

## Community of Llantrisant and Llangwm

### Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llantrisant consist of two wards, Llantrisant and Gwernesney. The community has a total electorate of 329 and is represented by seven community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llantrisant	213	4
Gwernesney	116	3

The current community arrangements in Llangwm consist of two wards, Llangwm and Llansoy. The community has a total electorate of 355 and is represented by seven community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llangwm	224	5
Llansoy	131	2

### Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. Prominent features within the Llantrisant community include the A449 and the River Usk and the B4235 that runs north to south through the Llangwm community ward.

### Electorate Forecast

3. There are no developments planned within both the Llangwm and Llantrisant community that would significantly alter the existing electorate within the community.

### Representations Received

4. Llantrisant Fawr Community Council submitted representation regarding their community stating:
  - Whilst the council accept that there is a wide variation between levels of representation in Monmouthshire, strict levels of representation are less important than the recognition of geographical factors and natural boundaries of communities based on settlement.
  - Any enlargement of the existing community would result in a loss of community focus
  - Trying to create a community with a minimum of 1,000 electors would create a community of a large number of scattered villages with different priorities and interests.
  - The prime function of a community is to represent the views, interests and act on behalf of a well-defined community based on patterns of human settlement and not predefined councillor to elector ratio.

- The council believe that the current arrangements have proved effective in that it represents a small cluster of settlements with a shared sense of location and local identity. To that end they propose no change to the existing arrangements.

4.1. No representations were received regarding the community arrangements in Llangwm.

## **Recommendations**

### **External Boundaries**

5. The working group reviewed the community arrangements for Llantrisant and Llangwm communities alongside the representation received from Llantrisant Community Council and concluded, after reviewing a number of options for the communities, that the most suitable proposal would be to merge the two communities together and be renamed Llantrisant Fawr.
- 5.1. Upon reviewing the community arrangements for Llantrisant, the working group believed there to be a stronger link between the Gwernesney ward of Llantrisant and the Llangwm ward of Llangwm than there is between the Llantrisant and Gwernesney wards of the Llantrisant community under the current arrangements. The working group believe the B4235 provides a natural channel of communication between Gwernesney and Llangwm, that doesn't appear to the working group to exist between Gwernesney and Llantrisant. However, the working group gave due consideration to the representation submitted by Llantrisant Community Council to retain the current arrangements and consider merging the two communities together a more suitable option than separating the existing Llantrisant community.
- 5.2. To further support this proposal, the working group identified a number of small single track roads that link the Llantrisant ward and the Llangwm ward. Whilst these roads do not provide main channels of communication between the two areas, the group consider these links prominent enough to merge the two communities together alongside the link between Gwernesney and Llangwm as stated above.

### **Internal Boundaries**

- 5.3. The working group propose no change to the ward boundaries of any of the wards within the proposed community of Llantrisant Fawr.

## **Proposed Community and Community Ward Names**

6. The working group propose a new community of Llantrisant Fawr to cover the four wards. No changes are proposed to the individual ward names. The working group welcome representations as to more suitable community and community ward names for this area.

## **Proposed Electoral Arrangements**

7. The working group consider the Llantrisant Fawr 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 Llantrisant 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 Llantrisant community will be represented by eight councillors rather than five as per the above ratio. An additional councillor has been to the community to ensure that the Llangwm and Llantrisant wards with similar electorates and geography have a similar level of representation within the community.

<b>Community Ward</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>
Llantrisant	213	3
Gwernesney	116	1
Llangwm	224	3
Llansoy	131	1

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

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