

Community of Llantilio Crossenny & Llangattock Vibon Avel

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llantilio Crossenny consist of three wards, Llantilio Crossenny, Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern and Penrhos. The community has a total electorate of 580 and is represented by 9 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llantilio Crossenny	362	6
Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern	71	1
Penrhos	147	2

- 1.1. The current community arrangements in Llangattock Vibon Avel consist of three wards, Llangattock Vibon Avel, Skenfrith and St Maughans. The community has a total electorate of 850 and is represented by ten community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llangattock Vibon Avel	296	3
Skenfrith	314	4
St Maughans	240	3

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. Natural boundaries within both these communities include the B4233, B4521 and B4347 as well as castles at Skenfrith and Whitecastle.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no proposed developments within the Llantilio Crossenny or Llangattock Vibon Avel communities that will significantly alter the current electorate.

Representations Received

4. Llantilio Crossenny submitted representation requesting the status quo is maintained as there are no issues or problems to report from within the community. The council consider the traditional boundaries and historic situation in the area work well and that any changes would be unlikely to bring any real benefit to the community.
- 4.1. Llangattock-Vibon-Avel community council submitted a detailed representation for the community area that it covers. To summarise, the main points are as follows:

- Llangattock-Vibon-Avel community is the second most deprived area in Wales with a resident of Cross Ash requiring a round trip of 18 miles for a loaf of bread
- All community councillor information is available in the six local notice boards within the community
- Community Council has to be extremely careful with funds raised through precept as only 400 residences within community
- The Biggest expense for the community is maintaining properties and tourist attractions within the community
- Justification as to the requirement of ten councillors within the community

Recommendations

External Boundary

5. The group considered the community of Llantilio Crossenny and identified two key natural boundaries in the B4521 and the B4233 that run east to west through the community. As such the working group considered that whilst these are channels of communication, as well as natural boundaries, that the community of Llantilio Crossenny should be reviewed alongside the community of Llangattock Vibon Avel.

5.1. The group considered the reasoning as to why these communities run north to south when the main channels of communication via the B4521 and B4233 roads run east to west with a neutral area between these two roads providing a natural divide between the two areas.

Additionally, with the communities running east to west, it gives the opportunity to re-name the communities based on the 'three castles' within the area that formed a strategic defence in the 12th Century, namely Skenfrith, Grosmont and Whitecastle, and gives opportunity to highlight these key historic features within the communities.

5.2. To that end the working group propose to amend the boundaries of both the communities of Llantilio Crossenny and Llangattock Vibon Avel. The two communities will be called Skenfrith and Whitecastle.

5.3. It is proposed that a new boundary between the two communities will run east to west from the north of Whitecastle to the eastern boundary of Skenfrith above the village of Newcastle. The community of Skenfrith would incorporate the area to the north of the boundary along the B4521 using the existing northern ward boundary of Skenfrith and Llantilio Crossenny. It is also proposed that the ward of Llanvetherine of the community of Grosmont is included in the community of Whitecastle due to its close association with the B4521.

5.4. The community of Whitecastle will incorporate the remaining areas to the south of the proposed boundary including the villages of Rockfield, Newcastle, Llangattock Vibon Avel, Penrhos and Llantilio Crossenny.

- 5.5. It is also proposed to amend the boundary dividing the Penrhos ward and Bryngwyn ward of the community of Llanarth. 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.
- 5.6. A small amendment to the external boundary has also been made at the boundary between Llanvihangel Ystern Llewern ward and the Mitchel Troy community. The working group consider that the property Cefn Garw Farm is more closely associated with the Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern than the Tregare ward of Mitchel Troy given that all access to the property is north of the farm with no access south to Tregare. Therefore the group propose to amend the boundary so it continues along the Nant Wachan stream south of Cefn Garw Farm and join with the existing boundary north of Tregare Mill.

Internal Boundaries – Skenfrith Community

6. The community of Skenfrith will comprise of three wards, Skenfrith, Cross Ash and Llanvetherine. The Llanvetherine ward will remain unchanged but form part of the Skenfrith community rather than Grosmont.

The new Cross Ash ward will incorporate the area north of Whitecastle that was previously the Llantilio Crossenny ward and run east to the new boundary of the Skenfrith ward which runs north to south through the community to the east of Cherry Tree Farm and Nant-Yr-Ych Farm.

The Skenfrith ward incorporates the rest of the community to the east of the above boundary.

Internal Boundaries – Whitecastle Community

- 6.1. The community of Whitecastle will compose of six wards, Whitecastle, Newcastle, Llangattock Vibon Avel, Llanvihangel Ystern Llewern, Penrhos and Rockfield and St Maughans.

The new Whitecastle ward will comprise of the majority of the previous Llantilio Crossenny ward that is south of Whitecastle.

The Newcastle ward is a newly created ward covering the village of Newcastle and area around Hilston Park south of the B4521 but north of the village of Llangattock Vibon Avel.

The Llangattock Vibon Avel ward remains as a ward within the Whitecastle community which covers the Llangattock Vibon Avel village and area of housing that sits between the B4521 and the B4233. The southern area of the ward near the B4233 will be incorporated into the Rockfield and St Maughans ward given the channels of communication along this road between this area and the rest of the Rockfield ward.

The Llanvihangel Ystern Llewern ward is unchanged other than amendments made to the external boundary between Whitecastle and Mitchel Troy as stated in 5.6 above.

The Penrhos ward will exist in its current format forming part of the Whitecastle community.

The Rockfield and St Maughans ward will remain largely unchanged other than incorporating the area of The Hendre along the B4233 within the Rockfield and St Maughans ward rather than the Llangattock Vibon Avel ward.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

- As stated above a number of changes have been made to the community and community ward names. The working group welcome recommendations as to more suitable names for the community and community wards.

Proposed Electoral Arrangements

- The working group consider the Skenfrith and Whitecastle communities 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 communities will result in the following electoral arrangements for the communities.

Whilst the working group understand that the community of Skenfrith 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 Skenfrith community will be represented by seven councillors rather than four as per the above ratio.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Skenfrith	132	1
Cross Ash	267	5
Llanvetherine	121	1

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Whitecastle	256	2
Newcastle	151	1
Llangattock Vibon Avel	79	1
Llanvihangel Ystern Llewern	77	1
Penrhos	145	2
Rockfield and St Maughans	343	2

Working Group Individual Member Comments

10. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the communities of Whitecastle and Skenfrith.

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