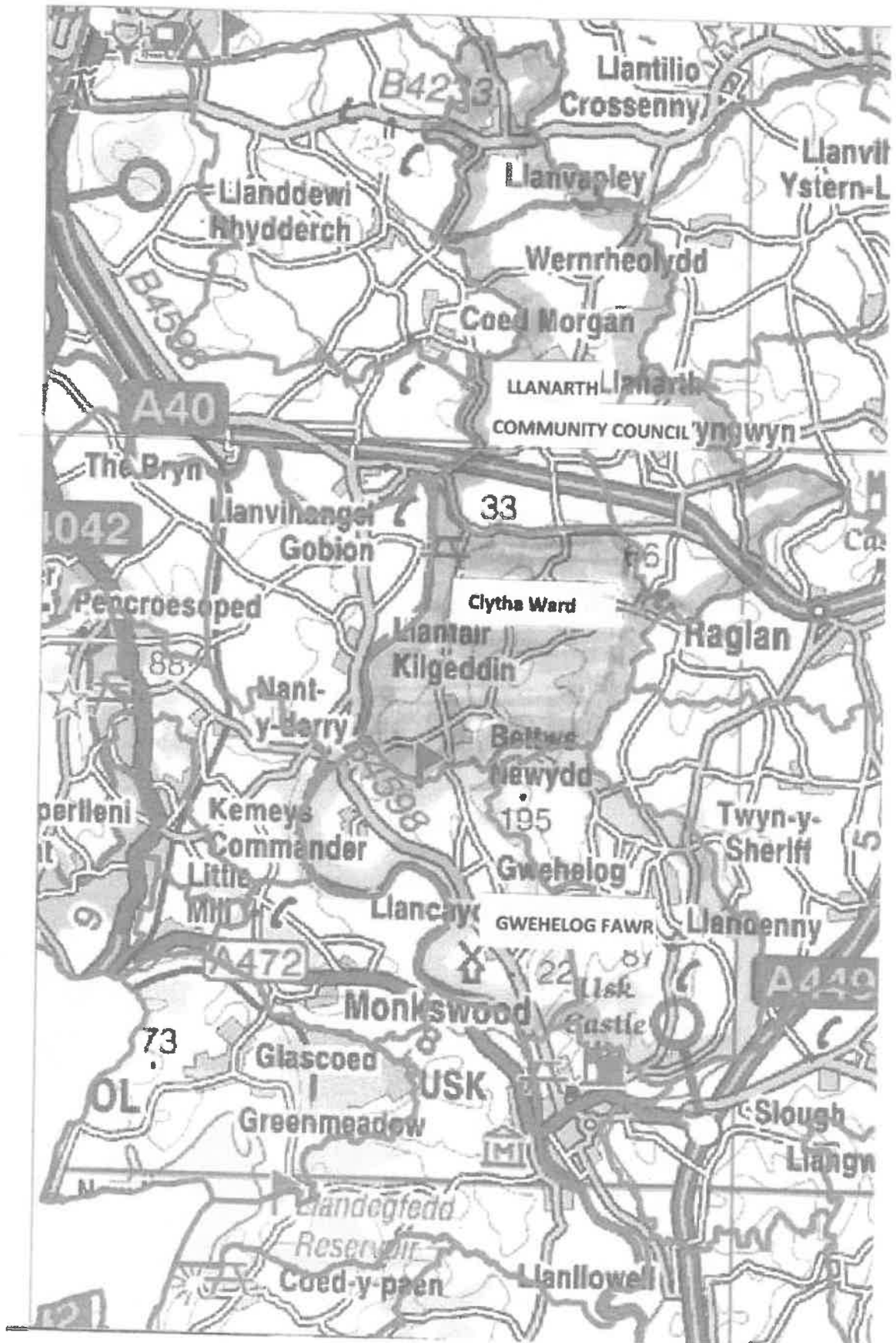
(ii) reduces the local geographical and historical knowledge possessed by councillors which is available to the community.

(iii) reduces the expertise possessed by councillors which is available to the community.

For example. Gwehelog Fawr community councillors embrace knowledge of local farming, building and architecture, highway maintenance, prison liaison, community care and communication skills, all which are employed from time to time when dealing with community issues. The reduction from 4 councillors to 1 councillor in the case of Gwehelog ward will severely impact the level of experience and expertise which will be afforded to community issues if the recommendations are adhered to.

6. In consideration of the above we ask you to reconsider the recommendation to disband Gwehelog Fawr and to retain the wards of Gwehelog, Kemeys Commander and Llancayo within a Gwehelog Fawr community council together with the addition of Clytha ward in order to incorporate Bettws Newydd (as shown on attached map).

Community of Gwehelog Fawr



Community of Gwehelog Fawr

Community of Gwehelog Fawr



DAVID T C DAVIES MP
Member for Monmouth

Please Reply To:
16 Maryport Street
Usk
Monmouthshire
NP15 1AB

Date: 6th February 2014
Our Ref: M(1)/lp
Your Ref:

Mr J Pearson
Local Democracy Manager
Electoral Registration
Monmouthshire County Council
The Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Dear John

Re: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

I have been contacted by Gwehelog Fawr Community Council following publication of draft proposals for the above review being conducted by Monmouthshire County Council.

I'm concerned to hear the future of this small but effective community council has been cast in doubt by a recommendation to disband Gwehelog Fawr.

I have read the community council's response to the review, a copy of which is attached for ease of reference, and I think some power arguments have been put forward.

In particular, I would fully accept that Gwehelog Fawr is very rural whilst Raglan is quite clearly a village.

I understand members of Gwehelog Fawr Community Council recently attended a public consultation meeting where they were well received. I do hope the council's representations will be given full consideration when formulating the final proposals and I would be grateful if you could notify me of the outcome.

Yours sincerely

David T C Davies MP

Cc: Gwehelog Fawr Community Council

Constituency Office: Tel: 01291 672817
Email: david.davies.mp@parliament.uk Website: www.david-daviesmp.co.uk
Twitter: @davidtcdavies

S:/Usk/MCC/2014

LLANARTH FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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22nd February 2014

Monmouthshire County Council
County Hall
The Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1G

Dear County Councillors,

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements, Draft Proposals Electoral Register 2014

Further to your Draft Proposals and the meeting held on the 28th January 2014 the Llanarth Fawr Community Council would like to submit the following for your consideration:-

It was noted, at the meeting held in January 2014 that the new review relied heavily on using roads as boundaries whereas historically parish boundaries were fields and streams that in a rural area sometimes makes more sense.

The proposal to remove Llanvapley Ward from Llanarth Fawr Community Council solely on the grounds that it cannot be reached, by road, from other parts of the Community Council area could very easily have been remedied by including the small area of land between the B4233 and the Llanarth turning. This then joins the wards and would have meant that only approx. 3 properties, (Little Cil-llwch and those at Great Cil-llwch). The main route for Llanvapley residents is confirmed by Members as being the B4233. If any larger scale change was require then Llanarth Fawr Community Council would propose that Llantillo Crosssenny should be included in Llanarth Fawr Community Council as the village strongly associates with Llanvapley and also topographically, geographically and socially they both relate to the communities with the Llanarth Fawr Community Council area. The Llanvapley Community does not relate closely to most of the Llanover Wards but with its neighbours in Llanarth and Llantillo Crosssenny.

The proposal to include the ward of Kemys Commander and Llancayo within the Llanarth Fawr Community Council area was seen as a very good proposal. The Bettws

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Newydd / Clytha communities have very strong links with this ward and residents from Kemys Commander and Llancayo strongly socialise with members of the Bettws Newydd and Clytha Communities – they currently share use of the Bettws Newydd Village Hall and Black Bear Pub. It has sometimes been a source of frustration that matters so close to the village boundary of Bettws Newydd are not within the Llanarth Fawr Community Council area and that there does not seem any logic for the current division. The Llanarth Fawr Community Council would warmly welcome any current Community Councillors from this area and would be keen to continue, and if possible, enhance the already good work being carried out in Kemys Commander and Llancayo.

With regard to the proposal to include Rhiw-Las area / properties into Raglan the Llanarth Fawr Community Council feels very strongly that this would not be an appropriate course of action. This small area has had many planning & highways issues in the not too distant past and local councillors are fully aware of all potential issues – this knowledge would not be carried onto the Raglan Ward and would prove detrimental to the area. People in this area do not identify with Raglan but with Llanarth Fawr.

Llanarth Fawr would like to propose that the number of Cllrs. per ward is as follows:-

Llanvapley: -	2 Cllrs.
Llanarth: -	2 Cllrs.
Bryngwyn: -	3 Cllrs.
Clytha: -	3 Cllrs.
Kemeys Commander & Llancayo: -	2 Cllrs.

All Cllrs give their time voluntarily and do not see that a reduction in the number of Cllrs. in a ward is any improvement to the service provided by the Community Council. It will not cost the electorate anything to keep having the level of representation that is proved to work in a very rural area and allows for busy Cllrs. to know that their area is fully represented even when they may not always be available.

Llanarth Fawr Community Council is a strong organisation that will look forward to the many challenges of a larger area and the possibility of further responsibilities as may be needed in a time of challenging budget cuts. The proposals to include extra wards within the council area will be of very little financial significance to the electorate and would cement already strong bonds.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

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Melanie Mercer

Clerk of the Council
Llanarth Fawr Community Council

LLANBADOC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Response to Monmouthshire County Council's Notice of Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements Draft Proposals following meeting at County Hall, Usk. Jan 23 2014.

We were rather disappointed to realize that many elements of our response to the council's original proposals had not been noted. In particular our response advised that "There are no densely populated areas" whereas the Council's draft proposals claim that "All the three wards of the community are densely populated with no central focus point" and perhaps the Working Party could re read our responses accordingly?

There would appear to be two main issues upon which we would like to comment further :-

1. BOUNDARIES

a) We are pleased to note that the working party agreed with our suggestion that Penpedairheol Farm be moved into the Llanbadoc community.

b) We have suggested that Honeywell Cottage and Oak Ridge be moved from Glascoed ward into Llanbadoc ward and would ask that the Working Party consider this proposal.

c) We are open minded with regard to the proposal to add the Little Mill ward from Goetre into Llanbadoc Community Council and indeed can see the logic for this; and welcome Goetre's advice with regard to the proposal.

2. COUNCILLOR NUMBERS

a) There are currently 10 councillors in Llanbadoc CC with the new proposals reducing these to 4 (if the Little Mill proposals are excluded). These proposals seem to be based on a one size fits all ratio of councillor numbers to elector numbers and take absolutely no account of the volume of work that our councillors undertake in what is a large rural area with a number of quite specific elements perhaps not found in other community areas.

Our council meets once per month with the meeting taking place strictly between 7.00pm and 9.00pm and in order to properly consider the council workload we have set up 4 sub committees (with generally 4 councillors on

each) which meet regularly between the formal full council meetings and which review, discuss, determine and recommend the council's response to the various matters. It should be noted that we have a first class and very efficient clerk who prepares a formal clerk's report for the council meeting which lists all the incoming and outgoing information. This report is usually at least 4 pages long and whilst some of it will be the equivalent of junk mail nevertheless the report has to be properly examined and this can only be done outside the formal monthly meeting by the sub committees and/or individual councillors.

b) There are 4 major employers within our boundaries and a number of our councillors are part of liaison groups with Prescoed Prison, Mons County Council and BAE Systems.

c) The A472 runs all the way through our council's wards and there are grave concerns from the community with regard to vehicle speeds and road safety. Our councillors have taken these concerns to the Highway authority and the Police, prepared reports and arranged meetings which are all ongoing.

d) There are concerns with regard to the heavy goods vehicles passing through Usk and over the bridge (the continually damaged section of which lies within our ward) and our councillors are part of the action group over this matter.

e) Our council owns 4 areas of woodland and 2 areas of grassed common land all of which require management. Councillors are currently undergoing training to enable our council to monitor and ensure the safety of the community whilst enjoying the woodland. Our council has to deal with such issues as encroachment onto the commons and the protection of the rights of commoners etc.

f) There are great concerns from the community with regard to the illegal use of our woodlands by off road bikers and the damage to the environment, noise and anti social behavior that ensues. Our councillors are currently preparing a Section 38 application to the Welsh Government planning inspectorate to erect gates to help alleviate this problem and the documentation and liaison with the local residents will be ongoing for some time.

g) There are over 100 miles of public footpaths within our wards and we have set up a councillor path care group to which Mons CC have devolved the surveying and general clearance of all the routes. This has already started and will be a rolling programme. Our councillors also have prepared a number of

detailed walks leaflets for locals and visitors to follow and new ones are currently being determined.

h) Our council has instigated a proposed trail around Llandegfedd reservoir which is currently under construction and our partners, Welsh Water would like us to join them in setting up a community lead volunteer Ranger force which should start later this year.

i) Our councillors have set up and maintain a web site, a Facebook presence and publish (and distribute by hand) an annual newsletter.

The above details are listed as examples of the extent of our councillor work load but there are and we suspect always will be many other issues requiring our attention if we are to carry out our duties correctly.

We cannot stress strongly enough that the work involved in representing our community, dealing with their concerns and carrying out our own initiatives (such as our newly improved play area at Llanbadoc Island) could not possibly be dealt with by a council of 4 members as proposed (and indeed most, if not all of the previous examples would not be taken further) and feel that a minimum of 9 councillors (3 per ward) are required. This could be easily achieved by reducing the Llanbadoc representation to 3 members. We note that currently there are 3 councillors representing Little Mill and have no knowledge as to how efficient that number is, but if acceptable would mean an enlarged council of 12 members.

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20th February 2014

Monmouthshire County Council
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Dear County Councillors,

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements, Draft Proposals Electoral Register 2014

Further to your Draft Proposals and the meeting held on the 28th January 2014 the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council would like to submit the following for your consideration:-

Llanfoist Fawr Community Council is a very strong body already undertaking many responsibilities / services within the wards.

Llanwenarth Ultra (Govilon):-

- The Llanfoist Fawr Community Council owns and runs the Salisbury Community Hall, Govilon (formerly Govilon Village Hall). This building has been turned, by the efforts of members, from a building totally unfit for purpose in modern society, into a warm, safe, inviting building for use, at a very reasonable cost, by all sections of the community. This was a large project that would not have been possible without the support of full council. All costs on this building are met by the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council and receipt of hire monies.
- The Llanfoist Fawr Community Council is also the Trustees of the King George V Playing Field, Govilon. This field is wholly managed and run by the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council and comprises of a children's play area, dog walk, war memorial, football pitch (suitable for Gwent Central League standards) and a Sports Pavilion. A project is underway (with £20k funding already secured) to improve facilities in the Sports Pavilion and also to try and get funding to build a MUGA. All costs on these facilities are met by the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council.
- Dog waste bins are provided around the village and more rural areas.

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Llanfoist:-

- Llanfoist Fawr Community Council own and manage the Llanfoist Recreation Ground. This ground has been substantially upgraded within the last couple of years and now comprises of a level football pitch, suitable for Junior or Senior use, a large well equipped children's play area, Petanque pitches, a dog walk area and a MUGA. All costs are met by the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council
- Llanfoist Fawr Community Council leases land within the boundary of the recreation ground to the Llanfoist Villagers Assn. for the Llanfoist Village Hall. Llanfoist Fawr Community Council pays the Landlords Insurance Liability on the Llanfoist Village Hall.
- Llanfoist Fawr Community Council has purchased the Old School Playing Field, behind the former Llanfoist Primary School and is intending to use the land for recreational purposes.
- Dog waste bins are provided within the village.

Llanellen:-

- Llanfoist Fawr Community Council is the Trustees of the Owain Glyndwr Playing Field, Llanellen. The field is wholly managed by the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council and comprises of a junior football pitch and a children's play area.
- Llanfoist Fawr Community Council owns the Llanellen Village Hall. This hall is the focal point of village life and is managed by a very competent village hall committee. Should this committee not be able to continue at any point in the future the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council has agreed to manage the hall. The Llanfoist Fawr Community Council pays the Landlords Insurance and all other insurance on this building as well as helping, when requested, with building maintenance / upgrade costs.
- Dog waste bins are provided within the village.

Llanwenarth Citra:-

- Due solely to the extreme rural nature of this ward, without any halls or recreation ground, the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council does not need to have large responsibilities. However, the council are fully supportive of all community initiatives that come from rural living (2 recent projects have helped cap a water supply and also make the sole church more accessible to the community and visitors) and are invaluable to M.C.C. in reporting issues arising within this community especially highways, street lighting and planning. Funding has been agreed to replace 3 benches within the area.

All of the above responsibilities are done both by the Clerk and Members - at no cost to Monmouthshire County Council.

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By having all of these responsibilities with one council the cost to the Council Tax payers is reduced by virtue of all buildings, recreation grounds, public liabilities, employer liabilities etc. being on one insurance policy. Whilst no doubt this could be split, (this was the case many years ago before the prudence of one large policy was realised), a reduction of several thousand pounds was achieved by putting all buildings under one policy – should you choose to split Govilon and Llanfoist / Llanellen as in the current proposals this cost would again substantially increase. It would also be anticipated that any splitting of grounds maintenance works, currently contracted to Monmouthshire County Council, could be financially effected by the smaller budgets each of the proposed smaller Community Councils would have. Works are currently budgeted from the whole precept with each ward receiving what is needed / wanted regardless of the amount collected from the precept in each ward. No doubt some wards benefit financially from monies collected from the larger wards but all the electorate benefit from all facilities / services and so this has never been an issue / consideration. Larger projects within wards are funded on an “as needed” / rotational basis (i.e. the current Xmas lights project) this would not be possible with the smaller precept gained from 2 separate councils without a substantial increase in the cost per dwelling.

As requested, by the panel at the January meeting, I have attempted to quantify the time / work / benefit to the communities of councillors in each of the wards. This is an almost impossible task – all community councillors take part in so many activities within the Community Council boundaries (running community managed village halls, running gardening clubs, running yearly Open Gardens schemes, School Governors, etc.) responsibilities within churches, clubs and organisations that it is impossible to put into one figure the huge amount of time and energy that members give to their communities. This also makes them highly accessible to members of the public and gives them the opportunity to listen to issues right at the bottom level. Many of these issues are very large within the county (especially planning and highways) and the options of the Council / Councillors / Electorate are then used to make significant decisions that affect the whole county.

Members are also very active on Community Council business within the wards, many extra meetings are held to fully consider important issues within the communities (i.e. highways and planning) but also a large number of working parties exist as required throughout the year and these working parties drive forward projects both large and small within the communities. (Currently there is a working party looking at the current and future location of the Govilon War Memorial. A working party looking into the possible adoption / assistance to the Govilon Twinning Association, another is looking at the upgrading of the Govilon Sports Pavilion and yet another is looking at finishing the project at the Llanfoist Recreation Ground.)

All of the above is done, voluntarily, by Members on top of the duties / meetings required as Community Councillor.

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Members fully support a review of the number of Councillors within each ward and feel that the following numbers would best represent the electorate both now and in the foreseeable future:-

Llanwenarth Citra: -	1 Councillor
Llanwenarth Ultra: -	6 Councillors
Llanfoist: -	6 Councillors
Llanellen: -	2 Councillors

Members of Llanfoist Fawr Community Council feel that their continued strength and success within the community lies in retaining all wards currently within their boundaries. Any split would be extremely detrimental to the very busy working of the council. A council of 15 members would enable 3 further councillors to share the very heavy workload of the Llanfoist Councillors and it is hoped that some of the new vacancies created would be filled by new members of the community from within the 2 new large housing developments currently built / being developed and future residents from the Westgate Yard development. The Merthyr Road is a strong link between Llanellen, Llanfoist and Govilon and it is not felt that the Blaenavon Road creates any kind of boundary between the 2 wards.

Llanwenarth Citra is a very valued part of the Llanfoist Fawr Community and knowledge and experience of this rural community is undertaken at a local level by a longstanding Councillor with the help of all of the Llanfoist Fawr Community. The local councillor has confirmed that he believes that the wishes of the local electorate would be being ignored if the proposal to include Llanwenarth Citra within Abergavenny Town Council were to be pushed forward. If members of the public had wished to be considered part of Abergavenny Town they would have sought to have had a dwelling within its boundaries. The current arrangement permits them to feel part of a larger community without the risk of losing their very special identity as part of the Brecon Beacon National Park. The working parties comment that the "A40 creates a strong link to Abergavenny and that this road is a channel of communication" is felt to be totally irrelevant as is the other comments on how the ward is reached. No one communicates via a road! What is relevant is where the community feels it belongs, historic ties, good working relationships and friendships, where you socialise, join groups, go the church etc. and nearly all of this lies within the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council area and not within Abergavenny Town. The precept within Llanwenarth Citra would increase as the residents would be required to subsidise the activities of Abergavenny Town. The band D precept for Llanfoist in 2013/14 is £31.76 and for Abergavenny Town it is £44.54 – it is understood that this has been substantially increased for 2014/15 making an even wider gap in cost per dwelling. It is a time when household budgets are already stretched it would be very hard for Monmouthshire County Council to justify to these households why they have

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received a needless increase in Council Tax when the Government already recognises the financial burden of living in a rural area where costs are increased due to transport needs etc.

Due to the large responsibilities of the council and the large number of meetings held, whether formal or informal, 2 smaller community councils would sometimes struggle to get meetings quorate and members commented that they feel that an already large burden of responsibility would be increased by losing the benefit of collective experience / numbers. Members whilst naturally concentrating on matters within their own ward also give invaluable time / advice to all wards.

It is envisaged that by splitting the council into 2 separate councils the administrative costs / burden to the electorate, will increase substantially.

Currently the council employs 1 Clerk for 27 hours per week. The council has 1 councillor insurance policy, 1 employer's liabilities, 1 public liability insurance, 1 membership of One Voice Wales, 1 contract for electrical testing and 1 contract for Fire Maintenance within buildings. A small amount of research quickly showed that by splitting items the cost increased – in many cases the amount of cover required by law means that the cost of 2 smaller policies / agreements is far greater than the 1 larger policy. The Clerk would be required to carry out many duties in duplicate thereby necessitating an increase in hours / costs. Administration time would substantially increase and most statutory responsibilities would be doubled. I.e. all financial requirements, audit requirement, admin., VAT, HMRC, meetings, working parties and Committees, etc.

A further complication of splitting the council would be the legal designation of assets / Trusteeships to any newly formed council. Current reserve funds would need to be split and a lot of work and cost may be involved in this process.

To summarise – Llanfoist Fawr Community Council would like the panel to leave all 4 wards intact as 1 council, with 15 Members. The change proposed for the boundary of the Llanellen Ward is found to be fully acceptable.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Melanie Mercer

Clerk of the Council
Llanfoist Fawr Community Council

REC'd March 2018 – Shouldn't have regard to late correspondence but agreed with Kevin Williams to share as concerns were around Costs of new Community

Dear Mr Pearson

Proposed Community Council Boundary Changes

Further to your letter of 29th January 2018, this Community Council would like to express a number of concerns regarding the proposed changes as regards this Council's Wards.

As you know, the existing arrangement provides for the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council to consist of 12 Councillors to serve the four Wards of Llanwenarth Ultra, Llanwenarth Citra, Llanfoist and Llanellen.

It is understood from your letter that the amended proposal is to:

1. Merge Llanwenarth Citra into Abergavenny Town Council
2. Form a Llanfoist Community Council to serve the Wards of Llanfoist and Llanellen with 8 Councillors, and
3. Create a new standalone Community Council (Govilon) to serve Llanwenarth Ultra Ward with 7 Councillors.

It is very disappointing to note that there seems to be no provision to receive further consultation on these proposals before the matter is taken before the Full Council in April/May 2018.

This Community Council has previously registered consultation feedback to strongly oppose the merging of Llanwenarth Citra into Abergavenny Town Council. As follows:

Llanwenarth Citra Ward - this ward has had historical links with Llanwenarth Ultra / Llanfoist Fawr for many centuries and is a totally rural area. The Llanfoist Fawr Community Council have noted the submission by Abergavenny Town Council that this ward should be added to the Grofield Ward and feel that this is totally unacceptable. The Ward has no links with Abergavenny Town - it's residents would certainly feel affronted at the thought that they were going to be represented by a Town when they have so obviously chosen to live in a very beautiful rural location. The town is the town - not the countryside around the town - it is a totally rural community with not even a mixed" area - i.e. no hamlets /village - it does not fit in any way into the classification of the Grofield Ward in Abergavenny. The planning applications for this ward are all through the Brecon Beacon National Park (as are a significant number of others for the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council Area) and it is believed that currently Abergavenny Town Council deal only with Monmouthshire County Council planning applications. (The two planning authorities do have very different views on planning matters and totally separate Local Development Plans, planning meetings, etc.). All the links forged with the Brecon Beacon National Park Authority for this community would be lost - and this goes beyond just planning to include tourism, forestry, environment and other matters. The ward has 1 very longstanding and valued Community Councillor (currently Vice-Chairman) and this represents a ratio of 1 cllr for 139 electors - very close to the ideal of 150 that is suggested for a rural ward. Please leave this ward in the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council with the current arrangement of 1 Councillor as this is how best to represent locally the small rural community.

To the above it should also be noted that there are no obvious benefits to residents of Llanwenarth Citra to be part of Abergavenny Town. Furthermore, the Member for Llanwenarth Citra (Cllr Holland) – a resident of Llanwenarth Citra, has represented the Ward for the past 34 years and very much wishes to remain a part of Llanfoist Fawr Community Council where his contribution has been invaluable.

There are no objections to the proposal to increase the number of Councillors for the Llanfoist Ward as this is simply a consequence of increased numbers of electors. However, this Community Council does not understand why, in a period of austerity and a continued culture of cost reduction, the creation of an additional and separate Community for Govilon (formerly Llanwenarth Ultra) is being put forward.

There is a real prospect of an increased cost to the electorate to fund two Community Councils.

The table below provides a summary of best estimates regarding the potential cost implications of:-

- (i) a loss of economies of scale where existing contracts held with Llanfoist Fawr Community Council would require to be split or negotiated separately between Llanfoist & Govilon Community Councils
- (ii) additional costs associated for a single Clerk or two Clerks to support two Community Councils instead of one.
- (iii) additional costs associated with the redrafting of lease agreements, Land Registry entries, audit fees, One Voice Wales membership fees and various ad hoc costs to sustain two Community Councils as opposed to one.

Nature of Cost	Existing Cost	Assumption	Potential Cost	Cost of Boundary Change
Clerk Salary & Pension	£11,690	50% incr'	£17,535	£5,845
Grounds Maintce	£16,025	20% incr'	£19,200	£3,175
Re-draft Leases etc	Nil		£1,000	£1,000
Insurances	£3,065	20% incr'	£3,700	£635
Land Registry Fees	Nil		£500	£500
Internal Audit Fee	£325	100% incr'	£650	£325
One Voice Wales Fee	£475	50% incr'	£712	£237
External Audit Fee	£166	100% incr'	£332	£166
				£11,883

Notwithstanding the above financial implications, there are concerns on a practical level, whereby the proposals would enforce the frequency of monthly Council & Planning meetings to double.

There is also a genuine concern that a smaller standalone Govilon Community Council with 7 Members would struggle to attract candidates for election.

The position of this Community Council remains consistent with previous consultation that the most cost effective and efficient option would be for the existing Community Council boundaries to be maintained.

Yours sincerely
 Llanfoist Fawr Community Council
 March 6th 2018

Llangybi & Llanhennock Community Council

Sir

At Monday's meeting of Llanhennock Community Council we received the draft proposals for The Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements.

It was noted that pages 48 and 181 of the draft states that the Community of Llanhennock submitted no representations. We are at a loss to understand how this statement can be made because we sent the email appended below in response to the initial consultation. As you can see, the email was sent on 3rd October 2012.

Please could you explain why our representation has not been acknowledged or printed in the draft proposal?

We shall be making a further representation in respect of the draft proposal, but in the meantime I would like to point out that my brief perusal of comments received and representations made by rural community councils throughout the area show an overriding desire to maintain the status quo. In other words - 'if it ain't broke don't fix it'

Please could you respond to this email to show that you have received it.

Yours faithfully

Ieuan Williams
(Chairman Llanhennock Community Council)

-----Original Message-----

From:

To: elections <elections@monmouthshire.gov.uk>

Sent: Wed, 3 Oct 2012 14:13

Subject: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

Sir

In my capacity as Chairman of Llanhennock Community Council I am responding to the Monmouthshire County Council consultation document 'Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements.'

Whilst it is noted that Llanhennock Community Council has councillor:elector ratios at the lower end of the county scale we, as a Council, consider that this is fully justified due to the rural nature of our three wards. The geography and topography of the area combined with the dispersed nature of housing requires representatives who have an intimate knowledge of the community and its infrastructure. This knowledge cannot be imparted effectively by representatives covering a much wider area when important local issues are being considered such as planning, road repairs and improvements and crime matters.

Since each of our councillors are part of a close community who know each other so well, we are able to respond rapidly and effectively to any matter of local concern.

Our costs are minimal because we consider our roles as a privilege and pride ourselves in our community and so much of our work is done at no expense whatsoever, something which is not done for much larger urban areas.

Monmouthshire is a largely rural county and our job is to retain the appeal and sustainability of the rural community. This would not be achievable if we covered a much wider area or had a much larger councillor:elector ratio.

Hence, we would request that the status quo is retained.

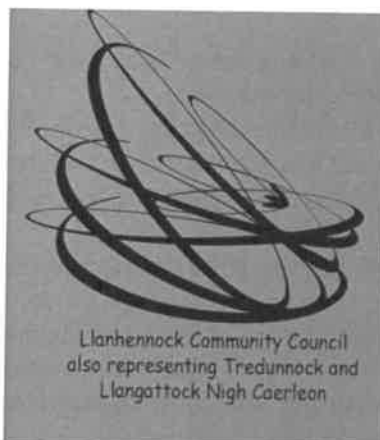
Yours faithfully

Ieuan Williams
(Chairman Llanhennock Community Council)

Llangybi & Llanhennock Community Council

Llanhennock:

Cllr. Nick Park: 01633 450250
Cllr. Alan Davies: 01633 422331
Cllr Jim Young: 01633 422555



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Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

Llanhennock Community Council first responded to the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements consultation document in October 2013. It was felt that additional submission was unnecessary as we would be reiterating our initial stance against any proposed rearrangement in councillor numbers or amalgamation of community councils.

It was therefore of some concern that the latest tome, Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements Draft Proposals extending to over 200 pages, states that our Council did not submit any representation to the March 2013 initial proposals consultation, thus implying a certain amount of apathy on our behalf.

This is far from the case.

Our Community Council is opposed to any such rearrangement and it is noted in Appendix E of the Draft Proposals that the vast majority of rural community councils are of the same opinion. The Council's Working Group proposal is the amalgamation of Llangybi Community Council with Llanhennock Community Council. It is for this reason that I, acting as Chairman of our Council attended a joint meeting with Llangybi CC to discuss the proposals. It was agreed by all Councillors that the proposals were inappropriate and would not achieve any worthwhile or positive outcome for the two Community Councils or the County Council.

Llanhennock CC comprises three wards with eight Councillors with an average 52 electors per Councillor which is approximately one-third of the 'ideal ratio' of 150 per Councillor. Whilst this may be appropriate in more densely populated areas, judging by responses in the Draft Proposals it is clearly not the case in rural areas.

Our area comprises two small villages, Llanhennock and Tredunnoch, with the remainder being dispersed houses and farms. As Councillors we represent the whole community

Llangybi & Llanhennock Community Council

and take responsibility for the wider rural area. This we undertake at no cost to the taxpayer, so it is difficult to understand how there can be any cost savings from the proposed rationalisation.

Our members are a diverse group of men and women from a wide range of backgrounds with assorted skills covering most issues we encounter in our roles on the Community Council. These combine to produce a good working relationship and knowledge base to the benefit of our community. Members' vocations include:

- Farmers with a wide and intimate knowledge of rural matters throughout the three wards;
- Retired police officer;
- Council highways engineer;
- Probation officer;
- Retired housewife with many years of Council involvement; and
- Planning consultant.

It is inconceivable that such a broad range of experiences could be brought to administration of Community Council matters if operating on a significant reduction in Councillor numbers and over a much wider area.

Since the members are spread throughout the three wards there is close contact with all the electorate and as a consequence any local issues are noticed and actioned at an early stage. This cannot be the case when Councillor numbers are significantly reduced, particularly in such a wide rural area.

It is considered that any amalgamation would result in a shift of focus to the detriment of our community. There is currently a good relationship with the electorate within our community due to the close contact and ability to action issues promptly. The proposed changes are likely to result in the electorate becoming disenfranchised, which is the complete opposite of the national politicians' desire for localism and community involvement in their own affairs.

It is of particular note that the County Council wishes to devolve some of their responsibilities to Community Councils with associated budgetary accountability. It seems quite evident that amalgamation of Community Councils will result in a focus on certain areas within the proposed larger community to the detriment of more remote and less populated areas within the boundaries. An example would be Gatlas Lane which suffered years of neglect and heavy traffic accessing the Water Treatment Works (WTW) as a short cut. Without close local attention and knowledge this would have been neglected even further to the point of being unpassable to cars. Lobbying by our Community Council has resulted in a resurfaced lane and discontinued use by HGVs and large vehicles accessing the WTW.

As a council we give our time for free and see our roles as a privilege. We are enthusiastic and attendance at meetings averages 90%, allowing a good representation of opinions from across the area. Any vacancies are filled immediately without recourse to election expenses. Reduction in councillor numbers will inevitably result in elections

Llangybi & Llanhennock Community Council

due to the desire of the Councillors to be involved in our community. This will have attendant electoral costs which we have not experienced for many years.

In conclusion, there is no perceptible advantage to the proposed amalgamation of Community Councils and reduction in numbers of Community Councillors. It is quite likely that costs will increase due to electoral issues. The changes will be to the detriment of the community as a whole. It has to be asked – what is the purpose of a Community Council if it cannot effectively service its electorate and community area?

Llangybi & Llanhennock Community Council

Andrew Wilkinson

I welcome the opportunity to make a contribution to the Consultation process and have the following observations :-

O Entirely appropriate for the Community Council structure to be reviewed from time to time and; in principle some rationalisation is sensible.

O I would be interested to have a better understanding of the underpinning rationale and no doubt the public meeting will address this for wider benefit. The formula based on number of residents is understandable but needs to be considered alongside local and sometimes potentially conflicting interests.

O In determining the number of Councillors involved within a Council particularly important to have a full understanding of the extent to which responsibilities may be further devolved from the County Council.

O There is some risk in that asking fewer people to do more will prove counter productive in terms of the flow of volunteers particularly in circumstances where achieving some balance in the age and experience profile of Councillors is currently a challenge. I accept that filling spaces is sometimes a challenge.

O The proposed changes place additional reliance on a reduced number to attend regularly and, if these proposals are implemented then guidance around expected attendance (if not already in existence) should be provided. Whilst removing a Councillor should be a last resort equally efficient and democratic functioning of individual Councils is of real importance.

O A better understanding across the wider public of the role of Community Councils ie what they can do and what they cannot do would be useful. This is especially important if further powers are to be devolved from County Council.

O The ability of Councils and particularly individual Councillors to access confidential and impartial advice (apart from the Clerk to the Council) could usefully be reviewed alongside re-organisation. There is a wider training issue but in realistic terms there is a limit to the extent to which volunteers can be asked to do more albeit the corollary is of course the inevitability of the County Council doing less going forward.

Hope the observations are of some use.

Andrew Wilkinson

Llangybi & Llanhennock Community Council

Peter Harkness

Good morning

I have reviewed the proposed arrangements for the above, and have three concerns:

- The underlying rationale for the proposals to merge and reduce the number of elected representatives
- The logic for merging the CCs concerned (apart from applying a formula to arrive at the desired number of Councillors)
- The increased workload that is likely to be involved in dealing with issues across a bigger and less well known area allied to likely additional responsibilities which will be devolved to Community Councils

On the face of it my view is that any re-organisation should take place once the implications of the last of these is known.

I'm unable to make the consultation meeting and would be grateful if you would ensure that these concerns are raised.

Many thanks

Patrick Harkness

Llangybi & Llanhennock Community Council

Llangybi Fawr Community Council submissions on the Review

Llangybi Fawr Community Council has the following general observations on the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements:

1. We question whether this is a good time to be proposing substantial reductions in the number of community and town councillors when the policy seems to be to devolve responsibilities down on to communities and towns. There is also the further uncertainty brought about by the anticipated reorganisation of primary councils as proposed in the Williams-review. It begs the question as to why and for what purpose these proposals are being made now. It seems to be bringing about a great deal of upheaval and confusion without any serious gain. There certainly appears to be no financial benefit accruing.
2. An aim of the review was to remove existing inconsistencies in the level of representation within the county, but in the event, the review has introduced or maintained a number of inconsistencies. We will refer to this further below.
3. The reductions proposed in the review fall predominantly on rural areas. In practice, in these communities, there is more ground to cover, and extra councillors are needed, not fewer.

We turn now to comments relating specifically to the proposals for Llangybi Fawr and Llanhennock:

1. The review proposes a huge cut in representation for the residents of our two communities, down from 17 councillors to 8. No other community is subjected to such a large cut. This loss of nine councillors will lead to a huge loss of experience, expertise and local knowledge. Moreover, there is no synergy between Llangybi Fawr and Llanhennock. The two communities seem to be pushed together merely because they are adjacent. The reference in the review to the road links between the two communities centring on Cwrt Bleddyn is at best dubious and at worst not true.
2. Llangybi Fawr has approximately 750 electors. The review includes proposals for the survival of five community councils with smaller electorates - significantly smaller in several examples. Because of this, we in Llangybi Fawr cannot understand why it is considered necessary to combine us with another community. We note that in those communities smaller than Llangybi, the review panel seem comfortable to propose some extremely low electorate/councillor ratios, for example, 27/1 (Matherŷ), 89/2 (Grosmont), 267/5 (Skenfrith). All these ratios are far lower than those existing currently in the wards of Llangybi Fawr.
3. The proposed new council for Llangybi/Llanhennock has 5 single member wards (out of 6). No other proposed council has as many or as high a proportion of single member wards. It changes the balance of the council. It also means that there is a significant risk of areas not being represented at council meetings because of illness, holidays, &c. It puts a greater load on individual councillors, as well as more pressure because of the sole representation. The larger area covered could well give rise to more issues coming up at meetings, resulting in longer and difficult meetings. Overall, the job of a community councillor, which is purely voluntary and unpaid, will become more onerous and less attractive, with the consequence that local people will be less attracted to the task and not put themselves forward as future councillors. This will result in less democracy and accountability rather than the more hoped for.

Llangybi & Llanhennock Community Council

4. The review states that there are no developments in the community. This is not correct because there is a proposal in the draft LDP for 10 new dwellings in Llangybi. In addition there are current planning applications for an additional two dwellings as well as a restoration and extension of a currently unoccupied property in the village. These developments will push the population of Llangybi ward over 500, which, based on proposals elsewhere in rural areas, merits at least 4 councillors, and we would argue justifies retaining the current 5 seats.
5. In conclusion, we would point out that the current arrangements are working very well as far as Llangybi Fawr is concerned so it begs the question why it is considered necessary to change them. We fail to see how the new proposals would make the system in any way better than we have at present. In fact, we believe the new proposals will bring many disadvantages, be less accountable, less efficient, and therefore less accountable.

Graham Rogers
Chairman Llangybi Fawr Community Council

Llangybi & Llanhennock Community Council

Further Evidence for Working Group on Reorganisation from Llangybi CC

Llangybi Fawr Community Council has three wards – Llangybi with 5 councillors, Llandegfedd with 2, and Coed-y-Paen with 2. We strongly oppose the proposal to reduce our representation from 5:2:2 to 3:1:1 and amalgamate us with Llanhennock Community Council. We are a very active – and proactive – council, involving ourselves with numerous issues concerning our local area.

In addition to all our work within our wards, we work with several other groups within the locality. One or more of our members represent us at the following groups, attending meetings and reporting back to council:

Monmouthshire Rural Forum 6-weekly meetings

One Voice Wales Regular local meetings and Annual Conference

Prison Council Liaison Group Quarterly meetings, also cascade abscond reports

Coed-y-Paen Residents Assoc Bi-monthly meetings, also regular liaison

Area Health Issues Ad hoc meetings

Llangybi Village Hall Regular meetings

Parochial Church Council Regular meetings

Recently, we negotiated the purchase of a plot of land, arranging a loan from the Public Works Loan Board. Having canvassed local opinion, we have organised allotments, setting up an Allotment Association, drafting a memorandum of agreement to set out responsibilities between the Council and Association. We have also negotiated the purchase of two redundant telephone kiosks from BT, one of which is now successfully functioning as a village library in Coed-y-Paen, the other of which we have refurbished with a view to creating another village library in Llandegfedd.

We are in the process of developing two Community Led Plans, one for Llangybi and Llandegfedd, the other for Coed-y-Paen. Each has involved organising open meetings, forming steering groups, manning public consultation sessions, developing questionnaires, and distributing and collecting the latter. We are currently awaiting the analysis of the results by adventa before drafting the two Community Led Plans.

We are also currently in the process of purchasing a defibrillator for Llangybi, with the intention of purchasing a further two for the other villages. We will arrange training sessions for local residents as and when the defibrillators are installed. We believe we will be the first community council in Monmouthshire to install a defibrillator.

We are responsible for the maintenance of several facilities in our area. Primarily we have a grassed play area in Llangybi (for which we have purchased play equipment) and which we arrange to be mown at regular intervals. We are also responsible for the upkeep of two further grassed areas in the centre of Llangybi and an ancient Cadw Scheduled sacred well (St Cybi's well) which Council restored with the aid of grants. We have purchased a number of notice-boards, benches and litter bins distributed around our three villages. We also have several dog-waste bins and purchase appropriate bags for free use by dog owners. We provide financial support to the four churches in our area as well as the Residents Association in Coed-y-Paen.

Llangybi and Coed-y-Paen have their own websites, and as well as having information on councillors, we provide regular updates on our activities. We also provide articles on our activities for a 'Steps' a quarterly church Newsletter. One of our members has

Llangybi & Llanhennock Community Council

prepared an information leaflet primarily for newcomers in Llangybi, but of use for all residents, with information on local facilities, transport, &c.

We have a large number of public footpaths in our area and one of our councillors is a trained footpath assessor. We also organise teams of volunteer litter-pickers to keep our roads tidy.

We take our responsibilities regarding planning matters very seriously, carefully considering all applications in our area. We respond to all applications, attending and addressing Planning Committee Meetings on numerous occasions where appropriate. On several occasions we have attended planning appeals, putting forward our views. We were instrumental in obtaining an Article 4 Order on a local area of woodland to protect it from unsuitable development. We have actively participated in the Local Development Plan process, presenting our case at Monmouthshire Council sessions and also several sessions before the Welsh Government Inspector. We, together with Llanbadoc Community Council and Coed-y-Paen Residents' Association, have maintained close contact with Welsh Water over their development of facilities at Llandegfedd Reservoir.

All this is in addition to the regular contact we maintain with our residents to be aware of any issues that concern them. Llangybi Fawr is a large rural area, and requires the current level of representation to provide an adequate level of cover to keep in touch with residents. It would be impossible for us to maintain our current level of activity and keep abreast of local issues with the proposed reduction of councillors from 9 to 5. We would also lose a great deal of knowledge and expertise. Our current councillors include a consultant paediatrician, a farmer, a manager of a higher education establishment, a former JP, as well as a retired educationalist and retired civil servant. This gives residents greater scope for addressing their concerns to the most appropriate and best qualified person. We also have an acceptable gender mix of 6 male and 3 female councillors – a gender mix which wards reduced to a single representative could lose completely.

We also strongly oppose the proposed amalgamation of Llangybi Fawr with Llanhennock. We have no affinity with Llanhennock and there is no synergy between the two. We in Llangybi tend to look towards Usk and the rest of Monmouthshire, whereas Llanhennock looks more towards its neighbours Caerleon, Ponthir and Newport. The proposal to reduce the representation from 17 councillors to 8 is a massive cut and will hit the local community hard. To create a new council with 5 single member wards would seriously put at risk the representation that the wards now enjoy. Any absences of councillors for holiday or illness would leave large wards unrepresented at meetings.

Graham Rogers, Chairman Llangybi Fawr Community

Llangybi & Llanhennock Community Council

COED-Y-PAEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Sirs

I am writing on behalf of the Coed-y- Paen Residents Association which represents the views of residents in our village. We discussed the proposals in the above Review at our recent AGM. Everyone was concerned about the impact they would have in our ward of Coed-y- Paen.

Our ward covers a large area and we consider it justifiable for the ward to be represented by two councillors. At present we have one male and one female councillor, and consider that the gender balance offers residents options when raising issues. Also, our two councillors have different perspectives and offer us different skills, knowledge and experience.

With two councillors, we are virtually guaranteed representation at community council meetings, whereas, should we have only a single member, there will inevitably be occasions, because of holidays, illness etc. when our representative will not be available, and our voice would not be heard.

We are also very concerned about the proposal that Llangybi and Llanhennock Community Councils should be merged. We do not know what issues concern Llanhennock, but are sure that they will differ from those that concern us.

We in Coed-y-Paen very much look towards Usk, for local shopping and leisure interests as do the residents of the other two wards in our area. In fact everyone in Coed-y-Paen is extremely irritated that our postal address is Pontypool and not Usk. We suspect that residents in Llanhennock look much towards Caerleon and Newport. Consequently because of this difference in focus we are not convinced that the two community councils would work well together.

It seems to us that this review offers very little financial benefit to the County Council and does nothing to improve communication and efficiency within the community.

So in conclusion, we would urge the review team to reconsider their decision to reduce our representation to a single councillor. We would also urge the team not to amalgamate Llangybi Fawr and Llanhennock community councils.

Llantrisant & Llangwm Communities

Response of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council to the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

Dear Sir,

Members of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council discussed the draft Review of Community Boundaries and Electoral Arrangement at its meeting on the 9th January and have requested that I convey their opposition to the proposals as they apply to Llantrisant Fawr Community Council, namely that it be combined with Llangwm Community Council to form a new Council area.

Members are opposed to the draft proposals for the following reasons:

1. Whilst the proposal is more in line with the County Council's criteria published earlier last year, the creation of a new community council of Llantrisant & Llangwm council will half the number of elected members and therefore greatly reduce both the level of representation for rural communities and the involvement of local residents who would wish to get involved in local community affairs through work on local councils. Local democracy will suffer as a result.
2. A single Council for such a greatly increased land area will result in a loss of local focus as the interests and issues of separately local communities will naturally be different.
3. The draft proposals will not save the County Council any money or resources and it is likely that it will not result much in the way of savings for most community councils. At a time when there could be changes to local government in Wales it is unwise to make changes in the structure of this most basic tier of local government when the future of the Unitary Authorities is in question.
4. The draft proposals fail to demonstrate or give any evidence as to how the work of local councils and local democracy would be enhanced or improved by such measures. If there are no advantages then why make changes?

Members of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council urge the County Council reconsider their proposals for our community area and maintain the status quo.

Additional Comments

5. *We are concerned that the proposals allocate only one member for the Gwernesney Ward whilst at present it has three. Members do not consider this an adequate level of representation. One member wards suffer the disadvantage that if the elected member is away or absent through illness there is no other councillor available to represent the ward.*
6. *In view of the publication of the Williams Report which recommends a major reorganisation of community councils in Wales it would seem sensible to now await these new proposals rather than put Monmouthshire Community Councils through 2 successive reorganisations.*

Yours faithfully,

John Turner
Clerk,
Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

LLANGWM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Clerk: Mrs Carleen Martin
4 St Vincents Drive
Monmouth, NP25 4DS**

clerk@llangwm.org.uk

Monmouthshire County Council
PO Box 106
Caldicot
NP26 9AN

7 February 2014

Dear Sirs,

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

My Council has directed me to write to object most strongly to the proposals relating to this Council from the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements.

It is the view of this Council that the proposals, if implemented, would lead to an electoral arrangement that is not fit for purpose.

This Council endorses the very sensible comments in the document from Llantrissant Fawr Community Council, repeated here:

- Whilst the council accept that there is a wide variation between levels of representation in Monmouthshire, strict levels of representation are less important than the recognition of geographical factors and natural boundaries of communities based on settlement.
- Any enlargement of the existing community would result in a loss of community focus.
- Trying to create a community with a minimum of 1,000 electors would create a community of a large number of scattered villages with different priorities and interests.
- The prime function of a community is to represent the views, interests and act on behalf of a well-defined community based on patterns of human settlement and not predefined councillor to elector ratio.
- The council believe that the current arrangements have proved effective in that it represents a small cluster of settlements with a shared sense of location and local identity. To that end they propose no change to the existing arrangements.

In addition, this Council makes the following observations regarding the proposals:

1. The Terms of Reference state (page 3) that "The review ...will aim to ensure that any proposals put forward by the Council achieve effective and convenient local government for the electors". However:
 - a. It cannot be effective and convenient for electors to have to travel across such a wide area to attend council meetings. In an area where there is very little public transport this cannot help the sustainability agenda and will also increase costs.
 - b. It cannot be effective for councillors to be asked to represent the views of community areas within which they do not reside and have limited local knowledge
 - c. We strongly believe that there should be no change to current arrangements for the following additional reasons:-
 - We believe that there is currently little in common between our council and adjacent councils, with which a merger is proposed. This is because of localised factors which are of importance only to our respective communities.
 - We believe that current arrangements are working effectively, and the proposed changes will add nothing, whilst placing at risk the effective working arrangements we currently have.
 - d. Each of the four local communities would suffer less effective local representation, as a broader range and number of matters would necessarily have to be considered by a larger council. This would result in less focus on those very local issues that are so important to dispersed communities and which motivate local people to serve on their community councils.
 - e. It would be ineffective to have a situation in which any ward is represented by a single councillor. This is the current proposal for Llansoy ward, and we are strongly opposed to this. Llansoy village's electors would be unrepresented at any meeting that its single councillor could not attend. Furthermore local representation works best when it is possible for local discussion and debate between councillors for each ward. The proposals are clearly not effective.
2. The Terms of Reference state (page 8) that "The Council will seek to ensure that a community is created which is based on an area which reflects the identity and interests of that community.". The existing area already matches this description, but would not do so if enlarged. The identity of the area is confirmed by the local interests within it. As well as the local churches/chapel, these include the Women's Institute and Local History Groups which draw their support from Llangwm and Llansoy, but certainly not from Llantrissant.

3. The report makes the case that there are "a number of small single track roads that link the Llantrisant ward and the Llangwm ward". There are actually two, numbered the 63.1 and the 63.3 when they get to Llangwm. As stated these roads are single track, however they are also steep with few passing-places. Due to the lack of maintenance by the local authority they are passable mainly by farm and 4*4 traffic only. These links are certainly not prominent as asserted and could not be used to support the merger of the two communities.
4. Although the Terms of Reference do not include a cost benefit it is worth noting that little cost saving would be achieved. No Llangwm Community Councillor draws any allowances and reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses is very limited. Travel expenses for council business beyond the council's area are also very small. We do not understand how investment of resources into these proposals at this time can be justified.

We trust that these objections will alert the Review to the problems with the proposed changes and that they will not be implemented.

Yours faithfully,

Carleen Martin

Carleen Martin
Clerk

Llantrisant & Llangwm Communities

Dear Councillor Greenland,

There is great dismay in Llansoy at the news that under a new arrangement our community council is to be merged with Llantrisant and Gwernesney, and that we are to be reduced from two councillors to one.

Can you explain why the new arrangement has been decided on, and what the point of it is? I understand it will result in no financial saving. But it will reduce democracy in our area. Each community should always have at least two representatives on any council, so there is someone else to go to if there is a disagreement with one of them. In fact we are completely satisfied with our existing councillors

It seems to have been arbitrarily decided that each community council should serve a population of a thousand. This may be useful in urban areas, but it is completely unsuitable for the widely scattered rural villages of Eastern Monmouthshire, and seems no more than a pointless bureaucratic exercise. Llansoy has no connection with Llantrisant, does not border on it, cannot even see it. I can, as it happens, see your house from my own : we therefore have interests in common. But with Llantrisant we have none.

I hope it is not too late to prevent the new arrangement coming into force.

Yours sincerely

Julian Mitchell

Llantrisant & Llangwm Communities

I do not object to the proposed changes. There have been no elections to the Llangwm and Llansoy Community council for many years now, most of the members have been co-opted, and I have not felt that my interests have been represented. I do however feel that many of the Community Councillors intend to serve the community. I have found that the Monmouthshire One Stop Shops have been very helpful with local issues which concern me. For instance last year I visited the one in Chepstow to discuss the state of the lane past my house. The lane was inspected and repairs carried out in a timely manner to a good standard. Therefore I feel that county resources would be well directed to supporting these excellent facilities, which are of benefit to the residents of Monmouthshire.

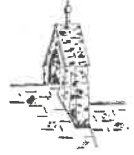
Regards, Sylvia Fowles.



MAGOR WITH UNDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED MAGWYR A GWYNDY

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Our Ref/Ein Cyf:

Your Ref/Eich Cyf:

Date/Dyddiad

12th February 2014

Election Office,
Monmouthshire County Council
The Rhadyr
USK
NP15 1GA

Dear Sirs

**REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS –
Draft Proposals**

We refer to the draft proposals published on 2nd December 2013. These, in respect of the Community of Magor with Undy have been reviewed by members of the Community Council, and we make the following observations and comments.

Natural Boundaries /Key Features

2. Following the publication of the Williams Report, it may be that the western boundary, which is the local authority boundary, may change if Monmouthshire joins Newport to make one Unitary Authority.

Electorate Forecast

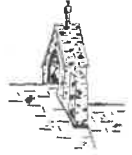
- 3.1 Following the Planning Inspectorate review of Monmouthshire's LDP a further 70 dwellings are planned for the Rockfield Farm site, and an additional site has been identified at Vinegar Hill, which will be an additional 225 dwellings. The draft review does not take into consideration this increase, and the impact it will have on the electorate- a possible extra 590 electors.



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- 3.2 The additional dwellings at Rockfield and Vinegar Hill could actually increase the total electorate from 4676 to 5866

External Boundary

5. The Community Council would challenge the use of the M4 as a natural boundary.

The recommendation to maintain the M4 services and the hamlet of the Knollbury (both of which are north of the M4 – proposed northern boundary) as an exception does not make sense, when the report wants to exclude one or two outlying farms, agricultural properties, and the hamlet of Common y coed.

The draft document does not justify why the existing boundary of the Community of Magor and Undy should be changed other than using the M4 as a northern boundary. But why then should there be exceptions – the M4 services and the Knollbury – the report does not justify this.

Internal Boundaries

- 5.1 The Community Council office would have been able to advise the group had they asked, as to the connection and affinity the ward names and boundaries of the existing wards have to Magor and Undy. These names are all connected historically to the various areas.

Mill Ward: The ward sits adjacent to the Mill stream, a natural waterway classed as a major river. There was historically a Mill (on the site of Magor Motors) crucial to the village economy for centuries.

Salisbury Ward: The dwellings of this ward are built on the 'Salisbury Manor'. This Manor is documented as far back as 1314.

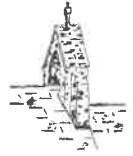
Denny Ward: This ward covers part of the Gwent Levels, a patchwork of fields drained during the Roman times, when the Undy Causeway ran out to Denny Island (in the middle of the Severn Estuary) which was and still is part of the Community



MAGOR WITH UNDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED MAGWYR A GWYNDY

admin@magorundy.co.uk

www.magorundy.org.uk



Our Ref/Ein Cyf:

Your Ref/Eich Cyf:

Date/Dyddiad

(Parish) of Undy. Local farmers and smallholders grazed their sheep and cattle on the island at low tide.

Elms Ward: This ward is built on land that once belonged to the Elms Farm (now demolished), which was adjacent to the Elms Road – which leads onto the Storefields Road. The 'Elms Cottage' still remains on the B4245. The agricultural cottages on the approach to Church Road adjacent to the 'Elms Ramp' are still called 'The Elms'.

Magor West

- 5.2 This new proposed area/ward currently includes the majority of the existing Mill, Salisbury wards and part of the Denny ward. It actually encompasses the majority of the village of Magor. The brook identified by the group is in fact the Mills Stream – the reason for the name of the current Mill Ward. Any property west/south of the Mill Stream is classed as a Magor postal address.

Magor East

- 5.3 This new proposed area/ward currently includes a huge chunk of the existing Elms Ward, and part of the Denny Ward. It actually encompasses the majority of the village of Undy, and several outlying hamlets. The new proposed area/ward again uses the Mill Stream as the boundary. Currently any property east or north of the Mill Stream is classed as an Undy postal address.

Undy

- 5.4 This new proposed area/ward currently includes a small area of the existing Elms ward. It is assumed that the new developments as proposed in the LDP, at Rockfield Farm and Vinegar Hill will be encompassed in this proposed ward.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The Community Council acknowledge the fact that the villages have grown in size, and whilst they would welcome the opportunity to maintain the 'Community Council' status, they realise that it may



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Date/Dyddiad

have no alternative but to accept the recommendation that the status be changed to that of 'Town Council'.

The Community Council would challenge the ward names as proposed by the group, and have several suggestions regarding ward names and boundaries. (*Detailed at the end of this document*)

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The Community Council accept that the Community of Magor and Undy is classified as an 'Urban' area in line with the Terms of Reference document: "A community where the electorate is densely populated within the boundaries that have been defined for that community"

As an 'Urban' area, the Community Council accept, reluctantly, the ratio of 500 electors per councillor.

The Community Council would question whether the group has considered the additional work and time that the devolution of services from the Unitary Authority may put on Town and Community Councils and Councillors, and whether they acknowledge that the role of Community Councillor is a voluntary unpaid position often taken on by persons already in full time employment. A reduction in Community Councillors would only put additional pressure on the remaining Councillors, and the Community Council's ability to function efficiently.

Recommendations, and/or Suggestions To The Working Group From The Community Council

The Community Council cannot accept the working group's current draft Proposal document in respect of the Community of Magor and Undy in its current form, and would ask them to consider the following recommendations or suggestions.

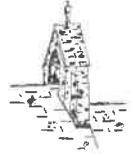
External Boundary



MAGOR WITH UNDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED MAGWYR A GWYNDY

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Date/Dyddiad

The Community Council recommend that the external boundary remains as it is currently (with one exception detailed below), and that no other changes are made, and no parts of the current community are lost to neighbouring Community Council wards.

The Community Council recommend that there is an exception to the current external boundary, so that it encompasses one dwelling (Nannygoat Cottage) situated in the hamlet of Common y coed, but which is the only property in the hamlet that is currently included in the neighbouring ward of Caerwent. It should be included with the others properties under the Community of Magor with Undy.

Internal Boundary

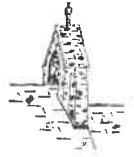
- a. The Community Council recommend that the group reconsider the ward names, and that the existing ward names (Mill, Denny, Salisbury, Elms) remain in existence in some form or other in order to maintain a reference to the history of the area.
- b. The Community Council recommend that the group revisits the proposed ward boundaries.
- c. The Salisbury and Denny ward could be amalgamated, and called the 'Salisbury & Denny Ward' bringing the electorate to a total of 1057 (this includes a possible 180 from the new development of 90 dwellings at Kensington Park). 1057 would equate to 2 councillors.
- d. The Mill Ward boundary could remain the same/similar with 1331 electors, equating to say 3 councillors.
- e. The Elms ward boundary will in the future include a potential extra 1000 electors from the proposed LDP development. The ward would increase from 2468 electors to say 3500. This equates to 7 councillors.
- f. If considered too large a ward, The Elms could be split, and the one half take on the name 'Rockfield Farm Ward' – the new developments proposed in the LDP are being built on Rockfield Farm.



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Date/Dyddiad

- g. Overall, on the above recommendations, the split of the wards should equate to a total of 12 councillors, instead of the proposed 10.

The Community Council trust that the working group will seriously consider the comments and recommendations made in this representation and arrive at a resolution that is favourable to both the Community Council and the Unitary Authority.

Should the working group wish to discuss the contents of this representation, the Community Council will be only too pleased to discuss them.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Beverly Reed
Clerk to the Council

MATHERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT PROPOSALS - ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Response from Mathern Community Council - Feb 2014

Mathern Community Councillors discussed relevant sections of the above at length. They agreed unanimously that, where feasible, Mathern Community Council area should be outlined by the major trunk roads.

1. The entire Newhouse Industrial Estate should lie within Mathern area and its boundary here run along the M48/A466 Link Road.
Councillors noted that Newhouse has a direct impact on Mathern village in terms of light/noise pollution and that the Community Council was instrumental in the erection of the bund to "protect" the village (and its Conservation Area) when the land was first developed for industrial purposes.
2. The High Beech development is bounded by the Link Road, the A48 and land covered by Mathern Community Council. (Access to it is from the A48, not the Link Road.) The proposed transfer of the houses here to Kingsmark Ward cuts off a square corner of Pwllmeyric Ward. A straight boundary, formed by the Link Road and the A48, is preferable, especially as Kingsmark Ward covers no other land/dwellings south of the A466.
3. Mathern Community Council disagreed strongly with proposed changes to its western boundary. It felt that this should continue to follow the A48 as far as the M48 bridge. The properties which the preliminary proposals state "appear to be more associated with the Crick area of Caerwent..." do, in fact, have strong links with Mathern in terms of association and integration. Runston, too, has links with Mathern in that occasional church services are held in the ruins of Runston Church. Summarising, it was thus felt that boundaries here should remain unchanged.
4. Mounton Ward, considerably reduced by the proposals, should be extended on its north-eastern edge to include the hamlet of (old) Bayfield and all of Barnetts Farm, which is split at present. The Community Council suggested that all dwellings exiting on to Mounton Lane on its north-east side, in a line more or less with its junction with St. Lawrence Lane, to include "The Chestnuts" and "Evington", should be incorporated into Mounton Ward.
5. In the village of Mounton, it has been suggested that Mounton Cottage be placed in Pwllmeyric Ward. The Community Council wish to point out that, whilst the house is to the north of Mounton Brook, the brook actually runs through its garden. The cottage is an integral part of the village and, as such, should remain in Mounton Ward.
6. The Community Council noted from previous electoral maps of Mathern Wards that Newton Grange has historically been part of Pwllmeyric. This dwelling is at the point of a "tail" of Pwllmeyric Ward which meets Mathern Ward at the

village War Memorial. It shares a boundary with this. The house is therefore on the outskirts of Mathern village and should be placed in Mathern Ward.

7. Finally, the recently published Local Development Plan includes a new development in Mathern village. Bearing this in mind, as well as the above suggestions, members of Mathern Community Council request that the number of future Councillors for Mathern Ward is not reduced. The existing Community Council of nine members has a well-balanced skill/experience-mix in terms of Finance, Planning, Education, Countryside etc. It does not have sub-committees and Councillors take responsibility for various issues according to their own particular skill area. A number smaller than nine also makes the likelihood of raising a quorum less likely on the rare occasions such a need arises.

Carolyn Ovenden
Vice-Chairman, Mathern Community Council

Feb. 2014



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Monmouthshire County Council
PO Box 106, Caldicot
NP26 9AN
Cyngor Sir Fynwy
Blwch SP 106, Cil-y-coed
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Tel/Ffôn: 01633 644644
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Web/Gwefan: www.monmouthshire.gov.uk

J Pearson Esq
Local Democracy Manager
Election Office
Monmouthshire County Council
The Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

15 May 2013

Address for correspondence:
7 Wyelands View
Mathern
Chepstow
Monmouthshire
NP16 6HN

Tel: 01291 621846

e-mail: grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Scanned 21/05/13

Dear John

Re: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

With reference to the above Review, I have had the opportunity to look at the submissions made by Mathern Community Council and Shirenewton Community Council, amongst others.

Mathern

I broadly agree with the submissions which have been made by Mathern Community Council. It seems to me to make obvious sense to use the A466 between High Beech roundabout and Newhouse roundabout as the eastern boundary of the Community, and as a clear dividing line with Chepstow. This brings a small amount of agricultural land to the north west of Newhouse roundabout into the Community, as well as two properties, one of which is a commercial property, to the west of High Beech roundabout (which would fall in the Pwllmeyric Ward).

At the southern end, it would seem sensible to use the M48 eastwards towards the Wye Bridge as the boundary, which would bring the whole of the Newhouse Industrial Estate within the Mathern Community.

There is a case for extending the eastern edge of the Community northwards from High Beech roundabout towards Mounton Road (westwards), and thereafter using Mounton Road as the northern boundary, with the few properties to the south of the road coming into the Mathern Community. If this is agreed the affected properties could conveniently be associated with the Mounton Ward.

Mathern Community Council have also suggested bringing "old" Bayfield within the Mounton Ward. Again, I see the sense of this in representing the division between urban Chepstow and the more rural area.

There is a single property on the Usk Road which, perversely, falls within the Mathern Community. The dwelling is completely isolated from the remainder of the Community, and I would argue that it really ought to be part of Chepstow's St Kingsmark Ward.

Working with the citizens of Monmouthshire

This letter is from an individual Member and is not written on behalf of the Council
Dan'r llythyr yma oddi wrth Aelod unigol ac ni ysgrifennwyd ar ran y Cyngor.



Likewise, the register includes a single property on High Beech Lane, which can only be an error.

Shirenewton

Once more, I broadly concur with the submission made by Shirenewton Community Council. No changes are necessary to the boundaries of the Community as a whole, albeit that there are a few dwellings along the western side of the Crick Road north of Crick, which would appear to have greater affinity with Shirenewton than with Caerwent.

The principal change which is required to the Shirenewton community involves the division between Earlswood and Shirenewton Wards. Under the present arrangements a large part of Earlswood falls within the Shirenewton Ward which is plainly preposterous. The boundary ought to be drawn so that anything to the north of Cock A Roostin falls within the Earlswood Ward.

I hope you find these comments helpful.

Regards

Yours sincerely



Graham Down
County Councillor for Shirenewton & Mathern

Community of Mitchel Troy

I only have one comment that came back from my Community Council regarding Mitchel Troy on Tuesday of this week. They are broadly in favour of the thinking behind the proposals, but they just wanted to query the numbers in paragraph 7 on page two in that why does DINGESTOW with 234 electors get on Community councillor when TREGARE with fewer electors, namely 223 get two Councillors.

The only other comment was that Dingestow is expecting to get the go ahead for an exception site as featured in the LDP, is this sufficiently significant with respect to this?

Kind regards
Geoff Burrows

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Shire Hall
Agincourt Square
Monmouth
NP25 3DY



Tel: 01600 715662
Email: townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk
www.monmouth.gov.uk

20 February 2014

Mr J Pearson
Monmouthshire County Council

Dear Sir

I am opposed to any changes to the boundaries of the Overmonnow Ward in Monmouth the only exception to this would be to include within this ward any new estates which are proposed for the near future. A second suggestion would be any new estate becomes a new ward of Monmouth with its own Councillors.

Yours sincerely

Cllr G A Bright
Overmonnow Ward

Councillor Susan White,
Overmonnow Ward
Monmouth

Portfield Farm
Wonastow Road
Monmouth
NP25 4DQ

16/2/14

Re Electoral Registration.

Dear Mr Pearson,

I wish to strongly object to the merging of the ancient part of Overmonnow with Monmouth Town. We will lose the heart of our Community, our Church and Church Hall (the only Community Hall in Overmonnow Ward) and small businesses of which we are so proud.

Overmonnow was an ancient settlement, which became a town with its own town mayor, it is mentioned in history books of Monmouth. We have St Thomas Square with its four saints facing the 4 churches that are named after them.

The many parishioners of St Thomas cannot comprehend the thinking behind this ill thought out plan, I have not heard from any resident of Overmonnow who would wish this plan to happen.

Would you allow me to suggest to the Board that they take the LDP land on Wonastow road, put it with Drybridge Ward with the fields around , which are already part of Drybridge Ward ? Give Drybridge another town councillor (as there only three at this time) This seems the fair and simplest way of saving our vibrant community of Overmonnow.

Yours sincerely

Susan White



Community of Monmouth

Dear Mr Pearson

I have decided to only deal with my own Osbaston with Dixton constituency here in Monmouth as obviously I have more knowledge of my electors than of other wards. I agree with most of the suggestions bar one. The demarcation line would be better to include the left side of Dixton Road up to the traffic lights and also the area of The Parade and Monk Street to the traffic lights.

Thank you for all your hard work concerning this.

Regards Cllr Jeana Hall

Community of Monmouth

Sir

According to a letter in the Monmouthshire Beacon newspaper from Councillor Sue Chivers and County Councillor Sue White, Monmouthshire County Council are proposing to change the ward boundaries of Overmonnow.

As a resident of Overmonnow, I strongly object to this blatant attempt to "rewrite history" purely to satisfy quotas and obey dictums from those who are no respecters of ancient traditions and byelaws.

The Council is wrong to 'lump' St Thomas's church, Drybridge Street, Cinderhill Street, Goldwire Lane or Kings Fee into the town ward, simply to balance some quota. Those streets and that church belong with the Overmonnow ward which has always been separate from the town. St Thomas's was built in the 12th century. In 1830 the church was given its own parish – Overmonnow – and made separate from the town and the church of St Mary's.

Should these areas be moved into the town, it is assumed that at election times, the residents will have to vote 'in the town' i.e., at the Library. Few enough turn out at present but if faced with a not inconsiderable walk to the top end of town, the turnout would be considerably reduced. Is this what the Council wants?

We are given to understand the changes are being considered in readiness for the proposed new development off the Wonastow Road. This smacks of prescience, particularly when one considers the current high profile of flooding in areas that have been over-developed.

I urge Monmouthshire County Council to leave Overmonnow Ward intact, as it has been for centuries.

Mrs J Allin
Holywell Close
Overmonnow

Community of Monmouth

FAO of Mr. John Pearson,

Dear Mr Pearson,

I would like to comment on the proposed boundary changes for the Overmonnow Ward. To take a part of Overmonnow into the Town Ward would make a nonsense of the historical layout of the town where the suburb of Overmonnow has always been seen and recorded as being separate to the main town. Overmonnow has always had its own Church, defences and industries – as distinct from those of the other side of the natural river boundary – some of these going back to Roman times. Consequently I wish to record an objection to the proposed changes.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Clarke, MBE, FSA, MIFA
Clawdd-y-Celyn
9 Gibraltar Drive
Monmouth

Concern re Dixton with Osbaston Ward

Having taken part in the preliminary workshops which seemed to focus on each community's sense of identity and 'place', I am concerned about some of the proposals in the scheme.

In particular, I am worried that Dixton with Osbaston Ward could lose its identity where it meets Town ward: that the line drawn behind Dixton Road and behind The Parade will be confusing to the electorate. They do not seem to define any community. Residents in these streets are unlikely to see the reasoning for their being separated from the rest of the houses in the 'block'. In this case, I believe, the main roads are perceived as the borders between cohesive wards, in the same way as rivers might be.

Numbers of residents in Dixton with Osbaston Ward would revert to
approx 1930 (483:1councillor),
as opposed to the proposed 1760(440:1councillor)

Likewise, Town Ward would have
approx.1536 (512:1 councillor)
as opposed to the proposed 1676 (559:1councillor)

Concern re Overmonnow Ward

As its name suggests, the river Monnow is the understood boundary of this ward, both historically and visually. To use any other logic, would seem too confusing. For instance ,to select a particular zone out of the Overmonnow Ward such as Bridges Community Centre and 'virtually' move it and its polling station to the town side of the river, would be inexplicable.

15 KINGS FEE,
WIMBORNE RD.,
MONMOUTH
MON
NP15 5BW

Dear Sir,

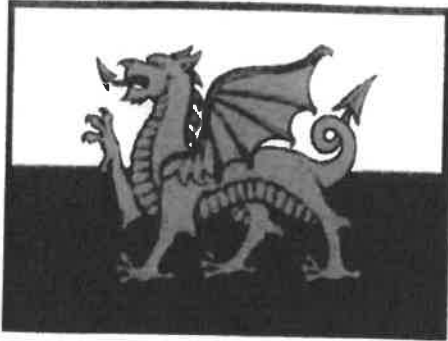
With regard to M.C. Services of Communities
and electrical arrangements in the town of
Monmouth, and in particular the Government ward.
I as a resident and a serving member of Monmouth
Town Council and Councillor for the Government
ward for the last ten years, object strongly
to your proposal to combine part of Government
into the Town Council.

I have your reasons but I am going to think and
come up with another solution, which the development
and a new quarter, would be completed is it possible
to create another place on the Town Council to
accommodate the new residents? or share them
out to existing Councillors by increasing the number
of seats per councillor.

It might seem to you a bit about nothing, but
I assure you it is not. Government is what is, boys,
the village the other side of the river. Historically
and geographically it's not a part of the town
and as a result it's not a part of the town.
I can go back years and years
and it would be criminal to break it up.
I hope you will give this due consideration.
I remain, yours faithfully,

at Council

(Mrs. Susan Jones)



THE W.I.P
THE WELSH
INDEPENDENT
PARTY



Party Leader: Gary Witcombe
1 The Bungalows
Watery Lane
Monmouth
NP25 5AT
01600 714963

HEADQUARTERS
Monmouth

6th February 2014

Monmouthshire County Council
County Hall
Election Office
The Rhadyr
USK
NP15 1GA

Dear Sir

Referring to altering the boundaries in Monmouth with Overmonnow, Drybridge and Town Wards becoming one and having one County Councillor, not three, our party agrees with this change, but you should also consider changing the Wards throughout Monmouthshire and Wales. Two Councillors for any town in Monmouthshire is plenty, and, the Monmouthshire County Council would save millions. And again, they would not have to cut the services at all. Cutting the libraries and all other services would be saved by cutting down on County Councillors. Our party works for the rights of the people, and the people have spoken. Do away with all County Councillors and go back to the old system of Chief Executives.

Yours sincerely

Gary Witcombe
Party Leader

Dear John,

Further to our telephone discussion a couple of weeks ago I am forwarding to my views, as a Monmouth Town Councillor, on the Consultation Document.

There was a full discussion on the document this Monday (17/02/2014) and I have no doubt you will receive the collective comments from the Clerk soon. I personally agree with our Town Council comments on some changes to the Ward boundaries.

However, as I mentioned on the telephone I have concerns about the ratio used in the calculation of the number of Councillors per ward in an Urban area. In my opinion it is too low if the number of electors as the basis of the calculation. This is not a true reflection of the population. As you know in the case of Monmouth, including new future developments this would result in 19 Town Councillors. I believe this is completely unnecessary for the size of the town - it is bureaucratic nonsense. Many Councillors agree.

Since there is no legal or advisory basis for this ratio from Central Government (Welsh Assembly/Westminster) nor the Local Government Associations the ratio is discretionary to each Local Authority. If the number of electors is used as the basis for the calculation I think the Members should consider increasing it to 600:1 for Urban Areas. This would mean that if the elector population of Monmouth is 9000 after the new Developments take place the number of Councillors would be 15/16 - the same as now. This is a more realistic figure.

However, there is an alternative method of calculation which I think is more representative of the total population. The ratio should be based on population numbers because many of the Town Council's activities are for the under 18's. These include the Christmas Procession, Summer Carnival, administering the Drybridge Play Area, providing grant aid to groups such as the Sea Cadets, Scouts, Guides etc etc.

I have undertaken some research using population as the basis of calculating the number of Councillors per Ward. Taking 6 Town Councils which are fairly similar in size to Monmouth and fairly near to us - the results are very interesting. Please refer to the enclosed summary document. The average ratio is 811 to 1. Monmouth is currently 631. Using the average Monmouth would qualify for 12 Councillors now and once all the developments take place in the future this would increase to 15/16. This same result as increasing the current ratio calculation to 600 to 1 !! The Aston University figures confirm my research findings. Please be free to use this information if you want to report back to the Members Working Party.

In other words, there needs to be a fundamental review of the ratio calculations.

I hope you find this information useful and you will consider passing it on to the

Working Group.If you want to discuss further then please give me a ring.

Best Wishes,

Graham Pritchard,
Monmouth Town Councillor for the Drybridge Ward.
18,Willow Drive,Monmouth,NP25 5DW (tel:01600 713766)

COMPARATIVE COUNCILLOR/POPULATION RATIOS

	Pop(2011 Census)	No of Councillors	Ratio
STROUD	13,200	18	735
COLEFORD	9,200	12	810
LEDBURY	9,600	14	685
ROSS ON WYE	10,600	12	883
HAVERFORDWEST	14,500	17	853
ABERGAVENNY	13,500	15	900
		AVERAGE RATIO	811
MONMOUTH	10,100	16	631

USING THE AVERAGE RATIO FOR MONMOUTH POPULATION THE NUMBER OF TOWN COUNCILLORS WOULD BE 12

ASTON UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

FOR A TOWN OF 10,000

16 COUNCILLORS FOR THE TOP OF THEIR BAND 1(towns with a population between 2,500 and 10,000) OR

13 COUNCILLORS FOR THE BOTTOM OF THEIR BAND 2(towns with a population of 10,000 to 20,000)

AVERAGE WOULD BE 14/15 COUNCILLORS FOR A TOWN THE SIZE OF MONMOUTH

10. To confirm Finance and Policy Committee consideration of response to proposed review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements proposals

At the Finance and Policy Committee meeting of 21st January, some anomalies in the proposed boundaries had been identified, and that the draft proposals be discussed for final consideration of response at this Full Council meeting.
Maps and details had previously been distributed to all members again, and maps were displayed via a screen at the meeting.

Cllr Hayward explained the arrangements were not imposed by MCC but they were administering the change on behalf of the Welsh Government, and that suggestions for alternatives can be made up until 28 February 2014.
He explained the changes were to make sure Community/Town Council ward boundaries were not split between County Council ward boundaries and to correct discrepancies between ratios of number of electors to councillors throughout the county. It was proposed that Monmouth Town Council ward boundaries be based on approximately 1 councillor to 500 electors. The boundary changes under consultation are only about Town and Community wards but since County Council wards could not divide Community Council wards this had to be taken into consideration. Draft proposals and consultation had been ongoing for several months with maps and details available (online earlier in consultation) and councillors had been invited to report and make alternative suggestions if not agreeable.

It was proposed to accept the draft proposals as made by Monmouthshire County Council as previously distributed.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward Seconded: Cllr Were

**Cllr Wilson proposed to amend the proposal to:
To modify the draft proposals as made by Monmouthshire County Council by taking five separate votes on the five external ward boundaries with a sixth vote on the number of future Councillors.**

Proposed: S Cllr Wilson Seconded: Cllr Pritchard

Cllr Wilson requested named voting be taken.

In favour (of the amendment):
RB, SC, TC, SD, AD, JF, JG, JH, RH, AO, GP, BR, SW, SJW. (14)
Against: AW (1)

The proposed amendment was agreed.

Maps of all ward boundaries and individual wards were available to councillors and also projected on a screen for the following discussions.

- i. **External proposed Monmouth Town Council ward boundaries.**
It was established that Rockfield Studios would be left out, and Troy House gained within the new boundary proposals.

It was proposed to accept the MCC draft proposed external ward boundaries (as shown on attachment 1)

Proposed: Cllr Wilson

Seconded: Cllr Hayward

In favour: TC, SD, AD, JF, JG, JH, RH, AO, GP, BR, AW, SJW. (12)
Against: RB (1)
Abstention: SC, SW, (2)

Proposal agreed

- ii. **Wyesham ward proposed boundaries**
It was established that the MCC draft proposed Wyesham ward boundaries were the same as existing ward boundaries.

It was proposed to accept the MCC draft proposed ward boundaries of the Wyesham ward.

Proposed: Cllr Wilson
Unanimous

Seconded: Cllr Hayward

Proposal agreed.

- iii. **Dixton with Osbaston proposed ward boundaries**
It was proposed to accept the MCC draft proposed Dixton with Osbaston ward boundaries.

Proposed: Cllr Wilson

(not seconded)

Cllr Hayward explained that the new boundary was proposed by MCC to limit the size of the Dixton with Osbaston ward which would become much larger than recommended otherwise, and it seemed more appropriate for Osbaston School and the Forge area to be now included within the draft proposed ward boundary. It was reported that if this proposed draft boundary was changed to follow the roads of Dixton Road and at the traffic lights, Monk Street, the opposite side of the (Dixton) road and Comprehensive School would fall within the Town ward

Cllr Dewhurst proposed to amend the proposal to:

To accept the MCC draft proposed Dixton with Osbaston ward boundaries with alterations to the boundary with the Town Ward (as shown on attachment 2, marked in red)

Proposed: Cllr Dewhurst

Seconded: Cllr Ramsey

In favour: RB, TC, SD, AD, JF, JG, JH, RH, AO, GP, BR, AW. (12)
Against: SJW, RH, AW. (3)

Amended proposal agreed.

Cllr Were questioned the voting on the amended motion of the original proposal and that a further vote should now be taken on the amendment. Cllr Hayward confirmed that once a proposal has been amended and seconded it becomes the substantive motion.

iv. Town, Drybridge and Overmonnow proposed ward boundaries.

Cllr Wilson explained the changes from existing boundaries where the three wards converge, and suggested that the original boundaries at these points should remain. Cllr Hayward responded that if this were the case, the Drybridge ward electorate would increase to approximately 2400, Overmonnow ward increase to 2200, both above the Welsh Government new guidelines, and Town ward decrease to 1300- below the guidelines given. He suggested a compromise of calling the Town ward "Old Monmouth" to indicate the historic nature of the area.

Cllr Christopher suggested resolving this by reducing the proposed number of members for the proposed Town Ward. Cllr Hayward confirmed that he believed this would also be unacceptable according to the Welsh Government guidelines as Town/Community wards were to be the basis of County wards, and cannot be split. County wards could not have such a high number of electors as these suggested changes would involve.

It was suggested that the area of new housing potentially to be sited from the LDP, be placed within the Drybridge rather than Overmonnow ward, but it was reported that this option would also imply the Drybridge would remain too large.

Cllr Wilson proposed to amend the proposal to:

To accept the MCC draft proposed Town/Drybridge/Overmonnow ward boundaries with alterations to the boundaries (as shown on attachment 3, marked in red, being the existing boundary)

Proposed: Cllr Wilson

Seconded: Cllr Chivers

In favour: RB, TC, SC, SD, AD, JF, JG, JH, AO, GP, BR, SW, SJW. (13)

Against: RH, AW. (2)

Amended proposal agreed.

v. Local Development Plan (LDP) housing site ward.

The LDP site was to include 370 houses but has now risen to 450 houses, and assumes 900 electors (estimated 2 per household). Assumptions are being made that the development will take place for boundary considerations.

Cllr Wilson gave estimated figures of electors for the Overmonnow Ward of 1174 and Drybridge ward 2219 without including these additional 900 electors. He suggested the LDP site should remain within the draft proposed Overmonnow ward boundary as the site access was from this ward and would be more appropriate regarding elector numbers. He also suggested further possible developments would lie within the Drybridge ward.

It was proposed to accept the MCC draft proposed ward boundaries with the LDP site being within the Overmonnow ward boundary (as shown on attachment 3 hatched in blue lines).

Proposed: Cllr Wilson
In favour: TC, SD, AD, JF, JG, JH, AO, GP, BR, AW, SJW. (11)
Against: SW, SC, RH, RB. (4)
Seconded: Cllr Davis

Proposal agreed.

vi. Number of councillors

Initial amended proposal :

It was proposed to accept the MCC draft proposals regarding number of future councillors.

Cllr Wilson had distributed details of suggested numbers of electors per ward and amended according to previous votes.

Cllr Pritchard reported speaking to John Pearson MCC regarding assumptions made about number of councillors for each authority and believed that nothing was laid down by the Welsh Government about how many electors per councillor. With suggested figures of 1 councillor for every 500 electors, it implies Monmouth Town Council would have 19 members. He suggested that alternative measures could be based on population per ward rather than electors, and comparing Monmouth with similar sized towns, suggested Monmouth could have 13 councillors. This appears to also follow studies from Birmingham University based upon 1 councillor per 1000 population. Cllr Pritchard suggested that perhaps ratios could be 1 councillor for 650 population, wherever the boundaries are agreed, which would mean a lower number of MTC councillors.

Cllr Hayward stressed that the guidelines of 1 councillor for 500 electors were the basis for the proposed boundary changes.

Cllr Were responded that councillors do not directly cost the taxpayer anything and that a reduction in number would not necessarily improve efficiency. Others suggested there is a high burden of workload and expertise should be shared with higher numbers of councillors, and also that it is more an issue of democracy and amount of representation. More councillors may be appropriate with increased future council responsibilities and expertise. Views were also expressed that more councillors may imply more difficulty in making decisions.

Cllr Were pointed out in future the Town Council would have more responsibilities therefore more Councillors would be required for a higher workload with more expertise required.

It was proposed to increase the number of Councillors from 16 to 19. (As initial amended proposal, 19 being the number of councillors within MCC's draft proposals)

Proposed: Cllr Were
In favour: RB, SD, AD, JG, AO, AW. (6)
Against: SC, TC, JH, JF, RH, GP, BR, SW, SJW. (9)
Seconded: Cllr Bradley

Proposal failed.

Cllr Wilson proposed to amend the proposal to:

It was proposed to decrease the number of councillors to 15 with the MCC draft proposed boundaries changes previously agreed.

Comprising of: Wyesham ward:3, Overmonnow Ward:4, Dixton with Osbaston: 3, Drybridge:4 and Town Ward:1

Proposed: Cllr S Wilson	Seconded: Cllr S Chivers	
In favour: SC, TC, GP, SW, SJW.		(5)
Against: RB, SD, AD, JG, JH, JF, RH, BR, AO, AW		(10)

Proposal failed.

Cllr Hayward then proposed an amendment that;

It was proposed to leave the boundary Commissioners to determine the number of councillors dependent upon final boundaries.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward	Seconded: Cllr Were	
In favour: RH, AW.		(2)
Against: RB, SC, SD, JG, JH, JF, GP, BR, SW, SJW.		(10)
Abstention: AD, TC, AO,		(3)

Proposal failed.

It was suggested that all Councillors make their own representation as individuals, as the Council as a whole could not come to a conclusion.

Councillors were all reminded that they were encouraged to also make individual representations regarding the draft proposals.

11. To agree the publication and costs of the Monmouth Town Council newsletter

A sample newsletter and report for consideration had been previously distributed to members. Cllr Pritchard, Cllr Ramsey and Cllr Dewhurst explained that it is quite common for a Council to have a newsletter for public communication and awareness, with some councils gaining national "Quality" accreditation due to their effectiveness as a result.

It is planned for two a year to be published being late May and November. 5,500 copies could be produced at a cost of £350 per issue, each being two sides of A4 and printed on recycled paper. The content would largely give awareness of the responsibilities of the Town Council and to define the differences of Town Council and County Council work. It would also include diary dates with future issues having a greater elaboration of Town Council responsibilities and Committee work.

Distribution would be as wide as possible by email and hard copy, including house to house delivery by ward councillors and obtainable at public places.

It was suggested to be funded from the Community Affairs Committee Publicity and Communication budget heading, and Councillors responsible for the project will be Cllr Dewhurst, Cllr Ramsey and Cllr Pritchard. All members would see the final version before it is distributed.

PORTSKEWETT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Cyngor Cymuned Porthiscoed

www.portskewettcc.org

*Clerk to the Council
Mrs B Young*

Telephone 01291 430818

**Email:
clerkatportskewettcc@outlook.com**



54 Main Road
Portskewett
Caldicot
Monmouthshire
NP26 5SA

10 January 2014

Dear Mr Pearson

RE: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements, Draft Proposals Electoral Register 2014

I am writing on behalf of Portskewett and Sudbrook Community Council with regard to the above.

The Council has met and discussed the proposals at length, please find our comments below.

Firstly there are no objections to the Severn Bridge Industrial Estate being moved into the Caldicot area.

With regard to the Leechpool area, the proposed changes, which remove 4 properties from the ward to become part of Caerwent, result in quite a lot of farm land moving out of the Leechpool ward. This would leave a very staggered boundry whereas currently the land sits naturally as a block contained within just one ward with the A48 as the boundry. The proposals would require two Community Councils to oversee this block of land.

There are currently residential dwellings at St Pierre caravan site, with a potential for up to 55 in total, and these are not shown on the map. If, as we are led to believe, they are classed as permanent residents they will pay rates and be eligible to vote, so they should be included.

Lastly, with regard to the proposed reduction in members in the Sudbrook ward to one the Council does not agree. There have already been an additional 9 new dwellings built within the Sudbrook ward since the last election. There are a further 49 dwellings planned at the Old Shipyard with a further 190 dwellings possible under the LDP on the Mill Site with a potential for this to increase to 340. As Sudbrook exists currently it is too big for one member, these increases in the numbers of residents would mean that there is a need to retain two Councillors in Sudbrook.

Yours Sincerely

**Beverley Young (Mrs)
Clerk to the Council**

Posted by cllrpafox January 05, 2014 at 18:44

As County Councillor for the Portskewett Electoral Division I would offer the following observations in response to the Community Boundary Review currently under consultation.

I have no real problem with the proposed boundary changes for Leechpool which do remove 4 properties from the ward that then become part of Caerwent. However the proposed changes move quite a lot of farm land out of the Leechpool ward whilst retaining farm land stretching down Crick road to the Crick flyover. So whilst the changes may make some sense from a dwelling perspective they do however mess up a block of land that currently sit naturally as a block contained within just one ward. The proposals would require two Community Councils to oversee this block of land.

The proposed changes to move the boundary of Portskewett in line with the railway line I welcome as they do move the responsibility of a large industrial estate to the Caldicot Town Council which one could argue is more appropriate than the current arrangements, but mainly would help to provide clarity over the village boundary for the future.

I don't quite understand the section 5.2 regarding Treetops and the boundary between Leechpool and Portkewett village ward, as I see it it changes little however I do need to understand it better.

I note there is a proposal to reduce the number of Cllrs for Sudbrook from two to one. With the Portskewett ED proposals recognition has only been given to the probable Crick Rd developments and those at the Ship Yard in Sudbrook, no recognition is given to the 'at least' 190 that could eventually go on the Mill and possibly 300 plus if the site owners win their appeal. The possibility of 190 was agreed by the council in its response to the initial feed back from the LDP planning inspector.

So as County Councillor I think there will be a need to retain two Community Cllrs for Sudbrook unless any future development of the Mill would be assigned to the Portskewett village ward which would not make much sense.

Cllr PA Fox

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Ty Nant,
Old Trap Rd,
Gilwern,
Abergavenny,
Monmouthshire
NP7 0HW

Re: Raglan Community Council boundary changes

Raglan has a busy proactive Community Council. We currently cover the wards of Raglan, Penyclawdd and Llangovan and Llandenny although we have unofficially regarded Llandenny and Kingcoed as 2 separate wards for some time which is in line with the changes suggested. Apart from the last election where 5 out of 11 members chose not to stand for re-election for a variety of reasons our seats are normally contested at election. Members of the public often attend our meetings and pre-meeting discussions with public are not uncommon.

The bigger picture

Being a member of the Community Council in Raglan doesn't just mean turning up for our monthly meeting. Councillors represent the community at County and National level though the association with One Voice Wales.

1. Councillors have an active role on other bodies and other organisations in the community members Act as representatives of Raglan Community Council on:
 - Raglan School Governors.
 - Several representatives on Village Hall Committee.
 - Representation on Community Centre Management Committee.
 - Representation on the Community Plan group
 - Several representatives of the Monmouthshire Rural Committee.

With the development of a new school and community facilities in the village then these representatives are key to the provision of facilities. Members attend frequent meetings with 21st Century-Schools team, developers and members of community.

2. Two representatives on the One Voice Wales area committee and also on the One Voice Wales National Executive representing the Monmouthshire and Newport area.

Two representatives from Raglan Community Council played an active part in the Charter Liaison group, attending meeting regularly with County Councillors and officers to improve relations between Monmouthshire County Council and Community and Town Councils. Members from the Community Council still attend the working liaison group meetings between the Community Councils and the County Council.

Chairman: Cllr T Phillips

Clerk: Adrian Edwards Contact: 01873 832017
e-mail: raglanclerk@aol.com

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

This shows the commitment Raglan Community Council and the greater framework of Local Government. This is not just a parochial view of community life. This also shows the commitment to improving working relations and communicating with Monmouthshire County Council.

3. One representative on Monmouth CAB, actively involved
4. Representation on the Twinning Association.
5. One member also our County Councillor, keeping us well informed and keeping a 2-way dialogue going. She is also a School Governor in addition to our Community Council representative
6. Representation on the steering group for our Village Led Plan which is now in the draft stage.
7. Consultation currently underway with county officers followed by further public consultation so that we can take a proactive approach to devolution of services. If this process continues as planned we will be managing a larger budget and spending more time/accepting greater responsibilities

The Community Council:

We are fortunate that our Council consist of a range of ages with 4 women, 7 men. Our members have a wide range of skills and experience between them, increasingly important as we prepare to take on greater responsibilities in the next few years. We have a range of people working full-time, part time, self-employed and retired. The danger of reducing numbers and forcing the remaining councillors to take on extra work/responsibilities is that we will inevitably lose some of the younger working members of the council as they are unable to put in the time commitment or attend daytime meeting. We also find that as a rural community many factors can influence ability to attend such as flooding/snow, lambing/harvest time and school holidays, again making a smaller number of councillors unviable.

There is a genuine risk of us not being quorate at certain times of year with a lower total number of councillors.

What we do now:

We have allotments owned by the Community Council. This is managed through our allotments sub-committee

We have a Dog Walk, maintained by Community Council.

We provide and fund dog waste bins in the village.

We provide Christmas lights.

We are involved in local projects in conjunction with Raglan History group, Raglan Music Festival, Raglan in Bloom and Raglan Twinning Association

Chairman: Cllr T Phillips

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RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

This is on top of normal routine issues such as highways, planning etc

We would struggle to maintain this level of active involvement with only 7 representatives. In the current economic climate we are going to increase our time-commitments and responsibilities.

Boundaries:

The inclusion of Gwehelog within our community has a far greater impact on them than it does Raglan CC as a whole. We are used to operating as a Community Council covering the surrounding parishes but the precept for them would increase to cover things like allotments, dog walk and dog waste bins in Raglan which would not be used by residents as they would tend to gravitate towards Usk for facilities, shops, schools. It would also mean a split in County Councillor boundaries as would move Penyclawdd and Llangovan to Mitchell Troy Council. Bryngwyn would be a more logical addition as it shares the same vicar as the Raglan and Llandenny churches. Cuckoo's Row and Warrage Road should remain within Raglan as it is seen very much as part of the village. Residents walk into the village to use facilities, shops, school.

Total LDP numbers have not been taken into with at least a potential 45 dwellings to be added to the village and also much infill has taken place in the last few years.

Representations:

Please find below a number of representation made to the council regarding the proposals

Councillor Helen Williams has received a number of verbal representations relating to Warrage Road and Cuckoo's Row objecting to the proposed move to Mitchell Troy.

Mr Edwards,

You asked for comment. I have no strong views as to what is best but I have some questions about as to what is proposed.

** Why has this work been done and why is change needed? That is, what triggered the work group and what problem(s) were they trying to address. The document gives no clue of, overall, what you are trying to achieve so it is difficult to assess its worth.*

** I am afraid that I don't understand the comment that "All channels of communication through the Pen-Y-Clawdd ward run north to south with no clear link between the Pen-Y-Clawdd ward and the rest of the Raglan wards". From my perspective in Pen-y-clawdd, we are a lot closer to Raglan than we are to Mitchel Troy. We have little contact with Michel Troy but lots with Raglan. What does the sentence mean?*

** I also have some concern that current issues, for example, the proposed turbine, about which there has been much debate and work done and about which our current local Raglan representative is fully informed will be handed over to another group with less understanding of the local feeling and further away. Raglan will see it, Michel Troy will not. Those opposing the plan will have to start the education process all over again. Or is that one of the aims of the changes?*

Chairman: Cllr T Phillips

Clerk: Adrian Edwards Contact: 01873 832017
e-mail: raglanclerk@aol.com

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

** Lastly, have you found out how Michel Troy feel about the proposed change. How would Pen-y-clawdd fit with their structure. Maybe you should find out and let us know what are the implications for Pen--y-clawdd before Raglan hands us over.*

Best wishes.

Adrian

Thank you for your email, and apologies for the late response.

My personal view reflects on the proposal to move Penyclawdd from Raglan to Mitchel Troy, and are based on my and my families relationships locally.

With three children who have all been through or are still at Raglan primary school, and with all three children involved with Scouts in Raglan, with our doctor in Raglan, and with the good range of shops in Raglan, we are regular visitors to the village and feel very much part of the community of Raglan.

By contrast, I don't think that I have ever stopped in Mitchell Troy, and don't know anyone in Mitchell Troy.

I would therefore wish Penyclawdd to remain part of Raglan CC, where our Councillor can have an influence (however limited that may be) on shaping the community that we are part of. If we become part of Mitchell Troy we will have no influence at all.

I hope that this is helpful.

Regards

Dear Adrian Edwards,

Thank you for taking the time to discuss the current revue that is taking place regarding the proposed changes to the boundaries of Penyclawdd.

I am very happy with the current status quo and see no reason for there to be any changes. Also, when reading your attachment, I could see no positive evidence for change. It would be interesting to know when the revue was first initiated and why it is deemed so necessary?

Raglan is some 5 minuets down the road and a hub that features in our daily lives and there is a strong attachment. We also have the historic benefit of dealing with and knowing our local official contacts. Like many changes in life it is difficult to see any disadvantages until it is too late, which is sometimes a good reason to leave well alone.

As you are all aware there has been an overwhelming objection from our local community to the application to erect a Wind Turbine and although the final judgements are made by the planning committee the Raglan council has been fair and in many ways sympathetic to our cause. It would therefore be unforgivable if the change in the boundaries were to have any significant affect on that issue.

Thank you once again and it was good to talk to you.

Chairman: Cllr T Phillips

Clerk: Adrian Edwards Contact: 01873 832017
e-mail: raglanclerk@aol.com

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Kind regards,

Chairman: Cllr T Phillips

Clerk: Adrian Edwards Contact: 01873 832017
e-mail: raglanclerk@aol.com

Community of Shirenewton

Hi John, please accept the following as this Council's further response to the review.

Following attendance at the consultation meeting held in Usk on 7 January 2014 and further discussion, Shirenewton Community Council wishes to make the following additional responses to the review:

1. That the names of the two proposed wards be 'Shirenewton and Mynyddbach' and 'Earlswood and Newchurch West' as originally suggested and not altered to 'Wentwood'.
2. That in view of the widespread rural location of the Earlswood and Mynyddbach ward the number of Councillors be increased to three, rather than the proposed two, being a total of 8 for the community.
3. That the following properties near the boundaries would be better placed within the Shirenewton wards:

Address	Grid Ref (Sheet ST49)
Dinwood, Shirenewton NP16 6LS	E4874 N9248
Coalpit Farm, Shirenewton	E4910 N9240
Golden Valley Cottage	E4791 N9269
Cribbau Mill	E4540 N9405
Mynyddbach (Boxtree)	E4480 N9720
Little Goytre Farm	E4390 N9760
Little Goytre	E4390 N9710

Regards

Hilary Counsell
Clerk to Shirenewton Community Council



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Monmouthshire County Council
PO Box 106, Caldicot
NP26 9AN
Cyngor Sir Fynwy
Blwch SP 106, Cil-y-coed
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Web/Gwefan: www.monmouthshire.gov.uk

J Pearson Esq
Local Democracy Manager
Election Office
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The Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

15 May 2013

Address for correspondence:
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Chepstow
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Tel: 01291 621846

e-mail: grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Scanned 12/05/13

Dear John

Re: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

With reference to the above Review, I have had the opportunity to look at the submissions made by Mathern Community Council and Shirenewton Community Council, amongst others.

Mathern

I broadly agree with the submissions which have been made by Mathern Community Council. It seems to me to make obvious sense to use the A466 between High Beech roundabout and Newhouse roundabout as the eastern boundary of the Community, and as a clear dividing line with Chepstow. This brings a small amount of agricultural land to the north west of Newhouse roundabout into the Community, as well as two properties, one of which is a commercial property, to the west of High Beech roundabout (which would fall in the Pwllmeyric Ward).

At the southern end, it would seem sensible to use the M48 eastwards towards the Wye Bridge as the boundary, which would bring the whole of the Newhouse Industrial Estate within the Mathern Community.

There is a case for extending the eastern edge of the Community northwards from High Beech roundabout towards Mounton Road (westwards), and thereafter using Mounton Road as the northern boundary, with the few properties to the south of the road coming into the Mathern Community. If this is agreed the affected properties could conveniently be associated with the Mounton Ward.

Mathern Community Council have also suggested bringing "old" Bayfield within the Mounton Ward. Again, I see the sense of this in representing the division between urban Chepstow and the more rural area.

There is a single property on the Usk Road which, perversely, falls within the Mathern Community. The dwelling is completely isolated from the remainder of the Community, and I would argue that it really ought to be part of Chepstow's St Kingsmark Ward.

Working with the citizens of Monmouthshire

This letter is from an individual Member and is not written on behalf of the Council
Daw'r llythyr yma addi wrth Aelod unigol ac ni ysgrifennwyd ar ran y Cyngor.



Likewise, the register includes a single property on High Beech Lane, which can only be an error.

Shirenewton

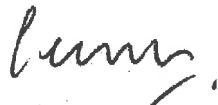
Once more, I broadly concur with the submission made by Shirenewton Community Council. No changes are necessary to the boundaries of the Community as a whole, albeit that there are a few dwellings along the western side of the Crick Road north of Crick, which would appear to have greater affinity with Shirenewton than with Caerwent.

The principal change which is required to the Shirenewton community involves the division between Earlswood and Shirenewton Wards. Under the present arrangements a large part of Earlswood falls within the Shirenewton Ward which is plainly preposterous. The boundary ought to be drawn so that anything to the north of Cock A Roostin falls within the Earlswood Ward.

I hope you find these comments helpful.

Regards

Yours sincerely



Graham Down
County Councillor for Shirenewton & Mathern

St Arvans Community Council

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St Arvans Community Council

St Arvans Community Council

St Arvans Community Council

Clerk: Judith Bolton

Telephone: 01291 626318
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14 Grange Park
St Arvans
Chepstow
NP16 6EA
16 June 2014

**To: Electoral Registration
MCC
The Rhadyr.
Usk
NP15 1GA
Cc: John Pearson
Dear Sirs,**

Reference Draft Report on Review Of Communities & Electoral Arrangements: Proposals Affecting St Arvans

St Arvans Community Council wishes to express its surprise and dismay at the proposed changes to its boundaries. It is also disappointed that Chepstow Town Council failed to communicate with SACC before formally making the proposal.

The reason given by CTC for the proposed change is to align the name of the Racecourse with that of the town. This is counter to the historical links between St Arvans and the Racecourse estate which date back over 200 years, and forms no obvious geographical benefits to CTC.

In the opinion of SACC, the nominal link between the town and the Racecourse appears to be of no value or interest to visitors to the Racecourse and of little interest to residents of Chepstow. Day to day issues with the Racecourse e.g. traffic management, management of the football field, maintenance of the boundary wall/footpath, litter, noise etc. are primarily of interest to residents of St Arvans. To that end, such issues are currently dealt with very satisfactorily by SACC which has an excellent working relationship with the Management team at the Racecourse.

All boundary changes have a substantial cost attached. At this point when MCC are struggling to meet major cost-savings, it seems perverse that such costs might be added for an unnecessary change.

SACC therefore urges very strongly that MCC reconsiders the proposed change to transfer responsibility for the Racecourse to CTC.

After due consideration to the other proposed changes, SACC considers that Tintern should be consulted on whether it wishes to retain the existing boundaries to the north of St Arvans. SACC will accept either way. However, it is understood that several residents, currently in the Tintern Ward, feel that their area would fit more naturally with St Arvans because of road links. To the south, there appears to be little reasoning behind the proposed changes additional to those associated with the Racecourse.

St Arvans Community Council

SACC's position on the number of Councillors remains as outlined in a previous submission i.e. that it wishes the numbers to remain at 8 and not reduced to 7.

SACC looks forward to meeting the working Group on 28th January to discuss the draft proposals. Meanwhile it would be grateful if members of the Group could read the attached document which explains the Community Council's concerns more fully and will aid discussion on the night.

Yours faithfully

Judith Bolton clerk SACC

St. Arvans Community Council Comments on the Draft Review of County Electoral Arrangements for the County of Monmouthshire

1) Proposed Transfer of Chepstow Racecourse to Chepstow Town Council

a) Historically, the land which now comprises Chepstow Racecourse and the surrounding land were originally owned by residents of St. Arvans.

Piercefield House and its land were purchased by Nathaniel Wells in 1802. He was a Church Warden of St. Arvans Church for 40 years and several of his family are buried there.

The Clay family bought Piercefield House and its land in 1861. They were involved with the management of the Racecourse, following its formation after the 1st World War until it was sold to the present owners. The family have been actively involved in the Village and have owned a number of other local properties including what is now Oak Grove Stud Farm.

b) This "Old Family" link was responsible for making an arrangement, many years ago, to allow residents of St. Arvans to use a piece of the Racecourse land for recreational purposes e.g. football and cricket. This arrangement is still honoured by the present owners, so that the field alongside the St. Arvans Village Hall is owned by the Racecourse but is managed on a daily basis by the Community Council on behalf of the residents of the Village. The arrangement is always a topic for review on the agenda of the regular meetings between Community Councillors and Racecourse Management. In the last year, for example, there have been four meetings which covered this topic along with a number of environmental and road traffic issues.

St Arvans Community Council

The Community Council would not wish to try to manage its relationship with Racecourse Management through a third party nor would it want to have to go to Chepstow Town Council to seek permission to carry its managerial responsibilities for activities on the field.

c) Whenever there is an event of any kind at the Racecourse, there is a risk of a wholly negative impact on the residents of the St. Arvans Ward caused by road traffic and pedestrian congestion around the Course at the beginning and end of proceedings. Complaints from residents occur frequently and are dealt with quickly and efficiently as a result of the close working relationship developed by the regular liaison meetings between Councillors and Racecourse Management. SACC would not wish to lose this relationship whatever the outcome of this review.

Chepstow Town Council could have a similar relationship with Racecourse Management without incurring the cost of boundary change.

d) As well as liaison over operational issues, SACC also keep a careful eye on the cycle/footpath, which runs along the outer wall of the Racecourse, to ensure that the Clerk of the Course keeps the route clear of obstruction from plant growth e.g. brambles. This is an area requiring regular attention and, if neglected, can result in numerous vociferous complaints.

e) The proposal to give the Racecourse land to Chepstow Town Council brings them into the heart of St. Arvans.

f) SACC consider that there has been no beneficial case made to change the boundary in this way and that it is simply change for change sake. Chepstow Town Council has no obvious claim on the Racecourse other than its name. A good relationship could be had and Chepstow could achieve all its aims without the need for boundary change and the significant cost implications which go with it. In a time of stringent cost cutting in local government, how can the County Council justify spending on these unnecessary changes?

2) Other Boundary Change Proposals

a) The map presented for the new boundary makes no effort to show the before and after situation to highlight the changes. The attached map (attachment 2) attempts to do this.

The current situation shows the St. Arvans Ward as a sensibly shaped piece of the overall jigsaw. The new proposal takes away not only the Racecourse but a further tranche of land to the southern end of the current ward and replaces it

St Arvans Community Council

with a strangely defined chunk of forest and narrow country lanes; presumably the old parish of Penterry.

SACC can see no necessity to change the boundary at the southern end of the current ward and wonder what lies behind that proposal?

At the northern end, SACC believe that Tintern should decide whether it wishes to retain the existing boundaries or not and that it will accept the outcome of that consideration whichever way it goes.

3) Councillor Numbers

a) SACC operates with a monthly Council Meeting supported by 5 Advisory Groups. The Advisory Groups are made up of a few of the councillors and meet normally once a month before the Council Meeting. Each councillor is typically a member of 2 or 3 Advisory Groups. The role of the Advisory Group is to research topics in their area of interest and present proposals for ratification at each full Council Meeting. The Advisory Groups cover, Finance, Environment and Recreation, Highways, Planning and Communications and Community Engagement. This latter Group has only recently been formed and has driven the implementation of the Council's first web site, www.starvanscouncil.co.uk. The web site has a full description of how the Council operates and the implementation project itself shows how much work is put in by individual councillors to fulfil their duties as part of the Advisory Groups.

b) SACC currently has an establishment of 8 councillors and they are fully utilised, given their voluntary and part time involvement, to cover the activities described above. The Council would like to see this number retained because activity levels are expected to increase rather than to decline.

c) As all councillors are volunteers and tend not to claim expenses for their activities, there is little cost involved to the residents by having a number in excess of the norm. Having 8 rather than 7 councillors may cost a little in additional training and may incur more cost in the event of an election being required but this is not a large penalty when compared with the working benefits described above.

d) The Council has recently experienced the resignation of two councillors. Advisory Group work has continued but has required the remaining councillors to shoulder a much greater burden. Thankfully, due process has been followed, and two new councillors will be joining the Council in February.

St Arvans Community Council

Secondary St Arvans Community Council Representation

St. Arvans Community Council

Latest Comments on the Draft Review of County Electoral Arrangements for the County of Monmouthshire

Following the very useful meeting at Usk on January 28th and the most helpful visit of County Councillor Roger Harris to St. Arvans on February 7th, SACC would like to re-iterate the Council's position on the draft boundary change proposals.

1) The council is totally opposed to the proposal to transfer the historic Piercefield Estate, which includes the Racecourse, to Chepstow Town Council. The main reasons have been fully stated in previous correspondence. However, it is worth repeating that history fully supports this land being part of St. Arvans. For example, in the Census of 1871 it appears that not only was the Piercefield Estate part of the parish of St. Arvans but so was St. Kingsmark and Crossway Green.

2) SACC consider that there is neither demographic nor obvious economic benefit to the proposal and it seems totally at variance with the remit of the Working Party. It believes that the draft proposal would not have been made without the prompting from Chepstow and it wonders if the urban sprawl now encompassing St. Kingsmark and Crossway Green is CTC's envisaged future for the whole of the Piercefield Estate?

3) The Council's research has failed to find any evidence that Chepstow Town Council fully debated the Racecourse issue. It seems that the responsibility to draft such a vital report was delegated to three people. Since the publication of the proposal and the extensive public consultation, SACC can find no further representations from any residents of Chepstow. This clearly demonstrates that there is little interest in Chepstow Town Council's proposal by the residents of the town.

4) The council sees no case to transfer the area to the south and south west of the Racecourse to Chepstow but can see benefit in looking at properties at the south western perimeter which may be better placed in Shirenewton and/or Itton.

5) To the north of the existing boundary it would make sense to include the whole of Penterry Ward of Tintern in St Arvans. This seems to accord with the views of Tintern CC expressed in its letter of Feb 12th 2014. This would mean that residents in Penterry Lane, The Tout, Penterry Farm, Banton Cottages, Fair oak Farm and the Cot would come into St Arvans. Residents in all these areas see their allegiance to St. Arvans and many of them are active members of St. Arvans organisations.

These points were fully discussed with County Councillor Harris on his visit.

Judith Bolton (clerk of SACC) February 27th 2014

St Arvans Community Council

Alan Bolton

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my concern at the proposed boundary changes in St Arvans, with specific reference to the transfer of the Racecourse to Chepstow Town Council.

The Working Group appears to have accepted Chepstows' argument for the change without considering the merits or otherwise of the proposal.

Chepstow's proposal makes no geographical or demographic sense. Indeed, the "new" boundary projects very uncomfortably into the heart of St Arvans, and there are very few residents affected. The main reason appear to be to align the name of the Racecourse with that of the town

With a very long history binding St Arvans and the Racecourse estate, the change can only be viewed as a "land-grab" and which will have costs attached that should be avoided at a time when MCC is struggling to stay within budget.

Activities at the Racecourse have little or no effect on the residents of Chepstow, whereas they do affect the residents of St Arvans e.g. traffic management, the management of the football field, management of the footpath/cycleway alongside the Racecourse wall. The Community Council deals with all these issues in an efficient manner and it is difficult to see how this good relationship would remain if jurisdiction passed to CTC which has but a peripheral interest with the business of the Racecourse on a day to day basis.

I therefore implore the Group to re-visit the proposal which I know has upset many St Arvans residents, particularly the older residents who have lived in the village for many years.

As far as the other changes are concerned, residents of some of the dispersed cottages to the north will want to take the opportunity to be moved into St Arvans. The village is their natural centre of gravity and most of their journeys involve travelling through the village.

Yours faithfully,

Alan Bolton

St Arvans

St Arvans Community Council

Alison Wharton

Dear Sir,

I write in connection with the above change of Boundary application. I have examined the proposal and I know the site well. I wish to object strongly to the change of Boundary in this location.

I see no valid reason for this to take place. I am deeply concerned that Chepstow Town Council already have proved to be lagging when it comes to the clean up process after events being held at the racecourse. (This being in the area that is under Chepstow control) I have detailed below a few of my recent observations.

A trail of litter - On various occasions - Beer cups(full and empty) leading from the entrance all the way into Chepstow town centre.
Certain Pubs overcrowded.

I would also like to point out that the traffic control seems and should be under control around the Racecourse, I say should because we all know of the massive changes that took place to rectify this. So on that reason alone I would state that there should be no case for Chepstow Town council to interfere with this.

My big concern is the History of Piercefield/St Arvans. I myself have various books that hold reference to the link. There is also the many paintings that link St Arvans to this beautiful estate.

Furthermore I cannot see any major benefits that can justify this change happening.

I would also like to calculate the cost of the Proposals of this change and also the cost of this taking place. I would like to get your permission in making these costings public as I am deeply concerned that I myself and other locals are regonising that times are hard and money must be saved not wasted.

kind regards,

Allison

St Arvans Community Council

Andrew Ker

Dear Sir

REPRESENTATIONS RE PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES - ST ARVANS

I accept that the County Council has a duty to review minor council arrangements from time to time, primarily to ensure that any significant changes in electorate numbers through housing development etc. since the last review are taken into account. However, the proposals for St Arvans appear to be tinkering for the sake of it.

Dealing with the Racecourse first, the Piercefield Estate on which it is situated has been linked with St Arvans for over 200 years. The Community Council has forged strong links with the Racecourse management and work closely with them regarding a range of issues associated with their business, including minimising potential disturbance caused by noise and a range of traffic issues, as well as management of their boundary walls and the village football field. These matters affect St Arvans residents, not those of Chepstow. Just because it is known as Chepstow Racecourse is no sound reason to pass this rural land to the Town Council.

Secondly, while the transfer of Penterry Ward makes sense in that the authors have rightly identified that those residents tend to look towards St Arvans rather than Tintern, the decision to exclude The Cot does not appear to make sense. Furthermore, the reasons stated for the proposed loss of the area in the south-west along the B4293 leading to a small reduction in the electorate appear to have little substance.

Finally, these proposed changes will have substantial costs associated with them - at a time of financial constraint for the County Council the proposals are poorly conceived, unwelcome and unnecessary.

Andrew Ker

St Arvans

St Arvans Community Council

J Howells

Dear sir

I wish to object to the proposal to remove Chepstow Racecourse and nearby properties from St. Arvans and transfer it to Chepstow Town Council.

1. Chepstow Racecourse and nearby properties including Piercefield House have strong historical links with St. Arvans and it's Church going back hundreds of years. Ancestors of the families involved are buried in St. Arvans.
2. The Terms of Reference for the Review suggested that the purpose was to identify minor anomalies to boundaries and adjustments to the numbers of councillors. Transfer of rural land to an urban community by the annexation of a large part of the St. Arvans ward was not foreseen.
3. The existence of a hidden agenda is strongly suspected since at present there seems little to be gained from the Chepstow point of view in transferring this area. Is it possible under the Freedom of Information Act to see details of when and where the proposal was discussed by Chepstow Town Council as there seems next to nothing recorded in Council Meeting Minutes?
4. All Councils are being asked to make massive cuts to their budgets and residents will have to suffer increased taxes and cutbacks to services. The proposed boundary changes will inevitably incur substantial costs for little or no gain.

Regards

J. B. Howells

St Arvans Community Council

Judith Bolton

St Arvans
Chepstow
NP16 6EA

To. Electoral Registration, MCC
The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA

Cc; Councillors Phil Hobson, Roger Harris and

Dear Sirs,

As clerk to St Arvans Community Council I have been central in the receipt and sending of documents pertaining to the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements that is taking place in Monmouthshire and, in my professional capacity, I attended the meeting at Usk on the 28th

First may I say thank you for the manner in which the three members of the working party listened to the contributions made and conducted the meeting generally. I felt immediately that visitors would be truly 'heard' and this was confirmed as the meeting progressed. It was a delight not to have to be on one's guard all the time as can sometimes be the case. I felt I could relax.

However, when I came away I realised that I should have a voice, not just as the clerk, but also as a resident, an ordinary member of the community. This is not easy because I have background information making it very difficult to be 'just' Judith Bolton and not a little of the clerk as well. But here goes.....

As an ordinary resident I am sure that I would feel that the two most important points from the proposals put forward;

a) The Racecourse

I have an interest in the village and am a walking guide for MCC, I have learnt a considerable amount about local history. The village has been linked with the Piercefield Estate since the 16th century. Documentary evidence shows that a mansion was part of the parish then. This link has continued with incumbents at Piercefield House having major influences on the village. Records show support by means of employment, housing, road building, charitable donations etc. Nathaniel Wells, who bought the house in 1802, was High Sheriff of Monmouthshire, a Justice of the Peace and churchwarden at St Arvans church. He held the last post for 40 years. Members of his family are buried there. He funded the building of the tower.

Later on the Clay family maintained links between estate and village

This is not a heritage to be destroyed lightly.

St Arvans Community Council

Chepstow would like the racecourse and park in its boundary because it has the name Chepstow and enquiries for the racecourse may be made through the Council. This is not a relevant argument. The racecourse has an excellent web site. Anyone wanting to know anything about the racecourse is unlikely to ring the Council and the name of course implies that it is near the town but it doesn't mean it has to be part of the town.

Most of the traffic arriving for events comes from the motorway. In the past, on Welsh Grand National days, the town centre was a disaster before and after the event because of diverted traffic. However, after a meeting with the racecourse, St Arvans Community Council informed residents before the 2013 event of a change to the plan. Traffic flow on the A466 was to be controlled manually at the hospital lights with no diversions. Buses from the station went around the town centre by way of Larkfield roundabout.

I have heard no moans about traffic problems that day other than a few minor ones that any large event may give e.g. jaywalking by pedestrians.

As a resident of St Arvans and driver I can list the problems that can result from this & events at the racecourse:

- Dumping of cars on the A4666 by latecomers who don't want to miss a race.
- Litter after events. This can be in the evening or first thing in the morning after special 'nights'. Plastic drinks containers can be abandoned in large numbers!
- Coaches dropping off visitors at the entrance instead of in the car park, reducing the A466 to single traffic.
- Marshalls with insufficient training causing hold ups for cars on the A466 at the pedestrian crossing by the entrance.

These are St Arvans problems not those for the town.

As a cyclist and walker I can point to the need for the cycle/footpath along the racecourse boundary wall to be kept clear of overhanging branches. It is a shared path, developed with money to encourage children from St Arvans to walk/cycle to school. A number in the village do and it is a delight to see. It is frequently used by village joggers because it avoids cars. Some runners use it on winter nights with head-torches

Every summer and autumn brambles falling over the wall need clearing by racecourse staff. Almost very year the Community Council notes in the parish magazine that it is talking to the racecourse about the overgrowth. The job gets done because there is good communication but prompting is needed.

These are problems for St Arvans, not Chepstow Town

No housing estates have been built, the demography has not changed. Why change the boundary?

St Arvans Community Council

On the strength of the above comments, I cannot believe that there is sufficient evidence to warrant a move of the racecourse boundary as proposed.

b) Number of Councillors

As a reader of the Parish magazine I can assure you that our Community Council appears to be extremely busy. There is a great effort to ensure good communication and community involvement. This is the work of volunteers. An easy way to reduce work is to reduce community involvement. Don't get the questions/comments and you don't have to provide the answers/replies. In January the Council launched a web site. It is not just a council web site but a village one too. Here again, the Council could have cut corners.

It is worrying that fewer volunteers may mean cutting those corners. SACC works well with 8 councillors

Final Points

I am sure this Review is a very difficult exercise for all taking part and I respect the time that those involved are committing. Some of the decisions that have to be made will, no doubt, be difficult. However, I hope change is not going to be recommended if there is no need. Along with many people in St Arvans, I can see no reason why Chepstow should be brought right into the heart of the village. The proposed boundary would be right next to the village hall and village shop and a few steps away from the Victorian fountain, considered by most to be the true centre of the village.

May I ask the working party to please consider leaving the boundary where it is and a Community Council comprising 8 members to continue its work for the community.

Thank you for your time

Yours sincerely,

Judith Bolton

St Arvans Community Council

John and Sheena Banfield

Dear Sir

As residents and rate payers living in St. Arvans, we would like to register our strong objections to the recent proposal by Monmouth Town Council to alter the boundaries of St. Arvans CC and transfer responsibility for a large area, including the Race Course and parts of the Piercefield Estate, to Chepstow Town Council. We understand that this proposal would include reducing the number of councillors at St Arvans.

In our view all the members of St Arvans Community Council work hard and do an excellent job consulting with, and representing the interests of, residents in our area. They are also an important link between residents and the County Council and, when allowed to do so, play a vital role in trying to ensure accountable and responsible local democracy.

We are concerned that this proposal appears to have been included in your draft plan without any significant consultation with the residents of St. Arvans, who are the ones who will be most directly affected by it.

The area in question is historically and geographically closely connected to the village and includes a number of important amenities such as the memorial hall, football field and public footpaths which are important to village life. There are also important safety implications, such as the amount of traffic using the road on race days, the maintenance of the boundary wall, and speed limits in the area, which most directly affect residents of the village. In our view St. Arvans CC is best able to manage these issues, given its good record of liaising closely with local people.

We are also concerned that this proposal, if implemented, would have a cost, which would not be justifiable at a time of financial restraint for local government. In summary it is our view, and the view of many other residents, that there appear to be many good reasons why this proposal should not go through, and not one good reason why it should.

If you are aware of one we would be interested to hear it. We would be grateful if this consultation could be brought to the attention of the working party dealing with the matter.

Yours faithfully

John and Sheena Banfield.

St Arvans Community Council

Terry and Alison Wood

Dear Judith,

Congratulations on the new website

We are happy for you to add our email address as above to your communication list.

ST ARVANS BOUNDARY

We have noticed the discussions being held re the Racecourse location etc, seems an unnecessary change and fail to see how to do so would improve the "Chepstownness" of the Racecourse!!

A separate issue is that when proceeding from Devauden to St.Arvals the ST.ARVANS roadside sign is positioned down the hill towards St.Arvals thus leaving at least 8 properties with St.Arvals addresses outside of this area.

The sign should ideally be replaced to accommodate these properties probably between the turn off to The Cot and Penyparc.

Kind regards

Terry and Alison Wood

St Arvans Community Council

Rachel Kellar

Dear Judith

Please note my and my husband's objection to the proposed boundary change of Chepstow Racecourse.

We believe that it is nonsense to change the boundary for the purpose that this would align the racecourse with Chepstow - this is already the case. What evidence is there that people believe otherwise?

If something is not broken, why go to the unnecessary cost of fixing it? Our Council Tax is one of the highest in Wales and I understand there are to be cuts in all areas of Local Government, so fail to see how boundary amendments are high on the Council's list of priorities.

I would suggest the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements Committee leave the current St Arvans/Chepstow boundaries as they are.

Please note that I am happy for our email address to be added to the email distribution list.

Best regards

Rachel Kellar

St Arvans Community Council

Mr & Mrs Pattison

Dear Sirs

With regards to the proposal that is incorporated in the review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements that has been published, we would like to state our objections specifically to the point where the Racecourse and Piercefield Park is proposed to be removed to St Arvans and joined with Chepstow.

We believe that the historical links with St Arvans and the Racecourse date back many hundreds of years and we see no reason for change?

On top of this, we understand that there is a cost implication to change the boundaries. In view of the Governments well publicised cuts on spending – we believe that this would be a waste of tax payer money at this time for an unnecessary renaming.

It leads us to wonder what alternate plan is in hand.

As much of the traffic management, football field management and maintenance are of primary interest to St Arvans, we feel that again a transfer to Chepstow is questionable and unnecessary.

We would be very upset to think that Chepstow would be in control of the field after such a long history of the village using it for local events and would feel uneasy as to what the benefits of name change would be.

We trust that you will consider our objections and the feelings of the local people.

Yours faithfully

Mr & Mrs Stephen Pattison

St Arvans

St Arvans Community Council

Michael Matthews

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing to register my representation regarding the St arvans boundary proposal specifically concerning the racecourse and piercefield estate. As a St arvans resident I am immediately impacted by the management of events at the racecourse so would be understandably concerned if the village voice is removed from these. Any access to the village is directly impacted by the racecourse events and noise and traffic can be heard clearly in the village. The piercefield estate and racecourse has formed an integral part of St arvans since conception and form part of daily life for the villagers. These form an integral part of the village character and should therefore be maintained within the village jurisdiction.

For these reasons I disagree with the proposal to relocate the electoral boundaries of St arvans with respect to the racecourse and piercefield estate.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Matthews
St arvans

St Arvans Community Council

Mr Moss

Dear Sirs

I have become aware that MCC is presently considering a Chepstow Town Council proposal that a large area of land comprising mainly Chepstow Racecourse and Piercefield Park is transferred from St Arvans and joined with Chepstow. I understand that the primary reason given by Chepstow TC in support of their proposed boundary change is that the racecourse is widely known using the word Chepstow in its name. I strongly object to this Chepstow TC proposal, like many of my friends and neighbours in and around St Arvans. In particular the following reasons spring to mind for why the proposal is flawed and should be rejected:

1. Chepstow being in the name of the racecourse is absolutely no logical reason for changing anything since it leads to a theoretical case for also transferring:
 - a. Chepstow Wood between Devauden and St Arvans and this area of wooded land is even further away from Chepstow.
 - b. The area around The Piercefield (pub) in St Arvans to join with much larger Piercefield Park (in Chepstow - *nonsensical*).
 - c. We have a Devauden Road in St Arvans so perhaps St Arvans should come under Devauden – *it is nonsensical*.
 - d. All communities around Chepstow with a (Royal Mail) postal address of Chepstow.
 - e. Why stop there because if the area has a Newport postal code starting NP we can make a case for all the small communities to be part of Newport.
2. Incurring unnecessary public expenditure in these cash strapped times is clearly wrong, indeed I note in a recent edition of the FreePress newspaper that MCC is still looking for £1m of further budget cuts.
3. The football field immediately adjacent to St Arvans Memorial Hall belongs to the racecourse and it is essential that that land remains within St Arvans in order to have a coherent approach to a wide range of planning and environmental issues.
4. Based on my personal experience elsewhere it is most desirable to keep a buffer zone between Chepstow and the surrounding village communities and that the buffer zone must *not* be under the jurisdiction of Chepstow TC.
5. There are widespread reports that the Welsh Government is currently considering major reforms to local government boundaries in order to streamline public sector costs and improve efficiencies and hence it makes no sense to incur any unnecessary boundary change costs.

I plan to share my above views with St Arvans Community Council so that they can co-ordinate all such views. I trust that the Chepstow TC proposed boundary changes will be speedily rejected.

Yours faithfully

Mr G F Moss

St Arvans Community Council

A Newman

REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

I understand this review is essentially to do with the electors, trying to balance numbers as and between polling wards etc. That being so the proposal to transfer the racecourse to Chepstow Town makes no sense, since there are no electors involved.

This change, which in its self is expensive, will create a new boundary more than a mile long from Chepstow to St Arvans to nobodys' advantage. In fact since all events at the racecourse impact, in every way, far more on the village than the town. They are often subject to discussions between the Community Council and Racecourse Management, as is the day to day management of the playing field behind the village hall. These factors alone show that the proposal is change for change sake and could well be detrimental to the interests of the village.

Leave well alone.

A NEWMAN

St Arvans Community Council

Peter Ralph

Dear Sir,

With reference to the above report which I understand is still in draft stage. I would like to point out what I believe to be a breach in protocol and procedure.

The proposal to change the boundary of St Arvans Ward and include the Racecourse land in Chepstow Town rather than St Arvans, **WITHOUT INFORMING AND CONSULTING ALL INTERESTED PARTIES** is against the protocol and procedural requirements of Local Government.

My understanding is that no notification was given to St Arvans Community Council that this change was under consideration and therefore cannot be included in the draft report. I believe that the Representation of the People legislation requires notification to all concerned parties of any proposed change to the Representation of Communities in order to give the representatives of the Community the chance to consider their views and the effect both in the short and long term of any change on their community.

Yours, trusting in transparent democracy,

Peter Ralph

St Arvans.

St Arvans Community Council

Michael Williams

Dear Sir,

I have seen details of the proposal to alter the extent of St.Arvens, effectively making Piercefield park and the Racecourse part of Chepstow, and I have also discussed them with a number of my neighbours in the old village of St.Arvens. We are all of the same opinion: namely that the proposed change is very much against our interests, that is the interests of the present residents of St.Arvens, for the Park is very much our hinterland, something we daily use and enjoy. As such believe we need to retain such control over it as we presently have.

We believe that under this proposal, our amenity is seriously under threat, this not least because we are already hedged about and harried by notices when walking out in the direction of the Itton Road, this because of the new uses of the land in that direction. On that side of St.Arvens it is now not uncommon when out walking quite lawfully, to be accosted and accused of disturbing young horses. We don't want a further degradation.

Further to the foregoing, we believe removing the Piercefield lands would be quite wrong because to do so would deny a significant history. The land is the original home of the great house to which St.Arvens was effectively an estate village. Many of us in the old part of the parish live in what were estate cottages or estate-owned inns. For very many years, under the Clay family, it was very much a benevolent estate, valuing, employing, supporting, the village. We strongly believe that that historical connection should be fully respected.

Finally, we do have grave misgivings about the future exploitation of land adjacent to us, should this proposal go through. In this connection, we reluctantly have to point out that recent experience of developments connected with the staging and management of events at the Racecourse has been much less than happy. A major urbanisation of the A466 along past the racecourse has been put in place. Trees have been felled; are areas created. Instead of improvements in crowd control, control has been worsened. There now an absence of policing, punters smarm across the mainroad regardless of any crossing offered. As far as we are concerned, any beneficial effects are hard indeed to discern. In view of the increased threat, and present pressures from several sides, it adds insult to indicate that we would also have to manage with less councillors, this undoubtedly making us less able to respond to the very evident pressures.

Yours sincerely, Professor Emeritus Michael Williams

St Arvans Community Council

Michael Williams

Dear Mr Pearson,

Thank you for acknowledging receipt of my e-letter re St. Arvans. I would now like to add certain further comments.

Firstly, the administrative. Any problems generated by the running of events at the Racecourse should be attended to at the expense, and through the efforts of the Racecourse itself. They have already degraded the environment to significant degree, and it would be utterly wrong for the residents of St. Arvans to have to pay in any way to clear up after what are, after all, their profit-making events. In saying this, I include both direct (financial) cost to St. Arvans, and indirect 'cost' through losing the lands to another agency, such as Chesptow Town. The loss of the lands would be a grievous thing indeed, and should be strongly resisted. Local feeling on the matter is very considerable.

The strength of feeling is especially so because, as I mentioned before, historically the Park is part of the ancient parish of St. Arvans, and I stress the word 'ancient'. If you wish to follow up my assertion, see for instance the beginning pages of the popular, locally produced book authored by the late Joyce Edmonds. (This is one of several small books that exist about the locality). Mrs Edmonds refers to documents at least as far back as 1567, referring to the mansion as part of the parish and manor. But the connection is undoubtedly far, far older, very probably back to Welsh-speaking times (see below). Furthermore, the connection was not merely that of adjacency. The benevolent symbiotic relation between estate and parish of the last 150 years at the least, the time of the Clay family, is very evident both in oral accounts in Edmond's book, and in the accounts of some older present residents. It was a generous, supportive relation, including of the local school. Three generations of the Clays are buried in St. Arvans churchyard. And besides Piercefield, there are at least three further Clay houses within the parish, including Wyndcliffe Court, the fine residence on the top of the hill.

To complete an understanding of the historical case, it should be realised that even the present-seeming separation between Park and village, namely the stone estate wall, arose only through a wish to obtain a turnpike road, about 1825. The wall kept the increasing road traffic from the Park. Until the Turnpike was built, the Park and the village ran seamlessly into each other. The wall however was no barrier to social interaction between the big house and the village. In the

St Arvans Community Council

1830s the cottage I live in was one of a short row built by the estate for gardeners, this under the regime of the then owner of Piercefield, Nathaniel Wells. These houses continued in the estates ownership until post World War 2. The 1830s houses were however only an expression in stone of a longer-held landed connection. Squirrel cottages, Devauden Road, built circa 1765, are called thus in reference to the squirrel on the arms of Walters, early owners of Piercefield. John Walters of Piercefield was buried in St. Arvans church, 1590. For a full account of the history of the parish and its 'seat' of Piercefield, see Sir Joseph Bradney, A History of Monmouthshire, Volume 4, Part 1, page 36 onwards, which gives the full pedigree of Walters, back to before 1300.

Sincerely, Professor Michael Williams

St Arvans Community Council

Drew Wilson

Dear sir/madam

As a resident of St Arvans I write to voice my concerns regarding the proposed boundary changes.

I find it hard to understand why bringing the race course into Chepstow boundaries will in any way align the course with the town of Chepstow? As far as I am aware, and no doubt the whole of Wales, if not the UK, Chepstow race course has always been associated with the town of Chepstow. Irrespective as to whether it falls inside or outside the town boundary.

St Arvans has historical links with the course that dates back 200 years. As the closest village to the course it is in the best interest of the village to maintain control over the day to day issues with the course. It has worked well up to now. Why change it?
I feel this would be a complete waste of Monmouthshire council/ tax payers money.

I fear there is an ulterior motive to the changes with the land being prime for real estate. If a council can change borders to accomodate housing I am sure they can change AONB's as well. Any future developements not only seriously damage what is one of the oldest and most famous AONB's in the country but also amount to a serious loss of local amenity for the residents of St Arvans, and also tourists who have been frequenting the area for centuries.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Drew Wilson

St Arvans Community Council

Howard Nash

With reference to the findings of the draft report on the Review of Communities & Electoral Arrangements I wish to register my strong opposition to the recommendation that the area of land between St Arvans and Chepstow, basically Piercefield Park and the Racecourse, be transferred to Chepstow.

I understand the suggestion has been put forward by Chepstow Town Council primarily, it is said, to align the name of the Racecourse with that of the town. Surely it is already fully aligned? If that is indeed the primary reasoning behind the recommendation then it is a totally inadequate basis for any such change.

I restate my opposition.

Sincerely

Howard Nash

St Arvans

St Arvans Community Council

Ian McCrone

Dear Sirs,

I would like to advise **my opposition** to the proposed boundary change by Chepstow Town Council for St Arvans Ward, Monmouthshire.

- * There are long historical links between St Arvans and the Racecourse / Piercefield estate which date back over 200 years
 - * The day to day issues with the racecourse eg. Traffic problems, management of the football field, maintenance of the boundary wall & footpath, disturbance due to events etc. are primarily of interest to St Arvans residents, not Chepstow.
 - * The primary reason given by Chepstow Town Council when suggesting the boundary change is to align the name of the racecourse with that of the town. This is not sufficient reason for such a change and would appear to be linked to a way of securing additional income.
 - * Unnecessary boundary changes have a substantial cost attached. Especially when MCC is struggling to make major cost savings, it seems irresponsible to make a change for change sake.

I do trust my view in this matter will be taken into account when the final decision is made.

Best regards.

Ian McCrone, St Arvans,

St Arvans Community Council

Mr and Mrs Dobney

Dear Sir /Madam,

We the undersigned fully endorse the views and comments of St Arvan's Community Council with reference to boundary changes and the number of councillors. We believe the status quo provides the most benefit for the village of St Arvans .

Yours faithfully,

Mr and Mrs S Dobney
St Arvans

St Arvans Community Council

Mr and Mrs Baron

We would like to register our total opposition to the idea of Chepstow Racecourse and other land and boundary changes from being in St Arvans Community Council to Chepstow Council as proposed, for various reasons listed below.

The proposal is fraught with a lack of information or transparency, and with a huge element of suspicion and hidden agenda behind the whole idea.

The post code of the Racecourse is St Arvans, the land has been in St Arvans for hundreds of years, see The History of Monmouthshire by Sir Joseph Bradney, since 1308 at least, everyone is mentioned as being in the parish of St Arvans, not Chepstow.

Any event held has an element of effect upon our village and that includes sound from loud speakers, fireworks displays, music concerts and as far as we are aware no complaints have been made or requests for special handling of these events from our village.

Why now is it deemed that a change is necessary without consultation to our village, it only seems to point out ulterior motives, possibly planning issues, that people in Chepstow would not notice but we would, as any traffic issues affect us greatly.

We feel that the reasons behind this change have to be in the open, frank and honest, the arrival of the roundabout was the start of our suspicion, there is also no need for the 30mph speed limit except on event days, that has been questioned by many people, including a senior policeman from another area.

The more we think about this issue the more suspicion of ulterior motives come to the front; we live in a so called democracy, with openness and the right to have a say.

Please reconsider this idea and at least be honest and truthful.

Michael and Pauline Baron

St Arvans Community Council

Mike Taylor

Dear Sir

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed boundary changes between St Arvans and Chepstow. I am unaware of any realistic justification for these changes and cannot see any benefits accruing to residents. I can only see additional cost to the council with no real financial return. I am at a loss to see why Chepstow Town Council want the changes to take place and would therefore request that you do not progress this action and accordingly register my objection to the proposal.

Yours Sincerely

Mike Taylor, St Arvans

St Arvans Community Council

Mr Wigg

Dear sir/ madam

I write to express my concern / opposition to the proposed move of the Racecourse from St Arvans to Chepstow Council.

The main travel route to the village / my home is directly passed the racecourse & I am very concerned that the views of the St Arvans residents will not be taken seriously by Chepstow Council with regard to a growing number of events that take place at the Racecourse site. Whilst these events are welcomed , they should not be at the inconvenience or detriment of the local residents whose views can ONLY be fully considered if it were to remain within St Arvans. Chepstow Council may claim otherwise but in practice this will not be the place as they do not have the same access issues & overall impact of events as the village.

I presume there is a cost to the proposed change ? – this money would be better spent on local road maintenance / essential services.

In summary, I AM OPPOSED TO THE PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGE.

Mike Wigg

Np16 6Ex

St Arvans Resident for 21 yrs

St Arvans Community Council

Mr Gore

Dear Sir.

Comment on "Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements" and Draft Proposals.

I am writing to register my opposition to the proposal to remove The Racecourse and The Piercefield Estate from St Arvans Community Council area to join it with Chepstow.

As a previous Community Councillor and Chairman of St Arvans CC, I feel acutely aware of a number of the issues this would raise.

-There are historical links between St Arvans, The Racecourse and The Piercefield Estate that go back over 200 hundred years.

-The proposed change would mean the boundary coming to the very heart of the St Arvans community area, effecting many aspects of the day to day functioning of the community.

-St Arvans CC is responsible to the Racecourse Company for managing a piece of its land, which is currently used as a football, cricket and general recreational facility, at a central part of the community.

-Almost certainly there will be a loss of focus on issues of traffic management, care and maintenance of footpaths, boundaries etc., which are very important in presenting the area as a "Gateway" to the The Wye Valley as an "Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty". The St Arvans Community residents, generally, are unlikely to receive their current level of representation.

-I am sceptical about the reasons for proposing this major boundary change, particularly at a time when the County Council is under considerable pressure to contain costs. It is not a time to make such a change, with possible unforeseen consequences and knock on costs, for quite superficial reasons.

I trust that these comments will be taken into consideration when making the final recommendations.

As a recent Councillor, I am well aware of quite a number of my fellow residents and neighbours who have similar views, but may not have the time to make their views known to you.

Yours sincerely

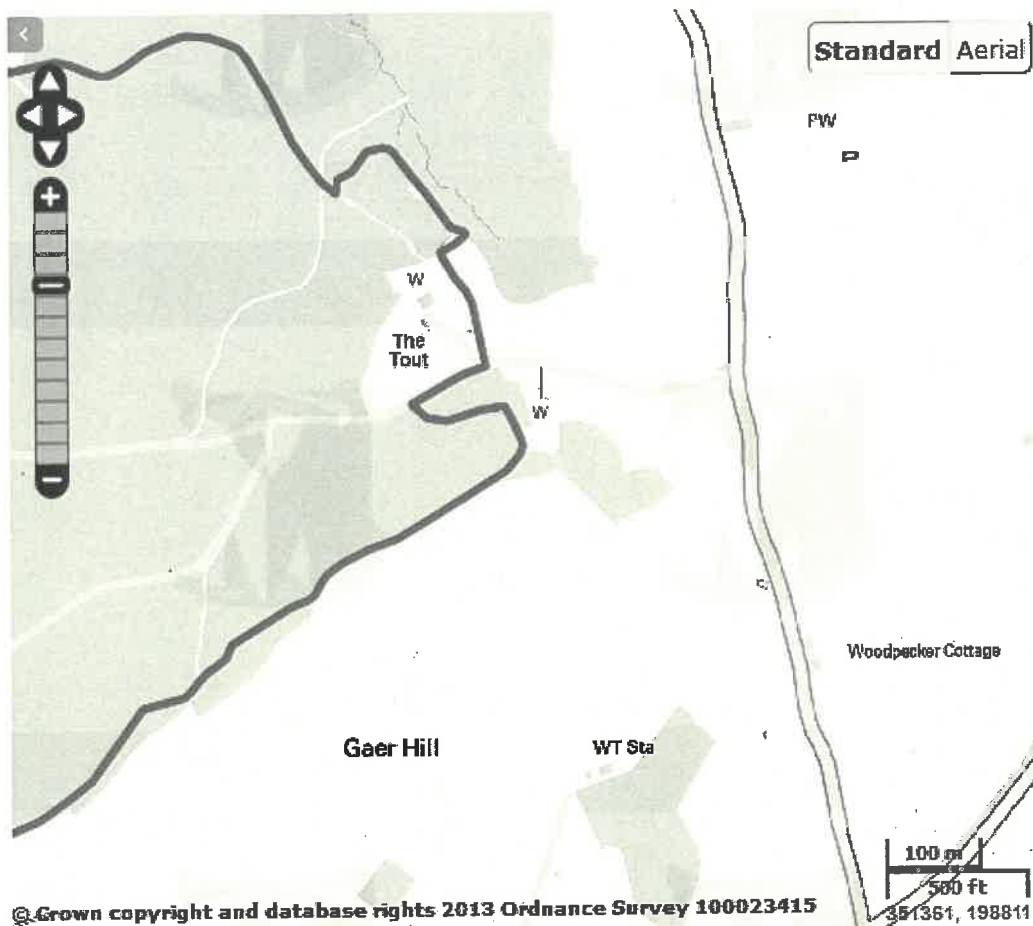
Dr C. R. Gore

St Arvans Community Council

Bob Osborne

Dear Sir or Madam

The new, proposed community boundaries have been brought to my attention and I wish to register my thoughts on the boundary between St. Arvans Ward and Itton. As shown on your interactive map



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the boundary is drawn so that The Tout is included within the Itton Ward rather than St. Arvans and I have to point out that this makes neither geographical nor sociological sense. The Tout is served solely by the road ("Piccadilly Lane") running from St. Arvans to Fair Oak Farm and those living there are very much part of the Penterry community based around the ridge along which the road runs. I would suggest that their interests are much more likely to be aligned with those of St. Arvans rather than Itton and that electoral divisions should reflect this. Please ensure that the boundary is re-drawn to take account of the situation as it exists on the ground.

Bob Osborne

St Arvans Community Council

CStott – Online

Posted by CStott January 17, 2014 at 13:10

Dear Sir, This proposal seems to be a waste of time, what is the practical point
St Arvans has historic links with the racecourse (we wait to see what the affect will be of the
ownership of the woodland will be)
Day to day issues of this area of prime interest to St Arvans rather than Chepstow
It reduces the number of the electorate in the St Arvans community, which affects its individual voice
This proposal will cost money, and I presume already has. If the councils have enough to waste on
such proposals, perhaps they could reduce our rates instead
This change will weaken the voice of St Arvans in its relations with the racecourse, highways etc, is
unnecessary and costly

St Arvans Community Council

Aker – Online

Posted by AKer January 27, 2014 at 12:20

I accept that the County Council has a duty to review minor council arrangements from time to time, primarily to ensure that any significant changes in electorate numbers through housing development etc. since the last review are taken into account. However, the proposals for St Arvans appear to be tinkering for the sake of it.

Dealing with the Racecourse first, the Piercefield Estate on which it is situated has been linked with St Arvans for over 200 years. The Community Council has forged strong links with the Racecourse management and work closely with them regarding a range of issues associated with their business, including minimising potential disturbance caused by noise and a range of traffic issues, as well as management of their boundary walls and the village football field. These matters affect St Arvans residents, not those of Chepstow. Just because it is known as Chepstow Racecourse is no sound reason to pass this rural land to the Town Council.

Secondly, while the transfer of Penterry Ward makes sense in that the authors have rightly identified that those residents tend to look towards St Arvans rather than Tintern, the decision to exclude The Cot does not appear to make sense. Furthermore, the reasons stated for the proposed loss of the area in the south-west along the B4293 leading to a small reduction in the electorate appear to have little substance.

Finally, these proposed changes will have substantial costs associated with them - at a time of financial constraint for the County Council the proposals are poorly conceived, unwelcome and unnecessary.

St Arvans Community Council

JCanderton – Online

Posted by [jcanderton](#) January 30, 2014 at 22:18

I believe the proposed change of the boundary between St Arvans and Chepstow is unjustified.

St Arvans has a historical connection with Piercefield Park going back several hundred years and with the racecourse since its opening in 1926. The village football field is owned by the racecourse and the Community Council have worked with the racecourse management over many years. There has been no recent population shift or additional development in the area of the racecourse that would lead to a different community identity for that area. Therefore, under the terms of reference, there is no justification for making the change.

Most of the visitors to the races come from the M48 along the A466, skirting Chepstow. Few Chepstow residents are affected by the traffic and crowds entering and leaving the racecourse as few travel north along the A466. St Arvans residents and visitors are affected by this traffic to a much greater extent as all travel to the local market town (Chepstow) and larger business and shopping centres (Bristol and Cardiff) necessarily passes the racecourse.

St Arvans residents are also more affected by noise from concerts etc. held at the racecourse as there is a noise-absorbing belt of trees between the racecourse and Chepstow.

No justification is provided for the proposed changes to the west of the A466.

The suggested boundaries at the north end of the racecourse and to the west of the A466 follow no natural boundary such as a road and would not be easily identifiable as recommended in the terms of reference.

Such a change would result in Chepstow Town Council making decisions on issues which affect St Arvans residents more than Chepstow residents and is a wholly unnecessary expense.

St Arvans Community Council

Mr and Mrs Hatcher

Dear Sir,

I have the following comments to make on behalf of my wife and I.

I would like to propose that our property is included in the area which is proposed to come under the control of Chepstow Town Council.

We live in Mistletoe Cottage NP16 6HE, which were the old workers cottages of Piercefield House, and we own the wall along our boundary with Piercefield Park and one of the temple gates.

If Piercefield House and all it's land is to become part of Chepstow Town Council it makes sense that we do too, as one half of Temple Gates would be under Chepstow Town Council and the other under ours in St Arvans. I'd like to propose that the actual A466 becomes the boundary to include our property and the property next door, which is also outside of the village boundary.

St Arvans Community Council have in their actions, failed to protect this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Times have changed, there are no facilities any longer in St Arvans, we only use the facilities of Chepstow. St Arvans is just a satellite commuter village for Chepstow, I don't see the need for a separate Community Council here.

Chris & Michelle Hatcher

...

Dear Sir / Madam

I fully support the proposed boundary changes, reasons why have been mailed to you by my husband.

I fully support the reduction in number of SACC councillors from 8 to 7.

I would like to propose, in the current climate of saving taxpayers money, that we reduce the number further. Chepstow has its varying wards, so St Arvans should just become a ward under Chepstow Town Council as we don't have any schools, facilities etc that require a separate community council with its associated costs.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Hatcher

St Arvans Community Council

Mr and Mrs Hatched – Secondary Representation

18th February 2014

Re; St Arvans/Chepstow boundary change.

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing today to confirm our e-mail and the points we raised at the public meeting on the 28th January 2014.

If you agree to move the boundary of Chepstow Racecourse and the grounds of Piercefield Park, from St Arvans to Chepstow, could the boundary of this include our property at NP16 6HE and be moved up to the A466. We overlook the Racecourse and Grounds, our property was part of the Estate and we own one of the Temple gates and the wall around our property is part of the boundary of the Parkland. It would not make sense to split these up.

It would also make sense to include the St. Arvans playing field which is owned by the Racecourse.

At the meeting we pointed out St Arvans Community Council (SACC) no longer manage this, much to the chastisement of the Councillors there. We did not want to argue.

However the facts are these:

The race course allowed St Arvans Villagers use of the grounds, however the villagers can no longer enjoy this amenity when the football club is training or having matches there.

The playing fields are managed by the Chepstow Garden City Football Club, see (<http://www.gardencityjfc.com>) who maintain the grounds (I believe MCC cut the grass on contract), organise the games and training, and developed the cricket pavilion into its Club House.

They were the ones who applied for permission for the shipping container recently.(DC/2013/00854)

SACC did not declare any interest in the fields when they dealt with the planning application.

No objection was raised by the SACC despite the intensification of use, the extra cars and lack of parking and increased noise: the shipping container in an AONB against the backdrop of the SACC Conservation area and the Grade 1 listed Parkland of Piercefield House.

Claims by the SACC they manage the field are exaggerated , they didn't even know who owned the goals, and these were not up to modern safety standards so Chepstow Garden City football Club (CGCFC) replaced them.

Despite claims that they have a special working relationship with the Race course, the racecourse General Manager did not know about this application or the football club. They are considering charging a nominal rent to CGCFC bypassing SACC altogether.

The vast majority of the players come from outside of the village mostly from Chepstow. There are according to the SACC 8 players from the village, (they said there was only 1 when they applied for permission in July 2013) who have joined CGCFC, but not all will play at St Arvans, as it's age based where they do play. See <http://www.gardencityjfc.com/>

We noted SACC members used the historic links of the village as a means for the Piercefield Park and Chepstow race Course to stay within the control of SACC.

St Arvans Community Council

The SACC by its actions has demonstrated it has no interest in protecting the Historic Parkland of Piercefield House, the Racecourse, or the open countryside nor the Wye Valley AONB that the grounds are situated in. We can provide proof of this if required, having won 2 Judicial Reviews.

In reality why does St Arvans need a Community Council?

All of the councillors live on modern housing estates, which could be any part of Chepstow. All the facilities used by the villagers: the shopping, schools, library, police, doctors and Leisure are in Chepstow.

Why not make the whole of St Arvans a ward of Chepstow?

What is left for them to do?, A children's play area (very little used), a village hall (it has a separate management) which just leaves dog bins and grass cutting?

They do not reflect local opinion, we proved this when we went around getting a statement signed for the first Judicial Review. Almost no one knew what was going on and almost all disagreed with the SACC stance.

We even asked the youngsters in the village what they wanted, they all wanted a skate ramp.

But SACC didn't want to know.

Mr Vickers raised that ageism as a block to joining SACC, in fact it's the members blocking others from joining, only "the right sort of person" meaning from their own housing estates, appear to be co-opted the majority are from Laurel and Grange Park: and then only those prepared to join "the collective viewpoint"

We for instance, despite being very politically active, have never been asked to join.

We have tried to canvass individual councillors, but none will speak to us except as a collective. Quotes from Mr Vickers the current chairman.

"You will no doubt have had the chance to read the latest instalment and note that the latest ploy is to try to divide us."

And: *"You will note that all Councillors were circulated bar Alan. Divide and conquer at its best!! I did not reply and I am not aware of any other responses."* Please note this was a complaint about Mr Alan Bolton, hence his exclusion.

This Community Council is too small, it is infected with the worse sort of small minded pettiness and prejudice, it's simply not needed.

Please note no one turned up at the meeting except councillors or ex councillors to support the Council, the villagers do not support this community Council. We turned up to oppose it.

Due to all of the above we would urge the council that the boundary is altered and that the St Arvans Community Council be dissolved.

Chris & Michelle Hatcher

St Arvans Community Council

Phillip and Rachel Woof

To whom it may concern

As a long term residents of Trelleck Grange (born) and married here we strongly object to the proposal to be removed from Tintern Community Council and with much disgust being placed with Trelleck Community Council.

Councillor George Weston, Trelleck Community Council Representations, wants to get his facts right Trelleck Grange has never had any connections with Trelleck only part of a name in common, as with one in West Wales, but has had connections with Tintern for hundreds of years arising from it being a grange of Tintern Abbey, Trelleck Grange Church was originally a Chapel of ease for the monks of Tintern Abbey.

As for school catchment areas most parents send there children to schools of choice Llandogo, Mynddbach, The Dell and private schools. As for the assumption that there is much in common with Llanishen because of the Village hall and the Churches, Trelleck Grange Church separated from Llanishen some time ago and the other churches are in Devauden Ward and LLansoy Raglan ward, the connection with Tintern and the Abbey is much more longstanding and documented and not as tenuous as those portrayed with Llanishen and Trelleck Tintern has had a long standing affinity with Trelleck Grange and has served the community well, it has geographical boundaries in common which Trelleck does not. Trelleck Grange and Tintern share the same postal town Chepstow whereas Trelleck is Monmouth.

I would guess that Trelleck Community Councils eagerness to have Trelleck Grange is purely financial and not for the good of any of the parish wards.

Leave Trelleck Grange with Tintern *"It isn't broke, don't fix it"*

Yours sincerely
Philip & Rachel Wooff

St Arvans Community Council

Mr and Mrs Charles

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Communities , electoral arrangements and boundaries proposals TRELLECK GRANGE

With regards to the above proposals we would like to make the following comments;
Trelleck Grange natural and geographic situation conjoins with Tintern and has no such connection with Trelleck or Llanishen.

Socially and historically Trelleck Grange is connected with Tintern and has been so for indeed hundreds of years, still successfully and should remain so , being a Grange created by the Cistercian order at Tintern Abbey it is obvious that it should retain its deep rooted connections with Tintern that have remained so strong for many centuries and the very active church in Trelleck Grange is living proof. There is no logical or rational reason for changing the present situation to those suggested in the proposals for communities, electoral arrangements and boundaries review.

WE DO NOT support the new proposal to join Trelleck Grange to Trelleck Community Council and **wish Trelleck Grange to remain with Tintern Community council**

Yours sincerely

GL Charles

W J Charles

Community of Tintern

The Poplars
Whitelye
Catbrook
Chepstow
NP16 6NP

12th February 2014

Electoral Registration
Monmouthshire County Council
The Rhadyr
Usk
Gwent
NP15 1GA

Dear Sir,

Review of Communities & Electoral Arrangements

At a recent meeting of Tintern Community Council the draft review of communities and electoral arrangements was discussed. Their response was that the present boundaries worked well and they could see no reason to change them. However, if changes were to be made, Councillors were quite happy with the proposal that Penterry Ward be transferred to St. Arvans Council and also that Llandogo be linked to Tintern Council.

They were however concerned at the proposal that Trellech Grange be linked to Trellech United Council. We feel that historically The Grange was always linked to Tintern Abbey and that it should continue to do so.

Yours faithfully,



Elizabeth Greatorex-Davies (Clerk)
for Tintern Community Council

Community of Tintern

Dear Mr Pearson

I write to object to the proposal of moving Trelleck Grange Ward to Trellech United from Tintern.

For many hundreds of years Trelleck Grange has been linked to Tintern as one of the Granges to the abbey, Our postal address is Chepstow, as is Tintern's, and we come within the catchment area of Chepstow for secondary education. Does this mean that if moved we will have a new Monmouth postal code and come within the Monmouth area for all services?

Trelleck Grange will always be on the boundary no matter which community it belongs too, but we have Chepstow in common at present and geographically it is more compact than if included with wards such as Penallt and Whitebrook.

Yours sincerely
John Prewett
Trelleck Grange
Chepstow

Sent from my iPad

Community of Tintern

Dear Sir/Madam,

The proposal to change Trelleck Grange from Tintern CC to Trellech United CC.

With reference to the above mentioned proposal to the change of boundaries, as residents we would like to object on the grounds that Trelleck Grange historically have been linked to Tintern Abbey and we see no reason that this should be changed.

We also do not feel that there is a viable reason for this to be changed and we therefore strongly object to your proposal,

Yours faithfully,

George Prichard and family.

Community of Trellech United

TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

01594 530295 clerk@trellechunited.org.uk

Dear Sirs,

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONMOUTHSHIRE

The above draft document was considered by Trellech United Community (TUCC) at the January 2014 meeting. At this point it was noted that there had been no prior consultation on the proposals relating to the Llandogo Ward. It was, therefore, decided to defer further consideration until the Llandogo councilors could obtain the views of their community. The meeting on 17 February 2014 received a report summarising the written representations from concerned locals, none of whom were happy with the proposal to artificially link Llandogo with Tintern. **The Council strongly objects to the proposal to move the Llandogo Ward to the community of Tintern** for the following reasons:

The people of Llandogo have links with the other villages and hamlets within the TUCC area; family and social ties, health care, primary schools, employment. Furthermore, Tintern is closer to, and so linked to, Chepstow while all the villages and hamlets within the TUCC area are closer to Monmouth and so linked to Monmouth.

It is considered that Llandogo is a 'Monmouth' village for the following reasons: -

- i) It has a Monmouth postal address and is served by the Monmouth Royal Mail Sorting Office
- ii) It is served by the Emergency Services from Monmouth
- iii) It is closer to Monmouth
- iv) Llandogo is within Monmouth Comprehensive School's catchment area
- v) Llandogo's local newspaper is the 'Monmouth Beacon'
- vi) Llandogo, and TUCC, residents use Monmouth for:
 - a) Shopping
 - b) Services
 - c) Sport and Leisure
 - d) Cultural activities
 - e) Social activities

Admittedly there are some connections between Llandogo and Tintern; one being Llandogo Primary School which serves both villages, and another being the church parish of Llandogo and Tintern albeit with very small congregations in the separate churches. But, the TUCC area is a natural community and so the Council considers that Llandogo should not be hived off and arbitrarily added to another area just to 'make up the numbers'.

The Council also questions the wisdom of this proposal in the current climate of financial restraint and at a time when other changes are likely at County Councillor, Member of Parliament, Assembly Member and, even European Parliament levels. It would perhaps be more sensible to consider all such potential changes in a coherent and harmonised manner such that each elector had a single representative at each the above mentioned levels with no overlapping boundaries.

Yours sincerely,
Lynne Parker, Locum
for
Ann Davison
Clerk

Community of Trellech United

Dear Sirs,

re: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements for Monmouthshire regarding the Llandogo Ward of Trellech United Community Council (TUCC)

In reviewing the electoral arrangements for Community Councils in the County, Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) has proposed removing Llandogo from Trellech United Community Council.

As the Community Councillors jointly representing Llandogo on TUCC, we are astonished at this proposal, made without preliminary reference to us as Llandogo's elected representatives and therefore without pertinent input or appreciation of how this might be received here in Llandogo.

Our local Council, Trellech United Community Council (TUCC) comprises 7 villages (Trellech, Penallt, Llandogo, Whitebrook, The Narth, Catbrook and Llanishen).

These seven villages have been together within living memory and much longer as a group of villages forming the Parish Council that preceded the Community Council. We see no advantages whatsoever in breaking up the present arrangements and MCC has not offered any. No account has been taken of the substantial historic and current cultural and social connections which we share. It seems an assumption has been made that Llandogo, on the floor of the Wye Valley, is socially and culturally isolated from the village populations on the plateau above it. Nothing could be further from the truth and the key to our cohesion is Monmouth.

1 Llandogo is in the orbit of Monmouth along with the villages on the plateau above. At their closest points Llandogo is just 4 miles from Monmouth. Our 3 secondary schools, state and private, are in Monmouth. Llandogo is in the catchment area for Monmouth Comprehensive School and always has been.

The bus service to Monmouth is far busier in terms of passengers than to Chepstow. In the mornings, extra buses from Chepstow to Monmouth have had to be run to cater for the surge at Llandogo. That is unheard of in the opposite direction.

2 Llandogo residents go to Monmouth to stop in Monmouth and to shop, to chat, to participate in sports and cultural activities, with people from Monmouth and its village cluster, people they already know, from school, work and shared interests, including council and local issues. As this has gone on for generations it is not surprising that family links are stronger too across the villages and their town. Older people prefer to downsize to Monmouth rather than Chepstow for the very same reason.

This is nothing new. Monmouth has always been the town of preference – particularly as it has also always offered a wide variety of shops and services. It remained longer as a traditional market town and still has the feel of it. And it is flat - older people have always intensely disliked shopping in Chepstow because of that. There are no bus shelters here for travellers to Chepstow! When we do travel to Chepstow we are usually on the way to somewhere else.

3 Llandogo has more direct physical links with the plateau above than are obvious:

- roads to Whitebrook, to Catbrook, and Trellech and one direct to Cleddon and Cleddon Falls, hidden in the woodlands. For many living up the hillside the Trellech route to Monmouth is as convenient as the A466.
- a green lane from Llandogo to Pen-y-fan and the Narth.

Community of Trellech United

- multiple footpaths linking the river with Cleddon, its Falls and with the many viewpoints on Wye Valley Walk that runs all the way along the hilltop above Llandogo. It will soon be possible to cycle from Llandogo to Monmouth by going to Whitebrook then along the old railway line to the Boat Inn at Redbrook then along the railway line again from Redbrook to Wyesham. There is no similar possibility from Llandogo to Tintern and Chepstow. Nor is there a footpath. Indeed you will almost never see pedestrians and few local cyclists between Llandogo and Tintern. It is too risky. There is no pavement, no footpath, no verge for most of the route. There is no room between the very steep and landslip-prone hillside and the river.

4 Llandogo has a Monmouth postal address and is served by the Monmouth Royal Mail sorting office. It is served by the Emergency Services from Monmouth. Our local newspaper is the Monmouth Beacon. All news of Llandogo is in its archives. Announcements for events for Llandogo and the other villages are published in it. This is particularly important at election time and the letters pages play an important part in this and in other contexts.

- Our village shop is well patronised by people from the other villages, particularly for newspapers and for convenience when passing through to and from the M4.

5 Our One Stop Shop is Monmouth's.

We are in Monmouth Central Area. So we know many of the County and Community Councillors of the Central Area and we encounter each other in Monmouth exactly as described above. Our main hospital is Nevill Hall. Our local hospital is Monmouth. And yet, MCC wishes to transfer Llandogo to the Chepstow/Caldicot orbit. This would fracture the long established, reliable and treasured bonds we have with and as one of the villages of Monmouth. It would no longer be in the Monmouth Central Area but in the more urban Chepstow/Caldicot Area with all the disruptive disadvantages that would bring in terms of community cohesion and communication as highlighted above.

6 MCC would have to ensure that Llandogo residents could still deal with Monmouth One Stop Shop, to view planning applications there for example. The Llandogo Councillors would have to break with all the links, experience, working relationships built up over the years and start all over again in a different area with the time consuming and frustrating task of re-establishing an understanding of Llandogo and its needs which Trellech United Community Council as a whole has been sensitive to for years. Is the intention to change the school catchment area too?

We believe that there are no advantages for either MCC, TUCC or the people of Llandogo. MCC has not taken into account the much stronger profound and generational links with Monmouth. We have support from numerous people in Llandogo, and as yet no one in Llandogo has supported the proposed change.

As Community Councillors we also would not wish to be burdened with all the unnecessary disruption, the undermining of all the effort involved in building up relationships within our family of communities. The prospect of the persistent distortion of being administratively detached from the close and long established community of the town, villages and hamlets to which the people of Llandogo belong is not welcome.

We urge you to withdraw this proposal.

Ashley Thomas & Bob Dagger, Community Councillors for the Llandogo Ward of Trellech United Community Council

Community of Trellech United

I have considered the proposals with regard to the realignment of boundaries. I am a resident of Llandogo and have been for the past 27 years.

The status quo is not broke why try to fix it? In a time of austerity such meddling is not required. The argument would appear to be a tidying up exercise with no other merit to it. If one followed this population numbers argument then clearly the UK has a difficulty. With a total UK population of 60 million then England has far too many people. It could be suggested that the 4 countries each have a population of 15 million sharing out England between the other three countries! This is, of course a fatuous suggestion - need I say more with regard to the proposed changes.

The other issue of concern is that the current council tax precept for Trellech United is the lowest in Monmouthshire. On the Band D scale the difference is £20 p.a. between Trellech and Tintern. Tintern has the highest precept of any completely rural community. Under the current year [2013-2014] this would mean that Llandogo residents would have a council tax increase of 1.67% over and above any other increase in the county and police precepts. I do not see any reference to this effect in the proposals and I cannot see that under current law that there can be any mitigation [a transitional arrangement to alleviate the increase].

To summarise the proposals appear both irrational and unfair to Llandogo residents. Doing nothing is an option which has not been considered [and probably should have been considered before any council tax payers money was expended in carrying out the exercise] I would add that as a consultation exercise it is sadly lacking. The only way I have become aware is by 'word of mouth'. A proper exercise should involve fully informing all affected people about any proposals with all whys and wherefores stated.

Dr Colin Bell

Llandogo – MONMOUTH [note not Chepstow] NP25 4TG

Community of Trellech United

As a resident of Llandogo I have been made aware of proposed changes to Community Council boundaries.

The proposed changes to TUCC - to bring us under the Chepstow umbrella - does, as far as Llandogo is concerned, make no sense at all – and probably sits in the same bonkers category as suggesting that Llandogo merge with Coleford.

Llandogo has been traditionally linked with the other 6 villages because of traditional links with Monmouth. We have always been a 'Monmouth' village. Monmouth is closer to us (4 miles away at the nearest points) than Chepstow and it is an easier drive up the valley than down to the closer town for all of our shopping needs. Indeed we tend to go to Monmouth to shop in Monmouth and we tend to go past Chepstow to other places.

And yet, MCC wishes to transfer Llandogo to the Chepstow/Caldicot orbit for mathematical tidiness and to mess up the long established and reliable and treasured bonds that exist as one of the villages of Monmouth. It will no longer be in the rural Monmouth Central Area but in the more urban Chepstow/Caldicot Area with all the disruptive disadvantages that would bring in terms of community cohesion and communication as highlighted above.

Perhaps MCC merging with Coleford was not as bonkers idea, given the above, after all - indeed I can hear the cogs turning in MCC now!

Regards

Mike Dodds
Llandogo

Community of Trellech United

Dear Sir/Madam,

The proposal to change Trelleck Grange from Tintern CC to Trellech United CC.

With reference to the above mentioned proposal to the change of boundaries, as residents we would like to object on the grounds that Trelleck Grange historically have been linked to Tintern Abbey and we see no reason that this should be changed.

We also do not feel that there is a viable reason for this to be changed and we therefore strongly object to your proposal,

Yours faithfully,

George Prichard and family.

Community of Trellech United

Dear Mr Pearson

I write to object to the proposal of moving Trelleck Grange Ward to Trellech United from Tintern.

For many hundreds of years Trelleck Grange has been linked to Tintern as one of the Granges to the abbey, Our postal address is Chepstow, as is Tintern's, and we come within the catchment area of Chepstow for secondary education. Does this mean that if moved we will have a new Monmouth postal code and come within the Monmouth area for all services?

Trelleck Grange will always be on the boundary no matter which community it belongs too, but we have Chepstow in common at present and geographically it is more compact than if included with wards such as Penallt and Whitebrook.

Yours sincerely
John Prewett
Trelleck Grange
Chepstow

Ashley Thomas
Rose Cottage
Llandogo
Monmouth
NP25 4TF

Bob Dagger
Fox Cottage
Llandogo
Monmouth
NP25 4TA

28 February 2014

The Electoral Registration Officer
Elections Office
The Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Dear Sirs,

re: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements for Monmouthshire,
regarding the Llandogo Ward of Trellech United Community Council (TUCC)

In reviewing the electoral arrangements for Community Councils in the County, Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) has proposed removing Llandogo from Trellech United Community Council.

As the Community Councillors jointly representing Llandogo on TUCC, we are astonished at this proposal, made without preliminary reference to us as Llandogo's elected representatives and therefore without pertinent input or appreciation of how this might be received here in Llandogo.

Our local Council, Trellech United Community Council (TUCC) comprises 7 villages (Trellech, Penallt, Llandogo, Whitebrook, The Narth, Catbrook and Llanishen).

These seven villages have been together within living memory and much longer as a group of villages forming the Parish Council that preceded the Community Council.

We see no advantages whatsoever in breaking up the present arrangements and MCC has not offered any. No account has been taken of the substantial historic and current cultural and social connections which we share. It seems an assumption has been made that Llandogo, on the floor of the Wye Valley, is socially and culturally isolated from the village populations on the plateau above it. Nothing could be further from the truth and the key to our cohesion is Monmouth.

1 Llandogo is in the orbit of Monmouth along with the villages on the plateau above. At their closest points Llandogo is just 4 miles from Monmouth. Our 3 secondary schools, state and private, are in Monmouth.

Llandogo is in the catchment area for Monmouth Comprehensive School and always has been.

The bus service to Monmouth is far busier in terms of passengers than to Chepstow. In the mornings, extra buses from Chepstow to Monmouth have had to be run to cater for the surge at Llandogo. That is unheard of in the opposite direction.

2 Llandogo residents go to Monmouth to stop in Monmouth and to shop, to chat, to participate in sports and cultural activities, with people from Monmouth and its village cluster, people they already know, from school, work and shared interests, including council and local issues. As this has gone on for generations it is not surprising that family links are stronger too across the villages and their town. Older people prefer to downsize to Monmouth rather than Chepstow for the very same reason.

This is nothing new. Monmouth has always been the town of preference – particularly as it has also always offered a wide variety of shops and services. It remained longer as a traditional market town and still has the feel of it. And it is flat – older people have always intensely disliked shopping in Chepstow because of that. There are no bus shelters here for travellers to Chepstow! When we do travel to Chepstow we are usually on the way to somewhere else.

3 Llandogo has more direct physical links with the plateau above than are obvious:

- roads to Whitebrook, to Catbrook, and Trellech and one direct to Cleddon and Cleddon Falls, hidden in the woodlands. For many living up the hillside the Trellech route to Monmouth is as convenient as the A466.
- a green lane from Llandogo to Pen-y-fan and the Narth.
- multiple footpaths linking the river with Cleddon, its Falls and with the many viewpoints on Wye Valley Walk that runs all the way along the hilltop above Llandogo.

It will soon be possible to cycle from Llandogo to Monmouth by going to Whitebrook then along the old railway line to the Boat Inn at Redbrook then along the railway line again from Redbrook to Wyesham. There is no similar possibility from Llandogo to Tintern and Chepstow. Nor is there a footpath. Indeed you will almost never see pedestrians and few local cyclists between Llandogo and Tintern. It is too risky. There is no pavement, no footpath, no verge for most of the route. There is no room between the very steep and landslip-prone hillside and the river.

4 Llandogo has a Monmouth postal address and is served by the Monmouth Royal Mail sorting office.

It is served by the Emergency Services from Monmouth.

Our local newspaper is the Monmouth Beacon. All news of Llandogo is in its archives. Announcements for events for Llandogo and the other villages are published in it. This is particularly important at election time and the letters pages play an important part in this and in other contexts.

- Our village shop is well patronised by people from the other villages, particularly for newspapers and for convenience when passing through to and from the M4.

5 Our One Stop Shop is Monmouth's.

We are in Monmouth Central Area.

So we know many of the County and Community Councillors of the Central Area and we encounter each other in Monmouth exactly as described above. Our main hospital is Nevill Hall. Our local hospital is Monmouth.

And yet, MCC wishes to transfer Llandogo to the Chepstow/Caldicot orbit. This would fracture the long established, reliable and treasured bonds we have with and as one of the villages of Monmouth. It would no longer be in the Monmouth Central Area but in the more urban Chepstow/Caldicot Area with all the disruptive disadvantages that would bring in terms of community cohesion and communication as highlighted above.

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Is the intention to change the school catchment area too?

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We urge you to withdraw this proposal.

Ashley Thomas & Bob Dagger,
Community Councillors for the Llandogo Ward of Trellech United Community Council

Trelleck Grange House,
Trelleck Granges,
Chepstow,
Monmouthshire
NP16 6QN
24-2-2014

Dear Mr Pearson,

We understand that it has been proposed to put Trelleck Grange Ward with Trellech United Community Council we strongly oppose this change as historically Trelleck Grange was the Grange to Tuntern Abbey, and the church is still very much part of the community, and should remain with Tuntern Community Council.

There was also some mention of merging wards together, which we feel would be a mistake as each ward is quite different. The boundaries and electoral arrangement work well, so why change them.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Heath
A. Heath

TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Holmbrook
Llandogo
Monmouth
NP25 4TW
01594 530295
clerk@trellechunited.org.uk



27 February 2014

Elections Office
Monmouthshire County Council
The Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Dear Sirs,

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONMOUTHSHIRE

The above draft document was considered by Trellech United Community (TUCC) at the January 2014 meeting. At this point it was noted that there had been no prior consultation on the proposals relating to the Llandogo Ward. It was, therefore, decided to defer further consideration until the Llandogo councilors could obtain the views of their community.

The meeting on 17 February 2014 received a report summarising the written representations from concerned locals, none of whom were happy with the proposal to artificially link Llandogo with Tintern. **The Council strongly objects to the proposal to move the Llandogo Ward to the community of Tintern** for the following reasons:

The people of Llandogo have links with the other villages and hamlets within the TUCC area; family and social ties, health care, primary schools, employment. Furthermore, Tintern is closer to, and so linked to, Chepstow while all the villages and hamlets within the TUCC area are closer to Monmouth and so linked to Monmouth.

It is considered that Llandogo is a 'Monmouth' village for the following reasons: -

- i) It has a Monmouth postal address and is served by the Monmouth Royal Mail Sorting Office
- ii) It is served by the Emergency Services from Monmouth
- iii) It is closer to Monmouth
- iv) Llandogo is within Monmouth Comprehensive School's catchment area
- v) Llandogo's local newspaper is the 'Monmouth Beacon'
- vi) Llandogo, and TUCC, residents use Monmouth for: -
 - a) Shopping
 - b) Services
 - c) Sport and Leisure
 - d) Cultural activities
 - e) Social activities

Admittedly there are some connections between Llandogo and Tintern; one being Llandogo Primary School which serves both villages, and another being the church parish of Llandogo and Tintern albeit with very small congregations in the separate churches. But, the TUCC area is a natural community and

TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL



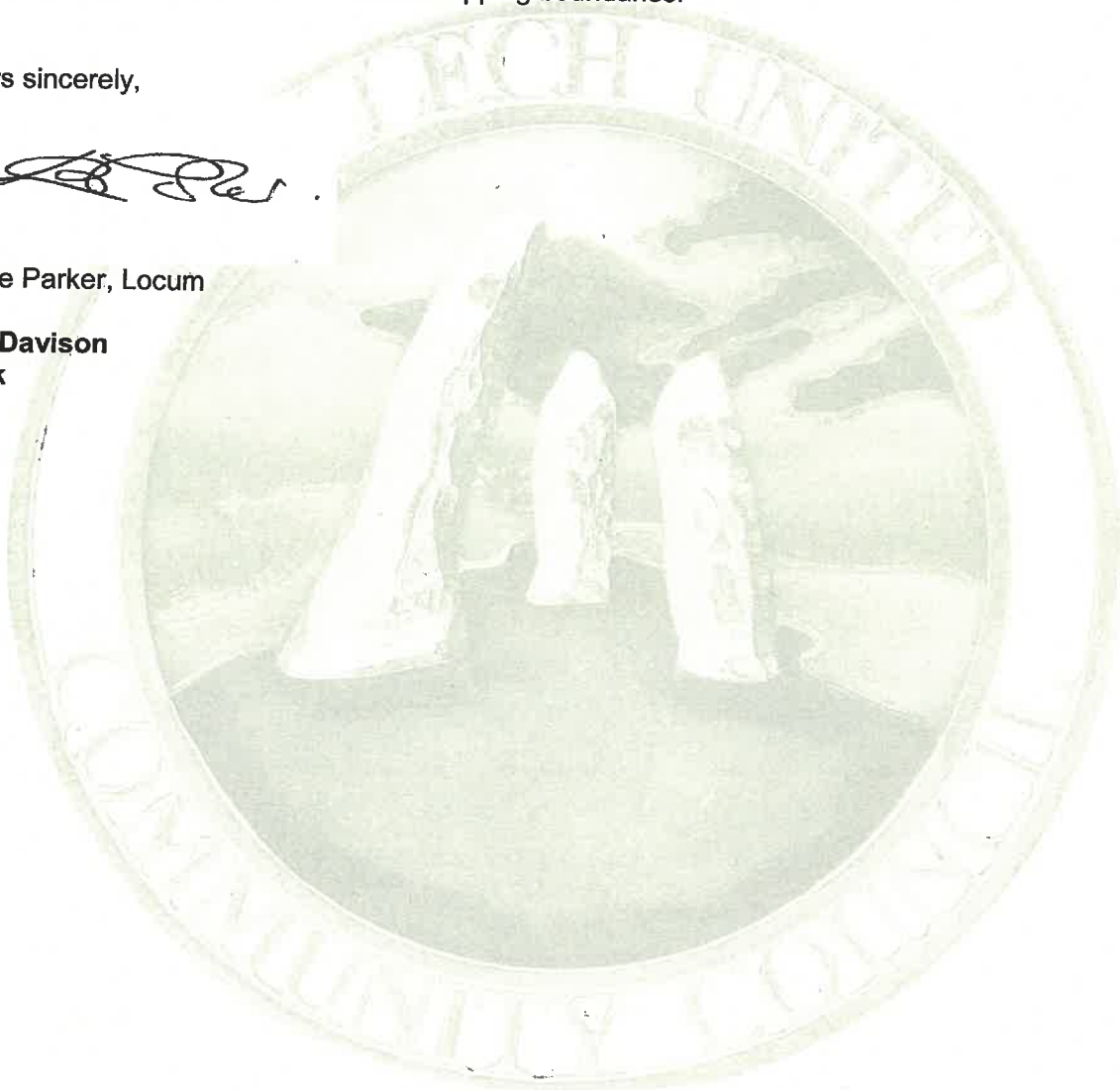
so the Council considers that Llandogo should not be hived off and arbitrarily added to another area just to 'make up the numbers'.

The Council also questions the wisdom of this proposal in the current climate of financial restraint and at a time when other changes are likely at County Councillor, Member of Parliament, Assembly Member and, even European Parliament levels. It would perhaps be more sensible to consider all such potential changes in a coherent and harmonised manner such that each elector had a single representative at each the above mentioned levels with no overlapping boundaries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynne Parker".

Lynne Parker, Locum
for
Ann Davison
Clerk



Usk Community

Usk Town Council

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD



Mr. J Pearson
Electoral Registration
Monmouthshire County Council,
The Rhadyr,
Usk,
NP15 1GA

30th January 2014

Dear Mr. Pearson

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements **Draft Proposals**

Usk Town Council

Response to the Draft proposals contained in the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements.

I should begin by thanking you for inviting us to the consultation meeting on 14th January in County Hall. My colleague and I found the meeting extremely helpful. We have since had the opportunity to discuss the draft proposals with full council and wish to raise the following points.

Whilst we are pleased to note that there are no major proposals to change the Usk boundaries in respect of the town Council ward, we would not object to the inclusion of some of the isolated properties bordering the current boundary being included in the Usk ward as discussed at our meeting on the 14th.

Our one single concern about the proposals relates to the proposed reduction in the number of councillors from 12 to 7.



Mrs. Tracey Huxley Town Clerk
Ms Jenny Mee - Sessions House Manager/Responsible Finance Officer
Tel: 01291 673011 E-mail:-clerk.usk@btconnect.com

Usk Community

Usk is the smallest of the five towns in Monmouthshire, and therefore the demands placed on us are far greater than those of the majority of Community Councils. In addition to the normal range of responsibilities, Usk has purchased the Sessions House from the County Council. It is the most significant Victorian building in the town and because of its design; the cost of running maintenance is extremely high. We work hard to manage the building on a self financing basis so as not to burden council tax payers wherever possible. We achieve this by leasing some of the office accommodation on a commercial basis, hiring rooms and facilities and even organizing weddings in order to raise income. All of this takes a great deal of organizing. We employ a total of three part time staff and in addition rely on all councillors giving up their time to help.

The town hosts a number of significant events throughout the year all of which help the local economy. We have a Gardens Open weekend which attracts thousands of visitors from around the country and this year welcomed a coach load of Canadian visitors. Usk in Bloom competitions which see us representing Wales, in the Britain in Bloom competition. We have summer and winter festivals which also attract hundreds of people and this year's winter festival with Santa and the reindeers was the most successful ever with police estimates of around 3,500 people just wanting to see the reindeers. We also provide Christmas lights throughout the town.

Whilst these events are organized by local volunteers they do rely on Council support. The reindeer parade is of course run solely by the Council.

The council currently has 22 sub committees which all meet on a regular basis and the town has a total of 59 local voluntary organizations the majority of which the council has dealings with. Indeed, there is a standing agenda item at all our meetings to receive reports from members serving on other organizations. We currently operate with 12 elected members, 25% of whom are still in employment. Even now it can be difficult ensuring that meetings are quorate. If we were to be reduced to just 7 elected members the services and support that we currently offer would be drastically reduced.

Given the current financial constraints on the County Council, we are offering to take responsibility for providing some of the services currently provided by MCC, but which are likely to be cut or phased out without town/community council support. Yet it appears that you want to reduce the number of councillors whilst expecting us to provide these additional services.

Usk Community

In conclusion, whilst we recognize the importance of councillor/elector ratios, the concept of over representation is irrelevant in respect of Town and Community Councils because we are all volunteers and therefore attendance at meetings have no cost implications.

Given the above, I trust you will revisit these matters and allow us to retain a council of 12 members.

Yours sincerely,



Clr Alec Leathwood
Mayor of Usk

Usk Community

Usk Civic Society

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS: DRAFT PROPOSALS

Response of Usk Civic Society

Usk Civic Society has examined the draft proposals relating to community councils within our area of operation (mostly Usk town council but also neighbouring Community Councils including Llanbadoc, Llantrissant Fawr, Llangybi and Llangwm). Our principal concern is with the proposed substantial reduction proposed in the number of Town Councillors for Usk.

We consider that the mechanistic application of the "urban" ratio of 1 councillor to 500 electors, as opposed to 1 to 150 for "rural" communities produces a result for this small town (by some way the smallest of the five towns in Monmouthshire) which pays little regard to the responsibilities carried by the Town Council, which are substantially greater than those of the surrounding rural communities. Usk is the natural local centre for those communities and provides many of the services and facilities on which they depend, such as library services, doctor, dentist, and local shopping. This means that they too have an interest in the work undertaken by the Town Council on such issues as car parking and the amenity and viability of Usk's shops, especially in Bridge Street with its problems with air pollution and HGVs. The Town Council's line on these matters may not always be welcome to the County Council, but it has been very much in line with the views and interests of the local population, and has required input from Councillors which would have been very difficult with a Council so severely reduced in size.

It has already been pointed out by Usk Town Council that they carry the burden (largely borne by the elected councillors) of operating and maintaining the Sessions House. The building provides a meeting-place not only for the Town Council itself but for many other local organisations with a reach beyond the boundaries of the town; the Society is one such. At least one of the rural Community Councils also uses it for meetings. Its availability for weddings and other functions adds to the burden but helps to cover the cost of maintenance. It also helps to raise the profile of the town and to bring in trade. The Town Council needs to maintain liaison with the local prison authorities both in general and with reference to delicate issues around sex offenders; no other local town council in the county has to do this. It has to deal with river and flooding issues and leads the emergency group of flood wardens. At least one Councillor has to serve *ex officio* as a school governor. The Town Council also maintains active contact and cooperation with most of the many local voluntary organisations and charities which serve the town and surroundings. The Society's own experience is that this involvement is very much to the benefit of all parties. It enables the Town Council to work in partnership with the voluntary sector to make Usk the vibrant community it is. These additional duties would be very hard to discharge with a Town Council smaller than that proposed for Llantrissant Fawr, which carries none of these burdens.

Partly because of the town's small size and lack of MCC-provided facilities Councillors need to liaise with the non-local authority bodies which provide what we have, such as the athletic club and the Memorial Hall. The review also takes no account of moves in the current difficult financial situation to pass responsibility for certain services previously provided by the County Council to the Town Council. With a very small paid staff it is not reasonable to expect so severely reduced a body of Councillors to take on these duties.

The review also takes no account of the proposals of the Williams Commission to reduce by merger the number of County Councils in Wales. It recognises that in order to counterbalance

Usk Community

new larger and more distant upper tier authorities there is scope for “strengthening representation at a very local level”. The First Minister has indicated that legislation on the lines proposed by Williams is on the way after the next Assembly elections and that voluntary cooperation prior to merger will be encouraged in the interim. Against this background drastic reduction in representation at town and community council level makes no sense at this stage. Any adjustment should await the outcome of the expected legislative change.

Finally, it is not clear what would be gained from reducing the size of the Town Council, beyond administrative tidiness for the sake of it with no consideration of the burdens actually borne by the Councillors. They are unpaid and therefore their existence costs the public purse nothing. Indeed costs might even rise if a shortage of elected Councillors necessitated the employment of more staff to cover the gap.

