

# Community of Shirenewton

## Shirenewton Community Council

### Hilary Counsell – Shirenewton Community Council Clerk

Hi John, during discussion of the above, members gave consideration to the following:

- overall boundary of the Council,
- individual ward boundaries,
- links between wards,
- the warding structure.

In response to the consultation, members wish to make the following points -

- that the current four wards of Shirenewton, Mynyddbach, Earlswood and Newchurch West are a distinct area with an identifiable community.
- there are several positive links between the wards, such as the CC having responsibility for the poor land field and an area of forestry in Earlswood, Also for Earlswood Village Hall and the Recreation Hall and playing field in Shirenewton, as well as the green at Mynyddbach. The CC also offers financial support to all the churches and chapels and several organisations in the community.

Members feel that it might be beneficial to reduce the community to two wards - Shirenewton and Mynyddbach, and Earlswood and Newchurch West. Earlswood and Newchurch West historically regard themselves as a community. Councillors suggest the boundary of the two wards be at Cock a Roosting (bridleway BR86, on to the road at lower Argoed, to Cock a Roosting, then BR54, BR53, Footpath51, 45, 46 to the CC boundary. The electors could then be realigned for voting purposes, with the Earlswood/Newchurch West ward voting at Earlswood Hall and the Shirenewton/Mynyddbach ward voting at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. This would rationalise the current arrangements where several of the Earlswood electorate pass Earlswood Hall to vote in Shirenewton. Members did feel it important that all the village names are kept in the ward titles to retain their identities.

According to the Terms of Reference, as this Council has 915 electors, the number of Councillors representing the wards will be reduced, possibly to eight rather than the current ten. If this is the case, members would suggest five for the Shirenewton/Mynyddbach ward and three for the Earlswood/Newchurch West ward.

Perhaps you would kindly calculate how this would work out as a ratio of electorate to Councillors in each ward and advise us accordingly.

Shirenewton County Councillor G. Down



monmouthshire  
sir fynwy

Monmouthshire County Council  
PO Box 106, Caldicot  
NP26 9AN  
Cyngor Sir Fynwy  
Blwch SP 106, Cil-y-coed  
NP26 9AN

Tel/Ffôn: 01633 644644  
Fax/Ffacs: 01633 644666  
Web/Gwefan: www.monmouthshire.gov.uk

J Pearson Esq  
Local Democracy Manager  
Election Office  
Monmouthshire County Council  
The Rhadyr  
Usk  
NP15 1GA

15 May 2013

Address for correspondence:  
7 Wyelands View  
Mathern  
Chepstow  
Monmouthshire  
NP16 6HN

Tel: 01291 621846

e-mail: [grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

Dear John

**Re: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements**

With reference to the above Review, I have had the opportunity to look at the submissions made by Mathern Community Council and Shirenewton Community Council, amongst others.

**Mathern**

I broadly agree with the submissions which have been made by Mathern Community Council. It seems to me to make obvious sense to use the A466 between High Beech roundabout and Newhouse roundabout as the eastern boundary of the Community, and as a clear dividing line with Chepstow. This brings a small amount of agricultural land to the north west of Newhouse roundabout into the Community, as well as two properties, one of which is a commercial property, to the west of High Beech roundabout (which would fall in the Pwllmeyric Ward).

At the southern end, it would seem sensible to use the M48 eastwards towards the Wye Bridge as the boundary, which would bring the whole of the Newhouse Industrial Estate within the Mathern Community.

There is a case for extending the eastern edge of the Community northwards from High Beech roundabout towards Mounton Road (westwards), and thereafter using Mounton Road as the northern boundary, with the few properties to the south of the road coming into the Mathern Community. If this is agreed the affected properties could conveniently be associated with the Mounton Ward.

Mathern Community Council have also suggested bringing "old" Bayfield within the Mounton Ward. Again, I see the sense of this in representing the division between urban Chepstow and the more rural area.

There is a single property on the Usk Road which, perversely, falls within the Mathern Community. The dwelling is completely isolated from the remainder of the Community, and I would argue that it really ought to be part of Chepstow's St Kingsmark Ward.

*Working with the citizens of Monmouthshire*

This letter is from an individual Member and is not written on behalf of the Council  
*Daw'r llythyr yma oddi wrth Aelod unigol ac ni ysgrifennwyd ar ran y Cynvor.*



Likewise, the register includes a single property on High Beech Lane, which can only be an error.

**Shirenewton**

Once more, I broadly concur with the submission made by Shirenewton Community Council. No changes are necessary to the boundaries of the Community as a whole, albeit that there are a few dwellings along the western side of the Crick Road north of Crick, which would appear to have greater affinity with Shirenewton than with Caerwent.

The principal change which is required to the Shirenewton community involves the division between Earlswood and Shirenewton Wards. Under the present arrangements a large part of Earlswood falls within the Shirenewton Ward which is plainly preposterous. The boundary ought to be drawn so that anything to the north of Cock A Roostin falls within the Earlswood Ward.

I hope you find these comments helpful.

Regards

Yours sincerely



**Graham Down**  
County Councillor for Shirenewton & Mathern