

Community Review

Review of the Community Boundary and Electoral Arrangements within the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot

FINAL PROPOSALS – APPENDIX C (NEATH)

BLAENGWRACH COMMUNITY

No submissions were received regarding the Community of Blaengwrach.

Proposal: No Change

Rejected submissions

None rejected

BLAENHONDDAN COMMUNITY (ABERDULAIS, BRYNCOCH NORTH, BRYNCOCH SOUTH, CADOXTON & CILFREW WARDS)

One submission was received which requested no changes be made. However, the Electoral Registration Officer would like to propose the following changes:

- **CR002 – Blaenhonddan Community Council (Bryncoch North Ward) Electoral Arrangement Change**
- **CR003 - Blaenhonddan Community Council (Bryncoch South Ward) Electoral Arrangement Change**
- **CR016 - Community Ward Boundary Change – Blaenhonddan (Cadoxton Ward)**

Submission Review: CR002/CR003 – Blaenhonddan Community Council Electoral Arrangement Change

The current electoral arrangements for Blaenhonddan Community Council as a whole would see 18 Community Councillors representing an

electorate of 9,596 with a Member/Elector ratio of 533. The representation ratio for the Bryncoch North ward is currently five Community Councillors representing 1,799 electors with a Member/Elector ratio of 360, while the representation for the Bryncoch South ward is six Community Councillors representing 4,503 electors with a Member/Elector ratio of 751.

The Electoral Registration Officer has determined that the current elector arrangements in these two wards do not provide equal representation. By removing one community councillor from the Bryncoch North Ward would reduce the overall ward representation to four Community Councillors with a Member/Elector ratio of 450. It is then proposed that the Bryncoch South Ward be given an additional Community Councillor to take account of their increased population size.

This would bring the community ward representation up to seven Community Councillors with a Member/Elector ratio of 643.

Proposal: Addition of one Community Councillor for the Bryncoch South Ward

Proposal: Removal of one Community Councillor from the Bryncoch North Ward

Submission Review: CR016 – Community Ward Boundary Change – Blaenhonddan - Cadoxton

Upon review by the Electoral Registration Officer, it was observed that at the East of Bryncoch South community at the boundary with Cadoxton Community, the Lidl food store, off Golwg y Gamlas road, is in Cadoxton ward, and half the car park and access road is in Bryncoch South Community.

Furthermore the boundary bisects the gardens of two properties in Golwg y Gamlas. It is proposed to adjust the boundary accordingly.

Proposal: Minor Boundary Alteration – See Map 7

Rejected Submissions

One submission was received relating to Blaenhonddan Community Council in general. It proposed no changes to electoral boundaries to the Community of Blaenhonddan and the status quo arrangements to remain. It was felt by the Electoral Registration Officer that the current electoral arrangements do not offer equal representation across the four community wards that comprise Blaenhonddan Community Council, in addition it was felt necessary to make the minor adjustment to the relevant community boundary to ensure it remained clear and effective.

CILYBEBYLL COMMUNITY (ALLTWEN, GELLINUDD & RHOS WARDS)

One submission was received that proposed no change be made to the existing community arrangements. However, the Electoral Registration Officer would like to propose the following changes:

- **CR019 – Community Ward Boundary Change - Cilybebyll**

Submission review:

Upon review by the Electoral Registration Officer, it was identified that Southwest of Gellinudd Community at the boundary with Rhos Community, to the south of Gellinudd village, two dwellings just west of the A474 are in Gellinudd Community whilst the access road is in Rhos Community. In addition, just east of the A474, opposite the Ty'n-y-graig properties, a petrol station/garage's adjacent car parking area is bisected. It is proposed to adjust the boundary accordingly.

Proposal: Minor Boundary Alteration – See Map 10

Rejected Submissions

One submission was received relating to Cilybebyll Community Council in general. It proposed no changes to electoral boundaries to the Community of Cilybebyll and the status quo arrangements to remain. However, It was felt necessary to make the minor adjustment to the relevant community boundary to ensure it remained clear and effective

CLYNE AND MELINCOURT COMMUNITY

No submissions were received regarding the Clyne and Melincourt Community. The Electoral Registration Officer following review proposes that the status quo arrangements should remain in place for the Community of Clyne and Melincourt.

Proposal: No Change

Rejected submissions

None rejected

CRYNANT COMMUNITY

No submissions were received regarding the Crynant Community. The Electoral Registration Officer following review proposes that the status quo arrangements should remain in place for the Community of Crynant.

Proposal: No Change

Rejected submissions

None rejected

CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY (CWMLLYNFELL & PENRHIWFAWR WARDS)

One submission was received that proposed no change be made to the existing community arrangements. The Electoral Registration Officer following review proposes that the status quo arrangements should remain in place for the Community of Cwmllynfell.

Proposal: No Change

Rejected Submissions

None rejected

DYFFRYN CLYDACH COMMUNITY

No submissions were received regarding the Dyffryn Clydach Community. The Electoral Registration Officer following review proposes that the status quo arrangements should remain in place for the Community of Dyffryn Clydach.

Proposal: No Change

Rejected submissions

None rejected

GLYNNEATH COMMUNITY (CENTRAL, EAST, WEST & WEST CENTRAL WARDS)

One submission was received that proposed no change was made to the existing community arrangements. The Electoral Registration Officer following review proposes that the status quo arrangements should remain in place for the Community of Glynneath.

Proposal: No Change

Rejected submissions

None rejected

GWAUN-CAE-GURWEN COMMUNITY (CWMGORS, GWAUN-CAE-GURWEN, LOWER BRYNAMMAN & TAI'R GWAITH WARDS)

One submission was received that proposed that no change was made to the existing community arrangements. The Electoral Registration Officer following review proposes that the status quo arrangements should remain in place for the Community of Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.

Proposal: No Change

Rejected Submissions

None rejected

NEATH COMMUNITY (CEFN SAESON, CRYNALLT, MELIN CRYDDAN, PENRHIWTYN, CASTLE, LLANTWIT, GNOLL & MOUNT PLEASANT WARDS)

Two submissions were received which requested no changes be made. However, the Electoral Registration Officer would like to propose the following change:

- **CR004 - Neath Town Council - Cefn Saeson Ward Electoral Arrangement Change**
- **CR017 – Community Ward Boundary Change - Neath - Castle**

Submission Review: CR004 – Neath Town Council Electoral Arrangement Change

The current electoral arrangements for Neath Town Council as a whole would see 18 Community Councillors representing an electorate of 14,711 with a Member/Elector ratio of 817. Based on the 1976 guidance provided by the former Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales, Neath Town Council is currently under-represented by one member.

Therefore, the initial proposal is to increase the number of community councillors overall for Neath Town Council to 19. Following review, it has been identified that the Cefn Saeson Community ward currently has two Community Councillors representing an electorate of 2,136, while the Melin Cryddan Community ward currently has three Community Councillors representing an electorate of 2,205 electors.

As such it has been determined that Cefn Saeson Community Ward currently does not have fair and adequate representation when compared to other similar size community wards. Therefore, it is proposed to allocate an additional Community Councillor to the Cefn Saeson Community Ward to rebalance its Member/Elector representation.

Proposal: Addition of one Town Councillor for the Cefn Saeson Ward

Submission Review: CR017 – Community Ward Boundary Change - Neath - Castle

Upon review by the Electoral Registration Officer, it was identified that North East of Castle community at the boundary with the Llantwit community, the boundary line north of Prince of Wales Drive, to the east of Willet Close is not easily identifiable and bisects gardens at the rear of Willet Close. It is proposed to adjust the boundary accordingly.

Proposal: Minor Boundary Alteration – Map 8

Rejected Submissions

Submission Review – Removal of County Borough Councillors from Town/Community Council's

One submission was received that proposed the removal of County Borough Councillors from Community/Town Councils due to the clear and frequent conflict of interests that occur. This proposal was rejected as it had no bearing on the review of Community areas currently being conducted.

Submission Review – Dissatisfaction with the running of the Community/Town Council

One submission was received that did not provide any specific proposals but outlined their dissatisfaction with some recent decisions and developments. This comment was rejected as it had no bearing on the review of community areas currently being conducted.

ONLLWYN COMMUNITY

Two submissions were received that proposed that no change was made to the existing community arrangements. However, the Electoral Registration Officer would like to propose the following changes:

- **CR018 – Community Ward Boundary Change - Onllwyn**

Submission Review

Upon review by the Electoral Registration Officer, it was identified that at the west of Onllwyn Community at the boundary with Seven Sisters Community, just north of A4109, dwellings on Golwg y Bryn road at Ty Newydd are in the Onllwyn Community, but the access road is in Seven Sisters Community. It is proposed to adjust the boundary accordingly.

Proposal: Minor Boundary Alteration – See Map 9

Rejected submissions

None rejected.

PELENNA COMMUNITIY

Two submissions were received proposing an alteration to the existing boundary of the Community of Peleenna. The Electoral Registration Officer following review proposes that the status quo arrangements should remain in place for the Community of Peleenna, however, subject to the outcome of the Welsh Government's White Paper on Local Government Reform, published in February 2015, a further review of the Community of Peleenna should be undertaken.

Proposal: No Change

Rejected submissions

Both submissions received suggested altering the boundary of the Community of Peleenna which would subsequently impact on the boundary arrangements for two neighbouring electoral divisions as well as two separate Parliamentary constituencies.

As such, while the minor proposals put forward held some merit, due to the implications this alteration would have in terms of boundary arrangements for the principal local authority as well as the Parliamentary constituency boundaries of Neath and Aberavon it is proposed that this suggestion is not taken forward at this time. However, the matter will be kept under review.

PONTARDAWE COMMUNITY (PONTARDAWE, RHYD-Y-FRO & TREBANOS WARDS)

No submissions were received regarding the Pontardawe Community. However, the Electoral Registration Officer would like to propose the following change:

- **CR005 – Pontardawe Town Council (Pontardawe Ward) Electoral Arrangement Change**
- **CR006 – Pontardawe Town Council (Rhyd-Y-Fro Ward) Electoral Arrangement Change**
- **CR007 – Pontardawe Town Council (Trebanos Ward) Electoral Arrangement Change**

Proposal: Addition of three Community Councillor's for the Pontardawe Ward. This proposal is linked to CR006 & CR007

Proposal: Removal of one Community Councillor for the Rhyd-Y-Fro Ward. This proposal is linked to CR005 & CR007

Proposal: Removal of two Community Councillors for the Trebanos Ward. This proposal is linked CR005 & CR006

Submission Review: CR005/CR006/CR007 – Pontardawe Town Council Electoral Arrangement Change

The current electoral arrangements for Pontardawe Town Council as a whole would see 16 Community Councillors representing an electorate of 5,275 with a Member/Elector ratio of 330. The representation for the Pontardawe community ward is currently seven Community Councillors representing 3,554 electors with a Member/Elector ratio of 508, the representation for the Rhyd-Y-Fro community ward is currently three Community Councillors representing 589 electors with a Member/Elector ratio of 196, and the representation for the Trebanos community ward is currently six Community Councillors representing 1,132 electors with a Member/Elector ratio of 189.

The Electoral Registration Officer has determined that the current elector arrangements in these three wards do not provide equal representation. By removing one community councillor from the Rhyd-Y-Fro community ward and two community councillors from the Trebanos community ward and reducing their overall representation to two and four Community Councillors respectively with a Member/Elector ratio of 295 and 283, this would bring the level of representation for both areas in line with similar sized community wards.

It is then proposed that Pontardawe community ward have an additional three Community Councillors to take their representation to ten with a Member/Elector ratio of 355.

Rejected Submissions

None rejected.

RESOLVEN COMMUNITY (ABERGARWED, NORTH & SOUTH WARDS)

No submissions were received regarding the Resolven Community. The Electoral Registration Officer following review proposes that the status quo arrangements should remain in place for the Community of Resolven.

Proposal: No Change

Rejected submissions

None rejected

SEVEN SISTERS COMMUNITY

One submission was received that proposed that no change was made to the existing community arrangements. The Electoral Registration Officer following review proposes that the status quo arrangements should remain in place for the Community of Seven Sisters.

Proposal: No Change

Rejected Submissions

None rejected

TONNA COMMUNITY

No submissions were received regarding the Tonna Community. The Electoral Registration Officer following review proposes that the status quo arrangements should remain in place for the Community of Tonna.

Proposal: No Change

Rejected submissions

None rejected

YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY (GODRE'RGRAIG & YSTALYFERA WARDS)

One submission was received which requested changes be made to the electoral arrangements of the Godre'rgraig and Ystalyfera community wards. It proposed that the representation of the Ystalyfera ward be reduced to nine Community Councillors and the representation of the Godrergraig ward be increased to six Community Councillors. Following a review of this submission, the following change proposals have been made:

- **CR008 – Ystalyfera Community Council (Godrer'graig Ward)
Electoral Arrangement Change**
- **CR009 – Ystalyfera Community Council (Ystalyfera Ward)
Electoral Arrangement Change**

Proposal: Addition of two Community Councillor for the Godrer'graig Ward. This proposal is linked to CR009

Proposal: Removal of two Community Councillor for the Ystalyfera Ward. This proposal is linked to CR008

**Submission Review: CR008/CR009 – Ystalyfera Community Council
Electoral Arrangement Change**

The current electoral arrangements for Ystalyfera Community Council as a whole would see 15 Community Councillors representing an electorate of 3,722 with a Member/Elector ratio of 248. The representation for the Godrergraig ward is currently four Community Councillors representing 1,461 electors with a Member/Elector ratio of 365, while the representation for the Ystalyfera ward is 11 Community Councillors representing 2,261 electors with a Member/Elector ratio of 206.

The Electoral Registration Officer has determined that the current elector arrangements in these two community wards do not provide equal representation.

By removing two community councillors from the Ystalyfera Ward and reducing the overall representation to nine Community Councillors with a Member/Elector ratio of 251. It is then proposed that the Godrergraig Ward have two additional Community Councillors to take their representation to six Community Councillors with a Cllr/Elector ratio of 244.

Rejected Proposals

None rejected