

## Community of Portskewett

### Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Portskewett consist of three wards, Leechpool, Portskewett Village & Sudbrook. The community has a total electorate of 1765 and is represented by ten community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Leechpool	168	1
Portskewett Village	1308	7
Sudbrook	289	2

### Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group considered key features within the Portskewett Community to be the Railway, Severnside industrial estate as well as the B4245 and the A48.

### Electorate Forecast

3. There is currently a proposed development within the Portskewett Village ward that will increase the electorate within the Portskewett Village ward from 1308 to 1392. Additionally, within the Local Development Plan there is a proposal for an additional 250 properties on Crick Road within the Portskewett Village ward. This could potentially increase the electorate within the community of Portskewett to 2349.

### Representations Received

4. No representations were received in relation to the community arrangements for the community of Portskewett.

### Recommendations

#### External Boundaries

5. The northern boundary of the Portskewett area, which adjoins Caerwent and Mathern, has been amended to incorporate properties accessible off the A48 and the Parkwall Roundabout into the Caerwent area. The new boundary will follow the western edge of Ballan Wood and follow field boundaries between the A48 and B4245 up to the Parkwall Roundabout.
  - 5.1. It is also proposed that the western boundary between Portskewett and Caldicot is amended to continue following the railway rather than intersecting the Severnside industrial estate in Caldicot. The group consider the railway line to act as a natural and easily identifiable boundary

between the two communities and as such will create clear areas of responsibility between the two communities, particularly in relation to the administrative responsibility of the Severnside Industrial Estate.

The group are aware that in altering this community boundary, it would also be ideal to amend the Parliamentary and Welsh Assembly Constituency boundary so that all boundaries are aligned. There is however, no mechanism in legislation that enables an amendment to the Parliamentary and Welsh Assembly boundaries and this responsibility lies with the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales and not the local authority. If the working group consider this proposal should be included in the final proposals for the area, then the group will arrange to meet with representatives of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales to discuss the mechanisms for ensuring all boundaries remain clear and easily identifiable.

### **Internal Boundaries**

#### **Leechpool & Portskewett Village**

5.2. The group considered the arrangements in the Treetops estate area which is currently intersected by the boundary of Portskewett Village and Leechpool. The group consider that all the properties for Treetops should be included in a single ward and included Portskewett Village ward. In addition to the Treetops estate, the Local Development Plan contains proposals for a number of properties to be built in the field adjoining the north of Treetops, accessible from Crick Road. With both these issues in mind, the working group propose to amend the boundary between Portskewett Village and Leechpool wards to follow the B4245 at the edge of Caldicot up to the junction of Crick Road where it follow Crick Road south until it joins the existing boundary adjacent to the Arch Bishop Rowan Williams Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School.

It has been identified that the Treetops housing is currently solely within the Portskewett Village ward according to the electoral register. The register will need to be amended upon its publication in March 2014 in accordance with the boundary therefore splitting the Treetops area between the two wards.

#### **Sudbrook**

5.3. The working group proposed no change to the current arrangements for the Sudbrook ward.

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

6. The group propose no changes to the community and community ward names of Portskewett.

### **Proposed Electoral Arrangements**

7. The working group consider the Portskewett community to fall within the mixed category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 250 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

<b>Community Ward</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>
Leechpool	163	1
Portskewett Village	1892	7
Sudbrook	289	1

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

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

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