

## Community of Llanarth

### Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llanarth consist of four wards, Bryngwyn, Clytha, Llanarth and Llanvapley. The community has a total electorate of 684 and is represented by 10 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Bryngwyn	209	3
Clytha	220	3
Llanarth	145	2
Llanvapley	110	2

### Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider prominent features within the Llanarth Community include the A40 and B4233 roads.

### Electorate Forecast

3. There is no additional development within the community of Llanarth that would alter the current arrangements.

### Representations Received

4. Llanarth community council submitted a representation in respect of their area requesting no changes are made to the existing arrangements and made the following points:
  - Llanarth fawr is a very large and rural area with a number of small villages dotted amongst its farming landscape
  - The special topography and geography of the area requires commitment from its council and councillors which is capably fulfilled by both parties and have been key stakeholders in a number of the issues in the area including the cattle market, a solar panel farm in Llanvapley and a number of affordable housing within the area.
  - If the area the council had to cover was to increase then the representation would not be as effective as it currently is due to the nature of the area.
  - Councillors pride themselves on being active members of the community and work tirelessly to represent the area. Examples include investing in community projects and holding community consultations.
  - Vacancies that occur on the community council are quickly filled by enthusiastic local residents.
  - All of the above points ensure that whilst Llanarth is an isolated area, it ensures its resident have a voice at local government level.

## Recommendations

### External Boundaries

5. The working group considered the existing arrangements for the Llanarth area and concluded that little change is necessary for the community. They did however query the positioning of the Llanvapley ward within the community of Llanarth.

As with the proposals for the Llantilio Crossenny and Llangattock Vibon Avel communities, the main channels of communication through those communities are the B4521 and B4233, of which the village of Llanvapley is situated. The group identified there is road access from the village of Llanvapley to the village of Llandewi Rhydderch however this is situated in the current Llanover community and not the community of Llanarth. Therefore, in order for residents of Llanvapley to access the remaining wards of Llanarth they need to travel via an adjoining community before arriving within the community of Llanarth and question why this ward forms part of the community of Llanarth.

The group therefore propose that the ward of Llanvapley is included in the community of Llanover (proposed as the Little Sgyrrid community). The B4233 runs through the Llandewi Rhydderch ward linking the Llanover community with Llanvapley as well as being linked directly via a road from Llanvapley. As stated above, residents currently need to travel via the Llanover community or Llantilio Crossenny community to access the Llanarth community and as such the group consider there to be a stronger link to the community of Llanover than to the current Llanarth community and ensures consistency with the proposals for this community and that of Llantilio Crossenny.

- 5.1. The group also recommend amending the eastern boundary of the Llanarth community where it adjoins Llandewi Rhydderch and Llangattock Nigh Usk. The current boundary roughly follows a road around Coed Morgan farm however a number of properties that appear to have similar links are separated to different communities by the current boundary. It is therefore proposed that the boundary is amended to bring all these properties together in to the Llandewi Rhydderch ward which they appear most closely associated with. To that end it is proposed that the boundary between these wards is amended to follow the path eastwards of The Cochyn where it will follow the edge of Little Coed Y Gelli wood and Coed Y Geilli Dingle. At the bottom of the wood the boundary will return west along the field boundaries to join up with the existing community boundary south of Lower Coed Morgan. These proposals ensure that Coed Morgan Cottage, Coed Morgan Farm and Lower Coed Morgan, as well as properties surrounding these, are all contained within a single community.

It is also proposed that the boundary between Llanarth and Llangattock Nigh Usk is amended to include Pwll-Yr-Hywad within the Llanarth ward rather than the Llangattock Nigh Usk ward.

- 5.2. Another area requiring amendment is the external boundary between the Bryngwyn ward and Penrhos ward of the current Llantilio Crossenny community. The current boundary divides the two communities by following a stream however, the stream divides a couple of similar

properties within the area namely, Millbrook, Millbrook Farm and Millbrook Cottage. A new boundary incorporating all these properties within a single ward is proposed with the boundary leaving the eastern boundary south of Clawdd Wood and following a track to the north of Pen-y-lan wood. The boundary will then cross the road and join the stream west of Millbrook Cottage.

- 5.3. It is also proposed to amend the external boundary in the Rhiw-Las area between Raglan, Bryngwyn and Clytha wards. Currently the boundary follows a stream and road splitting properties in the same area into three separate wards. Additionally, the property Rhiw-Las Mill is in the Bryngwyn ward of Llanarth whilst all other properties associated with Rhiw-Las are in the Raglan ward. The group propose amending the boundary in this area to follow field boundaries to join up with the existing external boundary following the stream so that the properties Rhiw-Las Mill and all outbuildings associated with Merry Stream Barn are contained within a single ward of the community of Raglan.
- 5.4. Due to the Gwehelog Fawr community being disbanded, the proposed ward of Kemeys Commander and Llancayo, which will run north to south through the existing Gwehelog Fawr community incorporating the area of, and including, Llancayo and Trostre wood, will be incorporated into the Llanarth Fawr Community.

#### **Internal Boundaries**

- 5.5. The working group considered the arrangements between the Llanarth and Clytha wards and propose an amendment to the boundary between the two areas. The current boundary follows the Clawdd Brook from the edge of the community boundary near the A40 and intersects the ward east to west. The working group consider that a new boundary that follows the road south of the A40 between Bryngwyn and Llanvihangel Gobion may be a more suitable boundary for the community that ensures properties with close connections and common links either side of the A40 are contained within a single ward. Additionally, the road between Bryngwyn and Llanvihangel Gobion provides a natural intersection in the community between the north and south areas, as well as being the main channel of communication to join the remainder of the community with the Bryngwyn village.
- 5.6. The group propose no other changes to the internal boundaries of the wards other than those changes to the external boundary stated in 5.1 and 5.3 above.

#### **Proposed Community and Community Ward Boundaries**

6. The group propose to continue with the same community and community ward names as currently exist however we welcome recommendations for any suitable alternatives.

#### **Proposed Electoral Arrangements**

7. The working group consider the Llanarth community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Whilst the working group understand that the community of Llanarth is less than the ideal 1,000 electors for a community as per the Terms of Reference for this review, the group consider the sparsely populated natural geography and channels of communication within the area lend itself to requiring its own community.

As per the Terms of Reference, it was agreed that a community must be represented by a minimum of seven councillors in order to conduct their business effectively. To that end, the Llanarth community will be represented by seven councillors rather than four as per the above ratio.

<b>Community Ward</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>
Bryngwyn	206	2
Clytha	123	1
Llanarth	232	3
Kemeys Commander & Llanayo	161	1

### **Working Group Individual Member Comments**

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Llanarth.