



Powys County Council/ Cyngor Sir Powys

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES

**AREA RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES**

Adopted by the Council on 26th October 2006

1 An outline of the review of Powys's communities

1.1 Powys County Council has conducted a general review of the communities in the County of Powys. The review was launched on 20 September 2005 when the Board of Powys County Council published a Practice and Policy Document and opened a period of three months during which initial submissions were invited. The Practice and Policy Document was supplied to all community councils in Powys, to all County Councillors and to other interested bodies. Public notice of the commencement of the review was given in three newspapers that serve the County, in the Council's area offices and libraries and on the Council's internet website. Copies of the Document were made available to any person who requested one and were available on the website. A presentation, introducing the review, was also given at the Council's three Shire Liaison Meetings with the community councils in October 2005.

1.2 On 28 February 2006, the Board of Powys County Council published its Draft Proposals in this Review, and opened a further period of three months during which representations on the Draft Proposals were invited. Once again, the Draft Proposals were supplied to all community councils in Powys, to all County Councillors and to other interested bodies. Public notice of their publication was given in three newspapers that serve the County, in the Council's area offices and libraries and on the Council's internet website. Copies of the Draft Proposals were made available to any person who requested them and were available on the website. A presentation, introducing the Draft Proposals, was also given at the Council's three March 2006 Shire Liaison Meetings with the community councils.

1.3 Powys County Council has a duty under Sections 55 and 57 of the Local Government Act 1972 to keep all the communities in its area under review for the purposes of considering whether to recommend the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales to constitute a new community, abolish a community or alter a community. Furthermore, the County Council has a duty to make provision for the electoral

arrangements – warding arrangements and councillor numbers – of the communities in its area and for keeping these under review.

1.4 The Board of Powys County Council considered the representations and submissions received concerning its Draft Proposals at meetings held on 27 June 2006 and 1 August 2006. In its considerations, the Board has been mindful of the legislative requirements to which a Community Review operates together with the general policies that it lay down in its Practice and Policy Document and the principles that lay behind its Draft Proposals. In all its endeavours, the Board of Powys County Council has been anxious to be fair and equitable, not only for the communities of the County, their electors and their present councils, but also for the electors across the whole County.

1.5 The Board of Powys County Council adopted its Final Proposals at its meeting of 1 August 2006, and again these were published and circulated in the same way as outlined above shortly thereafter. These Final Proposals were formally adopted by Powys County Council at its meeting of 26 October 2006, subject to the one modification affecting the communities of Builth Wells and Duhonw.

2 Recommendations concerning Community Areas in the County of Powys

2.1 The Council's Final Proposals propose a small number of area changes between communities across the County. We make these proposals because we consider that they meet the test laid down in the Act: that they are "desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government". In summary, and by Shire area, our proposed area changes are as follows:

Brecknockshire

2.2 Brecon – transfer of an area including the Brecon Cattle Market and Ffrwdgrech from the community of Glyn Tarell

At the outset of this Review, Powys County Council stated that "one of its objectives... is to ensure that the settlement boundaries as defined in the Unitary Development Plans are within the community boundaries and will remain so for the foreseeable future". We undertook to look carefully at the County's towns, which are often contained within small geographical community areas, to ensure that settlement boundaries did not stray over community boundaries. At Brecon, we found that the new Brecon Cattle Market was already located outside the community boundary and the industrial estate at Ffrwdgrech abuts the boundary. Our Final Proposals recommend that a small adjustment in this boundary, affecting no electors, should be made, transferring a small part of the community of Glyn Tarell to the community of Brecon. No representations were received challenging our Draft or Final Proposals for this change.

2.3 Crickhowell – transfer of the area at the Elvicta factory site, town's sewage works and town's sports field from the community of The Vale of Grwyney

At Crickhowell we proposed the transfer of an area including the Elvicta factory site, the town's sewage farm and the town's sports field from the present community of The Vale of Grwyney to the community of Crickhowell. While this Draft Proposal did not involve the transfer of any residential properties, we considered that it would give Crickhowell Town Council an involvement in facilities that are closely associated with the town, and it would ensure that the present settlement boundary would lie well within the community boundary. The Vale of Grwyney Community Council submitted representations that opposed this proposal. However, we considered that our recommendations in this matter

were still valid; our proposed new boundary would lie in an area of open countryside between what can be considered as the town of Crickhowell and the first development at Cwrt-y-gollen in the community of The Vale of Grwyney. A **Map** showing our proposals has been circulated to interested parties and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

2.4 Duhonw – adjustment of the community boundary with the community of Builth Wells at Newry Road

At the southern boundary of Builth Wells, along Newry Road, we found that there are properties that are in very close proximity to the settlement boundary of the town which are presently in the community of Duhonw, and there are properties that are in more open countryside to the south which are presently within the community of Builth Wells. We considered that a more appropriate boundary could be drawn here and so proposed in our Draft Proposals. While no representations were received during our consultation period challenging our proposals, in the interval before the meeting of our Council on 26th October 2006, several representations were received from the present community councils and from the county councillors for the area to inform us that our proposals for change here did not command local support and that they should be dropped. However, one exception was drawn to our attention. The property of Erwhelm is currently located in the community of Builth Wells; its residents are presently mistakenly included in the electoral register for the community of Duhonw; its residents participate in the social life of the community of Duhonw, and it was therefore the conclusion of consultees that this property should be formally transferred to the community of Duhonw.

2.4 Hay – transfer of that part of the community of Llanigon that abuts the western boundary of the town at Gipsy Castle Farm

At Hay on Wye the settlement boundary now abuts the community boundary at Gipsy Castle Farm, and we considered that at this location it would be appropriate to use the opportunity of the current review to make a small adjustment to the community's boundary with the community of Llanigon. This would ensure that the settlement boundary of Hay on Wye would be well-contained within the community boundary for the foreseeable future. No representations were received challenging the recommendations in our Draft Proposals for this change. A **Map** showing our proposals has been circulated to interested parties and is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

2.5 Llanfrynach – transfer of a property known as The Held from the community of Glyn Tarell

For the community of Llanfrynach, we received many representations persuading us that there is a 'natural community' of Cantref – a distinct part of the community of Llanfrynach – for which it is most appropriate to retain a separate ward within that community of Llanfrynach. In our Final Proposals for that community we have been anxious to secure that 'natural community' by adjusting and enlarging the ward boundaries within the community and by proposing that a dwelling known as The Held be transferred to the community of Llanfrynach from the community of Glyn Tarell. The Held lies in a salient of the community of Glyn Tarell; it is our recommendation that The Held should be the only property that is transferred to the community of Llanfrynach. A **Map** showing our proposals is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

2.6 Tawe-Uchaf – transfer of an area including Tonyfildre, Cefnwaunynog and Nant-y-fedwen from the community of Ystradfellte

Tawe-Uchaf Community Council requested that their eastern boundary with the community of Ystradfellte be adjusted to take in farms at Tonyfildre, Cefnwaunynog and Nant-y-fedwen. We considered that there was some merit to this request; geography and

the lie of local roads would tend to suggest that these three dwellings are more closely associated with the settlement of Coelbren than with Pontneddfechan. We considered that the appropriate eastern boundary for the community of Tawe-Uchaf would be Nant y Moel. No representations were received challenging our Draft Proposals for this change.

Montgomeryshire

2.7 Castle Caereinion – transfer of properties at Fron Lane from the community of Llanfair Caereinion

Castle Caereinion Community Council requested that properties along Fronhaul Lane should be transferred to their community from the community of Llanfair Caereinion because they look to the village of Castle Caereinion for their initial local services and because the lane does not lead directly to Llanfair Caereinion, and we so proposed. No representations were received challenging our Draft Proposals for this change. We therefore recommend that the following properties be transferred: Tanycoed, Tynewydd, The Grange, Glynhwdog, The Ochr and Ty'n y Byrwydd, and that the new boundary between these two communities should follow stream and field boundaries in the area.

2.8 Kerry – transfer of Lower House, Sarn from the community of Churchstoke

The occupants of Lower House, Sarn requested that their property be transferred to the Sarn ward of the community of Kerry from the community of Churchstoke because they turn to the key settlement of Sarn for their initial local services, and we so proposed. No representations were received challenging our Draft Proposals for this change.

2.9 Llandyssil – transfer of that part of small village of Aberbechan currently in the community of Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn

At Aberbechan we found that the small village (so designated in our Unitary Development Plan) was divided between the present communities of Llandyssil and Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn. We proposed to transfer the whole of the small village to our proposed community of Abermule and Llandyssil because we considered that this area is rural in character and gravitates to Abermule in the first instance. No representations were received challenging our Draft Proposals for this change. The following properties would be the subject of our recommendations for transfer to our proposed community of Abermule and Llandyssil: Ponbechan (six dwellings), Glen Coe, The Swallows and Tynllwyn.

2.10 Llangedwyn – transfer of that part of the settlement of Pen-y-bont Llanerch Emrys currently in the community of Llansantffraid

At the small village of Pen-y-bont Llanerch Emrys we found that there are some properties that, although outside the settlement boundary of the small village, are closely associated with the settlement. We therefore proposed to use the opportunity of the current review to make a small adjustment to the boundary between the present communities of Llangedwyn and Llansantffraid. No representations were received challenging our Draft Proposals for this change. It is our recommendation that the new community boundary follows the course of the old railway line from near to Penisarmynydd to Pen-y-bont Hall. The properties that would be taken into the community of Llangedwyn are Old New Inn and 1 and 2 Old New Inn Cottages. We did not consider that the boundary of the community of Llangedwyn should be extended further southwards towards Penygroes; this is an area that we consider has always looked to the key settlement of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain for its services and facilities.

2.11 Llanidloes – transfer of that part of the Parc Hafren general employment site currently in the community of Llangurig

At the area centre of Llanidloes, we found that a general employment site at Parc Hafren was split between the communities of Llanidloes and Llangurig. We considered that the whole of this site should more appropriately be within the area centre and proposed a small adjustment in the community boundary at this location. No representations were received challenging our Draft Proposals' recommendations for this change.

2.12 Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant – the amalgamation of the existing communities of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant (in the former district of Glyndwr) and Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant (in the former district of Montgomery) to form a single new community

The largest area change that we are recommending in the County is the merger of the two present communities of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant (in the former District of Glyndwr) and Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant (in the former District of Montgomeryshire). The current arrangement arises from the accidents and fates of history; it splits the large village of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, and a merger of the two communities was proposed in the 1985 District of Glyndwr and 1986 District of Montgomeryshire Reviews. We have made our recommendation because we consider that the arguments for a single community in this case are incontrovertible and have long been shown to be so. No representations were received on our Draft Proposals for this recommended change.

2.13 Montgomery – transfer of the Weston Madoc area from the community of Churchstoke

At Montgomery we recommend the transfer of the Weston Madoc area, presently a detached part of the community of Churchstoke, from that community to the community of Montgomery. We considered that the affinity of the residents of this area was in the first instance to the town of Montgomery, which has the better range of services and facilities and which is nearer to almost all the inhabitants. We have noted that two of the present town councillors live in this area whereas none of the Churchstoke councillors lives here, so that it is to all intents and purposes already represented on Montgomery Town Council. The area comprises some thirty dwellings. No representations were received challenging our Draft Proposals for this change.

Radnorshire

2.14 Whitton – transfer of the whole of the unclassified settlement of Rhos y Meirch from the community of Knighton

Between the present communities of Whitton and Knighton, we found the small and unclassified settlement at Rhos y Meirch is divided by the community boundary. In this instance, we considered that it would be appropriate to use the opportunity of the current review to make a small adjustment in the community boundary here to transfer the whole of this small settlement to the more rural Whitton community, and we so recommend. No representations were received challenging our Draft Proposals for this change. Our recommendations would affect approximately eight properties. Our suggested community boundary would leave the spring at Gwernaffel dingle, north of Meadow View farm, across field boundaries to Offa's Dyke following it south-ward to join the B4355 north of The Firs before re-joining Offa's Dyke and the existing boundary. We have suggested that this new boundary would be more clearly understood by and have better relevance to the electorate of this area.

3 County Boundary Matters

3.1 Talybont-on-Usk – transfer of an area at Ponsticill to the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil

In our Practice and Policy Document we stated that we did not foresee any matters arising with regard to our County boundaries with neighbouring authorities in Wales. However, during our preparations of the Draft Proposals, we gave consideration to the 2nd tier settlement of Ponsticill, a small part of which, comprising five residential properties and ten electors, is located in the community of Talybont-on-Usk. It is some nine miles by narrow, unclassified county road from Talybont while it is less than three miles from the centre of Merthyr Tydfil. We concluded that it could not be in the best interests of effective and convenient local government for a settlement to be partitioned in this way, and we recommend that the community and county boundaries should be altered to ensure that the whole of the settlement of Ponsticill is contained within the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil. However, we stated our view that the Dolygaer and Upper Neuadd area, to the north of the Pontsticill Reservoir, and any other more rural properties and farms to the north of the settlement of Pontsticill should remain in the community of Talybont-on-Usk and the County of Powys because the topography and settlement patterns become more akin to those of the communities that embrace the Brecon Beacons in this County. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has given its support to our proposal, although it has also suggested that consideration should be given to the transfer of properties to the north of the reservoir, including Dolygaer. Powys County Council has clearly stated its views in this matter, and it will now be for the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales to give consideration to this matter in a review of the county boundary at this location. The properties that Powys County Council considers as appropriate for transfer to the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil are Pant Station, Station House, Treatment Works, Ty Gronfa, Pleasant View Cottage, Tyle'r Bont and Tyle'r Bont Barn, as shown on the attached Map at Appendix 4.

4. Consequential Matters

4.1 In two areas our recommended boundary changes will have a significant impact on the boundaries of the electoral divisions of Powys County Council: Brecon town and Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant. The Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales is responsible for recommending the National Assembly for Wales to make the necessary orders, firstly for altering community boundaries and consequentially for amending the electoral divisions in the County. Powys County Council has resolved to recommend the Commission on the form of the consequential orders for amending the electoral divisions in the County until the Commission's forthcoming review of the electoral arrangements of Powys County Council is completed. It has been noted that this forthcoming review will not be completed in time for the local elections in May 2008. Therefore, it is our initial suggestion that for the local elections in May 2008 and until the completion of the Commission's review, it would be most appropriate to link the new community of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant with the communities of Llansilin and Llangedwyn for the purposes of representation on Powys County Council. At Brecon, it is our recommendation that the St John Electoral Division of Powys County Council should comprise the new St John East and St John West wards of the community of Brecon, effectively continuing the present arrangement for the electors of that area.

Table – Powys County Council’s recommendations for consequential matters

County Divisions	Comprising	Electorate (2005)
St John	The St John East and the St John West wards of the Community of Brecon	2525
Llanwddyn (formerly the Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant division)	The Communities of Llangynog, Llanwddyn and Penybontfawr	836
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant / Llansilin	The Communities of Llangedwyn and Llansilin and the new Community of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant	1770