

Community of St Arvans

Current Community Format

1. The current community of St Arvans is unwarded. The community has a total electorate of 626 and is represented by eight community councillors. The community can be summarised as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
St Arvans	626	8

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider the key features within the St Arvans community to be the River Wye and local authority boundary to the east of the community as well as the A466 which runs north to south through the community.

Electorate Forecast

3. There are no developments planned for the St Arvans community that would significantly alter the current electorate.

Representations Received

4. Representation was received from Chepstow Town Council in relation to Chepstow Racecourse. The council believe that the racecourse should fall within their remit and not that of St Arvans reasoning that it is naturally assumed that the racecourse falls within their area and receive a number of enquiries regarding the racecourse as well as highlighting that many of the visitors to the racecourse have to travel through the Chepstow community to attend the racecourse.

Recommendations

5. The working group considered the representations received for the St Arvans community and reviewed the current community arrangements for the area. The group agree with the proposal put forward by Chepstow Town Council to incorporate Chepstow Racecourse in to the community of Chepstow. The group consider that the racecourse naturally should be situated within the community of Chepstow as it is commonly perceived to be linked to the community of Chepstow and accept the reasoning put forward by Chepstow Town Council that the racecourse should be included in their area. The group propose that the new boundary of Chepstow will extend to cover the whole of the racecourse and include the Piercefield park area within the community of Chepstow. The boundary will follow the A466 south and follow the edge of the overflow car park for the racecourse, it will then follow Fryth Wood and Cockshoot Wood incorporating all properties east of the woods into the Chepstow community.

5.1. The group also considered the Penterry area of the adjoining community of Tintern. The group considered that many of the properties in the Penterry ward should be included in either the St Arvans or Devauden community. It is therefore proposed that the Penterry ward no longer exists and the properties to the east of Fedw Wood and Ravensnest Wood including Penterry Farm and Banton are included in the community of St Arvans. The group consider that the main channels of communication for these properties is south into the village of St Arvans and is more closely associated with the St Arvans community than that of Tintern which it is currently situated.

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The working group propose no change to the community name of St Arvans.

Proposed electoral arrangements

7. The working group consider the St Arvans community to fall within the rural category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 150 electors per councillor.

The group accept that the community of St Arvans is less than the minimum of 1,000 electors as required in the Terms of Reference to establish a community however the group believe that the St Arvans area should be retained as its own community given the isolated geographic location of the 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 St Arvans community will be represented by seven councillors rather than four as per the above ratio.

The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
St Arvans	596	7

Working Group Individual Member Comments

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