

DRAFT PROPOSALS - ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Response from Mathern Community Council - Feb 2014

Mathern Community Councillors discussed relevant sections of the above at length. They agreed unanimously that, where feasible, Mathern Community Council area should be outlined by the major trunk roads.

1. The entire Newhouse Industrial Estate should lie within Mathern area and its boundary here run along the M48/A466 Link Road.
Councillors noted that Newhouse has a direct impact on Mathern village in terms of light/noise pollution and that the Community Council was instrumental in the erection of the bund to "protect" the village (and its Conservation Area) when the land was first developed for industrial purposes.
2. The High Beech development is bounded by the Link Road, the A48 and land covered by Mathern Community Council. (Access to it is from the A48, not the Link Road.) The proposed transfer of the houses here to Kingsmark Ward cuts off a square corner of Pwllmeyric Ward. A straight boundary, formed by the Link Road and the A48, is preferable, especially as Kingsmark Ward covers no other land/dwellings south of the A466.
3. Mathern Community Council disagreed strongly with proposed changes to its western boundary. It felt that this should continue to follow the A48 as far as the M48 bridge. The properties which the preliminary proposals state "appear to be more associated with the Crick area of Caerwent..." do, in fact, have strong links with Mathern in terms of association and integration. Runston, too, has links with Mathern in that occasional church services are held in the ruins of Runston Church. Summarising, it was thus felt that boundaries here should remain unchanged.
4. Mounton Ward, considerably reduced by the proposals, should be extended on its north-eastern edge to include the hamlet of (old) Bayfield and all of Barnetts Farm, which is split at present. The Community Council suggested that all dwellings exiting on to Mounton Lane on its north-east side, in a line more or less with its junction with St. Lawrence Lane, to include "The Chestnuts" and "Evington", should be incorporated into Mounton Ward.
5. In the village of Mounton, it has been suggested that Mounton Cottage be placed in Pwllmeyric Ward. The Community Council wish to point out that, whilst the house is to the north of Mounton Brook, the brook actually runs through its garden. The cottage is an integral part of the village and, as such, should remain in Mounton Ward.
6. The Community Council noted from previous electoral maps of Mathern Wards that Newton Grange has historically been part of Pwllmeyric. This dwelling is at the point of a "tail" of Pwllmeyric Ward which meets Mathern Ward at the

village War Memorial. It shares a boundary with this. The house is therefore on the outskirts of Mathern village and should be placed in Mathern Ward.

7. Finally, the recently published Local Development Plan includes a new development in Mathern village. Bearing this in mind, as well as the above suggestions, members of Mathern Community Council request that the number of future Councillors for Mathern Ward is not reduced. The existing Community Council of nine members has a well-balanced skill/experience-mix in terms of Finance, Planning, Education, Countryside etc. It does not have sub-committees and Councillors take responsibility for various issues according to their own particular skill area. A number smaller than nine also makes the likelihood of raising a quorum less likely on the rare occasions such a need arises.

Carolyn Ovenden
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