

# **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 25km<sup>2</sup> 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.