

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 Sgyrrid, 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.