

## Community of Shirenewton

### Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Shirenewton consist of four wards, Earlswood, Mynyddbach, Shirenewton and Newchurch. The community has a total electorate of 915 and is represented by 10 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Earlswood	143	2
Mynyddbach	217	2
Newchurch	91	1
Shirenewton	464	5

### Natural Boundaries

2. The working group consider the B4235 to be a key channel of communication through the Shirenewton community.

### Electorate Forecast

3. There are no developments planned within the community of Shirenewton that would significantly alter the current electorate within the community.

### Representations Received

4. Shirenewton Community Council submitted a representation stating that the community is a distinct area with an identifiable community. They state there are several positive links between the community wards including the community having responsibility for the poor land field and area of forestry in Earlswood, responsibility for Earlswood Village Hall and recreation land in Shirenewton as well as offering financial support to churches, chapels and organisations within the community.

Shirenewton Community Council recommend reducing the number of wards within the community to two those being Earlswood and Newchurch West ward and Shirenewton and Mynyddbach ward. The community suggest a divide between the two wards at Cock-A-Roosting and are keen to ensure that all village names are kept within the new ward titles. They also suggest a member ratio of 5 for Shirenewton & Mynyddbach ward and 3 for Earlswood & Newchurch West ward based on the criteria contained in the terms of reference.

- 4.1. County Councillor Graham Down submitted a representation regarding the community arrangements for Shirenewton supporting the representation put forward by Shirenewton

Community Council. County Councillor Down also referenced a number of dwellings to the west of Crick Road that are better suited to Shirenewton than their current community of Caerwent.

## **Recommendations**

### **External Boundaries**

5. The working group considered the external boundary for the community of Shirenewton and on the whole felt that the current community boundary is suitable and fit for purpose. The only amendment to the external boundary that the working group propose is to the boundary between Shirenewton and St Arvans communities near Coppice Mawr. Under the current arrangements, Wellhead Lodge situated within Coppice Mawr falls within the community of St Arvans even though geographically it is situated closer to the Devauden, Shirenewton and Chepstow communities. Given the direct link between this area and the Mynyddbach area via the B4235, the working group propose to extend the community of Shirenewton to incorporate the area of Coppice Mawr with the new boundary following the edge of the woodland.

### **Internal Boundaries**

- 5.1. The working group reviewed the internal boundaries of the community of Shirenewton and accepted the proposals put forward by the community and County Councillor for the internal ward arrangements. Therefore it is proposed that the community is merged into two wards, Shirenewton & Mynyddbach and Wentwood with the boundary intersecting the community east to west, south of Lower Argoed Farm via Cock-A-Roost and northwards adjacent to the B4235.

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

6. The working group propose no change to the community name of Shirenewton. As stated above the working group consider the names proposed by Shirenewton community council are suitable and therefore propose the names of Shirenewton & Mynyddbach and Wentwood.

### **Proposed Electoral Arrangements**

7. The working group consider the Shirenewton 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 Shirenewton is slightly less than the ideal 1,000 electors for a community as per the terms of reference for this review, the group consider the 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 Shirenewton community will be represented by seven councillors rather than six as per the above ratio with an additional councillor representing the more populated ward of Shirenewton & Mynyddbach.

<b>Community Ward</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	629	5
Wentwood	289	2

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

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

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