

## **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.