

**Our Ref/Ein Cyf:**

**Your Ref/Eich Cyf:**

**Date/Dyddiad**

12<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Election Office,  
Monmouthshire County Council  
The Rhadyr  
USK  
NP15 1GA

Dear Sirs

## **REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS – Draft Proposals**

We refer to the draft proposals published on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013. These, in respect of the Community of Magor with Undy have been reviewed by members of the Community Council, and we make the following observations and comments.

### **Natural Boundaries /Key Features**

2. Following the publication of the Williams Report, it may be that the western boundary, which is the local authority boundary, may change if Monmouthshire joins Newport to make one Unitary Authority.

### **Electorate Forecast**

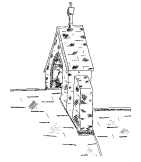
- 3.1 Following the Planning Inspectorate review of Monmouthshire's LDP a further 70 dwellings are planned for the Rockfield Farm site, and an additional site has been identified at Vinegar Hill, which will be an additional 225 dwellings. The draft review does not take into consideration this increase, and the impact it will have on the electorate- a possible extra 590 electors.



# MAGOR WITH UNDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED MAGWYR A GWYNDY

[admin@magorundy.co.uk](mailto:admin@magorundy.co.uk)

[www.magorundy.org.uk](http://www.magorundy.org.uk)



**Our Ref/Ein Cyf:**

**Your Ref/Eich Cyf:**

**Date/Dyddiad**

- 3.2 The additional dwellings at Rockfield and Vinegar Hill could actually increase the total electorate from 4676 to 5866

## **External Boundary**

5. The Community Council would challenge the use of the M4 as a natural boundary.

The recommendation to maintain the M4 services and the hamlet of the Knollbury (both of which are north of the M4 – proposed northern boundary) as an exception does not make sense, when the report wants to exclude one or two outlying farms, agricultural properties, and the hamlet of Common y coed.

The draft document does not justify why the existing boundary of the Community of Magor and Undy should be changed other than using the M4 as a northern boundary. But why then should there be exceptions – the M4 services and the Knollbury – the report does not justify this.

## **Internal Boundaries**

- 5.1 The Community Council office would have been able to advise the group had they asked, as to the connection and affinity the ward names and boundaries of the existing wards have to Magor and Undy. These names are all connected historically to the various areas.

Mill Ward: The ward sits adjacent to the Mill stream, a natural waterway classed as a major river. There was historically a Mill (on the site of Magor Motors) crucial to the village economy for centuries.

Salisbury Ward: The dwellings of this ward are built on the 'Salisbury Manor'. This Manor is documented as far back as 1314.

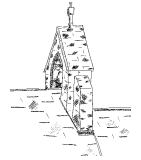
Denny Ward: This ward covers part of the Gwent Levels, a patchwork of fields drained during the Roman times, when the Undy Causeway ran out to Denny Island (in the middle of the Severn Estuary) which was and still is part of the Community



# MAGOR WITH UNDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED MAGWYR A GWYNDY

[admin@magorundy.co.uk](mailto:admin@magorundy.co.uk)

[www.magorundy.org.uk](http://www.magorundy.org.uk)



**Our Ref/Ein Cyf:**

**Your Ref/Eich Cyf:**

**Date/Dyddiad**

(Parish) of Undy. Local farmers and smallholders grazed their sheep and cattle on the island at low tide.

Elms Ward: This ward is built on land that once belonged to the Elms Farm (now demolished), which was adjacent to the Elms Road – which leads onto the Storefields Road. The ‘Elms Cottage’ still remains on the B4245. The agricultural cottages on the approach to Church Road adjacent to the ‘Elms Ramp’ are still called ‘The Elms’.

## **Magor West**

- 5.2 This new proposed area/ward currently includes the majority of the existing Mill, Salisbury wards and part of the Denny ward. It actually encompasses the majority of the village of Magor. The brook identified by the group is in fact the Mills Stream – the reason for the name of the current Mill Ward. Any property west/south of the Mill Stream is classed as a Magor postal address.

## **Magor East**

- 5.3 This new proposed area/ward currently includes a huge chunk of the existing Elms Ward, and part of the Denny Ward. It actually encompasses the majority of the village of Undy, and several outlying hamlets. The new proposed area/ward again uses the Mill Stream as the boundary. Currently any property east or north of the Mill Stream is classed as an Undy postal address.

## **Undy**

- 5.4 This new proposed area/ward currently includes a small area of the existing Elms ward. It is assumed that the new developments as proposed in the LDP, at Rockfield Farm and Vinegar Hill will be encompassed in this proposed ward.

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

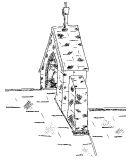
6. The Community Council acknowledge the fact that the villages have grown in size, and whilst they would welcome the opportunity to maintain the ‘Community Council’ status, they realise that it may



# MAGOR WITH UNDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED MAGWYR A GWYNDY

[admin@magorundy.co.uk](mailto:admin@magorundy.co.uk)

[www.magorundy.org.uk](http://www.magorundy.org.uk)



**Our Ref/Ein Cyf:**

**Your Ref/Eich Cyf:**

**Date/Dyddiad**

have no alternative but to accept the recommendation that the status be changed to that of 'Town Council'.

The Community Council would challenge the ward names as proposed by the group, and have several suggestions regarding ward names and boundaries. (*Detailed at the end of this document*)

## **Proposed Electoral Arrangements**

7. The Community Council accept that the Community of Magor and Undy is classified as an 'Urban' area in line with the Terms of Reference document: "A community where the electorate is densely populated within the boundaries that have been defined for that community"

As an 'Urban' area, the Community Council accept, reluctantly, the ratio of 500 electors per councillor.

The Community Council would question whether the group has considered the additional work and time that the devolution of services from the Unitary Authority may put on Town and Community Councils and Councillors, and whether they acknowledge that the role of Community Councillor is a voluntary unpaid position often taken on by persons already in full time employment. A reduction in Community Councillors would only put additional pressure on the remaining Councillors, and the Community Council's ability to function efficiently.

## **Recommendations, and/or Suggestions To The Working Group From The Community Council**

The Community Council cannot accept the working group's current draft Proposal document in respect of the Community of Magor and Undy in its current form, and would ask them to consider the following recommendations or suggestions.

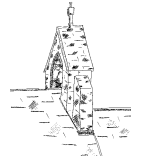
## **External Boundary**



# MAGOR WITH UNDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED MAGWYR A GWYNDY

[admin@magorundy.co.uk](mailto:admin@magorundy.co.uk)

[www.magorundy.org.uk](http://www.magorundy.org.uk)



**Our Ref/Ein Cyf:**

**Your Ref/Eich Cyf:**

**Date/Dyddiad**

The Community Council recommend that the external boundary remains as it is currently (with one exception detailed below), and that no other changes are made, and no parts of the current community are lost to neighbouring Community Council wards.

The Community Council recommend that there is an exception to the current external boundary, so that it encompasses one dwelling (Nannygoat Cottage) situated in the hamlet of Common y coed, but which is the only property in the hamlet that is currently included in the neighbouring ward of Caerwent. It should be included with the others properties under the Community of Magor with Undy.

## **Internal Boundary**

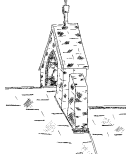
- a. The Community Council recommend that the group reconsider the ward names, and that the existing ward names (Mill, Denny, Salisbury, Elms) remain in existence in some form or other in order to maintain a reference to the history of the area.
- b. The Community Council recommend that the group revisits the proposed ward boundaries.
- c. The Salisbury and Denny ward could be amalgamated, and called the 'Salisbury & Denny Ward' bringing the electorate to a total of 1057 (this includes a possible 180 from the new development of 90 dwellings at Kensington Park). 1057 would equate to 2 councillors.
- d. The Mill Ward boundary could remain the same/similar with 1331 electors, equating to say 3 councillors.
- e. The Elms ward boundary will in the future include a potential extra 1000 electors from the proposed LDP development. The ward would increase from 2468 electors to say 3500. This equates to 7 councillors.
- f. If considered too large a ward, The Elms could be split, and the one half take on the name 'Rockfield Farm Ward' – the new developments proposed in the LDP are being built on Rockfield Farm.



**MAGOR WITH UNDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR CYMUNED MAGWYR A GWYNDY**

[admin@magorundy.co.uk](mailto:admin@magorundy.co.uk)

[www.magorundy.org.uk](http://www.magorundy.org.uk)



**Our Ref/Ein Cyf:**

**Your Ref/Eich Cyf:**

**Date/Dyddiad**

- g. Overall, on the above recommendations, the split of the wards should equate to a total of 12 councillors, instead of the proposed 10.

The Community Council trust that the working group will seriously consider the comments and recommendations made in this representation and arrive at a resolution that is favourable to both the Community Council and the Unitary Authority.

Should the working group wish to discuss the contents of this representation, the Community Council will be only too pleased to discuss them.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Beverly Reed  
Clerk to the Council