

Councillor Susan White,
Overmonnow Ward
Monmouth

Portfield Farm
Wonastow Road
Monmouth
NP25 4DQ

16/2/14

Re Electoral Registration.

Dear Mr Pearson,

I wish to strongly object to the merging of the ancient part of Overmonnow with Monmouth Town. We will lose the heart of our Community, our Church and Church Hall (the only Community Hall in Overmonnow Ward) and small businesses of which we are so proud.

Overmonnow was an ancient settlement, which became a town with its own town mayor, it is mentioned in history books of Monmouth. We have St Thomas Square with its four saints facing the 4 churches that are named after them.

The many parishioners of St Thomas cannot comprehend the thinking behind this ill thought out plan, I have not heard from any resident of Overmonnow who would wish this plan to happen.

Would you allow me to suggest to the Board that they take the LDP land on Wonastow road, put it with Drybridge Ward with the fields around , which are already part of Drybridge Ward ? Give Drybridge another town councillor (as there only three at this time) This seems the fair and simplest way of saving our vibrant community of Overmonnow.

Yours sincerely

Susan White



Community of Monmouth

Dear Mr Pearson

I have decided to only deal with my own Osbaston with Dixton constituency here in Monmouth as obviously I have more knowledge of my electors than of other wards. I agree with most of the suggestions bar one. The demarcation line would be better to include the left side of Dixton Road up to the traffic lights and also the area of The Parade and Monk Street to the traffic lights.

Thank you for all your hard work concerning this.

Regards Cllr Jeana Hall

Community of Monmouth

Sir

According to a letter in the Monmouthshire Beacon newspaper from Councillor Sue Chivers and County Councillor Sue White, Monmouthshire County Council are proposing to change the ward boundaries of Overmonnow.

As a resident of Overmonnow, I strongly object to this blatant attempt to “rewrite history” purely to satisfy quotas and obey dictums from those who are no respecters of ancient traditions and byelaws.

The Council is wrong to ‘lump’ St Thomas’s church, Drybridge Street, Cinderhill Street, Goldwire Lane or Kings Fee into the town ward, simply to balance some quota. Those streets and that church belong with the Overmonnow ward which has always been separate from the town. St Thomas’s was built in the 12th century. In 1830 the church was given its own parish – Overmonnow – and made separate from the town and the church of St Mary’s.

Should these areas be moved into the town, it is assumed that at election times, the residents will have to vote ‘in the town’ i.e., at the Library. Few enough turn out at present but if faced with a not inconsiderable walk to the top end of town, the turnout would be considerably reduced. Is this what the Council wants?

We are given to understand the changes are being considered in readiness for the proposed new development off the Wonastow Road. This smacks of prescience, particularly when one considers the current high profile of flooding in areas that have been over-developed.

I urge Monmouthshire County Council to leave Overmonnow Ward intact, as it has been for centuries.

Mrs J Allin
Holywell Close
Overmonnow

Community of Monmouth

FAO of Mr. John Pearson,

Dear Mr Pearson,

I would like to comment on the proposed boundary changes for the Overmonnow Ward. To take a part of Overmonnow into the Town Ward would make a nonsense of the historical layout of the town where the suburb of Overmonnow has always been seen and recorded as being separate to the main town. Overmonnow has always had its own Church, defences and industries – as distinct from those of the other side of the natural river boundary – some of these going back to Roman times. Consequently I wish to record an objection to the proposed changes.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Clarke, MBE, FSA, MifA
Clawdd-y-Celyn
9 Gibraltar Drive
Monmouth

15 KINGS FEE,
WONASTOW RD,
MONMOUTH
MON.
NP25 5BW.

Dear Sir,

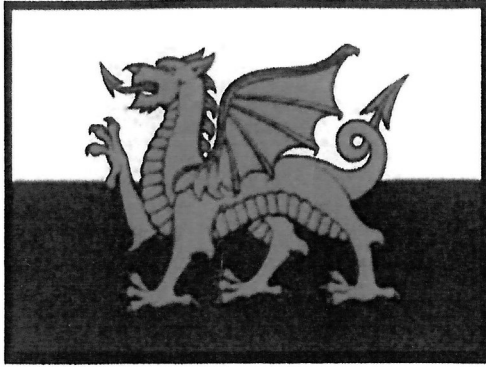
With regard to M.C.C.'s review of Communities and electoral arrangements in the town of Monmouth, and in particular the Overmonnow ward. I as a resident and a serving member of Monmouth Town Council and Councillor for the Overmonnow ward for the last fourteen years, object strongly to your proposal to combine part of Overmonnow into the Town Ward.

I know your reasons but I urge you to rethink and come up with another solution, ~~when~~ the development down wonastow road is completed isn't it possible to create another place on the Town Council to accommodate the new residents? or share them out to existing Councillors by increasing the number allowed per councillor.

It ~~is~~ might seem to you a fuss about nothing, but I assure you it is not. Overmonnow is what is says, the village the other side of the 'Monnow'. Historically and aesthetically its roots go back to ancient times, its residents can go back generations as having lived in Overmonnow and worked there and it would be criminal to break it up now. I hope you will give this due consideration.

I remain, Yours Faithfully,
Sue Chivers.

(MRS SUSAN CHIVERS.)



THE W.I.P
THE WELSH
INDEPENDENT
PARTY



Party Leader: Gary Witcombe
1 The Bungalows
Watery Lane
Monmouth
NP25 5AT
01600 714961

HEADQUARTERS
Monmouth

6th February 2014

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

Dear Sir

Referring to altering the boundaries in Monmouth with Overmonnow, Drybridge and Town Wards becoming one and having one County Councillor, not three, our party agrees with this change, but you should also consider changing the Wards throughout Monmouthshire and Wales. Two Councillors for any town in Monmouthshire is plenty, and, the Monmouthshire County Council would save millions. And again, they would not have to cut the services at all. Cutting the libraries and all other services would be saved by cutting down on County Councillors. Our party works for the rights of the people, and the people have spoken. Do away with all County Councillors and go back to the old system of Chief Executives.

Yours sincerely

Gary Witcombe
Party Leader

Dear John,

Further to our telephone discussion a couple of weeks ago I am forwarding to my views, as a Monmouth Town Councillor, on the Consultation Document.

There was a full discussion on the document this Monday (17/02/2014) and I have no doubt you will receive the collective comments from the Clerk soon. I personally agree with our Town Council comments on some changes to the Ward boundaries.

However, as I mentioned on the telephone I have concerns about the ratio used in the calculation of the number of Councillors per ward in an Urban area. In my opinion it is too low if the number of electors is the basis of the calculation. This is not a true reflection of the population. As you know in the case of Monmouth, including new future developments this would result in 19 Town Councillors. I believe this is completely unnecessary for the size of the town - it is bureaucratic nonsense. Many Councillors agree.

Since there is no legal or advisory basis for this ratio from Central Government (Welsh Assembly/Westminster) nor the Local Government Associations the ratio is discretionary to each Local Authority. If the number of electors is used as the basis for the calculation I think the Members should consider increasing it to 600:1 for Urban Areas. This would mean that if the elector population of Monmouth is 9000 after the new Developments take place the number of Councillors would be 15/16 - the same as now. This is a more realistic figure.

However, there is an alternative method of calculation which I think is more representative of the total population. The ratio should be based on population numbers because many of the Town Council's activities are for the under 18's. These include the Christmas Procession, Summer Carnival, administering the Drybridge Play Area, providing grant aid to groups such as the Sea Cadets, Scouts, Guides etc etc.

I have undertaken some research using population as the basis of calculating the number of Councillors per Ward. Taking 6 Town Councils which are fairly similar in size to Monmouth and fairly near to us - the results are very interesting. Please refer to the enclosed summary document. The average ratio is 811 to 1. Monmouth is currently 631. Using the average Monmouth would qualify for 12 Councillors now and once all the developments take place in the future this would increase to 15/16. This is the same result as increasing the current ratio calculation to 600 to 1 !! The Aston University figures confirm my research findings. Please be free to use this information if you want to report back to the Members Working Party.

In other words, there needs to be a fundamental review of the ratio calculations.

I hope you find this information useful and you will consider passing it on to the

Working Group.If you want to discuss further then please give me a ring.

Best Wishes,

Graham Pritchard,
Monmouth Town Councillor for the Drybridge Ward.
18,Willow Drive,Monmouth,NP25 5DW ([tel:01600 713766](tel:01600713766))

COMPARATIVE COUNCILLOR/POPULATION RATIOS

	Pop(2011 Census)	No of Councillors	Ratio
STROUD	13,200	18	735
COLEFORD	9,200	12	810
LEDBURY	9,600	14	685
ROSS ON WYE	10,600	12	883
HAVERFORDWEST	14,500	17	853
ABERGAVENNY	13,500	15	900
		AVERAGE RATIO	811
MONMOUTH	10,100	16	631

USING THE AVERAGE RATIO FOR MONMOUTH POPULATION THE NUMBER OF TOWN COUNCILLORS WOULD BE 12

ASTON UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

FOR A TOWN OF 10,000

16 COUNCILLORS FOR THE TOP OF THEIR BAND 1(towns with a population between 2,500 and 10,000) OR

13 COUNCILLORS FOR THE BOTTOM OF THEIR BAND 2(towns with a population of 10,000 to 20,000)

AVERAGE WOULD BE 14/15 COUNCILLORS FOR A TOWN THE SIZE OF MONMOUTH