

Community of Llanover

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llanover consist of four wards, Llanddewi Rhydderch, Llanfair Cilgydyn, Llangattock-Nigh-Usk and Llanover. The community has a total electorate of 1128 and is represented by twelve community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llanddewi Rhydderch	321	3
Llanfair Cilgydyn	179	2
Llangattock-Nigh-Usk	387	4
Llanover	241	3

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider prominent boundaries within the Llanover community as being the A40, A4042 and B4233 roads as well as the River Usk and Railway adjacent to the A40.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no significant developments proposed within the community of Llanover that would significantly alter the current level of electorate.

Representations Received

4. Representation was received from Llanover community stating their objection to the review as a 'waste of time and money' and that 'any changes made would be for change's sake'. They stated the 'present situation works well' and advised the working group to 'leave well alone'.

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The working group considered the existing arrangements for the community of Llanover and queried the link between some of the wards of the community. The group couldn't establish a link between the Llanover ward and, in particular, the wards of Llangattock-Nigh-Usk and Llanddewi Rhydderch given that they are divided by the A40. Additionally, the A4042 is a prominent channel of communication that links the Llanover ward to the community of Llanfoist to the north and Goetre to the South.

The working group therefore propose that the community ward of Llanover should be incorporated into the community of Goetre Fawr (Proposed as Goetre Wharf). The group

consider the A4042 provides a stronger channel of communication between Llanover and Goetre than Llanover currently has with the remaining wards of the Llanover Community.

- 5.1. The group also propose to amend the boundary that currently divides Goetre and Llanfair Kilgeddin near Nant-Y-Derry. The current boundary follows a stream adjacent to Chain Bridge Road however this places a number of properties, Lower Pen-Twyn Farm & Lower House Farm which have clear links to Nant-Y-Derry, into the Llanfair Kilgeddin ward. It is therefore proposed that the boundary in this area is amended to follow field boundaries around these properties incorporating them in to the Nant-Y-Derry ward of Goetre Fawr.
- 5.2. The group considered the eastern boundary of the community of Llanfoist that follows the River Usk south from the A465. The group consider that the area along the A4042 south of the Hardwick roundabout to Llanellen should be included in the community of Llanfoist and not the community of Llanover, given its strong links and channel of communication along the A4042. As stated in the representation for the community of Abergavenny, it is proposed that the external boundary of the community of Abergavenny is amended to follow the railway line. The group therefore propose that the western boundary of the community of Llanover is amended to continue following the railway south from the Hardwick roundabout and re-join the River Usk near the Glan Usk estate.
- 5.3. The group also recommend amending the eastern boundary of the Llanover community where it adjoins Llanarth. 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.
- 5.4. Similarly in the same area it is proposed that the boundary between the community of Llanover and Llanarth is amended to include Pwll-Yr-Hywad within the community of Llanarth rather than the Llangattock Nigh Usk ward.
- 5.5. The group also considered the arrangements for the Llanvapley ward of 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 this 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.

Internal Boundaries

5.6. No changes are proposed to the internal ward boundaries other than amendments as stated above.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. Due to the Llanover ward no longer being included within the Llanover Community an alternative name is required. The group propose a community name of Little Sgyrrid however welcome suggestions as to suitable alternatives for the new community. No changes are proposed to the community ward names.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

7. The working group consider the Little Sgyrrid 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 Little Sgyrrid is slightly 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.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llanddewi Rhydderch	331	2
Llanfair Cilgydyn	176	1
Llangattock-Nigh-Usk	380	3
Llanvapley	110	1

Working Group Individual Member Comments

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the Little Sgyrrid Community except for one member who rejected the proposal based on the following points.

“I cannot see any logical reason to remove Llanover out of the current Llanover Community Council ward. It has plenty of road connections to Llanfair Kilgeddin, Llandewi Rhydderch and the Bryn - the four other villages in this community council area. There is also the issue of removing Llanover estate out of the community council and county council boundary. The estate covers land across the ward and is connected to Coldbrook and Llanarth estate. You would then split the estate across at least two county council wards and three community council wards - at present the three estates all reside in Llanover CC ward.”

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