

## **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 round-about 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  
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18<sup>th</sup> March 2013

## REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS Terms of Reference

Dear John,

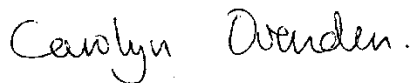
Following a lengthy discussion of the above at their March meeting, Mathern Community Councillors have asked me to write to express their grave concern about the proposal by Chepstow Town Council that the part of Newhouse Industrial Estate currently within to Mathern Community Council boundary should 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.