

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

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